

THE NEW ENGLAND CICHLID

New England Cichlid Association

February 2014

Upcoming Events

**Next Meeting:
Saturday, February 14 @ 1 PM**



Our next meeting will be at Peter George's home in Petersham, MA. Peter has 19 tanks, ranging from 10 gallons to 120 gallons, and has fish from Lakes Tanganyika, Malawi, Victoria, Albert, and Edward, plus a few tanks devoted to West Africans. He is also a pretty good cook so even if his fish don't impress you, his food definitely will!

We'll have a Board meeting at noon, snacks start at 1, with real food at 2. There will be a special Valentine's Day Raffle, and a couple of beautiful pink and white cakes as a special treat.



Come as early as noon, and stay as long as 5. Watch our Facebook page for updates on parking and weather and let Peter know in advance if you're coming. See you on Valentine's Day!

22 South Main St., Petersham, MA

CICHLIDS ON MY MIND



There are over 3,000 known species of cichlids, with an unknown number yet to be discovered. That's an amazing statistic – but even more amazing is that about one-third of all cichlids are endemic to Lake Malawi exclusively. Lake Tanganyika is home to approximately 250 species, and Lake Victoria to over 200 more. In short, these three East African lakes are home to almost half of all the cichlid species in the world! No wonder, then, that so many fish hobbyists keep and breed Rift Lake African cichlids, supporting a whole industry of specialty breeders, wholesalers, importers and retailers across the globe.

Nevertheless, despite the dominance of East Africans in our hobby, and to some extent in our club, a tremendous number and variety of cichlids are found all over the planet, particularly Central and South America, West Africa, and parts of North Africa and Asia. One of the goals I've set for this newsletter is to introduce our members to some of the many interesting, often beautiful, non-East African cichlids. This issue presents some really strange and wonderful cichlids from Cameroon, particularly from two small volcanic lakes containing a limited variety and population of fish that are infrequently found in the hobby. Mike Liu has agreed to work on this project long term with me, so each issue for the foreseeable

future will include brief introductions to uncommon cichlids that we believe are interesting. Hopefully this will motivate some of you to take the leap and obtain a few to keep and breed. Let me know your thoughts, as I want to know whether this is a popular approach, or if I'm just crazy.

The lead photo for this column shows a pair of *Coptodon cameroonensis* with their fry. This fish, which I've never seen in the hobby, is endemic to Lake Bermin. The photo is from a website called Tropifish Cameroon, one of only two wholesalers that collect and ship native Cameroon cichlids and plants. Their website, <http://mankaa1984.wix.com/fishman-cameroon>, is worth checking out if you're interested in these unusual cichlids and their native waters.

If you haven't yet visited our website, www.necichlids.com, please do. We've worked very hard to make it accessible, informative and useful. I'm the one who maintains it, so if you have any questions, concerns, or suggestions, please email me. While you're there, please link to our Facebook page, which gets a lot of posts every day and is well worth a visit. For now we're using the Facebook page as our "forum," but if you'd prefer a website-based forum, let me know. If there's enough interest, I'll set one up.

Given our crowded schedule from April 12 through Labor Day, we're not currently planning a March program. The Convention Committee and any interested members will be meeting at the Sheraton Hotel in Springfield to get a good look at the facilities and begin formal planning for all of the various elements of this complex undertaking. If you're interested in attending, let me know and we'll arrange a time to meet.

Our Annual Spring Auction is set for April 12, and we've had to move upstairs at the Polish-American Club. The reason is a good one: our numbers have grown, and we no longer fit in the small room downstairs. If you're bringing fish, just be aware that you'll have to carry the stuff upstairs. We'll be there at 9:30, and if you need help, just ask. We feel that the modest inconvenience will be outweighed by the benefits of a larger room with a much better layout.

