

*Xiphophorus nigrensis*



Female



Male

Strain code: nigrn

Phenotypes scored: Caudal blotch (Cb) and wild-type (+)

Introduction:

Specimens of *X. nigrensis* were collected in a headwater cave of the Rio Choy, San Luis Potosi, Mexico, by Dominic Isla on February 17, 1999, and were received at the Stock Center on September 22, 1999. This stock represents the progeny of a single, wild-caught female. *X. nigrensis* resembles *X. pygmaeus*, and was originally classified as a subspecies of *X. pygmaeus*. Not only is *X. nigrensis* similar in size and shape, but it shows similar coloration and pigment patterns. Both possess a single, dense mid-lateral stripe, which appears solid at birth, but separates into several lines over time. There are additional coalesced zigzag stripes along the lateral surface that are similar in appearance in both species. A unique character seen in both *X. nigrensis* and *X. multilineatus*, but not in any other swordtail species, is that the sword shows allometric growth. Consequently, the sword index is not constant in mature males, unlike other species, where this index is relatively constant. The sword is composed of un-branched rays and is often upturned, and often lacks pigment in the distal dorsal surface of the sword (Kallman and Atz, 1967; Rauchenberger, et al., 1990).

Sexing:

Fish are sexed at two to three months of age.

Scoring:

Caudal blotch (Cb) is scored in this stock and is easier to observe in anesthetized animals using the dissecting microscope.

Maintenance:

Five to six matings should be established for each generation using reciprocal crosses. Cb should be maintained in a heterozygous fashion (Cb/+) if the fish are available. This is done by continually mating a Cb expressing fish to a fish lacking Cb. One may also want to set up 2 of the matings using only fish not expressing Cb (+) to help ensure that the wild-type allele is not lost.

Stock source:

Dominic Isla, 9/29/99.