

## Shorthead redhorse

*Moxostoma macrolepidotum*



**Similar Species:** Many other redhorses and some other suckers

**Identification:** Fins have definite red color, rear margins of lower lip nearly straight.

The shorthead redhorse is the most widely distributed species of redhorse, found from Alberta to the St. Lawrence River and south to Oklahoma and South Carolina. In South Dakota, the shorthead redhorse occurs in rivers and streams throughout the state. Although it inhabits a variety of stream types, it is most abundant in moderately large rivers having a predominance of gravelly or rocky bottoms. Shorthead redhorse are bottom feeders, eating primarily aquatic insects. Shorthead redhorse migrate upstream to gravelly riffles in the spring to spawn. Adults usually average 8 to 16 inches and reach a maximum of 24 inches.

