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F.B.A.S.

CULTIVATED TROPICAL FISH NATIONAL STANDARDS

Book. No. 1.

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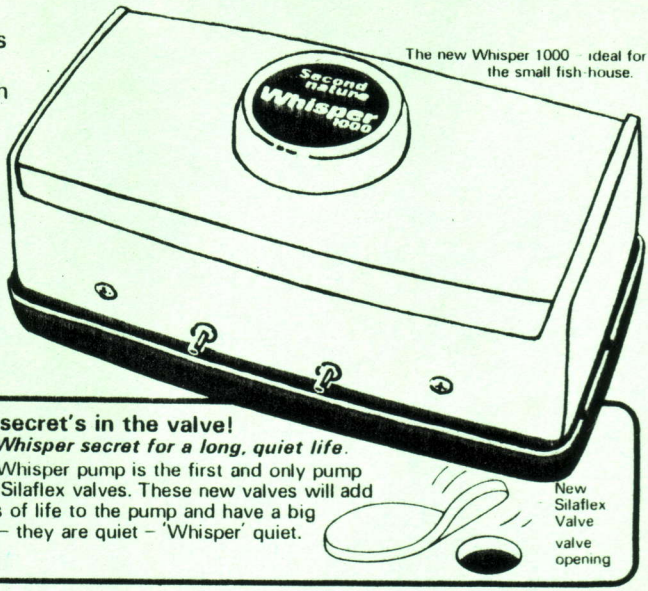

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CULTIVATED TROPICAL FISH NATIONAL STANDARDS

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FOREWORD

The gestation period of most livebearing fishes in this book is around 28 days. That of the asiatic elephant averages 609 days.

This book has taken well over 2 years of hard work by many interested people before its final birth.

The complete revision and updating of the standards is of necessity a slow and painstaking business. Checking and rechecking drawings and descriptions has ensured a high degree of accuracy.

This is the first time that standards for guppies have been included and we are indebted to the Fancy Guppy Association for allowing us to use their outline drawings.

The Judges & Standards Committee wish to acknowledge the help given by B. Risbridger, D. Renton, The Newcastle Guppy & Livebearer Society, A. Blake, D. Hickman, R. Calrow and A. Smith in the preparation of this booklet.

Judges & Standards Committee:

P.W. Cottle, Chairman
Mrs S.M. Brown, Secretary
C.A.T. Brown
J.A. Carney
D.C.M. Durrant
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R. Paine

CONTENTS

Foreword

The Genus Pterophyllum Da1
Standard Angel Da2–3
Veiltail Angel Da4–5

The Genus Betta Ea1–2
Betta Splendens Ea3
Labyrinth Organ Ea4

Poecilia reticulata O1
Basic Body Colours O1–2
Males O3–8
Females P1–4

The Genus Xiphophorus Q1
Standard Swordtail Q2
Hi-Fin Swordtail Q3
Simpson Swordtail Q4
Sickle Swordtail Q5
Standard Helleri Colours Q6–8
Standard Maculatus Platy R1
Hi-Fin Maculatus Platy R2
Pin-Tail Maculatus Platy R3
Standard Maculatus Colours R4–7
Standard Variatus Platy R8
Hi-Fin Variatus Platy R9
Standard Variatus Colours R10–12

The Genus Poecilia S1
Poecilia Mexicana S2
Poecilia Mexicana Liberty S3
Poecilia Mexicana Lyretail S4
Mexicana x Latipinna Black/Speckled S5
Poecilia Velifera S6–7
Poecilia Latipinna S8–9

THE GENUS PTEROPHYLLUM

To date there are four members of the genus known to the aquarist: *Pterophyllum altum, P. dumerilii, P. eimeki* and *P. scalare.* These fishes (members of the family Cichlidae) in the wild state originate from tropical South America.

The question as to whether they are really species or sub-species has yet to be resolved. The fact that crosses give fertile offspring suggests that they are sub-species. A final deicision, however, can only be arrived at by more intensive investigation in the field.

Almost all of the specimens available at the present time are products of crosses between *P. eimeki* and *P. scalare* and usually resemble one or other of the species.

Suprisingly it is evidently much easier to interbreed the hybrids than it is to backcross a hybrid with a pure form, or to breed from wild fishes.

Bearing in mind the fact that most *Pterophyllum* bred and sold commercially at the present time are hybrids, the Judges & Standards Committee has arrived at what they feel is the desirable shape and finnage for these fishes.

On the following pages we present a standard for this fish which we have termed *Pterophyllum Species*, with a further standard for the Veiltail Angel.

Where non-standard fishes are exhibited in the same class as standard fishes, due consideration must be given by the judges that the non-standard types do not gain an unfair advantage over those entries that are representative of the standard.

PTEROPHYLLUM SPECIES – STANDARD VARIETY

Characteristics: Body disc-like, strongly compressed. The dorsal and anal fins are approximately equal in length, the dorsal being rounded at the tip, while the anal terminates in a point. Both fins to be longer than the body depth. The pelvic fins are produced to form filaments, these should be of equal length, shape and form. Split, bent or damaged filaments are a fault and will be downpointed. Caudal fin to be carried extended, the outer rays being produced to form filaments. These should be of the same length and foreshortened or damaged filaments are considered a fault and will be downpointed.

Both the male and female have the body and finnage shaped as illustrated. Sexing is difficult. However, a reliable method is the ovipositor. When a fish is in breeding condition this becomes visible and is thicker and longer in the case of the female than the male.

Standard colour: Silvery grey overlaid with four black bars, the foremost bar passing through the eye; the second crosses the body; while the third crosses the body and continues into the dorsal and anal fins, terminating at the tips; the fourth bar is situated at the base of the caudal peduncle, anal, dorsal and caudal fins with indistinct black bars, pectoral fins clear, pelvic fins to be matched and identical in colour.

A number of colour varieties have been developed, among them being the following:

Black: where the body and fins are completely black with silvering.

Marbled: where the body and fins are marbled with a pleasing pattern of black and silver. The pelvic filaments to be marbled and matched one to the other, filaments of a single colour will be considered a fault and will be downpointed.

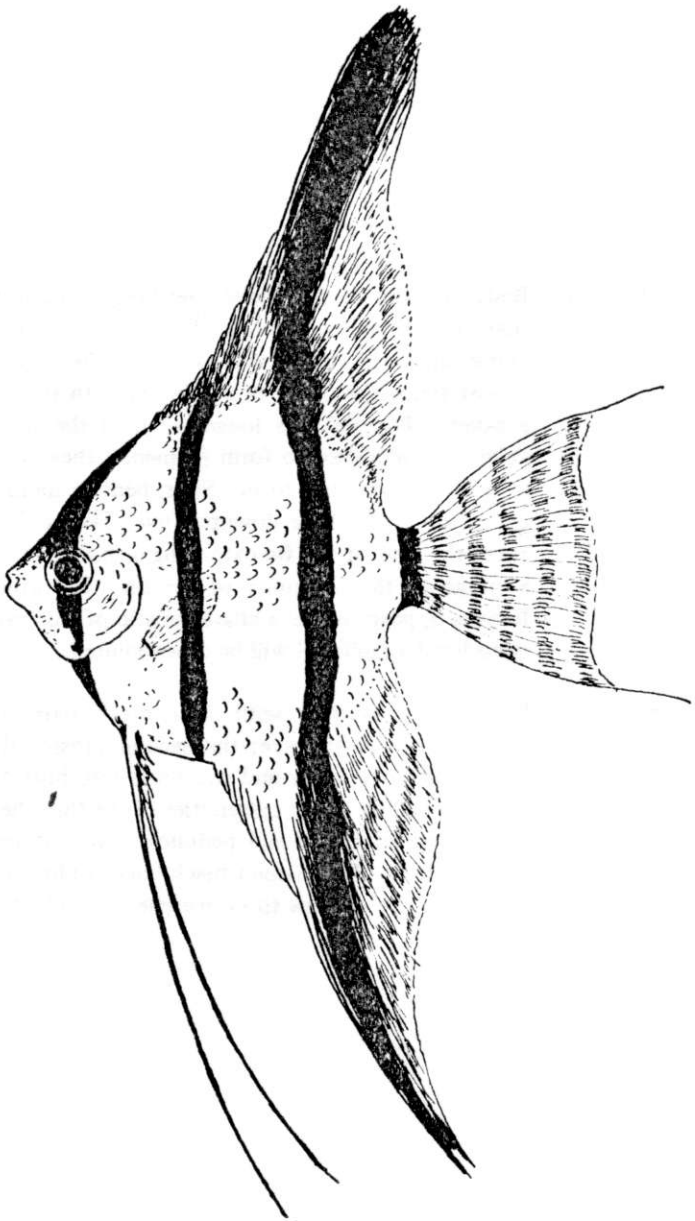
Blushing: where the body is without colour, the blushing aspect being achieved because the blood contained in the gills shows through the operculum, which is transparent.

Blue: where the basic silver-grey body colour is replaced by steel blue.

Golden: where the basic silver-grey body colour is replaced by pale yellow.

Lace: where the colour is darker than the standard colour, the fins having a black lace pattern.

It is apparent that further colour varieties may appear as well as fishes with various finnage configerations.

