

## Electric Blue Cichlid

### *Sciaenochromis fryeri*



#### Natural Range

Lake Malawi, Africa

#### Maximum Size and Longevity

Maximum length is 12-15cm, with a life span of 10 years.

#### Water Quality

- Temperature: 24°C - 28°C.
- pH: 7.8—8.2
- General Hardness: 200—350 ppm.

#### Feeding

*S. fryeri* require a high amount of protein in their diet, as they feed exclusively on small fish in the wild. In the aquarium, they will take most prepared foods, and are best suited to large sinking pellets. It is also suggested to supplement their diet with frozen and live foods. We recommend Aquarium Industries Naturals Range Frozen Cichlid Mix, and Frozen Mysis Shrimp to complete their nutritional needs.



#### Compatibility

Like most African cichlids, male *S. fryeri* can be quite territorial when it comes to defending females, so the tank needs to have plenty of hiding places to allow a community to successfully exist. *S. fryeri* should be kept with other large African cichlid species such as *C. moorii*, *N. venustus* and *Aulonocara* etc. Note that several *S. fryeri* females should be kept per male in order to reduce harassment, and only one male should be kept in the colony unless the aquarium is bigger than 300 litres.

#### Colour and Varieties

There are numerous colour morphs and slight variants of *S. fryeri* throughout Lake Malawi, but all have the same intense electric blue colour. Typically, males of the southern populations display a white streak along the head and dorsal, where as northern populations do not. Other differences in fin colouration and patterning can be observed, but these fish are unfortunately not often commercially available.

#### Sexing

You can easily identify sex from about 5cm. Small males will show a good amount of blue colouring, although it will not be as impressive as when they are adults. Females on the other hand are a plain brown with vertical bars and only a slight hint of blue. You can also look at their dorsal and ventral fins, as those of the males will be more elongated and pointed whilst the females will be short and rounded.

#### General Information

Electric Blues are best kept with other African cichlids ideally from Lake Malawi. When choosing tank mates for *S. fryeri* pick fish of similar or larger size as they will better handle any aggression. Provided you have a spacious aquarium and are selective with your choice of tank mates, *S. fryeri* males rank among the best looking rift lake cichlids and will make any tank instantly look brighter with their electric colour.

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