

## **Breeding Sciaenochromis Fryeri**

**aka: Hap Ahli**

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I believe this was one of those Africans I just had to have when I realized the beauty of this Malawi Hap. I realize this is quite a distributed species in the hobby but for me it is just one I have to hold on to regardless of how many new species are found. I currently keep my breeding pair in a 125 gallon filtered by UGF that is powered by a 1000 gallon an hour power head. The tank measures 72" x 18" x 24" with water parameters of 7.8 ph and a hardness of 483.3. The tank set up is a reflection of what you would see in books and magazines with jungle val protruding through the large softball sized rocks.



The male is so bright and beautiful he simply can't be missed and the comments I get about how beautiful he is are such as I'd like to have a tank but I don't know anything about saltwater and when I explain that he is a freshwater fish I get OH REALLY!! One of the downfalls this species has is that to the beginner that is looking for a pair of bright and colorful fish the female sometimes sways them to find another species that both the male and female

display bright and beautiful at all times. I would strongly recommend these fish to anyone that is looking for that wow is that fish ever beautiful regardless of the females duller appearance. As you can see though the female is still a beauty even without all the flashy blue.



When I obtained my Hap Ahli I purchased them quite small and at that time there was no way of knowing if I had males or females because at the juvenile stages these fish are all the dull grey color. Once they begin to grow and you begin seeing blue shining through you begin to get excited that you have atleast one male and in my case I ended up with 4 males and one female out of the original 5 I purchased. Then as they grew to about 3" I thought I had a pair because the male was completely blue and

then I began noticing a blueish tinge coming through on what is now confirmed to be a female. I will admit I was calling around trying to research a female until one day I was watching the tank and noticed the pair spawning right in front of me. Within a couple of weeks I had Fryeri fry. The fry were fed a mixture of crushed flake, crushed protein pellet. To this day the pair produces broods of fry ranging from 15 to 30 fry per month. One thing I have found with the female is beware when netting her as on a few occasions she has spit in the tank when going to catch her which I feel is a type of defense for her it is sad to see the beautiful little fry become feeders. So next time you go to your local fish store and you see these don't hesitate you won't be disappointed.