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Colour Atlas of Cyprinodonts of the
Rain Forests of Tropical Africa

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We dedicate this book to
Dr. h. c. J. J. SCHEEL in appreciation
of his outstanding work on african
Cyprinodonts

Preface

Among the killifishes the Cyprinodonts of the tropical Africa are certain to belong to the most gorgeously coloured fishes that we know. These 146 species of the rain forests of West and Central Africa listed in this volume, make up almost precisely a third of the extent of all the species of the hitherto known and described oviparous toothcarps. The remaining two thirds are mainly spread over savanna areas of Africa as well as in South and Central America and in the more temperate zones of North America. Only a few species are found in Europe and Asia.

The predominant majority of these killifishes dealt with in this book are dependant ecologically on the rain forest and there are only a few forms that were able to inhabit the neighbouring savanna areas. Both rain forests and coral reefs shelter most of the fauna species and among the smaller fishes of running waters the killies surely represent one of the most frequently found groups having abundant species.

In this volume only species of the rain forests are taken up and beyond this, only those inhabitants of the savanna whose distribution areas at least partly reach to the rain forests (z. B.: *E. spilargyreus*, *E. bifasciatus*, *Aply. normani*). Strictly inhabitants of savanna as for instance, *A. banforense*, *Aply. pfaffi*, *Aply. lamberti* and others are excluded. Since publication of Scheels „*Rivulins of the Old World*“, of late the first guiding monography on killifishes, nearly twenty years have passed in which time numerous trips for both studying and collecting to the various regions of West and Central Africa have been undertaken. Due to these journeys not only many species could be found and described but our knowledge of the distribution, ecology and biology of these fishes greatly increased.

On this occasion some people representing all those persons who have contributed to the knowledge of killifishes of the rain forests within this period are to be named in alphabetical order: Dr. V. ETZEL, Cuxhaven, Dr. J. H. HUBER, Paris, Dr. M. POLL, Tervuren, Dr. R. ROMAND, Dakar and Dr. J. J. SCHEEL, St. Laurent du Var.

We thank Mr. R. H. WILDEKAMP for many valuable discussions and for providing the drawings of fishes in this book. Likewise a great help was provided by the part on Cyprinodontidae of the recently published Volume 2 of the „*Catalogue of Freshwater Fishes of Africa*“ which has been written by the authors WILDEKAMP, ROMAND and SCHEEL.

Furthermore we are grateful to Mrs. T. RADDA, Vienna, for translating some chapters into English and to Mr. Fred WRIGHT, Bwlch, Wales, for kindly correcting the English version.

After analysing all the literature at our disposal, the results of our own investigations - which had hitherto been published in numerous single papers - were summarized in this monography. We hope to offer all persons and institutions who have interest in this fascinating group of fishes, either for scientific or private reasons, a useful tool which will be suitable to answer all questions on taxonomy, systematics, distribution, ecology and biology of the Cyprinodonts of the rain forests of West and Central Africa.

Vienna, in January 1987

A. C. RADDA
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Geography, Climate and Vegetation



Fig. 1: States of West and Central Africa

The rainforests of tropical Africa are spread over a large area beginning in the West in southern Guinea and Sierra Leone throughout Liberia, Ivory Coast, Ghana, Togo, Benin, Nigeria, Cameroon, Equatorial Guinea, Gabon, Congo, Cabinda to Zaire in the Southeast. There are, however, some species which are also living in savanna areas and therefore they reach to Senegambia, Guinea Bissau, Mali, Bourkina Faso (former Upper Volta) and to many other northern States (Fig. 1). The so-called Dahomey gap in southeastern Ghana, Togo and Benin interrupts the western part and the central african part of the tropical rainforest belt.

River systems are very important in respect to the evolution of new forms and they are barriers for many species of the cyprinodonts (Fig. 2).

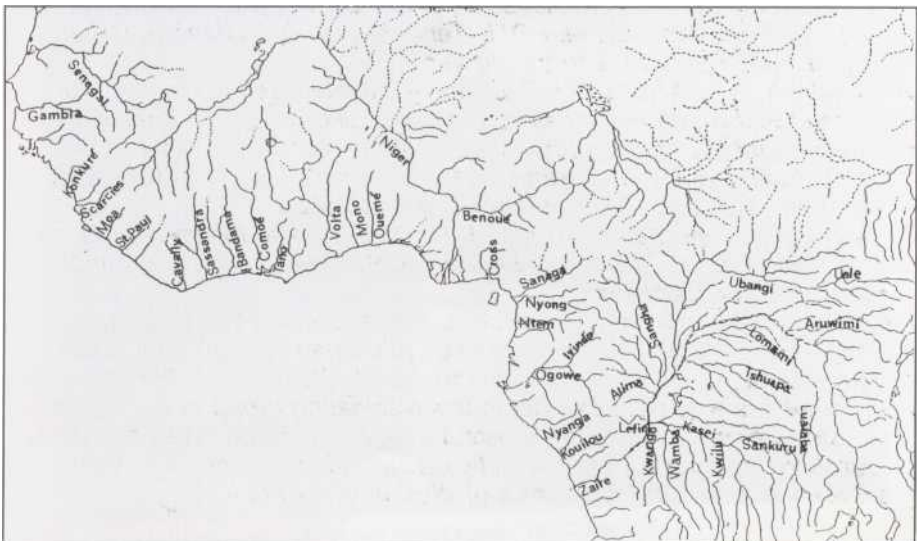


Fig. 2: Main river systems.

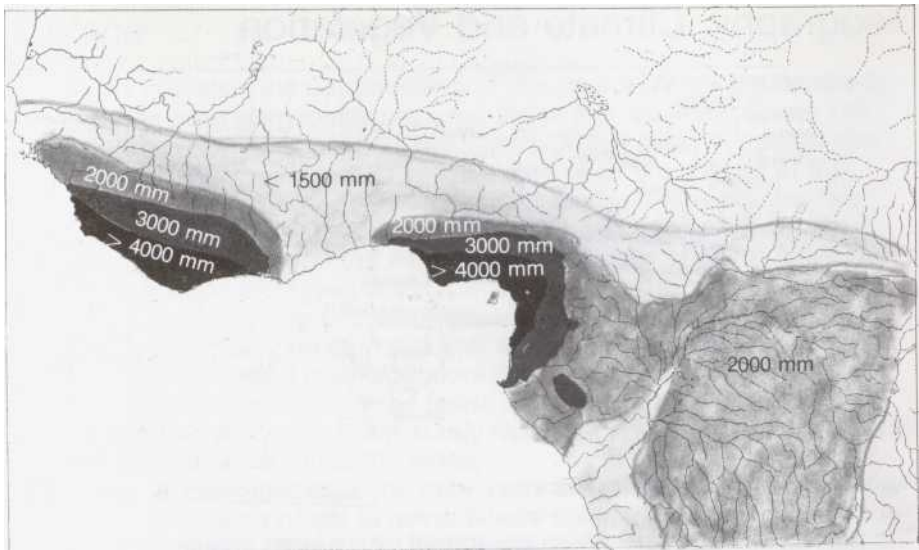
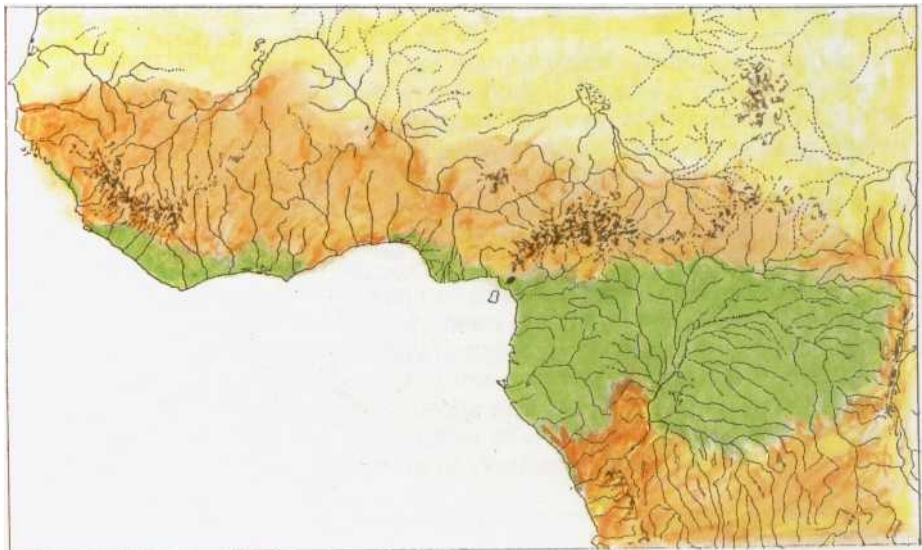


Fig. 3: Rainfall.

Rainfall and temperature depend on the relief in a high degree. The rainfall is highest at the coast but diminishes steadily northwards and towards the inland, respectively. It is also higher in mountainous regions. The Dahomey gap is due to the fewer rainfall in this area.

The distribution of the different types of vegetation is mainly influenced by the variation of rainfall. Rainforest needs an annual rainfall of at least 2000 mm. Areas of 1000 to 1500 mm of annual rainfall are grown with Guinea savanna. If

Fig. 4: Rainforest, Savanna and Relief.



the amount of rain is below 1000 mm, only dry or Sudan savanna can grow, and landscapes with rainfall of 500 mm or below are developing a vegetation of the Sahel savanna (Fig. 3).

The coastal region is characterized by estuaries, creeks and swamps and is mainly covered by the typical Mangrove. The coastal lowlands with their abundant rainfall which drains away very slowly are covered with a dense swamp forest with a high density of different plant species. Towards the inland the evergreen rainforest is spread. Only on very few places this rainforest is still a primary one, mostly replaced by secondary forest with a much lower species composition. The inland plateau with its rainforest has lower temperatures and less rainfall. In mountainous regions of higher elevations a quite different plant association - the so-called highland savanna - with mountain forest or tall grass vegetation can be found.

The bordering parts of the inland are grown with Guinea savanna. Trees can usually be observed in wet parts along rivers and the characteristic plants are different tall grass species. Sudan and Sahel savanna show only grass elements and thorns or scrub, respectively (Fig. 4).

Habitats, Collecting and Protection

The habitats of the toothcarps of the rainforests are mainly streams, brooks and rivers and occasionally pools and ponds. The *Epiplatys* species are surface dwellers hiding under floating leaves of aquatic plants. *Aphyosemion* species usually can be found on quiet parts of their habitats. The lampeyes are schooling in the fast running Darts of brooks and rivers (Fig. 5).



Fig. 5, a crowd in a tour, habitat of *E. sexfasciatus*, *A. splendopleure*, *A. calliurum* and *P. similis*

Foerschichthys, *Adamas* and some other dwarf forms prefer swamp habitats with stagnant water

The water temperatures depend on the respective sea level. In the coastal area temperatures of 23 to 26 °C can be measured, whereas in the inland plateau habitats the temperatures are 21 to 24 °C. At higher elevations the water temperatures are even lower and values of 17 to 21 °C can be observed during day and night times on the one hand, and in the different seasons of the year on other hand.

Conductivity values of the natural habitats are very often equal to that of distilled water and usually vary between 20 and 50 μS° . The pH lies in most cases below 5 and 6 and thus is far beyond the neutral value. Measurements of the total hardness show values lower than 1 German degree in most of the places.

For fish collecting a licence is needed in many western and central african states. Non annual species can be found easily in all seasons, but the collection of annual species is very difficult, however, and depends on the different seasons of the year. Rain and dry seasons are different in the respective parts of the rainforest (see Fig. 6).

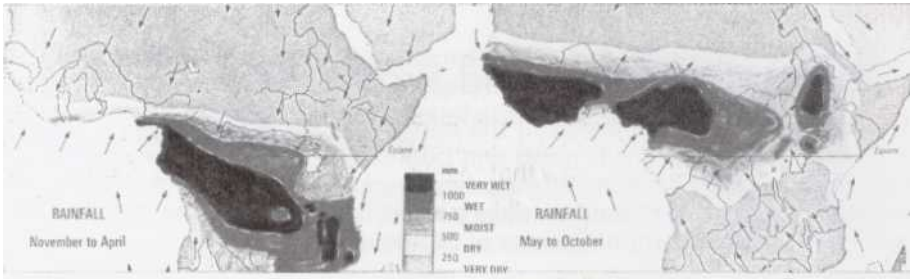


Fig. 6: Rainfall in the different seasons in West and Central Afrika.

During the past twenty years an increasing destruction of the rainforest in many states of the area under investigation could be observed. This is due to the destructive impact of man to his natural environment. As mentioned above, killifishes are ecologically bound to rainforests and the destruction of their habitats could lead to the extinction of species in the near future - above all the relict species with a small distribution area. Therefore we should try to keep enough fish of the respective species in our tanks in order to preserve them for the next generations also.

Classification, Systematics and Taxonomy

The cyprinodontiforms, commonly known as killifishes or toothcarps, are a large and diverse group of teleostean fishes with a pantropical and temperate Laurasian distribution, living mainly in freshwaters. The first classification of cyprinodonts was proposed in 1895 by GARMAN, including oviparous and viviparous groups. Until 1980 the oviparous group of the family Cyprinodontidae was currently divided in eight subfamilies as listed in the following table:

- Family Cyprinodontidae
 - Subfamily Fundulinae
 - Genus *Fundulus*, *Lucania*, *Leptolucania*, *Oxyzygonectes*, *Cubanichthys*, *Chriopeoides*, *Valencia*, *Empetrichthys*, *Crenichthys*, *Profundulus*, *Adinia*
 - Subfamily Cyprinodontinae
 - Genus *Cyprinodon*, *Megupsilon*, *Floridichthys*, *Jordanella*, *Cualac*, *Aphanius*,
 - Subfamily Lamprichthyinae
 - Genus *Lamprichthys*
 - Subfamily Orestiatinae
 - Genus *Orestias*
 - Subfamily Pantanodontinae
 - Genus *Pantanodon*
 - Subfamily Procatopodinae
 - Genus *Aplocheilichthys*, *Procatopus*, *Hypsopanchax*, *Plataplochilus*, *Hylopanchax*, *Congopanchax*
 - Subfamily Rivulinae
 - Genus *Rivulus*, *Trigonectes*, *Rivulichthys*, *Pterolebias*, *Rachovia*, *Austrofundulus*, *Cynolebias*, *Aphyosemion*, *Nothobranchius*, *Adamas*, *Epiplatys*, *Aplocheilus*, *Pachypanchax*, *Callopanchax*
 - Subfamily Fluviphylacinae
 - Genus *Fluviphylax*

In 1981 Dr. Lynne R. PARENTI published a comprehensive work based mainly on specific differences in anatomical features of the skeleton in most of the genera of all groups of the cyprinodonts. She found out that the Cyprinodontiformes are a monophyletic group, but using methods of a cladistic phylogenetic systematics, she could show that the former family Cyprinodontidae is non-monophyletic. According to her investigations she proposed a new comprehensive classification as follows:

- Order Cyprinodontiformes BERG, 1940
 - Suborder Aplocheiloidei, PARENTI, 1981
 - Family Aplocheilidae BLEEKER, 1860
 - Family Rivulidae MYERS, 1925
 - Suborder Cyprinodontodei, PARENTI, 1981
 - Section 1
 - Family Profundulidae HOEDEMAN and BRONNER, 1951
 - Section 2
 - Division 1
 - Family Fundulidae JORDAN and GILBERT, 1882
 - Division 2
 - Sept 1
 - Family Valenciidae, PARENTI, 1981
 - Sept 2
 - Superfamily Poecilioidea, PARENTI, 1981
 - Family Anablepidae GARMAN, 1895
 - Subfamily Anablepinae GARMAN, 1895
 - Subfamily Oxyzygonectinae, PARENTI, 1981
 - Family Poeciliidae GARMAN, 1895
 - Subfamily Poeciliinae GARMAN, 1895
 - Subfamily Fluviphylacinae ROBERTS, 1970
 - Subfamily Aplocheilichthyinae MYERS, 1928

- Superfamily Cyprinodontoidea PARENTI, 1981
 - Family Goodeidae JORDAN, 1923
 - Subfamily Empetrichthyinae JORDAN, EVERMANN and CLARK, 1930
 - Subfamily Goodeinae JORDAN, 1923
 - Family Cyprinodontidae GILL, 1865
 - Subfamily Cubanichthyinae, PARENTI, 1981
 - Subfamily Cyprinodontinae GILL, 1865
 - Tribe Orestiini BLEEKER, 1860
 - Tribe Cyprinodontini GILL, 1865

The genera treated in this book belong either to the former Rivulinae and Procatopodinae, respectively, or to the Aplocheilidae and Aplocheilichthyinae, using PARENTI's classification. We followed in our book the latter one. The family Aplocheilidae can be divided into two groups of genera: *Aplocheilus*, *Pachypanchax*, *Epiplatys*, *Foerschichthys* and probably *Episemion* on the one hand and *Nothobranchius*, *Aphyosemion*, *Adamas*, *Fundulosoma* and *Pronothobranchius* on the other hand. We referred both groups to the subfamilies Aplocheilinae and Nothobranchiinae, respectively.

The Aplocheilichthyinae comprise the so-called lampeye genera *Aplocheilichthys*, *Procatopus*, *Plataplochilus*, *Hypsopanchax*, *Hylopanchax* and *Congopanchax*. They are sister groups of the viviparous subfamily Poeciliinae and the oviparous and monotypic subfamily Fluviphylacinae, forming together the family Poeciliidae.

Among the subgenera of the genus *Epiplatys* only *Aphyoplatys* seems to be justified. *Pseudepiplatys (annulatus)* shows no significant differences in its meristics with *Epiplatys*. *Parepiplatys* may be considered as synonymous with *Lycocyprinus* according to the close relationship of the two type species.

The highest number of species belongs to the genus *Aphyosemion*. Until recently 12 subgenera had been described. The subgenera *Callopanchax* and *Archiaphyosemion* are distributed in the western rainforests and adjacent savannas. There are, however, certain differences between the 8 species of the latter subgenus. *A. geryi*, *A. roloffii* and *A. liberienne* show a red colour pattern with yellow/red margins of the unpaired fins. Their chromosome numbers are $n = 20$ to 21 and the standard lengths are below 40 mm. *A. guineense*, *A. viride*, *A. maeseni*, *A. jeanpoli* and *A. petersii* have no red pigmentation on the body sides and fins; their chromosome numbers are $n = 19$ to 21 , and standard lengths are more than 40 mm (to 60 mm in some species). Therefore we suggest a new subgenus *Scriptaphyosemion* n. subgen. (type species: *A. geryi*). Diagnosis as mentioned above, consisting of *A. geryi*, *A. roloffii* and *A. liberienne*. The members of this subgenus seem to be related to the *A. calliurum* group of the easternwards distributed subgenus *Mesoaphyosemion*.

There is also one representative of the subgenus *Paraphyosemion*, which can be found westwards of the Dahomey gap, namely *A. walkeri*. The other species are occurring eastwards of the gap.

The subgenus *Chromaphyosemion* comprises the *A. bivittatum* group and occurs in the coastal rainforests from Togo to Gabon. *Diapteron* was created to comprise the *A. georgiae* group by the authors in the rank of a genus. It does not seem, however, justified to separate it from *Aphyosemion* and therefore

we lowered its rank to a subgenus. The subgenera *Paludopanchax*, *Fundulopanchax*, *Gularopanchax* and *Raddaella* are comprising annual forms occurring from the Dahomey gap to Gabon, Congo and most probably also to the Zaire river basin. *Kathetys* contains only three species in Nigeria/Cameroon to the Central African Republic and *Aphyosemion* s.s. also reaches Zaire with most of its species.

Description of *Aphyosemion polli* sp. nov.

During our collecting trip to Zaire in 1982 we collected at location Nr. 26, 5 km North of N'jili, the international airport of Kinshasa in a swampy brook fishes of the so-called *A. schoutedeni* (non BLGR. 1920) POLL, 1952. Aquarium strains of this fish were distributed at that time in Europe by A. DUBOIS.

Material:

3 adult males from our collection

Musee Royal de l'Afrique Centrale (MRAC) Nr. 77345 Environs de Leopoldville (Stanley Pool) coll. by A. DUBOIS in 1951: 1 specimen

MRAC Nr. 103583-103591 Stanley Pool coll. by A. WERNER: 8 specimen

MRAC Nr. 80150-55 Leopoldville coll. by A. DUBOIS: 5 specimen

MRAC Nr. 80138 Leopoldville coll. by Van de WEYER: 1 specimen

MRAC Nr. 73150 Congo (aquarium strain) don. by E. ROLOFF: 1 specimen

Morphometrical and meristical data of the holotype and two paratypes as percentages of the standard length with standard deviations of the mean values: Total length 134 (1,0), praedorsal length 69 (1,5), praenal length 55 (0,6), praeventral length 45 (0,6), body height 20 (0,6), head length 28 (0,6), diameter of eye 7 (0,0) length of snout 6 (1,0). There are 9 (0,0) rays in the dorsal fin and 15 (0,0) rays in the anal fin. The first dorsal finray is over the 9 to 10th anal finray and there are 29 to 31 scales in a longitudinal line along the sides of the body. The colour pattern of *A. polli* n. sp. can be seen on page 124 of this book. This species was karyotyped by SCHEEL in 1972. He found $n = 11$, $A = 18,8\%$. This karyotype is quite different from that of all other species of the *A. elegans* group. We dedicate this new species to Prof. Dr. M. POLL, Tervuren.

Explanations to the following part on the individual species

The succession of the genera correspond to the classification of PARENTI. The succession of the species within the respective genera is according to their distribution areas beginning in the West and continuing to the East and Southeast, respectively. We tried to put the respective closely related species in this order.

Distribution: The red dots on the maps correspond to hitherto known finding places. A greater number of dots usually points to a higher frequency of the occurrence of the respective species, while fewer or even one dot mean that this species is rare or represents a relict species.

Systematic relations: The most closely related forms or form are named. Subspecies: The type locality of each subspecies is mentioned.

Variability refers partly to the morphometrical and meristical data, partly to the colour pattern, which can be more or less vary among the individual species in a quite different way.

By syntopic occurrence the simultaneous occurrence of two or more species is understood.

The water temperatures of the individual habitats are very essential for a proper maintenance and breeding of the killis.

Biology: The data refer to the reproduction and length of the incubation period of the embryos.



E. spilargyreus, ♂, from the shore of the Zaire River N of Kinshasa, Zaire



Epiplatys spilargyreus (DUMERIL, 1861)

Suborder: Aplocheiloidei PARENTI, 1981

Family: Aplocheilidae BLEEKER, 1860

Subfamily: Aplocheilinae RADDI, 1981

Subgenus: *Epiplatys* GILL, 1862

First Description: Arch. Mus. Hist. Nat. 10, 258

Type Locality: "Eaux douces de le Côte des Mandingues (Afrique occidentale)"; presently Senegambia

Synonyms: *Poecilia spilargyreia* DUMERIL, 1861; *Haplochilus senegalensis* STEINDACHNER, 1870; *H. marnoi* STEINDACHNER, 1881; *H. s. acuticaudatus* PELLEGRIN, 1913; *Panchax grahami decemfasciata* PELLEGRIN, 1933

Meristics: D 7-10, A 15-19, S 26-29

Total Length: M 60 mm, F 50 mm;

Systematic Relationship: Probably related to *E. fasciatus* and *E. longiventralis*

Subspecies: None

Distribution: From eastern Senegal to the White Nile drainage in Sudan, lower Zaire River and coastal plains of southeastern Ghana

Variability: Medium

Syntopic Occurrence: *E. bifasciatus*

Habitat: Small streams, brooks and swamps in the dry and humid savanna

Temperatures: 22-32 °C

Biology: Surface dwelling species with an incubation period of 10-14 days

Maintenance and Breeding: Difficult



E. bifasciatus, ♂, from southeastern Ivory Coast



***Epiplatys bifasciatus* (STEINDACHNER, 1881)**

Suborder: Aplocheiloidei PARENTI, 1981

Family: Aplocheilidae BLEEKER, 1860

Subfamily: Aplocheilinae RADDI, 1981

Subgenus: *Epiplatys* GILL, 1862

First Description: Sitzungsber. Akad. Wiss. Wien 83, 199

Type Locality: "Bahr el Seraf and Bahr el Gebel"; Nile system in central Sudan

Synonyms: *Haplochilus bifasciatus* STEINDACHNER, 1881; *Haplochilus baudoni* PELLEGRIN, 1922; *Panchax taeniatus* PFAFF, 1933; *P. steindachneri* SVENSSON, 1933; *E. ndelensis* FOWLER, 1949

Meristics: D 7-10, A 14-19, S 25-29

Total Length: M 70 mm, F 60 mm;

Systematic Relationship: Closely related to *E. barmoiensis* and *E. chevalieri*

Subspecies: None

Distribution: From Senegal to the upper Nile drainage and coastal savannas in Ghana, Togo and Benin

Variability: Medium

Syntopic Occurrence: *E. spilargyreus*

Habitat: Swamps, brooks and rivers of the guinean, grass, thorn and coastal savannas in Ivory Coast, Ghana, Togo and Benin

Temperatures: 22-32 °C

Biology: Surface dwelling species with an incubation period of 10-14 days

Maintenance and Breeding: Easy



E. barmoiensis, ♂, aquarium strain



Epiplatys barmoiensis SCHEEL, 1968

Suborder: Aplocheiloidei PARENTI, 1981

Family: Aplocheilidae BLEEKER, 1860

Subfamily: Aplocheilinae RADDA, 1981

Subgenus: *Epiplatys* GILL, 1862

First Description: Rivulins of the Old World 453

Type Locality: "Rokupr, western Sierra Leone"

Synonyms: *E. matlocki* BERKENKAMP, 1977; *E. lokoensis* BERKENKAMP & ETZEL, 1978

Meristics: D 89, A 16-17, S 27

Total Length: M 65 mm, F 50 mm

Systematic Relationship: Closely related to *E. bifasciatus*

Subspecies: None

Distribution: From southwestern Sierra Leone to southwestern Liberia

Variability: Low

Syntopic Occurrence: *E. annulatus*, *E. fasciolatus*, *E. dageti*, *A. liberiense*

Habitat: Swamps and swampy parts of brooks in the coastal plains

Temperatures: 24-30 °C

Biology: A non-annual species with an incubation period of 10-14 days

Maintenance and Breeding: Difficult



E. fasciolatus, ♂, from Bo, Sierra Leone



Epiplatys fasciolatus (GÜNTHER, 1866)

Suborder: Aplocheiloidei PARENTI, 1981

Family: Aplocheilidae BLEEKER, 1860

Subfamily: Aplocheilinae RADDI, 1981

Subgenus: *Epiplatys* GILL, 1862

First Description: Cat. Fish. 6, 358

Type Locality: "Sierra Leone"

Synonyms: *Haplochilus fasciolatus* GÜNTHER, 1866; *E. dorsalis* MAYER, 1936; *E. sexfasciatus leonensis* AHL, 1937; *E. matlocki* FOWLER, 1950; *E. zimiensis* BERKENKAMP, 1977; *E. f. huwaldi* BERKENKAMP & ETZEL, 1978

Meristics: D 7-14, A 16-18, S 26-30

Total Length: M 90 mm, F 80 mm

Systematic Relationship: *E. olbrechtsi* is very closely related to *E. fasciolatus* and had been considered as a subspecies of the former by some authors

Subspecies: *E. f. tototaensis* ROMAND, 1978 (t.t.: Totota, Liberia);

E. f. ruhkopfi BERKENKAMP & ETZEL, 1980 (t.t.: Zienzu/Soakoko, Central Liberia);

E. coccinatus BERKENKAMP & ETZEL, 1982 (t.t.: Belefuanai, Central Liberia);

E. f. josianae BERKENKAMP & ETZEL, 1983 (t.t.: Kenema, S. Leone);

E. f. puetzi BERKENKAMP & ETZEL, 1985 (t.t.: 20 km N Buchanan, Liberia)

Distribution: From Guinea Bissau to southern Liberia

Variability: Medium

Syntopic Occurrence: *E. njalaensis*, *A. roloffii/iberiense*

Habitat: Rivers and brooks in the rainforest and derived savanna

Temperatures: 24-28 °C

Biology: A non-annual species with an incubation period of 10-14 days

Maintenance and Breeding: Easy



E. njalaensis, ♂, from Munguna, Sierra Leone



Epiplatys njalaensis NEUMANN, 1976

Suborder: Aplocheiloidei PARENTI, 1981

Family: Aplocheilidae BLEEKER, 1860

Subfamily: Aplocheilinae RADDA, 1981

Subgenus: *Epiplatys* GILL, 1862

First Description: Aquarien u. Terrarien 4

Type Locality: "Njala, Südwest-Provinz von Sierra Leone, etwa 4 Meilen nördlich von Mano Geleben, Einzugsbereich des Yong river"

Synonyms: None

Meristics: D 9-10, A 13-14, S 28

Total Length: M 50 mm, F 45 mm

Systematic Relationship: *E. njalaensis* and *E. fasciolatus* are sibling species with a sympatric distribution

Subspecies: None

Distribution: Area around Njala and Zimi in southeastern Sierra Leone

Variability: Low

Syntopic Occurrence: *E. fasciolatus*, *A. roloffi/liberiense*

Habitat: Small rivers and brooks in the rainforest and derived savanna

Temperatures: 25-28 °C

Biology: A non-annual species with an incubation period of 10-14 days

Maintenance and Breeding: Easy



E. olbrechtsi, ♂, from Grand Berebi, Ivory Coast



Epiplatys olbrechtsi POLL, 1941

Suborder: Aplocheiloidei PARENTI, 1981

Family: Aplocheilidae BLEEKER, 1860

Subfamily: Aplocheilinae RADDI, 1981

Subgenus: *Epiplatys* GILL, 1862

First Description: Rev. Zool. Bot. Afr. 34, 139

Type Locality: "Confluent de la petit rivière Masei et de la riv. Bon de Boan, affl. du fleuve Nuon border area between Liberia and Ivory Coast

Synonyms: *E. fasciolatus olbrechtsi* DAGET, 1952; 1963

Meristics: D 10-13, A 15-18, S 28-30

Total Length: M 90 mm, F 80 mm

Systematic Relationship: Very closely related to *A. fasciolatus* and to the other members of the *E. fasciolatus* complex

Subspecies: *E. o. kassiapleuensis* BERKENKAMP & ETZEL, 1977 (t.t.: W Elfenbeinküste, Man);

E. o. azureus BERKENKAMP & ETZEL, 1983 (t.t.: 20 km N Tapeta, Central Liberia);

E. o. dauresi ROMAND, 1985 (t.t.: Environs de Bouaké, Côte d'Ivoire centrale)

Distribution: Nipoué, Cavally and Sassandra drainages in eastern Liberia and Western Ivory Coast, respectively

Variability: Medium

Syntopic Occurrence: *A. liberiense schmitti*, *A. maeseni*, *A. viride*

Habitat: Rivers, brooks and swampy streams in the rainforest and guinean savanna

Temperatures: 24-28 °C

Biology: A non-annual species with an incubation period of 10-14 days

Maintenance and Breeding: Easy



E. lamottei, ♂, from N'Zérékoré, Guinea



Epiplatys lamottei DAGET, 1954

Suborder: Aplocheiloidei PARENTI, 1981

Family: Aplocheilidae BLEEKER, 1860

Subfamily: Aplocheilinae RADDA, 1981

Subgenus: *Epiplatys* GILL, 1862

First Description: Mem.I.F.A.N. 36, 317

Type Locality: "Simandou", southeastern Guinea

Synonyms: *E. fasciolatus lamottei* DAGET, 1954

Meristics: D 10-12, A 14-17, S 28-31

Total Length: M 70 mm, F 60 mm

Systematic Relationship: *E. lamottei* is a member of the *E. fasciolatus* complex

Subspecies: None

Distribution: Upper Niger drainage in southeastern Guinea and in the upper parts of the coastal rivers in northern Liberia

Variability: Low

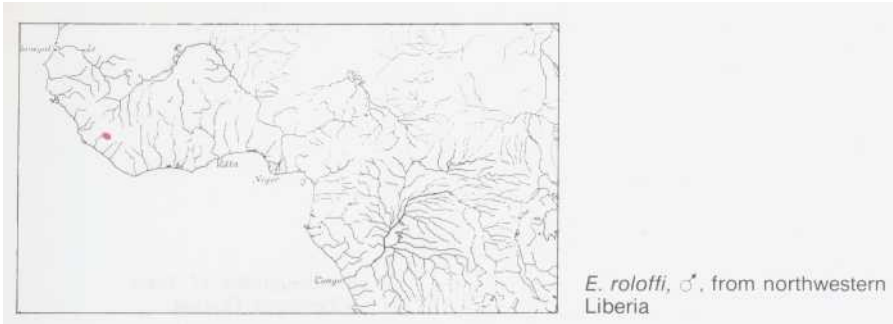
Syntopic Occurrence: *E. hildegardae*, *A. maeseni*, *A. viride*

Habitat: Brooks in the rainforest

Temperatures: 18-23 °C

Biology: A non-annual species with an incubation period of 10-14 days

Maintenance and Breeding: Moderately difficult



E. roloffi, ♂, from northwestern Liberia



Epiplatys roloffi ROMAND, 1978

Suborder: Aplocheiloidei PARENT], 1981

Family: Aplocheilidae BLEEKER, 1860

Subfamily: Aplocheilinae RADDI, 1981

Subgenus: *Epiplatys* GILL, 1862

First Description: DATZ 31, 368

Type Locality: "Salayea", northern Liberia

Synonyms: *Epiplatys* sp. "Braunrot" BERKENKAMP & ETZEL, 1978

Meristics: D 11-13, A 16-17, S 32-34

Total Length: M 80 mm, F 70 mm

Systematic Relationship: A member of the *E. fasciolatus* complex

Subspecies: None

Distribution: Probably a small distribution area around the type locality in northwestern Liberia

Variability: Low

Syntopic Occurrence: *A. viride*?