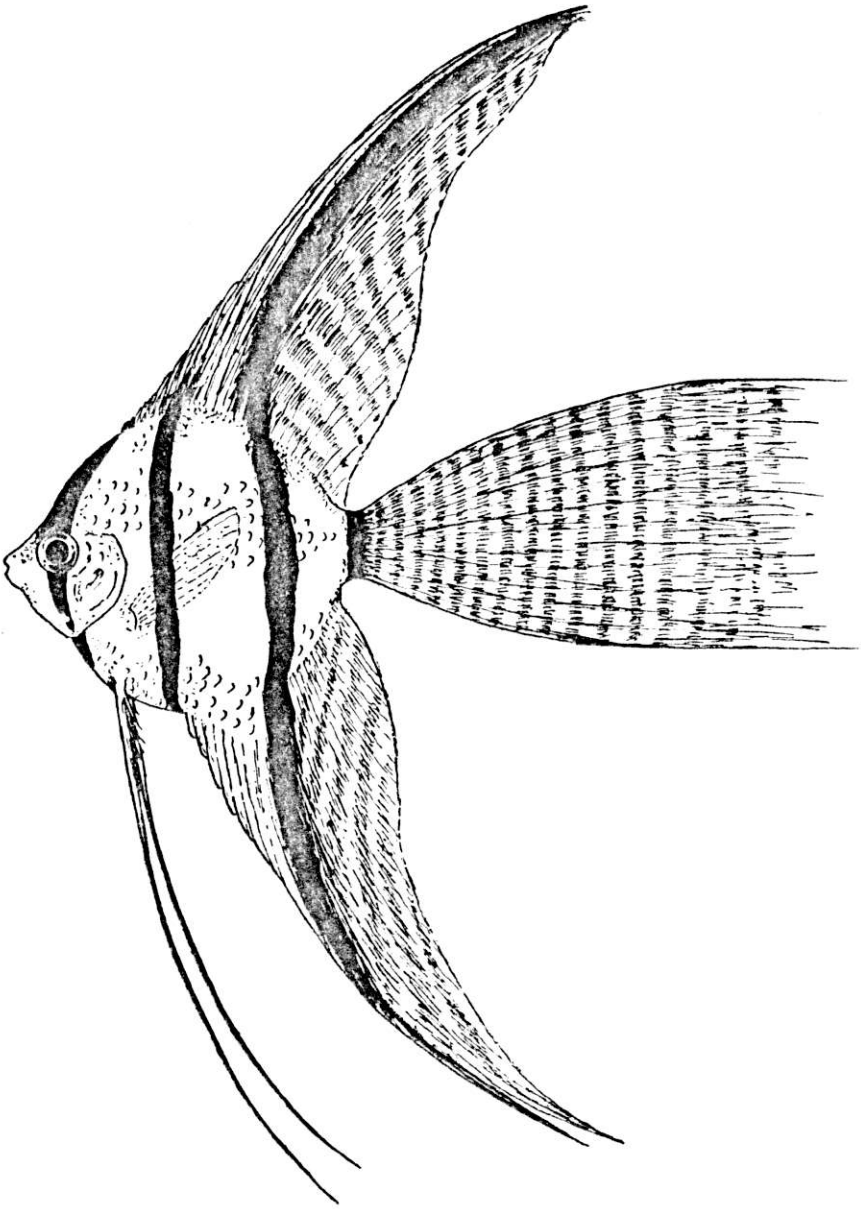


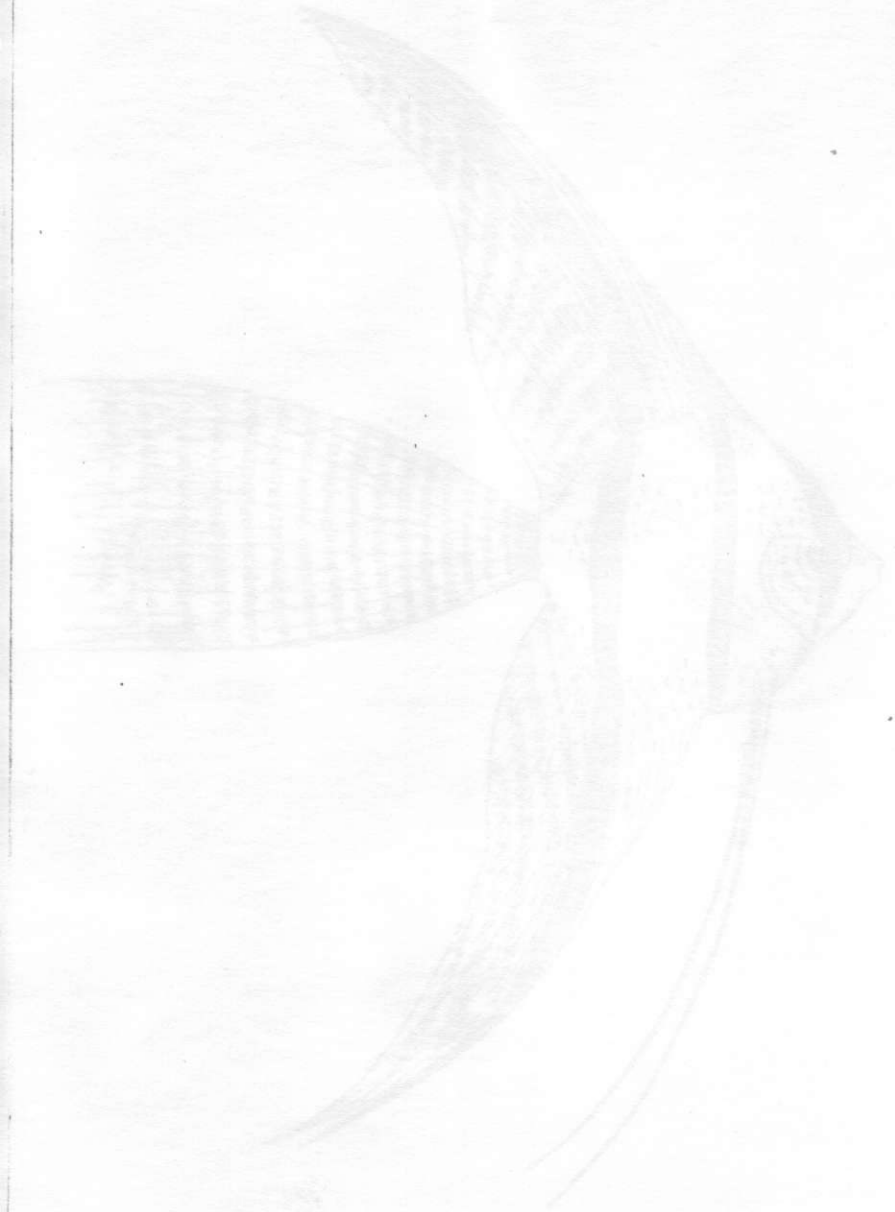
F.B.A.S. FISH STANDARD

PTEROPHYLLUM SPECIES – VEILTAIL VARIETY

Characteristics: Body and fins as illustrated, the body tending to be smaller than the Standard Pterophyllum, but identical in shape. Dorsal and anal fins of approximately the same length, being almost twice the depth of the body; both fins terminating in a point. Pectoral fins longer than in the standard variety. Pelvic fins modified to form filaments: these should be equal in length, shape and form. Split, bent or damaged filaments are a fault and will be downpointed. The caudal fin is lengthened, the rays of the fin extending into filaments, which form a fringe to the extremity of the fin. Unfortunately frayed finnage appears to be a characteristic of this variety. This is considered a fault and will be downpointed.

Colour: Silvery-grey overlaid with four black bars, the foremost passing through the eye; the second crosses the body; the third crosses the body and continues into both the dorsal and anal fins ending in the extremities of the fins; the fourth bar is at the base of the caudal peduncle. Anal, dorsal and caudal fins crossed with indistinct black bars as illustrated. Pectoral fins clear; Pelvic fins to be matched and identical in colour.





THE GENUS BETTA

These fish, members of the Anabantidae Family are in the wild state distributed throughout Asia. The members of the genus known to aquarists at the present time are *Betta brederi, B. embellis, B. fasciata, B. picta, B. pictum, B. pugnax, B. splendens, B. smaragdina* and *B. taeniata.* The best known member of the genus is *B. splendens*, which has been known and bred by aquarists for many years, and is still regarded as one of the essential species for the beginner.

The other species contained within the genus, being not so well known as *B. splendens* and only being seen infrequently on the show bench, have yet to reach the popularity that has been achieved by the *B. splendens.* The males of *B. splendens* are extremely pugnacious towards one another, seldom attacking females except at breeding time when they can be somewhat boistrous during courtship.

The popular name for this particular fish is "The Siamese Fighter", so called because the inhabitants of Siam (now Thailand) used the natural aggressive instincts of the males to arrange contests, during which bets were struck as to who the winner (survivor) would be.

To understand the method of fighting of these fishes it is necessary to appreciate the manner in which the anabantids or labyrinth fishes as they are sometimes called, breathe. Unlike the majority of our fishes who obtain oxygen from the water by passing it over their gill rackers, whereby the oxygen is extracted from the water, the labyrinths obtain a minute amount of oxygen in this manner, but the greater percentage of their oxygen is obtained with the help of "the Labyrinth" – an accessory organ which permits them to take oxygen from the atmosphere, the air being taken into the mouth at the surface of the water and forced through the labyrinth where an oxygen exchange takes place. The labyrinth is not present in newly born fry, only developing some weeks after hatching.

Like other groups of fishes which have evolved various air breathing organs, the purpose of the evolvement is to enable these fishes to live in waters that are badly polluted which would prohibit the fish from living in that particular environment.

Thus we come back to the fighting aspect of *B. splendens.* The males have well developed dorsal, caudal and anal fins, which are used to envelope the opponent, prevent him from reaching the surface of the water to obtain atmospheric air, virtually the fish able to refrain from obtaining air from the surface is the winner, the loser suffocating from lack of oxygen.

Surprisingly the fins are used not only as a means of taking life but of also giving it. Most of the Bettas build a bubble nest at the surface of the water. This is built by the male, and consists of a nest of air bubbles, each bubble being enclosed by a hardened secretion from the male's mouth. It is into this nest that the eggs are laid. The eggs are obtained by the male enveloping a ripe

female with his anal fin, compressing the female and forcing the eggs from her vent, the male fertilising the eggs at the same time as they are expelled. The eggs are then collected by the male in his mouth, and are then placed in the bubble nest.

Two members of the genus who do not conform to the accepted breeding pattern are *B. brederi* and *B. pugnax*, who somewhat surprisingly are mouth-brooders.

Finally to sum up, *B. splendens* is a fish that is easy to keep and spawn, but it must always be kept in mind that one male per tank must be the rule otherwise loss of fish will result.

Characteristics: A fish noted for the pugnacity of the males towards each other.

Male: Body shaped as illustrated, its greatest depth to be at least one-third body length. Fins as illustrated. Dorsal and caudal fins to be at least two-thirds body length. Length of anal fin to be the same as length of body. Pectoral fins rounded, pelvic fins slim and pointed.

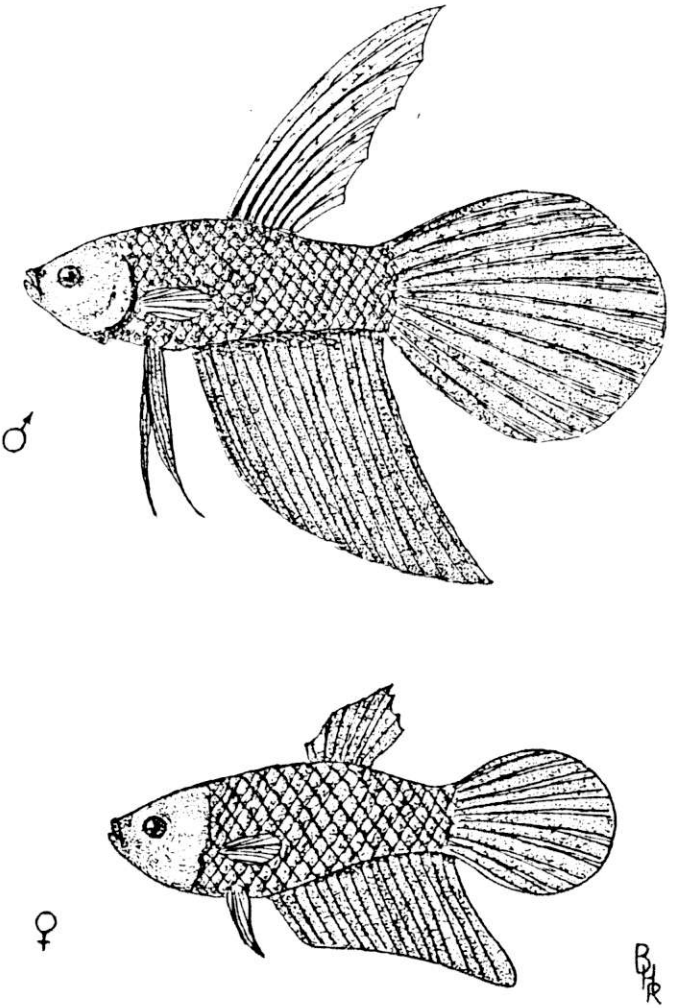
Female: Body shaped as illustrated, its greatest depth to be more than one-third body length. Fins as illustrated, being virtually smaller versions of the male's.

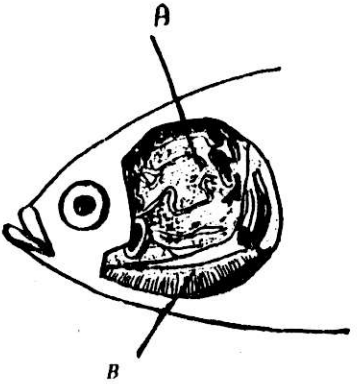
Remarks: The required colours are red, blue, green, black, yellow, cream and gold. Such fish to be self-coloured, i.e. body, fins and mask all of the same colour.

The 'Cambodian' variety has a cream body and mask with red fins.

Multi-coloured fish, apart from the 'Cambodian' variety, are undesirable and will be down-pointed for colour. The behaviour of the males should be aggressive, this being expressed by the spreading of the fins and the extension of the mask.

BETTA SPLENDENS. Regan.





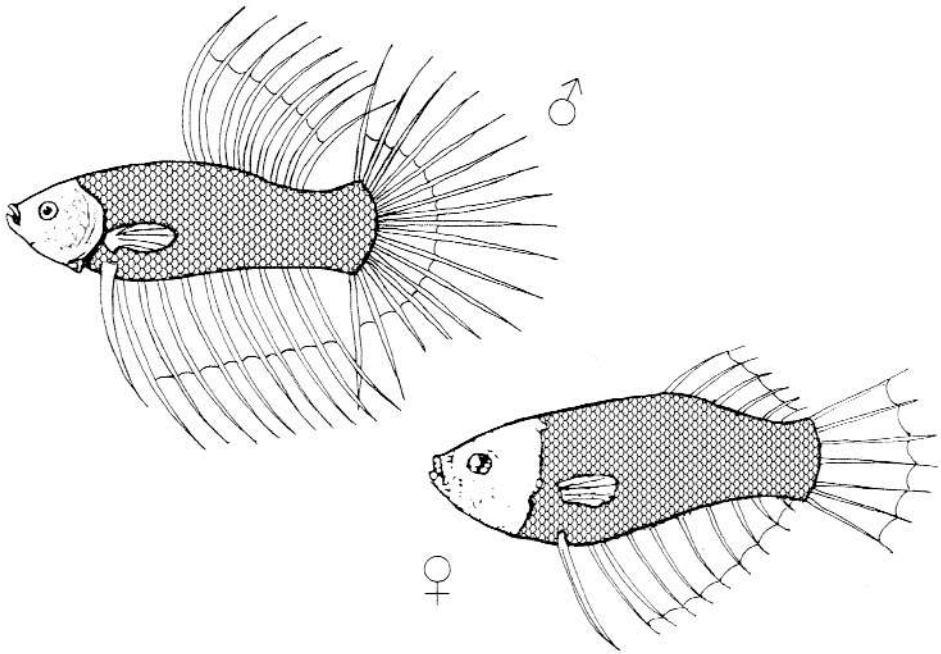
On removing the operculum and removing the gills and gill arches of a labyrinth fish, one would see the Labyrinth. This is an auxillary breathing organ that enables these fishes to survive in waters with very low oxygen contents; as they are able to take in oxygen from the air at the water's surface.

