

Reproduction

The reproduction of any pirambeba is virtually unheard of in the aquarium. There are exceptions, of course, and most of the successful spawnings are from two species, *Serrasalmus spilopleura* and *S. maculatus*. Several hobbyists who have maintained *S. geryi* for several years claim to have witnessed spawning activity, but to date no one has reported any eggs, let alone fry, in their care.

One experience in particular stands out among the others regarding a hobbyist's experience. Robert Hare (aka HareBall) of Predatoryfish.net has maintained a group of six adult *S. geryi* for several years. His specimens range in size from 6 to over 9 inches TL and were maintained in a 125-gallon aquarium. The aquarium received regular partial water changes measuring about 25 to 30 gallons each, and they were performed weekly (usually on Saturday mornings while

CAUTION:

All fishes of the genus *Serrasalmus* are considered to be potentially dangerous and capable of inflicting serious injury to humans with their razor sharp teeth. This happens due to carelessness and most often occurs when the fish is out of the water (usually flopping around on the floor). Always use extreme caution when handling these fishes. Never purposely place your fingers or any other body part between the jaws of any piranha, live or dead—or of any other fish that has the ability to inflict serious wounds.

he listened to his favorite bluegrass country music station).

Bob reported to me that several of his *S. geryi* paired off at various times and “blew” nests into the substrate. The pairs would then guard the area and become very aggressive towards

fellow tankmates (all of which were other *S. geryi*). We refer to piranha nest-building habits as “blowing” because of their practice of blowing water through their mouths in such a fashion as to force the substrate to be moved. Sadly, no eggs were ever laid to his knowledge.

Bob's group of *S. geryi* was often very social when not in breeding condition, and he observed quite a bit of interaction. His observations are some of the only known records of this species' habits as a group for various reasons, but mainly due to the high price they command. Putting together a group of six or seven of these fish can often cost close to \$1000, and often much more—and that's just for the fish.

A Great Fish

In the end, *S. geryi* is an awesome fish to keep should your time, energy, and, of course, wallet allow it. There is so much more to say about this beautiful species of pirambeba but sadly no more room to fit it all into this month's installment. Remember that this article is only to act as an introduction to these fishes. For more information, it is strongly suggested that you visit the websites below. These will allow you to interact with people like Bob and Frank who are highly experienced in the realm of piranha keeping, and it's certainly recommended that you be sure to visit OPEFE via www.piranha-fury.com.

Resources

www.piranha-fury.com

www.predatoryfish.net

www.tropicalresources.net



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