



Largescale Stoneroller (*Campostoma oligolepis*)

The largescale stoneroller has a head like a sucker, but it is a minnow. It lives in small-to-medium sized, slow-moving, clear streams. It prefers streams with gravel, cobble, boulders or bedrock substrates.*

A largescale stoneroller is known by the cartilaginous ridge on its lower jaw, having 20 to 28 gill rakers, and 48 to 53 lateral line scales.* It reproduces from early-March through April. A breeding male largescale stoneroller has breeding tubercles and is brassy yellow along the side, and fade to white or yellow along the bottom.* The dorsal fin has a distinct black band, while the pelvic, anal, and pectoral fins can be orange to pinkish-orange.* An adult largescale stoneroller can be three to seven inches long.

A largescale stoneroller eats plant matter by scraping it off rocks. Pollution limits which types of fish can live in a stream; a largescale stoneroller often lives in streams where other fish species are not found. It is important to take action now to ensure that Alabama wildlife and the places they live are healthy and diverse.

***Vocabulary**

Anal fin – a single fin on the bottom of a fish behind the anus.

Breeding tubercles –hard bumps covering a fish's head, fins, or scales, when ready to reproduce

Dorsal fin – the fin or fins on top of a fish.

Gill rakers –finger-like projections located on the gills that are used in processing food.

Lateral line scales – scales in a continuous line along the side of the body; they may or may not have a tiny hole. The first scale touches the shoulder girdle and the last is in front of the crease at the tail.

Pectoral fins – a pair of side fins behind the head.

Pelvic fins – a pair of side fins on the bottom of a fish.

Substrate – bottom material in lakes, streams and rivers.

www.OutdoorAlabama.com

The drawing is original artwork by Julie Harris Mitchell. The photograph and some of the information are from *Fishes of Alabama and the Mobile Basin*.