

# FEDERATION OF BRITISH AQUATIC SOCIETIES

**FISH CARE SHEET No: 33**

**Other African Cichlids**

**01/02/2001**

Welcome to these information Sheets that will not only help you make the best fish choices for your aquarium but also provides details on their best care.

**Species:** *Paratilapia, Tilapia, Hemichromis, Sarotherodon, Steatocranus, Oreochromis* etc.

**Family:** Cichlidae.

**Geographic Origin:** West, central and Eastern Africa.

**Common Names:** Jewel Cichlid, Egyptian Mouthbrooder

**Compatibility:** Generally large and aggressive. Some can grow to 24 inches (600mm).

**Minimum Aquarium Size:** A tank of 900mm x 380mm x 300mm (36" x 15" x 12") is suitable for the smaller species of these fish. Even larger tanks are even better!

**Temperature:** 23°/28°C 73°/82°F, is considered to be ideal, some fluctuation is normal in nature.

**Habitat:** Gravel substrate with plenty of rocks.

**Water Parameters:** Medium to hard, neutral water is considered ideal for the fish.  
Should be well filtered and remain 'sweet'.

**Health:** Not generally a problem. Damage caused by territorial disputes should be carefully monitored and treated as necessary.

**Diet:** Most of these fishes should be considered as carnivores. Some fish can be persuaded to accept special pelletised dried foods.

**Plants:** These fish will rearrange gravel and rocks to suit themselves, often on a daily basis.  
Any plants will be uprooted continually.

**Breeding Notes :** Substrate nests, or depressions, may be built into which eggs are laid prior to being incubated by mouthbrooding. Some species will spawn 'American Cichlid' fashion on open surfaces such as rocks.

Strong parental care and vigorous defence of young.

**Availability:** Not quite so easily spotted as their Rift Valley relatives. Sometimes a selection is available of young fish, and this should be taken into account when stocking the tank – remembering that they will grow! Overcrowding will lead to territorial fighting.

**Show Class:** FBAS show Class D.