Habitat: Swamps, swampy streams and brooks in the rainforest

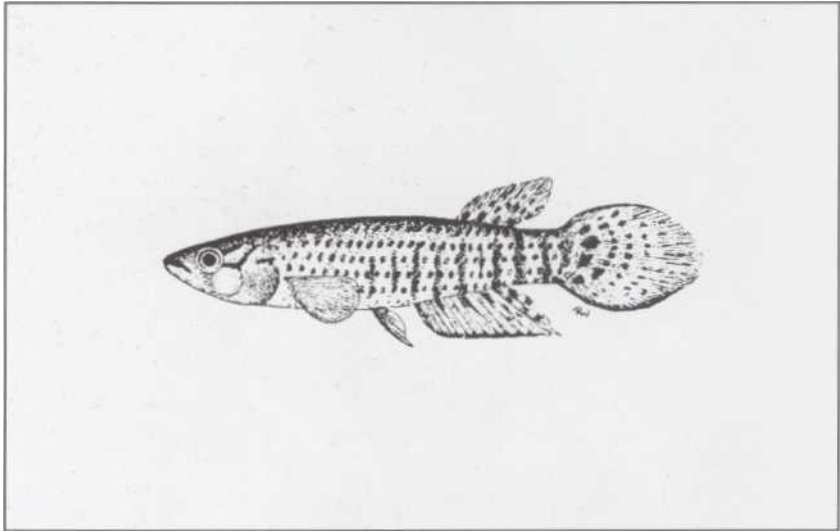
Temperatures: 20-24 °C

Biology: A non-annual species with an incubation period of 10-14 days

Maintenance and Breeding: Moderately difficult



E. hildegardae, ♂, from N'Zérékoré, Guinea



Epiplatys hildegardae BERKENKAMP, 1983

Suborder: Aplocheiloidei PARENTI, 1981

Family: Aplocheilidae BLEEKER, 1860

Subfamily: Aplocheilinae RADDA, 1981

Subgenus: *Epiplatys* GILL, 1862

First Description: Rev. Zool. afr. 97, 856

Type Locality: "N'Zérékoré, Sûdguinea"; southern upper Guinea

Synonyms: *E. hildegardae* BERKENKAMP, 1978 (nom. nudum); *E. olbrechtsi* SCHEEL, 1968 (in part)

Meristics: D 10-12, A 15-18, S 28+2-3

Total Length: M 60 mm, F 50 mm

Systematic Relationship: *A. hildegardae* belongs to the *E. fasciolatus* group

Subspecies: None

Distribution: Only known from its type locality

Variability: Low?

Syntopic Occurrence: *E. lamottei*, *A. maeseni*, *A. viride*, *Aply. nimbaensis*

Habitat: Unknown

Temperatures: Unknown

Biology: No experience

Maintenance and Breeding: Not yet kept alive



E. annulatus, ♂, from Monrovia, Liberia



Epiplatys annulatus (BOULENGER, 1915)

Suborder: Aplocheiloidei PARENTI, 1981

Family: Aplocheilidae BLEEKER, 1860

Subfamily: Aplocheilinae RADDI, 1981

Subgenus: *Pseudepiplatys* CLAUSEN, 1967

First Description: Ann. Mag. Nat. Hist. 15, 203

Type Locality: "Maka, Sierra Leone"; southern Sierra Leone

Synonyms: None

Meristics: D 7, A 13, S 28-29

Total Length: M 35 mm, F 20 mm

Systematic Relationship: Type species of the monotypic subgenus *Pseudepiplatys*

Subspecies: None

Distribution: Coastal areas of western Guinea to western Liberia

Variability: Medium

Syntopic Occurrence: *E. fasciolatus*, *E. barmoiensis*, *A. occidentale*, *A. liberiense*

Habitat: Swamps and swampy parts of shallow brooks in open savanna and rainforest

Temperatures: 25-30 °C

Biology: A non-annual species with an incubation period of about 10 days

Maintenance and Breeding: Difficult



E. chaperi, ♂, from Bonoua, Ivory Coast



Epiplatys chaperi (SAUVAGE, 1882)

Suborder: Cyprinodontoidei PARENTI, 1981 Family: Aplocheilidae BLEEKER, 1860

Subfamily: Aplocheilinae RADDA, 1981 Subgenus: *Epiplatys* GILL, 1862

First Description: Bull. Soc. Zool. France. 7, 323

Type Locality: "Lagune d'Assinie à Couacrou"; southeastern Ivory Coast

Synonyms: *E. etzeli* BERKENKAMP, 1975

Meristics: D 8-12, A 13-17, S 24-28

Total Length: M 75 mm, F 70 mm

Systematic Relationship: Closely related to the sympatric *E. sheljuzhkoii* and also to the allopatric *E. sexfasciatus*

Subspecies: *E. ch. spillmanni* ARNOULT, 1960 (t.t.: Nannafoues, Bouake),

E. ch. schreiberi BERKENKAMP, 1975 (t.t.: SO Kumasi, W-Ghana)

Distribution: Southern and central Ivory Coast, southern Ghana to southwestern Togo

Variability: High

Syntopic Occurrence: *E. sheljuzhkoii*, *A. petersii*, *Aply. rancureli*, *Aply. normani*

Habitat: Brooks and streams in the rainforest and derived savanna

Temperatures: 24-30 °C

Biology: A non-annual species with an incubation period of 10-14 days

Maintenance and Breeding: Easy



E. sheljuzhkoï, ♂, from Bonoua, Ivory Coast



Epiplatys sheljuzhkoï POLL, 1953

Suborder: Cyprinodontoidei PARENTI, 1981 Family: Aplocheilidae BLEEKER, 1860

Subfamily: Aplocheilinae RADDA, 1981 Subgenus: *Epiplatys* GILL, 1862

First Description: Rev. Zool. Bot. Afr. 48, 261

Type Locality: "Environs d'Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire"; Ivory Coast

Synonyms: *E. chaperi sheljuzhkoï* ARNOULT & DAGET, 1964, and many others

Meristics: D 11-12, A 15-18, S 28-30 Total Length: M 75 mm, F 70 mm

Systematic Relationship: Sibling species of *E. chaperi*

Subspecies: None

Distribution: Coastal rainforest of southeastern Ivory Coast

Variability: Low

Syntopic Occurrence: *E. chaperi*, *A. petersii*, *Aply. rancureli*, *Aply. normani*

Habitat: Rivers and brooks of the rainforest

Temperatures: 25-29 °C

Biology: A non-annual species with an incubation period of 10-14 days

Maintenance and Breeding: Easy



E. s. togolensis, ♂, from SE Benin



Epiplatys sexfasciatus GILL, 1863

Suborder: Aplocheiloidei PARENTI, 1981

Family: Aplocheilidae BLEEKER, 1860

Subfamily: Aplocheilinae RADDI, 1981

Subgenus: *Epiplatys* GILL, 1862

First Description: Proc. Acad. Nat. Sci. Phil. 136

Type Locality: "Gabon River (Ogowe)", Gabon

Synonyms: *Haplochilus infrafasciatus* GÜNTHER, 1966 (in part)

Meristics: D 9-13, A 14-19, S 27-32

Total Length: M 80 mm, F 60 mm;

Systematic Relationship: Closely related to *E. chaperi* and also to *E. esekanus*

Subspecies: *E. s. rathkei* RADDI, 1971 (Kumba, Cameroon); *E. s. togolensis* LOISELLE, 1971 (Palime Togo); *E. s. baroi* BERKENKAMP, 1975 (Kribi, Cameroon)

Distribution: Southern parts of Togo, Benin, Nigeria, coastal plains in Cameroon, Equatorial Guinea and northwestern Gabon

Variability: High

Syntopic Occurrence: *E. grahami*, *A. splendopleure*, *A. bivittatum*, *A. volcanum*, *A. loennbergi*, *A. calliurum*, *P. similis*, *P. nototaenia*

Habitat: Brooks in the coastal rainforests

Temperatures: 23-26 °C

Biology: Surface dwelling species with an incubation period of 10-14 days

Maintenance and Breeding: Easy



E. esekanus, ♂, from the type locality



Epiplatys esekanus SCHEEL, 1968

Suborder: Aplocheiloidei PARENTI, 1981

Family: Aplocheilidae BLEEKER, 1860

Subfamily: Aplocheilinae RADDA, 1981

Subgenus: *Epiplatys* GILL, 1862

First Description: Rivulins of the Old World 185

Type Locality: "Brook 15 miles north of Eseka, near the Eseka-Yaounde-Edea crossing in East Cameroon"

Synonyms: None

Meristics: D 10, A 16, S 16-19

Total Length: M 65 mm, F 60 mm;

Systematic Relationship: A relict species closely related to *E. sexfasciatus*

Subspecies: None

Distribution: Restricted area at the border between the coastal plains and the inland plateau around the type locality in southwestern East Cameroon

Variability: Low

Syntopic Occurrence: *A. raddai*

Habitat: Brooks of the rainforest at the western rim of the inland plateau

Temperatures: 22-26 °C

Biology: Non-annual species with an incubation period of 10-14 days

Maintenance and Breeding: Difficult



E. sangmelinensis, ♂, from the surroundings of Sangmelima, Cameroon



Epiplatys sangmelinensis (AHL, 1928)

Suborder: Aplocheiloidei PARENTI, 1981

Family: Aplocheilidae BLEEKER, 1860

Subfamily: Aplocheilinae RADDA, 1981

Subgenus: *Epiplatys* GILL, 1862

First Description: Zool. Anzeiger 79, 118

Type Locality: "Sangmelima, Südkamerun am oberen Lobo-Fluß"

Synonyms: *Panchax sangmelinensis* AHL, 1928; *P. nyongensis* AHL, 1928

Meristics: D 8--1Q A 16-17, S 30-31

Total Length: M 70 mm, F 60 mm;

Systematic Relationship: Probably related to *E. esekanus*

Subspecies: None

Distribution: Upper drainages of the Sanaga, Nyong and Dja rivers in southern Cameroon as well as in the upper Ivindo system in northern Gabon and Congo

Variability: Medium

Syntopic Occurrence: *A. cameronense*, *A. batesii*, *A. splendidum*, *A. punctatum*, *H. stictopleuron*

Habitat: Swamps and brooks in the rainforest of the inland plateau

Temperatures: 21-23 °C

Biology: Non-annual species with an incubation period of 10-14 days

Maintenance and Breeding: Difficult



E. berkenkampii, ♂, from the type locality



Epiplatys berkenkampii NEUMANN, 1978

Suborder: Aplocheiloidei PARENTI, 1981

Family: Aplocheilidae BLEEKER, 1860

Subfamily: Aplocheilinae RADDI, 1981

Subgenus: *Epiplatys* GILL, 1862

First Description: Aquarien und Terrarien 25, 125

Type Locality: "Bach von 10 cm Tiefe etwa 30 km südlich Lambarene an der Straße von Biguénia nach Mora, Gabun", central western Gabon

Synonyms: *Aplocheilus multifasciatus* RADDI & HUBER, 1977

Meristics: D 9-10, A 14-16, S 29-30

Total Length: M 80 mm, F 70 mm;

Systematic Relationship: According to his karyotype *E. berkenkampii* is closely related to *E. sexfasciatus*, but he is most likely to belong to the *E. multifasciatus* group

Subspecies: None

Distribution: Ogooué drainage of the plains in western Gabon

Variability: High

Syntopic Occurrence: *E. singa*, *A. exigoides*, *A. primigenium*

Habitat: Small rivers and brooks in rainforest and derived savanna

Temperatures: 23-26 °C

Biology: Non-annual species with an incubation period of 10-14 days

Maintenance and Breeding: Easy



E. huberi, ♂, Holotype



Epiplatys huberi RADDA & PÜRZL, 1981

Suborder: Aplocheiloidei PARENTI, 1981

Family: Aplocheilidae BLEEKER, 1860

Subfamily: Aplocheilinae RADDA, 1981

Subgenus: *Epiplatys* GILL, 1862

First Description: *Aquaria* 28, 193

Type Locality: "25 km ONO N'dendé an der Straße nach Lébang", central Gabon

Synonyms: *Aplocheilus (E.) huberi* RADDA & PÜRZL, 1981

Meristics: D 9, A 14-15, S 29-30

Total Length: 65 mm

Systematic Relationship: Closely related to *E. berkenkampi*

Subspecies: None

Distribution: Southwestern rim of the Du Chaillu mountains in central Gabon

Variability: Low

Syntopic Occurrence: None

Habitat: Brooks in the rainforest

Temperatures: 20-24 °C

Biology: Non-annual species with an incubation period of 10-14 days

Maintenance and Breeding: Easy



E. longiventralis, ♂, from NE of Awka, Nigeria



Epiplatys longiventralis (BOULENGER, 1911)

Suborder: Aplocheiloidei PARENTI, 1981

Family: Aplocheilidae BLEEKER, 1860

Subfamily: Aplocheilinae RADDA, 1981

Subgenus: *Epiplatys* GILL, 1862

First Description: Ann. Mus. Nat. Hist. (8) 8, 266

Type Locality: "Swamps between Agwarba and Awka", southern Nigeria

Synonyms: *Haplochilus longiventralis* BOULENGER, 1911

Meristics: D 7-10, A 15-18, S 25-29

Total Length: M 60 mm, F 55 mm;

Systematic Relationship: Closely related to *E. biafranus*, another relict species with a restricted distribution area

Subspecies: None

Distribution: Between Enugu and Onitsha in the northern part of the former Biafra in southeastern Nigeria

Variability: Low

Syntopic Occurrence: None

Habitat: Swamps and stagnant parts of brooks in guinean savanna

Temperatures: 25-29 °C

Biology: Non-annual species with an incubation period of 10-14 days

Maintenance and Breeding: Moderately difficult



E. biafranus, ♂, from 24 km SW of Aba, Nigeria



Epiplatys biafranus RADDA, 1970

Suborder: Aplocheiloidei PARENTI, 1981 Family: Aplocheilidae BLEEKER, 1860

Subfamily: Aplocheilinae RADDA, 1981 Subgenus: *Epiplatys* GILL, 1862

First Description: *Aquaria* 17, 8

Type Locality: "Umgebung von Port Harcourt, Biafra-Nigeria", southeastern Nigeria

Synonyma: None

Meristics: D 9-10, A 12-13, S 26-28 Total Length: M 50 mm, F 45 mm;

Systematic Relationship: Closely related to the northerly distributed savanna form *E. longiventralis*

Subspecies: None

Distribution: Between Owerri, Port Harcourt and Aba in southeastern Nigeria

Variability: Low

Syntopic Occurrence: *E. sexfasciatus*, *A. splendopleure*, *A. calliurum*

Habitat: Swamps, swampy parts of brooks and small streams in the rainforest

Temperatures: 20-25 °C

Biology: Non-annual species with an incubation period of 10-14 days

Maintenance and Breeding: Difficult



E. multifasciatus, ♂, from the Wamba river, Zaire



Epiplatys multifasciatus (BOULENGER, 1913)

Suborder: Aplocheiloidei PARENTI, 1981

Family: Aplocheilidae BLEEKER, 1860

Subfamily: Aplocheilinae RADDA, 1981

Subgenus: *Epiplatys* GILL, 1862

First Description: Bull. Soc. Nat. Luxembourg 43

Type Locality: "Kondoué, Kasai" southern Zaire

Synonyms: None

Meristics: D 9-11, A 14-16, S 26-31

Total Length: M 70 mm, F 60 mm;

Systematic Relationship: Closely related to *E. Boulengeri*, *E. berkenkampii* and *E. phoeniceps*

Subspecies: None

Distribution: Zaire river and Kasai river drainages in Zaire and the lower Oubangui river system in Congo

Variability: Medium

Syntopic Occurrence: Species of the *A. elegans* group

Habitat: Swamps, quiet parts of brooks and rivers of the rainforest

Temperatures: 23-26 °C

Biology: A non-annual species with an incubation period of 10-14 days

Maintenance and Breeding: Moderately difficult



E. boulengeri, ♂, from Lékoni, Gabon



Epiplatys boulengeri (PELLEGRIN, 1926)

Suborder: Aplocheiloidei PARENTI, 1981

Family: Aplocheilidae BLEEKER, 1860

Subfamily: Aplocheilinae RADDA, 1981

Subgenus: *Epiplatys* GILL, 1862

First Description: Rev. Zool. Afr. 14, 206

Type Locality: "Kidada, Mogenda, Tshimbu"; central Zaire

Synonyms: None

Meristics: D 9-11, A 14-17, S 28-29

Total Length: M 60 mm, F 50 mm;

Systematic Relationship: Probably closely related to *E. multifasciatus*

Subspecies: None

Distribution: Central Zaire, Congo and southeastern Gabon

Variability: Unknown

Syntopic Occurrence: *A. rectogoense* (SE Gabon)

Habitat: Brooks in the rainforest and guinean savanna

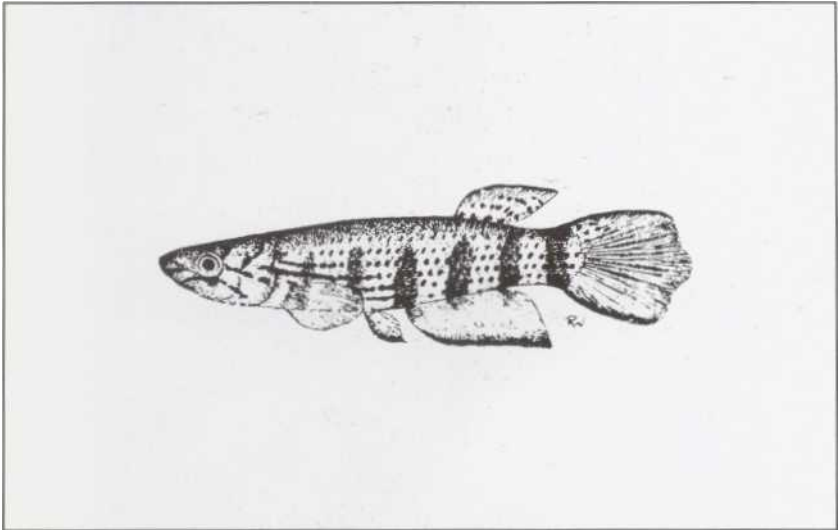
Temperatures: 25-28 °C

Biology: A non-annual species with an incubation period of 10-14 days

Maintenance and Breeding: Difficult



E. phoeniceps, ♂, Ignoli, Congo



Epiplatys phoeniceps HUBER, 1980

Suborder: Aplocheiloidei PARENTI, 1981

Family: Aplocheilidae BLEEKER, 1860

Subfamily: Aplocheilinae RADDA, 1981

Subgenus: *Epiplatys* GILL, 1862

First Description: Killi Revue Supplement 2, 12

Type Locality: "200 metres au sud du village Ignoli, soit 13 km au sud du village de Débrouillé, dans un petit ruisseau assez courant, du Congo septentrional, bassin de la Sangha"

Synonyms: None

Meristics: D 9-10, A 15-16, S 28-30+1-3 Total Length: M 60 mm, F 50 mm;

Systematic Relationship: A member of the *E. multifasciatus* group

Subspecies: None

Distribution: Sangha river drainage in central eastern Congo

Variability: Low?

Syntopic Occurrence: *A. elegans*

Habitat: Brooks and streams in the rainforest

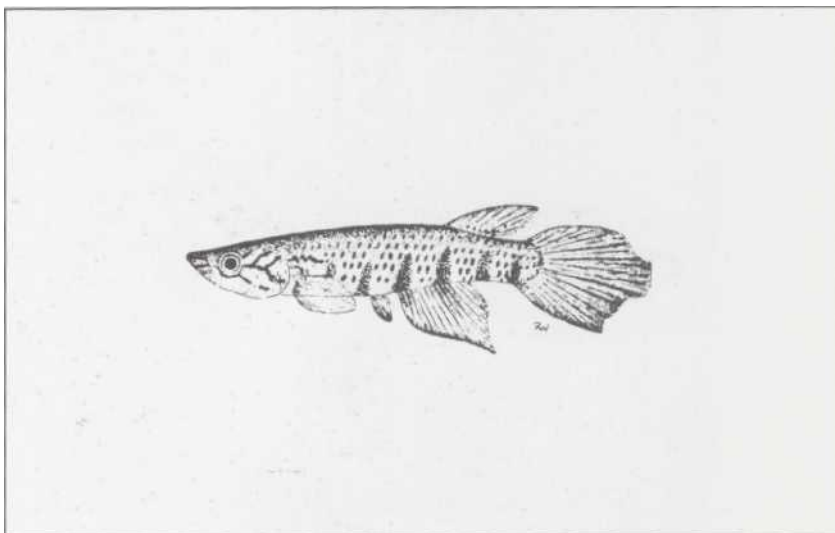
Temperatures: 22-26 °C

Biology: A non-annual species with an incubation period of 10-14 days

Maintenance and Breeding: No Batas published



E. mesogramma, ♂, from a brook between Mbaiki and Nongoumba, Central African Republic



Epiplatys mesogramma (HUBER, 1980)

Suborder: Aplocheiloidei PARENTI, 1981

Family: Aplocheilidae BLEEKER, 1860

Subfamily: Aplocheilinae RADDA, 1981

Subgenus: *Epiplatys* GILL, 1862

First Description: Killi Revue Supplement 2, 6

Type Locality: "Marigot coupant une bretelle partant de Pisa pour rejoindre la route Mbaiki-Mongoumba, République Centrafricaine" south of Bangui, Central African Republic

Synonyms: None

Meristics: D 9-10, A 15-17, S 27-28+2

Total Length: M 55 mm, F 45 mm;

Systematic Relationship: A member of the *E. multifasciatus* group

Subspecies: None

Distribution: Hitherto only known from its type locality

Variability: Low?

Syntopic Occurrence: *E. chevalieri*, *A. decorsei*

Habitat: Swamps and brooks in the rainforest

Temperatures: No measurements

Biology: Unknown

Maintenance and Breeding: Not yet kept alive



E. chevalieri, ♂, from a stream near the Kinshasa airport, Zaire



Epiplatys chevalieri (PELLEGRIN, 1904)

Suborder: Cyprinodontoidei PARENTI, 1981

Family: Aplocheilidae BLEEKER, 1860

Subfamily: Aplocheilinae RADDA, 1981

Subgenus: *Epiplatys* GILL, 1862

First Description: Bull. Mus. Hist. Nat. 10, 222

Type Locality: "Brazzaville", Congo

Synonyms: *Haplochilus chevalieri* PELLEGRIN, 1904; *H. nigricans* BOULENGER, 1913

Meristics: D 7-8, A 13-14, S 27-28

Total Length: M 50 mm, F 40 mm;

Systematic Relationship: No close relatives within the genus

Subspecies: Probably *E. ch. nigricans* can be considered as a subspecies

Distribution: Area around the Pool Malebe (former Stanley pool) in Congo and Zaire (*E. ch. chevalieri*) and Ubangui river drainage in Zaire and Central African Republic (*E. ch. nigricans*)

Variability: Medium

Syntopic Occurrence: *A. cognatum*, *A. christyi*

Habitat: Swamps and swampy brooks of the rainforest

Temperatures: 23-25 °C

Biology: A non-annual species with an incubation period of 10-14 days

Maintenance and Breeding: Difficult



E. dageti, ♂, from Tabou, Ivory Coast



Epiplatys dageti POLL, 1953

Suborder: Cyprinodontodei PARENTI, 1981

Family: Aplocheilidae BLEEKER, 1860

Subfamily: Aplocheilinae RADDA, 1981

Subgenus: *Lycocyprinus* PETERS, 1868

First Description: Rev. Zool. Bot. Afr. 48, 265

Type Locality: "Mare près de Port Bouet, 18 km d'Abidjan" Ivory Coast

Synonyms: *Poecilia sexfasciata* PETERS, 1864

Meristics: D 9, A 14-16, S 26-27

Total Length: M 55 mm, F 45 mm;

Systematic Relationship: Type species of the subgenus *Lycocyprinus* and probably a relative of *E. grahami* and *E. singa*

Subspecies: *E. d. monoviae* DAGET & ARNOULT, 1964 (*t.t.*: Monrovia, Liberia)

Distribution: Coastal swamps from western Liberia to southeastern Ivory Coast

Variability: Low

Syntopic Occurrence: None

Habitat: Swamps with stagnant water in the coastal savanna

Temperatures: 25-30 °C

Biology: A non-annual species with an incubation period of 10-14 days

Maintenance and Breeding: Easy



E. grahami, ♂, from southeastern Benin



Epiplatys grahami (BOULENGER, 1911)

Suborder: Aplocheiloidei PARENTI, 1981

Family: Aplocheilidae BLEEKER, 1860

Subfamily: Aplocheilinae RADDA, 1981

Subgenus: ? *Lycocyprinus* PETERS, 1868

First Description: Ann. Mag. Nat. Hist. (8) 8, 267

Type Locality: "Lagos, in swamps; southwestern Nigeria"

Synonyms: *Haplochilus grahami* BOULENGER, 1911; *E. nigromarginatus* SCHULTZE, 1937

Meristics: D 7-11, A 16-17, S 26-30

Total Length: M 60 mm, F 50 mm;

Systematic Relationship: Very closely related to *E. singa*

Subspecies: None

Distribution: From southeastern Benin, through southern Nigeria and Cameroon to northwestern Equatorial Guinea

Variability: Medium

Syntopic Occurrence: *E. sexfasciatus*, *A. calliurum*, *Aply. macrophthalmus*

Habitat: Swamps and swampy parts of small streams in the forests of the coastal plains

Temperatures: 23-28 °C

Biology: Surface dwelling species with an incubation period of 10-14 days

Maintenance and Breeding: Easy



E. singa, ♂, from Mayumba, Gabon



Epiplatys singa (BOULENGER, 1899)

Suborder: Aplocheiloidei PARENTI, 1981

Family: Aplocheilidae BLEEKER, 1860

Subfamily: Aplocheilinae RADDI, 1981

Subgenus: ? *Lycocyprinus* PETERS, 1868

First Description: Ann. Mus. Congo Belge Zool. 1, 113

Type Locality: "Marais de Boma", lower Zaire

Synonyms: *Haplochilus singa* BOULENGER, 1899; *Haplochilus ansorgii* BOULENGER, 1911; *Haplochilus macrostigma* BOULENGER, 1911; *Panchax chinchoxoanus* AHL, 1924; *P. ornatus* AHL, 1928

Meristics: D 8-11. A 14-16, S 27-31

Total Length: M 60 mm, F 50 mm;

Systematic Relationship: Very closely related to *E. grahami*

Subspecies: *E. s. ansorgii* and *E. s. macrostigma* may be recognized as a subspecies in Gabon and Congo, respectively

Distribution: Coastal plains of southwestern Gabon, southern Congo and in Bas Zaire province

Variability: High

Syntopic Occurrence: *E. sexfasciatus*, *E. berkenkampii*, *A. striatum*, *A. gabunense*, *A. exigoides*, *A. primigenium*

Habitat: Swamps and quiet parts of brooks in the forest and wooded savanna

Temperatures: 22-26 °C

Biology: Surface dwelling species with an incubation period of 10-14 days

Maintenance and Breeding: Easy



E. duboisi, ♂, aquarium strain



Epiplatys duboisi POLL, 1952

Suborder: Aplocheiloidei PARENTI, 1981

Family: Aplocheilidae BLEEKER, 1860

Subfamily: Aplocheilinae RADDA, 1981

Subgenus: *Aphyoplatys* CLAUSEN, 1967

First Description: Rev. Zool. Bot. Afr. 48, 298

Type Locality: "Leopoldville, petit ruisseau a faible courant près de N'Do" Kinshasa, Zaire

Synonyms: None

Meristics: D 9-10, A 15-17, S 24-26

Total Length: M 30 mm, F 25 mm;

Systematic Relationship: Type species of the monotypic subgenus *Aphyoplatys*

Subspecies: None

Distribution: Drainage systems of the Nkény, Alima, Vouma, Kouyou and Likoula rivers in eastern Congo and in the lower Kasai and middle Zaire rivers in Zaire

