

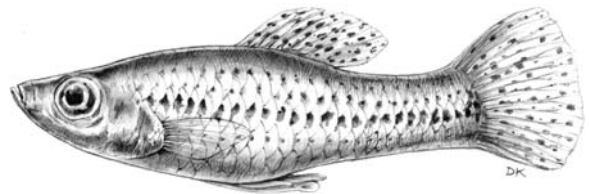
Threatened fishes of the world: *Poecilia latipunctata* Meek, 1904 (Poeciliidae)

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Common names: Tamesí molly (US), Topote del Tamesí (MX). **Conservation status:** Listed as ‘critically endangered’ by the IUCN based on population declines, fragmentation of populations, and decline of habitat quality. The species is federally protected by the Mexican government (SEDESOL 1994). **Identification:** *Poecilia latipunctata* is a typical molly characterized by a longitudinal stripe of discontinuous black spots midside of body. The maximum size is ~50 mm. Illustration by Debby Kaspari. **Distribution:** Confined to the headwaters of the Río Tamesí (Ríos Guayalejo and Mante), Tamaulipas, Mexico. It was introduced into La Media Luna, San Luis Potosi (Miller et al. 2005). **Ecology:** This species prefers gravelly to muddy habitats with clear, flowing water



and aquatic vegetation. It also occurs in irrigation ditches with lower flow and overhanging vegetation. *Poecilia latipunctata* predominantly feeds on detritus and algae (Darnell 1962). It occurs sympatrically with two other molly species, *P. mexicana* and *P. formosa*, and has been documented to serve as sperm donor for gynogenetic *P. formosa* females (Niemeitz et al. 2002). Although phenotypically a short-fin molly, the species is closely related to the long fin clade within the mollies (Ptacek et al. 2005). **Threats:** The species is threatened predominantly through fragmentation of suitable habitats as well as habitat deterioration by intense agriculture and invasive species. **Conservation recommendations:** The species is protected by Mexican law, but no specific conservation actions have been taken to date. The current distribution and abundance of *P. latipunctata* should be

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reassessed. Suitable habitats need to be identified and prevented from further degradation.

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