



# The Raleigh Aquarium Society

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## October 4, 2007

*Next Meeting: Thursday @7:30pm **November 8, 2007.***

Meetings are held on the first Thursday of each month at the [North Carolina State University College of Veterinary Medicine](#) located at [4700 Hillsborough Street in Raleigh](#). Visitors are welcome! Snacks and light refreshments are provided. A raffle of fish and fish related items follow the meeting. Due to Security Issues, NCSU has required that the doors going into the downstairs lobby remain locked. Please be on time, as we will have a designated person standing by the door to let you in. If you are late, you may try knocking or call Brandon Berry s cell phone at 252-266-3559, Jeff Jenkins at 919-612-0229, or John Patterson at 919-264-4011.

## Meeting Agenda

*Todd will moderate another on of our open discussions. This is the time to come if you have any questions concerns or just want to hear from people with a lot of aquarium experience. And I believe John Patterson will have another very interesting mini talk/ demonstration.*

## Monthly Feature

### So This Is Your First Aquarium Club



### Swap Meet



By Christine Duncan

We as a club are about to have our first Raleigh Aquarium Society Swap Meet. Many of our club members are very excited about this. We have had phenomenal success with our auctions, experiencing huge crowds from the general public and aquarium hobbyists as well as a lot of out of state vendors and speakers. But some (myself included) are asking, "What can I expect?" I have done a little research on this matter over the internet and have come up with a little more information about this.

It is first and foremost a venue where the experienced aquarium hobbyist and the less experienced hobbyist can meet and exchange one on one information and fish or aquarium supplies they may have. For some one like me it means I don't have to tramp around a bunch of yard sales looking for that used and now unwanted aquarium or equipment. I don't have to travel around to all the local pet shops to find the same old same old. And I won't have to talk to some one who has no clue that a female guppy can not transcend the laws genetics and actually must carry color genes, because the person actually selling me that guppy bred it and knows a little bit about it.

So what is the game plan you ask? We as a club will provide tables that are about 5 feet by 2 ½ to 3 feet wide, a nice air conditioned or heated (as the need maybe) facility with well maintained restrooms and plenty of free parking, and friendly volunteers to help answer questions and give direction as needed, and most importantly: plenty of people looking to buy or sell those things that are of interest to the aquarium hobby whether it's coral frags, aquatic plants, pond supplies, or that cute little red shrimp that looks like it's already been boiled in Old Bay except it's alive. But there won't be grandpa's old recliner or Aunt Matilda's second best Sunday shoes to dig through to find them.

Club member volunteers (We should only need 5-6 at a time) will show up at 7:00 a.m. and start making sure everything is setup for the vendors and the buyers. Some volunteers may choose to work only an hour during the meet so they can man their own tables the rest of the time. Some may bring their family members to help man their tables. Some club members will just be volunteering as needed because they just enjoy socializing with other people interested in fish/aquariums. There are still plenty of opportunities to volunteer. The vendors should start arriving about 7:30 a.m. to start setting up their tables and the doors will be open to the general public at 9:00 a.m.



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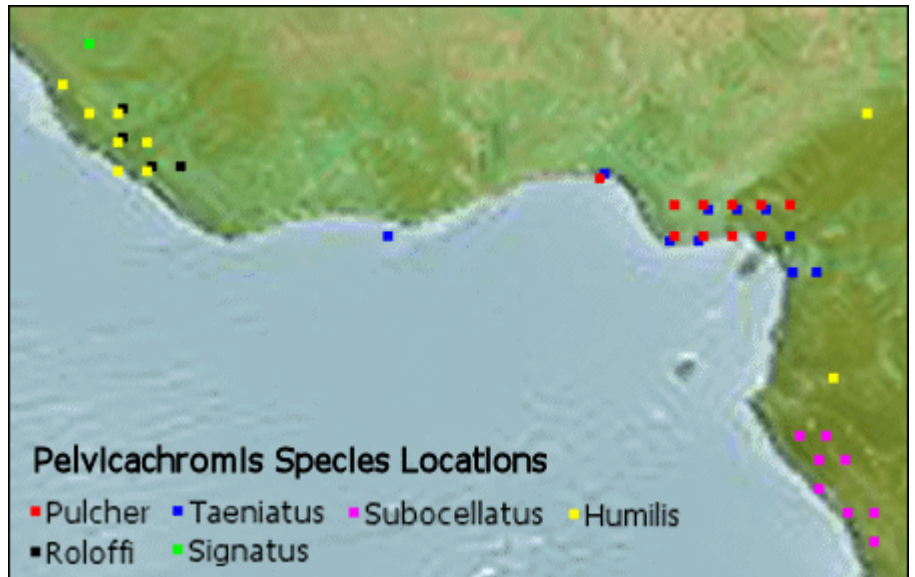


