

Nothobranchius fuscotaeniatus

SEEGERS (1997)



Nothobranchius fuscotaeniatus © Günther Schmaus

Original Description:

Seegers (1997)

Description of *Nothobranchius fuscotaeniatus* new species

P 12 in: Killifishes of the World: Old World Killis II.

A. C. S. Verlag, Mörfelden-Walldorf, Germany.

Etymology:

The specific name is formed from fuscus (Latin for dark) and taenium (Latin for stripe), and refers to the dark bars across the body, not only of the males but the females as well.

Description:

Nothobranchius fuscotaeniatus is a small deep bodied species with a triangular dorsal and anal fins. Males reaching a size of about 3.3 cm

Females have a unique pattern of light blue and red-brown crossbars on the body and a light blue iridescence on the dorsal and anal fins.

Type locality:

About 2 km south of Ndundu ferry across the Rufiji River on road south. A ditch containing a series of seasonal small pools on the west side of the road, in the lower Rufiji drainage; Tanzania:

Habitat and Distribution:

This species is endemic to freshwater habitats in coastal Tanzania. It is known only from the type locality. Syntopic congeners included *N. janpapi*, *N. lourensi* and *N. melanospilus*.

Maintenance and Breeding:

Not an easy species to maintain and breed. Keep the males and females separate, and set up an aquarium with peat covering the base with some floating plants such as Indian fern. Add a male and female, removing the female after an hour or two, if you have other females add to the male to continue spawning repeating this method with more fish. When all the females have exhausted their eggs leave to rest in their own aquarium enabling recovery and to fill with eggs. Return the male to his own aquarium. Repeat this method every four or five days to maximise the abundance of eggs collected. A collection of the peat on a fortnightly or monthly will ensure a good number of eggs, increasing the chances of success.

By not feeding in the breeding aquarium this reduces the risk of bacterial infections on the eggs.

Collection and storage of the peat containing the eggs is exactly the same as with other *Nothobranchius* with the incubation period being between two to three months. On hatching the fry are very small, it is essential for the first 7 to 10 days to feed the fry with infusoria. The growth of the fry is slow when compared to other species of *Nothobranchius*, taking between three and five months to reach sexual maturity.

IUCN Red List:

Critically Endangered



Yellow star denotes the type locality

GALLERY



Nothobranchius fuscotaeniatus Kitonga North TAN 97-9
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