

KIRKCALDY AQUARIST SOCIETY INFORMATION SHEET

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No,3

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Name:-Trichogaster Leeri

Family:- Anabantoid

Origin:- Malaysia

Size:- 10.5 cms (u.s.a show size)

This fish possess a labyrinth gland that enables it to survive in oxygen depleted waters throughout Asia. The labyrinth as an organ comprises or a folded mass of bone and capillary rich tissue situated internally near the gills. Its function is to store and extract oxygen.

The males have longer dorsal fins and bright orange on the throat and chest area. The pelvic fins and the front of the anal fins also carry this orange colour. The pelvic fins have taste cells at the tips.

I have been keeping fish for 3 years and this was my first egg-laying fish that I ever bred.

I was in my local Aquarium shop in Kirkcaldy when I first saw these elegant fish.

I brought them home and settled them into a holding tank for a few days. I then set them up to breed in a 36x15x12 deep tank. The tank was kept shallow because when the fry hatch they make for the surface. The tank was covered in a layer of duckweed and kept at a steady 78f, as the fry will not tolerate fluctuations in temperature.

I added a piece of polystyrene as I had been told that these fish would possibly use this to lay their eggs on. I put the pair of fish into the tank and I kept checking on their progress. After two days there was no sign of a bubble nest on or near the floating polystyrene but the female was thinner. I took her out of the tank because she had laid her eggs, and left the male to tend the eggs.

They had used the duckweed as their spawning medium and this is why I had not noticed the spawning site. After two days I noticed tiny black specs darting around the top of the tank and after three days the top of the tank was a mass of the tiny black specs about a ¼ inch long.

I fed the fry on liquifry for about 3 ½ weeks and then they went onto Baby E. for another week, after this they were fed newly hatched brine shrimp.

They grew at a slow steady rate until they were big enough to accept crushed flake food. After a while they went onto White worm and flake food.

If you tend to breed this lovely fish you require plenty of tank space, as the survival rate is very high using this method.

This fish is a peaceful and graceful fish that can grace any community set up.

I have had a lot of pleasure in breeding this very graceful and peaceful fish.

Text: - Ernie Walters.

Photo: - Kirkcaldy Aquarist Society.