

Cichlasoma dimerius

By John Moyles

C. dimerius are a large cichlid from the Parana River basin. Even though they are large (8 inches in captivity) they are peaceful and show no signs of aggression even when spawning. I keep them with angelfish, tetras and cory cats with no problems although they would not tolerate anything getting near the nest.



They are a tan fish with green, blue and red highlights. Their scales are edged in black which gives them a distinguished look.

They do not mind cooler waters (73° - 80°F) and do quite well if kept outdoors during summer, even in Wisconsin.

They like a tank with lots of caves and plastic plants. They will destroy live plants as they eat them. I found them to be timid and they would hide when I would approach the tank. The only time I found them to be bold was when they were breeding. They would charge the glass when I would get close to the tank. That was the surefire way to know that they were on eggs.

They eat prepared foods, frozen, live blackworms and blanched vegetables. The young are tiny when born and are fed a mixture of golden pearls, decapsulated brineshrimp eggs, spirulina powder, microworms and powdered flake food.

Overall, these are an interesting, large fish that is sure to be a wonderful addition to a large community tank even if they don't have the demeanor to be a centerpiece fish.