

MEET-  
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DASHING

DACE

By Tony Terceira

Lately the aquarium hobbyists have become some sort of "ecology nuts". Although maintaining fish in an artificial environment is not the newest of hobbies, the hobbyists are attracting more and more attention. This is due in part to the growing concern for our environment. After all, don't we maintain fish, and aren't more and more fish becoming endangered as man progresses?

But realistically speaking, how many of us keep fish which are not exotic or imported from foreign countries? To those of you who wish to try to maintain a native fish, may I recommend highly - the "dashing" dace - *CHRIOPEOPS GOODEI*? Native to the Southeastern United States is the so-called blue "dace" which is not a dace at all, but a rather very handsome *CYRIPODONT*, (Top minnow of the family *CYRIPODONTAE*). This rather small killifish is a pleasure and joy to both own and breed. The sight of 2 males "jousting" with their fins completely spread (in fun of course, as these fish are quite peaceful) is one of the most impressive sights in the aquarium world, and is sure to bring many enjoyable hours to their owner.

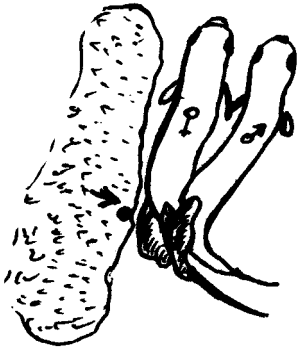
The body of the *C. Goodei* is basically elongated, slightly compressed, and its upper and lower profiles are equally convex. The male of the species is gray-green to gray-brown with a brassy glint overlaid by a network formed by pale edges of the scales. His back is darker, and the belly region is yellowish-white. A deep black, longitudinal band begins on the snout, then crosses the eye and ends in a coppery blotch at the root of the tail. A second dark stripe begins behind the pectoral fin and extends to the hinder end of the anal fin base. The fins are all basically yellowish; the dorsal has an orange base, a crescentic black zone followed by a bluish white border with a dark edge. The anal fin is similarly colored.

The female follows the typical type for their family. She is basically colorless except for her longitudinal band of black. The only color is a whitish blotch at the base of the caudal root, and a yellow cast to the dorsal fin.

Spawning of the *GOODEI* is characteristic of the top-spawning killifish. Courtship begins with the male following below or behind the female, swimming away or even ahead at times, only to return a moment or two later. When the female begins to slow

down or stops, the male moves beneath her. The male is stimulated to spawn with the female when the latter moves against the spawning media, (floating water sprite, in my case) the eggs being deposited anywhere in the plants' vast root system. When in the spawning position, the dorsal and anal fins of the male are bent over the corresponding fins of the female (see diagram). Both fishes assume the familiar "S" shape, with the fins folding procedure producing a "spawning chamber", insuring fertilization

of the eggs. Spawning of this species is in 3 to 5 week periods with a few eggs being laid each day.



Fig# 1 (Spawning act)  
Arrow indicates an egg  
expelled into the  
spawning media.

Unless plant cover is provided, most of the eggs will be eaten by the parents. Time between spawning periods can be decreased by frequent changes of water, and a steady diet of live and frozen foods; in fact, feeding any of the prepared dry or freeze-dried foods is just about a waste of time. These fish would almost rather starve than "lower" themselves to eating commercially prepared foods.

The fry are small, but with a good start on infusoria they may be raised with little difficulty. About two weeks after hatching, the fry are able to consume newly hatched brine shrimp and microworms. From this point on the battle is over, and you are well on your way to raising the fry to beautiful adults.

GOODEI may be kept together in a group of all the same species, but their rather small size does not make them ideal inhabitants for the average community tank. These fish do show a preference for water in the middle sixties, but I have maintained them in water as high as 78 with little difficulty.

By all means do remember to keep the top of the aquarium tightly covered at all times, as these and most killies are very curious about the world outside their own tank and will surely be off on some high adventure if there is the slightest area of escape open to them.

If you've been wondering what to do with that 'cold' spot under your present tank, or that cool spot downstairs in your fish room.... Here is the candidate, and you've read his platform. Why not give this native a try?

( The above article taken from the TANKQUILIZER, published by the TROPICAL FISH SOCIETY OF RHODE ISLAND, INC.. THE author was TONY TERCEIRA. Thanks, Tony for a simple but informative article.