

*Xiphophorus monticolus*, El Tejon



Female



Male

Strain code: Tej

Phenotypes scored: Sword color (or)

Introduction:

The recently described *X. monticolus* resembles *X. clemenciae*. One primary character aligning this group with *X. clemenciae* is the shape of the dorsal fin: it is square in males of both *X. clemenciae* and *X. monticolus* fish, in contrast to the more rectangular shape seen in *X. helleri*. Like *X. clemenciae*, these fish are small to moderate in size. Also in common, there are no macromelanophore or tail-spot patterns; the caudal fin shows a convex shape immediately above the sword and has no marginal pigmentation. The sword is orange-ish in color, with black lining the upper and lower margins of the sword. The axillary stripe that extends from the base of the pectoral fin past the gonopodium is less distinct in El Tejon males, i.e., it is diffuse and faint, as is a black line between the eye and lips. Differentiating *X. monticolus* from *X. clemenciae* is one yellowish, faint stripe that runs from the opercle toward the caudal fin and the presence of black spots at the base of the caudal fin.

Sexing:

Fish are sexed at 3 to 4 months of age. The chromosomal mechanism for sexual determination is unknown and this stock is prone to biased sex ratios.

Scoring:

Although no variation in phenotypes has been noted, sword color is scored in this stock using a black background and a dissecting microscope. The stock appears to be fixed for orange sword color (or).

Maintenance:

The El Tejon stock is maintained with reciprocal crosses between two or more different pedigrees. Typically 5 or 6 matings are set up for each generation. Also because of the occurrence of biased sex ratios at least one tank of females and one tank of males should be kept from the previous generation until males and females of the new generation have been positively identified.

Stock source:

The Stock Center received the first *X. monticolus* El Tejon fish from K. Kallman on April 4, 1995. This shipment comprised 5 wild caught fish, 4 females and 1 male. These fish gave rise to 4 different pedigrees of the El Tejon fish, which have been used to propagate this stock in the Stock Center since 1995. An additional shipment of fish that originated in the wild was received in May, 1997.