

The New South Wales Cichlid Society Inc.

Cichlid Circular

Cyprichromis leptosoma
Ptyochromis sp. "hippo point salmon"
Cryptoheros spilurus
Culturing live foods

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www.nswcs.org





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Cover photo – Diving in Lake Malawi

Photo credit to citizen^fish on

<https://www.cichlid-forum.com/threads/malawi-habitat-photos-1.464165/>

From the President

Well done and many thanks to both Chris Davis and Kevin Sorensen who stepped down from the committee in the August 2023 Annual General Meeting for the first time in many decades. The club would not be here today without their efforts (and continued service as non-committee members).

Chris has held many portfolios in committees over the decades. He too was the best editor the club has had. His many other roles include auctioneer, scrutineer, and guest speaker on plenty of occasions. He is still breeding fish, and with his wife Karen (currently a committee member), attends to purchasing and helping at the canteen during meetings.

Kevin has been a committee member many times over some decades. He has been Vice President, Scrutineer, Auctioneer, guest speaker (on numerous occasions) and is a fine fish breeder.

These two men have been, and still are, active life members of the club who were instrumental in forming the club, with others, back in the 1980's. They are great "sounding boards" for the committee's thoughts about doing more for members.

The current members should be thankful that these guys have kept up the enthusiasm for the club and its ongoing success. Thanks fellas, what a great pair, hats off to you both!

Stay informed

There are many ways to keep across what is happening at the club:

- Attend monthly meetings
- Visit our website at www.nswcs.org
- Follow our Facebook page (<https://www.facebook.com/nswcs>)
- Subscribe to our email newsletter (<https://nswcs.org/newsletter>).

George Wright
President



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Simon Morley

Warren Smith

Gavin Ferris

Alan Hardie

Lee Hazlewood

Tom Kliendienst

Auction Rules

The following are general auction rules and apply to both Mini Auctions and Major Auctions:

- Auction lots can only be entered by a financial member
- Only the member can enter the lots at the scrutineering table themselves. No other person may enter/present lots without prior approval from the Committee.
- The auction is limited to the sale of fish and aquarium products only
- Second hand electrical items can not be auctioned
- All fish must meet the Minimum Size Requirements as described in this circular.
- **Any cichlid 7.5cm or larger must be bagged as an individual fish.** If you want to sell multiple fish larger than 7.5cm together as one lot, bag them individually and tape the bags together.
- Non-cichlids include any fish that is not a cichlid, as well as shrimp and snails.
- Dry goods include any dry goods, as well as plants and live foods.
- Single lots of multiple bags must be taped together with clear packing tape, around the sides and across the bottom.
- All fish must be in **clear** bags. Coloured or printed bags will not be accepted. Fish in buckets or other containers will not be accepted.
- You are responsible for labelling of bags and sexing of fish
- A commission of 10% is charged to Members that are selling fish
- Lots without a reserve clearly marked on the bag will be sold as having no reserve, regardless of what is on the book in form
- Once booked in, lots can only be removed at the end of the auction OR at the auctioneer's discretion. Please approach a committee member if you have an issue to discuss it
- Passed in lots must be picked up as they are passed in - the club is not responsible for misplaced items
- You must keep track of the lots being auctioned and be ready to answer any questions the auctioneers might ask. If you are not present, the auctioneer's decision is final
- Fish lots that are not labelled with the correct name of the fish or without a name will be immediately passed in
- **Please note these recently added clarifications for non-cichlid and dry good lots:**
 - Non-cichlids include any fish that is not a cichlid, as well as shrimp and snails.
 - Dry goods include any dry goods, as well as plants and live foods.

