

FIRELINE DANIO, DEVARIO SONDHII

By Chase Klinesteker www.chasesfishes.net



Fireline Danio, Male above

DESCRIPTION

The Fireline Danio is fairly new to the hobby and has become quite popular. It is active, colorful, very peaceful, and will eat a variety of foods. It comes from Myanmar in the mountains, the same location of the Celestial Pearl Danio, *Celestichthys margaritatus*. It is found in shallow, permanently flooded grasslands with dense weeds. The water is slightly soft, acid, clear, and unpolluted. An excellent candidate for a peaceful community tank of smaller fish, one should keep the tank covered, as it can jump. In the aquarium, it prefers dim light and dark substrate with floating and other plants for cover plus open swimming areas. It is a schooling fish, so 6-10 individuals are more active and colorful than just one or two. Maximum size is 2-2 ½ inches, with females slightly larger than males. Males are slimmer and have more intense red-orange coloration. A faint dark spot just behind and at the top of the gill confirms the species, which can be confused with several others. It comes from a remote area with limited access, and due to insufficient data, its' IUCN Red List status is unknown. Preferred temperatures are around 68-75 degrees, a little on the cool side. Avoid heavy current, as it originates from sluggish waters.

BREEDING

The Fireline Danio is fairly easy to breed and can spawn frequently. I set up a 2 gallon tank with a peat moss box filter, rainwater, large gravel on the bottom, and a spawning mop. A conditioned pair of Fireline danios was added and the tank placed in a darker area of the fishroom. The next afternoon a siphon was run through the gravel and around 200 tiny, clear eggs were found. They were rinsed and placed in a gallon hatching jar with fresh rainwater, a slow bubbler, and 2 drops of methylene blue. In 2 days they hatched and hung on the jar sides for 4 more days before free-swimming.

RAISING THE FRY

The fry swim close to the surface like rainbow fry, are extremely tiny and require very fine foods like infusoria, powdered dust foods, or fine liquid fry foods for several days. They school tightly and are fun to watch feeding. Once on baby brine shrimp, they do better, but numbers can still decrease. The adults are known to be intolerant of pollution, and I believe that is true of the fry also. I divided the 100+ fry into 2 separate aquariums but only ended up with around 25 ¾-inch fry total. Although a bit of a challenge to raise, the Fireline Danio is colorful, peaceful, and easily bred, making it a very desirable species to keep.