

# KIRKCALDY AQUARIST SOCIETY INFORMATION SHEET

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Name:- Colisa Chuna

Family:- Anabantidae

Origin:- Northern India

Size:- 4 cms



This small Gourami is commonly known as the Honey Gourami.

The picture shows both sexes with the male above in his breeding colours. The female below is a light brown and has a dark lateral line.

To spawn these little beauties I set up an 18x10x10 tank. This is filtered via a biofoam sponge filter just breaking the surface to circulate the water. These fish are bubble nest builders so it is vitally important to keep the air to a minimum so it does not damage the bubble nest.

I keep the water depth to approx 6" and the temperature to 78c. The spawning medium consists of floating plants and a small piece of polystyrene, this gives the pair an option of spawning sites.

This type of fish has the ability to produce its own air through use of a Labyrinth gland, so the theory is that they can manage very well without additional air added to the tank. I add a filter to keep the water conditions healthy.

Make sure the fish are in good breeding condition otherwise mating may take some time or not at all.

When the fish are in breeding condition the pair were introduced to their new surroundings.

The colouration intensified in both the sexes, the male developing a distinctive dark blue throat and the female her dark lateral line.

The male starts to build a bubble nest in the plants. After a short time the male curled his body around the female to squeeze the eggs from her. He then catches all the eggs and gently blows them into the bubble nest.

Spawning is controlled by the female, when she has been stripped of all her eggs, she will hide away from the male, this is the time I remove her from the tank.

The male is left to guard the brood until they are free swimming, which is around 5 to 6 days.

I fed the fry on Infusoria and Liquifry for the first 7 to 10 days. They then go on to newly hatched Brine Shrimp for the next 4 weeks. This is when they are introduced to crushed flake/dry foods.

It is very important that the fry tank has a well fitted cover as they are very prone to temperature and humidity changes prior to the full development of the Labyrinth gland.

After two weeks I carry out daily 1 inch water changes. The water should be kept to approx the same temperature as with the fry tank.

At about 8 to 10 weeks the fry are recognisable as Colisa.

I found these fish a pleasure to keep and easy to spawn and rear.

Text:- John Reid.

Photo:- John Reid.