

Neolamprologus leleupi

By Greg Ure



Neolamprologus leleupi - Female

Scientific Name: *Neolamprologus leleupi* was originally described as *Lamprologus leleupi* by Max Poll in 1956.

In 1985 Jean Colombé and Robert Allgayer proposed in the French Cichlid Club publication “Revue Française des Cichlidophiles” that the catch-all genus *Lamprologus* be subdivided into a number of genera with the type species (*Lamprologus congoensis*) and related riverine species being the only ones still in *Lamprologus*.

The other genera they validated were *Lepidolamprologus*, *Neolamprologus*, *Altolamprologus*, *Variabilichromis* and

Paleolamprologus.

Also there is some Lake Tanganyika species that more work needs to be done on and these are known as “*exLamprologus*” and include *exLamprologus multifasciatus*.



***Neolamprologus leleupi* - Male**

In earlier books there is listed three subspecies being *Neolamprologus leleupi leleupi*, *Neolamprologus leleupi lon-gior* and *Neolamprologus leleupi melas*.

Neolamprologus leleupi longior is the same size and colour but has a slightly higher body depth.

There is also an undescribed fish that Ad Konings has photographed at Kampampa called *Neolamprologus* sp.”Leleupi Kampampa”

Meaning Of Scientific Name: *Neolamprologus* = New Lamprologus with Lamprologus being a combination of the two greek words Lampros meaning brilliant and logos which has a few meanings and the most appropriate in this case is “a study of”.

leleupi is named after N. Leloup, a biologist who on the 1946-47 expedition to Lake Tanganyika collected the holotype etc.



***Neolamprologus leleupi* - Female above and Male below**

Synonyms: *Neolampro-logus leleupi melas* is now considered to be just a dark variant of *Neolamprologus leleupi leleupi*.

Other Species In Genus: There are 40 described species and four undescribed species of *Neolamprologus*. *Neolamprologus leleupi* belongs to the elongated non-lyretail group along with *Neolamprologus cylindricus*, *Neolamprologus pectoralis*, *Neolamprologus nigriventris* and *Neolamprologus mustax*.

Could be Confused With: *Neolamprologus mustax* which is the only other yellow member of the elongated non-lyretail group. *Neolamprologus mustax* is a shorter and higher bodied cichlid which has brown forms as well as a yellow form with this form having a white lower jaw and a brown head. The fish with a similar species name *exLamprologus leloupi* is a member of the exLamprologus group and superficially looks like *exLamprologus caudopuncatus*.

Location: Lake Tanganyika Africa. On page 131 of Konings 2015 is all the localities of the various colour variations of *Neolamprologus leleupi*. It is found in the rocky habitat usually below 15 metres.

Size - Male: 90 mm SL & **Female:** 90 mm SL

Specific Disease Problems: None.

Temperament: In the wild males have a territory of a few metres and tolerate ripe females in their territory. In the aquarium watch them as they grow and in any aquarium smaller than 120 cm remove the other *Neolamprologus leleupi* as soon a pair forms or use an aquarium divider to give the pair their own third to half the tank..

Sexual Differences: Male and female *Neolamprologus leleupi* are the same colour and very similar in shape. In the aquarium a male *Neolamprologus leleupi* may be more assertive; first to the food and start to grow larger than his siblings. By the time a pair bond forms he might start to have a slight nuchal hump and a slightly longer pelvic fins. As they breed, the females growth may slow due to the energy she uses in producing eggs.

Care: 60 cm aquarium is ok for a pair but a 90 cm or larger aquarium or larger is ideal for growing up a few to allow natural pair selection.

A pile of rocks allows the male to establish a territory and a second pile is needed in the larger aquarium to allow the non-breeding fish protection. A good dither fish is the estuarine *Pseudomugil signifier* the native Blue Eye as well as *Cyprichromis* species.

Diet: In the wild *Neolamprologus leleupi* is an invertebrate feeder. Suitable aquarium food includes small cichlid flake as well as frozen or live invertebrates such as Daphnia and Brine Shrimp.

Breeding: While they prefer to breed in a cave or flower pot, they will breed in a more open area if nothing is available. The 50 to 150 eggs are laid on the side or roof and hatch in about 4 days. The female should have absorbed their egg sac in about another 72-96 hours. At this stage the fry are able to eat newly hatched brine shrimp.

Availability: This fish is on the Australian import list as well as being locally bred.