Auction Rules

The following rules are Mini Auction specific:

- Members must be financial for at least 1 month to enter lots into a Mini Auction. For example, if you become a member in June, you can enter lots into Mini Auctions from July onwards. You can not enter lots into Mini Auctions on the night you become a member.
- All lots must be adequately marked with the name and number of fish, plus the reserve price on the bag in Texta/marker.
- Auction lots must be booked in between 6.45pm and 7.30pm. Lots will not be accepted after 7.30pm.
- Single members are entitled to enter a maximum of 3 lots in a Mini Auction, with a maximum of 1 of each species.
- Family members are entitled to enter a maximum of 5 lots in a Mini Auction, with a maximum of 2 of each species. *Note 2 Family Members must be present on the night to be able to enter more than 3 lots.*

The following rules are Major Auction specific:

- All lots must be adequately marked with the name and number of fish, plus the reserve price **on the label**.
- Labels must be stuck vertically on the bag and have clear packing tape over them to ensure they stay stuck on the bag.
- Auction lots must be booked in between 12.00pm and 1.15pm. Lots will not be accepted after 1.15pm.
- Members must be financial for at least 3 months to enter lots into a Major Auction. For example, to book-in lots for an October Major Auction, you must be financial in July.
- Single and Family members are entitled to enter a maximum of 16 lots into a Major Auction, with a maximum of 3 of the same species, a total maximum of 3 non-cichlid species and a maximum of 3 lots of dry goods.
- If possible, please pack 8 bags per foam box and number them from 1-8. This will ensure our auction steward will select lots in the correct order so that equity in our auction process can be achieved.
- Major Auction lots (book in sheets) will be given to financial members in the 2 Monthly Meetings leading up to the major auction. As an example, for a member to receive all 16 lots for the October Major Auction, they must attend the August Annual General Meeting to receive 8 lots, and the September Monthly Meeting to receive another 8 lots.

Minimum Sizing

2cm total length minimum

Cichlids – Class 1

- *Anomalochromis thomasi*
- *Apistogramma* species
- *Dicrossus* - filamentosa
- maculatus
- *Laetacara* - curviceps
- dorsigerus
- *Mikrogeophagus* - altispinosa
- ramirezi
- *Nanacara* spp.- adoketa
- anomala
- aurocephala
- taenia
- *Pelvicachromis subocellatus*
- *Altolamprologus* - calvus
- compressiceps
- *Chalinochromis* species
- *Julidochromis* species
- *Neolamprologus* - brevis
- brichardi complex
- buescheri
- calliurus
- caudopunctatus
- hecqui
- helianthus
- multifasciatus
- ocellatus complex
- pulcher complex
- similis
- splendens complex

Catfish – Class 1

- *Corydoras* - hastatus
- pygmaeus
- *Otocinclus* sp.

3.5cm total length minimum

Cichlids

- All other species of cichlid not listed in Class 1

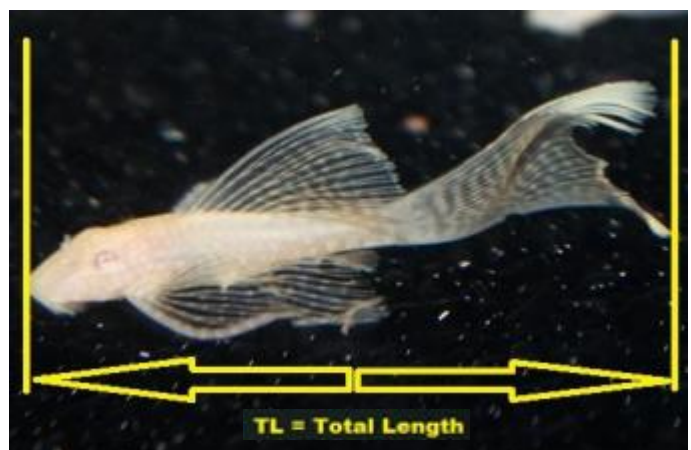
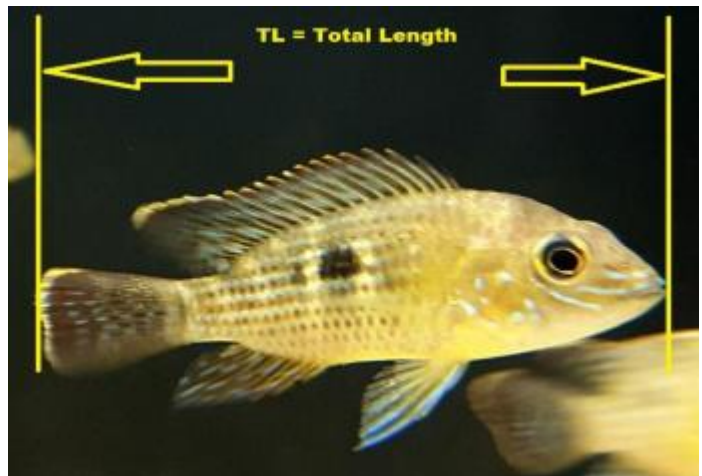
Catfish

