

role in clarifying understandings. What this collaboration is showing for freshwater fishes is paralleled by what others are finding in albatrosses and lizards, and various other groups.

Taxonomic change has not ended there, however. Charles Mitchell found a rather odd-looking, undescribed galaxiid on the Chatham Islands, which he named *G. rekohua*, though ongoing studies indicate that it is really a form of *Neochanna* mudfish.

Nick Ling and Dianne Gleeson were looking at mudfish genetics and came across a new lineage in the Kerikeri area, 'smack-bang' in the middle of the range of black mudfish, *N. diversus*. They named the new form *N. heleios*, which I call 'burgundy mudfish' owing to its deep reddish lower surfaces.

There is yet more! We knew for more than 25 years about a population of longjaw galaxias in the Kauru River (a Kakanui River tributary) inland from Oamaru. We thought it belonged with *Galaxias prognathus*, but we never really looked at the fish carefully — as one longjaw looks rather like another longjaw, we never suspected anything odd. But geneticist Jon Waters at Otago University

found that these were actually a different kind of longjaw which is greatly different genetically. This drove us to look more carefully, and prove its difference — and now the Kauru fish is known as the lowland longjaw, *G. cobitinis*. The fish turns out to also be quite widespread through the mid and lower Waitaki River.

Soon afterwards Simon Elkington of the Department of Conservation in Twizel phoned and said 'I have this peculiar-looking alpine galaxias — you'll probably say it is just an alpine!', but by this time I'd become somewhat 'sensitised' to the likelihood that it really might be something odd, and it's just as well.

As a result, yet another new species is being added to our galaxiid fauna. This one we refer to as 'bignose galaxias' for reasons that are obvious to anyone who knows galaxiids. Were it not for Simon's knowledge and alertness, we would probably just have gone on calling the fish alpine galaxias, and thought no more of it, missing a really fascinating bit of biodiversity. This species is proving to be quite widespread in the Mackenzie Basin.

This story of species discovery had an interesting beginning. A farmer had a small wetland and became sick of getting bogged



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