

KIRKCALDY AQUARIST SOCIETY INFORMATION SHEET

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Name: - Aequidens Rivulatus

Family: - Cichlidae

Origin: - Peru to Ecuador.

Size: - 18&22.5cm (U.S.A show size)*



These Fish should not be confused with the Aequidens Stalsbergi, The “gold Saum” has Horizontal lines in the scale pattern and a gold edging to the fins. “Silver saum” is a minor colour morf with a white edging to the fins.

Sexing: As with most cichlids, Venting is the most reliable method for sexing when young, the males will develop a nautical hump from around a year old. Adult males will grow to 30cm females 20cm

Water conditions:

Temp 22-27C

dH 5-12

PH 6.0-7.5

Breeding: Gold Saum are sexually mature at 10cm (males, 8cm females), although spawning below these sizes is possible, very few eggs hatch.

The Gold saum will need to be given suitable breeding sites in the tank, such as flat rocks. The pair will then carefully clean the site before any breeding takes place. The female Gold saum can deposit up to 200-300 eggs on the flat rock, and some females will even produce more than 400 eggs each spawning.

Do not separate the parents from the eggs or larvae, since saum’s are great parents, but also very protective for this reason a separate tank is advisable.

The eggs hatch after 3-4 days and the adult cichlids will continue to guard and care for the larvae, the parents will normally move the fry into pits in the substrate. At this stage, the larvae can be fed crushed flakes. After 9-12 days, the fry are big enough to be free swimming. They are highly sensitive to poor water conditions and can

easily succumb if you refrain from regular water changes. Free swimming fry will eat brine shrimp or fine fry powder. When the fry have reached a length of 2cm, they will typically experience a growth spurt and rapidly grow bigger.

To have a larger brood, performing a 50% water change and feeding of live food (such as bloodworm)

*Show standards include Aequidens Rivulatus as both Aquidens Rivulatus size 22.5 breeding cat C & Aquidens Sp. “gold saum” size 18 breeding cat D

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