

Tropheops sp. Albino Red cheeks
(Albino Red Mac)

Mbuna, Lake Malawi

Geo. Origin: Likoma Island, Malawi

Habitat: Caverns under large rocks

Diet: Herbivore

Gender Differences: Monomorphic

Breeding: Maternal Mouthbrooder

Temperament: Aggressive

Conspecific Temperament: Mildly Aggressive

Maximum Size: 5"



Unlike many cichlids, the Albino Red Mac's male and females of the population both display beautiful, vibrant hues of color. The skin of this species can morph into different shades of blues, yellows, and reds. These cichlids will also have darker striped patterns down the sides of their bodies; and when mating season occurs, their soft-rayed part of the anal fin will have prominent orange egg spots. Their ability to change color is known as polychromatism.

1

Labeotropheus fuelleborni
(Chalo white belly)

Mbuna, Lake Malawi

Geo. Origin: Likoma Island, Malawi

Habitat: Shallow Precipitous Rocky Habitat

Diet: Omnivore

Gender Differences: monomorphic

Breeding: Maternal Mouthbrooder

Temperament: Peaceful

Conspecific Temperament: Mildly Aggressive

Maximum Size: 5"



This species has the characteristic overhanging snout. It has chisel-shaped teeth which are designed for grazing algae off rocks. These physical adaptations allow it to graze algae from rocks situated in very shallow water which other species cannot reach. The position of the mouth allows the fish to remain parallel to the rock surfaces, thus enabling it to cope with the turbulence in these areas. *L. fuelleborni* exists in many different color forms in nature. These include female morphs, such as orange and orange blotch. Male fish exhibiting the orange blotch patterning are rare and are commonly referred to as "marmalade cats."

2

Metriaclima esthera "Red"

(Cherry Red Zebra)

Mbuna, Lake Malawi

Geo. Origin: Coasts of Mozambique and Malawi, Minos Reef to Gome

Habitat: Shallow rocky coastlines and reefs

Diet: Omnivore

Gender Differences: Dimorphic

Breeding: Maternal Mouthbrooder

Temperament: Peaceful

Conspecific Temperament: Mildly Aggressive

Maximum Size: 5"

Despite their name, the Cherry Red Zebra is not commonly cherry red, nor even striped! The Cherry Red Zebra may display a range of different colors including beige, brown, blue, orange, yellow, and pink. Males of this species will commonly exhibit a strong orange coloration, while the females of this species will commonly exhibit a strong blue color. It is also known males will have more egg spots (found on the anal fin of the cichlid) than females within their lifetimes.



3

Maylandia callainos

(Cobalt Blue Zebra)

Mbuna, Lake Malawi

Geo. Origin: Nkhata Bay: Likoma Island, Malawi

Habitat: Deep Rocky Habitat

Diet: Omnivore

Gender Differences: Dimorphic

Breeding: Maternal Mouthbrooder

Temperament: Aggressive

Conspecific Temperament: Mildly Aggressive

Maximum Size: 6"

Maylandia callainos is a species of cichlid endemic to Lake Malawi. They naturally live in the Nkhata Bay part of the lake. These cichlids are also identified as "peacock blue cichlids," due to their striking coloration. The outside of their body is composed of a mixture of brilliant blues and whites on a black base color. When looking closely, one can see the symmetrical lines that cover the cichlid's body. Common predators of *Maylandia callainos* include Large Angelfish, Grouper, Tuna and Puffers.



4

Cynotilapia zebroides Ndonga

(Deep Ndonga)

Mbuna, Lake Malawi

Geo. Origin: Likoma Island, Malawi

Habitat: Cave dweller in rocky habitats

Diet: Herbivore

Gender Differences: Dimorphic

Breeding: Maternal Mouthbrooder

Temperament: Aggressive

Conspecific Temperament: Very Aggressive

Maximum Size: 4"

The *Cynotilapia zebroides* Ndonga, or Deep Ndonga fish, live together in small groups. They naturally found in mid to greater depths of water in Lake Malawi. Males of this species may have either white, black, orange, or yellow dorsal fins. Females of this species will have a dull purplish-brown coloration. Both sexes of this species have a gold ring around the pupil of their eye.



