

## The Killifish Group



Above: Giant Gold Panchax

Below: Blue Panchax



Right: *Aphyosemion Bivittatum* Lagos



Right: *Aphyosemion Australe*

Far Right: *Aphyosemion Gardneri*



### Scientific Names

While there are many species available, the most common commercially available species are:

*Aphyosemion* sp - Killifish species  
*Aplocheilus* sp., *Epiplatys* sp.,  
*Pseudepiplatys* sp - Panchax species

### Maximum Size and Longevity

Killifish are generally small fish and depending on the species type the size ranges from 2 – 6cm. Some Panchax species will grow to a maximum size of 10cm.

Many of the *Aphyosemion* species are annual species and may only live for a year, while the Panchax group may live for several years.

### Water Quality

Water quality will vary depending on species but as a general rule prefer soft acid water

Temperature: 20°C - 24°C

pH: 5.5 – 7.5

General Hardness: 50-150 ppm

### Feeding

Killifish have a small mouth structure, so be sure to select foods which are suitable. They will readily feed on live foods such as daphnia; frozen foods such as Aquarium Industries Naturals Range Frozen Rotifers and Frozen Daphnia; and prepared Tropical Flakes and Granules.

### Compatibility

Many killifish can be combined safely with small catfish, small tetras and other non-territorial fishes. Do not keep them with larger predatory fish that would prey on this small fish. They can also be kept by themselves in a small tank where they can readily exhibit their amazing reproductive colours.

### Colour and Varieties

The Killifish group has a very diverse colour and variety. For example many of the *Aphyosemion* species have brightly coloured males. A possible reason for their bright colours is because they are commonly found in darkened waters with low visibility and thus need really bright and striking colours to attract females.

### Hints for successful keeping

These brightly coloured fish are not demanding and are ideal for a community tank. They prefer a planted tank and softer water conditions on the acidic side.

### General Information and Breeding

Some species within this group can lay their eggs in the substrate when their natural habitats dry up and the eggs hatch when the water returns with the rain. Some killifish such as *Aphyosemion* have also been called 'annual fish' for this reason. Other species may spawn amongst floating plants and will often breed in densely planted community tanks. The males are often extremely colourful while the females are little subdued in their coloration.

*Aphyosemion* species can be prone to velvet, but respond well to normal treatments for this disease. Generally a robust group with no particular needs.