Variability: Medium

Syntopic Occurrence: *E. chevalieri*, *A. formosus*, *A. (Raddaella) sp.*

Habitat: Swamps, shallow and weedy parts of small brooks in the rainforest

Temperatures: 22-25 °C

Biology: A non-annual species with an incubation period of 10-14 days

Maintenance and Breeding: Difficult



E. callipteron, ♂, holotype



Epiplatys callipteron RADD & PÜRZL, 1987

Suborder: Aplocheiloidei PARENTI, 1981

Family: Aplocheilidae BLEEKER, 1860

Subfamily: Aplocheilinae RADD & PÜRZL, 1981

Subgenus: *Episemion* RADD & PÜRZL, 1987

First Description: DKG-Journal 19, 17

Type Locality: "6 km SE Bibasse on the N 2 road to Mitzic"; northern Gabon

Synonyms: None

Meristics: D 10-12, A 15-16, S 28-29+2

Total Length: M 39 mm, F 33 mm

Systematic Relationship: No relation to any other species of Aplocheilidae

Subspecies: None

Distribution: Relict-like distribution area of the upper Woleu in northern Gabon

Variability: Low

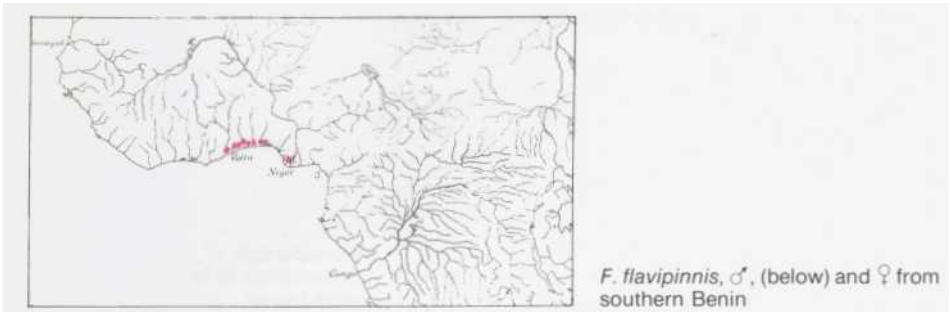
Syntopic Occurrence: *A. cameronense*

Habitat: Brooks and streams in the rainforest

Temperatures: 21-24 °C

Biology: A non-annual species with an incubation period of 10-14 days

Maintenance and Breeding: Difficult



F. flavipinnis, ♂, (below) and ♀ from southern Benin



Foerschichthys flavipinnis (MEINKEN, 1932)

Suborder: Aplocheiloidei PARENTI, 1981

Family: Aplocheilidae BLEEKER, 1860

Subfamily: Aplocheilinae RADDA, 1981

Subgenus: *Foerschichthys*
SCHEEL & ROMAND, 1981

First Description: Blätter Aqu. u. Terr.-Kde. 43, 54

Type Locality: "Küstennahes Hinterland von Lagos", southwestern Nigeria

Synonyms: *Aplocheilichthys flavipinnis* MEINKEN, 1932

Meristics: D 6-7, A 13-14, S 30-31

Total Length: M 30 mm, F 20 mm

Systematic Relationship: Recent investigations revealed that *F. flavipinnis* is an aplocheiloid fish belonging to the subfamily Aplocheilinae (PARENTI, 1982)

Subspecies: None

Distribution: Coastal plains of southeastern Ghana, southern Togo and Benin as well as of southwestern Nigeria

Variability: Low

Syntopic Occurrence: *E. grahami*, *A. filamentosum*, *A. bitaeniatum*, *A. calliurum*, *F. thierryi*

Habitat: Swamps, small streams and brooks in rainforest and derived savanna

Temperatures: 24-28 °C

Biology: *F. flavipinnis* is a non-annual species with an incubation period of 12-14 days

Maintenance and Breeding: Difficult



A. occidentale, ♂, from the surroundings of Moyamba, Sierra Leone



Aphyosemion occidentale CLAUSEN, 1966

Suborder: Aplocheiloidei PARENTI, 1981

Family: Aplocheilidae BLEEKER, 1860

Subfamily: Nothobranchiinae RADDA, 1981

Subgenus: *Callopanchax* MYERS, 1933

First Description: Rev. Zool. Bot. Afr. 74, 331

Type Locality: "Blama, Sierra Leone"; eastern Sierra Leone

Synonyms: *Roloffia occidentalis* (many authors); *Fundulus sjoestedti* (non LÖNNBERG); many authors; *Roloffia huwaldi* BERKENKAMP & ETZEL, 1980;

Meristics: D 17-23, A 17-20, S 32-37

Total Length: M 90 mm, F 80 mm

Systematic Relationship: Closely related to *A. monroviae*

Subspecies: *A. o. toddi* CLAUSEN, 1966 (t.t.: Barmoi, Sierra Leone)

Distribution: Coastal river systems in Sierra Leone and in western Liberia, probably also in the southeastern most part of Guinea

Variability: High

Syntopic Occurrence: *A. roloffi*, *E. annulatus*

Habitat: Swamps, pools and swampy parts of brooks in the rainforest and derived savanna

Temperatures: 24-28 °C

Biology: An annual species with an incubation period of 1-3 months

Maintenance and Breeding: Difficult



A. monroviae, ♂, from the surroundings of Monrovia, Liberia



Aphyosemion monroviae (ROLOFF & LADIGES, 1972)

Suborder: Aplocheiloidei PARENTI, 1981

Family: Aplocheilidae BLEEKER, 1860

Subfamily: Nothobranchiinae RADDA, 1981

Subgenus: *Callopanchax* MYERS, 1933

First Description: DATZ, 25, 299

Type Locality: "Waldtümpel etwa 25 Meilen von Monrovia in Liberia"; southwestern Liberia

Synonyms: *Roloffia monroviae* ROLOFF & LADIGES, 1972

Meristics: D 14-17, A 17-19, S 32-35+3 Total Length: M 80 mm, F 70 mm;

Systematic Relationship: Closely related to *A. occidentale*

Subspecies: None

Distribution: Between the lower Mano river drainage and the lower St. Paul river system in southwestern Liberia

Variability: Low

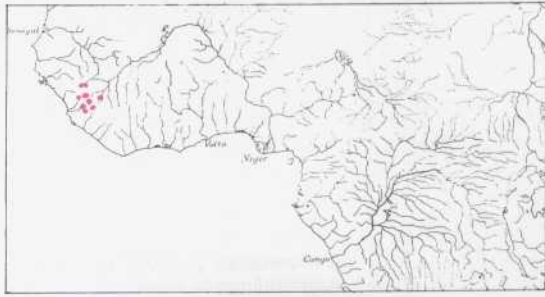
Syntopic Occurrence: Unknown

Habitat: Swamps, stagnant parts of swampy brooks in the coastal rainforest

Temperatures: 22-26 °C

Biology: An annual species with an incubation period of 2-3 months

Maintenance and Breeding: Moderately difficult



A. guineense, ♂, aquarium strain



Aphyosemion guineense DAGET, 1954

Suborder: Aplocheiloidei PARENTI, 1981

Family: Aplocheilidae BLEEKER, 1860

Subfamily: Nothobranchiinae RADDI, 1981

Subgenus: *Archiaphyosemion* RADDI, 1977

First Description: Mem. I. F. A. N. 36, 300

Type Locality: "Dabola, chutes du Tinkisso, Banian, Simandou, Banamana, cercle de Kissidougou"; Guinea

Synonyms: *Roloffia guineensis* (many authors)

Meristics: D 11-15, A 14-18, S 29-34

Total Length: M 65 mm, F 60 mm;

Systematic Relationship: Type species of the subgenus *Archiaphyosemion*, related to *A. maeseni*, *A. viride* and *A. jeanpoli*

Subspecies: None

Distribution: Upper Guinea and northern Sierra Leone in the upper Niger drainage and in the coastal flowing rivers, respectively

Variability: Low

Syntopic Occurrence: *Aply. kabae*, *Aply. nimbaensis*

Habitat: Pools, brooks and streams in the highland savanna

Temperatures: 18-26 °C

Biology: A non-annual species with an incubation period of about 14 days

Maintenance and Breeding: Moderately difficult



A. maeseni, ♂, (above) and ♀ from northern Liberia



Aphyosemion maeseni POLL, 1941

Suborder: Aplocheiloidei PARENTI, 1981

Family: Aplocheilidae BLEEKER, 1860

Subfamily: Nothobranchiinae RADDI, 1981

Subgenus: *Archiaphyosemion* RADDI, 1977

First Description: Rev. Zool. Bot. Afr. 34, 141

Type Locality: "Confluent de la petit rivière Masei et de la Bon de Boan, affl. du Nuon"; border area between southern Liberia and Ivory Coast

Synonyms: *Roloffia* maeseni (some authors)

Meristics: D 9-14, A 14-18, S 27-34

Total Length: M 60 mm, F 55 mm;

Systematic Relationship: Closely related to *A. viride*, *A. jeanpoli* and *A. guineense*

Subspecies: None

Distribution: Upper parts of St. Paul, St. John and Cess river systems in Liberia and southeastern Guinea, middle Sassandra river drainage in Ivory Coast

Variability: Low

Syntopic Occurrence: *A. viride*, *E. lamottei*, *E. hildegardae*

Habitat: Pools, brooks and streams in the rainforest and guinean savanna

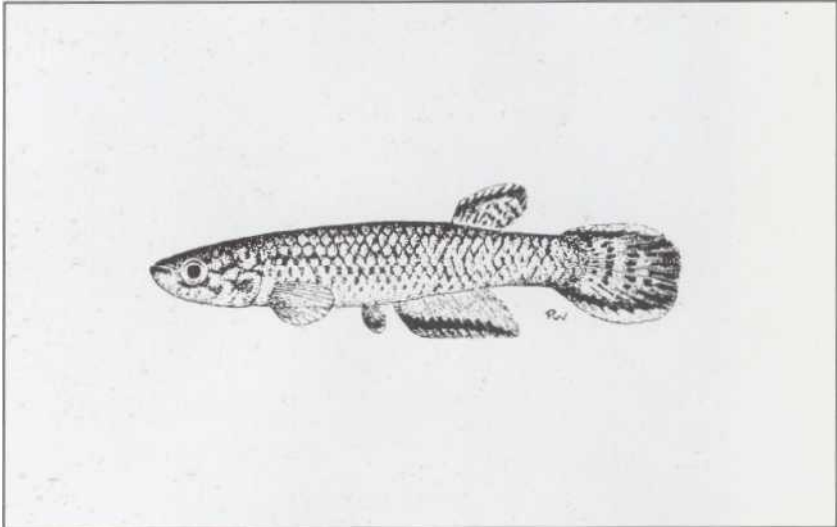
Temperatures: 18-23 °C

Biology: A non-annual species with an incubation period of 10-14 days

Maintenance and Breeding: Difficult



A. viride, ♂, from Salayea, Liberia



Aphyosemion viride (LADIGES & ROLOFF, 1973)

Suborder: Aplocheiloidei PARENTI, 1981

Family: Aplocheilidae BLEEKER, 1860

Subfamily: Nothobranchiinae RADDI, 1981

Subgenus: *Archiaphyosemion* RADDI, 1977

First Description: DATZ 9, 155

Type Locality: "Urwaldbach nahe Salayio, NW-Liberia"; northwestern Liberia

Synonyms: *Roloffia viridis* LADIGES & ROLOFF, 1973

Meristics: D 9-13, A 13-15, S 27-29+2-3 Total Length: M 50 mm, F 45 mm;

Systematic Relationship: Forms together with *A. guineese*, *A. maeseni* and *A. jeanpoli* the subgenus *Archiaphyosemion*

Subspecies: None

Distribution: Upper parts of the St. Paul and St. John river systems in eastern upper Guinea and northeastern Liberia

Variability: Low

Syntopic Occurrence: *A. maeseni*, *E. roloffi*

Habitat: Brooks and streams in guinean savanna and rainforest

Temperatures: 20-24 °C

Biology: A non-annual species with an incubation period of 10-14 days

Maintenance and Breeding: Moderately difficult



A. jeanpoli, ♂, from the type locality



Aphyosemion jeanpoli (BERKENKAMP & ETZEL, 1979)

Suborder: Aplocheiloidei PARENTI, 1981

Family: Aplocheilidae BLEEKER, 1860

Subfamily: Nothobranchiinae RADDI, 1981

Subgenus: *Archiaphyosemion* RADDI, 1977

First Description: B. K. A. Publ. 11

Type Locality: "16 miles from Voinjama, in direction of Zorzor in north Liberia"

Synonyms: *Roloffia jeanpoli* BERKENKAMP & ETZEL, 1979; *R. melantereon* GRIMM, 1974; and other authors; *R. seegersi* (nom. nudum) BERKENKAMP & ETZEL, 1979

Meristics: D 9-10, A 13-14, S 33-34

Total Length: M 50 mm, F 40 mm;

Systematic Relationship: Closely related to the other members of the subgenus *Archiaphyosemion*

Subspecies: None

Distribution: Upper tributaries of the Loffa river in northwestern Liberia

Variability: Low

Syntopic Occurrence: None

Habitat: Springfed pools and brooks in the rainforest

Temperatures: 25-28 °C

Biology: A non-annual species with an incubation period of 14-20 days

Maintenance and Breeding: Moderately difficult



A. geryi, ♂, from Abuko, Gambia



Aphyosemion geryi LAMBENT, 1958

Suborder: Aplocheiloidei PARENTI, 1981

Family: Aplocheilidae BLEEKER, 1860

Subfamily: Nothobranchiinae RADDA, 1981

Subgenus: *Scriptaphyosemion* RADDA 1987

First Description: Rev. Zool. Bot. Afr. 57, 52

Type Locality: "Region de Conacry-Dubreka, Bass Guinée"; southern Guinea

Synonyms: *A. guineense geryi* LAMBENT, 1958; *Roloffia geryi* (many authors)

Meristics: D 12-15, A 15-18, S 28-31

Total Length: M 50 mm, F 40 mm;

Systematic Relationship: Closely related to *A. roloffi* and *A. liberiense*

Subspecies: None

Distribution: From the mouth of the Gambia river southwards along the coast to southeastern Sierra Leone

Variability: Medium

Syntopic Occurrence: *A. roloffi/liberiense*, *E. annulatus*

Habitat: Pools, swamps, and swampy streams and brooks in coastal and guinean savanna as well as in rainforest

Temperatures: 25-28 °C

Biology: A non-annual species with an incubation period of about 14 days

Maintenance and Breeding: Moderately difficult



A. roloffi, ♂, from the Kasawe Hills, Sierra Leone



Aphyosemion roloffi ROLOFF, 1936

Suborder: Aplocheiloidei PARENTI, 1981

Family: Aplocheilidae BLEEKER, 1860

Subfamily: Nothobranchiinae RADDA, 1981

Subgenus: *Scriptaphyosemion* RADDA, 1987

First Description: Wochenschr. Aqu. Terr. Kde. 33, 324

Type Locality: "40-50 km landeinwärts Freetown"; southwestern Sierra Leone

Synonyms: *Roloffia roloffi* (many authors); *R. chaytorj* ROLOFF, 1971; *R. roloffi hastingsi* ROLOFF, 1971, (nom. nudum); *R. brueningi* ROLOFF, 1971; *R. caldai* CAHALAN (nom. nudum); *R. etzeli* BERKENKAMP, 1979

Meristics: D 11-14, A 15-18, S 29-32

Total Length: M 50 mm, F 45 mm;

Systematic Relationship: Very closely related (semispecies?) to *A. liberense*

Subspecies: None

Distribution: From the lower Little Scarcies river drainage southwards to the lower Loffa river in western Liberia

Variability: High

Syntopic Occurrence: *E. annulatus*, *E. njalaensis*

Habitat: Pools, swampy brooks and streams with stagnant water in the coastal rainforest and derived savanna

Temperatures: 24-28 °C

Biology: A non-annual species with an incubation period of 10-14 days

Maintenance and Breeding: Moderately difficult



A. liberiense, ♂, from Serabu, Sierra Leone



Aphyosemion liberiense (BOULENGER, 1908)

Suborder: Aplocheiloidei PARENTI, 1981

Family: Aplocheilidae BLEEKER, 1860

Subfamily: Nothobranchiinae RADDA, 1981

Subgenus: *Scriptaphyosemion* RADDA, 1987

First Description: Ann. Mag. Nat. Hist. (8) 2, 30

Type Locality: "Monrovia, Liberia"

Synonyms: *Haplochilus liberiensis* BOULENGER, 1908; *Panchax liberiensis* AHL, 1924; *Roloffia liberiensis* (many authors); *A. calabaricus* AHL, 1936; *Epiplatys melantereon* FOWLER, 1950; *Aphyosemion bertholdi* ROLOFF, 1965; *A. fredrodi* VANDERSMISSEN, ETZEL & BERKENKAMP, 1980; *A. mülleri* (nomen nudum)

Meristics: D 11-13, A 15-16. S 28-31

Total Length: M 45 mm, F 40 mm;

Systematic Relationship: *Very* closely related (semispecies?) to *A. roloffii* and to the other members of the subgenus *Scriptaphyosemion*

Subspecies: *A. l. schmitti* ROMAND, 1979 (t.t.: Tchiens, Ostliberia); southeastern Liberia

Distribution: Southeastern Sierra Leone and Liberia at lower elevations

Variability: Medium

Syntopic Occurrence: *E. annulatus*, *E. olbrechtsi*

Habitat: Swamps, stagnant brooks and streams in the coastal rainforest

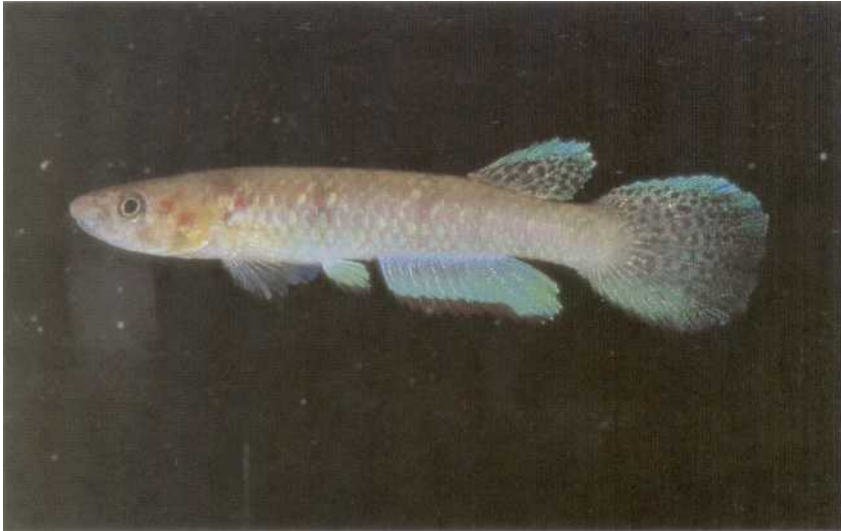
Temperatures: 22-25 °C

Biology: A non-annual species with an incubation period of 10-14 days

Maintenance and Breeding: Moderately difficult



A. petersii, ♂, from Awaso, Ghana



Aphyosemion petersii (SAUVAGE, 1882)

Suborder: Aplocheiloidei PARENTI, 1981

Family: Aplocheilidae BLEEKER, 1860

Subfamily: Nothobranchiinae RADDI, 1981

Subgenus: *Archiaphyosemion* RADDI, 1977

First Description: Bull. Soc. Zool. France 7, 342

Type Locality: "Conacrou, lagune d'Assinie"; southern Ivory Coast

Synonyms: *Roloffia petersii* (some authors); *A. pulchripinnis* ZUSCHLAG, 1960 (nom. nudum)

Meristics: D 8-11, A 15-16, S 29-32

Total Length: M 50 mm, F 45 mm;

Systematic Relationship: Distribution area separated from the other members of the subgenus *Archiaphyosemion*

Subspecies: None

Distribution: Coastal plains of southeastern Ivory Coast and adjacent parts of southwestern Ghana

Variability: Low

Syntopic Occurrence: *E. sheljuzhkoii*, *E. chaperi*

Habitat: Shallow parts of small brooks and streams in the rainforest

Temperatures: 25-27 °C

Biology: A non-annual species with an incubation period of 10-14 days

Maintenance and Breeding: Moderately difficult



A. walkeri, ♂, from the Densu river system in SE Ghana



Aphyosemion walkeri (BOULENGER, 1911)

Suborder: Aplocheiloidei PARENTI, 1981

Family: Aplocheilidae BLEEKER, 1860

Subfamily: Nothobranchiinae RADDA, 1981

Subgenus: *Paraphyosemion* KOTTELAT, 1976

First Description: Ann. Mag. Nat. Hist. 8, 262

Type Locality: "Bokitsa Mine (Wasa)"; southwestern Ghana

Synonyms: *Fundulus walkeri* BOULENGER, 1911; *F. spurelli* BOULENGER, 1913;
F. rubrofasciatus BRÜNNING, 1930; *A. (Fundulopanchax) fallax* AHL, 1935

Meristics: D 14-60, A 16-17, S 29-32

Total Length: M 60 mm, F 50 mm;

Systematic Relationship: *A. walkeri* is the only one species of the subgenus *Paraphyosemion* with a distribution area west of the Dahomey gap

Subspecies: *A. w. litoriseboris* RADDA, 1976 (t.t.: Ivory Coast)

Distribution: Lower Bandama, Comoé and Bia river drainages in southeastern Ivory Coast, and Bia, Tano, Ankobra and Oda river drainages in southwestern Ghana

Variability: High

Syntopic Occurrence: None

Habitat: Swamps, stagnant parts of brooks and streams in the coastal rainforest and derived savanna

Temperatures: 25-28 °C

Biology: An annual species with an incubation period of 1-2 months

Maintenance and Breeding: Easy



A. g. nigerianum, ♂, yellow colour phase of the Akure strain



Aphyosemion gardneri (BOULENGER, 1911)

- Suborder: Aplocheiloidei PARENTI, 1981 Family: Aplocheilidae BLEEKER, 1860
 Subfamily: Nothobranchiinae RADDA, 1981 Subgenus: *Paraphyosemion* KOTTELAT 1976
 First Description: Ann. Mag. Nat. Hist. (8) 8, 261
 Type Locality: "Okwoga, headwaters of the Cross river", southeastern Nigeria
 Synonyms: *Fundulus gardneri* BOULENGER, 1911; *Haplochilus brucei* BOULENGER, 1911;
A. g. obuduense WRIGHT & JEREMY, 1974; *A. clauseni* SCHEEL, 1975 nom. nud.
A. (Paraphyosemion) biafranum KOTTELAT, 1976 nom. nud.
 Meristics: D 12-16, A 14-18, S 29-34 Total Length: M 50-70 mm, F 40-55 mm;
 Systematic Relationship: Forms together with *A. mirabile*, *A. cinnamomeum*, *A. ndianum*,
A. spoorenbergi, *A. puerzli* and *A. amieti* the subgenus *Paraphyosemion*
 Subspecies: *A. g. nigerianum* CLAUSEN, 1963 (t.t.: Arum, Jos plateau, Nigeria)
A. g. lacustre RADDA, 1974 (t.t.: Lake Ejagham, western Cameroon)
A. g. mamfense RADDA, 1974 (t.t.: Bachou Akagbe, western Cameroon)
 Distribution: Niger and Benue drainages in Nigeria and coastal river drainages in southeastern Nigeria and western Cameroon on basement complex soils
 Variability: Very high, colour polymorphism occurring
 Syntopic Occurrence: *A. scheeli*
 Habitat: Brooks, swamps, pools and streams in the guinean and highland savanna (*A. g. nigerianum*) and in rainforests (*A. g. lacustre*, *A. g. mamfense*)
 Temperatures: 20-28 °C
 Biology: A semi-annual species with an incubation period of 15 days to one month
 Maintenance and Breeding: Easy



A. m. mirabile, ♂, from Mbio, Cameroon



Aphyosemion mirabile RADDA, 1970

Suborder: Aplocheiloidei PARENTI, 1981

Family: Aplocheilidae BLEEKER, 1860

Subfamily: Nothobranchiinae RADDA, 1981

Subgenus: *Paraphyosemion* KOTTELAT, 1976

First Description: *Aquaria* 17, 59

Type Locality: "Kleiner Bach nahe der Ortschaft Mbio, an der Straße nach Kumba", southwestern Cameroon

Synonyms: None

Meristics: D 12-15, A 15-16, S 31-33

Total Length: M 60 mm

Systematic Relationship: Closely related to *A. gardneri* and the other members of the subgenus *Paraphyosemion*

Subspecies: *A. m. moense* RADDA, 1970 (U.: between Kendem and Noumba)

A. m. traudeae RADDA, 1971 (t.t.: Manyemen)

A. m. intermittens RADDA, 1974 (t.t.: Bakébé, upper Cross system)

Distribution: Relict-like distribution in the upper Cross and Mo river drainages in southwestern Cameroon

Variability: High

Syntopic Occurrence: *E. sexfasciatus*, *P. aberrans*, *P. similis*

Habitat: Brooks and small streams in the rainforest

Temperatures: 23-24 °C

Biology: A semi-annual species with an incubation period of about three weeks

Maintenance and Breeding: Easy



A. cinnamomeum, ♂, from Badouma, Cameroon



Aphyosemion cinnamomeum CLAUSEN, 1963

Suborder: Aplocheiloidei PARENTI, 1981

Family: Aplocheilidae BLEEKER, 1860

Subfamily: Nothobranchiinae RADDA, 1981

Subgenus: *Paraphyosemion* KOTTELAT, 1976

First Description: Vidensk. Medd. Dansk. naturh. Foren. 125, 201

Type Locality: "Small stream in low mountainous area, 44 miles N of Kumba, Cameroon"

Synonyms: None

Meristics: D 13-14, A 16-17, S 30-33

Total Length: M 60 mm

Systematic Relationship: A member of the *A. gardneri* group

Subspecies: None

Distribution: Endemic to the upper reaches of the Mounjo drainage, North of Badouma to 9 km South of Manyemen

Variability: Low

Syntopic Occurrence: *P. similis*

Habitat: Brooks in the rainforest on soils of the basement complex and volcanic soils

Temperatures: 22-24 °C

Biology: A non-annual species with an incubation period of 10-15 days

Maintenance and Breeding: Easy



A. spoorenbergi, ♂, aquarium strain



Aphyosemion spoorenbergi BERKENKAMP, 1976

Suborder: Aplocheiloidei PARENTI, 1981

Family: Aplocheilidae BLEEKER, 1860

Subfamily: Nothobranchiinae RADDA, 1981

Subgenus: *Paraphyosemion* KOTTELAT, 1976

First Description: Der Aquarienfreund 5 (7) 123

Type Locality: Unknown (Aquarium material of unknown origin) "Grenzgebiet Nigeria/West-Kamerun, vermutlich aus dem Gebiet zwischen Calabar and Mamfe"

Synonyms: *Aphyosemion* spec. "Spoorenberg"

Meristics: D 14-15, A 15-17, S 35-37

Total Length: M 75 mm, F 65 mm;

Systematic Relationship: Closely related to *A. ndianum* and the other members of the subgenus *Paraphyosemion*

Subspecies: None

Distribution: Probably the border area between southeastern Nigeria and southwestern Cameroon

Variability: High

Syntopic Occurrence: None

Habitat: Most probably prefers the same habitat as *A. ndianum*

Temperatures: No measurements published

Biology: A semi-annual species with an incubation period of 2-3 weeks

Maintenance and Breeding: Moderately difficult



A. ndianum, ♂, from SE Nigeria



Aphyosemion ndianum SCHEEL, 1968

Suborder: Aplocheiloidei PARENTI, 1981 Family: Aplocheilidae BLEEKER, 1860
 Subfamily: Nothobranchiinae RADDA, 1981 Subgenus: *Paraphyosemion* KOTTELAT, 1976
 First Description: Rivulins of the Old World; T. F. H. Publ. 455

Type Locality: "Near Osombo of East Nigeria, near the southern part of the Mamfe-Eyomojok-Calabar road", border area between SE Nigeria and Cameroon

Synonyms: None

Meristics: D 14-16, A 15-18, S 31-35 Total Length: 70 mm

Systematic Relationship: Closely related to *A. spoorenbergi* and the other members of the subgenus *Paraphyosemion*

Subspecies: None

Distribution: Drainage of the Ndian river in southeastern Nigeria and probably also in the bordering area in southwestern Cameroon

Variability: Medium

Syntopic Occurrence: None?