- *Corydoras* all species not listed in Class 1
- Loricardae all species except below

5cm total length minimum

Catfish

- Loricardae Long fin Bristlenose
- Whiptail sp. Excludes tail filament





THE NSWCS MINI AUCTION BOOK IN SHEET

Member Name:..... Member Number:

3 Lots for a Single Membership (only 1 of each species)

5 Lots for Family Membership (maximum 2 of each species)

Take Note 2 Family Members Must be Present on the Night

Lot No:	Description (please print) Use Common or Scientific Name	QTY	SIZE (fry, sml, med, lrg)	Reserve	Sale Price
				\$	\$
				\$	\$
				\$	\$
				\$	\$
				\$	\$

Important Mini Auction Information

- The auction is limited to the sale of fish and aquarium products only.
- Second hand electrical items can not be auctioned.
- All fish must be in clear bags. Coloured or printed bags will not be accepted. Fish in buckets or other containers will not be accepted..
- Single lots of multiple bags must be taped together with clear packing tape, around the sides and across the bottom.
- You are responsible for labelling of bags and sexing of fish.
- A commission of 10% is charged to Members that are selling fish.
- Lots without a reserve on the bag will be sold as having no reserve, regardless of what is on this form.
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- Once booked in, lots can only be removed at the end of the auction OR at the auctioneer's discretion.
- Passed in lots must be picked up as they are passed in – the club is not responsible for misplaced items.
- You must keep track of your lots being auctioned and be ready to answer any questions the auctioneers might ask. If you are not present, the auctioneer's decision is final.