Finally, I'm really looking forward to the February meeting at my home in Petersham. I've tried for years to get my wife interested in my hobby, and amazingly, I've finally succeeded! She didn't complain at all when I announced that we're having the February meeting at **her** house. She's offered to cook, bake, and generally be our hostess with an enthusiasm I've rarely seen, so let's make it a success. Just make sure to let me know you're coming, so we'll have enough food and drink for everyone.

See you in two weeks!

Peter George

THE BAP



Thoracochromis 'Lake Albert' – image by Greg Steeves

We've started the Breeder's Award Program, so if you are breeding a cichlid, please go to the NECA website and check out the rules. You can contact Sandy Feder for the information on how to get your breeding effort registered, and then someone from the Committee will follow up with you.

My first entry is *Thoracichromis* 'Lake Albert,' a small Haplochromine that is really rare in the hobby. I bought a dozen from Dave's Rare Fish, and as usual, the dominant male selected the smallest female with which to spawn. She is about 1 inch long, and stripping her was quite a delicate operation! I obtained about 21 eggs, which I place in a Cobalt tumbler. Now, 7 days later, 6 eggs have fungused, but the rest look viable and I'm VERY hopeful.

PFG

A STINGING CATFISH?

TEXT AND IMAGES BY JIM KENNISTON



Although *Lophiobagrus brevispinis* isn't a cichlid, it was the most sought after fish at this year's Ohio Cichlid Extravaganza. I brought plenty of cichlids to sell from tanks that I set up in my hotel room, but the fish that everyone wanted was a little brown catfish. At first I was puzzled. It isn't an attractive fish, and spends most of the time hiding, so why were people lined up to buy this fish? Because it was different and nobody else had it. I brought 120 of them and sold them all. There were several people that had a very similar species, *Lophiobagrus cyclurus*, but *L. brevispinis* was something that nobody had.

Some people think that all of the catfish in Lake Tanganyika are in the genus *Synodontis*, but there are actually several other genera present in the lake. *L. brevispinis* looks more like a local bullhead than a *Synodontis*. Males only grow to two and a half inches, females top out at two inches. They are nocturnal, but will come out to feed, even with the lights on. They are a very peaceful fish that gets along fine with other Tanganyikans. If you get several, they will happily cluster together wherever the light is dimmest, usually under a filter or in a cave. If there is no place to hide, they will pile on top of each other in the corners of a tank. They seem to get comfort from swarming together.

So do they really sting? Hell yes! Their pectoral spines can be stuck straight out at a 90 degree angle to their bodies. If the end sticks you, it will

feel just like a bee sting. Normally that wouldn't pose a problem, since we don't typically handle our fish. But there's another problem. Those pectoral spines are toothed. If you look closely, it appears to have a series of barbs running along its length. If they erect their spines in a fish net, you will end up needing scissors. Once the spine penetrates the mesh, it will never come out. So how do you catch these fish? I use my hand. Thus the potential for being stung. I have become fairly skilled at cupping my hand under the fish and lifting them out of the water without fully closing my hand. In Ohio, one fellow wanted to catch his own fish so that he could pick the ones he wanted. I know that I shouldn't have laughed, but when he got stung, I couldn't help it. The trick is to only present the palm of your hand to the fish. The front of a hand is thick and callused. Heck, you can even pick up a jellyfish as long as it only touches the palm of your hand.



Lophiobagrus brevispinis female

The best way to differentiate sexes is to put them in a container with a white bottom, and look straight down from above. The males will have wider heads than the females, while the females will have larger abdomens. Once they pair off for breeding, they become territorial and separate from the group. They will breed in a very similar fashion to *Ancistrus* species. They prefer a small dead end cave. I use cichlid stones. They like to pile sand in front of the cave. That's a sign that they are ready to breed. They will stay in that cave and protect the fry for three weeks, not even coming out to feed. Often the female will leave after a week or two, but the male will stay until the fry leave the cave. I highly recommend removing the fry before they are released. I just remove the entire cichlid stone, fry and all. Once they release, good luck finding the little buggers. You may find some in your filters also, so check

there. These fish are not picky eaters, even as fry. I use crushed up New Life Spectrum, but they will eat anything that will fit in their mouths. After all, they are catfish.



