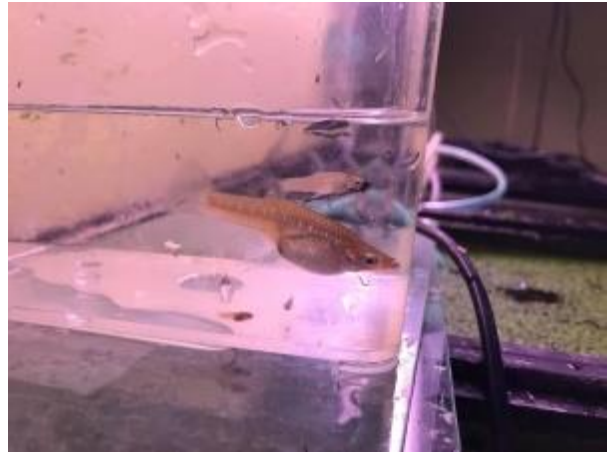


Metallic Livebearer *Giardinus metallicus*

By John Moyles

The metallic livebearer, *Giardinus metallicus*, is a small livebearer found in Costa Rica and on the island of Cuba. It lives in small ponds and streams and can tolerate brackish water environments.

It is aptly named the metallic livebearers as the scales on the fish are very shiny. Females are a silvery chrome colors and the males are much smaller and gold in color with a black chinstrap. It is very striking for its size and stands out from across the room in a nicely planted tank. Males differ from females, not only in size and color but because they have a pronounced gonopodium.



These fish do well in smaller tanks. In a densely planted 5.5 gallon my colony is thriving. The temperature is around 78° F and they are fed a mixture of live, frozen and prepared foods. Breeding is easy as the babies are born large enough to fend for themselves and I do not seem to have a problem with the adults eating them.

All in all the metallic livebearer is a delightful little fish and every aquarist should try some.