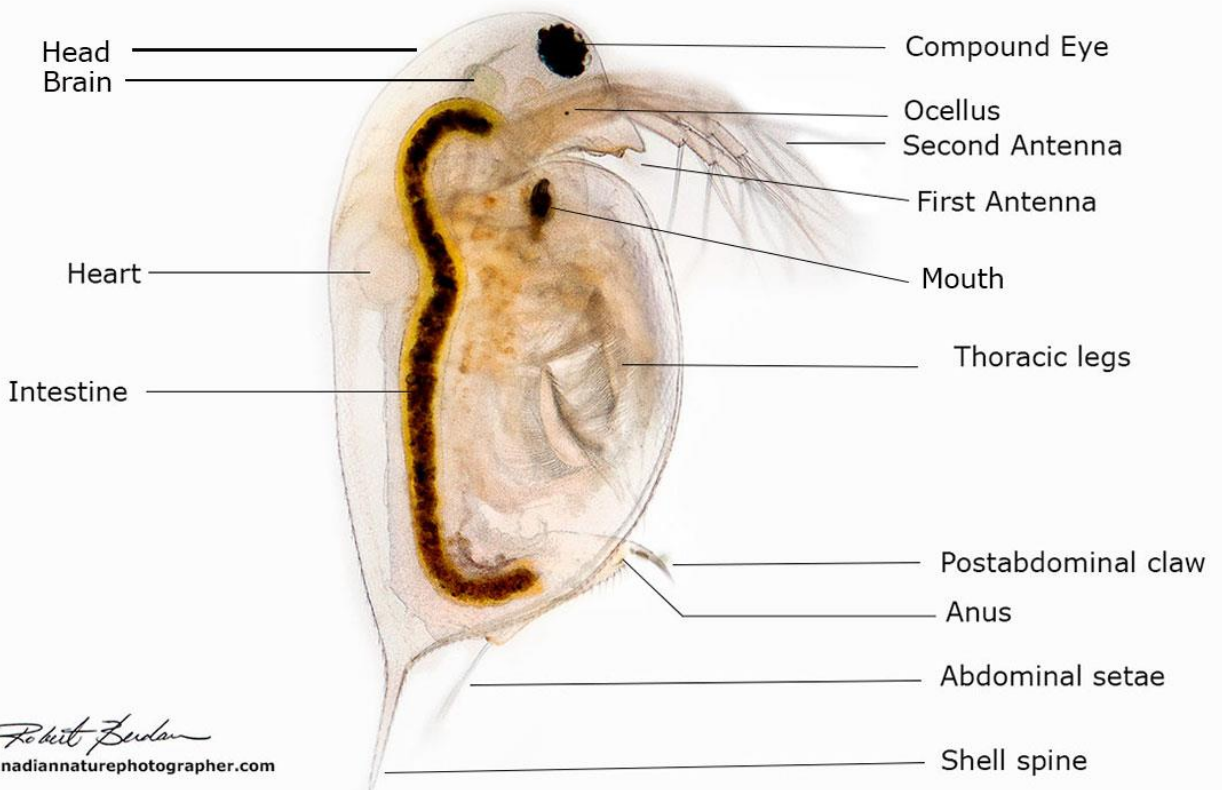
Live Food Cultures

Watch the video on our website:

<https://nswcs.org/videos/culturing-live-foods-for-aquarium-fish>

Daphnia

There are 12 types of daphnia. In Australia we use 2 types Magna daphnia that reach 4mm long and Moina daphnia that grows to 1.5mm. Daphnia have a lifecycle of 50 days and reproduce asexually. The females clone themselves every 3-6 days.



Live Food Cultures

Daphnia (cont)

When daphnia are stressed, they revert to sexual reproduction meaning they need to copulate to produce offspring. They produce asexual males, mate, produce one or two “resting eggs” that are covered in a protective layer and released with the shed carapace. These will sink to the bottom of your colony. The eggs can remain dormant for an extended period with hatching not occurring until external stimuli and water conditions are favourable. All young daphnia from this event will be female.

To cultivate daphnia place a starter culture in a bucket at room temperature (15-30C) and feed dissolved yeast daily. Place ½ teaspoon bakers yeast into 55ml (2oz) pond water in a small container and shake until dissolved. When dissolved the yeast will look milky. Place approximately 6 or 7 drops per bucket of daphnia to feed as daphnia are suspension feeders and feed on small particles in the water.



Live Food Cultures

Daphnia (cont)

When the daphnia appear to be overcrowding divide the bucket and create a new colony.

To keep your culture healthy

- Don't forget to feed them
- Don't put fine bubbles in the water as the daphnia get caught under the carapace and lifted to the surface where they cannot reach the food.
- Don't overcrowd them
- Don't overfeed as yeast will remove oxygen from the water suffocating the daphnia.



Live Food Cultures

Brine Shrimp

Brine shrimp (*Artemia salina*) are tiny saltwater crustaceans found in inland saltwater bodies. They reproduce by laying encapsulated eggs or cysts that remain viable for long periods in dry environments.

Baby brine shrimp eggs are readily available in most places that sell fish supplies.

To hatch baby brine shrimp place 1 tablespoon of eggs into a 1-2 litre container of 23-28C water containing 15g/litre of dissolved non-iodised salt. Make sure all salt is dissolved prior to adding eggs. Add an air source to the container such as an air stone connected to an air pump. Cover the container and allow to sit for up to 36 hours.

They hydrate, start to hatch and 8 hours later you have brine shrimp. Brine shrimp will die once added to fresh water.

