



Species: Too numerous to list.
Approximately, 60 genera containing 650 species.

Family: Cichlidae.

Geographic Origin: Lakes Malawi, Tanganyika and Victoria.

Common Names: Mbuna (Malawi) Rift Lake Cichlids.

Compatibility: Not generally kept with small fish e.g. Tetras. Often, they cannot be kept with one another. If considering purchasing these cichlids, you should consult specialist books.

Minimum Aquarium Size: The small Tanganyika cichlids e.g. *Julidochromis* and *Neolamprologus* species, can be kept in 600mm x 380mm x 300mm (24" x 15" x 12") aquaria as a single species. If considering setting up a 'community' tank' of Malawi or Tanganyika cichlids, then considerably larger tanks are required.

Temperature: 23^o-27^oC (73^o-81^oF) is considered to be ideal, some fluctuation is normal in nature.

Habitat: Gravel substrate with plenty of rockwork. These fish need plenty of places to hide and to establish their own territories.

Water: Generally prefer a hard water environment. Excessive water changes should be avoided.

Health: Generally do not have too many health problems. Physical damage to fish due to territorial disputes may have to be treated.

Diet: Most cichlids will accept the whole range of foods. Some are algae-grazers so will require algae tablets as part of their diet. Do not over feed - problems of pollution can occur when food enters cracks in rockwork and remains uneaten.

Plants: Only plants that are firmly attached to rockwork will survive (e.g. *Anubias nana*). Only plants that are large and firmly rooted will not be vulnerable to the digging actions of the tank inhabitants.

Breeding Notes: Variety of methods practised. Mbuna are mouthbrooders, *Neolamprologus* and *Julidochromis* are cave breeders. Some *Lamprologus* are shell-spawners.

Availability: Very wide range of specimens available. Research into the species desired and their compatibility with other fish is highly recommended.

Show Class. FBAS show Class Dc.