

XGSC FAQs

What services does the *Xiphophorus* Genetic Stock Center provide?

The XGSC has maintained 24 species of *Xiphophorus* along with 61 pedigree lines for almost 80 years. We provide live fish, preserved fish, artificial insemination, tissue dissection, conserved biological materials, and husbandry and genetic consultations to researchers.

How long does it take for *Xiphophorus* to mature?

Platyfish take from 3 months to 9 months to mature but vary depending upon species. Swordtails also vary depending on species but typically take 6 months to 1 year to mature. Some swordtail species will only have one dominant male mature in the tank at a time. The dominant male suppresses other males from maturing until the dominant male is removed; following removal, another male will mature and assume dominance.

What is the process for ordering fish?

Center staff members breed fish to meet requests of specific orders from center users and collaborators. Most fish requests consist of one or several mating pairs (i.e., 1 female and 1 male) of a specific line. Usually, requesting investigators will breed fish further in their own aquaria to meet the needs of their project. In all cases, maintenance and reproduction take longer for live-bearing fish species relative to egg-laying species. Egg-laying species may produce thousands of embryos in a few days, whereas *Xiphophorus* have broods of 5 to 20 fish about every 30 days. Since aquarium space is always valuable, we maintain only enough fish of each stock to ensure its perpetuation. If large numbers of fish will be needed for a project, it is best to give as much notice as possible to produce the desired required number.

Can I order inter-species hybrids?

The XGSC produces custom interspecies hybrids for a variety of projects. Fulfilling requests for select inter-species and back cross hybrids can take well over a year. Therefore, we also institute other charges for such specific breeding regimens negotiated on a case-by-case basis.

How much do you charge for fish?

The cost for fish is \$40.00 per mating pair or \$20.00 per fish plus FedEx Overnight Priority shipping costs. However, discounts are available to NIH researchers.

Can you ship internationally?

Currently, we are only able to ship fish within the United States.

Can I visit and tour the center?

Absolutely! We offer educational tours for small groups and can provide onsite presentations. Contact Markita@txstate.edu to schedule your visit.

Is the XGSC hiring?

We offer work-study employment to current Texas State students to help feed and maintain the fish. If you have been awarded work-study and would like to be considered for employment, check Jobs4Cats for open positions at the beginning of each semester.