5

Labidochromis joanjohnsonae

(Exasperatus)

Mbuna, Lake Malawi

Formerly Melanochromis

Geo. Origin: Likoma Island Malawi

Habitat: Sediment-Rich Rocky Habitat

Diet: Omnivore

Gender Differences: Dimorphic

Breeding: Maternal Mouthbrooder

Temperament: Mildly Aggressive

Conspecific Temperament: Highly Aggressive

Maximum Size: 4"

Exasperatus (*Labidochromis joanjohnsonae*), formerly *Melanochromis joanjohnsonae*, is a speckled mbuna when young. The juveniles are also seen to have horizontal, band-like stripes down the sides of their body. Adults will commonly sport a pale blue body with light colored horizontal bands down its sides. Males are known to have yellow egg spots on their dorsal fin. The Females of this species will typically not act aggressively; males tend to be aggressive towards fish with a similar appearance. They will rapidly "dive into" another of its kind should it or territory be threatened. Exasperatus eat algae, crustaceans, insects, and other fishes' larvae.



6

Cynotilapia zebroides "Jalo Reef"

(Jalo Reef Afra)

Mbuna, Lake Malawi

Geo. Origin: Likoma Island, Malawi

Habitat: Cave dweller in Rocky Habitat

Diet: Omnivore

Gender Differences: Dimorphic

Breeding: Maternal Mouthbrooder

Temperament: Mildly Aggressive

Conspecific Temperament: Mildly Aggressive

Maximum Size: 3"



The Jalo Reef Afra has an elongate body with vertical blue and black bars; specific coloration patterns vary but the Jalo Reef population tends to show yellow on its dorsal fin, but nowhere on its body). This species is able to live in intermediate zones with rocks or sand, though most are found in deeper, rocky waters. Jalo Reef Afra feed on plankton and algae that grows on the rocks around them. Males of this species may exhibit a white, black, orange or yellow colored dorsal fin. Females of species are mostly docile. Groups of females may often form large schools in the middle of the water column to collectively feed on plankton.

7

Metriaclima pulpican

(Kingsizei frost)

Mbuna, Lake Malawi

Geo. Origin: Likoma Island, Malawi

Habitat: Rocky shores

Diet: Herbivore

Gender Differences: Dimorphic

Breeding: Maternal Mouthbrooder

Temperament: Mildly aggressive

Conspecific Temperament: Aggressive

Maximum Size: 4"



The Kingsizei cichlid is found in Likoma Island in Lake Malawi Africa. The males of this species are light blue with five, vertical, dark blue bars. When provoked, the lower part of its body may turn completely black. Females are smaller and less vibrant in color than males. This species is known to dig in the substrate, creating small depressions in their habitat. Specifically, males are known to dig these depressions under rocks to attract mates. While they dig these spaces, they will also defend the rock above the depression. If a female is foraging from the rock but won't spawn, the male will chase her out of its territory.

8

Metriaclima sp. "Long- Pelvic Zebra"

(Long Pelvic Chewere)

Mbuna, Lake Malawi

Geo. Origin: Chewere Reef: Likoma Island, Malawi

Habitat: Intermediate zone

Diet: Omnivore

Gender Differences: Dimorphic

Breeding: Maternal Mouthbrooder

Temperament: Mildly Aggressive

Conspecific Temperament: Midly Aggressive

Maximum Size: 4"

This species is a small, slender, elongated mbuna that inhabits many areas of Lake Malawi. Its chisel shaped teeth allow it to scrape algae off the rocks in its habitat. Additionally, its mouth positioning allows the fish to remain parallel to the rock surfaces as it eats; thus, both characteristics further enable it to feed more efficiently in its turbulent environment. Furthermore, both sexes exhibit "zebra" like stripes down their bodies. Key differences between the sexes are that male's bodies are known to have a brighter blue hue, with yellow dorsal fins; while the female's body and fins are known to be more of a muted brown-ish blue color entirely.



9

Pseudotropheus cyaneorhabdos

(Maingano Cichlid)

Mbuna, Lake Malawi

Geo. Origin: Likoma Island, Malawi

Habitat: Rocky shorelines

Diet: Omnivore

Gender Differences: Dimorphic

Breeding: Maternal Mouthbrooder

Temperament: Aggressive

Conspecific Temperament: Very Aggressive

Maximum Size: 4"

The Maingano Cichlid has an elongated, rounded snout and a continuous dorsal fin. They have incisor-like teeth, closely spaced together and two horizontal lines down its body. This species can be distinguished by its overall vibrant blueish coloration found on the dominant male. They can easily be mistaken for their close relatives, the Electric Blue Johanni (*Melanochromis johanni*), as both cichlids have dark stripes down the sides of their bodies, as well as an electric blue hue!