So if you're looking for something different to keep in your Tanganyikan community tank. Something that stays small and leaves your other fish alone. Something that is easy to breed. You may want to do what the folks in Ohio did, bring home some *Lophiobagrus brevispinis*. Just don't tell anyone that you got stung by a fish.

BOOK REVIEW

TEXT BY PETER GEORGE AND IMAGES BY
GREG STEEVES

Greg Steeves is the name most of us associate with Lake Victoria cichlids, and he really is the most prominent North American hobbyist involved with Haplochromines. A few years ago, he co-authored a book entitled *Cichlids of Africa: Volume 1 – Haplochromines*. I bought it when Jim Cormier brought some copies to one of my first NECA meetings. The different writing styles of the three authors (the others are Dave Hansen and Anton Lamboj) make the text a bit awkward at times, and there are some problems with the editing. Nevertheless, overall it's a beautiful book, with useful information for both beginners and the more experienced Victorian keeper. Greg also has a terrific Facebook site

called africancichlids.net, which I visit almost daily. It was there that I saw Greg's announcement of his new E-book, *The Care and Breeding of Haplochromine Cichlids – Riverine Species and Those Endemic to the Northern Lakes of Africa*, which I immediately bought and read. It can be purchased at <http://www.cichlidae.com/review.php?id=55>.



Labrochromis ishmaeli is a voracious snail eater now thought to be extinct in the wild.

I'm not accustomed to E-books, so it took me a while to get comfortable in front of my computer and to read the entire book; but once I got started, I couldn't stop until I was finished. This is a well-written book, accessible to beginners while providing plenty of information for experts, and filled with excellent photographs. Greg clearly has experience with all of the cichlids available to the most serious hobbyist, and he knows exactly how to describe their physical appearance, their eating preferences, and how to successfully keep and breed them.



Xystichromis sp. "Kyoga flameback" is an intermediate species taking both plant matter and sifting detritus

If you have a decent sized screen on your computer, or use a Kindle/I Pad, etc., spend the \$12 and buy this book. I'm in the process of going back through it, species by species, and I won't be surprised if I start again once I'm done with the second round.

KEEPING CAQUETAIA SPECTABILIS

TEXT AND IMAGES BY SANDY FEDER

There is no denying my love for the new world cichlids, especially the beauties from South America. I have previously kept *Caquetaia Umbriferus* but they grow too large, too quickly for me to responsibly enjoy so unfortunately they had to find a new home. Enter the *Spectabilis*! These guys are in the same family but do not grow nearly as quickly or as large, only



growing to 10" for males and 6" for females. They do share some similarities to *Umbriferus*, like their incredible protruding jaws, which are used to catch anything they can fit into their mouths. With their stunning array of blue, green, yellow and orange coloring they are quite attractive. Even the females have quite a bit of color and are very nice to look at.



Since my *Festae* pair are no longer with me, I've decided to focus my attentions on my pair of *C. spectabilis*. They have a reputation of being difficult to spawn but I think I'm up for the challenge. Unlike most other cichlids they also seem to be lacking in the parental care aspect so I will be raising the fry separate from the parents. *C. spectabilis* are typical substrate spawners, laying anywhere from 400-1500 eggs. They will



spawn in a cave or even a flower pot. While they seem to do well with caring for their eggs and wigglers as soon as the fry get to the free swimming stage they seem to lose interest in their parental duties. This is where a lot of fry are lost.

C. spectabilis are generally peaceful fish who tolerate tank mates well unless they are in breeding mode. Right now I have my pair in with a mix of fish, New and Old World (which I don't suggest doing on a permanent basis!) and they are all getting along very well. Once the pair starts the spawning process they will quickly become highly aggressive and territorial at which point all tank mates should be removed for their safety. These colorful and active cichlids are a lot of fun to keep and watch. I get a lot of enjoyment from them and it's especially fun to watch them eat with their awesome protrusive mouths. If you are

interested in a highly colorful and active American Cichlid that doesn't grow to epic proportions the *Caquetaia spectabilis* just might be the cichlid for you!



