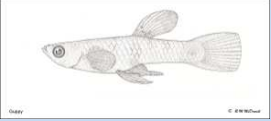
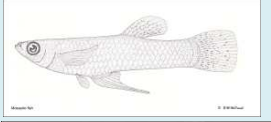
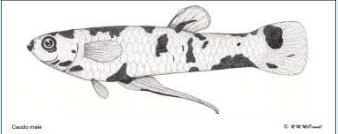
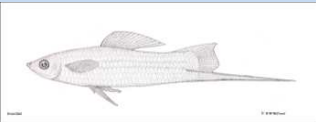


TAXONOMIC KEY FOR IDENTIFICATION OF LIVEBEARING FISH SPECIES IN NEW ZEALAND

No	Characteristic	Species	Line drawings (copywrite R.M. McDowall)
1	Dorsal fin short with 7 to 9 rays, fin high and rounded; gonopodium longer than head	go to 2	
	Dorsal fin with 11 or more rays, fin high but angular; gonopodium shorter than head.	go to 4	
2	Dorsal fin origin directly above anal fin origin, 22-28 scales along lateral line; male brightly coloured	Guppy (<i>Poecilia reticulata</i>)	
	Dorsal fin behind anal fin origin; 28-32 scales along lateral line	Go to 3	
3	Limited coloration, males a silvery drab colour with no spots, females may have a dark spawning spot on belly; no hook on male gonopodium	Gambusia (<i>Gambusia affinis</i>)	
	Both sexes have dark spots on flanks; hook present on male gonopodium	Caudo (<i>Phalloceras caudimaculatus</i>)	
4	Scales cover basal half of caudal fin, lower margin of caudal fin extended as a long 'sword' in males; dorsal fin not enlarged	Swordtail (<i>Xiphophorus helleri</i>)	
	Scales not covering basal half of caudal fins; lower margin of caudal fin not extended as a long 'sword' in males; males with greatly enlarged dorsal fin	Sailfin molly (<i>Poecilia latipinna</i>)	