Habitat: Swamps and swampy parts of brooks in the rainforest

Temperatures: No measurements published

Biology: A semi-annual species with an incubation period of about one month

Maintenance and Breeding: Difficult



A. puerzli, ♂, from the type locality



Aphyosemion puerzli RADDA & SCHEEL, 1974

Suborder: Aplocheiloidei PARENTI, 1981

Family: Aplocheilidae BLEEKER, 1860

Subfamily: Nothobranchiinae RADDA, 1981

Subgenus: *Paraphyosemion* KOTTELAT, 1976

First Description: *Aquarien-Journal* (Wien) 4 (3) 33

Type Locality: "Kleiner Bach nahe dessen Einmündung in einen größeren Zufluß des Wouri, 27 km nordöstlich der Kreuzung der Straßen Douala-Edea-Yabassi in Richtung Yabassi", western Cameroon

Synonyms: None

Meristics: D 13-14, A 16, S 33-34

Total Length: 70 mm

Systematic Relationship: Closely related to *A. amieti* and the other members of the subgenus *Paraphyosemion*

Subspecies: None

Distribution: Relict-like distribution area in the drainage systems of the Henda, Nkwoh and Wouri rivers

Variability: Medium

Syntopic Occurrence: *E. sexfasciatus*, *A. riggenbachi*, *P. similis*

Habitat: Swamps and swampy parts of brooks and shallow parts of small streams in the rainforest

Temperatures: 23-26 °C

Biology: A semi-annual species with an incubation period of 6-8 weeks

Maintenance and Breeding: Easy



A. amieti, ♂, from the type locality



Aphyosemion amieti RADDA, 1976

Suborder: Aplocheiloidei PARENTI, 1981

Family: Aplocheilidae BLEEKER, 1860

Subfamily: Nothobranchiinae RADDA, 1981

Subgenus: *Paraphyosemion* KOTTELAT, 1976

First Description: *Aquaria* 23, 52

Type Locality: "Bach im Regenwald an der Straße von Koupongo, 500 m westlich von Somakak (Songmakak), Sanaga-System im südwestlichen Kamerun"; southwestern Cameroon

Synonyms: None

Meristics: D 14, A 16-17, S 33-34

Total Length: 70 mm

Systematic Relationship: Very closely related to *A. puerzli* and the other members of the subgenus *Paraphyosemion*

Subspecies: None

Distribution: Relict-like distribution area of the lower Sanaga drainage in western Cameroon

Variability: Low

Syntopic Occurrence: *E. sexfasciatus*, *A. riggenbachi*, *A. ahli*, *A. franzwernerii*

Habitat: Swampy parts of shallow brooks in the rainforest

Temperatures: 23-26 °C

Biology: A semi-annual species with an incubation period of about 3 weeks

Maintenance and Breeding: Easy



A. filamentosum, ♂, from southern Benin



Aphyosemion filamentosum (MEINKEN, 1933)

Suborder: Aplocheiloidei PARENTI, 1981

Family: Aplocheilidae BLEEKER, 1860

Subfamily: Nothobranchiinae RADDA, 1981

Subgenus: *Paludopanchax* RADDA, 1977

First Description: Blätter Aqu. u. Terr.-Kde. 44, 249

Type Locality: "Tropisches Westafrika" (Aquarium material of unknown origin)

Synonyms: *Fundulopanchax filamentosum* MEINKEN, 1933; *Fundulus* "aus Togo" MEINKEN, 1930

Meristics: D 13, A 14, S 28

Total Length: M 50 mm, F 45 mm

Systematic Relationship: Together with *A. arnoldi*, *A. rubrolabiale* and *A. robertsoni* forms the *A. arnoldi* group

Subspecies: None

Distribution: Southern Togo, Benin and southwestern Nigeria

Variability: Very high

Syntopic Occurrence: *E. grahami*, *F. flavipinnis*

Habitat: Swamps and swampy parts of brooks in the coastal rainforest and derived savanna

Temperatures: 23-30 °C

Biology: An annual species with an incubation period of about 3 months and sometimes even more

Maintenance and Breeding: Easy



A. arnoldi, ♂, from Sapele, Nigeria



Aphyosemion arnoldi (BOULENGER, 1908)

Suborder: Aplocheiloidei PARENTI, 1981

Family: *Aplocheilidae* BLEEKER, 1860

Subfamily: Nothobranchiinae RADDA, 1981

Subgenus: *Paludopanchax* RADDA, 1977

First Description: *Ann. Mag. Nat. Hist.* (8) 2, 29

Type Locality: "Warri", western Nigerdelta in southern Nigeria

Synonyms: *Fundulus arnoldi* BOULENGER, 1908

Meristics: D 15-16, A 15-17, S 25-27

Total Length: 50 mm

Systematic Relationship: Closely related to *A. filamentosum*, *A. rubrolabiale* and *A. robertsoni*

Subspecies: None

Distribution: Western part of the Niger-delta

Variability: Low

Syntopic Occurrence: *E. grahami*, *A. deltaense*, *A. sjoestedti*, *F. flavipinnis*

Habitat: Temporary swamps, swampy parts of small brooks of the coastal rainforest

Temperatures: 23-26 °C

Biology: An annual species with an incubation period of 3-6 months

Maintenance and Breeding: Moderately difficult



A. rubralabide, ♂, from the type locality



Aphyosemion rubrolabiale RADDA, 1973

Suborder: Aplocheiloidei PARENTI, 1981

Family: Aplocheilidae BLEEKER, 1860

Subfamily: Nothobranchiinae RADDA, 1981

Subgenus: *Paludopanchax* RADDA, 1977

First Description: *Aquaria* 20, 187

Type Locality: "Lehmige Restwasserpfützen eines Sumpfbgebietes 19 km nordwestlich Mbonge", western Cameroon

Synonyms: None

Meristics: D 17-18, A 18-19, S 27-28+2

Total Length: M 50 mm, F 45 mm;

Systematic Relationship: Very closely related to *A. robertsoni* and is also a member of the subgenus *Paludopanchax*

Subspecies: None

Distribution: Coastal plains of the southern former West Cameroon

Variability: Medium

Syntopic Occurrence: *E. grahami*, *A. schwoiseri*

Habitat: *Raphia* swamps, temporary pools and swampy brooks in the coastal rainforest

Temperatures: 23-27 °C

Biology: An annual species with an incubation period of about 3 months

Maintenance and Breeding: Difficult



A. robertsoni, ♂, from the type locality



Aphyosemion robertsoni RADDA & SCHEEL, 1974

Suborder: Aplocheiloidei PARENTI, 1981

Family: Aplocheilidae BLEEKER, 1860

Subfamily: Nothobranchiinae RADDA, 1981

Subgenus: *Paludopanchax* RADDA, 1977

First Description: *Aquarien-Journal* (Wien) 4 (3) 37

Type Locality: "Sumpfbereich in offenem Busch innerhalb der CDC Rubber Plantation Ekona, etwa 1 km nördlich Bolifamba, bzw. 5,6 km nördlich der Kreuzung der Straßen Boua-Douala-Victoria in Richtung Kumba", western Cameroon

Synonyms: None

Meristics: D 16-18, A 18, S 27-29+2-3

Total Length: M 50 mm, F 45 mm;

Systematic Relationship: Forms together with *A. arnoldi*, *A. filamentosum* and *A. rubrolabiale* the subgenus *Paludopanchax*

Subspecies: None

Distribution: Only known from its type locality, a swampy area without outlet in a depression on volcanic soil

Variability: Low

Syntopic Occurrence: None

Habitat: Swamp in a rubber plantation forest

Temperatures: 23-27 °C

Biology: An annual species with an incubation period of 3-6 months

Maintenance and Breeding: Difficult



A. sjoestedti, ♂, aquarium strain, the so-called "blue gularis" of the USA



Aphyosemion sjoestedti (LÖNNBERG, 1895)

Suborder: Aplocheiloidei PARENTI, 1981

Family: Aplocheilidae BLEEKER, 1860

Subfamily: Nothobranchiinae RADDI, 1981

Subgenus: *Fundulopanchax* MYERS, 1924

First Description: Oefv. Kungl. Sv. Vet.-Adad. Forh. 52, 191

Type Locality: "Rivulet near the waterfall of the river Ndian", western Cameroon

Synonyms: *Fundulus gularis* var. *coerulea* BOULENGER, 1915

Meristics: D 14-18, A 16-19, S 31-37

Total Length: M 60-140 mm, F 50-100 mm

Systematic Relationship: *A. sjoestedti* and the subgenus *Fundulopanchax* have no close relatives among the genus *Aphyosemion*

Subspecies: None

Distribution: Niger delta, southeastern Nigeria and southwestern part of the former West Cameroon

Variability: Very high

Syntopic Occurrence: *E. grahami*, *A. deltaense*, *A. schwoiseri*, *A. rubrolabiale*

Habitat: Temporary swamps, raphia swamps and swampy parts of slow flowing brooks in the coastal rainforest

Temperatures: 23-26 °C

Biology: An annual species with an incubation period of 2-6 months

Maintenance and Breeding: Easy



A. gulare, ♂, from Lagos area, Nigeria



Aphyosemion gulare (BOULENGER, 1901)

Suborder: Aplocheiloidei PARENTI, 1981

Family: Aplocheilidae BLEEKER, 1860

Subfamily: Nothobranchiinae RADDI, 1981

Subgenus: *Gularopanchax* RADDI, 1977

First Description: Proc. Zool. Soc. London 2, 623

Type Locality: "Agberi, in shallow creeks and flooded yam plantations", southwestern Nigeria

Synonyms: *Fundulus gularis* BOULENGER, 1901; *Aphyosemion "fallax"* non AHL, 1935

Meristics: D 15-16, A 16-18, S 30-32

Total Length: M 65 mm, F 55 mm

Systematic Relationship: Closely related to *A. deltaense*, *A. schwoiseri* and *A. kribianum*

Subspecies: None

Distribution: Border area between Benin and southwestern Nigeria and in the North of Lagos

Variability: Very high

Syntopic Occurrence: *E. grahami*, *A. sjoestedti*, *A. filamentosum*

Habitat: Pools, swamps and swampy brooks in the humid rainforest

Temperatures: 23-26 °C

Biology: An annual species with an incubation period of 3-6 months and even longer

Maintenance and Breeding: Easy



A. deltaense, ♂, aquarium strain from G.B.



Aphyosemion deltaense RADDA, 1976

Suborder: Aplocheiloidei PARENTI, 1981

Family: Aplocheilidae BLEEKER, 1860

Subfamily: Nothobranchiinae RADDA, 1981

Subgenus: *Gularopanchax* RADDA, 1977

First Description: *Aquaria* 21, 55

Type Locality: "200 yards südlich der Hauptstraße Sapele-Benin nach Warri im westlichen Nigerdelta, Midwestern State, Nigeria"

Synonyms: *Aphyosemion* NSC-7, "Deltafisch"

Meristics: D 16, A 18, S 33+2-3

Total Length: M 70 mm, F 60 mm

Systematic Relationship: Closely related to *A. gulare*, *A. schwoiseri* and *A. kribianum*

Subspecies: None

Distribution: Western Nigerdelta, Nigeria

Variability: Low?

Syntopic Occurrence: *E. grahami*, *A. sjoestedti*, *A. arnoldi*

Habitat: Swamps and swampy brooks in the rainforest

Temperatures: 23-26 °C

Biology: An annual species with an incubation period of 3-6 months and even longer

Maintenance and Breeding: Moderately difficult



A. schwoiseri, ♂, offspring from the first live importation of only one pair to France



Aphyosemion schwoiseri SCHEEL & RADDA, 1974

Suborder: Aplocheiloidei PARENTI, 1981

Family: Aplocheilidae BLEEKER, 1860

Subfamily: Nothobranchiinae RADDA, 1981

Subgenus: *Gularopanchax* RADDA, 1977

First Description: *Aquaria* 21, 157

Type Locality: "Malende-Nyoke, nördlich von Muyuka, nahe der Straße von Buea nach Kumba in Westkamerun"; southwestern Cameroon

Synonyms: *Aphyosemion gulare schwoiseri* SCHEEL & RADDA, 1974

Meristics: D 16, A 18-19, S 36

Total Length: M 70-130 mm, F 60-90 mm

Systematic Relationship: Closely related to *A. gulare*, *A. deltaense* and *A. kribianum*

Subspecies: None

Distribution: Small distribution area around Mbonge and Malende

Variability: Low

Syntopic Occurrence: *E. grahami*, *A. rubrolabiale*, *A. calliurum*

Habitat: Swamps, pools and swampy brooks in the rainforest of the southern plains in the former West Cameroon

Temperatures: 23-26 °C

Biology: An annual species with an incubation period of one to six months

Maintenance and Breeding: Moderately difficult



A. kribianum ♂, from the type locality



Aphyosemion kribianum RADDA, 1975

Suborder: Aplocheiloidei PARENTI, 1981

Family: Aplocheilidae BLEEKER, 1860

Subfamily: Nothobranchiinae RADDA, 1981

Subgenus: *Gularopanchax* RADDA, 1877

First Description: B. K. A. Publ., 4

Type Locality: "Waterholes of a swampy spring area of a brook about 3 km upstream in primeval rainforest; the brook crosses the Kribi-Campo road about 7 km south of Kribi, near the ferry across the Lobe river, East Cameroon"

Synonyms: None

Meristics: D 16-17, A 17, S 32-33

Total Length: M 80 mm, F 70 mm

Systematic Relationship: Very closely related to *A. schwoiseri*

Subspecies: None

Distribution: Coastal swampy rainforest area south of Kribi to Elonbatindi in southwestern Cameroon

Variability: Medium

Syntopic Occurrence: *A. ahli*

Habitat: Shallow pools of the spring regions of brooks

Temperatures: 24-28 °C

Biology: An annual species with an incubation period of 2-6 months

Maintenance and Breeding: Very difficult



A. batesii, ♂, from M'bandjok, Cameroon



***Aphyosemion batesii* (BOULENGER, 1911)**

Suborder: Aplocheiloidei PARENTI, 1981 Family: Aplocheilidae BLEEKER, 1860

Subfamily: Nothobranchiinae RADDA, 1981 Subgenus: *Raddaella* HUBER, 1977

First Description: *Ann. Mag. Nat. Hist.* (8) 8, 261

Type Locality: "South Cameroon (Congo basin) from Ja and Boumba rivers, Bitye, Dja-Sangha-drainage"

Synonyms: *Fundulus batesii* BOULENGER, 1911; *Fundulus beauforti* AHL, 1924; *F. gustavi* AHL, 1924; *Fundulus splendidus* PELLEGRIN, 1930; *A. (Fundulopanchax) schreineri* AHL, 1935

Meristics: D 14-16, A 14-17, S 33-35 Total Length: 70 mm

Systematic Relationship: *A. batesii* and the very closely related *A. kunzi* are the only two species of the subgenus *Raddaella*

Subspecies: None

Distribution: Upper Sanaga, Nyong, Lobo, Dja, Doumé and Boumba rivers of the Sangha drainage in southeastern Cameroon and northwestern Congo

Variability: Low

Syntopic Occurrence: *E. sangmelinensis*, *A. camerunense*, *A. exiguum*, *Aply. camerunensis*

Habitat: *Raphia* swamps and swampy parts of shallow brooks in the rainforest of the inland plateau

Temperatures: 21-23 °C

Biology: An annual species with an incubation period of 3-6 months

Maintenance and Breeding: Very difficult



A. kunzi, ♂, from S of Djoum, Cameroon



Aphyosemion kunzi RADDA, 1975

Suborder: Aplocheiloidei PARENTI, 1981

Family: Aplocheilidae BLEEKER, 1860

Subfamily: Nothobranchiinae RADDA, 1981

Subgenus: *Raddaella* HUBER, 1977

First Description: B. K. A. Publ. 15

Type Locality: "Brook, right side of the road near the village Mboamo, Etakanyabé, 20 km east of the ferry across the Ivindo in Makokou on national road Nr. 15 to Okondja, northern Gabon"

Synonyms: None

Meristics: D 16-17, A 16-17, S 33-35

Total Length: M 70 mm, F 60 mm

Systematic Relationship: Very closely related to *A. batesii* (probably a subspecies)

Subspecies: None

Distribution: Area of the Ivindo drainage system in southern Cameroon (Miete, Ayina) and in northern Gabon

Variability: High

Syntopic Occurrence: *E. sangmelinensis*, *A. camerონense*

Habitat: Pools of swampy brooks in the rainforest

Temperatures: 21-23 °C

Biology: An annual species with an incubation period of 3-6 months

Maintenance and Breeding: Very difficult



A. bitaeniatus, ♂, from southern Benin



Aplocheilichthys bitaeniatus (AHL, 1924)

- Suborder: Aplocheiloidei PARENTI, 1981 Family: Aplocheilidae BLEEKER, 1860
 Subfamily: Nothobranchiinae RADDA, 1981 Subgenus: *Chromaphyosemion* RADDA, 1971
 First Description: Wochenschr. Aqu. u. Terr.-Kde. 27, 17
 Type Locality: "Niger drainage"; exact locality unknown
 Synonyms: *Fundulus bitaeniatus* AHL, 1924; *Fundulus rubrostrictus* AHL, 1924; *Fundulopanchax multicolor* MEINKEN, 1930; *Aphyosemion (Fundulopanchax) nigri* AHL, 1935
 Meristics: D 9-10, A 12, S 27-28 Total Length: M 40 mm, F 35 mm
 Systematic Relationship: A member of the subgenus *Chromaphyosemion*, containing, *A. bivittatum*, *A. volcanum*, *A. splendopleure*, *A. riggenbachi* and *A. loennbergi*
- Subspecies: None
 Distribution: S of Togo, Benin, and SW of Nigeria
 Variability: Low
 Syntopic Occurrence: *E. sexfasciatus*, *E. grahami*, *E. bifasciatus*, *F. flavipinnis*, *A. calliurum*, *A. filamentosum*, *Aply. macrophthalmus* and *P. similis*
 Habitat: Coastal plain brooks in forest regions with quarternary sediments of soil
 Temperatures: 24-26 °C
 Biology: An non-annual species with an incubation period of 10 days
 Maintenance and Breeding: Easy



A. splendopleure, ♂, from Ekondo Titi, Cameroon



Aphyosemion splendopleure (MEINKEN, 1930)

Suborder: Aplocheiloidei PARENTI, 1981 Family: Aplocheilidae BLEEKER, 1860
 Subfamily: Nothobranchiinae RADDI, 1981 Subgenus: *Chromaphyosemion* RADDI, 1971
 First Description: Wochenschr. Aqu. u. Terr.-Kde. 27, 17

Type Locality: Tiko, western Cameroon
 Synonyms: *Fundulopanchax splendopleure* MEINKEN, 1930

Meristics: D 10-13, A 12-15, S 25-28 Total Length: M 45 mm, F 35 mm

Systematic Relationship: A member of the subgenus *Chromaphyosemion* containing, *A. bitaeniatum*, *A. bivittatum*, *A. volcanum*, *A. riggenbachi* and *A. loennbergi*

Subspecies: None

Distribution: Southeastern Nigeria, western and southwestern Cameroon, Equatorial Guinea to northwestern Gabon

Variability: Medium

Syntopic Occurrence: *E. sexfasciatus*, *E. grahami*, *E. biafranus*, *A. calliurum*, *A. ahli*, *Aply. macrophthalmus*, *Aply. scheeli*, *P. similis*, *P. nototaenia*

Habitat: Quiet parts of brooks in the coastal rainforest on tertiary and quarternary sedimentary soil

Temperatures: 22-26 °C

Biology: Non-annual species with an incubation period of approximately 10 days

Maintenance and Breeding: Easy



A. bivittatum, ♂, from Funge, Cameroon



Aphyosemion bivittatum (LÖNNBERG, 1895)

Suborder: Aplocheiloidei PARENTI, 1981

Family: Aplocheilidae BLEEKER, 1860

Subfamily: Nothobranchiinae RADDA, 1981

Subgenus: *Chromaphyosemion* RADDA, 1971

First Description: Oefv. Kungl. Sv. Vet.-Akad. Forh. 52, 190

Type Locality: "Rivulet near the waterfall of River Ndian", western Cameroon

Synonyms: *Fundulopanchax bivittatus* coerulea MEINKEN, 1932; *A. b. hollyi* MYERS, 1933

Meristics: D 10-13, A 12-15, S 25-28

Total Length: M 45 mm, F 35 mm

Systematic Relationship: Closely related to the other representatives of the subgenus *Chromaphyosemion*

Subspecies: None

Distribution: Southeastern parts of the former Biafra, Nigeria and southwestern parts of the former West Cameroon

Variability: Medium

Syntopic Occurrence: *E. sexfasciatus*, *A. garderi*, *A. scheeli*

Habitat: Brooks of the coastal rainforest on soils with cretaceous sediments

Temperatures: 23-26 °C

Biology: Non-annual species with an incubation period of approximately 10 days

Maintenance and Breeding: Easy



A. volcanum, ♂, from Monea, Cameroon



Aphyosemion volcanum RADDA & WILDEKAMP, 1977

Suborder: Aplocheiloidei PARENTI, 1981

Family: Aplocheilidae BLEEKER, 1860

Subfamily: Nothobranchiinae RADDA, 1981

Subgenus: *Chromaphyosemion* RADDA, 1971

First Description: D. K. G. Journ. 9 (9) 138

Type Locality: "Bächlein im südwestlichen Stadtteil Kumbas", western Cameroon

Synonyms: None

Meristics: D 11-14, A 13-16, S 25-28

Total Length: M 50 mm, F 40 mm

Systematic Relationship: Closely related to *A. splendopleure* and to the other members of the subgenus *Chromaphyosemion*

Subspecies: None

Distribution: Endemic in the drainage of the Kaké river and in other brooks around Mount Cameroon

Variability: Low

Syntopic Occurrence: *E. sexfasciatus*, *A. calliurum*, *P. similis*

Habitat: Small streams and swampy parts of brooks and rivers in the rainforest on volcanic soils

Temperatures: 23-26 °C

Biology: Non-annual species with an incubation time of about 10 days

Maintenance and Breeding: Easy



A. riggenbachi, ♂, from the surroundings of Yabassi, Cameroon



Aphyosemion riggenbachi (AHL, 1924)

Suborder: Aplocheiloidei PARENTI, 1981

Family: Aplocheilidae BLEEKER, 1860

Subfamily: Nothobranchiinae RADDA, 1981

Subgenus: *Chromaphyosemion* RADDA, 1971

First Description: Zool. Anzeiger 61, 142

Type Locality: "Quelle bei Yabassi", western Cameroon

Synonyms: *Fundulus riggenbachi* AHL, 1924

Meristics: D 12-14, A 13-15, S 26-29

Total Length: M 70 mm, F 55 mm

Systematic Relationship: A member of the subgenus *Chromaphyosemion* which also contains *A. bitaeniatum*, *A. splendopleure*, *A. bivittatum*, *A. volcanum* and *A. loennbergi*

Subspecies: None

Distribution: Lower and middle Wouri, Dibamba and Sanaga drainages in western Cameroon

Variability: Medium

Syntopic Occurrence: *E. sexfasciatus*, *A. puerzli*, *A. amieti*, *A. calliurum*, *A. franzwernerii*, *P. similis*

Habitat: Brooks of the coastal rainforest on basement complex soils

Temperatures: 24-26 °C

Biology: Non-annual species with an incubation period of 10 days

Maintenance and Breeding: Easy



A. loennbergii, ♂, from the surroundings of Kribi, Cameroon



Aphyosemion loennbergii (BOULENGER, 1903)

Suborder: Aplocheiloidei PARENTI, 1981

Family: Aplocheilidae BLEEKER, 1860

Subfamily: Nothobranchiinae RADDI, 1981

Subgenus: *Chromaphyosemion* RADDI, 1971

First Description: Ann. Mag. Nat. Hist. (7) 12, 440

Type Locality: "Kribi river", presently Kienke river, southwestern Cameroon

Synonyms: *Fundulus loennbergii* BOULENGER, 1903; *Fundulus pappenheimi* AHL, 1924;

Aphyosemion (Fundulopanchax) unistrigatus AHL, 1935

Meristics: D 11-14, A 12-16, S 25-28

Total Length: M 50 mm, F 40 mm

Systematic Relationship: Representative of the subgenus *Chromaphyosemion*

Subspecies: None

Distribution: Drainage systems of the lower Nyong, Lokundje and Kienke rivers in southwestern Cameroon

Variability: Medium

Syntopic Occurrence: *E. sexfasciatus*, *E. grahami*, *A. calliurum*, *A. ahli*, *A. pascheni*, *A. kribianum*,

Aply. macrophthalmus, *P. similis*, *P. nototaenia*

Habitat: Brooks and small streams in the rainforest on basement complex soils

Temperatures: 24-26 °C

Biology: Non-annual species with an incubation period of about 10 days

Maintenance and Breeding: Somewhat difficult



A. georgiae, ♂, from the Makokou area, Gabon



Aphyosemion georgiae LAMBERT & GERY, 1968

Suborder: Aplocheiloidei PARENTI, 1981

Family: Aplocheilidae BLEEKER, 1860

Subfamily: Nothobranchiinae RADDI, 1981

Subgenus: *Diapteron* HUBER & SEEGERS, 1977

First Description: Biol. gabonica 4 (3) 306

Type Locality: "Marigot avant le camp de Bélinga, au futur terminus du chemin de fer, bassin de I'Ivindo, Gabon" northern Gabon

Synonyms: None

Meristics: D 11, A 11, S 27

Total Length: M 20-30 mm

Systematic Relationship: A member of the subgenus *Diapteron*, consisting of *A. georgiae*, *A. cyanostictum*, *A. fulgens* and *A. abacinum*

Subspecies: None

Distribution: Mvoung and northern Ivindo systems in northern Gabon

Variability: Low

Syntopic Occurrence: *A. cyanostictum*, *A. fulgens*, *A. cameronense*, *A. maculatum*, *A. splendidum*

Habitat: Small brooks in swampy rainforest

Temperatures: 21-24 °C

Biology: A non-annual species with an incubation period of 10-15 days

Maintenance and Breeding: Difficult



A. cyanostictum, ♂, aquarium strain



Aphyosemion cyanostictum LAMBERT & GERY, 1968

Suborder: Aplocheiloidei PARENTI, 1981

Family: Aplocheilidae BLEEKER, 1860

Subfamily: Nothobranchiinae RADDA, 1981

Subgenus: *Diapteron* HUBER & SEEGER, 1977

First Description: Biol. gabonica 4 (3) 308

Type Locality: "Marigot du village de Bélinga, bassin de l'lvindo, Gabon," northern Gabon

Synonyms: None

Meristics: D 11, A 11, S 27+3

Total Length: 20-30 mm

Systematic Relationship: The subgenus *Diapteron* contains the very closely but partially syntopic living species *A. georgiae*, *A. cyanostictum*, *A. fulgens* and *A. abacinum*

Subspecies: None

Distribution: Between Ovan and Bélinga in the Ivindo system of northern Gabon

Variability: Low

Syntopic Occurrence: *A. georgiae*, *A. fulgens*, *A. cameronense*, *A. splendidum*

Habitat: Small mostly swampy brooks in the rainforest

Temperatures: 21-24 °C

Biology: A non-annual species with an incubation period of 10-15 days

Maintenance and Breeding: Difficult



A. fulgens, ♂, from the surroundings of Makokou, Gabon



Aphyosemion fulgens RADDA, 1975

Suborder: Aplocheiloidei PARENTI, 1981

Family: Aplocheilidae BLEEKER, 1860

Subfamily: Nothobranchiinae RADDA, 1981

Subgenus: *Diapteron* HUBER & SEEGERS, 1977

First Description: B. K. A. Publ. 18

Type Locality: "A brook in the rainforest near Esenkelle, 52 km west of Makokou" northern Gabon

Synonyms: *Aphyosemion georgiae fulgens* RADDA, 1975

Meristics: D 12-13, A 12, S 26-27+2

Total Length: 20-35 mm

Systematic Relationship: A representative of the subgenus *Diapteron* which also contains *A. georgiae*, *A. cyanostictum* and *A. abacinum*

Subspecies: None

Distribution: Between Mintoum and Makokou, Ivindo drainage, northern Gabon

Variability: Low

Syntopic Occurrence: *A. georgiae*, *A. cyanostictum*, *A. kunzi*

Habitat: Swampy parts of small brooks in the rainforest

Temperatures: 21-24 °C

Biology: A non-annual species with an incubation period of 10-15 days

Maintenance and Breeding: Difficult



A. abacinum, ♂, from the type locality



Aphyosemion abacinum HUBER, 1976

Suborder: Aplocheiloidei PARENTI, 1981

Family: Aplocheilidae BLEEKER, 1860

Subfamily: Nothobranchiinae RADDI, 1981

Subgenus: *Diapteron* HUBER & SEEGER, 1977

First Description: Rev. fr. Aquariol. 3, 79

Type Locality: "A environ 30 km au nord de Mékambo (région d'Ivindo, Gabon) sur la piste cyclable menant au Congo (piste d'Ego, Bouomo, Sèmbé)" northeastern most part of Gabon

Synonyms: None

Meristics: D 9-10, A 10-12, Sch 31-33

Total Length: 30-35 mm

Systematic Relationship: An allopatric distributed member of the subgenus *Diapteron*

Subspecies: *A. a. seegersi* HUBER, 1980 (t.t.: Gouaneboum-Mékambo, NW Congo)

Distribution: Upper Djadié and Djoua drainages in northeastern Gabon

Variability: Low

Syntopic Occurrence: *E. sangmelinensis*, *A. kunzi*

Habitat: Small brooks in the rainforest

Temperatures: 20-23 °C

Biology: A non-annual species with an incubation period of 10-15 days

Maintenance and Breeding: Difficult



A. calliurum, ♂, and ♀ (below)
from southeastern Benin



Aphyosemion calliurum (BOULENGER, 1911)

Suborder: Aplocheiloidei PARENTI, 1981

Family: Aplocheilidae BLEEKER, 1860

Subfamily: Nothobranchiinae RADDA, 1981

Subgenus: *Mesoaphyosemion* RADDA, 1977

First Description: Ann. Mag. Nat. Hist. (8) 8, 265

Type Locality: "Liberia" (erroneously given as origine), southern Nigeria

Synonyms: *Haplochilus calliurus* BOULENGER, 1911; *Panchax vexillifer* MEINKEN, 1929

Meristics: D 8-10, A 12-15, S 29-32

Total Length: M 45 mm, F 40 mm

Systematic Relationship: Together with *A. australe*, *A. pascheni*, *A. ahli*, *A. celiae* and *A. franzwernerii* forms the *A. calliurum* group

Subspecies: None

Distribution: Southern Benin and Nigeria, southwestern Cameroon

Variability: High

Syntopic Occurrence: *E. sexfasciatus*, *A. bitaeniatum*, *A. splendopleure*, *A. bivittatum*, *P. similis*

Habitat: Quiet parts of brooks and pools in rainforest of the coastal plains

Temperatures: 23-26 °C

Biology: A non-annual species with an incubation period of 10-20 days

Maintenance and Breeding: Moderately difficult



A. celiae, ♂, from the surroundings south of Badouma, Cameroon



Aphyosemion celiae SCHEEL, 1971

Suborder: Aplocheiloidei PARENTI, 1981

Family: Aplocheilidae BLEEKER, 1860

Subfamily: Nothobranchiinae RADDA, 1981

Subgenus: *Mesoaphyosemion* RADDA, 1977

First Description: Trop. Fish Hobbyist 19 (5) 52

Type Locality: "Source and adjacent small brook near John Epie's house in Mambanda near Kumba of West Cameroon"

Synonyms: None

Meristics: D 11-12, A 14-16, S 29-32

Total Length: M 50 mm, F 40 mm

Systematic Relationship: Closely related to *A. calliurum* and the other species of the *A. calliurum* group

Subspecies: *A. c. winifredae* RADDA & SCHEEL, 1974 (t.t.: New Butu, western Cameroon)

Distribution: Relict-like distribution area of the central Moungo drainage in western Cameroon

Variability: Medium

Syntopic Occurrence: *E. sexfasciatus*, *P. similis*

Habitat: Brooks and small streams in the rainforest and secondary savanna

Temperatures: 23-25 °C

Biology: A semi-annual species with an average incubation period of about three weeks

Maintenance and Breeding: Easy



A. franzweneri, ♂, from the type locality



Aphyosemion franzweneri SCHEEL, 1971

Suborder: Aplocheiloidei PARENTI, 1981

Family: Aplocheilidae BLEEKER, 1860

Subfamily: Nothobranchiinae RADDA, 1981

Subgenus: *Mesoaphyosemion* RADDA, 1977

First Description: Trop. Fish Hobbyist 19 (5) 61

Type Locality: "Small source, 15 km north of the road junction Douala-Edea-Yabassi, towards Yabassi of East Cameroon"

Synonyms: None

Meristics: D 9-10, A 13, S 29-30

Total Length: M 45 mm, F 40 mm

Systematic Relationship: Ancestral relative of the *A. calliurum* group

Subspecies: None

Distribution: Drainages of the lower Sanaga and Wouri in southwestern Cameroon

Variability: Low

Syntopic Occurrence: *A. splendopleure*, *A. riggerbachii*, *A. amieti*, *P. similis*

Habitat: Smallest pools and puddles of springs and brooks in the rainforest

Temperatures: 24-28 °C

Biology: A non-annual species with an incubation period of 10-14 days

Maintenance and Breeding: Very difficult



A. ahli, ♂, from the Kienke drainage near Kribi, Cameroon



Aphyosemion ahli MYERS, 1933

Suborder: Aplocheiloidei PARENTI, 1981

Family: Aplocheilidae BLEEKER, 1860

Subfamily: Nothobranchiinae RADDA, 1981

Subgenus: *Mesoaphyosemion* RADDA, 1977

First Description: Kalender f. Aqu.- u. Terr.-Freunde 66 (MEINKEN, 1932)

Type Locality: Not given (Aquarium material of unknown origin)

Synonyms: *Panchax (Aphyosemion) calliurus* var. *coeruleus* MEINKEN, 1932; *A. calliurum ahli* MYERS, 1933 nom. nov.