# Pelvicachromis.. Not Just The Kribensis

by Genn Brewer



One of the oldest and most common cichlid species in the hobby, nearly everyone is familiar with Pelvicachromis Pulcher aka the Krib or Kribensis. Described by Boulenger in 1901, the species was falsely placed under the name Pelmatichromis Kribensis, which is how it attained the common name kribensis or krib. Several color variants of this species exist... Red, Isokpo, Ndonga, Matadi, Yellow and a domestic albino. Most hobbyists have either owned or bred them at some point and it is well known as a beginners cichlid. Less known in the hobby is that there are several other fish within the pelvicachromis genus, some often mistaken for the well known P. pulcher.



The Pelvicachromis genus are referred to as West African Riverine cichlids and are distributed from Gabon, throughout the Nigerian river basin and as far south as the Congo. They prefer densely planted areas in either slow or fast moving water with a temperature range of 75 – 79° F

and a pH range of 5.5 to 8.0 depending on species and location it was collected, though the majority of pelvicachromis prefer soft acidic water. They feed on worms, crustations, insects, occasionall vegetation and smaller fish. Though captive bred specimens are well adapted to temperature ranges as high as 85° F and will eat frozen, domestically cultured and prepared foods.

Breeding of the genus is relatively simple, although some will breed more readily than others. They do well with spawning temps from 79 – 82° F and water ranges being set for the specific species you are attempting to spawn. When pairing off fish for breeding it is recommended to place a group in a 20 long or preferably larger tank with plenty of plants and hiding places as well as a few caves. Loss of fish is always a possibility. Any fish that is harried too much or receiving physical damage should be removed to a hospital/quarantine tank to recuperate. After a pair is formed remove the extra fish, leaving the remaining pair in the tank to spawn and raise their young.



To condition a pair I suggest using live foods, frozen foods and flakes in combination. A higher protein and fat content is recommended. Good live and frozen foods to feed include grindal, white, chopped red and blood worms, daphnia, brine and mysis shrimp. Regular water changes of 25-50% tank water should be performed once weekly, taking care to not to bother the pair as much as possible..

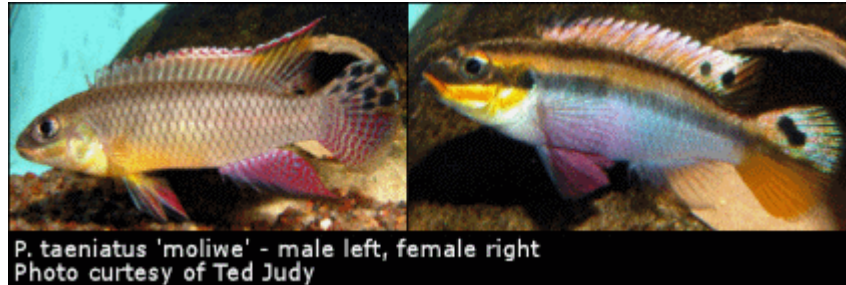
Once spawning takes place the female will guard and fan the eggs while the male patrols the tank in defence of intruders. On occasion the male will relieve the female from guarding the eggs so that she can take a break and grab a snack. Pelvicachromis can be HIGHLY aggressive while spawning and guarding their fry. I recommend not having other occupants in the tank as they are often killed or severely damaged. If the tank is large enough a surface species can be kept with the pair, but they should be watched closely in case they receive damage..

Depending on the water temperature the eggs will hatch anywhere from 3-4 days after being laid. At this time the fry are still weighed down by their yolk sacs and unable to swim. The parents will often move the fry to different locations by the mouthful until they are free swimming. This period also lasts around 3-4 days. Once the fry become free swimming they are lead/herded around the tank by their parents to find food. The parents keep a constant vigil over the fry protecting them from danger and will pick up any straggler and spit it back out into the group. In my experience spawns can range from 35 to 150 fry maybe more.