A – The labyrinth

B – A gill arch

BETTA SPLENDENS. Regan.

Crown Variety

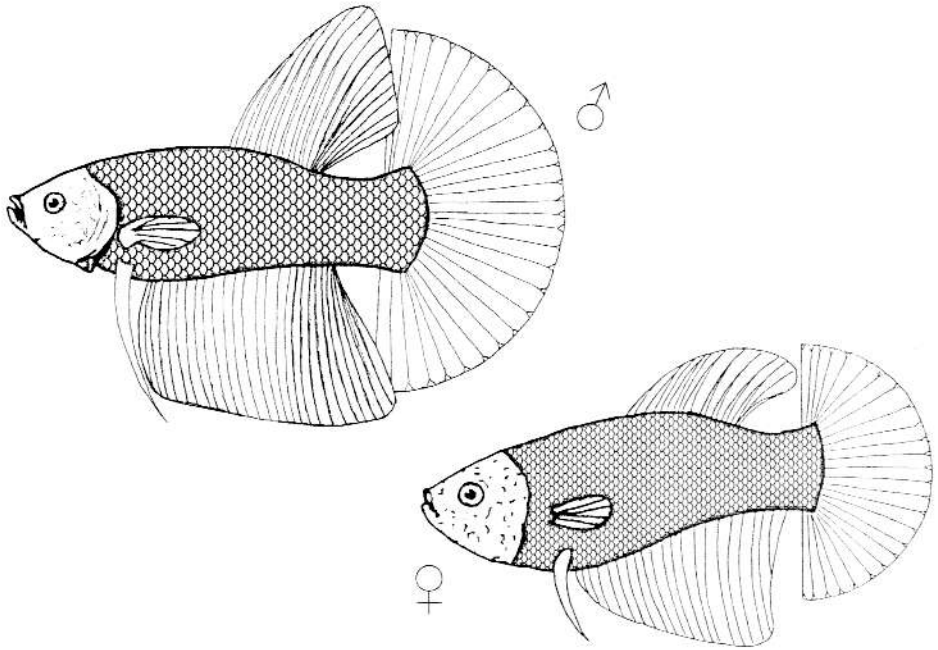


MALE: The caudal fin rays to extend to a minimum of 1¼ times the length of the length of the fin membrane. Dorsal and anal fin rays to extend a maximum of the same length of their fin membrane. The perimeter of the rays of the dorsal and anal fins to form a pleasing curve. The perimeter of the rays of the caudal fin to form a semi-circle. All fins to be carried erect. Caudal peduncle to be capable of carrying the caudal fin.

FEMALE: The caudal fin to be smaller than that of the male, forming more like a delta shape. Dorsal, anal and ventral fins are also shorter. Fin membrane to cover a minimum of three quarters the length of the fins. Caudal peduncle to be narrower than the male. All fins to be carried erect.

BETTA SPLENDENS. Regan.

Half Moon Variety

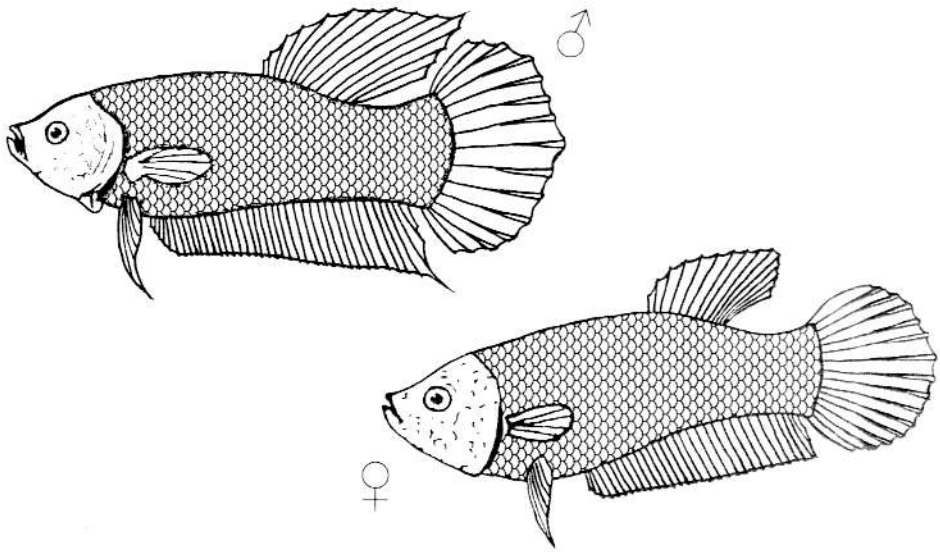


MALE: The caudal fin to form a semi-circle with the diameter edge to be as straight as possible. Upper and lower diameter edges to be in line with each other. Caudal diameter to be less than the extremities of the top of the dorsal fin and the bottom of the anal fin. Fin rays of the caudal must not protrude beyond the perimeter edge of the fin. Dorsal and anal fins to be as the guide drawing. All fins to be carried erect. Caudal peduncle to be capable of carrying the caudal fin.

FEMALE: As the male except that the caudal fin diameter to be less than three times the depth of the caudal peduncle. Dorsal, anal and ventral fins to be smaller than those of the male and as per the guide drawing. Caudal peduncle to be narrower than that of the male. All fins to be carried erect.

BETTA SPLENDENS. Regan.

Plakat Variety



MALE: This is a relatively short-finned variety which is somewhat closer to the wild form of *Betta splendens*. The fish should generally present a robust appearance. The vertical height of the dorsal to be no greater than the height of the deepest part of the body. The caudal to be wider from top to bottom than its length and should be 'spade' shaped. The leading edges of the caudal should form an angle of less than 180 degrees. Care should be taken to downpoint exhibits that display traits of the Half Moon variety in their finnage. The dorsal and anal fins to extend above and below the caudal fin respectively and to culminate in a discernable point. The rays of the fins extend slightly from the fin membrane to give the edge of the fins a 'wavy' appearance. All fins should be carried erect.

FEMALE: The finnage is generally similar to that of the male but should be somewhat shorter and the terminal points of the dorsal and anal fins are less pronounced. The caudal is more rounded (less discernably 'spade' shaped). The dorsal should not be as high as the body is deep. All fins should be carried erect.

POECILIA RETICULATA. Peters.

For the first time ever the Federation is able to incorporate the Guppys into this booklet, Cultivated Tropical Show Standards. This has been made possible by the co-operation of the Fancy Guppy Association, in that they granted permission to the Federation to use their Standard Outlines. In expressing our gratitude we also acknowledge their work and expertise in this their chosen field.

We have taken the standard outlines and filled them in, and by doing so we hope, brought them to life. For while it may be true that the Guppy Enthusiast may only require a basic standard outline as a guide to which he will try and breed his fish, we feel that the general fishkeeper, not being an expert, requires a standard that represents the fish in a more lifelike way to enable him to assess his fish against the standard with any degree of accuracy.

We would stress that none of the standard outlines have been altered or modified in any way from the originals, the general descriptions of the fishes are freely based on those issued by the Fancy Guppy Association, as are those for the recognised colours.

Finally the Federation would draw to show organisers' attention the Show Class Lettering System in which guppys have been allotted basic class letters, 'O' for males and 'P' for females. Within these basic classes every variety has been given a subdivision letter which allows the variety to be shown only competing against its own type. We all agree this is the ideal way for guppys to be shown, for in keeping with other man-made fishes the guppy is at a disadvantage when shown in classes with natural fish.

BASIC BODY COLOURS

GREY

Female with olive-grey body and dark-edged scales. Fins clear or any colour. Male has body basically the same colour as the female with varied overlay of other colours, fins any colour.

GOLD (= BLOND = CREAM)
Eye black seen from any angle. Female with buttercup-yellow body (B.S. Colour Code 53 is the ideal) and no black markings on body except in half-blacks and three-quarter blacks. Fins clear or any colour. Male has body basically the same colour as the female with varied overlay of other colours. Fins any colour.

GOLD-LACED
Female with old gold body and all scales edged with black. Fins clear or any colour. Male has body basically the same colour as the female with varied overlay of other colours. Fins any colour.

ALBINO
Eyes must appear pink or red seen from any angle. Female with light yellow body, fins clear or any colour. Male has body basically the same colour as the female with varied overlay of other colours.

BLUE
There is a basic body colour Blue in which there is very reduced red and yellow pigmentation. It is very rare in this country and will normally be judged as Grey.

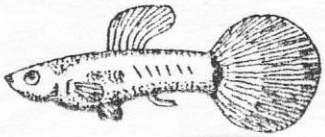
WHITE
This is the combination Blue + Gold. These fish have black eyes and white bodies with no strong red or yellow colours. They will be judged as Gold.

Assessing Basic Body Colours

Basic body colours are defined initially with respect to females (or fry). In highly coloured males it may be necessary to look at the top of the head to see exactly what basic body colour the fish is.

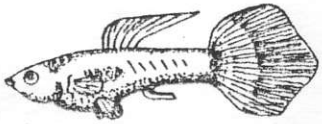
Half-black and three-quarter black are defined as secondary body colours and can occur on any basic body colour, though they may be faint on Gold and virtually undetectable on Albino. Half-black: black pigmentation from caudal base to half-way along the body. Three-quarter black: black pigmentation from caudal base to the joints of the pectoral fins. Fins may be any colour in either case.

MALE GUPPIES



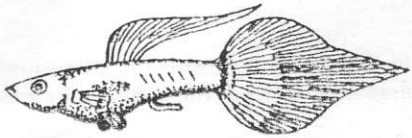
ROUNDTAIL

A completely rounded caudal fin, just under half the body length. A broad based dorsal fin, short and slightly rounded.



COFERTAIL

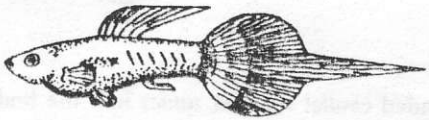
Caudal fin in the shape of a cofer shovel. Short slim pointed dorsal fin.



SPEARTAIL

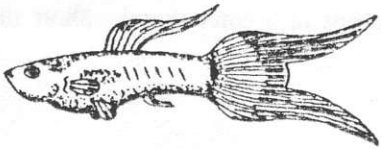
Spear shaped caudal fin, tapering to a point. Long narrow dorsal fin tapering to a point, slightly upturned at the end.

MALE GUPPIES



PINTAIL

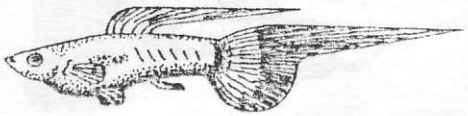
Rounded caudal fin the centre three rays forming a pointed extension. Short pointed dorsal fin.



LYRETAIL

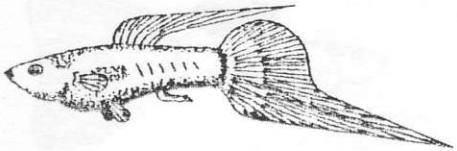
Caudal fin similar in shape to a lyre with the extensions curved and pointed as shown in the drawing. Dorsal fin pointed, its posterior point curved.

MALE GUPPIES



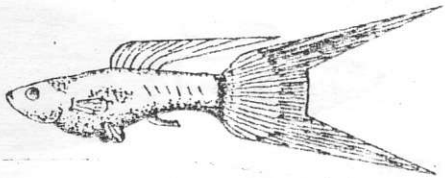
TOPSWORD

Sword extension from the top of a round caudal fin, tapering to a point. Long and pointed dorsal fin, extending beyond caudal peduncle.



