

# 'Lamprologus' multifasciatus - Multies

## Breeder Report

by Mike Dunagan

'Lamprologus' multifasciatus or Multies, is a harem spawner and step breeders native to the sandy shoreline of 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 8.4. I obtained six 1/2 inch long fish from Jim Sizelove. Males achieve a size of 1.5 inches and are small gray fish with vertical bars. Females achieve a size of .75-1 inch and are small gray fish with vertical bars.



The fish bred in a 75 gallon tank which contained pool filter sand and was planted with fake plants. The tank was filtered by a Canister filter rate for 80 gallon tank and had a pH of 8.6. I performed weekly water changes equal to 40% of the tank volume. I used fluorescent lighting for duration of 12 hours each day. I fed the fish NLS 1mm cichlid formula.

The pair cleaned all the sand around a group of shells. Next, the female laid eggs in the shell and the male fertilized them.

The pair laid approximately unknown eggs. After spawning, the female and male guarded the shells. The female would often sit at the entrance. I left the pair and fry in the community tank. The pair was doing a good job of protecting the fry. I remove a pair of altolamprologus compressiceps shellie from the tank. Approximately unknown eggs of the total hatch were viable and hatched after 4-6 days. The fry were a gray in color and so small they were hard to see and looked very similar to their parents.

The fry didn't require any special care on my part. I left them in the tank with the parents. The parents stood guard over the fry until they were large enough to swim on their own. They would chase any other fish that came into their area. I started the fry off on crushed NLS pellets. After seven days I started feeding NLS growth. The fry grew slowly.

This fish is a great community shell. They are fun to watch constantly digging in the sand and stealing shells



and females from each other. This was my first shellie to breed. It was really exciting to finally get this group to spawn. They are some of the best community shellies. Once you get them to spawn it will be hard to stop. I have three groups in one tank with fry about the same age. The groups are growing fast! This is an easy fish to breed and I would recommend anyone who wants to try and breed shellies to give multies a try. Just be ready to give some away.