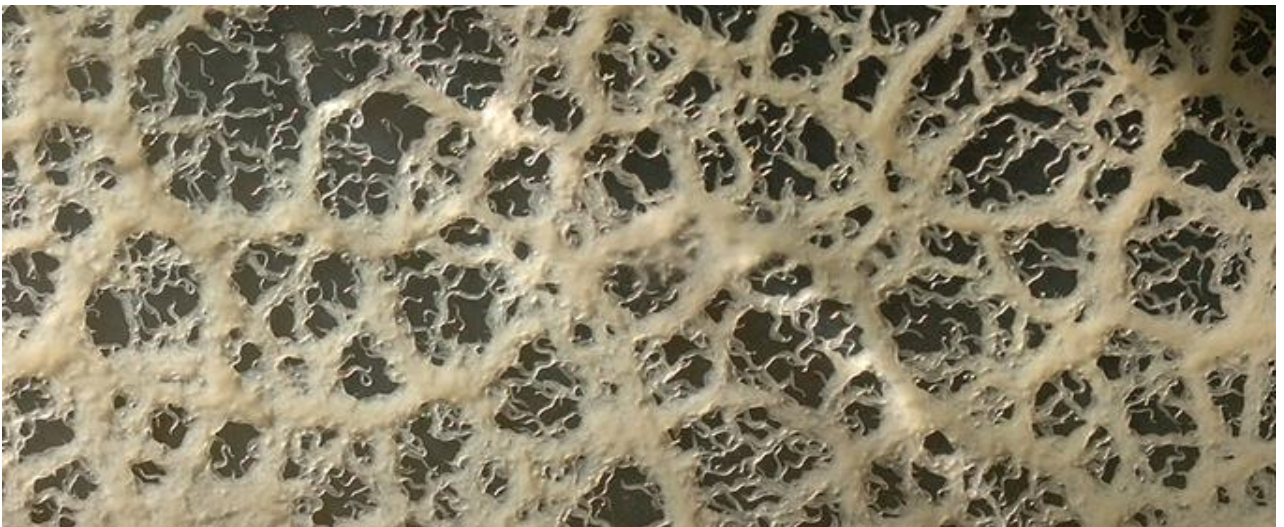


Live Food Cultures

Microworms

Microworm is the common name for a nematode or roundworm found in the *Panagrellius* genus. They range in size from 1-3mm in length and 50-100 microns in diameter. They feed on yeast and have a high nutritional starch content and should be fed as a supplement not a staple.

To create a microworm culture, Take a plastic container and add your choice of yeast containing food. Common choices include baker's yeast, quick oats, sliced bread or weet-bix. Add approximately 2cm of food to the bottom of the container and add dechlorinated room temperature water until you achieve a wet wobbly consistency that isn't dry and flaky or soupy then add a teaspoon of starter culture on top. Place a lid on the container with air holes in the lid for air flow and place in a dry room temperature area.

