

GLASS BLOODFIN, *Prionobrama filigera*

By Chase Klinesteker SWAM, Nov./Dec. 1992



Female Glass Bloodfin

DESCRIPTION

The Glass Bloodfin (*Prionobrama filigera*) is a very attractive tetra that is seldom seen in stores. Although a fairly hardy fish, it has a delicate appearance. Its' body is much more translucent than the common Bloodfin (*Aphyocharax anisitsi*) and its tail has more red in it. The anal fin has a long anterior ray extension that is sickle shaped and colored white, which adds to its attractiveness. The body background with proper lighting is a delicately iridescent bluish to greenish. The Glass Bloodfin is a streamlined, schooling fish that loves moving water. Along with that, it is an excellent jumper, especially if not kept with more of their own kind. It is found in the Amazon River basin and reaches 2 ½ inches, larger than the common Bloodfin. Adult males have an extension on the anal fin with black edging the white, as well as a slimmer body profile. It is an active fish with a long life span that tolerates temperature extremes quite well. Plants at the surface and lots of swimming room keep this fish happy. They will eat some dry food but prefer live food and meaty foods to condition them for breeding.

BREEDING

For breeding, softer water is preferred but not necessary. They lay several hundred eggs in danio fashion on fine leaved plants near the surface. A good spawning temperature is about 80 degrees F. I fed the fry infusoria for about 2 days before they took newly hatched brine shrimp. The fry do not swim much and hang almost motionless, hiding in the plants. Light water movement is necessary to carry the brine shrimp to the fry. They were somewhat picky eaters for me and I found them difficult to raise until they reached about ¾ inch size. Water quality seems to be important in the early stages of rearing them.

The Glass Bloodfin will probably remain scarce unless the demand for them increases. I hope this happens as this is a very unique and peaceful fish for the aquarium. There is an excellent article and pictures of this fish in the February 1992 issue of Tropical Fish Hobbyist magazine.