Meristics: D 10-12, A 14-16, S 30-33

Total Length: M 50 mm, F 40 mm

Systematic Relationship: *A. ahli* is closely related to *A. calliurum*, *A. celiae*, *A. pascheni* and *A. australe*; *A. franzwerner* and *A. herzogi* are also belonging to the *A. calliurum* group

Subspecies: None

Distribution: Southwestern Cameroon south of Dibamba River to Equatorial Guinea

Variability: Medium

Syntopic Occurrence: *E. sexfasciatus*, *E. grahami*, *A. pascheni*, *A. splendopleure*, *A. loennbergi*, *A. riggenbachi*, *A. amieti*, *A. kribianum*, *P. similis*, *P. nototaenia*, *Aply. scheeli*

Habitat: Quiet parts of brooks and flood pools in rainforests of the coastal plains

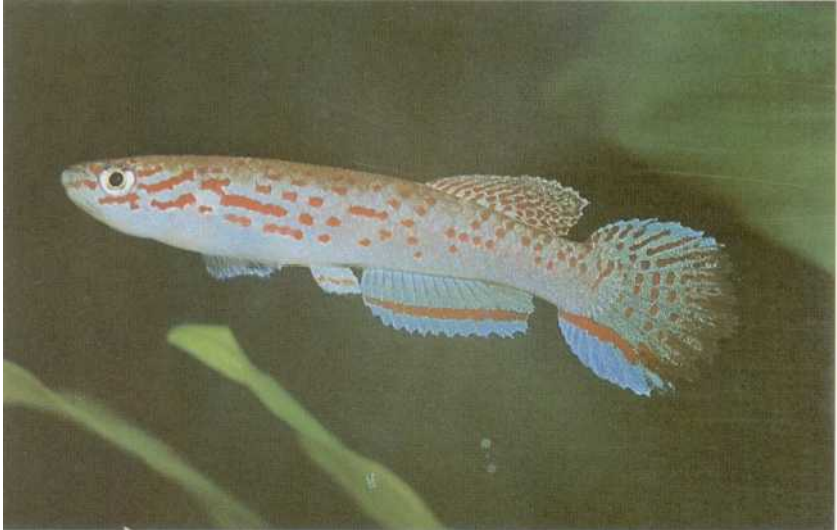
Temperatures: 24-28 °C

Biology: A non-to semi-annual species with an incubation period of 10-30 days

Maintenance and Breeding: Easy



A. pascheni, ♂, from a brook
20 km at the Kribi-Bipindi road,
Cameroon



Aphyosemion pascheni (AHL, 1928)

Suborder: Aplocheiloidei PARENTI, 1981

Family: Aplocheilidae BLEEKER, 1860

Subfamily: Nothobranchiinae RADDI, 1981

Subgenus: *Mesoaphyosemion* RADDI, 1977

First Description: Zool. Anzeiger 79, 122

Type Locality: "Longji, Kamerun" southwestern Cameroon

Synonyms: *Panchax (Aphyosemion) pascheni* AHL, 1928

Meristics: D 12, A 14, S 29-30

Total Length: M 50 mm, F 40 mm

Systematic Relationship: Closely related to *A. ahli* and the other members of the *A. calliurum* group

Subspecies: None

Distribution: Relict-like distribution area at the M'polongwe drainage around Londji

Variability: Low

Syntopic Occurrence: *E. sexfasciatus*, *A. ahli*, *A. splendopleure*, *P. nototaenia*

Habitat: Sheltered parts of brooks in the rainforest of the coastal plain

Temperatures: 24-27 °C

Biology: A non-annual species with an incubation period of about 20 days

Maintenance and Breeding: Difficult



A. herzogi, ♂, from Zomoko, Gabon



Aphyosemion herzogi RADDA, 1975

Suborder: Aplocheiloidei PARENTI, 1981

Family: Aplocheilidae BLEEKER, 1860

Subfamily: Nothobranchiinae RADDA, 1981

Subgenus: *Mesoaphyosemion* RADDA, 1977

First Description: B. K. A. Publ. 5

Type Locality: "Fast running brook about 3 km north of Zomoko or 16 km north of Lalara on the road to Mitzic and Oyem in northern Gabon"

Synonyms: None

Meristics: D 10-13, A 12-14, S 29-31+2

Total Length: M 40 mm, F 35 mm

Systematic Relationship: A member of the *A. calliurum* group

Subspecies: *A. h. bochtleri* RADDA, 1975; *U.*: Mintoum, northern Gabon

Distribution: From the Cristal Mountains to Makokou in northern Gabon

Variability: High

Syntopic Occurrence: *A. cameronense*, *A. maculatum*, *A. punctatum*, *A. georgiae*, *A. fulgens*

Habitat: Mountain brooks and spring regions of brooks in the rainforest

Temperatures: 20-24 °C

Biology: A non-annual species with an incubation period of approximately 14 days

Maintenance and Breeding: Difficult



A. australe, ♂, aquarium strain



Aphyosemion australe (RACHOW, 1921)

Suborder: Aplocheiloidei PARENTI, 1981

Family: Aplocheilidae BLEEKER, 1860

Subfamily: Nothobranchiinae RADDA, 1981

Subgenus: *Mesoaphyosemion* RADDA, 1977

First Description: *Bibl. Aqu. Terr. Fr.* 16, 26

Type Locality: "Kap Lopez" presently Cap Gentil, northwestern Gabon

Synonyms: *Haplochilus calliurus* var. *australis* RACHOW, 1921; *Panchax polychromus* AHL, 1924; *Aphyosemion australe hjerreseni* MEINKEN, 1953

Meristics: D 9-11, A 14-16, S 29-32

Total Length: 50 mm

Systematic Relationship: *A. australe* is a member of the *A. calliurum* group

Subspecies: None

Distribution: From Cocobeach in the northwesternmost part of Gabon southwards along the coast to southwestern Congo

Variability: Medium

Syntopic Occurrence: None

Habitat: Coastal swamps and swampy parts of small brooks in rainforest

Temperatures: 24-26 °C

Biology: A semi-annual species with an incubation period of 10-30 days

Maintenance and Breeding: Easy



A. s. akamkpaense, ♂, from Akamkpa, Nigeria



Aphyosemion scheeli RADDA, 1970

Suborder: Aplocheiloidei PARENTI, 1981

Family: Aplocheilidae BLEEKER, 1860

Subfamily: Nothobranchiinae RADDA, 1981

Subgenus: Mesoaphyosemion RADDA, 1977

First Description: *Aquaria* 17, 177

Type Locality: "Unknown" (Aquarium material of unknown origin)

Synonyms: *Aphyosemion "burundi" nomen nudum* SCHEEL, 1966

Meristics: D 10-12, A 13-14, S 31-32

Total Length: M 60 mm, F 55 mm

Systematic Relationship: Closely related with *A. marmoratum* and *A. oeseri* and belongs to the *A. cameranense* group

Subspecies: *A. s. akamkpaense* RADDA, 1975; t.t.: Akamkpa, southeastern Nigeria

Distribution: Endemic to the lower Cross river system in Southeastern State, Nigeria

Variability: Medium

Syntopic Occurrence: *E. sexfasciatus*, *A. bivittatum*, *A. gardneri*, *P. similis*

Habitat: Brooks and small streams in the coastal rainforest

Temperatures: 22-25 °C

Biology: A non-annual species with an incubation period of about 15 days

Maintenance and Breeding: Easy



A. marmoratum, ♂, from the type locality



Aphyosemion marmoratum RADDA, 1973

Suborder: Aplocheiloidei PARENTI, 1981

Family: Aplocheilidae BLEEKER, 1860

Subfamily: Nothobranchiinae RADDA, 1981

Subgenus: *Mesoaphyosemion* RADDA, 1977

First Description: *Aquaria* 20, 184

Type Locality: "Bach 16 km nordöstlich von Mbonge an der Straße nach Kumba", southwestern Cameroon

Synonyms: None

Meristics: D 11, A 14-15, S 32-33+2

Total Length: 50 mm

Systematic Relationship: Closely related to *A. scheeli* and *A. oeseri* as well as to *A. cameronense* and *A. raddai*

Subspecies: None

Distribution: Relict-like distribution in the rainforest around Mbonge in southwestern Cameroon

Variability: Low

Syntopic Occurrence: *A. splendopleure*, *A. calliurum*

Habitat: Swamps and swampy brooks

Temperatures: 23-26 °C

Biology: A non-annual species with an incubation period of about 15 days

Maintenance and Breeding: Moderately difficult



A. oeseri, ♂, aquarium strain from Santa Isabel, Fernando Póo



Aphyosemion oeseri (SCHMIDT, 1928)

Suborder: Aplocheiloidei PARENTI, 1981

Family: Aplocheilidae BLEEKER, 1860

Subfamily: Nothobranchiinae RADDA, 1981

Subgenus: *Mesoaphyosemion* RADDA, 1977

First Description: Das Aquarium 2, 165

Type Locality: "West Africa" (Aquarium material of unknown origin)

Synonyms: *Aphyosemion santaisabellae* SCHEEL, 1968

Meristics: D 10-12, A 14-16, S 31-33

Total Length: M 60 mm, F 55 mm

Systematic Relationship: Closely related to *A. marmoratum* and *A. scheeli* and belonging to the *A. cameronense* group

Subspecies: None

Distribution: Surroundings of Santa Isabel (Malabo), in the North of Fernando Póo (Bioko) island, Equatorial Guinea

Variability: Low

Syntopic Occurrence: *A. sexfasciatus*, *A. volcanum*, *P. similis*

Habitat: Coastal rivers and brooks in the north of the island

Temperatures: 23-26 °C

Biology: A non-annual species with an incubation period of approximately 15 days

Maintenance and Breeding: Difficult



A. raddai, ♂, from the type locality



Aphyosemion raddai SCHEEL, 1975

Suborder: Aplocheiloidei PARENTI, 1981

Family: Aplocheilidae BLEEKER, 1860

Subfamily: Nothobranchiinae RADDA, 1981

Subgenus: *Mesoaphyosemion* RADDA, 1977

First Description: Journ. Am. K. Ass. K. N. 8 (9) 259

Type Locality: "Brook just south of the Eseka-Edea-Yaounde road junction" western central Cameroon

Synonyms: *Aphyosemion cf. meinkenii* RADDA, 1973

Meristics: D 10-13, A 14-17, S 31-34

Total Length: M 45 mm, F 40 mm

Systematic Relationship: Closely related to *A. cameronense* and the three other members of the *A. cameronense* group

Subspecies: *A. r. amoenum* RADDA & PÜRZL, 1976; t.t.: Ndouapé near Sonbo

Distribution: Relict-like distribution area in the Ndjoya/Kelle tributaries of the Nyong and in the upper Djouel tributaries of the Sanaga

Variability: High

Syntopic Occurrence: *E. sexfasciatus*, *A. esekanus*, *A. loennbergi*

Habitat: Brooks in the rainforest at the rim of the inland plateau

Temperatures: 22-26 °C

Biology: A non-annual species with an incubation period of 10-15 days

Maintenance and Breeding: Difficult



A. camerounense, ♂, from Lolodorf, Cameroon



Aphyosemion camerounense (BOULENGER, 1903)

Suborder: Aplocheiloidei PARENTI, 1981

Family: Aplocheilidae BLEEKER, 1860

Subfamily: Nothobranchiinae RADDI, 1981

Subgenus: *Mesoaphyosemion* RADDI, 1977

First Description: Ann. Mag. Nat. Hist. (7) 12, 435

Type Locality: "Kribi River and Ja River" southern Cameroon

Synonyms: *Panchax bellicauda* AHL, 1924; *P. microstomus* AHL, 1924; *P. preussi* AHL, 1924; *P. normani* AHL, 1928

Meristics: D 11-13, A 15-17, S 31-33

Total Length: M 45 mm, F 40 mm

Systematic Relationship: Together with the closely related *A. raddai*, *A. marmoratum*, *A. oeseri* and *A. scheeli* forms the *A. camerounense* group

Subspecies: *A. c. obscurum* (AHL, 1924): Yaounde and westwards to Matomb; *A. c. halleri* RADDI & PÜRZL, 1976: Ambam; *A. c. haasi* RADDI & PÜRZL, 1976: Hills of Zomoko in Gabon

Distribution: Inland plateau of southern Cameroon, Equatorial Guinea and northern Gabon

Variability: Very high

Syntopic Occurrence: *E. sangmelinensis*, *A. batesii*, *A. splendidum*, *A. exiguum*, *Aply. camerounensis*

Habitat: Quiet parts of brooks in the rainforest

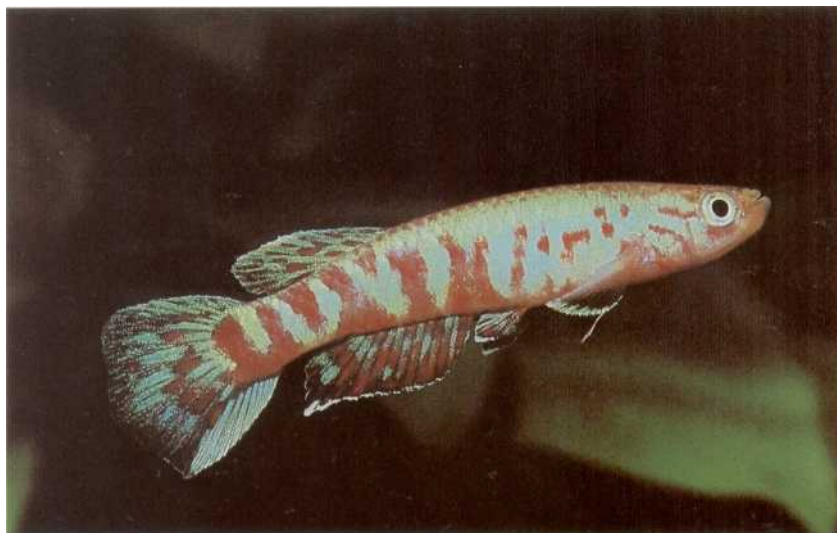
Temperatures: 21-23 °C

Biology: A non-annual species with an incubation period of approximately 15 days

Maintenance and Breeding: Very difficult



A. maculatum, ♂, from the type locality



Aphyosemion maculatum RADDA & PÜRZL, 1977

Suborder: Aplocheiloidei PARENTI, 1981

Family: Aplocheilidae BLEEKER, 1860

Subfamily: Nothobranchiinae RADDA, 1981

Subgenus: *Mesoaphyosemion* RADDA, 1977

First Description: *Aquaria* 24, 27

Type Locality: "Ein Bach im Regenwald an der Nationalstraße Nr. 4 von Koumameyong nach Ovan, 33 km östlich Koumameyong, bzw. 20 km westlich Ovan", northern Gabon

Synonyms: None

Meristics: D 12-14, A 16-17, S 30-32+2

Total Length: M 45 mm, F 35 mm

Systematic Relationship: Closely related to *A. cameronense*

Subspecies: *Aphyosemion m. mimbon* HUBER, 1977; t.t.: Akoga, northern Gabon

Distribution: From the Cristal Mountains eastwards to the lower Mvoung drainage

Variability: High (different colour phases)

Syntopic Occurrence: *E. sangmelinensis*, *A. cameronense*, *A. herzogi*, *A. georgiae*

Habitat: Brooks in the rainforest

Temperatures: 21-24 °C

Biology: A non-annual species with an incubation period of 15-20 days

Maintenance and Breeding: Difficult



A. striatum, ♂, from Lambarené, Gabon



Aphyosemion striatum (BOULENGER, 1911)

Suborder: Aplocheiloidei PARENTI, 1981

Family: Aplocheilidae BLEEKER, 1860

Subfamily: Nothobranchiinae RADDA, 1981

Subgenus: *Mesoaphyosemion* RADDA, 1977

First Description: Ann. Mag. Nat. Hist. (8) 266

Type Locality: "Abanga river, Ogowe, between 1st and 2nd rapids", northwestern Gabon

Synonyms: *Haplochilus striatus* BOULENGER, 1911; *Panchax escherichi* AHL, 1924; *A. striatum ogoense* ROMAN, 1972

Meristics: D 9-10, A 13, S 30-31

Total Length: M 50 mm, F 45 mm

Systematic Relationship: A member of the *A. striatum* group with the further relatives

A. microphthalmum, *A. primigenium*, *A. exigoidium* and probably also *A. gabunense*

Subspecies: None

Distribution: Coastal plains of Equatorial Guinea and northeastern Gabon

Variability: Medium

Syntopic Occurrence: *E. sexfasciatus*, *E. singa*, *A. microphthalmum*

Habitat: Brooks and small streams of the coastal rainforest

Temperatures: 23-26 °C

Biology: A non-annual species with an incubation period of about 14 days

Maintenance and Breeding: Easy



A. m. simulans, ♂, from Cap Estérias, Gabon



Aphyosemion microphthalmum LAMBERT & GERY, 1968

Suborder: Aplocheiloidei PARENTI, 1981

Family: Aplocheilidae BLEEKER, 1860

Subfamily: Nothobranchiinae RADDA, 1981

Subgenus: *Mesoaphyosemion* RADDA, 1977

First Description: *Biol. gabonica* 3 (4) 299

Type Locality: "PK85 de la route Pointe Noire-Sunda", western Congo

Synonyms: *Aphyosemion striatum microphthalmum* LAMBERT & GERY, 1968

Meristics: D 11, A 14, S 31+3

Total Length: M 50 mm, F 45 mm

Systematic Relationship: Together with *A. striatum*, *A. primigenium*, *A. exigoideum* forms the *A. striatum* group

Subspecies: *A. m. simulans* RADDA & HUBER, 1976; t.t.: near Cap Estérias, northern Gabon

Distribution: From Equatorial Guinea and northwestern Gabon southwards along the coast to Cabinda, Congo and Zaire

Variability: Medium

Syntopic Occurrence: *E. sexfasciatus*, *A. splendopleure*, *A. striatum*, *P. ngaensis*, *P. loemensis*, *P. cabindae*

Habitat: Small streams and brooks in the coastal rainforest

Temperatures: 22-24 °C

Biology: A non-annual species with an incubation period of about 10 days

Maintenance and Breeding: Moderately difficult



A. g. gabunense, ♂, from the type locality



Aphyosemion gabunense RADDA, 1975

Suborder: Aplocheiloidei PARENTI, 1981
 Subfamily: Nothobranchiinae RADDA, 1981
 First Description: B. K. A. Publ. 17

Family: Aplocheilidae BLEEKER, 1860
 Subgenus: *Mesoaphyosemion* RADDA, 1977

Type Locality: "Small and swampy brook in the rainforest between Lambarene and Fougamou along the national road Nr. 1, about 30 km southeast of Lambarene in direction to Mouïla", western Gabon

Synonyms: None

Meristics: D 11-12, A 13, S 28+2-3

Total Length: M 50 mm, F 45 mm

Systematic Relationship: According to its karyotype *A. gabunense* belongs to the *A. elegans* group but distribution and colour pattern are similar to that of the *A. striatum* group

Subspecies: *A. g. marginatum* RADDA & HUBER 1977, t.t.: 9 km southwestwards of Bifoung;
A. g. boehmi RADDA & HUBER, 1977, t.t.: Between Bigouenia and Mora

Distribution: Coastal plains between Lambarene and Fougamou

Variability: High

Syntopic Occurrence: *E. sexfasciatus*, *E. singa*, *E. berkenkampii*

Habitat: Brooks in secondary forest and brushwood

Temperatures: 23-25 °C

Biology: A non-annual species with an incubation period of 10-14 days

Maintenance and Breeding: Easy



A. exigoideum, ♂, from Mandilou, Gabon



Aphyosemion exigoideum RADDA & HUBER, 1977

Suborder: Aplocheiloidei PARENTI, 1981

Family: Aplocheilidae BLEEKER, 1860

Subfamily: Nothobranchiinae RADDA, 1981

Subgenus: *Mesoaphyosemion* RADDA, 1977

First Description: *Aquaria* 24, 141

Type Locality: "Kleiner Bach im Regenwald nahe Mandilou", western central Gabon

Synonyms: None

Meristics: D 11-12, A 13-14, S 29-31+2

Total Length: M 45 mm, F 40 mm

Systematic Relationship: Very closely to *A. primigenium* and a member of the *A. striatum* group

Subspecies: None

Distribution: Middle N'Goumé river drainage between Mandilou and Ngoudoufala

Variability: Medium

Syntopic Occurrence: *E. singa*, *E. berkenkampi*, *P. ngaensis*

Habitat: Rivers and brooks in the rainforest of the plains

Temperatures: 23-25 °C

Biology: A semi-annual species with an incubation period of 10-20 days

Maintenance and Breeding: Moderately difficult



A. primigenium, ♂, from Lébamba, Gabon



Aphyosemion primigenium (RADDA & HUBER, 1977)

Suborder: Aplocheiloidei PARENTI, 1981

Family: Aplocheilidae BLEEKER, 1860

Subfamily: Nothobranchiinae RADDA, 1981

Subgenus: *Mesoaphyosemion* RADDA, 1977

First Description: *Aquaria* 24, 138

Type Locality: "Bach des Douano Subsystems (Nyanga) im Regenwald der Mayumbe-Berge bei Banyanga, Seehöhe 250 m, Gabun", southwestern Gabon

Synonyms: None

Meristics: D 12-13, A 14-15, S 29-31+2

Total Length: M 45 mm, F 40 mm

Systematic Relationship: Very closely related to *A. exigoideum* and a member of the *A. striatum* group

Subspecies: None

Distribution: Coastal plain and western rim of the Du Chaillu mountains between Mouila and Ndendé/Lébamba in southwestern Gabon

Variability: Medium

Syntopic Occurrence: *E. berkenkampii*, *P. loemensis*

Habitat: Brooks in the rainforest

Temperatures: 19-25 °C

Biology: A semi-annual species with an incubation period of 10-20 days

Maintenance and Breeding: Moderately difficult



A. coeleste, ♂, from the type locality



Aphyosemion coeleste HUBER & RADDA, 1977

Suborder: Aplocheiloidei PARENTI, 1981

Family: Aplocheilidae BLEEKER, 1860

Subfamily: Nothobranchiinae RADDA, 1981

Subgenus: *Mesoaphyosemion* RADDA, 1977

First Description: *Aquaria* 24, 100

Type Locality: "Bach nahe Massango (Seehöhe etwa 400 m), 13 km NW Moanda, an der Straße nach Lastoursville", southeastern Gabon

Synonyms: None

Meristics: D 11-12, A 14-15, S 29-31+2-3 Total Length: M 45 mm, F 40 mm

Systematic Relationship: Forms together with *A. ocellatum* and *A. citrineipinnis* the *A. coeleste* group

Subspecies: None

Distribution: From Moanda, Lékédi system southwards to the upper Louesse drainage in southern Congo

Variability: High

Syntopic Occurrence: *A. hanneloreae*

Habitat: Swampy parts of brooks in the rainforest of the inland plateau and hills

Temperatures: 19-21 °C

Biology: A semi-annual species with an incubation period of 10-20 days

Maintenance and Breeding: Moderately difficult



A. ocellatum, ♂, from Mimongo, Gabon



Aphyosemion ocellatum HUBER & RADD, 1977

Suborder: Aplocheiloidei PARENTI, 1981

Family: Aplocheilidae BLEEKER, 1860

Subfamily: Nothobranchiinae RADD, 1981

Subgenus: *Mesoaphyosemion* RADD, 1977

First Description: Aquaria 24, 102

Type Locality: "Ein schnellfließender Bach im Regenwald, 6 km w Mimongo an der Straße nach Lebamba zwischen Magagara and Lamadou, Seehöhe etwa 500 m, Migoto-Ogoulou-Subsystem des Ngounié", southern central Gabon

Synonyms: None

Meristics: D 11-12, A 15-16, S 31-33+2

Total Length: M 45 mm, F 40 mm

Systematic Relationship: *A. ocellatum* is closely related to *A. citrineipinnis* and *A. coeleste*

Subspecies: None

Distribution: Central area of the Du Chaillu mountains in Gabon and southern Congo

Variability: High

Syntopic Occurrence: *A. joergenscheeli*, *A. hanneloreae*

Habitat: Fast running brooks and streams in mountainous rainforest

Temperatures: 19-21 °C

Biology: A semi-annual species with an incubation period of 2-3 weeks

Maintenance and Breeding: Moderately difficult



A. citrineipinnis, ♂, from Yéno, Gabon



Aphyosemion citrineipinnis HUBER & RADDA, 1977

Suborder: Aplocheiloidei PARENTI, 1981

Family: Aplocheilidae BLEEKER, 1860

Subfamily: Nothobranchiinae RADDA, 1981

Subgenus: *Mesoaphyosemion* RADDA, 1977

First Description: *Aquaria* 24, 104

Type Locality: "Schnellfließender Gebirgsfluß nahe Yéno, Mogambi, Ogoudou/Ogoulou Subsystem des Ngounié; Seehöhe etwa 450 m", central Gabon

Synonyms: None

Meristics: D 11-12, A 15-16, S 29-30+2

Total Length: M 45 mm, F 40 mm

Systematic Relationship: A close relative of *A. ocellatum* and *A. coeleste*

Subspecies: None

Distribution: Western slope of the Du Chaillu mountains in central Gabon

Variability: Low

Syntopic Occurrence: *A. joergenscheeli*

Habitat: Fast running streams and brooks in the rainforest

Temperatures: 19-21 °C

Biology: A semi-annual species with an incubation period of 2-3 weeks

Maintenance and Breeding: Difficult



A. joergenscheeli, ♂, from Mimongo, Gabon



Aphyosemion joergenscheeli HUBER & RADD, 1977

Suborder: Aplocheiloidei PARENTI, 1981

Family: Aplocheilidae BLEEKER, 1860

Subfamily: Nothobranchiinae RADD, 1981

Subgenus: *Mesoaphyosemion* RADD, 1977

First Description: *Aquaria* 24, 105

Type Locality: "Schnellfließender Bach im Regenwald, 6 km W Mimongo, an der Straße nach Lebamba, zwischen Magagara and Lamadou, Seehöhe etwa 500 m, Migoto/Ogoulou-Subsystem des Ngunié", central Gabon

Synonyms: None

Meristics: D 12-13, A 14-15, S 28-29+2-3 Total Length: M 45 mm, F 40 mm

Systematic Relationship: No close relationship to another species

Subspecies: None

Distribution: Central area of the Du Chaillu mountains

Variability: Low

Syntopic Occurrence: *A. ocellatum*, *A. hanneloreae*

Habitat: Brooks and small streams in the highlands of the Ngunié drainage

Temperatures: 19-21 °C

Biology: No experience

Maintenance and Breeding: Very difficult



A. thysi, ♂, from a brook 13 km on the road Komono to Mbila, Congo



Aphyosemion thysi RADDA & HUBER, 1978

Suborder: Aplocheiloidei PARENTI, 1981

Family: Aplocheilidae BLEEKER, 1860

Subfamily: Nothobranchiinae RADDA, 1981

Subgenus: *Mesoaphyosemion* RADDA, 1977

First Description: *Aquaria* 25, 173

Type Locality: "Bach 500 m von Ngala, an der Straße Titi-Mossendjo, Provinz Niari, Louessé-System"; southern Congo

Synonyms: None

Meristics: D 11-12, A 14-15, S 30+1-2

Total Length: M 50 mm, F 40 mm

Systematic Relationship: A member of the *A. ogoense* group

Subspecies: None

Distribution: Mossendjo-Komono area of the Louessé-Niari drainage in southern Congo

Variability: Low

Syntopic Occurrence: *A. coeleste*, *A. ogoense*

Habitat: Brooks and small streams in the mountainous rainforest

Temperatures: 18-21 °C

Biology: A non-annual species with an incubation period of 10-14 days

Maintenance and Breeding: Moderately difficult



A. o. ogoense, ♂, from a brook
61 km S of Franceville, Gabon



Aphyosemion ogoense (PELLEGRIN, 1930)

Suborder: Aplocheiloidei PARENTI, 1981

Family: Aplocheilidae BLEEKER, 1860

Subfamily: Nothobranchiinae RADDI, 1981

Subgenus: *Mesoaphyosemion* RADDI, 1977

First Description: Bull. Soc. Zool. France 55, 201

Type Locality: "Riv. Léconi (Ht. Ogôoué), La Passa (Ht. Ogôoué)", southeastern Gabon

Synonyms: *Haplochilus lujae* var. *ogoisensis* PELLEGRIN, 1930; *Aphyosemion plagitaenium* HUBER, 1980, *nom. nud.*

Meristics: D 10-11, A 14-15, S 29-31

Total Length: M 55 mm, F 45 mm

Systematic Relationship: Closely related to *A. louessense*

Subspecies: *A. o. pyrophore* HUBER & RADDI, 1979 (t.t.: Dorf Gnimi-Quartier Mbaya, Lékoumou, Congo)

A. o. caudofasciatum HUBER & RADDI, 1979 (t.t.: Ekoumou-Flüsschen beim Dorf Ogoué, nördlich Zanaga, Congo)

Distribution: Upper Ogowe (M'Passa, Lekédi) drainage system in southeastern Gabon, and upper Niari (Louesse) system in southern Congo

Variability: High

Syntopic Occurrence: *A. schluppi*, *H. zebra*, *H. catenatus*

Habitat: Small streams and brooks in the rainforest and guinean savanna of the Batéké plateau highlands

Temperatures: 19-21 °C

Biology: A semi-annual species with an incubation period of 10-20 days

Maintenance and Breeding: Moderately difficult



A. louessense, ♂, from Lekoli Magogo, Congo



Aphyosemion louessense (PELLEGRIN, 1931)

Suborder: Aplocheiloidei PARENTI, 1981

Family: Aplocheilidae BLEEKER, 1860

Subfamily: Nothobranchiinae RADDI, 1981

Subgenus: *Mesoaphyosemion* RADDI, 1977

First Description: Bull. Soc. Zool. France 56, 221

Type Locality: "Louesse (Kouilou)"; southern Congo

Synonyms: *Haplochilus lujae* var. *louessense* PELLEGRIN, 1931; *A. spec.* "Malinga" HUBER, 1980

Meristics: D 12-14, A 15-16, S 31-32

Total Length: M 60 mm, F 50 mm

Systematic Relationship: Very closely related to *A. ottogartneri* and *A. ogoense*

Subspecies: None

Distribution: Upper Kouilou, Louesse, Lelali, Buenza and Nyanga river drainages in southern Congo and in some Nyanza river tributaries in southern Gabon

