NOTES ON ENNEACANTHUS OBEUSUS 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 harder 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 F2 generation is three
months old. Generalities on the fertility of the F1 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 F1 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 F1 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