

## **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) Any application should be made by or countersigned by the executive body of an aquarist club or group.
- 2) The applicant must have experience and a good working knowledge in the care and maintenance of tropical fish.
- 3) The applicant must be successful in spawning at least six (6) species of egg-laying fish with three different spawning habits, e.g. egg-scatterers, bubble-nest-builders, substrate-spawners, mouth-brooders, etc. and raising a reasonable number, of young to eight (8) weeks.

## **INTERMEDIATE MERIT AWARD**

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

- 1) It is mandatory that the applicant be a Basic Merit Award holder.
- 2) All applications should be made by or countersigned by the executive body of an aquarist club or group. Applications will be qualified and/or verified and/or visited by the regional representative.
- 3) The applicant must have a consistent record of successful spawning and raising of good quality, tropical fish.
- 4) The minimum requirements will be the successful spawning and raising of a reasonable number\* of young to eight (8) weeks from the following list. A variance of three (3) fish will be allowed providing the total number of species (seventeen (17) or more) is acceptable. This would allow a breeder who is not particularly interested in some group of fish to replace a maximum of three (3) with species of a group in which he is interested. It would also allow for inclusion of fish which presently do not fit into the list.

Cichlids 3 species  
Minnnows 1 species  
Tetras 1 species  
Catfish 1 species  
Anabantids 2 species  
Barbs 2 species  
Killies (1 annual, 1 top-spawner) 2 species  
Livebearers 4 species  
  
Shrimps/Snails 1 specie

Common snails (ie. common ramshorn, pond snails and Malaysian livebearing snails) are excluded from consideration  
**Total of seventeen (17) species**

## **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 tropical fish. The following requirements will be used by the Awards Committee as a basis for the selection of applicants.

- 1) It is mandatory that the applicant be an Intermediate Merit Award holder.
- 2) All applications should be made by or countersigned by the executive body of an aquarist club or group. Applications will be qualified and/or verified and/or visited by the regional representative.
- 3) The applicant must have a consistent record of successful spawning and raising of good quality tropical fish.
- 4) The minimum requirements will be the successful spawning and raising of a reasonable number of young to eight (8) weeks from the following list. A variance of six (6) fish will be allowed providing the total number of species, thirty-seven (37) or more is acceptable. This would allow a breeder who is not particularly interested in some group of fish to replace a maximum of six (6) with species of a group in which he is interested. It would also allow for inclusion of fish which presently do not fit into the list. The application must include at least four (4) "Target Fish".

Anabantids 5 species  
Tetras 4 species  
Cichlids (5 substrate, 4 mouthbrooders) 9 species  
Catfish 2 species  
Livebearers 4 species  
Barbs 4 species  
Minnnows 3 species  
Killie (2 annuals, 2 top spawners) 4 species

Shrimp/Snails 2 species

Common snails (ie common ramshorns, pond snails, and Malaysian Livebearing snails) are excluded from consideration.

**Total of thirty-seven (37) species**

### **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 tropical fish. The following will serve to clarify the standards required by the Awards Committee before this award will be made.

- 1) The Senior Merit Award will be awarded only to those hobbyists who, in the opinion of the Awards Committee, have reached a most outstanding level of achievement.
- 2) Applicants must be nominated by the executive body of an aquarist club or group or by a member of the Awards Committee.
- 3) The applicant must already be a holder of the Advanced Merit Award.
- 4) The minimum requirements will be the successful spawning and raising a reasonable number of young to eight (8) weeks of seventy-five (75) species which cannot include more than ten (10) livebearers. The application must include at least ten (10) "Target Fish". (See list of "Target Fish" on page 8109)

**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.**

# LIST OF TARGET FISH

## LIVEBEARERS:

See livebearer target list.

## CATFISH:

All catfish except this group -  
*Corydoras aeneus*, *paleatus*,  
*melini*, *metae*, *trilineatus*, *pygmaeus*. *Ancistrus*  
cf. *cirrhhosis* (common bushy nose Pleco\*) and look  
alikes, *Megalechis thoracatum* and *picta* (formerly  
*Hoplosternum*), *Lepthoplosternum pectorale*  
(formerly *Hoplosternum*).

\*Reference is Planet Catfish Web Site.