BOTTOMSWORD

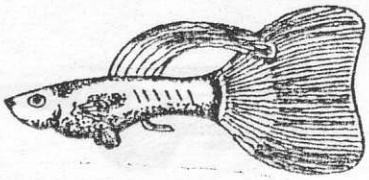
Sword extension from the bottom of a round caudal fin, tapering to a point. Long pointed dorsal fin, extending beyond caudal peduncle.



DOUBLESWORD

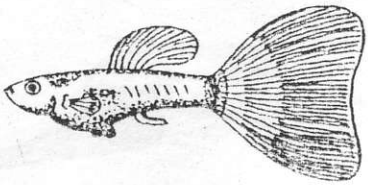
Caudal fin round with the upper and lower rays forming extensions at an angle, as shown in the drawing. Long pointed dorsal fin, extending beyond caudal peduncle.

MALE GUPPIES



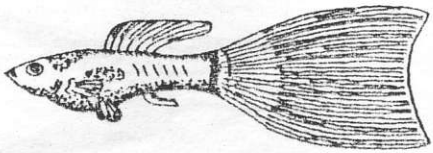
LONG DORSAL VEILTAIL

Caudal fin wide, held well spread, shape as illustrated. Dorsal fin long and rounded at tip, extending beyond the caudal peduncle.



SHORT DORSAL VEILTAIL

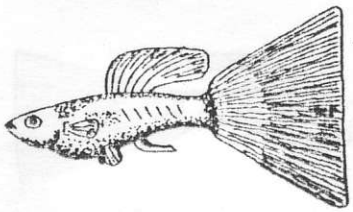
Caudal fin is the same shape as for the Long Dorsal Veiltail. Dorsal fin short and rounded.



ORIGINAL VEILTAIL

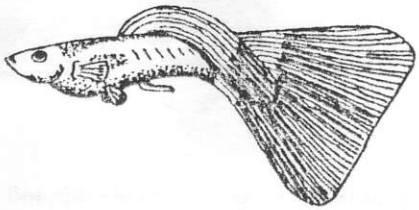
Caudal fin longer and less rounded at the extremities than with the Long Dorsal Veiltail. The dorsal fin short and shaped as illustrated.

MALE GUPPIES



DELTATAIL

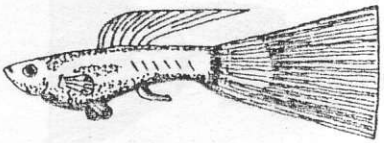
Caudal fin shaped as an equilateral triangle, corners may be slightly rounded. Dorsal fin rounded, extending to the caudal peduncle.



FANTAIL

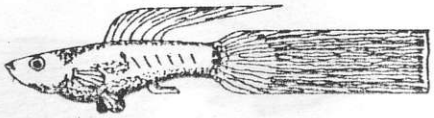
Caudal fin approximately equal to the body length, triangular in shape, well rounded at the extremities, margins straight. (It is permissible for this fish to carry its caudal fin at an angle to the body. Unlike all the other varieties, of which both the males and females should carry their caudal fins straight to the rear, as an extension of the body.) Dorsal fin long and rounded extending well beyond the caudal peduncle.

MALE GUPPIES



DOVETAIL

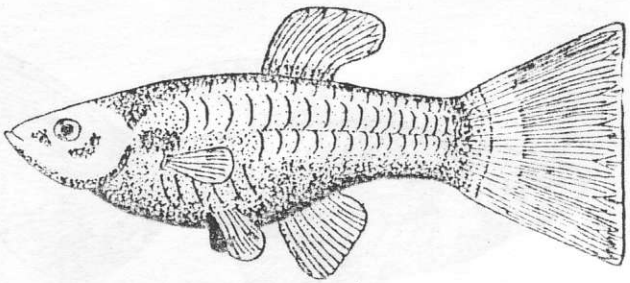
Caudal fin long and gradually widening with straight margins, nearly equal in length to that of the body. Dorsal fin to be pointed, extending beyond the caudal peduncle.



SCARFTAIL

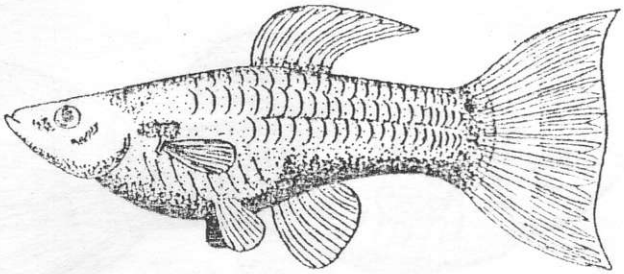
Length of the caudal fin to be approximately one and a half times the length of the fin, which should be straight. Dorsal fin to be pointed, extending beyond caudal peduncle.

FEMALE GUPPIES



WEDGETAIL

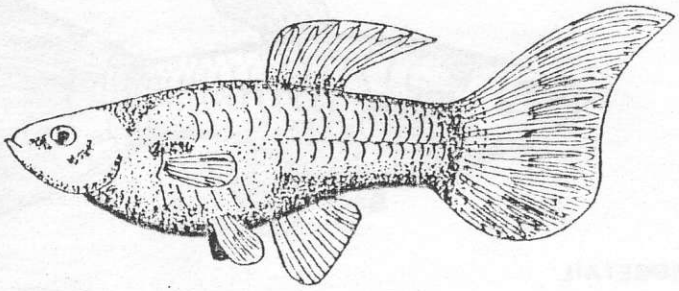
The caudal fin to form an equilateral triangle, the corners of which may be slightly rounded. Dorsal fin very short and rounded.



SCALLOPTAIL

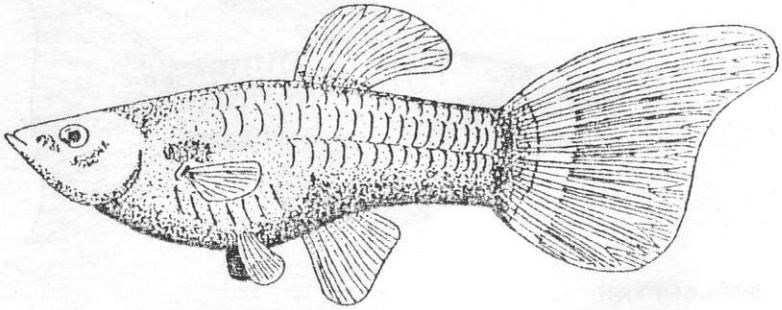
Caudal fin with pointed extensions to upper and lower margins, posterior margin to be convex. Dorsal fin short and pointed.

FEMALE GUPPIES



METROPOLITAN

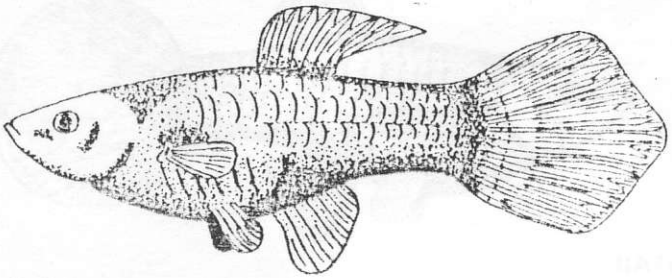
Caudal fin extending to a point, the length and width to be equal to half the body length. Dorsal fin short and pointed, terminating prior to the caudal peduncle.



SUPERBA

Caudal fin rounded, the length and width to be equal to half the body length. Dorsal fin short and rounded, terminating prior to the caudal peduncle.

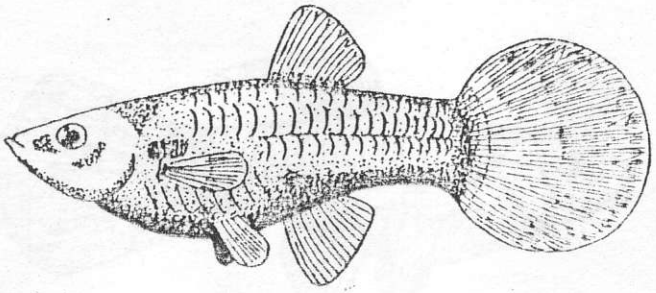
FEMALE GUPPIES



COFERTAIL

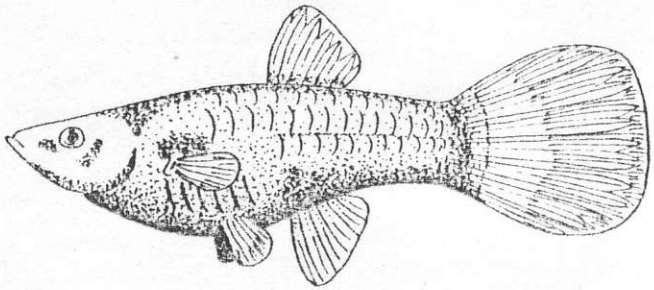
Caudal fin shaped as illustrated. Dorsal fin pointed, terminating before the caudal peduncle.

FEMALE GUPPIES



ROUNDTAIL

Caudal fin circular, the diameter to be just under half the body length. Dorsal fin short and curved, shaped as illustrated.



NATURALTAIL

The upper and lower outlines of the caudal fin to form part of a circle just less than half body length, the posterior margin to be slightly flattened. Dorsal fin short, curved and shaped as illustrated.

THE GENUS XIPHOPHORUS

This genus consists of a group of livebearing fishes which include *Xiphophorus clemenciae, X. couchianus, X. gordini, X. helleri, X. maculatus, X. milleri, X. montezumae, X. pygmaes, X. variatus* and *X. xiphidium.*

Of these, *X. helleri, X. maculatus* and *X. variatus* have for many years been selectively bred for a variety of colours which are stable, i.e. the fishes within a particular colour variety breed true to the standard colours.

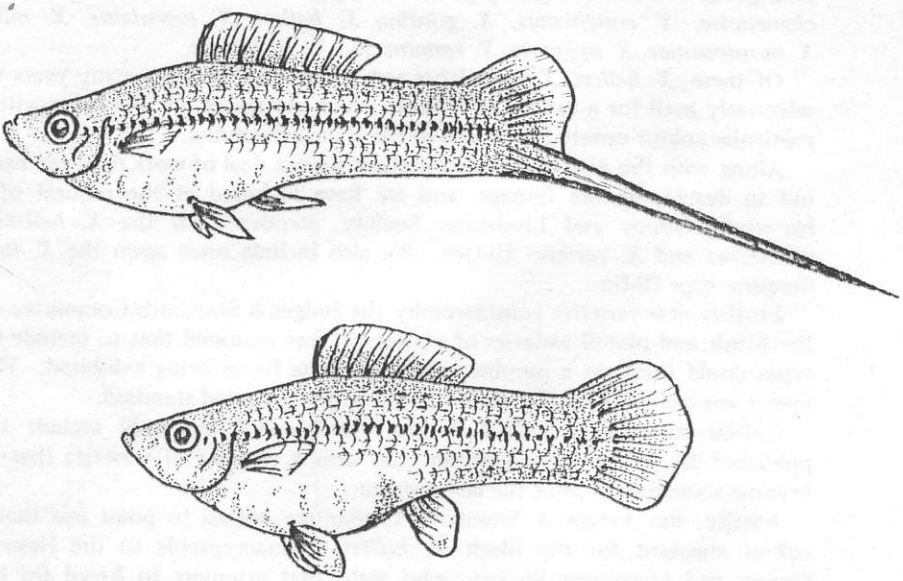
Along with the various colour varieties, a great deal of work has been carried out in developing the finnage, and we have included at the request of the Newcastle Guppy and Livebearer Society, standards for the *X. helleri, X. maculatus* and *X. variatus* Hi-fins. We also include once again the *X. helleri* Simpson type Hi-fin.

Further new varieties considered by the Judges & Standards Committee were the brush and pintail varieties of platies. It was reasoned that to include both types could result in a number of intermediate fishes being exhibited. Therefore it was decided that the pintail would be the accepted standard.

Colour varieties contained within this booklet not only include those published in the previous editions, but also a number of varieties that have become standardised since the last revision.

Finally, the Judges & Standards Committee wishes to point out that the colour standard for the black *X. helleri* is unacceptable to the Newcastle Guppy and Livebearer Society, who state that attempts to breed for black pigmentation in the finnage, results in engendering cancer in the aforementioned finnage. While accepting the sincerity of the N.G.L.S. the Judges & Standards Committee feel that it should adhere to the standard that has been accepted over the years, but at the same time it is prepared to publish any information on this phenomena that is presented to it.