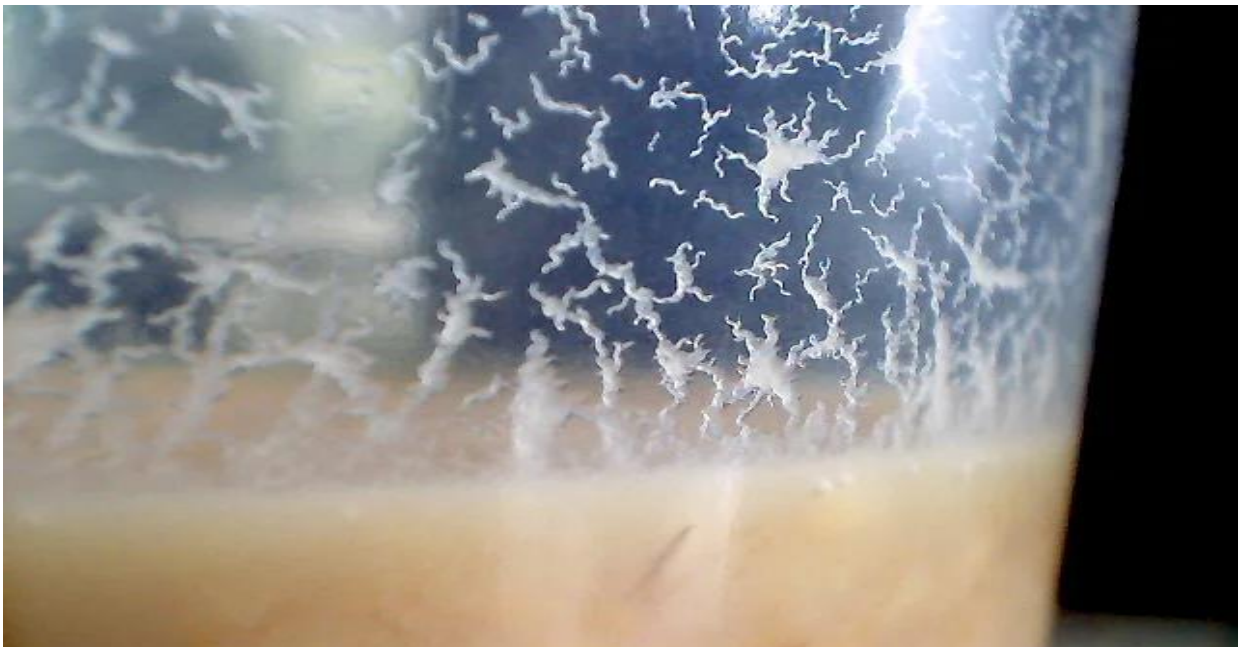


Live Food Cultures

Microworms (cont)

Once the culture is ready the worms can be seen on the sides of the container climbing to the surface. To harvest microworms use your finger or spoon to wipe around the walls of the plastic container and place the worms directly into the tank.

When the culture begins to get runny and no longer of the desired consistency or becomes mouldy it is time to start again. The culture becomes runny due to the presence of too much worm poo. Follow the same steps as before, harvesting a starter culture from the previous culture and create a fresh batch.





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Cyprichromis leptosoma



Cyprichromis leptosoma is a maternal mouthbrooding cichlid from Lake Tanganyika first typed by Boulenger in 1898. According to Fishbase.org there are a total of four Cyprichromis species, although not all are fully described.

Cyprichromis leptosoma is non-aggressive to other species and intra-species aggression is limited to benign fin nipping. They are an oddity among Tanganyikan cichlids in that they are not benthic (bottom-dwelling) and shoal in the middle to top of the water column and as such are desirable components of a Tanganyikan community tank due to the position they inhabit in the water column.

In the community Tanganyikan tank the Cyprichromis act as calming presences to other tank inhabitants. As most threats come from above for bottom-dwelling fish, the Cyprichromis act as an early warning system to other species.

Cyprichromis leptosoma is available in numerous color varieties that typically map to locations. Some species are primarily one or two colors, others are a combination of up to three colors. Predominant colors include yellow, salmon pink, black, purple and blue.

Photo credit: Aquarium Central

Cyprichromis leptosoma

Cyprichromis leptosoma is found in rocky areas along the eastern shoreline of Lake Tanganyika. Water conditions are pH of 8–9 and temperatures 23-25C. This fish is found in large shoals numbering in the thousands.

Cyprichromis leptosoma is not demanding but should be kept in groups of eight or more. A 150-litre tank or larger is recommended. In smaller groups and tighter quarters, they appear nervous and exhibit sub-par coloration. Regular partial water changes are recommended.

In the wild, Cyprichromis leptosoma feed on zooplankton, using their protrusible mouth to grab particles out of the water column. This fish poses no feeding problems in the aquarium if they are presented with small particles of food. Cyprichromis

leptosoma, even adults, love to eat live baby brine shrimp and will spend hours picking the tiny snacks out of the water.

Cyprichromis leptosoma have delicate mouths which are easily damaged. It is not recommended to pry open the mouth to strip the fish.

Fry of Cyprichromis leptosoma are

comparably large. Free-swimming fry are 1.2–1.5cm long. Newly delivered fry go straight to the surface of the water and stay within the top area of the tank for the first few days. They can eat freshly hatched, baby brine shrimp and will grow quickly. Fry can be transitioned to flake food at three weeks. At two months, they are 3cm long and ready to go to new homes.



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Photo: Jón Helgi Jónsson

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Ptyochromis sp. “hippo point salmon”



Found in Lake Victoria, East Africa, Ptyochromis sp. “hippo point salmon” is sought after and renowned for its distinctive coloration and intriguing behaviors. With its vibrant coloration and unique characteristics, this variant has garnered significant attention from aquarists and researchers alike.

It is predominantly found in rocky shorelines and sandy shallows of Lake Victoria, particularly around the Hippo Point region on Kenyan shores. Its distribution within the lake is influenced by habitat preferences, water quality, and food availability, highlighting its adaptability to diverse ecological niches.

