

BREEDING SET UP FOR LIVE BEARERS



Sex identification

MALE	FEMALE
Smaller	Larger
Brightly coloured and attractive	Dull colour
Fins especially dorsal and caudal fins are longer	Comparatively smaller
Belly region is flat	Belly region is bulged
Anal fin is modified into gonopodium which is rod or tube like structure	Anal fin is normal in shape

Conditioning parent fish

Before placing the parent fishes together for spawning, they should first be conditioned. Conditioning is feeding the fish with a variety of healthy foods to make them attain suitable condition for spawning.

The parent fishes should be separated while conditioning. Such fishes when reintroduced, they will be ready to spawn.

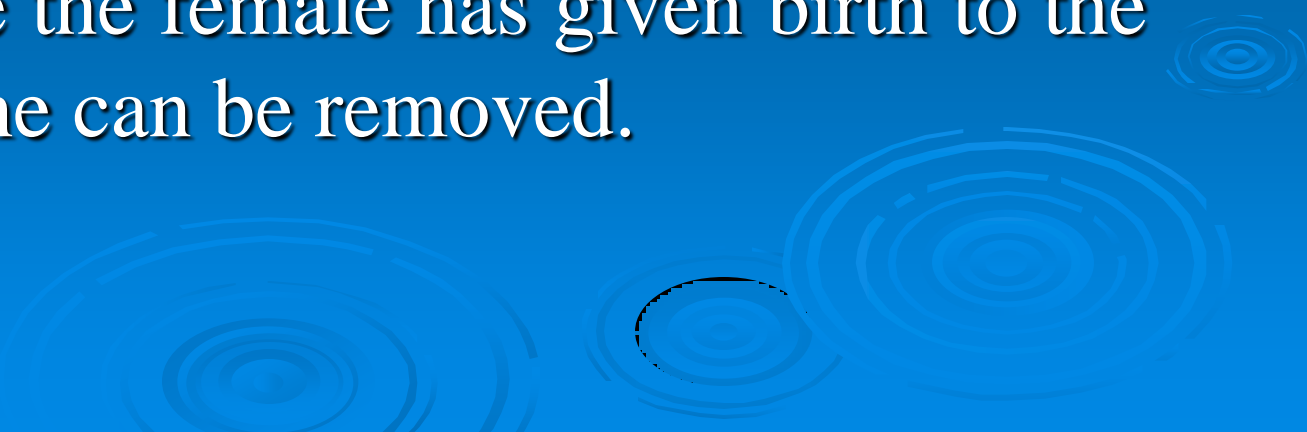


Breeding

Livebearers are notorious cannibals; they will devour their youngones as soon as they are born. This can be prevented by having an abundance of cover for the youngsters in the form of bunched fine leaved plants, or to use a breeding trap, which restricts the female to a small part of the aquarium, but allows the fry to escape into the wider reacher of the breeding tank.

Breeding – Contd...

The preparation for the breeding tank is simple. It need not be too large for most species, and should be filled to a depth of about 8” (20cm) with matured water and the temperature raised to about 25°C. The tank should be well stocked with fine leaved plants. Once the female has given birth to the full brood she can be removed.

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Breeding – Contd...

Instead of plants, nylon knitting wools can also be used. Handling livebearers when they are near the time to delivery can cause premature birth. Premature babies have not completely absorbed their yolk sac, which can be seen attached to their bellies.