

“PSEUDOMUGIL FISHES”, TALK BY GARY LANG

SWAMAS MEETING OCTOBER 2016, SWAM, May-June 2017



Pseudomugil fishes can be stunning! Photo by Charlie Grimes

Note: In going back over my “3x5 Computer” records over the years, I found in my notes many memorable programs given at SWAMAS and GVAC meetings which are worth sharing. In the future, I hope to place these notes on my upcoming website. Chase Klinesteker

DESCRIPTION

Gary Lang gave a very interesting talk about the Pseudomugil group of blue-eyed rainbowfishes. They are similar to killiefish in that they are mostly small beautiful fish, lay large eggs, and are mop spawners. They require clean water and thrive on water changes. Live foods are best for them, including baby brine shrimp, daphnia, grindle worms, and white worms. If black worms are fed, it is best to chop them up. They are endemic to Australia and New Guinea, and are from freshwater, but a few come from areas of salt or brackish water (e.g. *Ps. cyanodorsalis*). Cover them well, as they jump. They enjoy plants for cover, and 70-75 degrees is a good temperature to start. Clean water is more important than PH, and Gary recommends 50% water changes every week.

BREEDING

Despite their small size, they are usually quite prolific, laying eggs daily. Gary breeds them in pairs or trios in permanent setups with mops. Their lifespan may only be 1-2 years. He gets better egg production by increasing the protein in their food and picking eggs daily. He places them in hatching water with some

methylene blue, identifying and removing infertile eggs which turn dark blue. The eggs can take from 14-28 days to hatch and may need to be forced by sprinkling microworms over them. Do not use dechlor on the hatching water as it hardens the shell. Some newly hatched fry may need APR or infusoria as the first food, but most will take newly hatched brine shrimp right away. 74 to 80 degrees is a good temperature to raise them at.

STUNNING BEAUTY

The beauty of these small fishes can be stunning, and Gary showed pictures of many species to prove that point. Some of the more attractive species included: *Ps. gertrudae*, *Ps. furcatus*, *Ps. signifier*, *Ps. cyanodorsalis*, *Ps. mellis*, *Ps. paskai*, *Ps. luminatus*, and *Ps. tenellis*.