

# KIRKCALDY AQUARIST SOCIETY INFORMATION SHEET

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No,1

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Name:- Hemigrammus Ulreyi

Family:- Characidae

Origin:- Paraguay, South America

Size:- 5cms ( u.s.a show size )



Hemigrammus Ulreyi is commonly known as the Broken Stripe Characin.

This has to be one of the best looking characins in the hobby. The broken stripe is a natural for showing and they have lifted prizes as single, pairs and trio's the length and breadth of the country.

Breeding Ulreyi has given me great pleasure from when I first acquired the fish in the late 80's.

Sexing Ulreyi is mainly done by body shape. The male is more slender than the plump, female. Sometimes the male's dorsal fin has more colour and a tint of yellow in the caudal.

As with most fish for breeding it is essential to get them into condition. I feed them 2-3 times a day on quality food like Tetamin flake, Brine shrimp and Whiteworm.

I prepared an bare 18"x10"x10" tank, this was filtered by a Biofoam sponge filter and the temperature was 78f – 80f. The p.h was neutral to alkaline 7-7.5.

Black water extract was added and sometimes rain water was used, but I found the hatch rate to be less with rainwater. Nylon mops where used as the spawning medium.

After about a month of water changes and quality feeding the pair were selected.

The pair were introduced to the breeding tank in the late evening before the lights were tuned off. Spawning usually took place the next morning when the daylight came up.

The male darts back and forward in front of the female trying to impress her which eventually leads to the pair rubbing against each other, spawning has started.

The female scatters her eggs over the mops with the male shadowing her every move as he fertilises the brood. This goes on for some time until the female loses interest, she then starts to hide, that indicates that the spawning period is over.

Both fish should be removed at this stage, as they will eat all the eggs.

Methelene blue was added to the water after spawning had finished, this was to reduce fungus that can kill off the eggs.

Hatching time can be different depending on temperature. In this case the incubation time was 24 to 36 hours before I started to see small like slithers of glass sticking to the side of the tank. They started to become free swimming after 3 to 4 days. I then removed all the mops, this allowed me to remove any debris that might pollute the tank.

For their first food I would give them Liquifry or infusoria. The fry where kept on this diet for 10 days before I started them on newly hatched Brine Shrimp and micro worm.

No water changes where carried out over the first two weeks other than to top up the tank after the removal of debris.

25% water changes where carried out once a week for the next month and this moved up to twice weekly after that.

**At around 3 months the fry were needing more growing room so they were moved to a larger tank. At this stage they were eating most foods, but I found they grew very quickly at first on good quality flake.**

**Even though I got a good number of eggs from my spawnings the most Ulreyi I managed to rear up to a good size was about 60. I found it took about a year to get up to show size.**

**This fish makes a great show specimen and breeding the broken strip gave me a lot of enjoyment.**

**Text by :- Robert Paterson.**

**Photo :- Kirkcaldy Aquarist Society.**