

ENNEACANTHUS CHAETODON

Food Requirements in Captivity

Robert T. Rosen

I have read many articles concerning the desirability of the black-banded sunfish as an aquarium species. However, none of them has ever stressed the importance of a proper diet in maintaining this fish in a healthy state. Without a proper diet, these fish will always contract a number of diseases, the most common of which is a fungus infection of the eye, which leaves the fish totally blind.

The prime requirement for good health is a source of live food. This can be either adult San Francisco brine shrimp or tubifex worms. A mixture of these two should be used to give them a balanced diet. If a live food is unavailable, the fish will willingly eat frozen bloodworms (midge larvae). This food is nutritious, and in my experience is the only frozen food the black-banded sunfish seem to savor.

Black-banded sunfish do make a striking addition to your aquarium. But if you are unable to provide a proper diet and insist on trying to feed these fish flake food and frozen brine shrimp-- forget it! All you will end up with are dull, sick, fungused fish.