Variability: Very high

Syntopic Occurrence: *E. huberi*, *H. zebra*

Habitat: Brooks and streams in the rainforest and guinean savanna

Temperatures: 17-20 °C

Biology: A non-annual species with an incubation period of 14-20 days

Maintenance and Breeding: Easy



A. ottogartneri, ♂, aquarium strain



Aphyosemion ottogartneri RADDA, 1980

Suborder: Aplocheiloidei PARENTI, 1981

Family: Aplocheilidae BLEEKER, 1860

Subfamily: Nothobranchiinae RADDA, 1981

Subgenus: *Mesoaphyosemion* RADDA, 1977

First Description: *Aquaria* 27, 197

Type Locality: "Lefini, Provinz Pool, Kongo-Brazzaville"; southern Congo

Synonyms: *Aphyosemion ogoense ottogartneri* RADDA, 1980; *A. lujae* (non BOULENGER) many authors

Meristics: D 10-11, A 14-15, S 29-32

Total Length: M 55 mm, F 50 mm

Systematic Relationship: Closely related to *A. louessense*

Subspecies: None

Distribution: Upper Lefini river drainage in southern Congo

Variability: Low

Syntopic Occurrence: Unknown

Habitat: Brooks and streams in the rainforest and derived savanna

Temperatures: 22-25 °C

Biology: A non-annual species with an incubation period of 10-14 days

Maintenance and Breeding: Easy



Aphyosemion schluppi RADDA & HUBER, 1978

Suborder: Aplocheiloidei PARENTI, 1981

Family: Aplocheilidae BLEEKER, 1860

Subfamily: Nothobranchiinae RADDA, 1981

Subgenus: *Mesoaphyosemion* RADDA, 1977

First Description: *Aquaria* 25, 176

Type Locality: "Bach an der Straße von Zanaga zum Ogooué; Congo", southern Congo

Synonyms: None

Meristics: D 11-12, A 13-14, S 29-31+1-2 Total Length: M 45 mm, F 40 mm

Systematic Relationship: Closely related to *A. wachtersi* and *A. buytaerti*

Subspecies: None

Distribution: Upper Louesse-Niari drainages between Mossendjo and Komono (Province Lékoumou) in southern Congo

Variability: Low

Syntopic Occurrence: *A. ogoense*, *A. buytaerti*, *H. zebra*

Habitat: Brooks in the mountainous rainforest

Temperatures: 18-21 °C

Biology: A non-annual species with an incubation period of 10-14 days

Maintenance and Breeding: Moderately difficult



A. wachtersi, ♂, from the type locality



Aplocheilichthys wachtersi RADDA & HUBER, 1978

Suborder: Aplocheiloidei PARENTI, 1981

Family: Aplocheilidae BLEEKER, 1860

Subfamily: Nothobranchiinae RADDA, 1981

Subgenus: *Mesoaplocheilichthys* RADDA, 1977

First Description: *Aquaria* 25, 179

Type Locality: "Quellteich mit 4 m², im Dorf Voula 2, 9 km NO Zanaga, an der Straße zum Ogowe (Lésala-System)"; southern Congo

Synonyms: None

Meristics: D 12-13, A 13-15, S 28-29+1-2 Total Length: M and F 45 mm

Systematic Relationship: Closely related to *A. buytaerti* and *A. schluppi*

Subspecies: *A. w. mikeae* RADDA, 1980 (t.t.: Gnimi, Quartier Mbaya, Mpoutoulou river)

Distribution: Upper tributaries of the Ogowe river and upper Louesse drainage in southern Congo

Variability: Medium

Syntopic Occurrence: *A. ogoense*, *H. zebra*

Habitat: Pools and brooks in mountainous rainforest

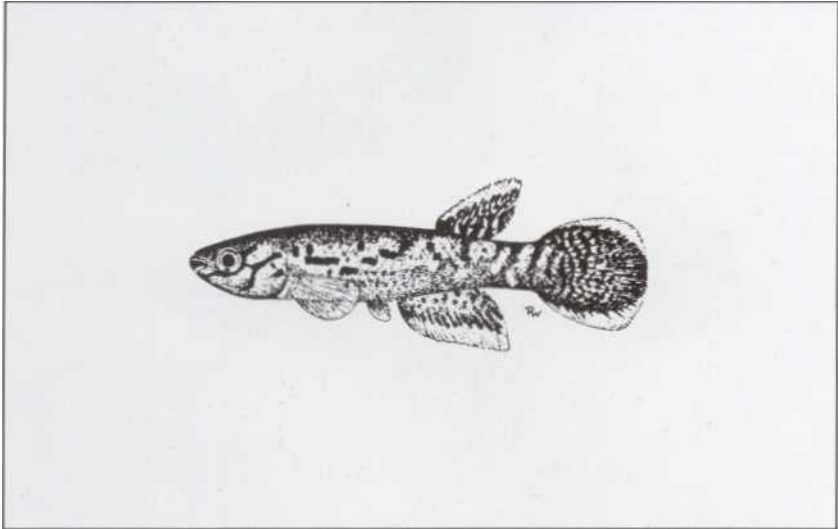
Temperatures: 17-21 °C

Biology: A non-annual species with an incubation period of about 14 days

Maintenance and Breeding: Difficult



A. buytaerti, ♂, from Ogooué, Congo



Aphyosemion buytaerti **RADDA & HUBER, 1978**

Suborder: Aplocheiloidei PARENTI, 1981

Family: Aplocheilidae BLEEKER, 1860

Subfamily: Nothobranchiinae RADDA, 1981

Subgenus: *Mesoaphyosemion* RADDA, 1977

First Description: *Aquaria* 25, 181

Type Locality: "Ekouma-Fluß beim Dorf Ogooué, zwischen Zanaga and Voula 2"; southern Congo

Synonyms: None

Meristics: D 12-13, A 14-15, S 28-30+1-2 Total Length: M 40 mm, F 35 mm

Systematic Relationship: Closely related to *A. wachtersi* and *A. schluppi*

Subspecies: None

Distribution: Only known from its type locality in the upper Ogoewe tributaries

Variability: Low

Syntopic Occurrence: *A. ogoense*, *A. schluppi*

Habitat: Brooks in the mountainous rainforest

Temperatures: 18-21 °C

Biology: A non-annual species with an incubation period of 10-14 days

Maintenance and Breeding: Difficult



A. labarrei, ♂, aquarium strain



Aphyosemion labarrei POLL, 1951

Suborder: Aplocheiloidei PARENTI, 1981

Family: Aplocheilidae BLEEKER, 1860

Subfamily: Nothobranchiinae RADDI, 1981

Subgenus: *Mesoaphyosemion* RADDI, 1977

First Description: Rev. Zool. Bot. Afr. 45, 168

Type Locality: "20 km de Madimba (Inkisi) petit [affl. de](#) la riv. Ngufu, pres de Kiavo"; western Zaire

Synonyms: *A. (Fundulopanchax) labarrei* POLL, 1951

Meristics: D 12-14, A 14-17, S 30-32

Total Length: M 55 mm, F 50 mm

Systematic Relationship: Probably related to *A. zygaima*

Subspecies: None

Distribution: Middle and lower Inkisi river drainage in eastern Bas Zaire

Variability: High

Syntopic Occurrence: *A. cognatum*

Habitat: Shallow brooks and streams in the rainforest

Temperatures: 20-22 °C

Biology: A non-annual species with an incubation period of 14-20 days

Maintenance and Breeding: Moderately difficult



A. zygaima, ♂, from the surrounding of Mindouli



Aphyosemion zygaima HUBER, 1981

Suborder: Aplocheiloidei PARENTI, 1981

Family: Aplocheilidae BLEEKER, 1860

Subfamily: Nothobranchiinae RADDI, 1981

Subgenus: *Mesoaphyosemion* RADDI, 1977

First Description: Trop. Fish Hob. 29 (8) 27

Type Locality: "Mindouli, some 100 km west of Brazzaville"; southern Congo

Synonyms: *A. louessense* (non PELLEGRIN) SCHEEL, 1968

Meristics: D 12-13, A 15-16, S 30-32+2-3 Total Length: M 45 mm, F 40 mm

Systematic Relationship: Closely related to *A. louessense* and *A. labarrei*

Subspecies: None

Distribution: Hitherto only known from its type locality

Variability: Low?

Syntopic Occurrence: None?

Habitat: The type locality is a brook in guinean savanna

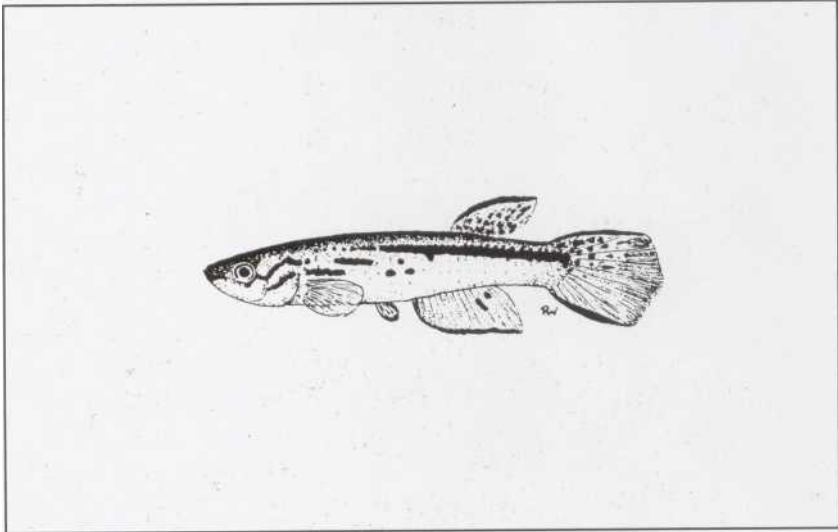
Temperatures: No datas available

Biology: Most probably a non-annual species with an incubation period of about 10-14 days

Maintenance and Breeding: No experience



A. ferranti, ♂, from Kondue, Kasai, Zaire



Aphyosemion ferranti (BOULENGER, 1910)

Suborder: Aplocheiloidei PARENTI, 1981

Family: Aplocheilidae BLEEKER, 1860

Subfamily: Nothobranchiinae RADDA, 1981

Subgenus: *Mesoaphyosemion* RADDA, 1977

First Description: Bull. Soc. Nat. Luxembourg 285

Type Locality: "Petit ruisseau limpide à fond de gravier dans la forêt tout pres de Kondoué, Bas-Congo" Kondue, Kasai Province, southern Zaire

Synonyms: *Haplochilus ferranti* BOULENGER, 1910; *Panchax ferranti* AHL, 1924

Meristics: D 10, A 13-14, S 30-32

Total Length: M 50 mm, F 45 mm

Systematic Relationship: No close relationship to any other species of the subgenus *Mesoaphyosemion*

Subspecies: None

Distribution: Sankuru and middle and upper Kasai river drainages of West Kasai Province in southern Zaire

Variability: Low?

Syntopic Occurrence: *E. multifasciatus*, *A. lujae*

Habitat: Small rivers, brooks and streams in the rainforest and derived savanna

Temperatures: 22-25 °C

Biology: Unknown

Maintenance and Breeding: Not yet kept alive



A. wildekampi, ♂, from the area of Diang, Cameroon



Aphyosemion wildekampi BERKENKAMP, 1973

Suborder: Aplocheiloidei PARENTI, 1981

Family: Aplocheilidae BLEEKER, 1860

Subfamily: Nothobranchiinae RADDI, 1981

Subgenus: *Aphyosemion* MYERS, 1924

First Description: D. K. G. Journ. 4, 221

Type Locality: "Waldbach bei Diang, 40 km westlich von Bertoua, Ost-Kamerun", southeastern Cameroon

Synonyms: None

Meristics: D 10, A 17, S 24-25

Total Length: 45 mm

Systematic Relationship: According to its karyotype and meristics, *A. wildekampi* belongs to the *A. elegans* group

Subspecies: None

Distribution: Southeastern Cameroon, southwestern Central African Republic and northwestern Congo

Variability: Medium

Syntopic Occurrence: None?

Habitat: Small streams, brooks and swamps in the rainforest and guinean savanna

Temperatures: 21-25 °C

Biology: A non-annual species with an incubation period of 10-15 days

Maintenance and Breeding: Difficult



A. punctatum, ♂, from Ovan, Gabon



Aphyosemion punctatum RADDA & PÜRZL, 1977

Suborder: Aplocheiloidei PARENTI, 1981

Family: Aplocheilidae BLEEKER, 1860

Subfamily: Nothobranchiinae RADDA, 1981

Subgenus: *Aphyosemion* MYERS, 1924

First Description: *Aquaria* 24, 29

Type Locality: "Sumpfiger Bach nahe der katholischen Mission in Makokou", northern Gabon

Synonyms: *Aphyosemion striatum* ogoense LAMBERT & GERY, 1967; *A. spec. aff. wildekampi* RADDA, 1975

Meristics: D 11-12, A 15-16, S 29-30+2

Total Length: M 45 mm, F 35 mm

Systematic Relationship: Closely related to *A. wildekampi* and *A. aureum*

Subspecies: None

Distribution: Northeastern Gabon and northern Congo

Variability: High

Syntopic Occurrence: *A. h. bochtleri*

Habitat: Brooks in the rainforest, of the upper Ivindo drainage

Temperatures: 21-23 °C

Biology: A non-annual species with an incubation period of approximately 10 days

Maintenance and Breeding: Difficult



A. aureum, ♂, from the type locality



Aphyosemion aureum RADDA, 1980

Suborder: Aplocheiloidei PARENTI, 1981

Family: Aplocheilidae BLEEKER, 1860

Subfamily: Nothobranchiinae RADDA, 1981

Subgenus: *Aphyosemion* MYERS, 1924

First Description: *Aquaria* 27, 201

Type Locality: "47 km SW Kouilamoutou an der Nationalstraße N 6 nach Mimongo, in einem kleinen Bach im Regenwald nahe dem Dorf Mouila (SH 470 m), Du Chaillu-Massiv, Provinz Ogooué-Lolo, Südgabun"

Synonyms: None

Meristics: D 13, A 16-17, S 30-32

Total Length: M 50 mm, F 45 mm

Systematic Relationship: Closely related to *A. punctatum*

Subspecies: None

Distribution: Upper Lolo and Yaou river systems in southern central Gabon

Variability: Low

Syntopic Occurrence: None

Habitat: Small and fast running brooks in the mountainous rainforest

Temperatures: 19-21 °C

Biology: A non-annual species with an incubation period of 10-14 days

Maintenance and Breeding: Difficult



A. lamberti, ♂, from the "Region des Abeilles", Gabon



Aphyosemion lamberti RADDA & HUBER, 1977

Suborder: Aplocheiloidei PARENTI, 1981

Family: Aplocheilidae BLEEKER, 1860

Subfamily: Nothobranchiinae RADDA, 1981

Subgenus: *Aphyosemion* MYERS, 1924

First Description: *Aquaria* 24, 61

Type Locality: "Bach nahe dem Ogowe an einer Nebenstraße nach Achouka, westlich Booué", central Gabon

Synonyms: *Aphyosemion christyi* LAMBERT & GERY, 1968

Meristics: D 9-10, A 13-14, S 27-29+2

Total Length: M 45 mm, F 35 mm

Systematic Relationship: Closely related to *A. rectogoense* and to the other members of the *A. elegans* group

Subspecies: None

Distribution: Drainage of the middle Ogowe river in central and eastern Gabon

Variability: Medium

Syntopic Occurrence: None

Habitat: Brooks and small streams in the rainforest

Temperatures: 21-24 °C

Biology: A non-annual species with an incubation period of approximately 10 days

Maintenance and Breeding: Moderately difficult



A. rectogoense, ♂, from Léconi, Gabon



Aphyosemion rectogoense RADDA & HUBER, 1977

Suborder: Aplocheiloidei PARENTI, 1981

Family: Aplocheilidae BLEEKER, 1860

Subfamily: Nothobranchiinae RADDA, 1981

Subgenus: *Aphyosemion* MYERS, 1924

First Description: *Aquaria* 24, 64

Type Locality: "Bach des Djouele, Léconi-System, etwa 6 km W der Stadt Léconi, an der neuen Straße von Franceville über Bongoville", southeastern Gabon

Synonyms: None

Meristics: D 8-9, A 14, S 27-29+2

Total Length: M 35 mm, F 30 mm

Systematic Relationship: Closely related to *A. lamberti* and to the other members of the *A. elegans* group

Subspecies: None

Distribution: Batéké plateau in southeastern Gabon and the bordering area in Congo

Variability: Low

Syntopic Occurrence: *E. boulengeri*

Habitat: Springfed pool and swampy brooks in the savanna

Temperatures: 21-25 °C

Biology: A non-annual species with an incubation period of about 10 days

Maintenance and Breeding: Moderately difficult



A. hofmanni, ♂, Holotype



Aphyosemion hofmanni RADDA, 1980

Suborder: Aplocheiloidei PARENTI, 1981

Family: Aplocheilidae BLEEKER, 1860

Subfamily: Nothobranchiinae RADDA, 1981

Subgenus: ? *Aphyosemion* MYERS, 1924

First Description: *Aquaria* 27, 203

Type Locality: "55 km an der Straße von Mimongo (fiber Mokabou) nach Mbigou, nahe Iméno Mbila in kleinen Seitenarmen eines Bergbaches mit einem Wasserstand von nur wenigen Zentimetern, Seehöhe etwa 600 m, Du Chaillu-Massiv, Provinz Ngunié, Südgabun

Synonyms: None

Meristics: D 11-12, A 14-15, S 31-32

Total Length: M 40 mm, F 30 mm

Systematic Relationship: Closely related to *A. hanneloreae*

Subspecies: None

Distribution: Mbomi drainage of the Du Chaillu mountains

Variability: Low

Syntopic Occurrence: *A. ocellatum* (in other parts of the brooks)

Habitat: Smallest mountainous brooks

Temperatures: 19-21 °C

Biology: No experience

Maintenance and Breeding: Very difficult



A. h. hanneloreae, ♂, Holotype



Aphyosemion hanneloreae RADD & PÜRZL, 1985

Suborder: Aplocheiloidei PARENTI, 1981

Family: Aplocheilidae BLEEKER, 1860

Subfamily: Nothobranchiinae RADD & PÜRZL, 1981

Subgenus: ? *Aphyosemion* MYERS, 1924

First Description: *Aquaria* 32, 157

Type Locality: "Bei Malinga, nahe der Grenze zur Volksrepublik Kongo, Provinz Ngounié, Südgabun, and zwar in kleinsten Rinnsalen eines sumpfigen Baches im Regenwald des Berglandes in etwa 400 m Seehöhe, welcher in den Nyanga entwässert".

Synonyms: None

Meristics: D 11-12, A 14-15, S 30-31+1

Total Length: M 40 mm, F 30 mm

Systematic Relationship: Closely related to *A. hofmanni*

Subspecies: *A. h. wuendschi* RADD & PÜRZL, 1985; t.t.: 50 km S Mbigou an der Straße nach Malinga

Distribution: Central area of the Du Chaillu mountains in Gabon and Congo (?)

Variability: Moderate

Syntopic Occurrence: *A. coeleste*, *A. ocellatum*, *A. joergenscheeli* (in other parts of the respective brooks)

Habitat: Small rivulets in swamps of the rainforest

Temperatures: 19-21 °C

Biology: No experience

Maintenance and Breeding: Difficult



A. elegans, ♂, aquarium strain of the AKA



Aphyosemion elegans (BOULENGER, 1899)

Suborder: Aplocheiloidei PARENTI, 1981

Family: Aplocheilidae BLEEKER, 1860

Subfamily: Nothobranchiinae RADDI, 1981

Subgenus: *Aphyosemion* MYERS, 1924

First Description: Ann. Mus. Congo Belge Zool. 2, 112

Type Locality: "Bikoro et Coquilhatville" (Mbandaka); Zaire

Synonyms: *Haplochilus elegans* BOULENGER, 1899; *Panchax elegans* AHL, 1924

Meristics: D 8, A 14-15, S 30-32

Total Length: M 50 mm, F 45 mm

Systematic Relationship: Closely related to the other members of the subgenus *Aphyosemion* s.s.

Subspecies: None

Distribution: Middle Zaire river drainage in western and central Zaire

Variability: Medium

Syntopic Occurrence: None?

Habitat: Brooks and swampy streams, pools and ponds, border region of lakes (L. Tumba)

Temperatures: 22-30 °C

Biology: A non-annual species with an incubation period of 10-14 days

Maintenance and Breeding: Difficult



A. schioetzi, ♂, from the Bateké-plateau in central Congo



Aphyosemion schioetzi HUBER & SCHEEL, 1981

Suborder: Aplocheiloidei PARENTI, 1981

Family: Aplocheilidae BLEEKER, 1860

Subfamily: Nothobranchiinae RADDA, 1981

Subgenus: *Aphyosemion* MYERS, 1924

First Description: Rev. fr. Aquariol. 8, 36

Type Locality: "Un petit ruisseau de savanne, pres, de Taba (Congo)"; southern central Congo

Synonyms: None

Meristics: D 9, A 15-17, S 28-30+1-2

Total Length: M 50 mm, F 45 mm

Systematic Relationship: *A. schioetzi* is a member of the *A. elegans* group

Subspecies: *A. s. lefiniense* WOELTJES, 1984 (t.t.: La Lefini, 200 km N Brazzaville)

Distribution: Middle Zaire, Djoué, middle and lower Lefini, Nkeni, Kouyou, Vouma and upper Likouala river drainages in southern to central Congo

Variability: Medium

Syntopic Occurrence: *E. multifasciatus*

Habitat: Brooks and streams in the forested savanna

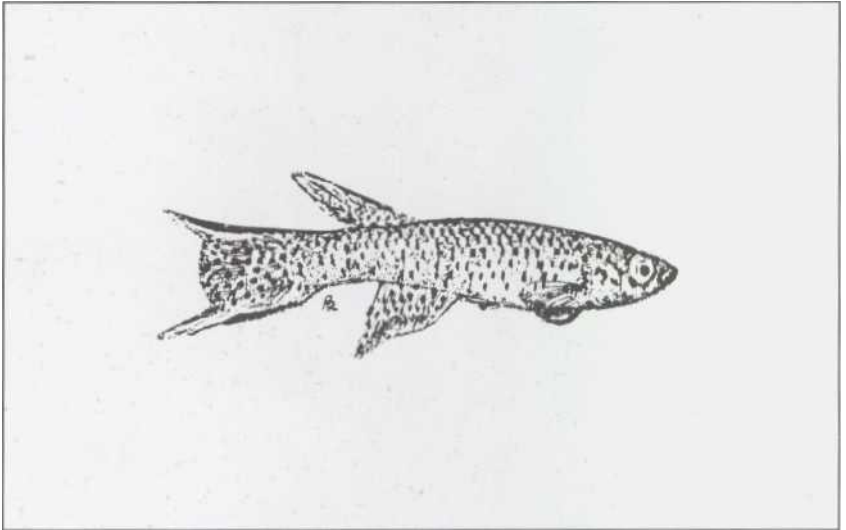
Temperatures: 22-26 °C

Biology: A non-annual species with an incubation period of 10-14 days

Maintenance and Breeding: Moderately difficult



A. chauchei, ♂, taken from a photograph



***Aphyosemion chauchei* HUBER & SCHEEL, 1981**

Suborder: Aplocheiloidei PARENTI, 1981

Family: Aplocheilidae BLEEKER, 1860

Subfamily: Nothobranchiinae RADDI, 1981

Subgenus: *Aphyosemion* MYERS, 1924

First Description: Rev. fr. Aquariol. 8, 36

Type Locality: "20 km a Pest d'Etoumbi vers Makoua, dans un ruisseau peu courant en pleine forêt du Congo central"

Synonyms: None

Meristics: D 10-11, A 16, S 30+1-2

Total Length: M 40 mm, F 35 mm

Systematic Relationship: *A. chauchei* belongs to the *A. elegans* group

Subspecies: None

Distribution: Likona river drainage in central Congo

Variability: Low

Syntopic Occurrence: *E. phoeniceps*

Habitat: Brooks in the rainforest

Temperatures: 22-25 °C

Biology: A non-annual species with an incubation period of 10-14 days

Maintenance and Breeding: Difficult



A. decorsei, ♂, from the so-called KCF5 strain



Aphyosemion decorsei (PELLEGRIN, 1904)

Suborder: Aplocheiloidei PARENTI, 1981

Family: Aplocheilidae BLEEKER, 1860

Subfamily: Nothobranchiinae RADDI, 1981

Subgenus: *Aphyosemion* MYERS, 1924

First Description: Bull. Mus. Hist. Nat. 10, 223

Type Locality: "Bessou, Oubanghi"; southeastern Central African Republic

Synonyms: None

Meristics: D 8-9, A 13-14, S 25-28

Total Length: M 50 mm, F 45 mm

Systematic Relationship: *A. decorsei* belongs to the *A. elegans* group

Subspecies: None

Distribution: Oubangui drainage in southern Central African Republic and possibly in northern Zaire

Variability: Low?

Syntopic Occurrence: *E. mesogramma*

Habitat: Brooks and streams in the rainforest

Temperatures: 22-25 °C

Biology: A non-annual species with an incubation period of 10-14 days

Maintenance and Breeding: Moderately difficult



Aphyosemion christyi (BOULENGER, 1915)

Suborder: Aplocheiloidei PARENTI, 1981

Family: Aplocheilidae BLEEKER, 1860

Subfamily: Nothobranchiinae RAZDA, 1981

Subgenus: *Aphyosemion* MYERS, 1924

First Description: Ann. Mag. Nat. Hist. 15, 46

Type Locality: "Bafwasende, Lindi River, Congo"; northeastern Zaire

Synonyms: *Haplochilus christyi* BOULENGER, 1915; *H. schoutedeni* BOULENGER, 1920; *A. castaneum* MYERS, 1924; *A. margaretae* FOWLER, 1936

Meristics: D 9-11, A 14-16, S 27-30

Total Length: M 50 mm, F 45 mm

Systematic Relationship: Member of the *A. elegans* group

Subspecies: None

Distribution: Upper Zaire and Oubangui river drainages in northeastern and northern Zaire and probably also in the southern Central African Republic

Variability: Medium

Syntopic Occurrence: *H. platysternus*, *H. stictopleuron*

Habitat: Brooks and streams in the rainforest

Temperatures: 22-25 °C

Biology: A non-annual species with an incubation period of 10-14 days

Maintenance and Breeding: Moderately difficult



A. cognatum, ♂, from a brook,
15 km southwest of Mbanza
Ngungu, Zaire



Aphyosemion cognatum MEINKEN, 1951

Suborder: Aplocheiloidei PARENTI, 1981

Family: Aplocheilidae BLEEKER, 1860

Subfamily: Nothobranchiinae RADDI, 1981

Subgenus: *Aphyosemion* MYERS, 1924

First Description: DATZ 4, 255

Type Locality: "Leopoldville"; Kinshasa, western Zaire

Synonyms: None

Meristics: D 9-11, A 14-16, S 29-31

Total Length: M 50 mm, F 45 mm

Systematic Relationship: *A. cognatum* belongs to the *A. elegans* group

Subspecies: None

Distribution: Zaire river drainage southeast and north of Kinshasa and east of Brazzaville in southern Congo

Variability: Medium

Syntopic Occurrence: *E. chevalieri*

Habitat: Brooks and streams in the rainforest and derived savanna

Temperatures: 20-27 °C

Biology: A non-annual species with an incubation period of 10-14 days

Maintenance and Breeding: Moderately difficult



A. polli, ♂, from the type Locality



Aphyosemion polli sp. nov.

Suborder: Aplocheiloidei PARENTI, 1981

Family: Aplocheilidae BLEEKER, 1860

Subfamily: Nothobranchiinae RADDA, 1981

Subgenus: *Aphyosemion* MYERS, 1924

First Description: Colour Atlas 9

Type Locality: Near N'jili, international airport of Kinshasa, Zaire

Synonyms: *Aphyosemion schoutedeni* (non BOULENGER) POLL, 1952

Meristics: D 9, A 15, S 29-31

Total Length: M 50 mm, F 45 mm

Systematic Relationship: Closely related to the other members of the *A. elegans* superspecies

Subspecies: None

Distribution: Hitherto only known from the type locality

Variability: Low?

Syntopic Occurrence: *E. chevalieri*

Habitat: Swampy brook in derived savanna

Temperatures: 22-26 °C

Biology: A non-annual species with an incubation period of about 10 days

Maintenance and Breeding: Moderately difficult



A. congicum, ♂, from the Vue river, Zaire



Aphyosemion congicum (AHL, 1924)

Suborder: Aplocheiloidei PARENTI, 1981

Family: Aplocheilidae BLEEKER, 1860

Subfamily: Nothobranchiinae RADDA, 1981

Subgenus: *Aphyosemion* MYERS, 1924

First Description: Zool. Anz. 61, 307

Type Locality: "Congo"; Zaire

Synonyms: *Panchax congicus* AHL, 1924; *A. melanopteron* GOLDSTEIN & RICCO, 1970

Meristics: D 9-10, A 13-15, S 29-31

Total Length: *M* 45 mm, *F* 40 mm

Systematic Relationship: This species belongs to the *A. elegans* group

Subspecies: None

Distribution: Lufini river system and Vue river in western Zaire (Kinshasa province)

Variability: Low

Syntopic Occurrence: None

Habitat: Fast running rivers and brooks in open grassland savanna

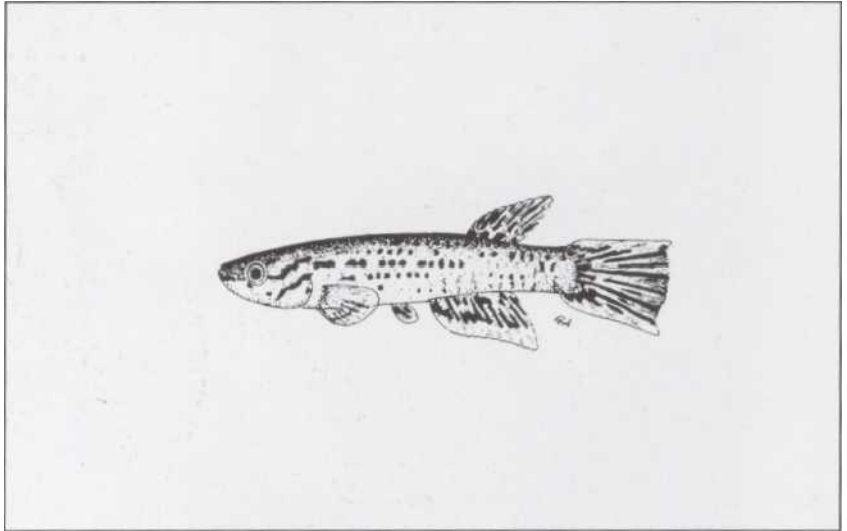
Temperatures: 21-24 °C

Biology: A non-annual species with an incubation period of 10-14 days

Maintenance and Breeding: Moderately difficult



A. lujae, ♂, from Kondue, Kasai, Zaire



Aphyosemion lujae (BOULENGER, 1911)

Suborder: Aplocheiloidei PARENTI, 1981

Family: Aplocheilidae BLEEKER, 1860

Subfamily: Nothobranchiinae RADDI, 1981

Subgenus: *Aphyosemion* MYERS, 1924

First Description: Ann. Mag. Nat. Hist. 8, 223

Type Locality: "Ruisseau limpide a fonds graveleux dans la forêt pres de Kondue"; Kasai province, southern Zaire

Synonyms: None

Meristics: D 13-15, A 15-17, S 29-31

Total Length: M 50 mm, F 45 mm

Systematic Relationship: *A. lujae* belongs to the *A. elegans* group

Subspecies: None

Distribution: Upper and middle Kasai river drainage in southern Zaire

Variability: Low?

