

Ornamental Fish from all over the world

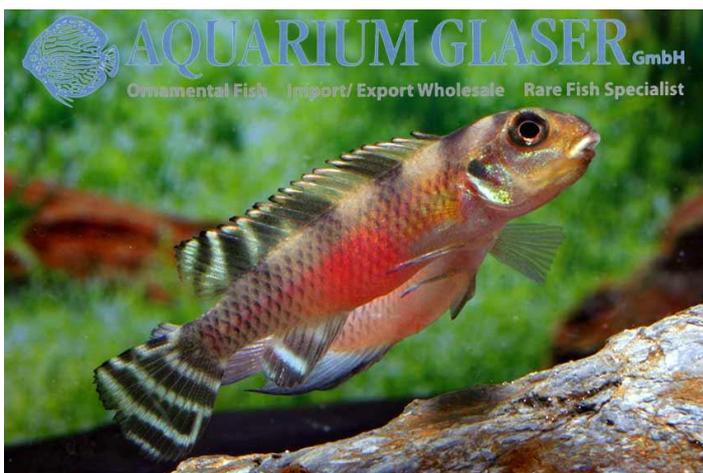


Nanochromis transvestitus



We obtained beautiful bred specimens of this charming dwarf cichlids. Males of the species becomes around 6 cm long, females stay smaller. This makes *Nanochromis transvestitus* one of the smallest cichlid species at all.

The species originates from the Lac Mai Ndombe region in the D.R. Congo. In contrast to most other congolese fishes, *N. transvestitus* is adapted to very soft and acidic water (pH 4.5) However, aquarium strains are less sensitive to other conditions than wild collected specimens but nevertheless the species is much less susceptible to various diseases when kept in acidic water.



Otherwise keeping the fish is problem free and the species is very attractive. Like all species of Nanochromis it is an cave brooder. Females care for eggs and brood, males defend the territory. Males and females can be easily told apart by the pattern of the fins. The courtship behaviour is spectacular. Both sexes display with mouths wide open and maximum spread fins. Females additionally display a very strange looking S-shaped body.



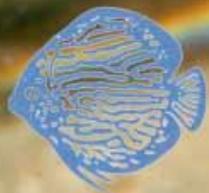
For our customers: the fish have code 555002 on our stocklist. Please note that we exclusively supply the wholesale trade.

Lexicon: Nanochromis: means "small Chromis"; Chromis is another genus of fish. transvestitus: means "transvestite"; this name refers to the fact that the males are much less colorful than the females; usually in the animal kingdom this is the other way round.

Suggestion of a common name: Congolese zebra dwarf cichlid

Text & photos: Frank Schäfer

Thalassophryne amazonica



AQUARIUM GLASER GmbH

Ornamental Fish Import/Export Wholesale Rare Fish Specialist



The toadfishes are very odd creatures. A total of about 73 species exists which are placed in around 22 genera and three subfamilies. One of these subfamilies - the *Thalassophryinae* - is also known as the "venomous toadfishes". *Thalassophryne amazonica*, one of the very few freshwater species of the family, is placed in that subfamily.

The Amazon Toadfish can be easily told apart from all other toadfishes in South- and Central America. It is the only species in which dorsal, caudal, and anal fin are connected with each other. Although there are reports of a small number of additional species of the *Thalassophryinae* that enter occasionally brackish and fresh water, *Thalassophryne amazonica* is the only species of the subfamily that lives exclusively in fresh water. Our specimens originate from Peru.

The *Thalassophryinae* are thought to be the fishes with the highest developed venomous apparatus of all fishes in the world, despite the fact that there are a lot of venomous fishes - just think of the stonefish (*Synanceia*), which can place deadly stings to humans, or the stingrays, or the weeverfish (*Trachinus*) which are responsible for unpleasant experiences of thousands of holidaymakers in the Mediterranean each year.



The venomous glands are placed on the base of two hollow prickles (derived from dorsal fin spines) on the back and two additional prickles on the operculum. There are no reports on accidents with *Thalassophryne amazonica*, but each year appear several cases with the closely related marine and brackish species *Thalassophryne nattereri* which is very abundant in Brazil. The sting causes strong pain, inflammation and sometimes necrosis, but the venom has obviously no systemic components. There are no reports on fatalities.



In the aquarium, *Thalassophryne amazonica*, which can attain a maximum length of about 8-10 cm, are very interesting fish to study. They need sandy bottom in which they can burrow themselves. The fish are fed with small feeder fishes. Against each other and any other fish that does not work as food, *Thalassophryne amazonica* are very peaceful. Due to the fact that toadfish don't move unnecessarily they can be kept

in comparatively small aquaria. Toadfish are said to take care for the brood, but no details are published so far.



For our customers: the animals have code 296451 on our stocklist. Please note that we exclusively supply the wholesale trade.

Lexicon: Thalassophryne: means "sea-toad". amazonica: means "coming from the Amazon". nattereri: dedication name for the naturalist Johann Natterer (1787-1843).

Suggestion of a common name: Amazon Toadfish

Text & photos: Frank Schäfer



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Registergericht: Amtsgericht Offenbach
Registernummer: HRB 2 1967
Umsatzsteuer-Identifikationsnummer according § 27 a Umsatzsteuergesetz: DE 113530316

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