

The Lake Eacham rainbowfish

With this article I would like to promote *Melanotaenia eachamensis* “Lake Eacham.” This species has almost disappeared within the IRG. According to our species list in December 2015 there are just three members who keep this fish.

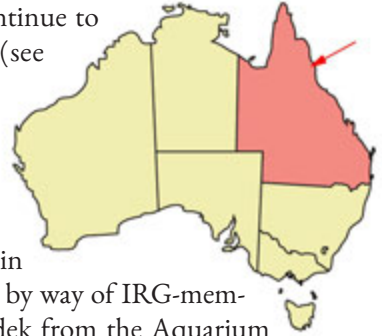
Outside of the IRG and Australia this species is likely to be effectively unknown in the hobby. However, *Melanotaenia eachamensis* “Lake Eacham” is kept in some zoo aquaria. In the original biotope this species has been extinct for decades.

The Zoo of Wuppertal obtained fishes in the 1990s through the IRG (Norbert Grunwald), who cooperated in a conservation program. There they were bred in small numbers over many years and were, among others, passed on to the Aquarium of the Zoo of Berlin. The Zoo Aquarium in Leipzig obtained fishes from both, Wuppertal and Berlin. Offspring from Leipzig was passed on to or exchanged with Aquarium Dietzenbach and Aquarium Erfurt as well as German and Austrian IRG members. The Akva Terra in the Zoo Plzen (Czech Republic) has had animals at some point but these days only Leip-

zig seems to continue to keep them (see www.zootierliste.de)?

I obtained my *Melanotaenia eachamensis* “Lake Eacham” in November 2014 by way of IRG-member Lothar Dudek from the Aquarium of the Zoo of Leipzig. The same year I applied for the IRG-godparenthood for this species. At this time I have a group of 23 animals swimming around, as well as some young fishes in the breeding tank.

I keep my fishes under the following conditions: pH 6.8, carbonate hardness 6 °dH, total hardness 14 °dH, temperature 24 °C (young fishes 26 °C). They are fed with live, dried and frozen foods. The fishes are not picky, they even eat the duckweed I keep in the breeding tank. Their



My godchildren fishes *Melanotaenia eachamensis* “Lake Eacham” in the species aquarium (photo: Henry Wolf).



▲ Lake Eacham is an isolated idyllic crater lake in the Atherton Tablelands (Qld), where *Melanotaenia eachamensis* has been extinct since 1987, due to introduced competitive fish (photo's: Gunther Schmida)

◀ The IRG-stock of *M. eachamensis* (e.g. from Austria) also served as fresh blood for the Zoo Aquarium in Leipzig (photo: Konrad Ettengruber)

care is without problems, breeding is simple.

Only raising them is a little more difficult, because the larvae are extremely small. I feed the larvae with commercial

fish foods “Hobby Liquizell,” “JBL Nobil-Fluid” and “JBL NovoTom.” At this moment the young fish are three to five, the parents eight to ten centimetres in size. Have I piqued your interest in this fish?

This paper has been published in:



| INHALT | |
|--------|--|
| 48 | Editorial |
| 49 | Expedition: Die Entdeckung von <i>M. bowmani</i> und <i>M. grunwaldi</i> Johannes Graf |
| 60 | Expedition: Entlang der Cenderawasih-Bucht Ulmer Georg Ehm |
| 65 | Vorstellung: Der Lake-Tacham-Regenbogenfisch Henry Wolf |
| 68 | Lebensraum: Vögel und Fische im „Ökosystem Palmölplantage“ Janine Sibers, Nadine Wörtheligt & Michael Wagner |
| 76 | Importiert: Neue Regenbogenfische vom Taritatu Johannes Graf |
| 80 | Unter Wasser: Videodokumentation in australischen Süßwasser- biotopen Oliver Göttschlich & Greg Welle |
| 82 | Impressum |

PDF-File in English available for download on www.irg-online.de/info

Tierbild:
Typenfondren von *Afinosternia grunwaldi* im Tintopgebiet des Tupo-see
einer Brücke südlich von Nabire. Betrieben zu Ehren unserer 1000
1000-Mitglieder, Regionalgruppenleiter und Redaktions-Nachbar
Grunwald.
Foto: Gary Lange

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Regenbogenfisch is the quarterly journal of the IRG, published in German and Dutch and included in the membership fee. Some of the content is additionally provided in English as PDF files.

IRG - Internationale Gesellschaft für Regenbogenfische e.V. (International Rainbowfish Association), founded in 1986, is a community of fishkeepers with special interest in rainbowfishes, blue-eyes, and other freshwater species from Australia, New Guinea and the close-by islands. Most of our 500+ members live in Europe. 100+ species and varieties are kept and homebred in our aquaria. In regional meetings fish and information are exchanged. Our transnational, annual convention brings together many members and sees presentations of experts and the world's largest rainbowfish sale. The date is fixed each year to the second weekend of June.

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