Syntopic Occurrence: *A. ferranti*

Habitat: Brooks and streams in the rainforest and gallery forest

Temperatures: 22-25 °C

Biology: Most probably a non-annual species with an incubation period of 10-14 days

Maintenance and Breeding: Not yet introduced alive



A. exiguum. ♀, from Sangmelima, Cameroon



Aphyosemion exiguum (BOULENGER, 1911)

Suborder: Aplocheiloidei PARENTI, 1981

Family: Aplocheilidae BLEEKER, 1860

Subfamily: Nothobranchiinae RADDA, 1981

Subgenus: *Kathetys* HUBER, 1977

First Description: Ann. Mag. Nat. Hist. (8) 8, 25

Type Locality: "Nyong river, eastern Cameroon

Synonyms: *Haplochilus exiguus* BOULENGER, 1911; *Panchax jaundensis* AHL, 1924; *P. loboanus* AHL, 1924; *P. (A.) jacobi* AHL, 1928; *P. (A.) loloensis* AHL, 1928

Meristics: D 8-10, A 13-17, S 27-30

Total Length: 40 mm

Systematic Relationship: Closely related to *A. bualanum* and *A. bamilekorum*

Subspecies: None

Distribution: Inland plateau of southern Cameroon, eastern Equatorial Guinea, northern Gabon and northeastern most parts of Congo

Variability: Medium

Syntopic Occurrence: *E. sangmelinensis*, *A. cameronense*, *A. batesii*, *Aply. camerunensis*

Habitat: Brooks and small streams in the rainforest

Temperatures: 21-23 °C

Biology: A non-annual species with an incubation period of 10-15 days

Maintenance and Breeding: Difficult



A. bualanum, ♂, from N'dikinimeki, Cameroon



Aphyosemion bualanum (AHL, 1924)

- Suborder: Aplocheiloidei PARENTI, 1981 Family: Aplocheilidae BLEEKER, 1860
 Subfamily: Nothobranchiinae RADDA, 1981 Subgenus: *Kathetys* HUBER, 1977
 First Description: Zool. Anzeiger 60, 54
 Type Locality: "O Sangha Uham, 1200 m, Buala, Grasland, Kamerun", presently in the western Central African Republic
 Synonyms: *Panchax bualanus* AHL, 1924; *P. elberti* AHL, 1924; *P. tessmanni* AHL, 1924; *Aphyosemion rubrifascium* CLAUSEN, 1963
 Meristics: D 10-12, A 15-17, S 28-31 Total Length: M 40 mm, F 40 mm
 Systematic Relationship: Closely related to *A. exiguum* and *A. bamilekorum*
 Subspecies: *A. b. kekemense* RADDA & SCHEEL, 1975 (t.t.: Petit N'kam, Kekem)
 Distribution: Highlands of Nigeria, Cameroon and of the Central African Republic
 Variability: Very high
 Syntopic Occurrence: None
 Habitat: Brooks, streams and swamps in the open highland and guinean savanna
 Temperatures: 18-24 °C
 Biology: A non-annual species with an incubation time of 10-14 days
 Maintenance and Breeding: Easy



A. bamilekorum, ♂, from the type locality



Aphyosemion bamilekorum RADDA, 1971

Suborder: Aplocheiloidei PARENTI, 1981

Family: Aplocheilidae BLEEKER, 1860

Subfamily: Nothobranchiinae RADDA, 1981

Subgenus: *Kathetys* HUBER, 1977

First Description: *Aquaria* 18, 177

Type Locality: "Bach 9 km NW Bafoussam, an der Straße nach Bamenda, im Hochland des südwestlichen Ostkamerun", western Cameroon

Synonyms: None

Meristics: D 13-14, A 16-18, S 27-28

Total Length: 40 mm

Systematic Relationship: Forms together with *A. exiguum* and *A. bualanum* the subgenus *Kathetys*

Subspecies: None

Distribution: Relict-like distribution area between Bafoussam and Mbouda, Noun subsystem of the Sanaga

Variability: Low

Syntopic Occurrence: None

Habitat: Small and fast running brooks in the highland of southwestern former East Cameroon

Temperatures: 17-21 °C

Biology: A non-annual species with an incubation period of 10-15 days

Maintenance and Breeding: Difficult



A. formosus, ♂, from central eastern Congo



Adamas formosus HUBER, 1979

Suborder: Aplocheiloidei PARENTI, 1981

Family: Aplocheilidae BLEEKER, 1860

Subfamily: Nothobranchiinae RADDA, 1981

Subgenus: *Adamas* HUBER, 1979

First Description: Rev. fr. *Aquariol.* 6, 6

Type Locality: "Village Ntokou pres des rives de la Likouala-Mossaka"; central Congo

Synonyms: None

Meristics: D 8-9, A 15, S 27-29+1-2

Total Length: M 30 mm, F 25 mm

Systematic Relationship: A swamp dwelling dwarf form, related to *Aphyosemion*

Subspecies: None

Distribution: Drainages of the Alima, Vouma and Likouala in eastern Congo and the middle Zaire system in western Zaire

Variability: Low

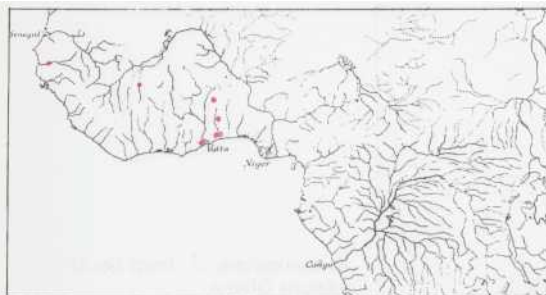
Syntopic Occurrence: *E. duboisi*, *E. chevalieri* (small specimen), *A. (Raddaella) sp.*

Habitat: Swamps, shallow parts of small brooks and streams with stagnant water in the rainforest

Temperatures: 22-25 °C

Biology: A non-annual species with an incubation period of about 14 days

Maintenance and Breeding: Difficult



F. thierryi, ♂, from Ghana



Fundulosoma thierryi AHL, 1924

Suborder: Aplocheiloidei PARENTI, 1981

Family: Aplocheilidae BLEEKER, 1860

Subfamily: Nothobranchiinae RADDA, 1981

Subgenus: *Fundulosoma* AHL, 1924

First Description: Zool. Anzeiger 60, 52

Type Locality: "Mangu-Gebiet, von Breite Kadjamba bis Bogo Moba and Panpamba bis Nacjaba, nördliches Togo"; northern Togo

Synonyms: Ghana-Aphyosemion MEINKEN, 1960

Meristics: D 11-12, A 14-16, S 26-27

Total Length: M 30 mm, F 20 mm

Systematic Relationship: Probably linked with *A. arnoldi* and the subgenus *Paludopanchax*

Subspecies: None

Distribution: Senegambia, Mali, Upper Volta, Togo and Ghana

Variability: Moderate

Syntopic Occurrence: *F. flavipinnis*

Habitat: Temporary pools and swamps in guinean and sudanian savanna habitats as well as in coastal savanna of southeastern Ghana and southwestern Togo

Temperatures: 24-30 °C

Biology: A annual species with an incubation period of 1-6 month

Maintenance and Breeding: Moderately difficult



P. kiyawensis, ♂, from South-eastern Ghana



Pronothobranchius kiyawensis (AHL, 1928)

Suborder: Aplocheiloidei PARENTI, 1981

Family: Aplocheilidae BLEEKER, 1860

Subfamily: Nothobranchiinae RADDI, 1981

Subgenus: *Pronothobranchius* RADDI, 1969

First Description: Ann. Mag. Nat. Hist. (10) 2, 601

Type Locality: "Kiyawa river, close to Katagum, Nigeria"

Synonyms: *Nothobranchius kiyawensis* AHL, 1928; *Fundulus gambiensis* SVENSSON, 1933; *Aphyosemion seymouri* LOISELLE & BLAIR, 1971

Meristics: D 13-15, A 14-15, S 26

Total Length: M 50 mm, F 40 mm

Systematic Relationship: Probably linked with *A. gulare* and the subgenus *Gularopanchax*

Subspecies: None

Distribution: Senegambia, Mali, Upper Volta, Niger, Nigeria, Cameroon, Chad and Ghana

Variability: Moderate

Syntopic Occurrence: None

Habitat: Temporary pools and swamps in the dry and thorn savanna and in the coastal plains of Ghana

Temperatures: 23-30 °C

Biology: A annual species with an incubation period of 4-8 months

Maintenance and Breeding: Difficult



A. spilauchen, ♂, from Sierra Leone



Aplocheilichthys spilauchen (DUMERIL, 1861)

Suborder: Cyprinodontoidae PARENTI, 1981

Family: Poeciliidae GARMAN, 1895

Subfamily: Aplocheilichthyinae MYERS, 1928

Subgenus: *Aplocheilichthys* BLEEKER, 1863

First Description: Arch. Mus. 10, 258

Type Locality: "Gabon"

Synonyms: *A. typus* BLEEKER, 1863; *A. tschiloangensis* AHL, 1928; *Poecilia bensonii* PETERS, 1864

Meristics: D 6-8, A 11-14, S 25-28

Total Length: M 70 mm, F 60 mm

Systematic Relationship: *A. spilauchen* is the type species of the genus *Aplocheilichthys*, and probably not closely related to all other species

Subspecies: None

Distribution: Along the coast from the mouth of the Senegal river to the Zaire river

Variability: Low

Syntopic Occurrence: None

Habitat: Brackish water leading to lagoons and coastal estuaries

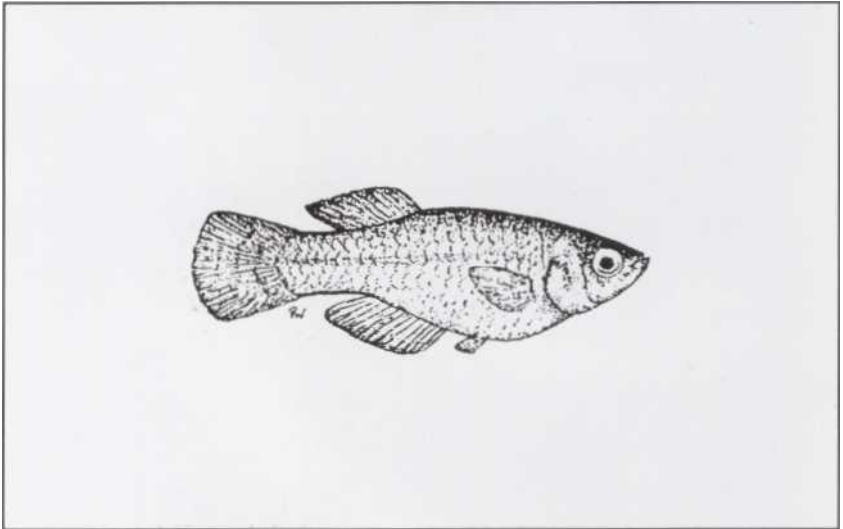
Temperatures: 22-28 °C

Biology: A schooling open water dweller with an incubation period of 10-14 days

Maintenance and Breeding: Easy



A. nimbaensis, ♂, from Salayea, Liberia



Aplocheilichthys nimbaensis (DAGET, 1948)

Suborder: Cyprinodontoidei PARENTI, 1981 Family: *Poeciliidae* GARMAN, 1895
 Subfamily: Aplocheilichthyinae MYERS, 1928 Subgenus: *Aplocheilichthys* BLEEKER, 1963

First Description: Cat. IFAN 3, 40

Type Locality: "Guinée française: *Mt. Nimba*, GA, alt 1100-1250 m"; eastern upper Guinea

Synonyms: *Haplocheilichthys nimbaensis* DAGET, 1948; *Micropanchax nimbaensis* HUBER, 1981

Meristics: D 10-11, A 17-18, S 23-24 Total Length: M 45 mm, F 35 mm

Systematic Relationship: *Probably related to A. schioetzi*

Subspecies: *None*

Distribution: Southeastern upper Guinea and northeastern Liberia

Variability: *Low*

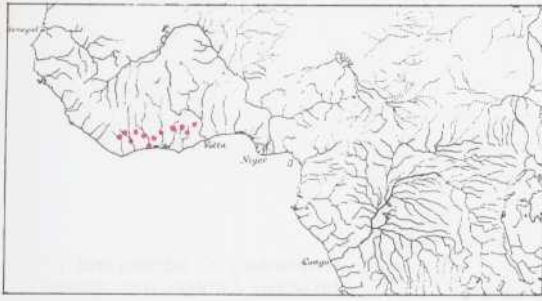
Syntopic Occurrence: *E. hildegardae*, *E. lamottei*, *A. viride*

Habitat: Mountainous *brooks* and *small rivers under forest cover*

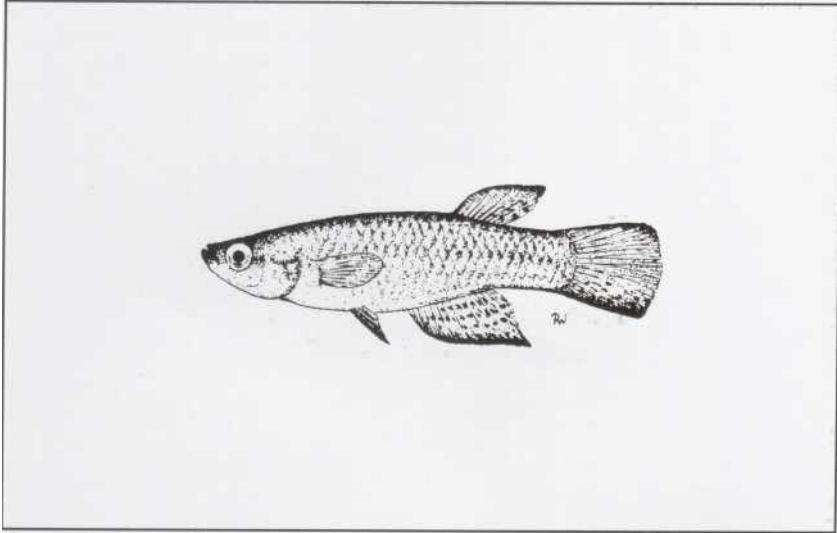
Temperatures: 18-23 °C

Biology: *No experience*

Maintenance and Breeding: *Not yet kept alive*



A. schioetzi, ♂, from Bobiri Forest Reserve, Kumasi, Ghana



Aplocheilichthys schioetzi SCHEEL, 1968

Suborder: Cyprinodontoidei PARENTI, 1981

Family: Poeciliidae GARMAN, 1895

Subfamily: Aplocheilichthyinae MYERS, 1928

Subgenus: *Aplocheilichthys* BLEEKER, 1863

First Description: Rev. Zool. Bot. Afr. 78, 280

Type Locality: "Bobiri forest reserve, Kumasi" central Ghana

Synonyms: *Micropanchax schioetzi* HUBER, 1982; *A. monikae* BERKENKAMP & ETZEL, 1976; *A. terofali* BERKENKAMP & ETZEL, 1981

Meristics: D 6-9, A 12-15, S 24-27

Total Length: M 35 mm, F 30 mm

Systematic Relationship: Probably related to *A. nimbaensis*

Subspecies: None

Distribution: Sassandra, Comoé, Bandama, Cavally and St. John river drainages in Eastern Liberia and Ivory Coast, respectively; Volta and Dayi river systems in Ghana and Upper Volta

Variability: Medium

Syntopic Occurrence: None

Habitat: Small rivers and brooks in the rainforest and guinean savanna

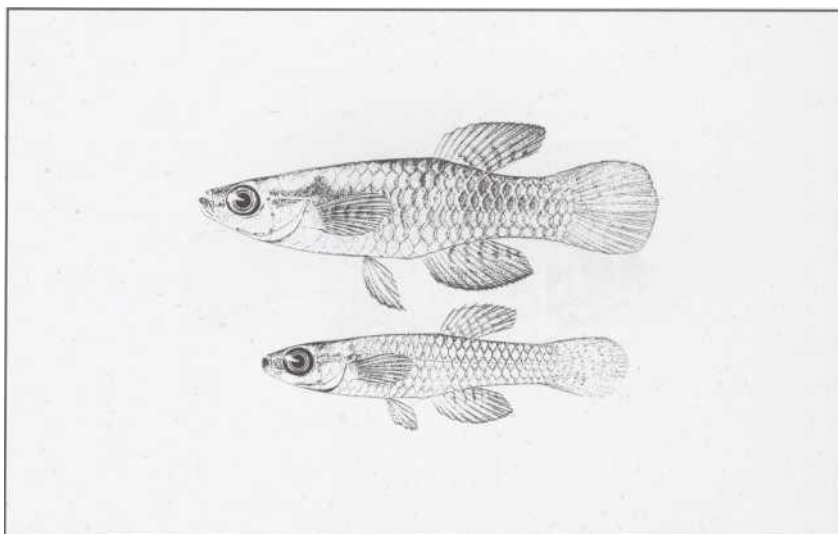
Temperatures: 23-26 °C

Biology: A non-annual species with an incubation period of 10-14 days

Maintenance and Breeding: Difficult



A. hutereaui, ♂, (above) and ♀ from the upper Zambesi river system



Aplocheilichthys hutereaui (BOULENGER, 1913)

Suborder: Cyprinodontoidei PARENTI, 1981

Family: Poeciliidae GARMAN, 1895

Subfamily: Aplocheilichthyinae MYERS, 1928

Subgenus: *Aplocheilichthys* BLEEKER, 1863

First Description: Rev. Zool. Afr. 2, 159

Type Locality: "Uele river, Dungen"; northern Zaire

Synonyms: *Haplocheilichthys hutereaui* AHL, 1924; *Micropanchax baudoni* MYERS, 1924; *Aplocheilus chobensis* FOWLER, 1935

Meristics: D 8-11, A 11-14, S 22-24

Total Length: M 35 mm, F 30 mm

Systematic Relationship: Unknown

Subspecies: None

Distribution: Chad and Chari river systems in Chad, Ubangui, Bamingu, Gribangi drainages in Central Afr. Rep., White Nile in Sudan, Uele river in Northern Zaire, Mweru, Bangweulu, Lufira drainage in southeastern Zaire, upper Zambezi, Kasai, Chobe in Zambia, Angola, Namibia, lower Shire in Malawi

Variability: Low?

Syntopic Occurrence: Unknown

Habitat: Rivers, brooks, swamps and lakes in rainforest and derived savanna

Temperatures: 24-28 °C

Biology: No experience

Maintenance and Breeding: Not yet kept alive



E. normani, ♂, from southern Ivory Coast



Aplocheilichthys normani AHL, 1928

Suborder: Cyprinodontoidei PARENTI, 1981 Family: Poeciliidae GARMAN, 1895
 Subfamily: Aplocheilichthyinae MYERS, 1928 Subgenus: *Poropanchax* CLAUSEN, 1967

First Description: Ann. Mag. Nat. Hist. 10, 600

Type Locality: Kiyawa River, Fort Katagum, northern Nigeria

Synonyms: *Aplocheilichthys gambiensis* SVENSSON, 1938; *Aplocheilichthys manni* SCHULTZ, 1942

Meristics: D 6-8, A 9-11, S 24-27 Total Length: M 45 mm, F 40 mm

Systematic Relationship: *A. macrophthalmus*, *A. rancureli* and *A. camerunensis* are closely related with *A. normani*

Subspecies: None

Distribution: From Senegambia to Central Africa and also in the Upper Nile system

Variability: Moderate

Syntopic Occurrence: *Aply. rancureli* (Ivory Coast), *A. bualanum* (Cameroon)

Habitat: Brooks and streams of the coastal savanna and in dry savanna

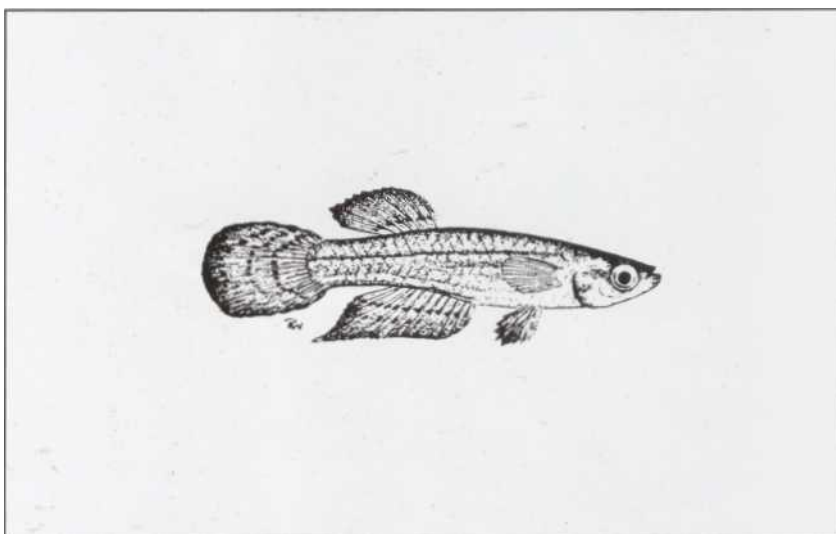
Temperatures: 23-28 °C

Biology: Schooling in open waters, the incubation period of eggs is about 10 days

Maintenance and Breeding: Easy



A. rancureli, ♂, from Abra, Ghana



Aplocheilichthys rancureli DAGET, 1964

Suborder: Cyprinodontoidei PARENTI, 1981

Family: Poeciliidae GARMAN, 1895

Subfamily: Aplocheilichthyinae MYERS, 1928

Subgenus: *Poropanchax* CLAUSEN, 1967

First Description: Bull. Mus. Nat. Hist. Nat. 32, 592

Type Locality: "Ruisseau du Banco, pres d'Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire"; southern Ivory Coast

Synonyms: *Micropanchax rancureli* HUBER, 1981

Meristics: D 6-8, A 11-15, S 27-29

Total Length: M 40 mm, F 30 mm

Systematic Relationship: Closely related to the other members of the subgenus *Poropanchax*

Subspecies: None

Distribution: Lower Comoé, Banco, Boudo, Bia Me, lower Bandama, Sassandra and Cavally river drainages in Ivory Coast and lower Tano river in Ghana

Variability: Low

Syntopic Occurrence: *Aply. normani* (partially)

Habitat: Brooks and rivers of the coastal plains, covered with rainforest

Temperatures: 24-30 °C

Biology: A non-annual species with an incubation period of 10-14 days

Maintenance and Breeding: Moderately difficult



A. m. macrophthalmus, ♂, from western Cameroon



Aplocheilichthys macrophthalmus MEINKEN, 1932

Suborder: Cyprinodontoidei PARENTI, 1981

Family: Poeciliidae GARMAN, 1895

Subfamily: Aplocheilichthyinae MYERS, 1928

Subgenus: *Poropanchax* CLAUSEN, 1967

First Description: Blätter f. Aqu. u. Terr.-Kde. 43

Type Locality: Surroundings of Lagos, Nigeria

Synonyms: *Fundulus luxophthalmus* BRUNING, 1929; *Aplocheilichthys dispar* GRAS, 1960

Meristics: D 6-8, A 10-13, S 27-30

Total Length: M 30 mm, F 25 mm

Systematic Relationship: *A. macrophthalmus*, is the type species of the subgenus *Poropanchax* and closely related to *A. rancureli* and *A. camerunensis*;

Subspecies: *A. m. macrophthalmus*: Togo, SW Nigeria; *A. m. hannerzi* SCHEEL, 1968 (t.t.: SE Nigeria)

Distribution: Southern Togo to the lower Sanaga and Nyong drainages in Cameroon

Variability: High

Syntopic Occurrence: *P. similis*

Habitat: Brooks and streams in swampy rainforest of the coastal plains

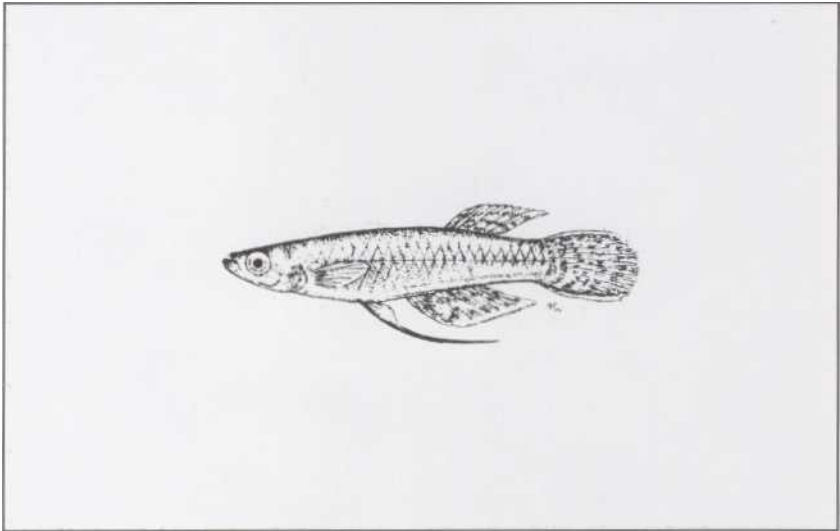
Temperatures: 23-26 °C

Biology: A schooling open water dweller with an incubation period of about 10 days

Maintenance and Breeding: Difficult



A. scheeli, ♂, from Kribi, Cameroon



Aplocheilichthys scheeli ROMAN, 1971

Suborder: Cyprinodontoidei PARENTI, 1981

Family: Poeciliidae GARMAN, 1895

Subfamily: Aplocheilichthyinae MYERS, 1928

Subgenus: *Poropanchax* CLAUSEN, 1967

First Description: Peces de Rio Muni 178

Type Locality: "Rio Utonde", western Equatorial Guinea

Synonyms: *A. macrophthalmus* scheeli ROMAN, 1970; *Micropanchax* scheeli HUBER, 1981

Meristics: D 6-10, A 10-14, S 28-30

Total Length: M 35 mm, F 30 mm;

Systematic Relationship: Closely related to *A. macrophthalmus*

Subspecies: None

Distribution: Lower Lobe and Kienke river systems in southwestern Cameroon, Rio Utonde and Beni drainages in Equatorial Guinea

Variability: Low

Syntopic Occurrence: *E. sexfasciatus*, *A. loennbergi*, *A. splendopleure*

Habitat: Small rivers and brooks in the coastal rainforest

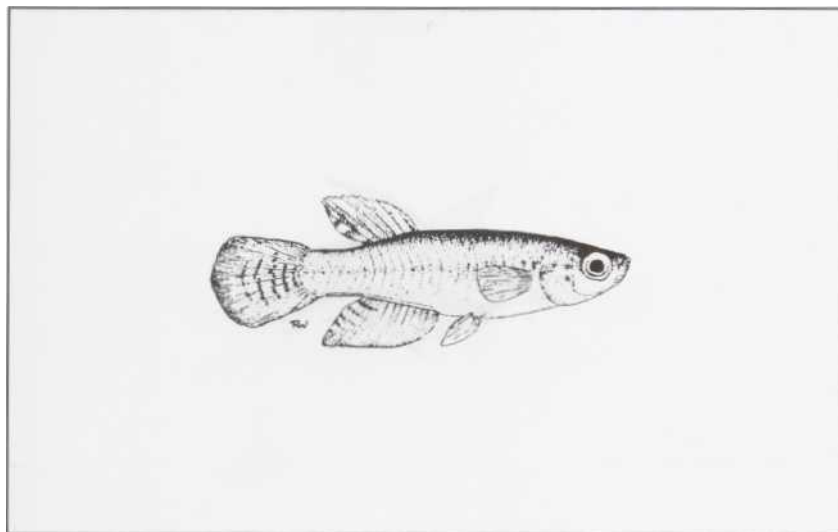
Temperatures: 24-28 °C

Biology: A non-annual species with an incubation period of 10-14 days

Maintenance and Breeding: Difficult



A. camerunensis, ♂, from the Sangmelima area, Cameroon



Aplocheilichthys camerunensis RADDA, 1971

Suborder: Cyprinodontoidei PARENTI, 1981

Family: Poeciliidae GARMAN, 1895

Subfamily: Aplocheilichthyinae MYERS, 1928

Subgenus: *Poropanchax* CLAUSEN, 1967

First Description: *Aquaria* 18, 163

Type Locality: "Lobo-Einzugsgebiet, 8 km südlich Sangmelima an der Straße nach Olounou"; southeastern Cameroon

Synonyms: None

Meristics: D 7, A 13, S 27-28

Total Length: M and F 30 mm

Systematic Relationship: Closely related to *A. macrophthalmus* and *A. normani*

Subspecies: None

Distribution: Southern inland plateau of Cameroon and northeastern Equatorial Guinea, probably also in northern Gabon.

