

DWARF NEON BLUE-EYED RAINBOWFISH

Pseudomugil cyanodorsalis

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Pair of Dwarf Neon Blue-eyed Rainbow over 5X magnification

A REAL DWARF

The Dwarf Neon Blue-eyed Rainbow, *Pseudomugil cyanodorsalis*, is also known as the Blueback Blue-eye. In **March of 2015, Gary Lange** talked about Rainbowfish at the **GVAC meeting**, and I **purchased 2 pair** of these fish from him. It is a **very attractive fish** with the male having brown leading edges on the elongated dorsal and anal fins and a **reflective neon blue** over much of his body. The female has shorter fins, little color, and a fuller belly. The fish I purchased were **only about ½ inch long**, but Gary insisted they were **breeding adults**. I had my reservations about such tiny fish, but he was correct and they were **laying eggs within 2 weeks!** Their **maximum size is slightly over one inch**. This is truly a **nano fish**, and I bred them in a **1 ½ gallon tank**.

DESCRIPTION

The Neon Blue-eye comes from northern **Australia** and southern **New Guinea coastal waters** that vary from **almost pure fresh to full saltwater**. A comfortable temperature range for them is **72 to 88 degrees**. **To breed** and keep them healthy, Gary recommends using **salt to achieve a salinity of 1.017**. This is equivalent to 2 cups of sea salt to 5 gallons of water. I used that at first and it works just fine to get them to breed. Later, I

cut the amount of salt in half (**to aprox. 3 Tablespoons of salt per gallon**) and still got good egg production, hatching, and growth of the fry. These fish are **sensitive to nitrates, waste, and acid conditions**, so **water changes are important**. They are **peaceful surface dwelling fish** and **good jumpers**, so **keep them covered**. They were fed **live baby brine shrimp and small amounts of finely ground flake food** at the surface, but they **will not eat off the bottom**, so regular siphoning is necessary.

BREEDING

The **aquarium setup** was simple: **cover, sponge filter, bare tank bottom, and 2 small mops** hanging from the side. At first I found few eggs in the mops, but when I siphoned off the waste **on the bottom**, I **found several eggs**. These are **very clear and difficult to see** and must be **candled to locate**. Later, I found more eggs in the mops along with those on the bottom. They are hard, **quite large**, and can be easily picked from a dark mop. The eggs were put in a pan with 1 drop of methylene blue and a slow bubbler. They **hatch in 2 weeks, can eat newly hatched brine shrimp right away, grow quickly, and are sexually mature in 3 months**. Considering their small size and number of eggs produced, the Dwarf Neon Blue-eye is **quite prolific!**