10

Metriaclima sp. "Gold" Lion's Cove

(Mustardi Zebra)

Lake Victoria

Geo. Origin: Mwanza Gulf Area

Habitat: Deep Rocky Habitat

Diet: Omnivore

Gender Differences: Dimorphic

Breeding: Maternal Mouthbrooder

Temperament: Peaceful

Conspecific Temperament: Mildly Aggressive

Maximum Size: 4"

Mustardi Zebra are not often sighted in Lake Malawi. The males of this species will often have a yellow- gold color on their bodies and dorsal fin. The lower part of their head, and lower fins exhibit a very dark, blackish- blue hue. Its vertical stripes alongside its body also have this same dark coloration. Females of this species can be grey or gold; they too will also have blackish-blue stripes down the side of their bodies.



11

Labeotropheus trewavasae Chilumba

(Ochre)

Mbuna, Lake Malawi

Geo. Origin: Likoma Island, Malawi

Habitat: Cave dweller in Rocky water

Diet: Omnivore

Gender Differences: Dimorphic

Breeding: Maternal Mouthbrooder

Temperament: Aggressive

Conspecific Temperament: Mildly Aggressive

Maximum Size: 6"

L. trewavasae appear similar to the *L. fuelleborni*. However, the *L. trewavasae* can be distinguished by its lean body. This form allows it to fit better in the small holes between rocks— perfect considering they are cave dwellers! The curved, hanging snout shape of this fish allows it to scratch algae from rocks at a slight angle; this minimizes drag from the streaming water; giving it more efficiency in feeding



12

Pseudotropheus johanni Gome

(Orange/Blue Johanni)

Mbuna, Lake Malawi

Geo. Origin: Likoma Island, Malawi

Habitat: Shallow Littoral zones

Diet: Omnivore

Gender Differences: Dimorphic

Breeding: Maternal Mouthbrooder

Temperament: Peaceful

Conspecific Temperament: Semi- Aggressive

Maximum Size: 3"

This fish is also identified as the Electric Blue Johanni or Bluegray Mbuna Cichlid. In its juvenile stage, its color is orange; once entering maturity, the males coloration turns into different hues of blue that can range between a brilliant sky blue to a dark deep ocean blue. Often on their bodies, they will have a sort of checkerboard pattern of alternating light and dark patches. Juvenile females will keep their yellow- orange coloration even into maturity.



13

Labeotropheus trewavassae Thumbi West

(Red top Trewavasae)

Mbuna, Lake Malawi

Geo. Origin: Masinje Rocks and the Maleri, Namalenje, Thumbi West, Mumbo, Nankoma, Zimbabwe, Boadzulu and Nakantenga groups of islands

Habitat: Sediment- Rich Rocky Habitat

Diet: Herbivore

Gender Differences: Dimorphic

Breeding: Maternal Mouthbrooder

Temperament: Aggressive

Conspecific Temperament: Mildly Aggressive

Maximum Size: 4"

Labeotropheus trewavassae, Thumbi West can be characterized by its overhanging snout and lean bodies. This cichlid also has chisel-shaped teeth which are designed for scraping algae off rocks. These physical adaptations give it a competitive advantage, allowing them to graze from the rocks situated in extremely shallow water which other species are not able reach. Also, the position of its mouth allows the fish to remain parallel while feeding on rock surfaces: thus enabling it to cope with the turbulence in these areas. Thumbi West males are typically seen with unique spotted patterns (OB patterned). The females' coloration may range from a muted orange to OB patterned. OB is a termed used to define Malawi Cichlids with unique spotted patterns.



