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A Recent Record of the Plains Minnow, *Hybognathus placitus* Girard, from Arkansas

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Robison and Buchanan (Fishes of Arkansas), Univ. Arkansas Press, 1988) reported the plains minnow, *Hybognathus placitus* Girard, had not been collected in Arkansas in over two decades, and was probably extirpated from the state. The last previously known collection of this species in Arkansas was a single specimen (TU 54530) taken from the Mississippi River in Mississippi County, 2.2 mi. NE of Butler, AR. on 8 October 1968. The only other Arkansas records of *H. placitus* were listed by Black (The Distribution of the Fishes of Arkansas, Ph.D. dissertation, Univ. Michigan, 1940). A collection of three specimens was taken from the Red River in Hempstead County on 8 July 1939, and an unspecified number of individuals was taken from four Arkansas River localities between Fort Smith in Sebastian County and the mouth of Piney Creek in Logan County during the 1890s and 1930s. Black also collected this species from the Mississippi River in Mississippi County in the 1930s.

This note reports the first vouchered record of *H. placitus* from Arkansas in over 25 years. A single individual was collected by T. M. Buchanan and Westark Community College students on 28 July 1993, from the Arkansas River, 400 m downstream from Trimble Lock and Dam in Crawford County. The specimen was 46 mm in total length and was deposited in the Westark Zoology Collection. It had 16 scale rows below the lateral line, a narrow, rodlike basioccipital process, and the eye width divided into the head length went 4.4 times. It was taken during unusually high water levels behind a submerged sandbar at a depth of approximately 1 m over a predominately sand substrate having patches of gravel in a slight current using a 9 m nylon seine of 3.2-mm mesh. Other species collected were: *Dorosoma cepedianum*, *D. petenense*, *Cyprinella lutrensis*, *Notropis atherinoides*, *N. blennioides*, *Gambusia affinis*, *Menidia beryllina*, and *Micropterus salmoides*.

Hybognathus placitus is almost exclusively a Great Plains species where it is still abundant in the main channels of turbid, silt and sand-bottomed streams and rivers (Robison and Buchanan, loc. cit.). It is a common species in the Arkansas River drainage of northern and western Oklahoma, and Arkansas is near the southeastern margin of its range. It is not known whether a reproducing popu-

lation of the plains minnow has ever existed in Arkansas, although one may have been present in the Arkansas River near Fort Smith prior to the 1940s. A resident population is not known to exist in the state.

The specimen in this report probably represents a waif from an existing upstream population which was displaced downstream by the high water levels in the Arkansas River that occurred from December 1992, through early August 1993. On 28 July 1993, the discharge reported for the Arkansas River in the vicinity of this collection locality was 60,000 cfs. This compares with the normal July discharge rate of approximately 12,000-15,000 cfs. The submerged sandbar near the collecting site is normally above water. During the last 22 years, two to four annual collections have been made by seine at this locality. In addition over 100 samples have been taken since 1971, by seine, electroshocker, and rotenone in a 20-km section of the Arkansas River near Fort Smith without finding *H. placitus*.