

# Mountain Madtom (*Noturus eleutherus*)

## *Pennsylvania Endangered Fish Species*

State Rank: S1 (critically imperiled), Global Rank: G4 (apparently secure)

### Identification

This small catfish reaches a maximum size of about three inches, but most individuals range from about one to 2 1/2 inches in length. The adipose fin is connected with the tail fin, but appears to be separate. The frontmost patch of teeth on the roof of the mouth lacks backward extensions. Although the pectoral fin spines are curved and strongly toothed along the rear margin, as in the northern madtom, the front margin is weakly toothed (strongly toothed in the northern madtom).



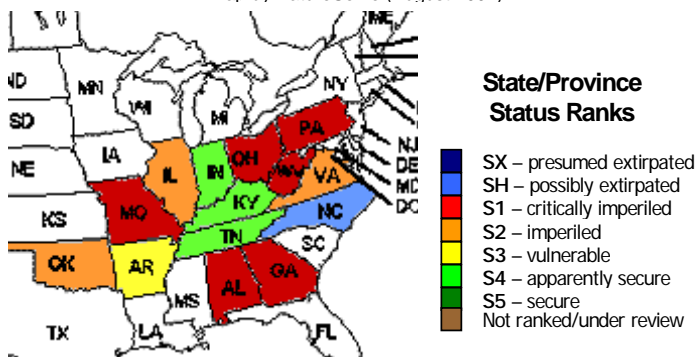
Photo Credit: Rob Criswell

### Biology-Natural History

Aside from published observations concerning its growth rate in Ohio, there is no life history information available.

### North American State/Province Conservation Status

Map by NatureServe (August 2007)



### Habitat

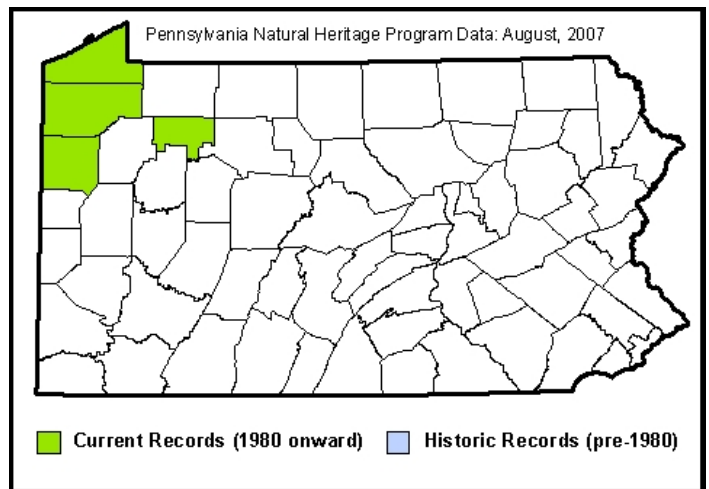
The mountain madtom requires clean, moderate- to swift-flowing large streams or rivers with a bottom of large stones, rubble, gravel and sand. It is usually found in deep, fast riffles, sometimes in dense vegetation attached to the bottom material. It is apparently very sensitive to siltation and other pollutants.

### Reasons for Being Endangered

In Pennsylvania, this species continues to exist only in French Creek in Mercer and Erie counties, but it has also been historically recorded from the Shenango River.

### Management Practices

Diligent watershed monitoring is necessary to safeguard against the deterioration of the upper Allegheny River system. As the quality of this river goes, so go many of the animals dependent upon it. The mountain madtom and other animals in this particular habitat are excellent barometers of the health of this stream system.



### References:

- NatureServe. 2007. NatureServe Explorer: An online encyclopedia of life [web application]. Version 6.2. NatureServe, Arlington, Virginia. Available <http://www.natureserve.org/explorer>. (Accessed: August 21, 2007).



Pennsylvania Natural Heritage Program

Fact Sheet adapted from: Felbaum, Mitchell, et al. Endangered and Threatened Species of Pennsylvania. Harrisburg, PA: Wild Resource Conservation Fund, 1995.

