

# Inanga/Whitebait

## Identifying adults & eggs

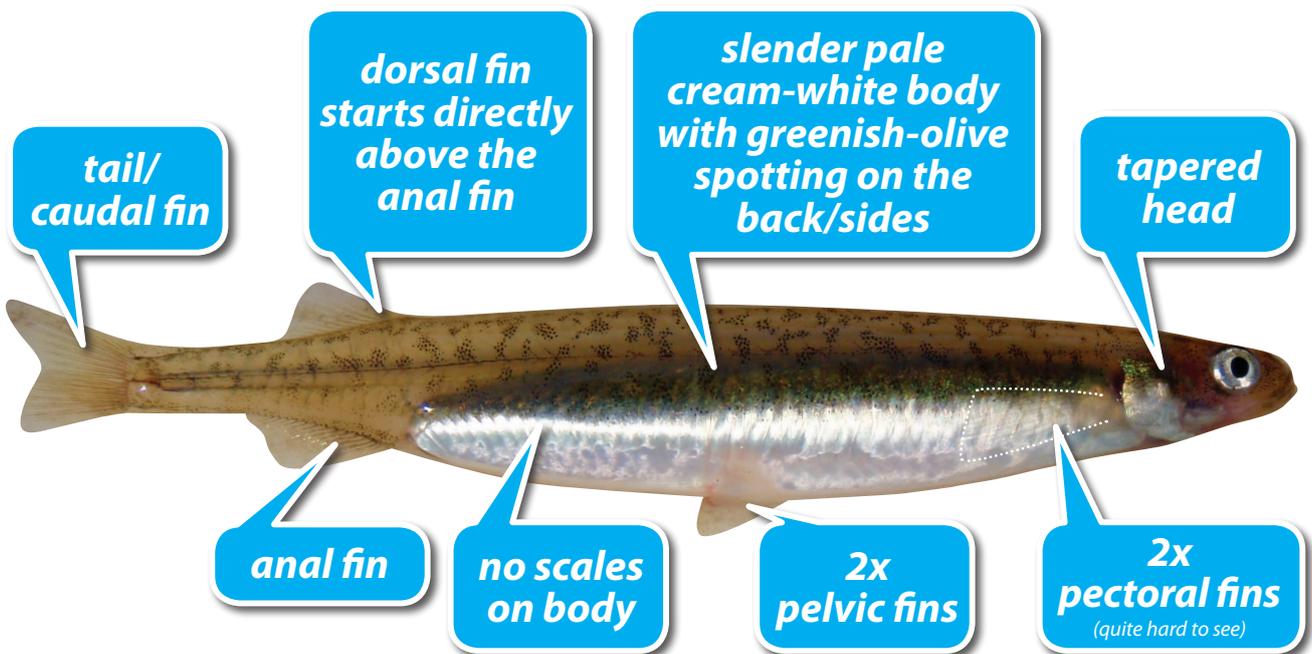


shqaling inanga © EOS Ecology

Adult inanga are easy to identify from other fish species as not many live in the same places, or behave in the same way.

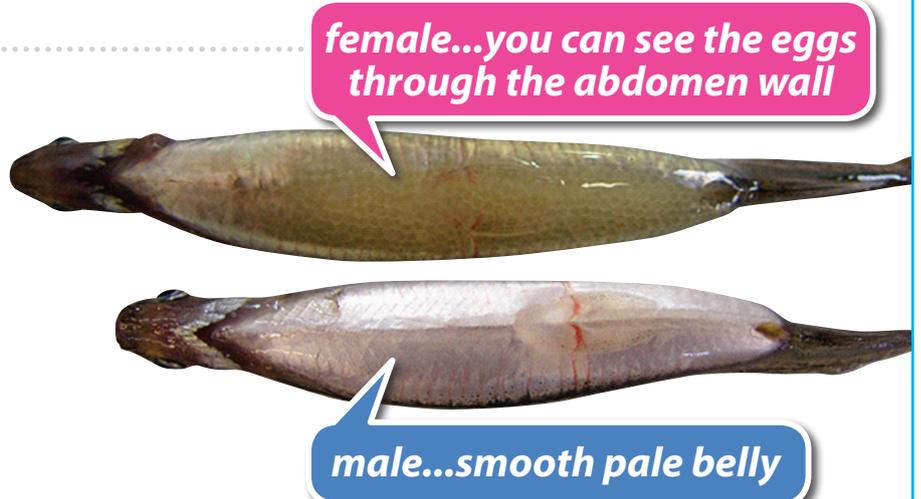
Inanga swim slowly in shoals (schools) in the lower reaches of waterways and are slower moving than smelt or yelloweyed mullet.

Inanga don't get very big. Females are usually bigger than males, but even the biggest females are usually less than 120 mm long.



### Telling the sexes apart

Male and female inanga are usually difficult to tell apart externally, but it's easy when they are ready to spawn. You can see the large golden eggs in females through the wall of the abdomen while the males is smooth and pale white.





0.8–1.2 mm



### Inanga egg ✓

*Inanga/whitebait eggs are small (0.8–1.2 mm in diameter), transparent round balls. Once they are a couple of weeks old the inanga embryo eyes can be seen inside as two small black dots.*

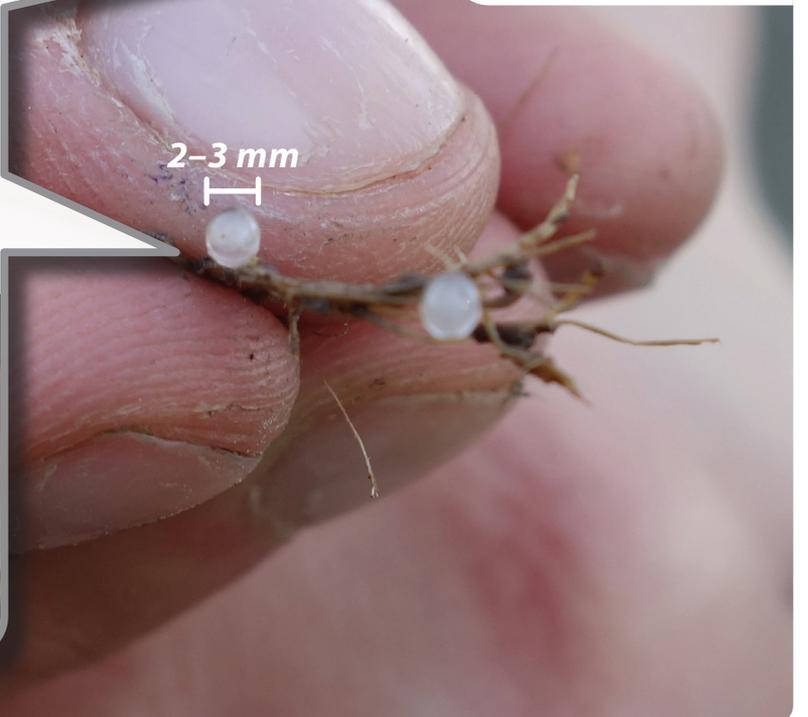


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### Slug egg ✕

*Slug eggs, at 2–3 mm in diameter, are larger than inanga eggs. They are milky white in colour and more like chicken eggs in shape. Slugs lay their eggs in similar places to inanga and may eat small numbers of inanga eggs.*

2–3 mm



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