

## Breeding *Neolamprologus multifasciatus*

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This is part 2 of 3 of the three 'shell dwellers' species I recently started keeping. As with my previous article: Breeding *Neolamprologus brevis* the same applies with these *Neolamprologus multifasciatus* as successfully spawning was quite easy and capturing a good photograph was the tough part.

I have read that *Neolamprologus multifasciatus*, also commonly known as 'multies', are the smallest cichlid in the world. Males will reach 4 to 5 cm and the females will grow to 2 to 2.5 cm. These shell spawning Lake Tanganyika cichlids like a temperature of 25 C and prefer a pH of 7.8 to 9 with hard water. I use the

Kitchener / Waterloo water straight out of the tap and add salt at 1 tablespoon / five gallons of water. They are not fussy eaters but do need a high protein diet. I have fed mine a wide variety including flake, small pellets, and tubifex.

I purchased six young fish from a fellow club member and housed them in a 10-gallon tank, sand substrate, over sized sponge filter, some shells from a dollar store, and a few small clay pot caves. Sand as a substrate and shells for home and spawning is essential. They constantly excavate their landscape around their shells.



within the same community.

*N. multifasciatus* have a personality that just does not fit its size, small fish / big attitude. When they flare their fins it is as if the fins completely extend around their entire body... gorgeous!

As they reached maturity, I was soon rewarded with tiny babies. Fry were very difficult to spot, smaller than 3 mm, and blend in with the sand – a sure test of your eyesight. The parents do not provide any care for the babies and these fish startle easily and retreat to their shells. Capturing the fry, to grow out separately, proved to be near impossible. I gave up after several attempts and waited to see what would happen.

I have not fed the fry anything special and now have several generations successfully growing up

If you have not kept any 'shellie's' or want to try a different cichlid I recommend you try out the world's smallest cichlid *Neolamprologus multifasciatus*.

...Kevin