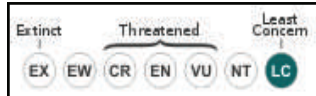




## African Jewelfish ( *Hemichromis letourneuxi* )

Order: Perciformes - Family: Cichlidae - Subfamily: Pseudocrenilabrinae - Tribe: Hemichromini



**Also known as:** Saraba or Nile Jewell Fish

**Synonyms:** *Hemichromis rolandi*, *Hemichromis saharae*, *Hemichromis bimaculatus saharae*, *Hemichromis letourneuxi*.

**Type:** Freshwater, brackish; benthopelagic; - African Cichlid\_Sauvage, 1880

**Overview:** Described as *Hemichromis letourneuxi* (Sauvage 1880), but commonly misspelled as *H. letourneauxi*. Loisel (1979) revised the genus and provided diagnoses, photographs, and synonyms for the species. An updated key to the genus was given in Loisel (1992). Color photographs were provided by Linke and Staack (1994). Until recently, all published references to introduced populations of this species taken in Florida were incorrectly identified or listed as *Hemichromis bimaculatus* (Smith-Vaniz, personal communication).

**Description:**

**Physical Characteristics:**

**Color Form:**

**Max. Size:** Approximate size 12-15 cm Size

10-12 cm (3.9-4.7")

**Sexual dimorphism:**

**Diet:** Carnivore, Pellet Foods, Flake Foods, Live Foods

**Lifespan:** 5-8 years

**Reproduction & Spawning:**

**Behavior:** .

**Habitat:** Savannah associated species which prospers in a range of lentic habitats that include brackish water lagoons, large lakes and riverine flood plains (Ref. 5644). Occurs near vegetation beds and fringes. Feeds on Caridina and insects. Substrate spawner, ripe and spent fish are common early in the flood season.

**Origin / Distribution:** The African Jewelfish, (*Hemichromis letourneuxi*) is native to the north and northwestern regions of Africa. Although the species has been present in the canals of south Florida since the 1950s, its geographic range has expanded greatly in recent years and continues to spread throughout south Florida habitats, from Everglades National Park to Big Cypress National Park (Loftus and others 2006).

**Conservation Status:** **Least Concern (LC)** Established in Florida. Prior to 1972, found only in Miami Canal and canals on western side of Miami International Airport (Hogg 1976a). Species now abundant and spreading westward. According to a study by Loftus et al. (unpublished data), this species was shown to suppress the spawning of dollar sunfish due to strong aggression on the part of *Hemichromis letourneuxi*. This cichlid possibly competes with native sunfishes for spawning sites. Loftus and Kushlan (1987) reported that this aggressive fish nests near the spawning areas of other introduced cichlids, including the spotted tilapia *Tilapia mariae* and black acara *Cichlasoma bimaculatum*. Lopez et al. (2012) examined life history traits of jewelfish at both established sites and the invasion front within Everglades National Park, finding that fishes along the invasion front generally had higher fitness, but were not bolder or better dispersers, than individuals from established populations.

**Aquarium Setup:**

**Vegetation:** Hardy plants

**Aquarium Plants:**

**Minimum Tank Size:** 150-200: 208.2 Litres (55 US G.)

**Care Level:** Moderate, average

**Stocking Ratio:** 1:2 M:F

**Water Conditions:** (up to full-strength seawater)

- Temp: 22-25 ° C
- pH: 6.0 to 7.0
- Hardness: total hardness 4-20 °

**Swimming Level:** Top, Middle or Bottom feeder?

**Compatibility / Temperament:**

