

CHARACODONS, SWAMAS PROGRAM,

Talk by Donald Brandt, September 2013



Male Black Prince Goodeid, *Characodon audax* (El Toboso)

3 SPECIES

Donald Brandt gave a very informative program on Characodons at the September 2013 SWMAS meeting. He has kept several varieties of them for the last 6 years and has learned much about their care. They need hard to very hard water and come from high elevation areas, requiring cooler temperatures (He keeps his at 65-72 degrees, and has had them down to 55 degrees with no ill effects). He advises to never keep them above 75 degrees. There are 3 described species in the genus: *C. lateralis* (Rainbow Goodeid), *C. audax* (El Toboso--Black Prince Goodeid), and *C. garmani*, which is believed to be extinct. These fish come from small bodies of water that are prone to pollution, so status of these fish ranges from "vulnerable" to "critically endangered". There are several different populations that are quite attractive in coloration, some being very beautiful with brilliant reds, yellows, and blues. The populations should be kept separate as they may later be classified differently or even found to be new species. These include *C. sp. Amado*, *C. sp. Abraham Gonzales*, *C. sp. 27 de noviembre*, *C. sp. Los Pinos*, *C. sp. Guadalupe Aguilera*, and *C. sp. Pino Suarez*.

HABITATS

The habitats these fish are often found in are rocky, slight or no current, shallow water, and vegetation where they like to hide. Some can be fairly aggressive, so plants and hiding places are important in the aquarium. They will eat flake foods, but some live foods and vegetable matter should be fed. *Daphnia* and crushed snails are special treats for them. Don likes to keep them in larger tanks, 15-20 gallons if possible, because they are sensitive to pollution and the more hiding places the better. Newborn fry will take flake food right away. They begin maturing around 4 months, but better fry production usually takes about a year. They may live to

be 5-7 years old. Some of the fry may be eaten by the parents, but the longer fry remain in the tank, the better their survival. Don advises not to ship males with females in the same bag. Many thanks to Donald Brandt for presenting this interesting and informative program at the SWAMAS meeting!

Chase Klinesteker