14

Trewavasae Manda

(Red-Striped Manda)

Mbuna, Lake Malawi

Geo. Origin: Mumbo Island

Habitat: Rocky areas with heavy algal growth around shorelines

Diet: Omnivore

Gender Differences: Dimorphic

Breeding: Maternal Mouthbrooder

Temperament: Aggressive

Conspecific Temperament: Highly Aggressive

Maximum Size: 6"



Labeotropheus trewavassae, the Red Stripe Manda can be characterized by its overhanging snout and lean bodies. This cichlid also has chisel-shaped teeth which are designed for scraping algae off rocks. These physical adaptations give it a competitive advantage, allowing them to graze from the rocks situated in extremely shallow water which other species are not able reach. Also, the position of its mouth allows the fish to remain parallel while feeding on rock surfaces: thus enabling it to cope with the turbulence in these areas. Colors can vary from place to place. Some males are completely blue, others have a partly orange body. Another combination is a blue body with a bright orange dorsal fin. Females and juveniles are usually orange.

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Iodotropheus sprengerae

(Rusty Cichlid)

Mbuna, Lake Malawi

Geo. Origin: Islands of Boadzuli. Chinyankwazi, Chinyamwezi

Habitat: Littoral zones of rocky shorelines

Diet: Omnivore

Gender Differences: Dimorphic

Breeding: Maternal Mouthbrooder

Temperament: Peaceful

Conspecific Temperament: Mildly Aggressive

Maximum Size: 4"



The *Iodotropheus sprengerae* or Rusty Cichlid is known to be more behaviorally peaceful than most mbuna cichlid fish. The Rusty Cichlid can usually be distinguished by the "rusty brown" color Juveniles and females of this species exhibit. The male Rusty Cichlid is also exhibits this rust-colored body coloration, however, the males will additionally have a purple hue on its mid-section of the body; they also have more visible egg spots on its anal fin than females.

16

Pseudotropheus socolofi (Scolofi)

Mbuna, Lake Malawi

Geo. Origin: Likoma Island, Malawi

Habitat: Shallow waters & Rocky shorelines

Diet: Herbivore

Gender Differences: Dimorphic

Breeding: Maternal Mouthbrooder

Temperament: Aggressive

Conspecific Temperament: Mildly Aggressive

Maximum Size: 4"

Pseudotropheus socolofi, also identified as the Powder Blue Cichlid, is native to the coastal waters of Lake Malawi near Mozambique. This cichlid is found living off rocky shorelines, areas of mixed rocks and sand flats, and deeper regions of the lake. They stay close to rock caves and crevices. On these rocks they feed on algae and micro-crustaceans. These caves and crevices within their habitat allow them to quickly retreat to the safety when threatened or encountering predators (other large fish species in the area). These fish, regardless of male or female, exhibit either a golden yellow or pale to dark blue coloration. The blue variants are seen to have faint bands or black ridges along the upper part of the dorsal fin and lower part of the anal fin.



17

Labidochromis sp. "Hongi" Super Red Variant

(Swedish Super Red Hongi)

Mbuna, Lake Malawi

Geo. Origin: Hongi Island

Habitat: Shallow Precipitous Rocky Habitat

Diet: Herbivores

Gender Differences: Dimorphic

Breeding: Maternal Mouthbrooder

Temperament: Aggressive

Conspecific Temperament: Extremely Aggressive

Maximum Size: 5"

The colors of Hongi Super Red Top differ depending on its mood. Dorsal fins also range in color from yellow to orange to red. The colors of the dominant male may range from orange blaze to creamy lilac. Dark vertical barring extends along the sides of the fish but may completely disappear depending on its mood. Dominant males will develop egg spots on anal fins and part of the dorsal fin. Sub-dominant males will display a brownish purple coloration with some orange or yellow highlights. Females show a submissive brownish purple color although they too can color-shift to a beautiful pale lilac that shows off their darkened bars.



18

Cynotilapia sp. "Hara" Gallireya Reef

(White Top Afra)

Mbuna, Lake Malawi

Geo. Origin: Gallireya Reef: Likoma Island, Malawi

Habitat: Shallow Rocky Habitat

Diet: Omnivore

Gender Differences: Dimorphic

Breeding: Maternal Mouthbrooder

Temperament: Aggressive

Conspecific Temperament: Mildly Aggressive

Maximum Size: 4"



Cynotilapia sp. "Hara" White Top Afra can be found around the Gallireya Reef. This cichlid spends most of its time swimming around and on the rock piles in the area. The males of this species dig into its territory to rearrange the substrate. Females of this species are light blue with faint vertical stripes along their bodies. Males tend to have a more vibrant coloration, as well as alternating light blue and navy bars (vertical stripes) down the length of its body. The diet of the White Top Afra consists of mainly plankton. Due to this species' teeth not being as developed as the Metriaclima's cichlid (or other mbuna fish), they are not able to comb through algae strands or feed by scraping algae off surfaces (i.e., rocks, etc.)