XIPHOPHORUS HELLERI (Heckel)

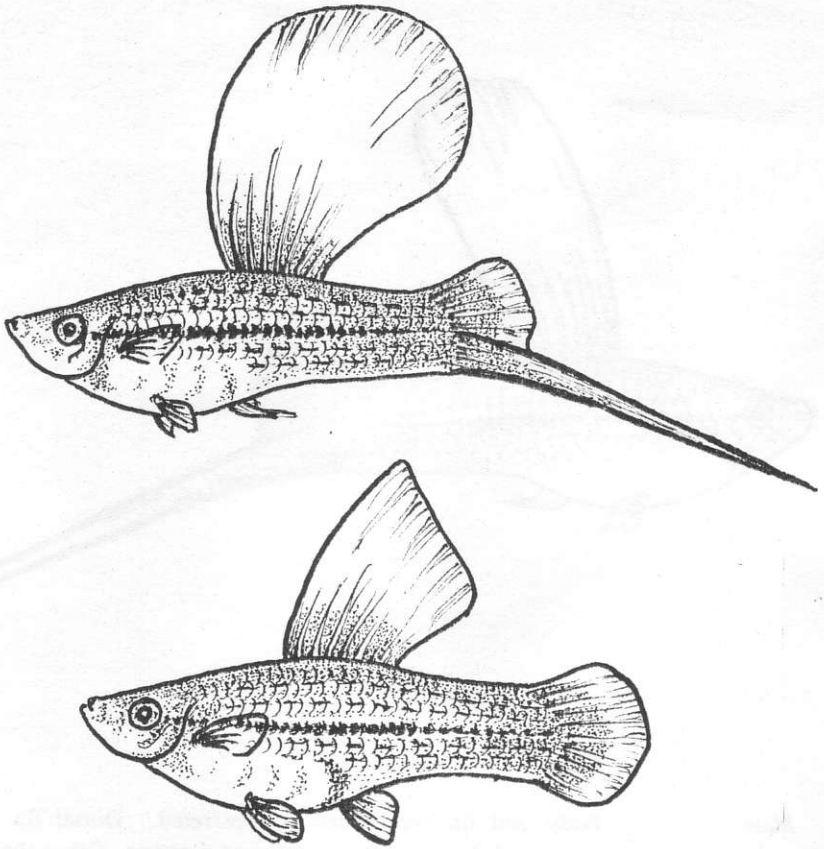


Characteristics: Of streamlined appearance. The male only carrying the sword-like extension to the caudal fin.

Male: Body and finnage shaped as illustrated. Dorsal fin held erect, the first ray not extending to the outer margin of the fin. The caudal fin has a sword-like extension which in adult fish should ideally be equal in length to that of the body. Pectoral fins rounded. Pelvic fins pointed. Anal fin adapted to form a fully developed gonopodium.

Female: Body and finnage shaped as illustrated. The dorsal fin to be held erect, the first ray not extending to the outer margin. Caudal fin without extended rays, well spread and contoured as illustrated. Pectoral, pelvic and anal fins rounded. Anal fin to be without gonopodial characteristics. The exhibiting of male characteristics is to be considered a fault and will be down pointed. The female is also deeper bodied and larger than the male.

XIPHOPHORUS HELLERI (HI-FIN)

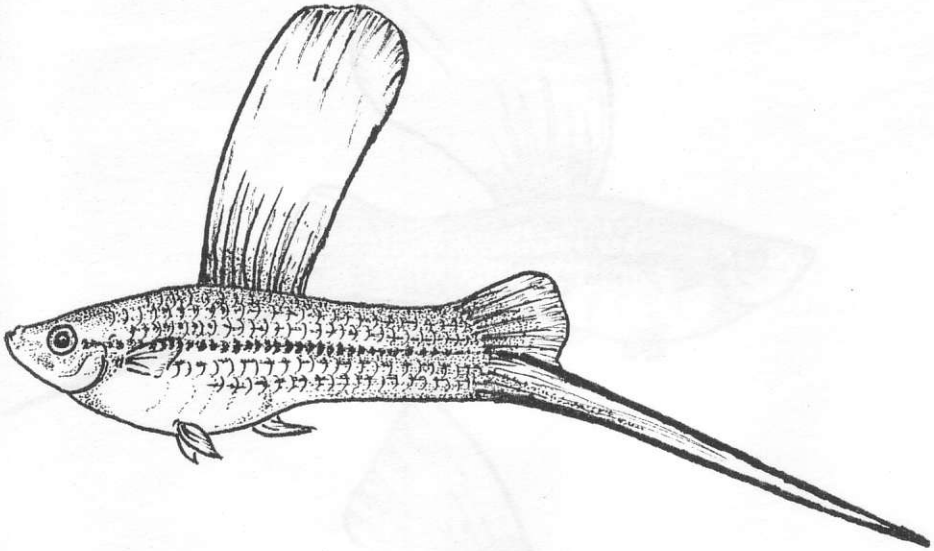


The body and finnage of this variety is the same as that for the standard *X. helleri*, except for the sail-like dorsal fin, which is rounded in the male, and truncated in the female. The finnage of both sexes to be as illustrated.

It is realised that because of the exaggerated development of the dorsal fin, especially in the male, that some specimens when exhibited may not display this fin to its fullest extent. Therefore, fishes that fail to display their dorsal fin in the manner illustrated will be downpointed for deportment, and females showing male characteristics will aldo be downpointed.

XIPHOPHORUS HELLERI HI-FIN

(SIMPSON) VARIETY



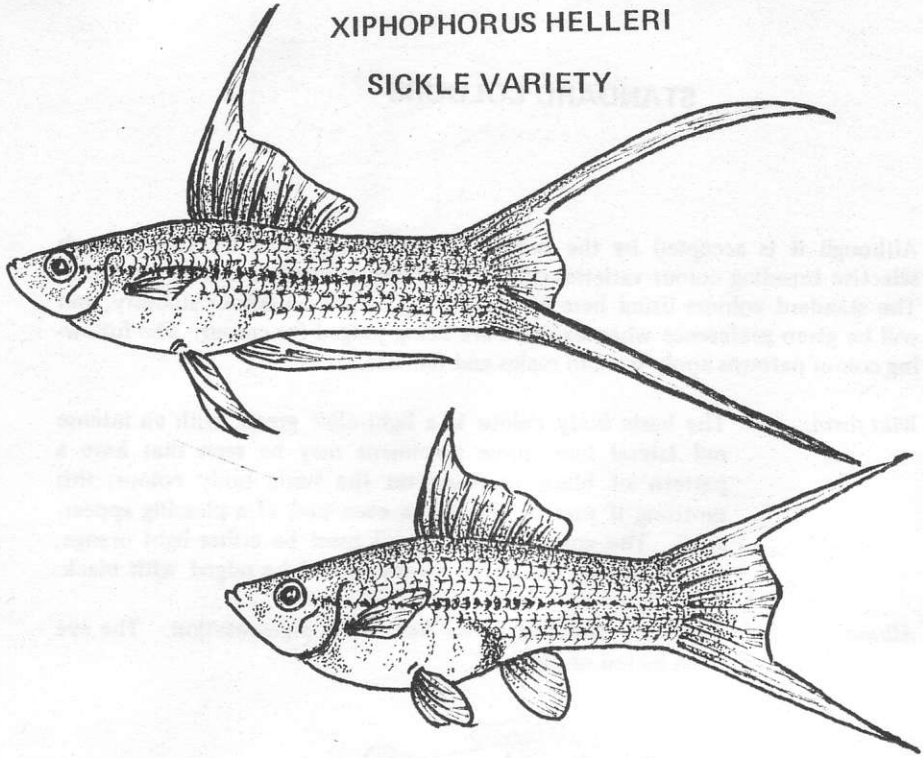
Male: Body and finnage shaped as illustrated. Dorsal fin highly developed, to be carried in an erect position. Other characteristics as for the standard *X. helleri.*

Female: Dorsal fin highly developed as for the male, but shorter in length. Body and rest of fins as for the standard *X. helleri.* Females exhibiting male characteristics will be downpointed.

Colour: As for the standard *X. helleri.*

XIPHOPHORUS HELLERI

SICKLE VARIETY



Male: Body and finnage shaped as illustrated. The drosal fin is developed beyond that of the standard *X. helleri*, the forward rays being produced to a point. The caudal fin is developed with the upper rays forming a form of second sword; this development is shorter than the sword proper and is curved slightly downwards. Anal fin developed into a fully developed gonopodium reaching to the base of the caudal peduncle. Pelvic fins extended and pointed. Other characteristics as for the standard *X. helleri.*

Female: Body and finnage shaped as illustrated. Dorsal fin less well developed than the male. Caudal fin with upper and lower sword-like extensions, these to be straight and somewhat shorter than the male. Pectoral, pelvic and anal fins rounded. Females exhibiting male characteristics will be downpointed.

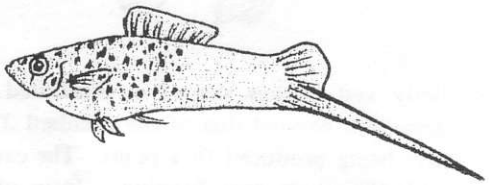
Colour: As for the standard *X. helleri* with the exception of the upper caudal extension which will be the same as the basic body colour. This does not apply to the Wagtail where the whole of the caudal fin must be black. Colour for females is as for the appropriate male.

STANDARD COLOURS

Although it is accepted by the Judges & Standards Committee that through selective breeding colour varieties other than those recognised can be produced. The standard colours listed here have a history of proven colour stability, and will be given preference when exhibits are being judged for colour. The following colour patterns apply to both males and females.

Wild form: The basic body colour is a light-olive green, with an intense red lateral line, some specimens may be seen that have a pattern of black mottling on the basic body colour, this mottling if present should be even and of a pleasing appearance. The colour of the sword must be either light orange, red or green, the entire sword should be edged with black.

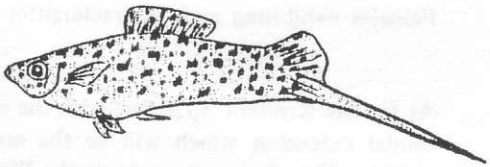
Albino: The body and fins to be free of all pigmentation. The eye must be red or pink.



Berlin: The ground colour of the body to be light red, the front half to be spangled as in the London variety, the rear half to be devoid of spangling. The fins to be light red with black markings. The sword yellow edged with black.

Black: The body to be an even shiny black, the black spreading as far as possible into all the fins including the sword.

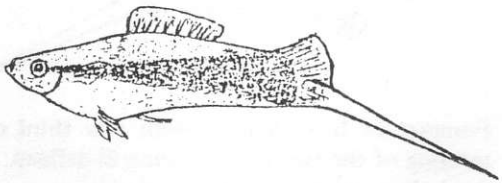
Golden: The body and fins, including the sword, to be a clear golden yellow without reflections or other markings.



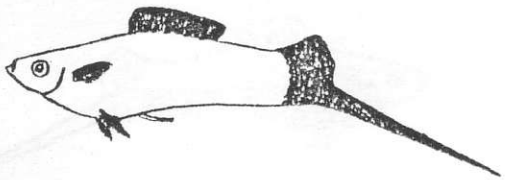
London: The basic body colour orange, regularly scattered with metallic green, black edged spangles. The fins yellow, the sword yellow edged with black.

Red: The body and fins to be an intense scarlet without metallic reflections or other markings. (The lack of red colouration beneath the throat and anal contour of the body is considered a fault and will be downpointed.) The sword to be yellow edged with black.

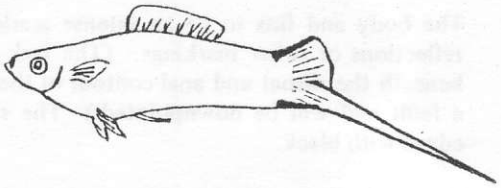
Red Eyed Red: The body, fins, including sword and the eye, to be an intense scarlet without metallic reflections or other markings. (Lack of red colouration beneath throat, and anal contour of the body, is considered a fault and will be downpointed.)



