

OBSERVING THE BLACKSPOT SHINER (Notropis atrocaudalis) IN A 29-GALLON AQUARIUM

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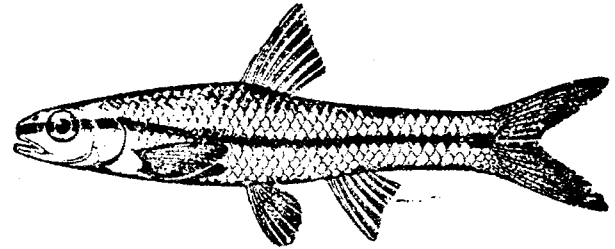
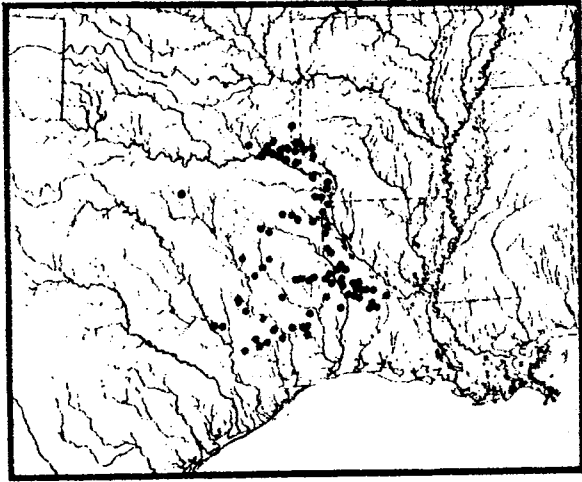
There are six specimens of this species in the tank. The tank contains four plastic plants that rise to three-quarters of the tank height along the back of the tank. A hollowed-out rock lies in the center of the tank. There is a two-inch layer of red and yellow aquarium gravel on the tank floor. Several small pieces of petrified wood lie scattered on top of the gravel. The filtration consists of an undergravel filter and a Diatom filter.

The Blackspot Shiners swim mostly along the middle of the tank. Frequently they pass directly through the hollowed-out rock in the center of the tank. Their movement is casual--that is to say, they don't seem to be in any hurry to get anywhere. These fish appear to be individualists as they don't stay in a group, but rather are found throughout the tank at any one time.

The Blackspot Shiner's disposition in a community tank of Notropis species is one of peaceful coexistence with the other fishes. Blackspot show no sign of open aggressiveness; however, one of the individuals has apparently established its residency in the hollowed-out rock, and does discourage intruders.

The specimens in this tank are fed a variety of food, such as Tetra-Min flakes, Hikari baby pellets, and freeze-dried bloodworms. These foods are eagerly eaten by the fish, and maintain the specimens in good condition.

These Blackspot Shiners have brought to me many hours of enjoyment, from collecting to observation. Anyone else who has kept the species would be welcome to provide more information on it.



--The Blackspot Shiner & Its Range
from Atlas of North American Freshwater
Fishes