THE NECA SPRING AUCTION



The NECA Spring Auction is set for April 12 at the Polish-American Club in Windsor Locks, CT. We are changing very little from the past two years, but there are some rules which we are going to enforce this year, primarily because of our success. Ironically, as we have grown in size, and the volume of fish has expanded exponentially, we simply have to keep the auction moving with more speed, while making sure everyone continues to enjoy themselves, and gets a chance to buy the fish they want, as well as sell the fish they brought. So here are the proposed rules. Feel free to comment, as we are going to vote on adopting them at the next Board meeting on 2/14.

Proposed NECA Auction Rules

1. This is a \$3 per bag auction: NECA gets the first \$3, the remainder of the sale goes to the vendor. For example, if a lot sells for \$20, NECA receives \$3 and the seller receives \$17. Opening bids will start at \$3. The

- auctioneer may open at a higher price for items expected to sell at higher prices.
2. Only fish-related items will be accepted for auction (fish, aquatic invertebrates, aquatic plants and aquarium related material only!). Dry goods must be in new or like-new condition. No used aquarium gravel. No used light bulbs in any condition.
3. There is no limit to the number of lots each participant may bring. But there is a limit of 3 lots per species of livestock and plants.
4. No animals or plants restricted or deemed illegal by the State of Connecticut or Federal Governments will be accepted. No deformed fish will be accepted; no hybrids will be accepted including Bloody Parrot Cichlids, Flowerhorn Cichlids.
5. All fish lots must be properly double-bagged – A fee of \$2.00 will be charged for lots not double-bagged, leaking or otherwise requiring rebagging. Seller must mark each bag for species, pairs, male/females etc. Unidentifiable lots will be returned to the seller.
6. Dry goods must be in new or like-new condition. No used aquarium gravel. No used light bulbs in any condition.
7. Lots not selling for the minimum bid of \$3 are returned to the seller. Seller's proceeds may be collected after all of a seller's lots have sold. If the seller leaves before all lots are sold, the seller's proceeds will be mailed to the address provided by the seller.
8. The seller must pick up any lots that fail to sell. Any items left will become the property of NECA.
9. All bidders and sellers must register at the auction table for a bidder number the morning of the auction. Sellers will fill out a proper vendor form to receive a Bidder/Vendor number. All vendor forms and lots to be sold must be received at the registration table before 12 Noon on the day of the auction. There is no pre-registration offered for the auction.
10. Bidders must pay for all purchases before leaving the auction. Payment must be by cash or check with a valid driver's license. Credit cards are NOT accepted.
11. The registrar and auctioneer have the right to refuse any lot due to size, defects,

- sickness, inadequate bagging or any other disqualifying reason.
12. NECA Members will receive three free “Red Dots” to place on any lots they choose. “Red Dot” items will be auctioned first.
 13. After the “Red Dot” items are sold, the 10 table system will be used. The order of the tables will be determined by random draw. Lots may be bumped to the start of the line for a \$2 fee any time after the Red Dot lots are sold.
 14. NECA and the auctioneer will do their best to assure that all items at the auction are what they claim to be, but it is the bidder’s responsibility to assure that the item is what you intend to bid on. Unless the item was misrepresented by the auctioneer, all purchases are final. You are responsible for assuring the lot is what you want BEFORE you bid.
 15. The auctioneer has the FINAL WORD on all bids.



TEXT BY JIM KENNISTON

Each month, I will challenge a common fish-keeping myth. No experiments. No explosions. Just one man's opinion.