## RASBORAS:

All Microrasbora, Boraras, Sawbwa, Trigonostigma.  
All Rasboras except *daniconius* & *trilineata*.

## BARBS:

Tinfoils, *Barbus callipterus*, *cummingi*, *fasciatus*,  
*everetti*, *holotaenia*, *hulstaerti*, *orphoides*, *janssensi*,  
*rhomboocelatus*, *viviparous*, *gelius*.

## CHARACINS:

Silver dollars (*Mytennis*), All *Paracheirodon*, *Exodon*,  
All Piranha species  
Rummynose (*Hemigrammus bleheri* & *rhodostomus*),  
*Loretto*, *Distichodus*, *Pencilfish* (*Nannostomus* &  
*Nannobrycon*), *Anostomus*, *Leporinus*,  
*Hatchets* (*Carnegiellia*, *Gasteropelecus*,  
*Thoracocharax*), *Poecilocharax weitzmani*, *Sabrefin*  
(*Crenuchus spilurus*), *Belgian flag* (*Hyphessobrycon*  
*heterorhabdus*), *Bleeding Heart* (*Hyphessobrycon*  
*erythrostroma*), All African Characins.

## ANABANTIDS:

All *Sphaerichthys*, *Kissers* (*Helostoma temminckii*),  
*Moonlight* (*Trichopodus microlepis*), *Osphronemus*  
*gorami*, All *Parosphromenus*, *Ctenopoma* except  
*fasciolatus*. *Betta macrostoma*.

SHARKS, EELS & LOACHES: ALL.

MARINE: ALL.

GOBIES & KNIVES: ALL.

## CICHLIDS:

All from Class D of African Rift Lake.

**Neotropical:** All *Symphysodon*, *Uaru* species,  
*Taeniacara candidi*, *Oscars*, *Cichla*, *Crenicichla*,  
*Crenicara*, *Dicrossus*, *Apistos* [All except *agassizii*,  
*borelli*, *cacatuoides*], *Apistogrammoides*  
*pucallpaensis*; *Chaetobranchus*, *Chaetobranchopsis*,  
*Pterophyllum altum* & *leopoldi*.

**Old world:** all *Nanochromis*, *Teleogramma*,  
*Congochromis*, *Limbochromis*, *Parananochromis*  
*Tylochromis*, *Pelmatochromis*, *Pterochromis*. All  
Madagascar cichlids. *Etoplus canarensis* & *suratensis*

## KILLIES:

All *Aphyolebias*, *Campellolebias*, *Trigonectes*,  
*Neofundulus*, *Moema*, *Pituna*, *Papiliolebias*,  
*Gnatholebias*, *Renova*, *Pterolebias*.  
*Nothobranchius* - *eggersi*, *geminus*, *leukei*, *janpapi*,  
*lourensi*, *neumanni*, *microlepis*, *ocelatus*,  
*luekei*, *taeniopygus*, *orthonotus*, *robustus*,  
*kafuensis*, *kuhntae*, *furzeri*, *kirki*  
All *Callopanchax*. *Lamprichthys*.  
*Terranatos dolichopterus*, *Rivulus xiphidium*, *roloffii*.  
*Aplocheilus huberi*, *dayi*, all *Diapteron*,  
*Pseudepiplatys annulatus*.

## OTHERS:

*Pantodon*, All Leaf fish, *Iriatherina wernerii*,  
*Puffers*, *Scats*, *Monos*  
*Bonytongues*, *Mormyrids*, *Mudskippers*

This is a tentative list and any questions regarding this list should be forwarded to the committee. This list will be revised as required and fish which are new to the hobby will be evaluated by the committee after they have been available for sufficient time to form an opinion.

Any fish not known to have been previously spawned or only spawned accidentally on rare occasions.

If you are breeding a fish that you think should be on this list, please contact the Committee Chairman for a ruling.

## Target Fish For Livebearers

Any Anableps species

Belonesox belizanus

Any Jenynsia species

Skiffia bilineata and francesae

Any Girardinichthys species

Hubbsinia turneri

Any Allodontichthys species

Any Hemirhamphidae

Any Syngnathid (Fresh or Marine)

Any Livebearing Stingray