

RAINWATER KILLIFISH

Lucania parva (Baird & Girard 1854)

Of the family Cyprinodontidae, the rainwater killie inhabits the brackish coastal waters and protected salt water bodies of North America. The parva is said to be euryhaline, of freshwater origin living in salt water; however it can be found in totally fresh water as well.

The male *Lucania parva* is an attractive fish: the anal fin is colored a strong red with black trim; some color variations occur where a clouded yellow replaces the red. The two pelvic fins likewise. The base of the caudal is a rusty yellow blending to a lighter yellow towards its' extremities. The dorsal has an irredescent blue band, trimmed in black with a black spot on the leading edge at the body. The trailing edge of the dorsal and anal appear to have accidentally been dipped in red paint. The female is usually slightly larger in size with no distinctive markings. This species is similiar to species of the genus *Fundulus* in that the urogenital opening is surrounded on the female by a membranous pouch which encompasses the leading edge of the anal fin. It differs in that their teeth form a series (rarely irregular) instead of a band as the *Fundulus*. The parva is a small fish ranging in size from 1½ inches to 2 inches. The scales are relatively large in proportion 26-8. Dorsal rays number in count from 12 to 13. No lateral line has been observed.

This fish is a mop spawner and be handled just as one would the typical *Fundulus*. When kept with *Lucania goodei* a certain amount of mutual attraction can be observed which leads one to believe that hybridization can be achieved. My *Lucania parva* were collected on the Gulf Coast of MISSISSIPPI from a small tributary of the Pascagoula river in rather hardwater of low salinity.

It took considerable time to purge these fish of a multiplicity of parasites, including a "Super Ich". They spawned almost immediately upon placing them in an aquarium. *L. parva* accept most foods including Tetra-min. The adults are set up with tetally fresh water and marine type strata and a good stand of *Rubra vallesnaria*. In contrast the fry are being successfully raised in soft acid water.

by DICE STOBER

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CONTENT	GEISLER LEADING FLAKES BRAND	BRAND
Min. Crude Protein	50.0%	46.0%
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Min. Crude Fiber	4.8%	8.8%

The Geisler values shown above are based on analysis by an independent testing laboratory and are printed on the Geisler container. Figures for the "leading brand" were obtained from their container.

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