Variability: Low

Syntopic Occurrence: *E. sangmelinensis*, *A. camerunense*, *A. exiguum*

Habitat: Swampy brooks and streams in the rainforest

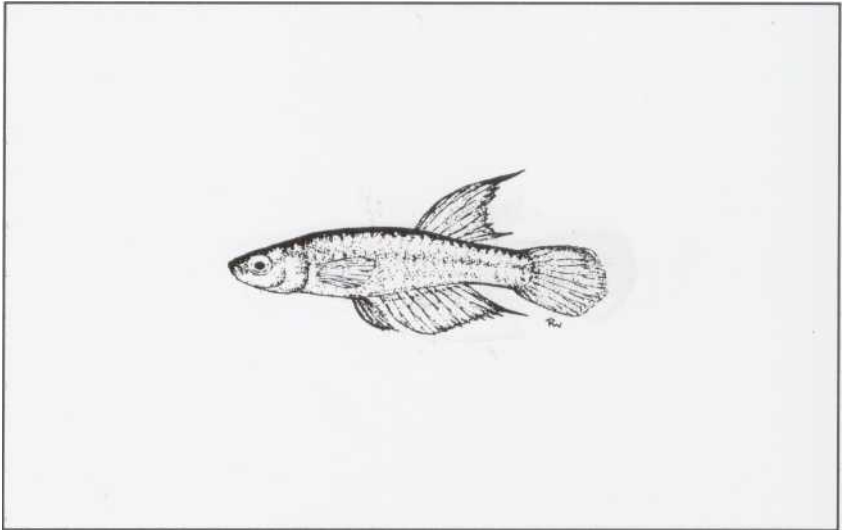
Temperatures: 21-23 °C

Biology: A non-annual species with an incubation period of 10-14 days

Maintenance and Breeding: Difficult



C. myersi, ♂, taken from type specimen



Congopanchax myersi (POLL, 1952)

Suborder: Cyprinodontoidei PARENTI, 1981

Family: Poeciliidae GARMAN, 1895

Subfamily: Aplocheilichthyinae MYERS, 1928

Subgenus: *Congopanchax* POLL, 1971

First Description: Rev. Zool. Bot. Afr. 45, 300

Type Locality: "Ile Atena, Stanley Pool, Leopoldville"; Mbamu island of the Pool Malebe near Kinshasa, Zaire

Synonyms: *Aplocheilichthys myersi* POLL, 1952

Meristics: D 6-7, A 10-11, S 25-26

Total Length: M 25, F 20 mm

Systematic Relationship: Closely related to *A. brichardi*

Subspecies: None

Distribution: Pool Malebe and other islands of the Zaire river

Variability: Low

Syntopic Occurrence: Unknown

Habitat: Shallow and weedy parts of the banks

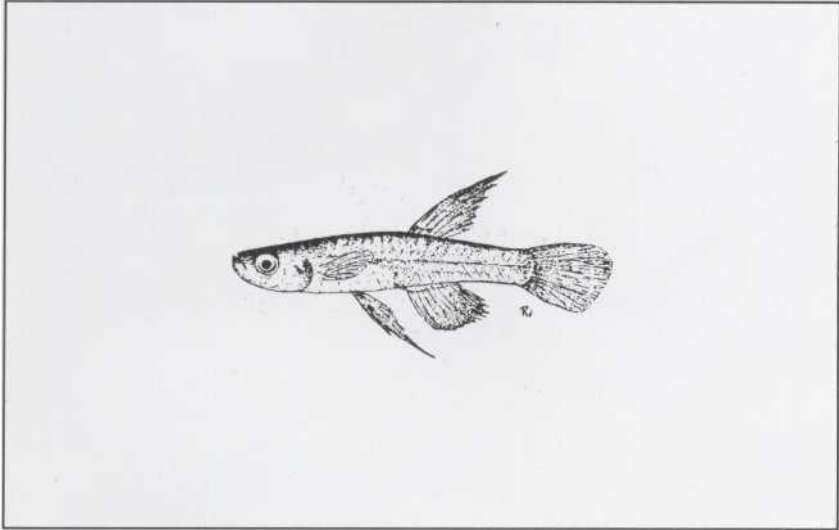
Temperatures: 24-28 °C

Biology: Unknown

Maintenance and Breeding: Difficult



C. brichardi, ♂, taken from type specimen



Congopanchax brichardi POLL, 1971

Suborder: Cyprinodontoidei PARENTI, 1981

Family: Poeciliidae GARMAN, 1895

Subfamily: Aplocheilichthyinae MYERS, 1928

Subgenus: *Congopanchax* POLL, 1971

First Description: Rev. Zool. Bot. Afr. 83, 304

Type Locality: "Liyeke, bras mort de la riv. Tshuapa, route Boende-Watsi, 2 km de Boende"; central Zaire

Synonyms: None

Meristics: D 6, A 9-10, S 26-28

Total Length: M and F 20 mm

Systematic Relationship: *C. brichardi* is very closely related to *C. myersi*

Subspecies: None

Distribution: Central Zaire river drainage including the shore region of lake Tumba

Variability: Low?

Syntopic Occurrence: No references

Habitat: Weedy parts of small rivers, brooks and swamps

Temperatures: 24-28 °C

Biology: Unknown

Maintenance and Breeding: Not yet kept alive



P. similis, ♂, from Kumbe, Cameroon



Procatopus similis AHL, 1927

Suborder: Cyprinodontoidei PARENTI, 1981

Family: Poeciliidae GARMAN, 1895

Subfamily: Aplocheilichthyinae MYERS, 1928

Subgenus: *Procatopus* BOULENGER, 1904

First Description: Sitzungsber. Ges. naturf. Fr. 79

Type Locality: Logobaba, Cameroon

Synonyms: *P. abbreviatus* PELLEGRIN, 1929; *P. glaucicaudis* CLAUSEN, 1959; *P. lacustris* TREWAVAS, 1974

Meristics: D 9-13, A 15-19, S 27-31

Total Length: M 70 mm, F 50 mm

Systematic Relationship: Closely related to *P. nototaenia* and *P. aberrans*

Subspecies: None

Distribution: Southern Nigeria and southwestern Cameroon in the north of Lokundje river

Variability: High

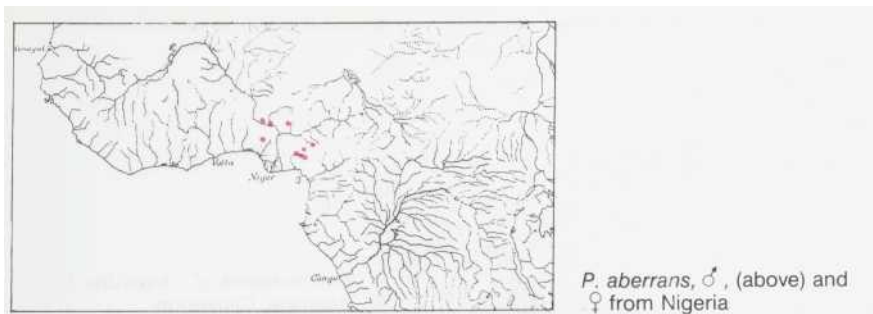
Syntopic Occurrence: *Aply. macrophthalmus*, *E. sexfasciatus*, *A. volcanum*, *A. splendopleure*

Habitat: Streaming parts of rivers and brooks of the primary and secondary rainforest

Temperatures: 23-25 °C

Biology: A non-annual species with an incubation period of about 10-14 days

Maintenance and Breeding: Moderately difficult



Procatopus aberrans AHL, 1927

Suborder: Cyprinodontoidei PARENTI, 1981 Family: Poeciliidae GARMAN, 1895
 Subfamily: Aplocheilichthyinae MYERS, 1928 Subgenus: ? *Andreasenius* CLAUSEN, 1959

First Description: Sitzungsber. Ges. Naturf. Fr. 80

Type Locality: Ossidinge, Cameroon

Synonyms: *P. roseipinnis* CLAUSEN, 1959; *P. nigromarginatus* CLAUSEN, 1959; *P. gracilis* CLAUSEN, 1959; *P. plumosus* CLAUSEN, 1959; *P. andreaseni* CLAUSEN, 1959

Meristics: D 8-10, A 15-17, S 27-33 Total Length: M 55 mm, F 45 mm

Systematic Relationship: Closely related to *P. nototaenia* and *P. similis*

Subspecies: None?

Distribution: Southern Nigeria and southwestern Cameroon (Benue, Niger and Cross river systems)

Variability: High

Syntopic Occurrence: *A. gardneri*

Habitat: Fast running brooks and streams in the rainforest and highland savanna

Temperatures: 22-24 °C

Biology: A non-annual species with an incubation period of 10-14 days

Maintenance and Breeding: Difficult



P. nototaenia, ♂, from the Kienke drainage, Cameroon



Procatopus nototaenia BOULENGER, 1904

Suborder: Cyprinodontoidei PARENTI, 1981

Family: Poeciliidae GARMAN, 1895

Subfamily: Aplocheilichthyinae MYERS, 1928

Subgenus: *Procatopus* BOULENGER, 1904

First Description: Ann. Mag. Nat. Hist. 7, 20

Type Locality: Streams of the Lobi river at Batanga, southern Cameroon

Synonyms: None

Meristics: D 8-10, A 15-18, S 27-29

Total Length: M 60 mm, F 50 mm

Systematic Relationship: Together with *P. similis* and *P. aberrans* forms the genus *Procatopus*

Subspecies: None

Distribution: Lowlands of southwestern Cameroon in the south of the Lokundje river

Variability: Low

Syntopic Occurrence: A. *macrophthalmus*

Habitat: Brooks and streams of the swampy rainforest of the coastal plains

Temperatures: 23-26 °C

Biology: A non-annual species with an incubation period of approximately 10-14 days

Maintenance and Breeding: Difficult



P. ngaensis, ♂, from Cocobeach, Gabon



Plataplochilus ngaensis (AHL, 1924)

Suborder: Cyprinodontoidei PARENTI, 1981 Family: Poeciliidae GARMAN, 1895

Subfamily: Aplocheilichthyinae MYERS, 1928 Subgenus: *Plataplochilus* AHL, 1928

First Description: Zool. Anzeiger 61, 135

Type Locality: Nga-Zuflüsse bei Attongondema, Kamerun; northwestern Gabon

Synonyms: *Haplochilichthys ngaensis* AHL, 1924; *P. chalcopyrus* LAMBERT, 1963; *P. mimus* LAMBERT, 1967; *P. cabinda* ROMAN, 1971

Meristics: D 8-12, A 14-18, S 28-34 Total Length: M 50 mm, F 45 mm

Systematic Relationship: Closely related to the other species of this genus

Subspecies: None

Distribution: Coastal plains of Equatorial Guinea and northwestern Gabon until Mouila

Variability: Medium

Syntopic Occurrence: *P. miltotaenia*, *A. striatum*, *A. microphthalmum*, *A. gabunense*

Habitat: Fast running brooks and streams in the rainforest

Temperatures: 22-25 °C

Biology: A non-annual species with an incubation period of 10-14 days

Maintenance and Breeding: Difficult



P. miltotaenia, ♂, from Lambarené, Gabon



Plataplochilus miltotaenia LAMBERT, 1963

Suborder: Cyprinodontoidi PARENTI, 1981

Family: Poeciliidae GARMAN, 1895

Subfamily: Aplocheilichthyinae MYERS, 1928

Subgenus: *Plataplochilus* AHL, 1928

First Description: Rev. Zool. Bot. Afr. 68, 314

Type Locality: "PK 19 de la route Lambarene-Mouila", northwestern Gabon

Synonyms: *P. pulcher* LAMBERT, 1967

Meristics: D 12-15, A 14-17, S 28-30

Total Length: M 50 mm, F 45 mm

Systematic Relationship: Closely related to *P. ngaensis*, *P. loemensis*, *P. cabinda* and *P. terveri*

Subspecies: None

Distribution: Coastal plains of northwestern Gabon

Variability: High

Syntopic Occurrence: *P. ngaensis*, *A. striatum*, *A. gabunense*

Habitat: Fast running brooks and streams in the forest

Temperatures: 22-25 °C

Biology: A non-annual species with an incubation period of 10-14 days

Maintenance and Breeding: Difficult



P. loemensis, ♂, from Lebamba, Gabon



Plataplochilus loemensis (PELLEGRIN, 1924)

Suborder: Cyprinodontoidei PARENTI, 1981 Family: Poeciliidae GARMAN, 1895

Subfamily: Aplocheilichthyinae MYERS, 1928 Subgenus: *Plataplochilus* AHL, 1928

First Description: Bull. Soc. Zool. France 49, 289

Type Locality: "Riv. Lombo, affluent du Loémé", southwestern Congo

Synonyms: *Haplochilus loemensis* PELLEGRIN, 1924; *Aplocheilichthys micrurus* AHL, 1928

Meristics: D 11-13, A 14-15, S 28-31 Total Length: M 45 mm, F 40 mm

Systematic Relationship: Closely related or identical with *P. ngaensis*

Subspecies: None

Distribution: Coastal plains of southwestern Gabon, Congo, Cabinda and Zaire

Variability: Low

Syntopic Occurrence: *P. cabindae* (at Gamba, southeastern Gabon), *E. berkenkampii*,
A. primigenium

Habitat: Fast running brooks and streams of the rainforest and guinean savanna

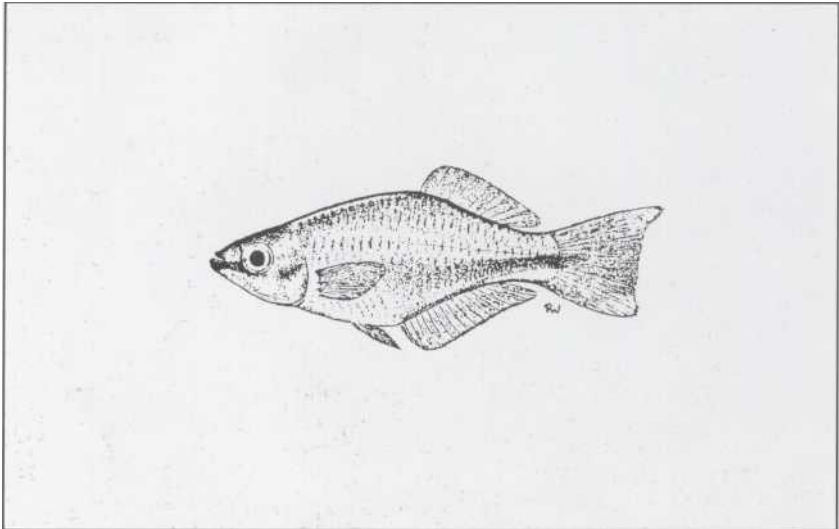
Temperatures: 22-25 °C

Biology: A non-annual species with an incubation period of 10-14 days

Maintenance and Breeding: Difficult



P. cabindae, ♂, from Gamba, Gabon



Plataplochilus cabindae (BOULENGER, 1911)

Suborder: Cyprinodontoidae PARENTI, 1981

Family: Poeciliidae GARMAN, 1895

Subfamily: Aplocheilichthyinae MYERS, 1928

Subgenus: *Plataplochilus* AHL, 1928

First Description: Ann. Mag. Nat. Hist. 8, 264

Type Locality: "Lucola river near Cabinda", Cabinda

Synonyms: *Haplochilus cabindae* BOULENGER, 1911;

Meristics: D 8-10, A 14-17, S 29-33

Total Length: M 50 mm, F 40 mm

Systematic Relationship: Closely related to the four other members of the genus *Plataplochilus*

Subspecies: None

Distribution: Coastal plains of southwestern Gabon, Congo, Cabinda and Zaire

Variability: Low

Syntopic Occurrence: *P. loemensis*, *E. berkenkampi*, *A. primigenium*

Habitat: Fast running brooks and streams of the rainforest and derived savanna

Temperatures: 22-26 °C

Biology: A non-annual species with an incubation period of 10-14 days

Maintenance and Breeding: Difficult



P. terveri, ♂, from Leyou river, Gabon



Plataplochilus terveri HUBER, 1981

Suborder: Cyprinodontoidei PARENTI, 1981 Family: Poeciliidae GARMAN, 1895

Subfamily: Aplocheilichthyinae MYERS, 1928 Subgenus: *Plataplochilus* AHL, 1928

First Description: B. K. A. Publ. 39

Type Locality: Mpassa river, upper Ogowe, southeastern Gabon

Synonyms: *Haplochilus loemensis* PELLEGRIN, 1930; *P. cabindae* LAMBERT, 1967

Meristics: D 11-12, A 18-19, S 27-28+2-4 Total Length: M 45 mm, F 35 mm

Systematic Relationship: Closely related to the other members of this genus

Subspecies: None

Distribution: Inland plateau of the southeastern Gabon

Variability: Moderate

Syntopic Occurrence: A. coeleste

Habitat: Brooks and streams in the gallery forest

Temperatures: 20-22 °C

Biology: A non-annual species with an incubation period of 10-14 days

Maintenance and Breeding: Difficult



H. platysternus, ♂, from the surroundings of Kisangani, Zaire



Hypsopanchax platysternus (NICHOLS & GRISCOM, 1917)

Suborder: Cyprinodontoidei PARENTI, 1981

Family: Poeciliidae GARMAN, 1895

Subfamily: Aplocheilichthyinae MYERS, 1928

Subgenus: *Hypsopanchax* MYERS, 1924

First Description: Bull. Amer. Mus. Nat. Hist. 37, 724

Type Locality: "Stanleyville, in a small forest brook, affluent of the Tshopo"; Kisangani in northeastern Zaire

Synonyms: *Haplochilus platysternus* NICHOLS & GRISCOM, 1917

Meristics: D 9-16, A 15-19, S 28-30

Total Length: M 60 mm, F 45 mm

Systematic Relationship: Closely related to the other members of the genus *Hypsopanchax*

Subspecies: *H. p. zebra* (PELLEGRIN, 1929; t.t.: Loula, Omoi, Lebagni, Zanaga, Congo)

Distribution: Southern Congo and central to eastern part of the Zaire basin

Variability: Medium

Syntopic Occurrence: *A. ogoense*, *A. spec.* from the *A. elegans* group

Habitat: Clear forest rivers and brooks

Temperatures: 22-25 °C

Biology: A non-annual species with an incubation period of 10-14 days

Maintenance and Breeding: Difficult



H. catenatus, ♂, from the type locality



Hypsopanchax catenatus RADDA, 1981

Suborder: Cyprinodontoidei PARENTI, 1981 Family: Poeciliidae GARMAN, 1895
 Subfamily: Aplocheilichthyinae MYERS, 1928 Subgenus: *Hypsopanchax* MYERS, 1924

First Description: DKG-Journal 13, 1

Type Locality: "61 km von Franceville an der Straße nach Boumango, zwischen Madziba and Mboki, Provinz Ogooué"; southeastern Gabon

Synonyms: None

Meristics: D 13-14, A 16-17, S 27-29+3-4 Total Length: M 55 mm, F 40 mm

Systematic Relationship: Closely related to *H. zebra* and the other members of this genus

Subspecies: None

Distribution: Hitherto only known from its type locality; most probably with a restricted distribution area

Variability: Moderate

Syntopic Occurrence: A. ogoense

Habitat: Brook in the rainforest

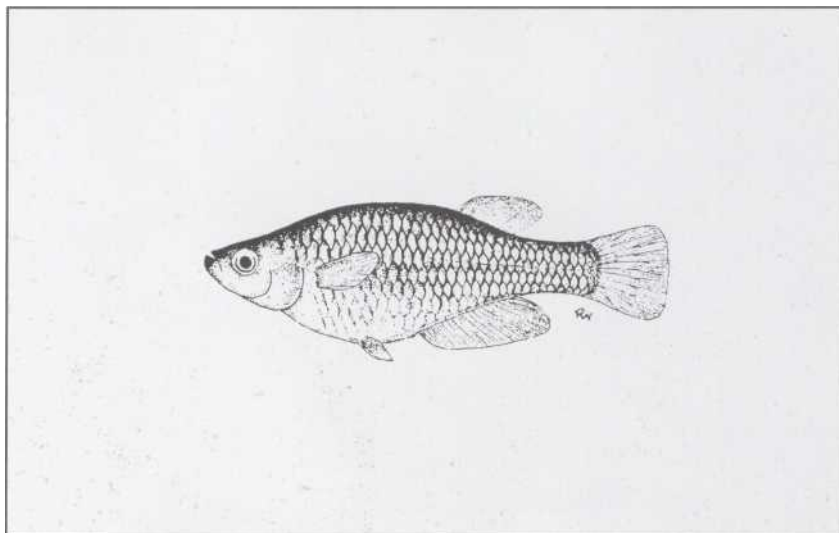
Temperatures: 20-22 °C

Biology: A non-annual species with an incubation period of 10-14 days

Maintenance and Breeding: Difficult



H. modestus, ♂, from Rutshuru, Zaire



Hypsopanchax modestus (PAPPENHEIM & BOULENGER, 1914)

Suborder: Cyprinodontoidei PARENTI, 1981 Family: Poeciliidae GARMAN, 1895

Subfamily: Aplocheilichthyinae MYERS, 1928 Subgenus: *Hypsopanchax* MYERS, 1924

First Description: Wiss. Erg. d. Deutschen Zentralafrika Exp. 1907/08; Zool. 3, 225-260

Type Locality: "Urwaldbach bei Beni, Nilsystem"; northeastern Zaire

Synonyms: *Haplochilus modestus* PAPPENHEIM & BOULENGER, 1914; *H. (Hypsopanchax) deprimozi* PELLEGRIN, 1928; *Haplochilichthys analis* WORTHINGTON, 1932

Meristics: D 12-13, A 20-22, S 31-32+2-3 Total Length: M 50 mm, F 40 mm

Systematic Relationship: Closely related to the other members of the genus *Hypsopanchax*

Subspecies: None

Distribution: Shore region of lake Edward and inflowing rivers, Semliki river above the falls and upper Ituri river system in northeastern Zaire and western Uganda

Variability: Low?

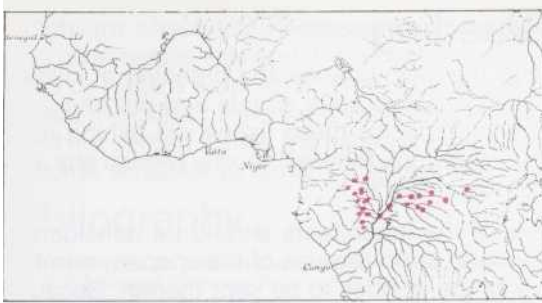
Syntopic Occurrence: None

Habitat: Lakes and rivers in the rainforest

Temperatures: 22-28 °C

Biology: No experience

Maintenance and Breeding: Not yet introduced alive



H. stictopleuron, ♂, from Upper Zaire



Hyplopanchax stictopleuron (FOWLER, 1949)

Suborder: Cyprinodontoidei PARENTI, 1981 Family: Poeciliidae GARMAN, 1895
 Subfamily: Aplocheilichthyinae MYERS, 1928 Subgenus: *Hyplopanchax* POLL & LAMBERT, 1965

First Description: Proc. Acad. Nat. Sci. Philadelphia 101, 263

Type Locality: "Oka, Congo basin"; central Congo

Synonyms: *Epiplatys stictopleuron* FOWLER, 1949; *Hypsopanchax stictopleuron* POLL, 1952
Micropanchax stictopleuron HUBER, 1981; *Hypsopanchax silvestris*
 POLL & LAMBERT, 1958; *Hylopanchax silvestris*, POLL & LAMBERT, 1965

Meristics: D 7-8, A 17, S 24-25 Total Length: M 40 mm, F 35 mm

Systematic Relationship: *H. stictopleuron* is related to the species of the genus *Hypsopanchax*

Subspecies: None

Distribution: Upper Ivindo system in northeastern Gabon and in the upper Ivindo, Alima, Lefini, Louna, Mossaka, Sangha and Zaire river drainages in northern and central Congo; Central Zaire river system in northern and central Zaire

Variability: Low

Syntopic Occurrence: None?

Habitat: Dark and acid forest creeks in the rainforest

Temperatures: 22-25 °C

Biology: A non-annual species with an incubation period of 10-14 days

Maintenance and Breeding: Difficult

Maintenance and Breeding

With the exception of some species the maintenance and breeding of killifish from the tropical rainforests of West Africa is quite simple and without problems. If kept in a tank with the same species these fishes will exhibit their beauty best while if kept in a community tank they will mostly remain shy and retiring rarely showing their gorgeous colours.

When furnishing a tank the needs of the inhabitants should be considered. The measurements of the tanks depend upon the size of the species, number and their natural swimming ability of the species to be kept therein. Because of the more or less strong rivalry among some males of *Aphyosemion* species it is necessary to provide the tank with hiding places in the form of plants, stones or pieces of wood but sufficient space for swimming and for shoaling must be given.

As the *Epiplatys* species dwell just below the water surface they prefer a light cover of floating aquatic plants or some floating leaves of water lilies which correspond to their natural environment. A bottom layer of dark sand or peat has also proven successful. Neutral to slightly acid water of medium hardness with a temperature between 18 and 25 degrees centigrade is suitable for both maintenance and spawning.

Every kind of living food of suitable size is taken, insects and insect larvae being preferred. Shoaling fish like to take dry food from the water surface.

If you do not insist on intensive breeding you may quite easily breed the non-annual species in tanks which have plenty of floating water plants provided that the aquarium is free from Planarian. If the breeding individuals are well fed they will seldom resort to chasing fry and eating spawn. Two or three weeks after putting the breeding individuals into the tank fry can be found among the floating plants and can be taken with a spoon from the water surface. The fry are then transferred to a separate container. The fishes will spawn on water plants, peat or nylon yarn. Especially *Procatopus* and *Plataplochilus* species place their spawn in holes of roots, slits of wood and cork bark.

The spawn can be removed from the substratum and hatched in suitable containers. The newly hatched fry are then fed with *Artemia* nauplii or slipper animacule. Because of the small size of the fry it is absolutely necessary to feed some *Aplocheilichthys* species on Rotifer and slipper animacule. Within one to three weeks you can make the change over to larger types of food. Thus the young fishes will thrive and grow fairly quickly especially in good water conditions and regular feeding. Therefore, it is recommended that the water be changed as often as possible to guarantee the good quality of the water.

The annual species are bred in tanks whose bottom should be covered with a layer of peat to a depth of not less than one inch. The breeding fishes will spawn in the peat which can be removed after ten days and dried. After the embryos have developed lukewarm water (15 to 18 degrees centigrade) is poured into the peat. The fry hatch within a day and will take *Artemia* nauplii at once. Further spawning will take place as previously described.

As we have observed, the reason why the breeding of some species is more difficult than others is partly because it is not easy to produce the conditions

which are absolutely necessary for breeding. Water conditions and quality play an essential role and it is recommended to change half the water regularly once or twice a week in order that the nitrate content be kept low. This should assure the good growth and well being of the fish. Should the nitrate level exceed the certain values the fishes are discomforted at once, take less food and become sensitive to certain diseases like *Oodinium* and tuberculosis.

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Alphabetical Index

<i>genus</i>	<i>species</i>	<i>Page</i>	<i>genus</i>	<i>species</i>	<i>Page</i>
<i>Adamas</i>	<i>formosus</i>	130	<i>Aphyosemion</i>	<i>ndianum</i>	55
<i>Aphyosemion</i>	<i>abacinum</i>	78		<i>occidentale</i>	40
	<i>ahli</i>	82		<i>ocellatum</i> _	98
	<i>amieti</i>	57		<i>oeseri</i>	88
	<i>arnoldi</i>	59		<i>ogoense</i>	102
	<i>aureum</i>	113		<i>ottogartneri</i>	104
	<i>australe</i>	85		<i>pascheni</i>	83
	<i>bamilekorum</i>	129		<i>petersii</i>	49
	<i>batesii</i>	67		<i>polli</i>	124
	<i>bitaeniatum</i>	69		<i>primigenium</i>	96
	<i>bivittatum</i>	71		<i>puerzli</i>	56
	<i>bualanum</i>	128		<i>punctatum</i>	112
	<i>buytaerti</i>	107		<i>raddai</i>	89
	<i>calliurum</i>	79		<i>rectogoense</i>	115
	<i>cameronense</i>	90		<i>riggenbachi</i>	73
	<i>celiae</i>	80		<i>robertsoni</i>	61
	<i>chauchei</i>	120		<i>roloffi</i>	47
	<i>christyi</i>	122		<i>rubrolabiale</i>	60
	<i>cinnamomeum</i>	53		<i>scheeli</i>	86
	<i>citrineipinnis</i>	99		<i>schioetzi</i>	119
	<i>coeleste</i>	97		<i>schluppi</i>	105
	<i>cognatum</i>	123		<i>schwoiseri</i>	65
	<i>congicum</i>	125		<i>sjoestedti</i>	62
	<i>cyanostictum</i>	76		<i>splendopleure</i>	70
	<i>decorsei</i>	121		<i>spooenbergi</i>	54
	<i>deltaense</i>	64		<i>striatum</i>	92
	<i>elegans</i>	118		<i>thysi</i>	101
	<i>exigoideum</i>	95		<i>viride</i>	44
	<i>exiguum</i>	127		<i>volcanum</i>	72
	<i>ferranti</i>	110		<i>wachtersi</i>	106
	<i>filamentosum</i>	58		<i>walkeri</i>	50
	<i>franzwernerii</i>	81		<i>wildekampi</i>	111
	<i>fulgens</i>	77	<i>Aplocheilichthys</i>	<i>zygaema</i>	109
	<i>gabunense</i>	94		<i>camerunensis</i>	141
	<i>gardneri</i>	51		<i>hutareau</i>	136
	<i>georgiae</i>	75		<i>macrophthalmus</i>	139
	<i>geryi</i>	46		<i>nimbaensis</i>	134
	<i>guineense</i>	42		<i>normani</i>	137
	<i>gulare</i>	63		<i>rancureli</i>	138
	<i>hanneloreae</i>	117		<i>scheeli</i>	140
	<i>herzogi</i>	84		<i>schioetzi</i>	135
	<i>hofmanni</i>	116		<i>spilauchen</i>	133
	<i>jeanpoli</i>	45	<i>Congopanchax</i>	<i>brichardi</i>	143
	<i>joergenschaeeli</i>	100		<i>myersi</i>	142
	<i>kribianum</i>	66	<i>Epiplatys</i>	<i>annulatus</i>	19
	<i>kunzi</i>	68		<i>barmoiensis</i>	12
	<i>labarrei</i>	108		<i>berkenkampi</i>	25
	<i>lamberti</i>	114		<i>biafranus</i>	28
	<i>liberiense</i>	48		<i>bifasciatus</i>	11
	<i>loennbergi</i>	74		<i>boulengeri</i>	30
	<i>louessense</i>	103		<i>chaperi</i>	20
	<i>lujae</i>	126		<i>chevalieri</i>	33
	<i>maculatum</i>	91		<i>dageti</i>	34
	<i>maeseni</i>	43		<i>duboisii</i>	37
	<i>marmoratum</i>	87		<i>esekanus</i>	23
	<i>microphthalmum</i>	93		<i>fasciolatus</i>	13
	<i>mirabile</i>	52		<i>grahami</i>	35
	<i>monroviae</i>	41		<i>hildegardae</i>	18

genus	species	Page	genus	species	Page	
<i>Epiplatys</i>	<i>huberi</i>	26	<i>Fundulosoma</i>	<i>thierryi</i>	131	
	<i>lamottei</i>	16		<i>Hylopanchax</i>	<i>stictopleuron</i>	155
	<i>longiventralis</i>	27	<i>Hypsopanchax</i>		<i>catenatus</i>	153
	<i>mesogramma</i>	32			<i>modestus</i>	154
	<i>multifasciatus</i>	29		<i>platystemum</i>	152	
	<i>njalaensis</i>	14	<i>Plataplochilus</i>	<i>cabindae</i>	150	
	<i>olbrechtsi</i>	15		<i>loemensis</i>	149	
	<i>phoeniceps</i>	31		<i>miltotaenia</i>	148	
	<i>roloffi</i>	17		<i>ngaensis</i>	147	
	<i>sangmelinensis</i>	24		<i>terveri</i>	151	
	<i>Episemion</i>	<i>sexfasciatus</i>	22	<i>Procatopus</i>	<i>aberrans</i>	145
		<i>sheljuzhkoii</i>	21		<i>nototaenia</i>	146
<i>Foerschichthys</i>	<i>singa</i>	36	<i>similis</i>		144	
	<i>spilargyreus</i>	10	<i>Pronothobranchius</i>	<i>kiyawensis</i>	132	
	<i>callipteron</i>	38				
<i>flavipinnis ...</i>	39					

Contents

	page
Preface	2
Geography, Climate and Vegetation	3
Habitats, Collecting and Protection	5
Classification, Systematics and Taxonomy	6
Explanations	9
Description of the individual species	10-155
Maintenance and Breeding	156
Bibliography	157
Alphabetical Index	159
Contents	160

