

Ornamental Fish from all over the world



Xiphophorus hellerii Yucatan



In 1975 the Berlin aquarist Günter Daul collected during a holiday trip in Mexico some swordtails in the state of Quintana Roo and brought them to his homeplace successfully. This strain was called later erroneously *Xiphophorus hellerii* Yucatan. However, the state of Yucatan is located west of Quintana Roo. Thus the strain should be named correctly *Xiphophorus hellerii* Quintana Roo; but the fish has been illustrated so often in the aquarium literature under the name of *Xiphophorus hellerii* Yucatan that a correction would lead only to unnecessary confusion. For all who are interested in the history of the fish we suggest the (German written) article: Wagenknecht, U. (2012): Der Yucatan-Schwertträger. *Viviparos* 1/2012: 26-29 (online here: [http://www.lebendgebaerende-aquarienfische.de/media/files/Wagenknecht%20\(2012\)%20Der%20Yucatan-Schwerttraeger.pdf](http://www.lebendgebaerende-aquarienfische.de/media/files/Wagenknecht%20(2012)%20Der%20Yucatan-Schwerttraeger.pdf)).



It is very interesting that this population has survived as a pure strain now for 38 years in the tanks of hobbyist. The genetics of this polychromatic variety are also very interesting. There do exist rather yellow-bellied females and rather white-bellied females. If one crosses a male that has much red colours with a yellow-bellied female, the offspring is pure red males and yellow-bellied females. If one crosses a rather blue-green male of the strain with a white-bellied females, they also breed pure. However, hobbyists usually breed with mixed schools to preserve the genetic variability of the strain.

Occasionally we have this interesting variety of wild swordtail as German bred in stock.

For our customers: the fish have code 476753 on our stocklist. Please note that we exclusively supply the wholesale trade.

Text & photos: Frank Schäfer

Hydrolycus armatus



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Hydrolycus armatus attains a maximum length of about 70 cm and represents the largest member of its genus. Thus sabertooth-tetras are no fish for anyone, but they are so interesting from a biological point of view that every aquarist should know them.

Currently four species of sabertooth-tetras are distinguished. All have in common extremely large, saber-shaped teeth in the lower jaw that are used to spear other fish. In the upper jaw are holes in the bone that have the function of sheaths for the saberteeth when the mouth is closed.



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Most often the orange-finned *Hydrolycus tatauaia* is imported, a species that attains a maximum length of about 40 cm. This fish occurs in Brazil, Colombia, Guyana, Peru, and Venezuela. *H. armatus* occurs in the very same range. It differs from *H. tatauaia* by the grey to black fins, a different-shaped spot behind the opercle, a less curved belly and (this is most easily recognizable) a species-specific colored adipose fin. To make sure that all these differences can be clearly recognized, we have made an exception and have knocked out the background of the photo of our freshly imported, about 25-30 cm long specimen.

For our customers: the fish has code 259368 on our stocklist. Please note that we exclusively supply the wholesale trade. Only one specimen available!

Lexicon: *Hydrolycus*: means "water wolf". *armatus*: means "armed". *tatauaia*: from the Tupi language, means "fire tail", referring to the orange-red caudal fin.

Suggestion of a common name: Great Sabertooth-Tetra

Text & photos: Frank Schäfer



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