

KIRKCALDY AQUARIST SOCIETY INFORMATION SHEET

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No,6

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Name:- Nannostomus Beckfordi

Family:- Characidae

Origin:- Guyana

Size:- 4cms (u.s.a show size)



In 1998 I went on the annual club trip to B.A.S in Bolton. Being new to the hobby I was asking information from club members about several fish. This small pencil fish caught my eye but my knowledge about this fish was limited, so I asked Robert Paterson for advice.

This small fish has the common name of the golden pencil fish, or Nannostomus or Nannobrycon Beckfordi.

I purchased 3 pair all of about 3cms as they are not fully-grown but are sexually mature at this size. When arriving home I split up the males from the females. This was to condition the sexes for the riggers ahead.

They were fed on frozen blood worm and good quality flake food.

The breeding tank was 18x12x10 and it was filtered with a sponge filter. Java moss & 4 nylon mops were added as the spawning medium.

After 3 days the plumpest female was transferred to the breeding tank, the male was introduced later that evening, then the lights were turned off.

I was very disappointed to find they had not spawned the next morning or even for the next 8 or 9 days. Possibly I introduced the male too quickly. This is down to my over keenness to start breeding fish.

I dually separated the pair for 3 weeks.

This time the only tank I had available was my fighter tank, which was 30x6x6 and partitioned. I removed the partitions and placed the female in that evening but this time I waited 4 days before I introduced the male.

This allowed the female extra time in her new environment and to settle down and feed on brine shrimp and daphnia.

The male was introduced in the evening. I checked the pair in the morning, but no spawning had taken place but the male was showing interest.

He started to swim around the female with flickering finnage. The colour in his finnage had intensified and so I left them to it. The next morning I was delighted to see a thin female. I removed both adults to their own tanks. After inspection of the tank with a magnifying glass I estimated there to be over a 200 tiny eggs in the Java moss.

The fry became free swimming after 6 days and this is when I first fed them. The first food was liquifry and baby 'E'. After 10 days they were large enough to take newly hatched brine shrimp.

They continued to grow at a steady rate and after 3 months I had approx. 150, 2cm fish.

Since my first success with breeding Beckfordi, I have had several spawnings using the same method. I have had great enjoyment breeding this little fish and rearing the fry to show size.

They make excellent show fish and will grace any tank as long as the tank mates are not aggressive as these small fish like a peaceful home.

Text by: - Craig Dempsey.

Photo: - Kirkcaldy Aquarist Society.