

Callochromis Macrops Red Ndole - Large Eyed Mouth Brooder, Red Ndole or Macrops Ndole

By Mike Dunagan

Callochromis Macrops Red Ndole or Large Eyed Mouth Brooder, Red Ndole or Macrops Ndole, is a maternal mouthbrooder native to the sandy areas near rocks in Lake Tanganyika, Africa. The climate is sub-tropical with temperatures in the mid 70's to 80's and native waters for this fish are pH of 8.6 to 9.5. I obtained three 3 inches long fish from MCA member Nugs. Males achieve a size of 5 inches and are silver with large eyes, flat stomach, and faint red across the body.



Female pictured above.

Females achieve a size of 4 inches and are silver with large eyes, and flat stomach.

The fish bred in a 55 gallon tank which contained pool filter sand. The tank was filtered by a sponge filter and had a pH of 8.6. I performed bi weekly water changes equal to 20% of the tank volume. I used fluorescent lighting for duration of 14 hours each day. I fed the fish NLS 1 mm.

When spawning, the red color of the male intensifies. Females stayed silver. The male courted both females with a small pit in the left center of the tank. The two females were on either end of the tank at the sponge filters on each side. The female from the left side of the tank entered the males pit and they began to breed. The other female did the same with the male, but did not hold more than two days.

The pair laid unknown number of eggs. After spawning, the female retreated to a hiding place to avoid harassment by the male. I let the female hold until full term and release the fry into the tank. The fish will not harm their own young. The female hid near the sponge filter until she spit. Approximately 9 eggs representing unknown of the total hatch were viable and hatched after 20 days. The fry were silver in color and about 3/8 of an inch long and looked very similar to their parents.

The fry didn't require any special care on my part. I left them in parent's tank. The tank used sponge filter for filtration. Once the female released the fry, she did not exhibit any tendency to care for the fry. I started the fry off on NLS growth formula. After three weeks I started feeding NLS 1mm. The fry grew slowly.

The parent fish are very scared. Any movement sends them all over the tank. It was a terrific surprise that they breed. The fry however will come to the front of the glass and your finger when you are near the tank. This was an exciting spawn. I had the fish for less than a month

before they decided to breed. I was concerned that they would never breed. The parents are so scared of other fish that I feared they would never hold. I was really happy that they breed! While breeding fish came quickly, I would recommend them to other keeps of Africans. They are beautiful, fish that can be high rewarding if they show color.

I am trying to breed this fish once more. I have done water changes without success. I am going to add a few places for the females to hide. I am also removing the current fry to help get the fish ready to spawn again.



Picture of fry at 3.5 months after spitting