Myth: *Changing too much water at once can harm your fish.*

Fish keepers have long been cautioned that partial water changes are less stressful on fish than large water changes. This does make some sense if the new water is drastically different from the water being removed. If the temperature, pH etc. of the new water is extremely different than what the fish have become used to, there is a risk of shock, however, if the parameters are in the ballpark, the fish will be fine. I do 90% water changes routinely. When I bag fish, I put them in 100% new water. CLEAN WATER DOES NOT HARM FISH! I don't use the drip method of

acclimation either. I float the bag long enough to get the temperature close, then scoop the fish out of the bag and plop them into the tank. The ammonia buildup in the bag is far more dangerous to a fish than a small change in temperature, pH etc. The only time that a partial water change may be necessary is when dealing with skittish fish. I find that many *Xenotilapia* species freak out and start darting about recklessly when the water level gets too low, or when new water is introduced abruptly. So I add the water more gradually, sometimes even adding



new water while still siphoning out the old. This way, the water level doesn't get too low and spook them. But all my fish get large water changes. Get the polluted water out, and get as much clean water in as you can. The fish will thank you for it.

FLORIDA TROPICAL FISH DIRECT

(MIKE'S CICHLIDS)

We have been fish farming tropical fish in Florida for over 20 years. In the last few years we have seen a huge decline in "brick and mortar" pet shops. We have experienced a growing demand from people who wish to enjoy our hobby but have no access to the abundant tropical fish available from Florida.

Welcome to Florida Tropical Fish Direct, your farm direct source for freshwater exotic tropical fish.



In brief, you should know the following about us: our tropical fish farm, Mike's Cichlids, was established in 1988 and has been responsible for providing outstanding quality live tropical fish to the tropical fish industry ever since. Our business is located on the East coast of Central Florida just south of Daytona Beach.

On our tropical fish farm, we specialize in breeding African cichlids from Lake Malawi, Lake Tanganyika and Lake Victoria. We also breed a variety of Central/South American cichlids. We additionally stock a variety of Florida raised tropical fish such as Angels, Barbs, Tetras, Catfish, Plecos and more. Whatever you are interested in, our huge selection of tropical fish is sure to please every hobbyist's palette. We pride ourselves in producing and carrying the highest quality tropical fish. Our regular customers particularly value our knowledge and experience with these tropical fish. Once you become a customer you'll see the difference in the health, quality & size of our tropical fish. Our vast knowledge ensures we can provide outstanding customer service when you purchase your fish from us.

We look forward to working with you and expanding your tropical fish hobby!

PHONE# 1(386)426-0131
EMAIL: flfishdirect@gmail.com
FACEBOOK: <https://www.facebook.com/pages/Mikes-Cichlids/433413900114000>

HOW TO READ A FISHFOOD LABEL

TEXT BY CLAY NEIGHBORS

Go get a container of the fish food that you are currently using. Start adding up the protein, fat, fiber, minerals or ash and moisture percentages. Does it add up to 100 percent? Why not? Let's forget all of the Min./Max hocus pocus and use their numbers since those are the numbers on the report that they get when they send the food to be tested. It appears starch is missing. Follow the example below.

"XYZ Fish Food"
35% Protein
5% Fat
8% Fiber
8% Ash or Minerals
9% Moisture
65% Total



This leaves roughly 35% of the food consisting of starch and sugar. What's wrong with that?

Using this Nutrition for juvenile African cichlids study I extrapolated what I believed to be the proper level energy level to maintain healthy fish. The number that I extrapolated was 21-22. I made batches of test food and after testing for three months the fish stopped breeding. That told me that the females didn't have enough energy aka fat stored in their liver to produce eggs. I adjusted the energy maximum to 23 and sent more food out for testing. After about six weeks the fish were breeding again. How to calculate "Energy"

Starch and sugar have a 1:1 multiplier meaning 1% of sugar or starch equals 1 point of energy. Fat has 1:2.25 multiplier so 1% fat equals 2.5 points of energy.

Back to our example:
35% starch and sugar equals 35 points of energy.
5% fat multiplied by 2.25 equals 11.2 points of energy

So 35 points of energy from starch and sugar plus 11.2 points of energy from fat equals 46.2 points of energy. This is almost double the amount of energy that our studies have shown to be adequate.