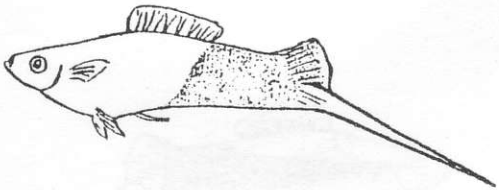
Tuxedo: Basic body colour to be either buff, scarlet or green, with a black triangle superimposed upon it, the base coinciding with the caudal peduncle, the apex with the eye, the colours to be well-defined. The fins to match the basic body colour. The sword yellow edged with black.



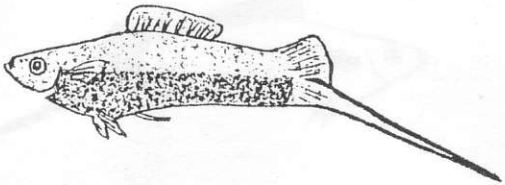
Wagtail: Body colour to be either red, yellow, or light olive-green. The latter to carry an intense red lateral line. All fins, including the sword, to be matt black. (Fishes exhibiting a lack of black pigment in the membrane between the rays of the fins will be downpointed for colour.)



Comet: Body and fins red or yellow, caudal fin with Comet marketing in black. Sword centre as body colour edged with black.

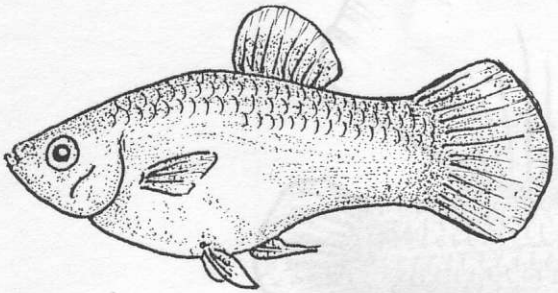


Marigold: Forepart of body yellow, with rear third of body red, the meeting of the two colours being ill-defined. Dorsal and anal fins yellow, caudal fin and sword red.

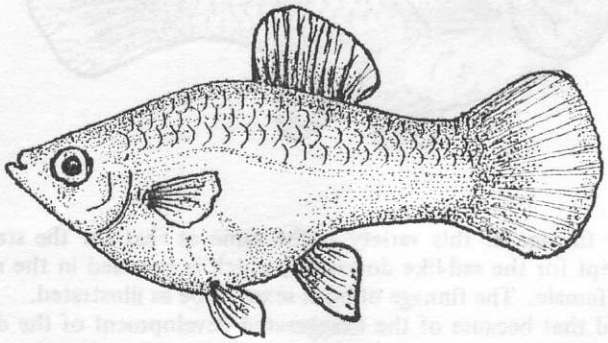


Weisbaden: The upper half of the body to be either intense scarlet without metallic reflections, or light olive-green with an intense red lateral line. The lower half of the body being an intense black. The two zones to be sharply defined. The fins to be coloured according to their zones. The sword to be yellow edged with black.

XIPHOPHORUS MACULATUS (Gunther)

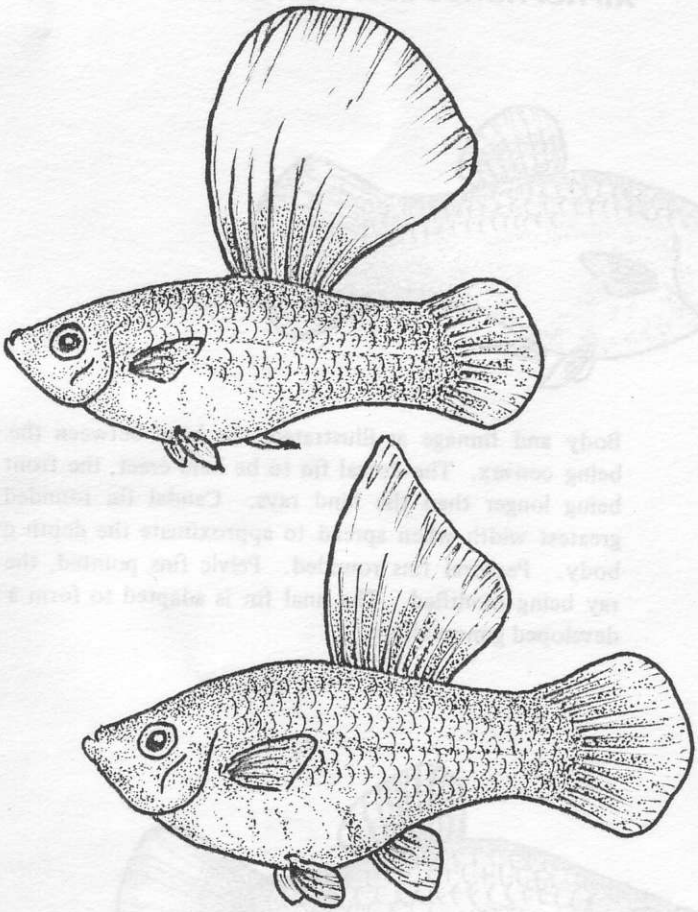


Male: Body and finnage as illustrated, the head between the eyes being convex. The dorsal fin to be held erect, the front rays being longer than the hind rays. Caudal fin rounded, the greatest width when spread to approximate the depth of the body. Pectoral fins rounded. Pelvic fins pointed, the first ray being modified. The anal fin is adapted to form a fully developed gonopodium.



Female: Body and finnage as illustrated, somewhat larger than the male. Dorsal, caudal and pectoral fins similar to the male. Pelvic and anal fins rounded. The exhibiting of male characteristics is considered a fault and will be down pointed.

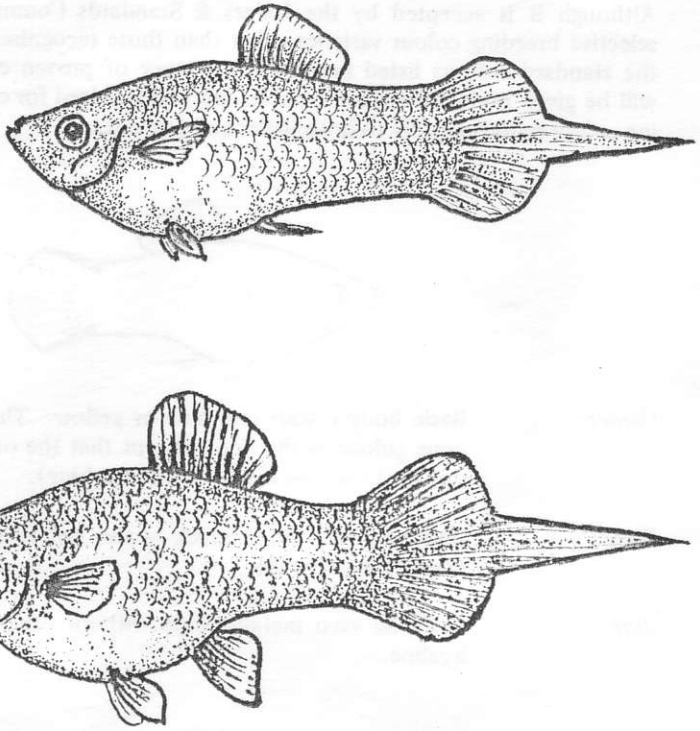
XIPHOPHORUS MACULATUS (HI-FIN)



The body and finnage of this variety is the same as that for the standard *X. maculatus* except for the sail-like dorsal fin, which is rounded in the male, and pointed in the female. The finnage of both sexes to be as illustrated.

It is realised that because of the exaggerated development of the dorsal fin, especially in the male, that some specimens when exhibited may not display this fin to its fullest extent. Therefore, fishes that fail to display their dorsal fin in the manner illustrated will be downpointed for deportment, and females showing male characteristics will also be downpointed.

XIPHOPHORUS MACULATUS (PIN-TAIL)



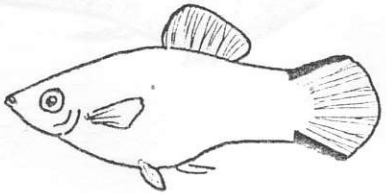
The body and finnage of this variety is the same as that for the standard *X. maculatus*, except that the central rays of the caudal fin are produced to form a point, giving the variety its common name.

The shape of the caudal fin is illustrated in the accompanying drawing and any deviation from the presented outline is considered a fault and will be down-pointed. Only the male is illustrated, but the female also carries the produced caudal fin as in the male, but females showing male characteristics will be downpointed.

XIPHOPHORUS MACULATUS

STANDARD COLOURS

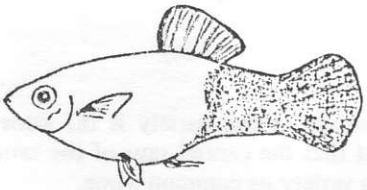
Although it is accepted by the Judges & Standards Committee that through selective breeding colour varieties other than those recognised can be produced, the standard colours listed here have a history of proven colour stability and will be given preference when exhibits are being judged for colour. The following colour patterns apply to both males and females.



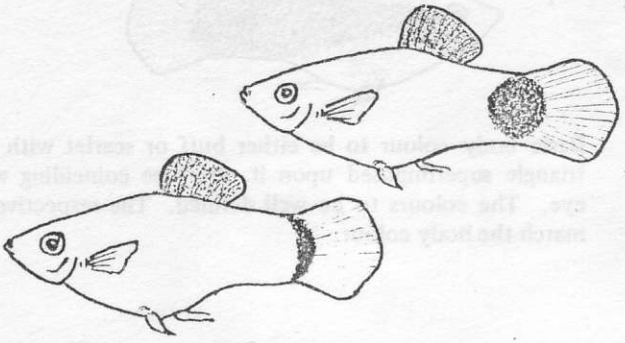
Comet: Basic body colour red, blue or yellow. The fins to be of the same colour as the body except that the outer margins of the caudal fin will be black (comet marking).

Black: Body an even shiny black – this colour spreading as far as possible into the fins.

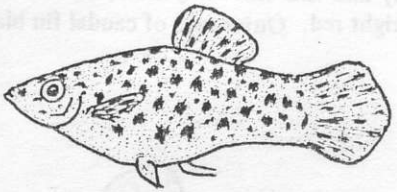
Blue: Body an even metallic blue without other marking. All fins hyaline.



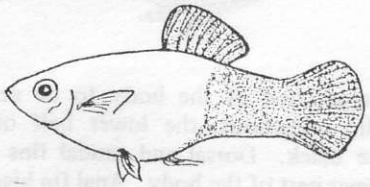
Marigold: Forepart of body yellow, with rear third of body red, the meeting of the two colours being ill defined. Dorsal fin yellow, anal fin red.



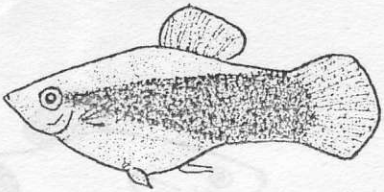
Moon: Three colour varieties have now been approved by the Judges & Standards Committee, i.e. *Yellow Moon*, where the basic body colour will be chrome yellow, caudal fin yellow, dorsal fin red; this colour being confined to the fin. *Blue Moon*, body metallic blue with hyaline fins. *Red Moon*, body an even matt scarlet, this colour spreading as far as possible into the fins. The moon effect on the three basic colours is to be either the half-moon or the full-moon and these will be portrayed in black on the caudal peduncle.



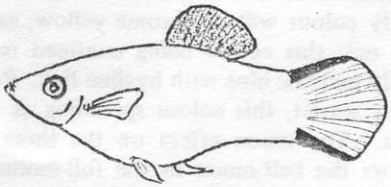
Spangled: Body to be of any self colour, body and fins regularly scattered with black spots.



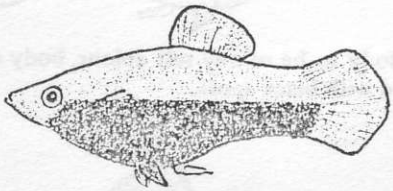
Sunset: Forepart of body yellow with rear third of body bright red, the meeting of the two colours being ill-defined. Dorsal and caudal fins red.



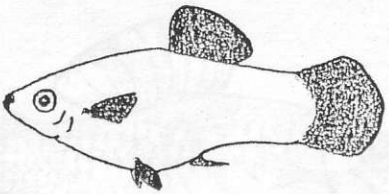
Tuxedo: Basic body colour to be either buff or scarlet with a black triangle superimposed upon it, the base coinciding with the eye. The colours to be well defined. The respective fins to match the body colour.



Victory: Body and fins chrome yellow, other than the dorsal fin which is bright red. Outer rays of caudal fin black.



