

## CHARACIN

### BASIC MERIT AWARD

To be given to hobbyists who have advanced well beyond the novice stage. The following requirements will be used by the Awards Committee as a basis for selection of applicants.

1. All applications should be made by or countersigned by the BAP Chairperson (if there is no BAP Chairperson then the executive body of an aquarist club/society may authorize).
2. The applicant must have experience and a good working knowledge in the care and maintenance of Characins.
3. The applicant must be successful in spawning at least eight (8) species of Characins and raise a reasonable number of fry to at least 8 weeks.

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### INTERMEDIATE MERIT AWARD

To be given to hobbyists who have advanced to a high level of achievement with consistent success in the maintenance, breeding and raising of Characins. The following requirements will be used by the Awards Committee as a basis for selection of applicants.

1. All applications should be made by or countersigned by the BAP Chairperson (if there is no BAP Chairperson then the executive body of an aquarist club/society may authorize).
2. It is mandatory that the applicant be a holder of the Characin Basic Merit Award certificate.
3. The applicant must have a consistent record of successful spawning and raising of good quality Characins.
4. The applicant must be successful in spawning fifteen (15) species of Characins and raise a reasonable number of fry to at least 8 weeks.

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### ADVANCED MERIT AWARD

To be given to hobbyists who have reached a more advanced level of achievement with consistent success in the maintenance, breeding and raising of Characins. The following requirements will be used by the Awards Committee as a basis for selection of applicants.

1. All applications should be made or countersigned by the BAP Chairperson (if there is no BAP Chairperson then the executive body of an aquarist club/society may authorize).
2. It is mandatory that the applicant be a holder of the Characin Intermediate Merit Award certificate.
3. The applicant must have a consistent record of successful spawning and raising of good quality Characins.

4. The applicant must be successful in spawning twenty-five (25) species of Characins and raise a reasonable number of fry to at least 8 weeks.
5. The species spawned must include at least one (1) target fish. (See Characin Target Fish List)

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### SENIOR MERIT AWARD

To be given to hobbyists who have advanced to the highest level of outstanding achievement in the maintenance, breeding and raising of Characins. The following requirements will be used by the Awards Committee a basis for selection of applicants.

1. All applicants must be nominated by the executive body of an aquarist club or group or by a member of the Awards Committee.
2. It is mandatory that the applicant be a holder of the Characin Advanced Merit Award certificate.
3. The Characin Senior Merit Award will be awarded to only those hobbyists who in the opinion of the Awards Committee have reached a most outstanding level of achievement.
4. The applicant must be successful in spawning forty (40) species of Characins and raise a reasonable number of fry to at least 8 weeks.
5. The species spawned must include at least five (5) target fish.  
(See Characin Target Fish List)

**Note: Since the term “a reasonable number” is almost impossible to define, the applicant should attempt to raise a quantity of fry that approaches production capability of the species in question.**

### CHARACIN TARGET FISH LIST

Paracheirodon innesi – neon  
Paracheirodon simulans – false neon  
Hyphessobrycon pulchripinnis – lemon  
Hyphessobrycon socolofi  
Thayeria oblique – penguin  
Hemigrammus rhodostomus - rummynose  
Hemigrammus erythrozonus - glowlight  
Hyphessobrycon heterorhabdus - Belgian flag  
Nannostomus beckfordi – pencilfish  
Nannostomus trifasciatus – pencilfish  
Metynniss hypsauchen – silver dollar

Arnoldichthys spilopterus – African red-eye  
Hemigrammopterus – caudalis – yellow Congo  
Exodon paradoxus – buck-tooth  
Carnegiella strigata – marble hatchet  
Copeina arnoldi – splash tetra  
Megalamphodus axelrodi – Calypso tetra

Rather than design a target list in the form of “all Hemigrammus except ...”, this is a specific list from which applicants for the Merit and Senior Merit Awards must choose and will result in a fairer system and will eliminate problems of deciding whether unspecified fish should be on the list or not.

The target fish were generally chosen for a number of reasons. Most, if not all, are commonly available or at least available on a ‘now and then’ basis. More than half of the species on the list have been bred by C.A.O.A.C. members as per the Breeders Directory and of the remaining species, all or very nearly all, are known to be breedable in aquaria. There is also a variety, both in terms of size and Characoid type.

Note: The above Target List will be used until any formal submission is received in writing. All submissions must be submitted to the Awards Committee Chairperson. The submission will be dealt with as time permits but may not be considered for the current calendar year received.