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## Neolamprologus Longior.



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Neolamprologus Longior (Staeck 1980)

by J McCann.

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### Distribution

At Kibwe bay and Cape Kabogo on the Tanzanian coast and around Cape Tempwe off the Zaire shore.

### Maintenance

These are the Tank details and conditions that I have used to keep and breed Neolamprologus Longior 24-48" tank, 24" is ideal for a single pair, larger if more than one species is kept in tanks.

Undergravel filter with ordinary gravel covered with a gravel tidy topped of with a layer of Coral sand.

Rock work does not need to be extensive just a few low caves as they tend to dig under the rockwork preferring to form there own caves, I have also had pairs breed in sea-shells and flowerpots so an assortment can be put in the tank and the pair will choose there own breeding site.

pH 8, normally coral sand will help keep pH up around this mark.

Temp 78-79o.

Nitrate less than 25ppm, the lower the better.

Water changes of 10% per week if stock is small, if stock increases monitor water conditions and change as necessary

### Breeding

Pair Forming-First job is to get a pair, there is not a great deal of difference between the sexes, females remain smaller is about it. If fish are adult size a check of genital papillae (a magnifying glass comes in handy) can be a way of telling, but not always will a male accept a female that is chosen for them. I find the best way to get a pair is to have a small group and let them form there own pair

**IMPORTANT:** excess males must be removed from tank or dominant male Will kill them, these are nearly always the fish who spend all there time in the upper part of the water behind heaters, spray bars, Under-gravel uplifts, etc.

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If the tank is big enough 2 pairs may form, or the male may have more than one female in the tank and spend his time between the females, I have had a trio of Lamprologini species on quite a few occasions and had 1 male and 4 female Julie group also so even if the books say they live in pairs any thing is possible.

Breeding-Once you have pair/group the hard bit is done, so long as water conditions are correct and the fish are old enough (9 months-1 year) the fish should breed, a sign that fry are on the way is the disappearance of the female for a few days and the male near his cave entrance(although this was my first Tanganyikan success years ago I have never actually seen this species go through the spawning ritual so can't give any clues for the lead up to breeding)

Once the fry appear (anything from 10 to 200) they can be fed brine shrimp nauplii(B.S) which gives them the best start(article on hatching B.S to follow) then progress to crushed flake and whatever you feed the adults. If you are caught with fry and no B.S don't panic in most tanks the fry will find quite a bit to eat i.e Algae, minute amounts of flake and you can feed crushed flake (one person I know can't hatch B.S and feeds only crushed flake to all his species fry with no ill effects).

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