

Lamprologus brevis “Kitumba”

The Orange Belly Brevis

By John Moyles



Common Name: Orange Belly Brevis

Scientific Name: Lamprologus brevis “Kitumba”

Distribution: These fish are endemic to Lake Tanganyika, Africa. They prefer depths of 19 to 180 feet and are found in areas where the bottom is muddy and sandy and there are large numbers of snails of the genus *Neothauma*.

Conservation Status: They are listed on the IUCN Red list as “Least Concern”

Description: They are a small cichlid with an elongated body and large upturned mouth. I think they look like little bull dogs. The body is primarily a light brown with a bright orange belly and neon blue stripes under their eyes. They also have light vertical stripes. The fins are a lighter color than the body and have a white border. Males get about 2 1/2 inches females are about an inch smaller.

Care: I kept 2 pairs in a 10 gallon tank. I put a pile of shells on each side of the aquarium and a large pile of rocks in the middle for a visual barrier. There was some squabbling at first but things settled down. I used about 2 inches of pool filter sand as a substrate. I added a few java fern and some duckweed to finish the décor. Water temperature is kept at 78F, and I do 50% weekly water changes.

Feeding: In the wild they feed on plankton. I feed mine flake food, small pellets, live brine shrimp, live black worms, live daphnia, live copepods and frozen foods.

Social Behavior: They are a very peaceful fish that can be bullied by aggressive tankmates. I keep mine with some guppies. The guppies swim at the upper levels of the tank and the activity brings the shy brevis out into the open.

Breeding: My female laid eggs in a shell and the male fertilized them. The female stayed inside the shell to fan the eggs while the male guarded the area. At this point I was concerned because my two males looked like they were fighting all the time. I didn't realize they were defending their eggs until about 4 days later when I had two clouds of fry swimming over two separate shells!

References:

www.animalworld.com

www.iucnredlist.org

