

KIRKCALDY AQUARIST SOCIETY INFORMATION SHEET

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No,12

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Name:- Alfaro Huberi

Family:- Poeciliidae

Origin:- Sothern Guatemala &
Nicaragua.

Size:- 5.5cms (u.s.a show size)



The common name of this lovely fish is the Orange Knife Livebearer. The above photo does not do it justice.

I had first seen this fish at an open show in Newcastle in 1990, they were entered in as a breeder's team and they were outstanding. It wasn't until 1997 before I managed to purchase 10 young specimens from Kenny Hunter at a show in Workington.

On arrival back home I housed them in a well-planted 36"x12"x12" tank filtered with two large power filters. Only other tank occupants consisted of Corydoras.

They were fed with a variety of quality feeding consisting of White worm, Tetramin flake and various types of live feeding. This incorporated with the power flow from the two internal filters and regular water changes produced strong sexually mature fish within four months consisting of six males and four females.

I removed four of the males to give a better ratio for breeding, i.e. four females to two males. This also gave the females more rest.

I started to increase the quantity of white worm to bring them into breeding condition. About a month had past when the females started to show signs of being gravid with young. At this stage I removed the males to a holding tank as they where getting very pushy and this species of livebearer can get very stressed and I have known them to abort the young.

Some livebearers will not eat there young but I did not take the chance with the Huberi.

I set up 18x15x12 tanks full of Java moss and put individual females into each tank.

The female where all fed on different quantities of food, this was to see if it had any affect on there approach to the young.

A couple of days later I was over the moon when I checked that the first female had about 60 young and she was not aggressive towards them at all. Over a short while I had about 200 young from my four females and all the fry where safe. This proved to me that they are not aggressive to there young and so I put them all into a larger tank to get on with it.

The young where removed to smaller tanks to give them the best feeding without the attention of the parents.

The new born fry where fed on newly hatched brine shrimp, micro worm and crushed baby food. They where about an inch long when I moved them on to a five foot tank with plenty of filtration.

Within a year nearly all the Aquarists in the area had them or bred them.

But now in 2002-2003 they are off the scene but I am confident that this beautiful fish will make a comeback.

Text by: - Robert Paterson.

Photo: - Mike Dewar.