

FEDERATION OF BRITISH AQUATIC SOCIETIES

FISH CARE SHEET No: 20

Livebearers (1)

01/02/2002

Genera: *Poecilia*, *Xiphophorus*.

See those fishes listed in the current Federation Size Book under Classes Q. P. R and S.

Family: Poeciliinae

Geographic Origin: Central America.

Common Names: Guppy, Swordtail, Platy, Molly.

Compatibility: With similar sized fish, they are not a problem. They can be aggressive with smaller tank mates.

Minimum Aquarium Size: For these livebearers, an aquarium of 600mm x 300mm x 300mm (24" x 12" x 12") is the minimum. They will benefit from having a larger aquarium.

Temperature: Can be kept at quite low temperatures 18°C/65°F, but are best at 24°/27°C 75°/80°F.

Habitat: Found in rivers, lakes and ponds. Best kept in a well planted aquarium with water movement provided by either external or internal filter.

Water Parameters: Prefer hard alkaline water. It should be well filtered and a partial water change each week of around 25% should be undertaken.

Health: Not especially prone to diseases, but White Spot, Mouth Fungus and Finrot (particularly if water conditions are poor) can be found in these fishes. Treat sick fish in a separate container. Do not dispose of dead fish down the toilet. Place in dustbin or incinerate.

Diet: Omnivorous. Benefit from the addition of green stuff to their diet e.g. Peas, lettuce etc. Will eat all dried, frozen and live foods.

Plants: All tropical plants are suitable for the aquarium.

Breeding Notes : All cultivated livebearers are very promiscuous, mating regardless of colour pattern or strain. Always isolate colour strains when line-breeding to protect the quality of the strain. Females can store sperm from previous matings so make sure any breeding partners are correctly chosen.

Availability: Swordtails, Mollies, Guppies and Platies are all very readily available.

Show Classes: Male Guppy Oa, Female Guppy Ob
Swordtail (*X.helleri*), *Poecilia sphenops* (Mollies) and
Platies (*X.maculatus*, *X.variatus*) Class P.