



**Species:** *Paratilapia, Tilapia, Hemichromis, Sarotherodon, Steatocranus, Oreochromis* etc.

**Family:** Cichlidae.

**Geographic Origin:** West, Central and Eastern Africa.

**Common Names:** Jewel Cichlid, Egyptian Mouthbrooder

**Compatibility:** Generally large and aggressive. Some can grow to 24 inches (600mm).

**Minimum Aquarium Size:** A tank of 900mm x 380mm x 300mm (36" x 15" x 12") is suitable for the smaller species of these fish. Larger tanks are even better!

**Temperature:** 23°-28°C (73°-82°F) is considered ideal, some fluctuation is normal in nature.

**Habitat:** Gravel substrate with plenty of rocks.

**Water:** Medium to hard, neutral water is considered ideal for the fish.  
Should be well-filtered and remain 'sweet.'

**Health:** Not generally a problem. Physical damage caused by territorial disputes should be carefully monitored and treated as necessary.

**Diet:** Most of these fishes should be considered as carnivores. Some fish can be persuaded to accept special pelletised dried foods.

**Plants:** These fish will rearrange gravel and rocks to suit themselves, often on a daily basis.  
Any plants will be uprooted continually

**Breeding Notes:** Substrate nests, or depressions, may be built into which eggs are laid prior to being incubated by mouthbrooding species. Some species will spawn on open surfaces such as rocks. Strong parental care and vigorous defence of the young

**Availability:** Not quite so easily spotted as their Rift Valley relatives. Sometimes young fish are available and this should be taken into account when stocking the tank - remember that they will grow! Overcrowding will lead to territorial fighting.

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