The striking crimson coloration of the fish makes it instantly recognizable. Found over sandy regions, this cichlid dines primarily on snails. Males have a lovely red blush but will also exhibit some blue and shades of green. Females are a light olive green with some dark markings on the side. Adult Ptyochromis sp. 'Hippo Point Salmon' typically reach lengths of 10 to 15cm (4 to 6 inches), with males often exhibiting slightly larger body size than females.

Ptyochromis sp. “hippo point salmon”

Ptyochromis as an independent genus can be attributed to Humphrey Greenwood in 1957. This was a revision of the type specimen *Ctenochromis sauvagei* Pfeffer, 1896. The name *Ptyochromis* is derived from the Greek "ptyo" which means "to spit out" (Greenwood, 1957) and relates to crushing shells orally and then disposing of the inedible fragments. Interestingly, although other members of this genus employ this feeding strategy, I have observed *Ptyochromis* sp. "salmon" actually tapping a hole in the shell of Malaysian trumpet snails, *Melanoides tuberculata* and orally extracting the meat by "sucking it out". This snail is notorious for being tough and it may well be that the *P.* sp. "salmon" has developed this feeder mechanism for dealing with this particular snail species.



Growing to a length of 14 cm, males show a slightly larger adult size than the females. The cranial angle is steeply sloping and convex. Thick lips are positioned low in the jaw. Both mandibles protrude equally. The mouth is down-turned and lined with recurved slender and strong bicuspid (mostly) teeth. Older *P.* sp. "salmon", like most other furu, develops a great number of unicuspid teeth. It is not uncommon for an individual to have as many as 8 rows of teeth with 5-6 being the norm.

Ptyochromis sp. “hippo point salmon”

In a species only setup, P. sp. "salmon" males will all color and retain their brilliance. comes especially easy when housed in this manner as well. It is when they are not able to display dominance (usually in the presence of other species) that maintenance of this species becomes problematic.



Simply put, P. sp. "salmon" are easily bullied by more aggressive fish. One should avoid the Pundamilia, Neochromis, and Astatotilapia genera when choosing compatible tank mates. Some of the peaceful Xystichromis species such as sp. "flameback", sp. "day glow" or phytophagus may work, but as stated before, to show this fish off best it really should devote a species only tank to their habitation.

It is best to house multiple males with at least twice the number of females. In this configuration the males will exhibit their brilliant coloration consistently. P. sp. "salmon" is not an overly territorial fish, in fact; aggression is confined to the actual breeding area. The dominant male will choose an area consisting of a flat surface or a depression he has excavated, as the spawning location.



From here he will defend this area from all other fish darting from the area and hurrying back to display for the female. When the female accepts the male's advances, she joins in the territorial defense of the spawning area. Spawning takes place in the typical haplochromine manner.

Female Ptyochromis sp. "hippo point salmon"

Ptyochromis sp. “hippo point salmon”

Once spent of her eggs, the female retreats to a quiet area to begin the brooding process. The male will generally not bother with the female once the act of spawning has ceased. Instead, he will immediately refocus his efforts into trying to attract another ripe female to his spawning site. Oral gestation is 18 days at which time the female will begin to release her fry. At the first sign of danger, she will scoop the young back into her buccal cavity. This maternal care can last as long as three weeks at which time the young are left to fend for themselves.

Feeding *Ptyochromis* sp. "salmon" is not a challenge in the least. It will readily accept all fares from flake to live food and do quite well on all. Keeping in mind its natural feeding niche, some protein should be incorporated into their diet.



This could come in the form of daphnia, brine shrimp mosquito larvae or anything else of common aquarium use. Young grow quickly when fed baby brine shrimp and crushed quality flake.

Many of the molluscivores have not fared well in Lake Victoria since the Nile perch (*Lates niloticus*) upsurge. This is most likely due to the habitat which these fish live and feed. Often sandy stretches are exposed open areas. This makes an easy target for the voracious Nile perch. Other mollusk eating cichlids as *Platytaeniodus degeni* are believed extinct. Recent surveys of the Hippo Point area and the fate of *Ptyochromis* sp. "salmon" are unknown but based on the fate of similar cichlids, it stands to reason that this fantastic and interesting furu must be guarded.

