



## Salvini Cichlid ( *Cichlasoma salvini* )

Order: Perciformes - Family: Cichlidae - Subfamily: Cichlasomatinae



**Type:** Central American Cichlids

**Also known as:** They are also known as Yellow Bellied and as Tri Color Cichlids

**Overview:** '*Cichlasoma*' *salvini* is a beautiful, medium sized Central American cichlid. Although not large compared to some of the Central American guapotes, "*Cichlasoma*" *salvini* packs the same amount of punch. These little guys are tenacious. This fish, first typed by Gunther in 1862 with a locality at Lago Peten, is a very popular Central American in the aquarium hobby.

This fish is a nomad when it comes to nomenclature and has never really been put in the proper genus. It is quite likely this fish will be put in a brand new genus. It's also possible that some of the location variants of the Tricolor Cichlid may be described as valid species as it is quite a variable fish throughout its range.

**Origin:** Central America; Guatemala, Honduras; Southern Mexico

**Description:** Salvini Cichlids (*Cichlasoma Salvini*), are Central American Cichlids, also known by the scientific name and by *Nandopsis Salvini*. The genus was previously very large, including cichlids from Texas, North America, through all of Central America to parts of South America.

**Physical Characteristics:** The Salvini has a yellow body with two broken bands of black running the length of the upper body. There is red around the anal fin and blue spots can develop throughout the body. The colors are most pronounced during breeding. The fins are long and have a turquoise-blue sheen to them. A bright red coloring is seen in the anal fins and on the body behind the pectoral fin, as well as edging the caudal fin. The head has approximately four horizontal stripes running along the forehead.

**Sexing / Sexual Dimorphism:** The males have larger dorsal fins, but males are not easy to distinguish from females. The male has pointed fins, which is one way to distinguish between the sexes. Males are a little bit larger than females. Although both are colorful, females have much more of an intense color compared to the males. Females also possess a dorsal blotch.

**Color Form:** Yellow, Black, Orange Belly

**Temperament:** Salvinis can be very aggressive, especially in small quarters.

**Diet:** The Salvini Cichlid is omnivorous and will eat most prepared and frozen foods, including freeze-dried bloodworms, tubifex, and ocean plankton, as well as flake food and Cichlid pellets.

**Breeding:** Normal, Egg Layer; Salvini Cichlids make excellent parents, and both the male and female share in the rearing of the fry. After carefully cleaning the rocks in the tank, the female will deposit up to 500 eggs. Males will establish a territory and chase other fish away. They will attract a female and will appear aggressive with her. It is best to separate them from other fish for breeding. Salvinis will spawn in caves or sometimes in the open. Temperatures should be in the upper end of their range. Eggs will hatch after a couple of days. Salvinis are good parents and both will care for the young.

**Life Span:** 10 years

**Max. Size:** 18 cm; 7 inches Males- 7 inches, Females- 6 inches

**Maturity:** 3.5 inches

**Care Level:** Moderate

**Minimum Tank Size:** 50 gallon

**Water Conditions:**

- **Temp:** 22 - 33 C; 72 - 90 F
- **pH:** 7 - 8

**Aquarium Setup:** Freshwater: Fine gravel or sand, rocks and roots for hiding, open swimming. They can be combined with other New World Cichlids in a tank of at least 50 gallons with a sandy substrate. The tank should be planted. It should have rocks and hiding areas, but should also have open areas for swimming.

**Compatibility:** Neotropical Cichlids such as the Green Terror, Green Severum, Gold Severum, Firemouth, Texas and Blood Parrot. Also plecos.

