

Ornamental Fish from all over the world



Hyphessobrycon axelrodi



Initially, this charming dwarf tetra was described from the island of Trinidad. The maximum length is 2 cm in males and about 3 cm in females. Now we received a shipment with wild collected specimens from Venezuela. The beautiful animals fit quite good to the description of *H. axelrodi*, the calypsotetra; the scientist Taphorn determined the species in 1992 tentatively as *Megalamphodus* cf. *axelrodi*.



Regarding the generic name this tetra has undergone a real odyssey. It was initially described under the generic name of *Aphyocharax*, in 1977 Géry placed it in *Megalampodus* with question mark. In 1997 Weitzman and Palmer dissolved the genus *Megalampodus* and the calypso tetra was placed in *Hyphessobrycon*. Today *Megalampodus* is regarded again as a valid genus by most scientists, but if the calypso tetra belongs to that genus is still an open question. So it is most often placed in *Hyphessobrycon* currently.

Despite all this confusion the fish is as beautiful and easy to keep as a fish can be and an ideal inhabitant of so-called nano tanks.

For our customers: the fish have code 259472 on our stocklist. Please note that we received that fish mixed with other tetras and are not able to ship it assorted. Please understand that we exclusively supply the wholesale trade.

Lexicon: *Aphyocharax*: means "small *Charax*"; *Charax* is another genus of tetra. *Hyphessobrycon*: means "small *Brycon*"; *Brycon* is another genus of tetra. *Megalampodus*: means "with spacious ways"; this refers to anatomical details. *axelrodi*: dedication name for Herbert Axelrod.

Common name: Calypso tetra

Text & photos: Frank Schäfer

Metynnis fasciatus



This beautiful fish, a Serrasalmid and thus a relative of piranhas a pacus, is still enigmatic for scientists. The species *Metynnis fasciatus* has been described on the basis of a young fish from Brazil (Rio Capiru). The type specimen is regarded as lost. The species is identical with *M. hypsauchen* in all respects except the coloration in young specimens. In *M. fasciatus* a pattern of regular and bold stripes exist which is lacking usually in *M. hypsauchen*. Until now no adult specimens with a regular stripe pattern is known to scientists and it was thought that *M. fasciatus* represents only a rare juvenile phase of *M. hypsauchen*.

However, we were able to import again comparatively large (8-10 cm) specimens of this extraordinary silver dollar from Brazil. Each specimen shows an individual pattern, but all were sexually differentiated already and thus definitely no juveniles anymore.

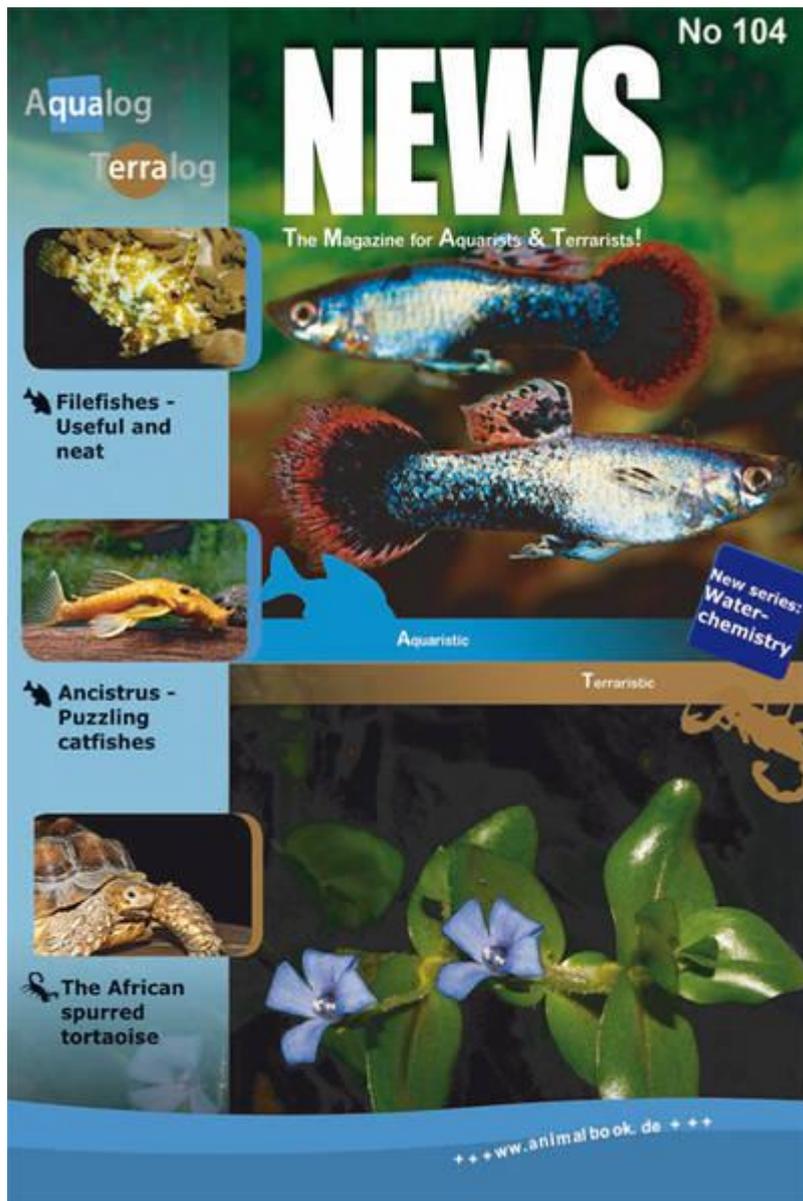
All *Metynnis* feed on plant material and most species become around 15 cm long. Males and females can be told apart by the shape of the anal fin. A member of our staff has acquired some specimens for his home aquarium so maybe we can give you more informations on the topic in one or two years when the fish are fully grown.

For our customers: the fish have code 267754 on our stocklist. Please note that we exclusively supply the wholesale trade.

Lexicon: *Metynnis*: ancient Greek, means "in between the share"; this refers to the spine before the dorsal fin. *fasciatus*: means "striped".

Common name: Striped silver dollar

Text & photo: Frank Schäfer



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