

HYBRID REPORT

NOTES ON ENNEACANTHUS OBESUS X ENNEACANTHUS GLORIOSUS

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In a recent description (1) of the mating of a male E. obesus with a female E. gloriosus on April 16, 1974, it was noted that the fry were indeed healthy, free swimming and growing rapidly. Further details are now, of course, available and will be given in this article.

Thirty six adults survived the initial week after hatching and now are still alive eight months later. Indeed, these hybrids are hardier than the original species as was evidenced when they reached sexual maturity four months after hatching. Two sexes have survived and the first mating rituals were observed on September 1, 1974. Eggs were collected and hatched in the usual manner (apart from the adults) and now a F_2 generation is three months old. Generalities on the fertility of the F_1 parents cannot be made at this time as the fertility of eggs from first spawns is usually poor.

The parents have the general rounded shape of the banded sunfish, but have the coloration of the male blue-spotteds (E. gloriosus). While a female blue-spotted sunfish has little coloration, both sexes of the F_1 hybrids have blue spots. It is quite easy to distinguish a male E. gloriosus from a female of the same species. It is rather difficult to distinguish sexes of the F_1 hybrids, that is until the males put on their spawning colors. The blue spots glow against a dark brown background. The dorsal and anal fins are dark blood red.

The hybrids still have the intense fear of light as reported for the blue-spotted sunfish (2). This fear is not observed in the fry, but is prevalent in the sexually mature adults. These fish again are a twilight species that venture out in the early morning and early evening hours.

References

- (1) Rosen, R.T. , American Currents Vol.2, no.2, 1974
- (2) Rosen, R.T. , American Currents Vol.1, no.4, 1973