

KIRKCALDY AQUARIST SOCIETY INFORMATION SHEET

Date:- June "2004" No,

copyright of Kirkcaldy Aquarist Society



Name:- Barbus Narayani.

Family:- Cyprinidae.

Origin:- Asia.

Size:- 5cms



This has been a favourite little Barb of mine for many years. I was fortunate to be at Torwood lea, garden centre in the late 80's when they had a very good fish section. There was a tank full of fish covered in white spot, they were about 2cms long & very thin. We knew what they were instantly by the size of the eye.

At first they would not sell them to us but after we had informed them we would quarantine them and any losses would be our responsibility They eventually sold them to us for 50p each, they did not know what they had, but we did.

Over the years we have had several groups of these barbs, the price can range from £2.99 up to £6 or so.

They are very adaptable to water conditions but tend to be timid in tanks with larger fish.

The body shape resembles the Black Ruby Barb but the colour is totally different.

Both sexes have two dark blotches, one between the gill cover & the dorsal the other between the dorsal & caudal fin. The dorsal fin is outlined in red with a light yellow centre.

The male carries the colour in his anal fin but the female has a clear anal fin.

The tank was a 16x10 x10 with a carpet of short 5cms plastic plants.

A small sponge filter on one side was the only filtration.

Temperature was kept at 78f and the G.H was approx 4gh. Slightly acid water of 6ph.

The Six adult fish where added to the tank in the evening.

Over the next five days I fed them well on live feeding, blood worm and white worm.

We noticed one dominant male chasing the other three males back into the plants whilst rounding up the two females.

The male & female shimmied side by side but no eggs where visible.

After another two days I removed all the adult fish as the dominant male was harassing the other males.

I removed the carpet of plastic plants leaving just a bare tank and the sponge filter.

(no eggs where visible).

After two days I was astounded to see minute slithers holding on to the sides of the tank.

These Barbs produce extremely small eggs & fry, as small as some Characins.

The eggs where either so small or as clear as glass.

After two days of feeding on Liquifry the fry started to except newly hatched Brine Shrimp.

They were fed newly hatched Brine shrimp & Microworm with crushed flake over the next month to 6 weeks. After this I introduced Grindle worm, Blood Worm & lots of live Daphnia & small Glassworm. Their growth was slow for the first two months, they then grew fast over the next 6 to 8 months, reaching mature adults size readily breeding after about a year.

This is an outstanding small barb that would suite any small fish set-up. It is very peaceful to other fish, but you sometimes see them squabbling with their own kind.

Text:- Mike Dewar

Photo:- Mike Dewar