

FINESCALE DACE IN SASKATCHEWAN

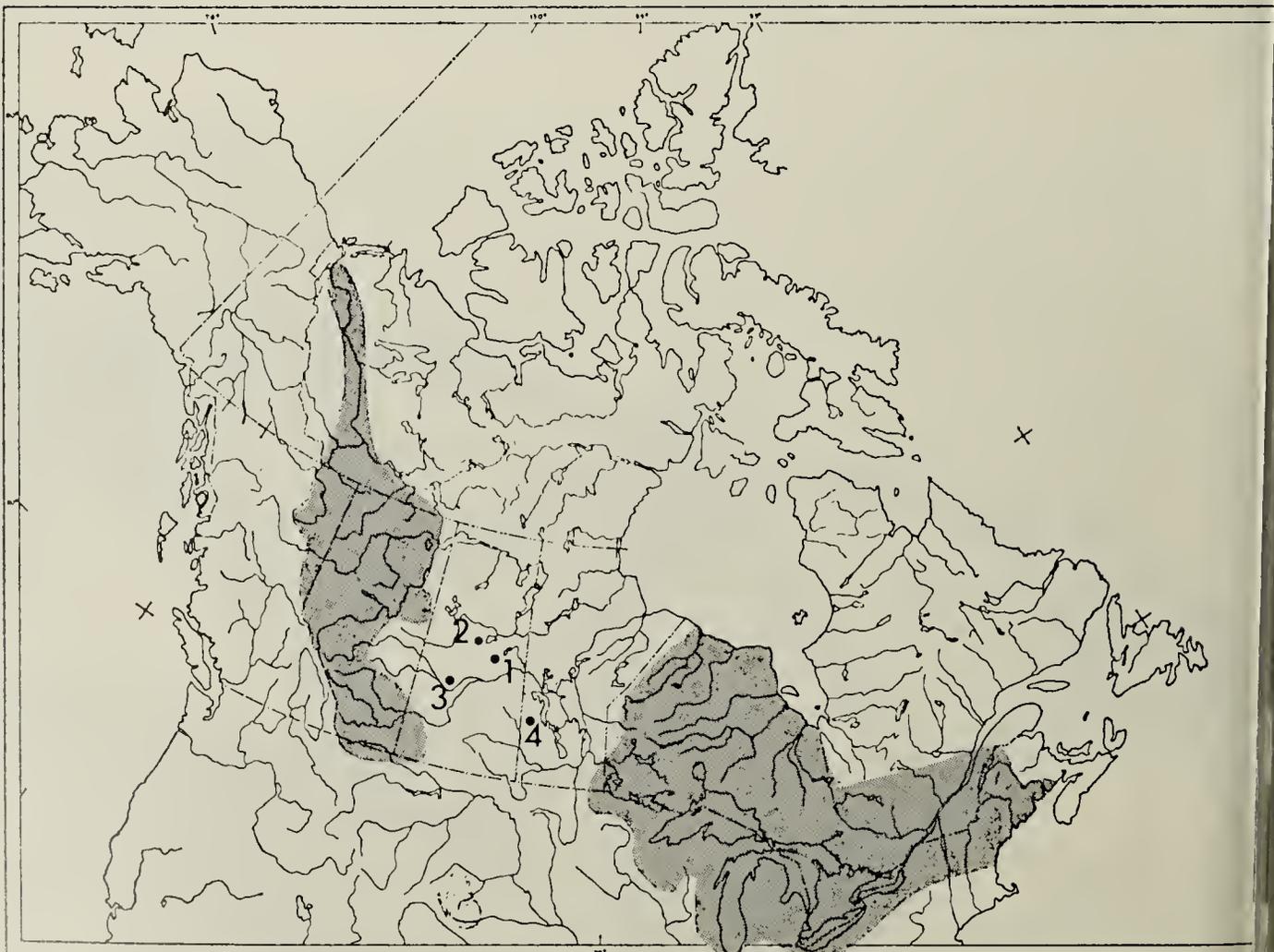
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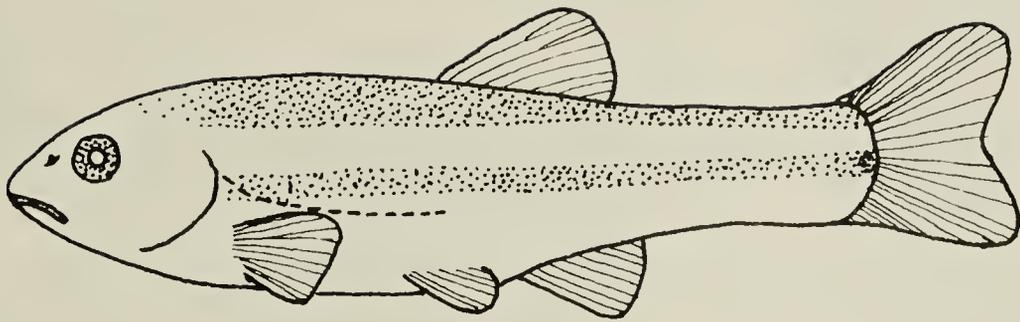
Finescale dace (*Chrosomus neogaeus*) are small silvery minnows which inhabit streams, ponds, and sometimes lakes, feeding on insect larvae and small crustaceans. The name finescale refers to the small scales covering the fish, which are so tiny that they are difficult to see with the naked eye. In Quebec, these minnows are called *Ventre Citron*, or *Lemon-belly* after the bright yellow belly and fins and crimson sides which the males acquire during spawning.

As seen on the map, the known range of finescale dace is divided into separate eastern and western parts, with only the tip of the western range extending into the Cypress Hills area of

Saskatchewan. Last summer, finescale dace were collected by the author from several streams in Saskatchewan and Manitoba. They were found in: (1) the Caribou Creek near Piprell Lake (May 11, 1977) (2) Mile 4 Creek on the Besnard Lake road (June 29, 1977) and (3) an unnamed creek flowing into the north end of Redberry Lake. The dace in the latter creek were seen in spawning colors on July 19, and had lost their coloration by August 3. Finescale dace were also found at site (4): the Fishing River near the town of Mink Creek, Manitoba.

The finescale dace were found in the shallow rocky streams and deep pools along with pearl dace (*Semotilus*





Finescale Dace

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margarita) and brook stickleback (*Culaea inconstans*). These collections from widely separated points of central Saskatchewan and Manitoba seem to indicate that the range of finescale dace is continuous across Manitoba and Saskatchewan, rather

than being isolated into separate eastern and western populations.

W. B. SCOTT and E. J. CROSSMAN. 1973. Freshwater Fishes of Canada. Bull. 184 Fisheries Research Board of Canada.



Reflections on a quiet lake

J. B. Gollop