A study done by David Rubin in 1985 revealed that sex determination in pelvicachromis fry varies with pH and temperature. An experiment done with various types of pelvicachromis determined that acid water tends to produce more males than females. An example of this would be that at a pH of 5.0, 96% of the fry became male, while at a pH of 6.9, only 20% became male. Warmer temperatures also produce more males than females. The rates are increased or

decreased with different variations of pH and temperature. He obtained similar results with each species. Consequently this experiment was also tried with different species of Apistogramma with similar results.

Size of fry within a spawn will naturally vary from large to small, which is normal in any type of fish. Growth rate itself depends on water temperature, cleanliness and feeding. Fry grow better with warmer temperatures, between 79-82. Its recommended to change at least 25% of the water twice a week or 50% once a week. This is because growing fry naturally produce a growth inhibiting hormone. Too much of this hormone in the water will stunt your fry. Feeding in small amounts, 3-4 times daily produces better results than one large feeding a day. A combination of bbs and crushed quality flake food seems to do best.



Pelvicachromis Taeniatus, also described by Boulenger in 1901, are named according to the specific location from which they were collected. Largely ranging from coastal Nigeria, southeast throughout coastal Cameroon and into Equatorial Guinea. The males of this species differ from males of *p. pulcher* in that they have yellow coloration on the bottom front half of their body and upper lip. Their scales are edged in black, giving them an almost pineapple appearance, they have more red coloration in their anal and caudal fins. Females also have the same yellow coloration as the males. They display less dorsal and caudal spots than females of *p. pulcher*, some display no spots at all. There are several color morphs of this species, each collected in a different geographical location within the geographical range of the genus.

The natural occurring color morphs of the species include Bandiwouri, Bipindi, Dehane, Dja, Kienke, Lobe, Lobe Red, Lokoundje, Makoure, Moliwe, Muyuka, Ndonga, Nigeria Green, Nigeria Yellow, Nyete, Red Cheek and Wouri. *P. taeniatus* 'kienke' has also been referred to as Nange. *P. taeniatus* 'Nigerian Red' is a domestic color cross. It is speculated by a well know breeder of the genus that *P. taeniatus* 'Calabar' is likely a tank strain created from a cross between Lobe and Kribi River, based upon trying to find references for collections and looking at images of

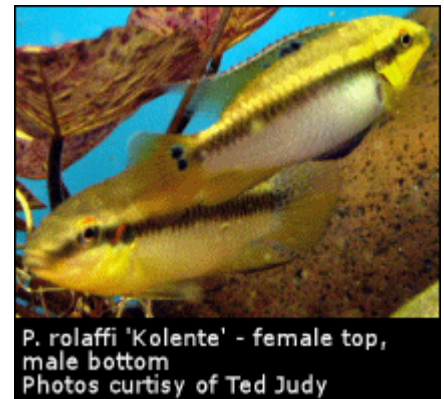


the fish. *P. taeniatus* is deffinatly the most diverse species of the genus.

My research of *Pelvicachromis Subocellatus*, described by Günther in 1872, have yielded little results as to the different color morphs other than Moanda and .Matadi. This species is found in Lower Gabon, in the coastal area from Libreville, to Moanda in the Lower Congo. They inhabit fresh and can occasionally even be found in brackish water. The males of this species look to me like a cross between *p. pulcher* and *p. taeniatus* in coloration and the body is less elongated in appearance. The females display a striking color pattern during spawning with the face being yellow and the body black with a purple belly.

*P. Sacromontis*, also known as the scarlet or giant krib, can also be found under the name *Pelvicachromis sp. aff. Pulcher* and is yet to be properly described. Is found east of the Niger River Delta along side, but not overlapping the territories of *P. Pulcher*. The males are probably the most colorful of any *Pelvicachromis* male. The lower half of an adult male is a bright apple red. These are one of the largest specimens of the species. Color variants of this speceis include green, red and yellow.

*P. Humilis* is found throughout the pelvicachromis range. It was described by Boulenger in 1916. These fish inhabit Sierra Leone, southeastern Guinea and enters into parts of the St. Paul and St. John River in Liberia. They are more pike-like in appearance than other *Pelvicachromis*. Depending on the mood of the fish they sometimes display several vertical bands along the body which differentiates them from other members of the genus. These guys run on the larger side of the species. The variants of this species are Boffa, Dinkaya, Friya, Guinea Red, Kasewe, Kenema, Killi River, Kislissi, Liberia-Red, and Mamuya Ferry.