19

Pseudotropheus elegans Ngara "White Tai" (White- tail Acei)

Mbuna, Lake Malawi

Geo. Origin: Likoma Island, Malawi

Habitat: Shallow Precipitous Rocky Habitat

Diet: Herbivore

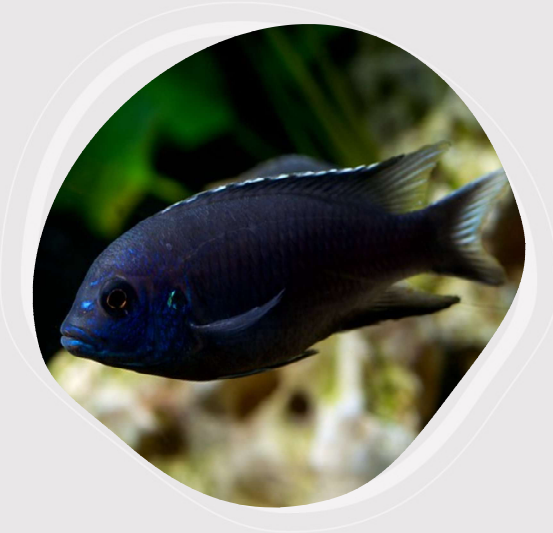
Gender Differences: Monomorphic

Breeding: Maternal Mouthbrooder

Temperament: Peaceful

Conspecific Temperament: Mildly Aggressive

Maximum Size: 5"



Acei Cichlids are endemic to the rocky shoreline of the Northwestern coast of Lake Malawi; they commonly live under rocks and submerged logs. The *Pseudotropheus* sp. "acei" is divided into two different varieties: Yellow-tailed Acei (Msuli) and White-tailed Acei (Ngara). Members of this species can be distinguished by their white hued tails. Males are larger and more vibrant in color than females. This species feeds specifically on algae, using its bicuspid teeth to scrape matter off rocks and wood. Members of this species can be sighted gathering in schools around tree branches and logs in its environment.

20

Labidochromis caeruleus Lions Cove

(Yellow Lab)

Mbuna, Lake Malawi

Geo. Origin: Lion's Cove, Nkhata Bay, Lundu Island, Undu Point

Habitat: Shallow Rocky shorelines

Diet: Carnivores

Gender Differences: Dimorphic

Breeding: Maternal Mouthbrooder

Temperament: Peaceful

Conspecific Temperament: Mildly Aggressive

Maximum Size: 4"

The *Labidochromis caeruleus* or yellow lab species' appearance varies depending on its location. When found in Lion's Cove and/or Kakusa, the yellow lab will have a vibrant yellow body and blue dorsal fins. When sighted at Nkhata Bay, Undu Point, and Lundu Island, the body will be a stark white color with blue dorsal fins. Distinguishable difference between the males and females can be seen in the male's faint grey ventral shapes on their sides and the presence of egg spots (females do not have either). Another difference is that the females' body color usually takes on a more "paler" yellow in appearance.



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Pseudotropheus elegans Msuli "Yellow Tail" (Yellow-tail Acei)

Mbuna, Lake Malawi

Geo. Origin: Msuli, Lake Malawi

Habitat: Rocks and submerged logs

Diet: Herbivore

Gender Differences: Monomorphic

Breeding: Maternal Mouthbrooder

Temperament: Peaceful

Conspecific Temperament: Mildly Aggressive

Maximum Size: 6"

Acei Cichlids are endemic to the rocky shoreline of the Northwestern coast of Lake Malawi; they live under rocks and submerged logs. The *Pseudotropheus sp. "acei"* is divided into two different varieties: Yellow-tailed Acei (Msuli) and White-tailed Acei (Ngaru). Members of this species can be distinguished by their yellow hued tails. Males are more vibrant in color and larger than females. Females have two different sized holes: the egg tube (large sized) and anus. Males also have two holes, but of the same size: genitalia and anus. This species feeds specifically on algae, using its bicuspid teeth to scrape matter off rocks and wood. Members of this species can be sighted gathering in schools around tree branches and logs in its environment.



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