EDITOR'S NOTE

Another issue done, and it has been another really enjoyable process. Thanks to Mike Liu, Jim Kenniston, Clay Neighbors, Sandy Feder, Jim Cormier, and Mike & Jen Szumigala (Mike's Cichlids) for their contributions. I am looking forward to seeing many of you on the 14th!

The deadline for the next issue is March 4, so please get your material to me ASAP.

PFG

NECA'S C.A.R.E.S. FISH

We're going to have a monthly photo album featuring the C.A.R.E.S. fish kept by our members. Here are the first few, but I will need more, so email them to me!!



Paretroplus menarambo – image by Sandy Feder



Coptodon snyderae – image by Sandy Feder



P. menarambo & *C. snyderae* – image by Sandy Feder

CICHLID PREVIEW

TEXT BY PETER GEORGE & MIKE LIU



Coptodon snyderae – image by Sandy Feder



Paratilapia sp. 'Andapa' – image by Jim Cumming



Stomatepia pindu – image by Dave Hansen

Stomatepia pindu is endemic to Lake Barmobi Mbo, Cameroon. This cichlid is a relatively small predator. Both males and females are solid black in color. When stressed, they become lighter in color. Maximum size for males is 4” and smaller for females. *Stomatepia pindu* is listed as Critically Endangered by the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species due to its limited range, surrounding agricultural practices, and turnover of water in the lake known as “burping”.

MYSTERY FISH ???



In the last issue, I included a photograph of a ‘mystery’ fish, but absolutely nobody has emailed me with the correct identity. I guess I’ll try again, and this time, please take a guess. If you guess correctly, and also happen to be in attendance at our Spring Auction, you’ll get a nice prize.



Pungu maclareni – image from Seriouslyfish.com

Pungu maclareni is also from Lake Barombi Mbo, and is found in shallow water along the shoreline. Its maximum size is 4” and both sexes exhibit the same yellow and black coloring. Its unique teeth allow it to feed on freshwater sponges in its native habitat. In the aquarium, it will accept any foods, but an herbivorous diet is best. Again, this fish is listed as Critically Endangered by the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species.



Coptodon bakossiorum - image by Zuzana Musilova

Coptodon bakossiorum is endemic to Lake Barmin. This fish grows to about 4" and both sexes are rather bland in color when not spawning. It is threatened by pollution and sedimentation from human activities, and potentially also by large emissions of carbon dioxide (CO₂) from the lake's bottom. IUCN Red List of Threatened Species lists this fish as Critically Endangered.



Konia dikume – image from Aquafisher.org

Konia dikume (the local name for this species) is endemic to Lake Barombi Mbo. It is an extremely unusual fish, given its ability to live in extremely deep water, where the oxygen level is extremely low. It has an extremely high hemoglobin concentration, which causes hemorrhaging when the fish is brought to the surface too quickly. Like other members of the Barombi Mbo species flock, it is both rare and endangered.



Myaka myaka – image by Michael Negrini

Myaka myaka is another really odd cichlid from Lake Barombi Mbo. (If you've concluded that all of these fish from the volcanic lakes are 'odd,' you're right!). In the lake, it's a pelagic planktivore, but in captivity it eats pretty much anything it can fit in its mouth. It's a nasty fish, and although it stays small, it is extremely aggressive with its own kind. But it is pretty nasty to all of its neighbors. It is a fish that has been in the hobby, and it can occasionally be obtained from other hobbyists or one of the mail order suppliers like Dave's Rare Fish. And, like all of the other fish found in these volcanic lakes, is a C.A.R.E.S. fish and is listed as Critically Endangered by the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species.