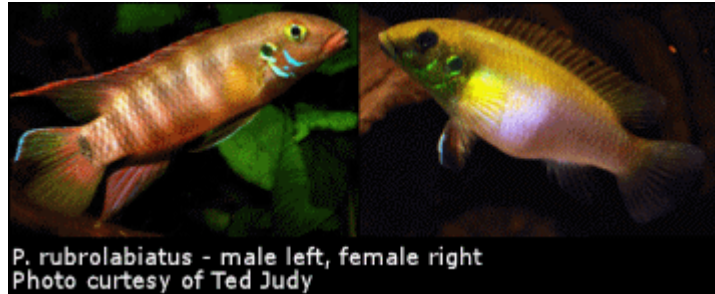


*Pelvicachromis Roloffi* was described by Thys van den Audenaerde in 1968 and are closely related to *p. subocellatus*. Another species I am having trouble finding references of color variance for... The only one I've come across is Kolente. These cichlids are found along the coastal rivers of southeastern Guinea, Sierra Leone and western Liberia. It is an attractive, but plain little fish with a large amount of yellow coloration. The females do exhibit a beautiful plum belly during breeding time as is typical of most of the genus.

*P. Signatus* is one of the newest species in the hobby. Described by Lamboj in 2004 it hails from the Bandi River,



Kolente basin, Guinea. I find this fish quite interesting, though information on it seems to be scarce so far I am assuming that it requires water conditions similar to that of other pelvicachromis species.



Another new species described by Lamboj in 2004 is Pelvicachromis Rubrolabiatus found in Guinea. Again not much information is given on this species. I've owned a pair of these and they seem to favor the same habitat as many other of the Genus. I regretfully lost my pair in the move across country, but will hopefully be able to acquire another pair once I have finished building my shelves and adding more tanks to my fish area here at the new house.



Finally we come to the newest addition to the genus P. sp. Blue-Fin, which is still undescribed. This little fish is unusual of the genus due to the appearance of a large amount of blue in the fins and body. I find it also notable that the females body turns almost entirely purple during courtship and fry care. The collection point of this species is yet unknown and it is believed that overseas distributors are keeping the location a secret at this point in time. The speculated location is somewhere in or around Fria, Konkoure River system, in Guinea. An unusual characteristic of this species is that the female does not possess the rounded pelvic fin typical of the species, being that it comes to a slight point. The point is, however, less apparent than that of the male. This difference has led some to believe that it should be given its own genus altogether. I have owned this species as well and it is, color wise, an unusual delight compared to other specimens of the genus. It does well under the same general conditions that others of the genus require.

In conclusion I'd like to say that this genus has far more to offer than meets the eye and is a wonderful addition to any fish room. They are relatively peaceful fish, except during courtship, and spawning. Being dwarf cichlids they take up less space in the fish room than most and are always a delight to observe. This genus has always been a favorite of mine and dominates more space in my fishroom than any other.

References from fishbase.org and various other internet resources. I'd like to give a big thanks to Ted Judy who provided photos for this article, as well as some information and has been an inspiration to me regarding this genus over the years..

# Other Stuff

Our meeting for October 2007 will be held on Friday, October 19, 2007 at 8 P.M. Guests are always welcome, and admission and parking are free. The program for our October meeting will be *Wild Discus And The Amazon*, presented by David Webber.

Please advertise the meeting in your community bulletin board. Thank you for your help in promoting the tropical fish hobby. Visit Long Island Aquarium Society online at: <http://www.liasonline.org>. LIAS meets at 8PM on the 3rd Friday of each month (except July and August) at Holtsville Park - 249 Buckley Road, Holtsville NY 11742.

The Long Island Aquarium Society, Inc. (LIAS) is the oldest organization devoted to Tropical Fish in the Long Island area. It is a non-profit educational organization dedicated to the study of aquatic life, with the goals of promoting interest, exchanging ideas, and encouraging the breeding and showing of fish.

