CREATURE ATLAS

Animal Fact Sheet

Name: _____ Date: _____



Blind cave tetra

Astyanax mexicanus

The blind cave tetra is the same species as an ordinary, fully eyed silver river fish, Astyanax mexicanus, and that is what makes it so valuable. Surface fish washed into caves in northeastern Mexico…

Quick facts

Classification: Fish
Family: Characidae
Habitat: Cave streams and underground freshwater pools
Diet: Omnivore
Conservation status: Least Concern
Lifespan: 3-5 years
Weight: 2-4 grams
Scientific name: Astyanax mexicanus

Did you know?

- Some populations of blind cave tetras have evolved independently in different cave systems, making them a classic example of convergent evolution.
- Cave fish from different caves lost their sight through different mutations, and crossing two blind populations can produce sighted offspring, becaus…

What I learned

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