In captivity they prefer small tanks with good growths of algae and/or plants. Since I always find newborn babies on the bottom, I have small stones in my tanks for them to hide among. They also seem to do better if I do not siphon much of the debris off the bottom.

For feeding, I use baby brine shrimp, either freshly hatched or frozen. I also put earthworms into a blender with a little water and whirl it up into a soup. I then freeze this mixture in ice trays that have tiny cocktail cubes. (Do this when the spouse and kids are not home.) Periodically drop a cube into the tank.

*H. formosa* represent a phenomenon called superfetation. That is, at any one time there are a number of differently formed (matured) babies within the female. She will give birth to one or two babies per day for a couple of days. A month later she may be able to repeat the process. There has also been evidence that the female nourishes the unborn babies.

Of course, once the babies are born the tables are turned, as females will eat their young.

Give *H. formosa* a try. They are an active fish and not shy if the conditions are right. All you need to enjoy them is a small bowl and small weekly water changes.

Not to mention very good eyesight.

*Illustration of female Heterandria formosa from Jordan and Evermann, The Fishes of North and Middle America (1896-1900).*