

KIRKCALDY AQUARIST SOCIETY INFORMATION SHEET

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No,7

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Name: - *Elassoma Evergladei*.

Family: - Centrarchidae.

Origin: - North Carolina to Florida.

Size: - 3cms (u.s.a show size)



This little fish has a common name of the "Florida Pigmy Sunfish".

This is a quaint little fish which I first saw in a local breeders fish house. After gentle persuasion? he gave me two pair to try and breed.

Around the same time I had arranged for a trip down south and I was very fortunate in my travels to pick up another four pairs and three spare males.

On return home I housed all the fish in an 18"x12"x10" tank. The base of the tank was covered in a thin layer of sand with a large clump of java moss added as a spawning medium. The tank was filtered through a small bio foam sponge filter.

The pH was set between 6.5 - 7 and the temperature was kept cool at around 70f.

It is vital that when you are attempting to breed any fish, especially small fish, you must keep them in good condition.

To keep them in good breeding condition, the best feeding is Brine Shrimp and small live feeding, such as Daphnia and Micro Worm.

After a week I noticed that the females had laid eggs in the java moss, I had been told that they were good parents and so I took the advice I had been given and prayed.

Sure enough, the parents did not touch the eggs. After a day or so the eggs started to eye up and get bigger and after 3-4 days they started to hatch.

When the fry broke free of their egg case I left them to absorb their egg sack which took a couple of days.

They were then fed on Liquifry for about a week and then on to newly hatched Brine Shrimp and Micro worm.

After the fry were bigger they progressed on to crushed Flake food, small quantities of High Protein granules and White Worm, with the always present Brine Shrimp.

The parents kept laying small quantities of eggs and raised the fry with no problems.

The breeding adults were later moved to a warmer tank where they continued spawning, the difference being, a reduction in the hatching time to 3 days but I found this also produced a lesser hatch rate.

The male of this species can make a good show fish if up to size. They show best as trios because when they are exhibited as single fish they tend to lose a lot of their dark colour they are so famed for.

Elassoma Evergladei is a proud large fish in a small body, always showing off to other males, I found this fish quite easy to breed, so if you can get your hands on them, give them a try.

Text: - Ken Young.

Photo: - Kirkcaldy Aquarist society.