

MELOANOTAENIA PICTA, THE PAINTED RAINBOW

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Young pair of Painted Rainbows, male on left

DESCRIPTION

Melanotaenia picta is a new rainbowfish from the Aru Islands in Indonesia. I purchased eggs when Gary Lange recently came and talked to GVAC. It was described in 2015, and before that was known as “Mel. goldei ARU 2”. It is a very attractive fish, and the word “picta” in latin means “beautiful” or “colorful”. The body has much deep and reflective blue with a broad, black horizontal band going from the nose into the tail. A yellow background and orange or red in the fins and tail add to its’ appeal. Its’ natural habitat has very clear, clean water with a limestone base and minimal plants, but numerous logs and wood. The environment is pristine with small rainforest brooks, indicating that frequent water changes are helpful. The Painted Rainbow is a fast-growing fish that can reach 5 inches, so a decent sized tank is necessary. They eat most all foods and are very active. Females are usually a little smaller, have shorter fins, and less color

BREEDING

They lay eggs in nylon mops, although they didn’t seem quite as prolific as some rainbowfish. I prefer to pick the eggs and hatch them separately in water treated with methylene blue and light aeration. At 80 degrees, the eggs hatch in 7 days and the fry need tiny foods like Golden Pearls (5-50 microns) to start. The young begin to color up at 6 weeks of age and can be fully colored at 16 weeks.