

TETRA FROM MANAU



“Tetra From Manau”, about 1 ½ inches

DESCRIPTION

6 “Tetra From Manau” were purchased at a rare fish auction of the November, 2017 GVAC meeting. The price was bid fairly high, as it looked like an interesting fish and I love tetras anyway. I was told that it was from Peru, an unknown genus, and undescribed, so that added to the mystery. When I got home, I looked it up on the Internet, expecting to find more. Not much information could be found. I did find a fish that was close, but with some differences. *Moenkhausia lineomaculata* is from Brazil and about the same size (2-3 inches), with a dark caudal peduncle spot, comparable finnage, yellowish cast, slim body, and large eyes like the “Tetra From Manau”. Yet spots are not present on the fish I have, and its’ body is very reflective and silvery. These fish are from a large group of closely related tetras that are similar, making identification quite difficult.

BEHAVIOR

This fish seems to be constantly moving and active, making it a challenge to take pictures or catch in a net. It is peaceful and a good candidate for a community tank and it likes to dart in and about plants and shady areas. They eat just about anything, and are extremely fast at darting to the surface for flake food and returning to the lower tank levels where they spend most of their time. “Tetra From Manau” did well in Grand Rapids tapwater at 75 degrees and I suspect it would be fine at several degrees above and below that.

BREEDING

Breeding is most interesting with this fish. I used a typical tetra setup with rainwater, peat moss box filter, large gravel to hide the eggs, and some plastic plants and mop for spawning. I decided to group spawn them, using all 6 fish. Females do not seem to fill up heavy with eggs like many tetras, but they are likely larger and deeper bodied than males. Low light conditions seem to help. When I first siphoned in the gravel for eggs, I got very few, but soon realized that they lay somewhat adhesive eggs, unusual for most tetras. Around 200 amber colored eggs were laid which hatched in 2 days.

RAISING FRY

The fry are extremely tiny, translucent, and slender. In another 4 days they begin to dart around some, but not what I would call free-swimming, as they hid and disappeared. As soon as they began swimming around, I transferred them to an established 20 gallon tank with some mulm, snails, and many hiding places. The transfer from rain to tapwater did not seem to bother them once the temperature was equalized. I fed them liquid fry food for about a week until they could take newly hatched brine shrimp. These fry stayed close to or in the bottom area of the tank for nearly a month before they ventured up in the water column. At first, the fry were so tiny, translucent, and hiding, that one might not realize that they were present unless bottom debris is siphoned and examined under backlight. That could be why some fish are deemed difficult to breed--because the fry can't be easily found!. Once on baby brine shrimp, growth is fairly rapid.

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