

BREEDING LUCANIA GOODEI: GUARANTEED

by Rodney Harper, Marietta, Georgia

Lucania goodei is probably the most wanted native killifish today.

Once you see a male in full breeding dress, you won't believe it's a native killifish.

The populations may vary a little in color, but the following description is the most common. Males will have a silver body, with a black horizontal stripe mid-laterally. It appears slightly saw-toothed when looked at closely. The dorsal fin will have a small vertical stripe covering the first two or three rays. The dorsal, anal, ventral, and latter portion of the caudal fin will usually be a cobalt blue. On various populations, there will be a red or yellow patch on the forward portion of the caudal fin.

Females are fairly plain, and lack the vertical stripe on the dorsal.

I've never had any problems with breeding this little fish. My method follows.

I use a 5½-gallon tank with dark, not black, gravel. I use a plastic canvas which can be found in a fabric store around the crochet materials and such. This item has a mesh of around 2mm, and makes a dandy divider.

I then divide the tank into two sections. The parents will occupy 2/3 of the tank, and the fry will occupy the other 1/3.

I place a large mop, 200-300 strands, with the parents. You will hardly ever see the fish, but this also inhibits egg-eating.

On the fry's side, I place a small light and a nice covering of riccia. As the fry hatch, they will swim to the lighted side. Once they reach their side, they are safe from the hungry parents. The riccia supports a multitude of rotifers and such, and after four or five days, you can feed brine shrimp nauplii.

The most spawning fish you should use at one time is two pair. A trio seems to work well, but you should always start with one pair and see how they work. Usually the extra "non-spawning" fish will observe the spawning, and follow around eating eggs!