

FEDERATION OF BRITISH AQUATIC SOCIETIES

FISH CARE SHEET No: 13

Killifish

01/06/2000

Genera : *Aphyosemion*, *Aplocheilus*, *Cynolebias*, *Epiplatys*, *Nothobranchius*.

See those fishes listed in the current Federation Size Book under Class F.

Family : Aplocheilidae, Cyprinodontidae.

Geographic Origin : North & South America, Africa, Asia and Southern Europe.

Common Names : Very few have common names. *Aplocheilus lineatus* (gold form) is known as the 'Golden Wonder'.

Compatibility : Few Killifish are kept in community tanks. Usually they are kept as single species. This is often because the females of one species are not readily distinguished from a close relative species. Research prior to purchase is recommended.

Minimum Aquarium Size : Pairs of Killifish can be easily kept in small aquaria e.g. 250mm x 200mm x 200mm (10" x 8" x 8"). Only a very few large Killifish require large tanks.

Temperature : Undemanding. Temperatures may range from 20°/30°C 68°/86°F, some have very specific requirements and research is necessary to establish what these requirements are.

Habitat : May be found in very small ponds (even puddles), rivers and lakes. Community tank fish will benefit from a well planted aquarium.

Water : Most fish require soft acid water and do not easily accept hard alkaline water conditions. Small water changes on a weekly basis are beneficial.

Health : Several genera suffer from *Oodinium* – Velvet Disease which must be treated promptly. Small fry seem to be particularly vulnerable.

Diet : Generally prefer live foods such as *Daphnia*, Mosquito larvae, Bloodworm and *Tubifex* worms. Also accept frozen varieties of the live foods. May, given time, accept dried foods.

Plants : Most Killifish, are kept in unplanted tanks.

Breeding Notes : Fertilised eggs, laid in plants or in the substrate may, depending on species, need a period of semi-dehydration before hatching is triggered by re-immersion.

Availability: Very few species are stocked by fish shops. Mainly available through a specialist organisation such as the British Killifish Association.

Show Class. FBAS Show Class F.