

Neolamprologus leleupi "Lemon"



Neolamprologus leleupi is a small yellow cichlid that is endemic to Lake Tanganyika (Africa). Their main collection points in the lake are from Bulu Point, Tanzania and from Bemba, Zaire. The color range on the group that I've bred tends to be more yellow, but they are often found in the wild and in the hobby as a more orange color. When stressed, their colors shift to a flat brown color. For water specifics, they usually prefer pH between 7.8 and 9.0, high water hardness, and temps between 77 - 79° F.

While the Neolamprologus leleupi eat flake or pellet foods without issue in the hobby, they are a predator fish in the wild. They usually feed on aquatic insects, copepods, and other tiny aquatic organisms (zoobenthic).

When breeding, this species will form pairs. They will aggressively keep all other fish (both conspecifics and allospecifics) away from the chosen breeding area. Generally this species prefers to breed in caves, but they have been found to breed in shells as well. In my particular situation, I had this species in a community Tanganyikan tank (125 gallons). Within this community I also had some Altolamprologus Calvus "Inkfin" and a variety of different sized shells. I originally thought the Calvus had bred as I could see quite a few fry in a shell, but then I noticed the leleupi were guarding the shell. As it turns out, the leleupi had forced the calvus out of the shells and claimed the breeding spot as their own.

Either as a result of pairing off for breeding or just general temperament; I ended up removing the two leleupi pairs to another tank (40 gallon breeder). They had been harassing the other fish in the tank and became the dominant species despite other groups being larger in size. They were stressing out my Paracyprichromis nigripinnis, so they had to go. They bred for me 3x in the 125 gallon tank before being removed.

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