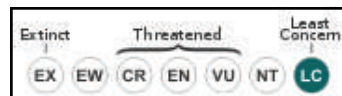




Gold Breast Goodeid (*Ilyodon furcoides*)

Order: Cyprinodontiformes - Family: Goodeidae



Also known as: Also referred to as the Gold Breast Splitfin.

Type: Freshwater

Description: Gold Breast Goodeid, (*Ilyodon furcoides*) *Ilyodon furcoides* is a member of the Goodeid family of livebearers.

Physical Characteristics: The species name 'furcoides' is derived from the interesting fork-shaped teeth of this fish. They resemble a shiner in appearance and they are sizeable, reaching three inches as adults. This species may develop a cervical hump as it matures. As with other Goodeids, there is less of a size difference between the sexes than in many other livebearers. This is thought to be related to the relatively primitive structure of the andropodium, as the fish tend to choose mates that are of similar size so that the sex organs are synchronized. The fish develop a small cervical hump with increasing age.

- **Dorsal fin = 14-17 rays;**
- **ventral fin = 6 rays;**
- **Pectoral fin = 14-16 rays.**

Size / Weight / Age: Maximum Standard Length; Male 2.8" (7cm). Female 3.6" (9cm).

Color Form: While most wild type livebearers are a nondescript dull gray color, the *Ilyodon furcoides* are very attractive with subtle yellows and black coloration running along their body and intense yellow coloration on their finnage, with the male displaying more coloration than the female as can be seen in the attached pictures.

Sexual Dimorphism: Males are smaller, more colorful and possess an andropodium (this is a notched anal fin used for reproduction).

Reproduction & Spawning: Easy. Livebearer. Should be mated in a species aquarium and can be bred using a single pair or a group (flock spawning). The breeding tank should contain lots of plants. Goodeids breed in a slightly different way to other livebearers. Females do not store sperm as in many other livebearing species and must be mated separately for each brood of young. They also display no gravid spot. Gestation takes between 7-8 weeks after which 5-50 huge (up to 1.5cm!) fry are produced. Sometimes these may have what appears to be an umbilical cord attached. This is quite normal (see below) and will disappear in 2-3 days. The fry are large enough to accept the same foods as the adults from birth and will be bold and outgoing from the outset, competing for food with any other fish in the aquarium. The parents rarely predate on the fry. Goodeids are unique among livebearers in that the developing young are nourished by a specialized structure known as the trophotaeniae. This performs a similar function to the placenta in mammals and the remnants of it can often be seen attached to the young fish at birth. Male fish also possess an internal muscular structure known as a pseudo-phallus, which connects the sperm ducts to the genital opening, and is said to forcibly eject sperm.

Lifespan:

Origin / Distribution: The states of Jalisco and Colima, Mexico. *Ilyodon furcoides* originates from rivers and ponds in the Mexican federal states Colima and Jalisco. These Goodeids are normally found in quickly-flowing waters which drain the southern slopes of the Mesa Central into the Pacific.

Type locality: Not clear, JORDAN and GILBERT declare Cape San Lucas. HUBBS (1932) apparently recognizes the mistake and announces Colima as natural habitat.

Conservation Status: Endangered

Behavior: *Ilyodon furcoides* is a peaceful fish and can be kept in a community tank. The males will often fight among themselves without injuring each other so hiding places in the aquarium, such as plants, stone constructions and roots will be beneficial. It is also advantageous to have several males in one tank, so that a possible, but rare conflict is spread over several fish.

Habitat / Biotope: Inhabits fast-flowing streams and small rivers with varying biotopes.

Diet: Omnivorous and unfussy they will accept most foods offered. They do consume large amounts of algae in their natural habitat so some greenstuffs should be included in the diet.

Aquarium Setup: A planted aquarium with some floating cover and a scattering of smooth rocks is ideal for *I. furcoides*. A good flow of water is also appreciated as these fish prefer well-oxygenated water.

Minimum Tank Size: Aquarium Size TOP; 30" x 12" x 12" (75x30x30cm)

Care Level: The culture of this species is easy. Aquariums of 80 liters or larger should be used.

Water Conditions:

- Temperature: 64-75°F (18-24°C)
- pH: 7.0-8.0
- Hardness: 10-20 dH

Swimming Level: *Ilyodon furcoides* is a lively, strong swimming fish that will enjoy a water current in the aquarium.

Compatibility / Temperament: A peaceful fish and can be kept in a community tank provided the other species can cope with the lower temperatures required. Males may squabble amongst themselves but physical damage is rare.