Sarotherodon lohbergeri – image by Joerg Albering

Sarotherodon lohbergeri is a bi-parental mouthbrooder from Lake Barombi Mbo. The base coloration is a grey hue with a black blotched mid-lateral line extending the length of the body. A slight yellow blaze runs from the forehead along the base of the dorsal. The lips and caudal fin are tinged blue. *Sarotherodon lohbergeri* grows to around 11 cm and feeds mainly on filamentous algae and the minute life forms that inhabit within. This cichlid is known as leka keppe by the native fisherman of Barombi Mbo. Feeding strategy is similar to the mbuna of Lake Malawi and the *Tropheus* of Tanganyika.

IMPORTANT WEBSITES

www. <http://www.necichlids.com/>
<http://www.acaconvention2015.com/>
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/236314137459/>

PARETROPLUS KIENERI **THE CALICO DAMBA**

TEXT AND IMAGES BY JIM CORMIER



There are fourteen species in the *Paretroplus* genus all from Madagascar and all are on the C.A.R.E.S. priority list. *Paretroplus kieneri* is the smallest of them and I have seen a range of 5 to 6 inches. My biggest one is under 5 inches so it is a good size for most aquariums.

There is not much information out there on Madagascar cichlids. I was trying to find some information on water parameters but didn't find much.. The most successful breeder of Madagascar cichlids has been *Old World Exotics* in Florida. They breed them in ponds and their water is on the hard side. My water is very hard and they seem to like it but I know Jim Cumming has softer water and he has been successful with them too, so it appears that the hard water is not critical. I have heard they like the water temperature in the low 80's and I keep mine around 81 degrees.



I keep them in a 75 gallon tank but I will be moving them to a 55 gallon tank. I originally had other fish with them and I had 7 *Paretroplus kieneri*, a breeding pair of *Steatocranus tinanti* and a pair of *Protomelas taeniolatus*. About six months ago they started to spawn but I would never see any fry because of all the fish in the tank, so now the only fish in there are the 5 *P. kieneri*. The *Paretroplus kieneri* are not fussy eaters. In nature they are carnivores and really like to eat snails. I feed them frozen blood worms, Repashy, cichlid sticks; as well they have eaten all the trumpet snails in the tank.



Here is the pair cleaning the area before they lay their eggs



They lay about 100-150 eggs. The eggs are good sized and start out white. They hatch in three days and they darken as they get closer to hatching. My pair jointly defend the eggs and do a good job keeping other fish away.

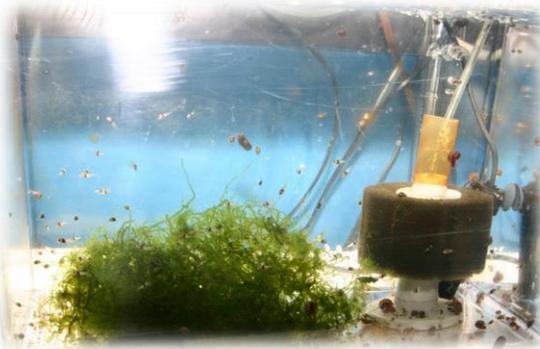
The photo below shows the parents protecting the fry. I had taken out half of the fry and left some fry with the parents. They did take care of them for about 3 weeks before the fry disappeared.



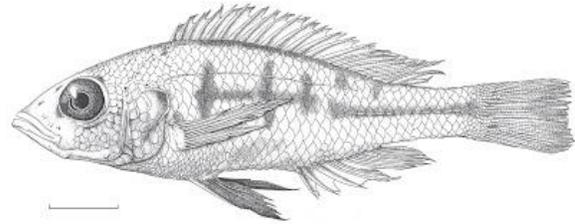
The fry look interesting in that they have a black band in the middle of their body. It's best to raise the fry on live foods. The first batch I fed decapsulated brine shrimp eggs and Repashy. When I went on vacation, I lost all the babies. The next batch I pulled, I put in a 5 gallon tank with some plants and I'm feeding them micro worms and decapsulated brine shrimp eggs. They do seem to be growing faster.



I'm doing 50% water changes twice a week. The fry seem to be doing well and eating enthusiastically, so I hope to raise all the fry this time.



NECA POSITIONS OF RESPONSIBILITY



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