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Cryptoheros spilurus

Blue Eyed Cichlid



Cryptoheros spilurus, commonly known as the Blue Eyed Cichlid, is a fascinating species of cichlid found in the freshwater habitats of Central America.

First typed by Gunther and Albert in 1862, it was originally found in Lago Izabel in Guatemala. It has a relatively wide distribution in the wild spanning across Belize, Honduras, Guatemala, and Mexico. It is usually found in Lakes where it demonstrates a preference for densely vegetated areas with rocky substrates and ample hiding places.

Adults typically reach lengths of 10 to 15 centimeters, with males often being slightly larger than females. One of the most distinctive features of *Cryptoheros spilurus* is its striking colouration, characterized by a turquoise-blue base with vibrant orange or yellow accents along the fins and lateral line. The most remarkable feature, however, is its bright blue eyes, which lend the species its common name.

Sexual dimorphism in *Cryptoheros spilurus* is evident, albeit subtle. Male specimens typically exhibit slightly larger body sizes and more elongated dorsal and anal fins compared to females. Additionally, males often display brighter coloration, especially when courting, serving as visual cues for mate selection and territorial defense.

Cryptoheros spilurus

Blue Eyed Cichlid

Breeding behavior in the Blue-Eyed Cichlid is characterized by elaborate courtship rituals and parental care. Males establish territories and construct spawning pits within their chosen areas, where they attract females through vibrant color displays and fin extensions.

Pairs will defend their spawns without any problem. The fry, which can range in numbers from 100-500 are small, and well defended. The fry are easily raised on baby brine shrimp or any other fry sized food.

Care

Cryptoheros spilurus is an easy fish to keep. They are aggressive, and can dominate a tank, but can also be kept with a vast number of other fish. I like keeping mine with larger Malawian Haps. The Haps seem to know when they need to stay away, and both fish tend to leave each other alone.

A problem that one encounters with this fish is the conspecific aggression. The fish can be rough on each other, but when a pair bond is formed, it is usually strong.

Feeding

In its natural habitat, it is omnivorous, feeding on a variety of food sources, including algae, aquatic plants, small



invertebrates, and occasionally, small fish. This opportunistic feeding behavior allows the Blue Eyed Cichlid to adapt to fluctuating food availability in its environment.

Cryptoheros spilurus

Blue Eyed Cichlid

In the aquarium, *Cryptoheros spilurus* will accept almost any food offered. Offer a combination of quality dry and frozen food as well as live food to get them conditioned for breeding.

Feed newly hatched fry with infusoria, freshly hatched brine shrimp, or commercial fry food until they are large enough to accept finely crushed flakes or pellets.

Maintain pristine water conditions and perform regular water changes to ensure the health and growth of the fry.



Meeting Schedule

Location

All NSWCS meetings are held at Nuwarra Public School, McKay Avenue, Moorebank NSW 2170.

When

Meetings are held on the 1st Saturday of every month, except in January.

Monthly meetings always begin at 7.30pm, with doors open to members and guests at 6.30pm.

Major Auctions always begin at 2pm, with doors open to members and guests at 11.30am. Members can enter their major auction lots from 12.00pm to 1.15pm.

2024 Meeting Schedule

- 3 February @ 7.30pm - Monthly Meeting & Mini Auction
- 2 March @ 2pm - Major Auction
- 6 April @ 7.30pm - Monthly Meeting & Mini Auction
- 4 May @ 7.30pm - Monthly Meeting & Mini Auction
- 1 June @ 7.30pm - Monthly Meeting & Mini Auction
- 6 July @ 7.30pm - Monthly Meeting & Mini Auction
- 3 August @ 7.30pm - Annual General Meeting & MEGA Fish Raffle
- 7 September @ 7.30pm - Monthly Meeting & Mini Auction
- 5 October @ 2pm - Major Auction
- 2 November @ 7.30pm - Monthly Meeting & Mini Auction
- 7 December @ 7.30pm - Christmas Meeting & Mini Auction

Visit the NSWCS website at www.nswcs.org for the latest meeting information.

Sponsors Wanted

SPACE FOR SALE



Do you know an aquarium business that would
like to partner with the NSWCS?

Contact a member of our committee for further information

