

KIRKCALDY AQUARIST SOCIETY INFORMATION SHEET

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Name:- Pseudoxiphophorus Anzuetoi.

Family:- Poeciliidae

Origin:- Central America (Guatemala, Honduras, Belize)

Size:- Male 5cms & 7 Female 7cm
(u.s.a show size)



Rosen & Bailey first described this species in 1979. Prior to this only two species were known in the subgenus Pseudoxiphophorus, Heterandria Bimaculata & Jonesi. The expansion of a further six species came in 1979.

The new list was ammended with the introduction of, Anzuetoi, Attenuata, Cataractae, Dirempta, Literoperas & Obliqua.

The last five species come from very limited areas of Guatemala and so it is very unlikely that they will appear in the Aquarium trade.

In February "2002" I was in Belize on a fishing expedition with David McAllister, Brian Chittenden, Trevor Williams, Martin Mapes and Derek Lambert.

We were only catching Pseudoxiphophorus Bimaculata as we thought, and returning the small specimens. On further inspection I noticed that some of the smaller specimens were more colourful than the larger fishes.

I decided to bring a pair home. This turned out to be a gravid female Anzuetoi and a male Bimaculata. At the same site just off the Humming Bird Highway we also caught, Xiphophorus Helleri, Poecilia Orri and small Cichlids.

On reaching home the female had dropped 20 fry but only five were alive, the female also died the next day.

The five fry grew quickly and resulted in three Males & two Females. They sexed out at 3cms & where fully grown after seven months with the Males reaching 4.2cms & the females 6cms, it then came apparent that these fish were not Bimaculata. The clinching identification factor is the row of black comma shaped marks in the dorsal fin of both sexes.

These markings being peculiar to this species. The body shape is elongated with a pointed head. The body colour is olive brown with a lighter belly. Some short dark stripes sometimes appear on the flanks.

A spot on the caudal fin is common to the Sub-Genus. The fins are often tinged with yellow & frequently the outer edge of the dorsal fin has a band of colour. The dominant male in any group often loses the dark tail spot during displays to be replaced by an amber area.

I have only kept Anzuetoi in a species tank, with plants added to give cover for harassed Females & floating plants should there be any fry.

Temperature is not critical but should be between 20c to 27c, my fish do well at 23c.

As with lots of fish the adults will eat the fry & are voracious pursuers of small moving prey.

I have placed gravid females in breeding traps & have been rewarded with broods of 8 to 42 fry.

The fry at birth are about 7mm long & are able to take newly hatched Brine Shrimp. Good filtration & water changes along with a varied diet of quality flake & frozen & live food will result in rapid growth.

In my opinion this species, now establishing itself in Britain, is a first class fish to keep, provided you are prepared to devote a species tank to it. Whilst only half the size of Ps. Bimaculata it is a better coloured species which will reward you with very good show fish if you devote time & patience to it's care & development.

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