Patricia A Smith, [guppy137@yahoo.com](mailto:guppy137@yahoo.com), 631-589-0913, 109 Bucknell Road, West Sayville, NY 11796

# Trading Post

Brandon Berry at [brandonberry@suddenlink.net](mailto:brandonberry@suddenlink.net)

I still have tons of coral frags to trade/sell. I will be at the frag swap at Down Under on 10/20. The frags can be viewed and I can be contacted here:

<http://www.carolinafishtalk.com/forum/viewtopic.php?t=2045>

Christine Duncan 919 662 8537 Garner NC e mail [swampwaterwitch@yahoo.com](mailto:swampwaterwitch@yahoo.com)

Has the following fish available

Laetacara Dorsigera a small S. American cichlid species peaceful in the community aquarium (unsexed fry 0.5-1 inch)

Angel fish fry unsexed and about 1 inch.

And the following Killifish species:

Epiplatys Duboisi, Ep. Dageti, Ep. Anunulatus, Ep. Infraciatus infrasciatus, Fund. Gardneri Makurdi, Fund. Gardneri Gold AS. And a sweet little blue dwarf killi known as Adoma Fomusus that would look good on a planted tank with other very small fish. Please call or email me if you are interested. Thank you for looking.

# Monthly Web Links

**Raleigh Aquarium Society Forum** on Yahoo Groups  
<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/raleighaquariumsociety/>

**Potomac Valley Aquarium Society** in the Washington D.C. area <http://www.pvas.com/>

**Atlanta Area Aquarium Association** in Atlanta, Georgia <http://www.atlantaaquarium.com/>

**Carolina Fish Talk** <http://www.carolinafishtalk.com/>

**Charlotte Area Aquarists Society** <http://pvelasco.net/CAASBBS/index.php>

**Marine Aquarium Society of the Carolinas** <http://masotc.net/>

**North Carolina Koi & Watergarden Society** <http://www.nckws.com/>

**Carolina Aquatic Plant Enthusiasts** <http://www.ncaquaticplants.org/>

**Aquatic Gardeners Association** <http://www.aquatic-gardeners.org/>

**KingFish Services** <http://www.kingfishservices.net/>

# Club Sponsors

*(The following businesses give RAS members a discount on purchases)  
You may be asked to show your RAS membership card*

[Aquatica](#) 5533 NC Hwy 42-West, A-16, Garner (10%) **919.661.7790**

[Aquatic Concepts](#) 4221 Garrett Road Durham, NC **919.489.901**

[Carolina Pet Supply](#) 322 McCormick Street, Garner (10%) **919.773.0014**

[Critter Country Inc](#) 14 Technology Drive, Garner (10%) **919.772.3761**

[Down Under, Salt Water Fish & Corals](#) Highway 70 (in between Agri Supply and White Oak Shopping Center) in Garner. 20% on livestock, 15% on dry goods) **919.662.8820**

[Fins, Furs & Feathers Pet Center](#) 303 S. Horner Boulevard, Sanford, NC 27330 (10% on everything except tanks) **919.718.0850**

[Fish Pros](#) 5655 Western Boulevard, Suite A, Raleigh 27606 (10%) **919.233.1122**

[Fish World](#) 2205 Westinghouse Blvd., Suite 109, Suite 109, Raleigh (10%) **919.872.1228**

[Infinity Pets](#) 100 W Main St Suite C, Youngsville NC 27596 (10%) **919.570.3039**

[Pet Mania](#) 7901 Falls of Neuse Rd #125, Raleigh (10%) **919.676.3225**

[Pet Paradise](#) 9101-141 Leesville Road, Raleigh (10%) **919.848.8881**

[The Pet Pad](#) 1347 Kildaire Farm Road, Cary, (10%) **919.481.6614**

[Triangle Tropical Fish](#) 3600 N. Duke St. Suite #36 Durham (10% excluding aquariums and stands) **919.479.0088**

Please contact Christine Duncan at [raleighaquariumsociety@yahoo.com](mailto:raleighaquariumsociety@yahoo.com) if you are an active member of the Raleigh Aquarium Society and do not have an up to date membership card. Membership cards can be picked up at any meeting.

# Raleigh Aquarium Society

## Application for Membership

Membership privileges include:

- Ability to post items in trading post section of monthly newsletter
- A discount card good at participating local pet stores
- All club discounts on club functions
- Education from the most knowledgeable aquarium experts in NC
- Yearly Membership - \$15.00 (includes spouse and children)

(Membership dues run from March 1st each year. New members joining any other time will be pro-rated at \$3 + \$1 for each month remaining in the year.)

Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Date to begin membership: \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ (2) (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

New Membership \_\_\_\_

Renewal Membership \_\_\_\_

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PO Box 31564  
Raleigh, NC 27612-1564