Weisbaden: The upper half of the body to be scarlet or buff without metallic reflections, the lower half of the body being an intense black. Dorsal and caudal fins coloured the same as the upper part of the body. Anal fin black.

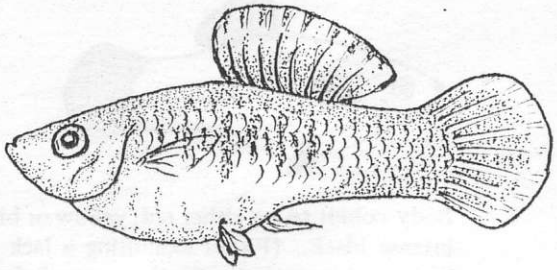


Wagtail: Body colour to be either red, yellow or blue. All fins to be an intense black. (Fishes exhibiting a lack of black pigment in the membranes between the rays of the fins will be down-pointed for colour.)

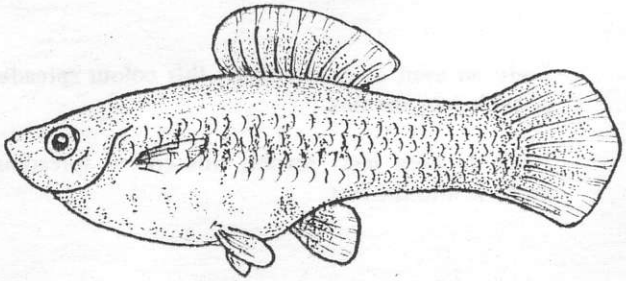
Yellow: Body an even chrome yellow, this colour spreading as far as possible into the fins.

Red: Body an even matt scarlet, this colour spreading as far as possible into the fins.

XIPHOPHORUS VARIATUS (Meek)

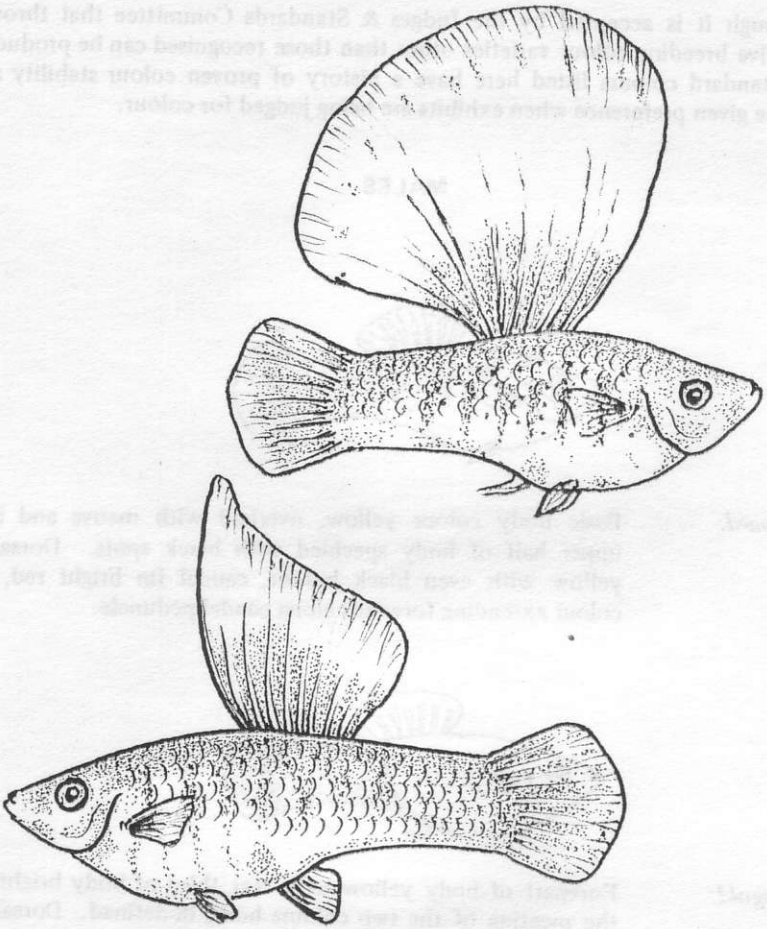


Male: Body and finnage shaped as illustrated. Dorsal fin as large as possible. Caudal fin well spread. Pectoral fins rounded. Pelvic fins pointed. The anal fin is adapted to form a fully developed gonopodium.



Female: Body and finnage shaped as illustrated. Dorsal fin smaller than the male but similar in shape. Caudal fin rounded and well spread. Pelvic, pectoral and anal fins rounded. The female is larger and deeper bodied than the male and the exhibiting of male characteristics are a fault and will be down pointed.

XIPHOPHORUS VARIATUS (HI-FIN)



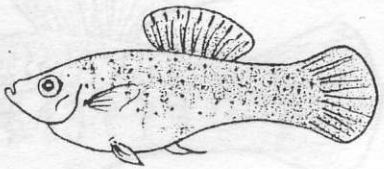
The body and finnage of this variety is the same as that for the standard *X. variatus*, except for the sail-like dorsal fin, which is rounded in the male, and pointed in the female. The finnage of both sexes to be as illustrated.

It is realised that because of the exaggerated development of the dorsal fin, especially in the male, that some specimens when exhibited may not display this fin to its fullest extent. Therefore, fishes that fail to display their dorsal fin in the manner illustrated will be downpointed for deportment, and females showing male characteristics will also be downpointed.

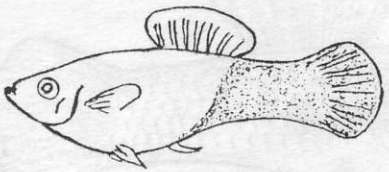
XIPHOPHORUS VARIATUS – STANDARD COLOURS

Although it is accepted by the Judges & Standards Committee that through selective breeding colour varieties other than those recognised can be produced, the standard colours listed here have a history of proven colour stability and will be given preference when exhibits are being judged for colour.

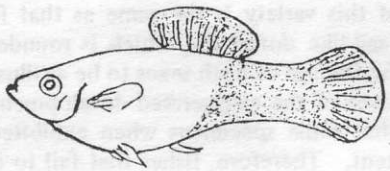
MALES



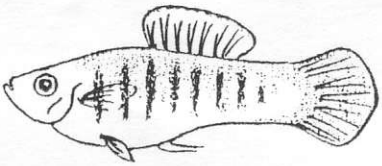
Leopard: Basic body colour yellow, overlaid with mauve and blue, upper half of body speckled with black spots. Dorsal fin yellow with even black border, caudal fin bright red, this colour extending forwards along caudal peduncle.



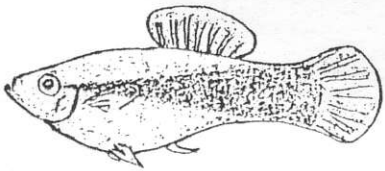
Marigold: Forepart of body yellow with rear third of body bright red, the meeting of the two colours being ill-defined. Dorsal and anal fins yellow, caudal fin red.



Sunset: Forepart of body yellow with rear third of body bright red, the meeting of the two colours being ill-defined. Dorsal and caudal fins red.



Tiger: Basic body colour yellow, overlaid with mauve or blue. Sides have a number of evenly spaced vertical black bars. Dorsal fin yellow with an even black border. Caudal fin bright red.



Tuxedo: Basic body colour to be either buff or scarlet with a black triangle superimposed upon it, the base coinciding with the caudal peduncle, the apex with the eye, the colours to be well-defined. The fins to match the body colour.

FEMALES Entire body and fins to be either olive green or scintillating light brown, a well defined dark line being apparent along the middle of the sides. Any other pigmentation on the body is considered a fault, and will be downpointed.

THE GENUS POECILIA

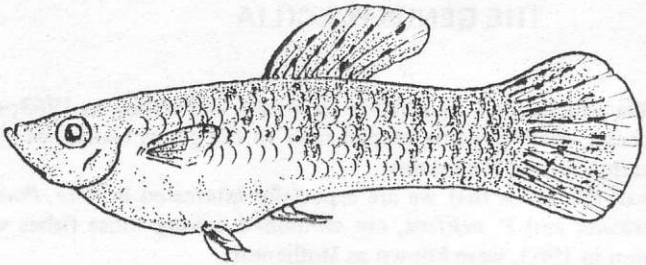
The genus Poecilia which, since its revision by Rosen and Bailey in 1963, contains some 32 species, thereby being second only to the genus Gambusia in the number of livebearing species it contains.

The members of the genus that we are especially interested in here, *Poecilia latipinna, P. mexicana* and *P. velifera*, are contained among those fishes who, prior to the revision in 1963, were known as Mollienesia.

These species have been selectively bred for a variety of colours which are stable, i.e. the fishes within a colour variety breed true to the standard colours.

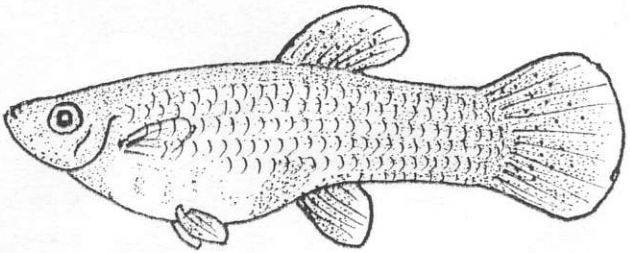
Along with the various colour varieties the *P. mexicana* has also had its finnage developed into the variety known as the lyretail. A further development is included with the *P. mexicana* x *P. latipinna* cross, and while it is not the policy of the Judges & Standards Committee to indiscriminantly encourage the exhibiting and breeding of hybrids, the *P. mexicana* x *P. latipinna* cross, has been found to breed true to form and colour. It is also understood that this hybrid occurs naturally in the wild and was at one time known as *Mollienesia "Formosa"*. The Committee has therefore include a standard for this fish following discussions with the Newcastle Guppy and Livebearer Society.

POECILIA MEXICANA (Cuvier & Valenciennes)



Male: Body and finnage shaped as illustrated. The dorsal fin is short based, 8 to 11 rays, commencing midway along the body. Caudal fin rounded and well spread. Pectoral fins rounded. Pelvic fins pointed. Anal fin adapted to form a gonopodium.

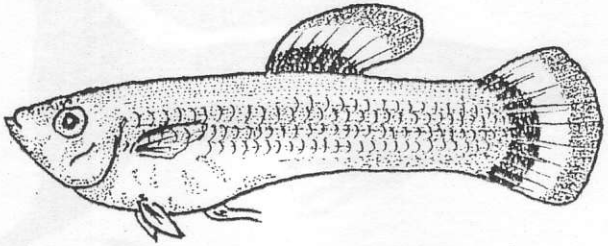
Colouring metallic blue-green.



Female: Body and finnage shaped as illustrated. Caudal, pectoral, pelvic and anal fins rounded. Colour as in the male. The exhibiting of male characteristics is a fault and will be down pointed.

POECILIA MEXICANA (Cuvier & Valenciennes)

LIBERTY VARIETY

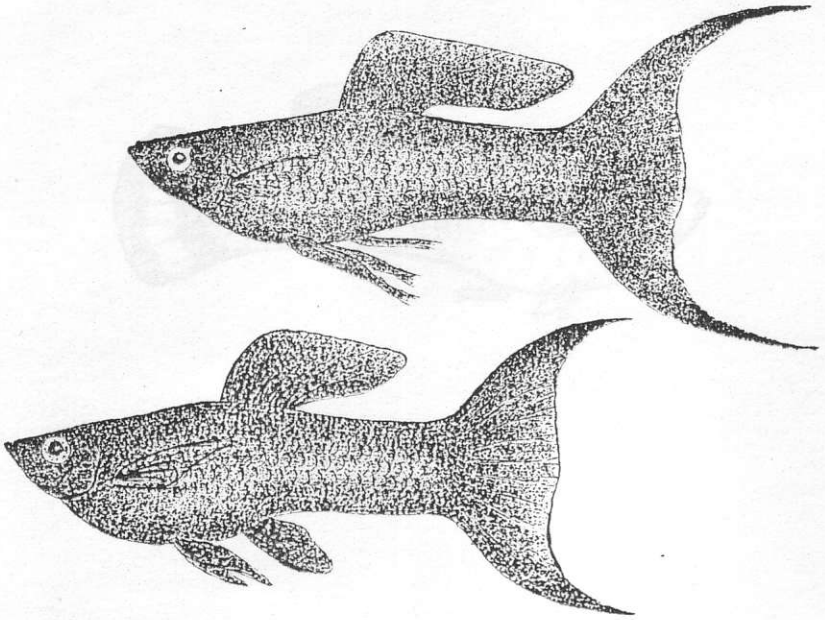


Male: Body and fins shaped as illustrated, the dorsal fin commencing half-way along the body. Caudal fin rounded and well spread. Pectoral fins rounded. Pelvic fins pointed. Anal fin adapted to form a fully developed gonopodium.
Colour: body steel blue. Dorsal and caudal fins, inner third black, centre third yellow, outer third red, all other fins hyaline.

