

Labidochromis caeruleus
Electric Yellow
By: Joe Huisman



The electric yellow *Labidochromis caeruleus* is a peaceful Lake Malawi cichlid. This species is found throughout most of the northern half of the lake. It likes deeper rocky regions of the lake. This fish is a mouthbrooder and will eat most flake foods. I feed my fish O.S.I. Vivid Color as a staple flake. I also use Bio-Blend cichlid small. The fish I bought at an ACA Convention in Cleveland, Ohio, at the auction that was held on Sunday. This auction was the largest auction I have ever seen. The auction started at 9:00 AM on Sunday and finished at 2:00 AM on Monday. It was unbelievable, to say the least. From 9:00 PM until the end fish were sold cheap, and at this time I bought my fish. I bought two bags. In each bag there were 10 fish. I paid \$10 for each bag. The fish came from a breeder out of the state of New York. I think I got a good deal.

When I got home I placed them in a 55-gallon tank. The fish are still in this tank, but I had to sell some of them because there were too many in there. I now have 12 fish in that tank, nine males and three females. Yes, there are too many males, so I will have to get rid of some of the males. The fish did spawn in this tank even with that many males. The fish were about 20 months old when I got my first spawn. The dominant male was about 2 ½" long and the female was about 2". These fish were fed flake food (O.S.I. Vivid Color). When the fish spawned, the male picked a spot over a flat rock. There he would sit and shake his body, trying to attract a female. When a female finally showed interest in what he was doing, the male started to chase the female until the female was over the rock. At that time he started to go in a circle over the rock. He then placed his pelvic fin on the rock to show the female where to place the egg. Once the female did this, the male followed the female right behind her tail, so both fish were tail-to-tail. When the female came back to where the egg was placed, she then picked up the egg in her mouth where she would brood the eggs. They did this for a couple of hours before they were done. When I saw that she was carrying eggs, I marked it down so I would know when to remove the fry from her. I waited 10 days and then stripped the fry by using a Q-tip swab to open her mouth, and dunked her in a bucket while her mouth was open. At this time the fry came out. There were nine fry in the first spawn. At the time I stripped the fry, they still had an egg sack, so I placed the fry in a small container with an airstone and let them in there for about 15 days. Once I saw the egg sack was gone, I started to feed the fry crushed flake food. They ate this right away. All nine fry made it to 60 days after eating or free-swimming.