Female: Body somewhat deeper than for the male. Dorsal fin shaped as for the male but smaller. Caudal fin rounded and well spread. Pectoral, pelvic and anal fins rounded. Females exhibiting male characteristics will be downpointed.
Colour: body blue-grey, fins hyaline.

POECILIA MEXICANA (Cuvier & Valenciennes)

LYRETAIL VARIETY



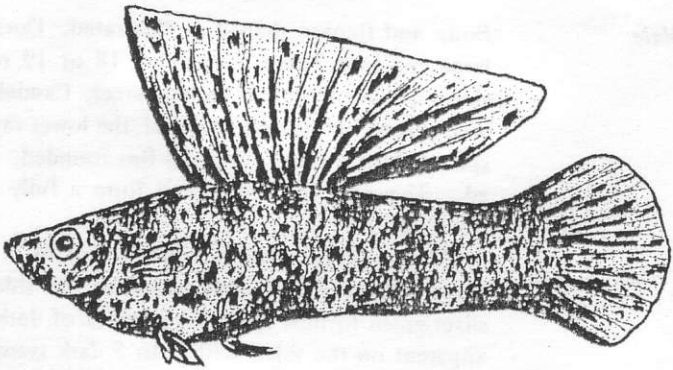
Male: Body and finnage shaped as illustrated, the upper and lower rays of the caudal fin being extended to form the lyre-tail which should be well spread, with the extremities of the fin equal in length. Dorsal, pectoral and pelvic fins also slightly extended. Anal fin adapted to form a gonopodium.

Female: Body and finnage shaped as illustrated. Finnage smaller than with the male, the anal fin to be without gonopodial characteristics.

Remarks: The illustrations are of the black variety, which should be completely matt black without spangling. Other colour varieties are: albino (where the eye should be distinctly red or pink), blue-green and speckled (where the patterning should be a pleasing one of silver and black.

POECILIA MEXICANA X POECILIA LATIPINNA

BLACK AND SPECKLED VARIETY



Male: Body and finnage shaped as illustrated. Dorsal fin to be carried erect. Caudal fin rounded and well spread. Pectoral fins rounded. Pelvic fins pointed. Anal fin adapted to form a fully developed gonopodium.
Colour: Two colour varieties are accepted. Black – where the entire body and fins are entirely matt black (any white or silver on the fish is considered a fault and will be down-pointed). Speckled – where the entire body and finnage should be a pleasing pattern of black and silver.

Female: Body similar to the male but deeper and longer. Dorsal fin much smaller than the male being similar in shape and size to that of the female *P. mexicana.* Caudal fin rounded and well spread. Pectoral, pelvic and anal fins rounded. Females exhibiting male characteristics will be downpointed.
Colour: As for the male.

POECILIA VELIFERA (Regan)

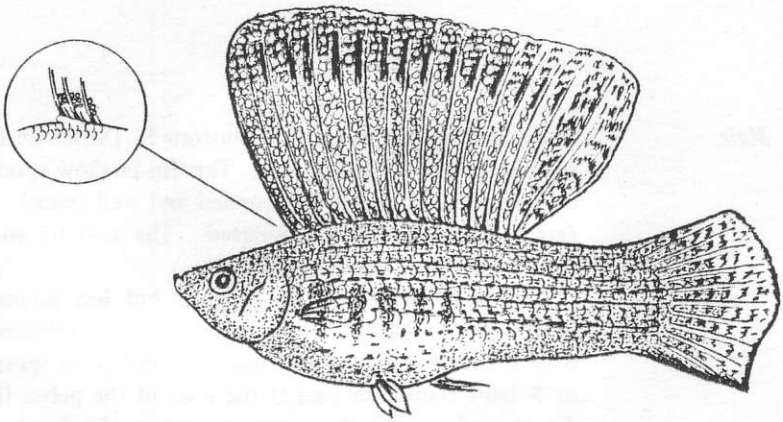
Male: Body and finnage shaped as illustrated. Dorsal fin extremely large and long based, containing 18 or 19 rays. This fin in show specimens should be held erect. Caudal fin rounded and well spread but not symmetrical, the lower rays extending to a spike-like extension. Pectoral fins rounded. Pelvic fins pointed. The anal fin adapted to form a fully developed gonopodium.

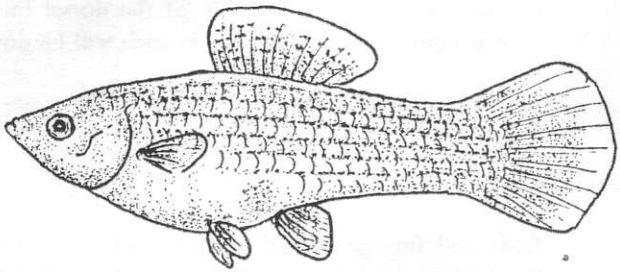
The body colouring resembles that of *P. latipinna*, but is more intense, being blue-green on the sides, overlaid with silver-green to blue spots. A number of dark blue streaks are apparent on the sides, with 3 to 5 dark transverse bars at the level of the pelvic fins. The dorsal and caudal fins may sometimes be bordered with orange.

Other colour varieties are: albino (where the eye should be distinctly red or pink), gold, black and speckled (where the patterning should be a pleasing one of silver and black). Frequently this specie, as with *P. latipinna*, is seen with a nodule preceding the first ray of the dorsal fin (see insert). This is considered a fault and as such will be down pointed.

Female: Body and finnage shaped as illustrated. Dorsal fin rounded. Caudal fin rounded and without spike. Pectoral, pelvic and anal fins rounded. The exhibiting of male characteristics is a fault and will be down pointed.

Greyish in colour with rows of dark spots in the blue-green variety. Other colours as for the male.





POECILIA LATIPINNA (Le Sueur)

Male:

Body and finnage shaped as illustrated. Dorsal fin large and sail-like having 13 to 16 rays. This fin in show specimens to be held erect. Caudal fin rounded and well spread. Pectoral fins rounded, pelvic fins pointed. The anal fin adapted to form a fully developed gonopodium.

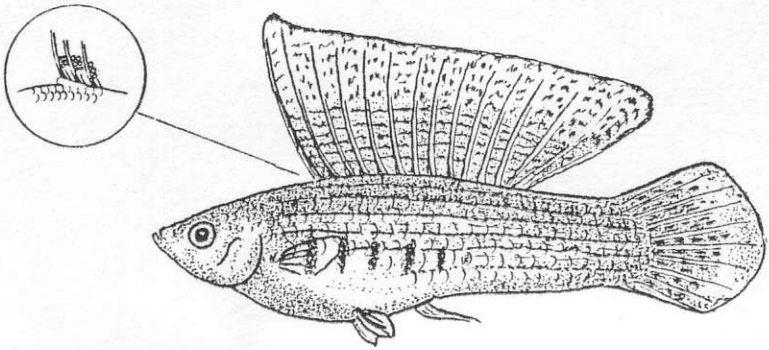
Colouring similar to *P. velifera*, but less intense, being blue-green to brown above, with a pearly iridescence, and 6 or 6 horizontal bands of red, blue and green spots, with 4 or 5 faint transverse bars at the level of the pelvic fins. The dorsal and caudal fins may sometimes be bordered with orange.

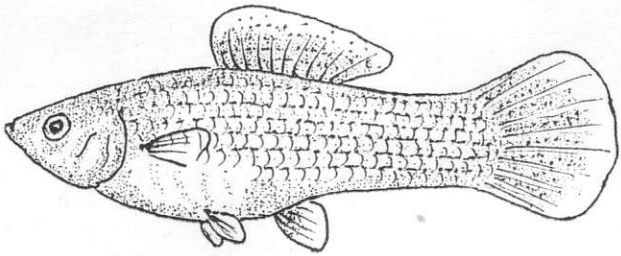
Other colour varieties are albino (where the eye should be distinctly red or pink), gold, black and speckled (where the patterning should be a pleasing one of silver and black). Frequently this specie, as with *P. velifera*, is seen with a nodule preceding the first ray of the dorsal fin (see inset). This is considered a fault and as such will be down pointed.

Female:

Body and finnage shaped as illustrated. Dorsal fin rounded. Caudal fin rounded and well spread. Pectoral, pelvic and anal fins rounded. The exhibiting of male characteristics is to be considered a fault and will be down pointed.

Colour is much less intense than the male in the blue-green variety; other colour varieties as for the male.





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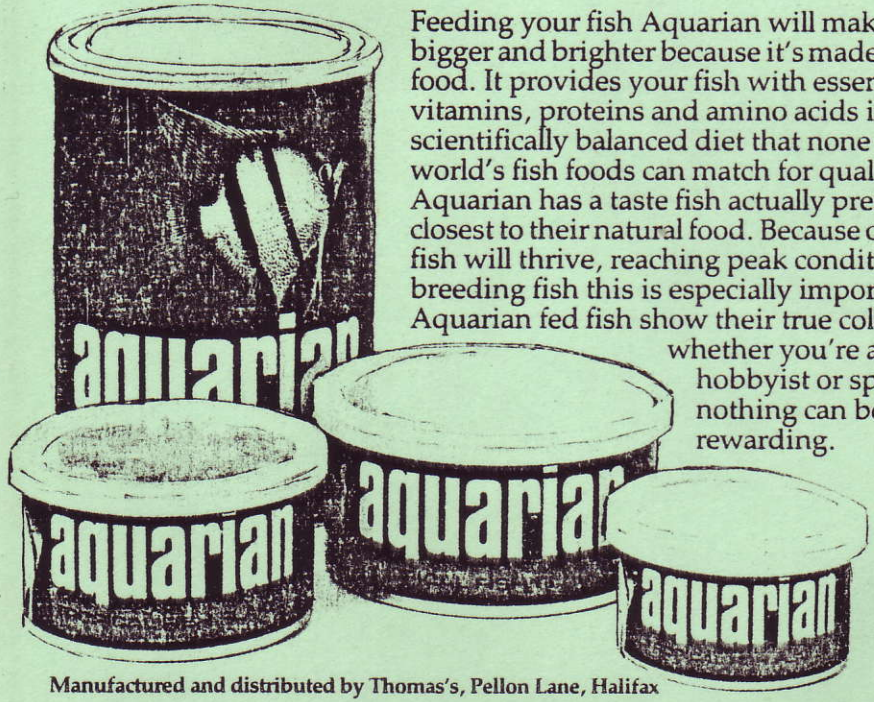

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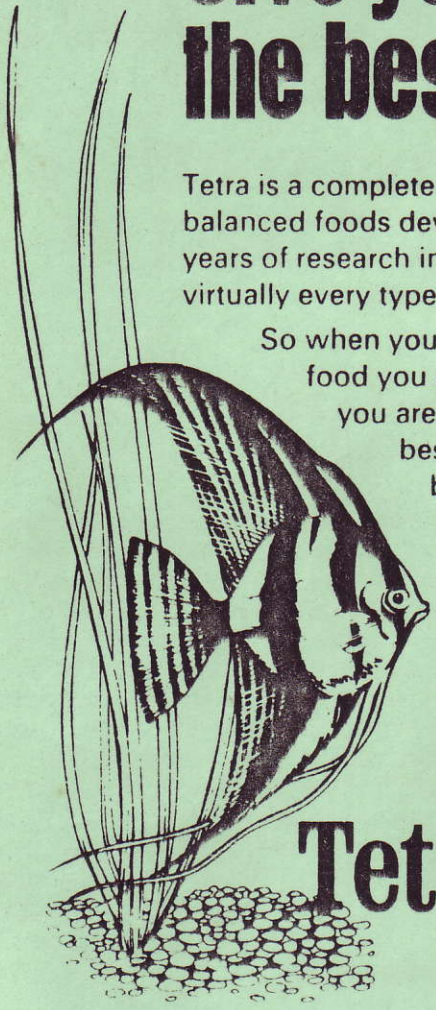

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