

BAP REPORT
Ancistrus sp. Bristle Nose
By: Roberto Prati

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The Background

The bristlenose pleco, also known as the bushynose pleco, comes from the rivers and tributaries that are endemic to Guiana and Suriname of South America. In the wild Ancistrus live in areas with lots of rocks, wood and lots of vegetation. These areas have lots of water movement and are highly aerated. Ancistrus is mainly brown, with a mottling of lighter areas. The mouth area and nose are covered in short, whisker-like appendages, which are used for detecting food. The orange bushynose pleco is a variation that is orange with dark brown or black markings. These plecos will darken with age, as well as gain whiskers on the nose. The albino gold bushy nose Pleco, also known as the yellow Ancistrus, comes from the Amazon Basin of South America. The albino long-fin pleco comes from the rivers and tributaries of Paraguay. They are pale in coloration with very long flowing fins. Like other albino fish, these plecos have the signature red eyes. The males grow big bristles on their noses and their bodies are slightly larger than the females. The females sometimes can also have small bristles on their noses. This is a shy species that tends to hide when not looking for food. The maximum size of this species is 6 inches. This Ancistrus species is very similar to all of the other Ancistrus species with only slight differences.

The bristlenose breeding occurs mostly in the winter months. The male takes up a territory in caves or on logs. The male entices the females that are ready to breed into the cave where he immediately covers the entrance and keep the female in the cave or log until she has deposited the eggs. Females can lay up to 200 eggs and will place them on the ceiling of the cave. The male then lets the female out of the cave and remains the guardian of the eggs and fry. The female has nothing to do with raising or caring for the young. The male continuously vents the eggs until the eggs are ready to hatch within 3-5 days and the young plecos will become water borne in approximately 10 days. Once waterborne the young will absorb the egg sack within 4 days. The Ancistrus species is an herbivore and feeds mainly on algae. The lifespan of this fish is approximately 12 years.

<p>Scientific Name: Ancistrus sp. Common Name(s): Bristle / Bushy Nose Habitat: Rocky Rivers / Tributaries Breeding: Substrate Spawner Temperament: Peaceful Conspecific Temperament: Peaceful Maximum Size: 6 inch's Temperature: 69 - 80 PH: 6.0 – 7.3</p>



The First Look

I first saw these at auctions and no matter how many bags there were these guys sold at a steady price and everyone always wanted them. I talked to a friend in Ohio that I knew bred these bristlenose and I went over and seen his fish room setup. He has over 3000 bushynose in his fish room without a doubt. He had about close to 80 tanks running and in each tank there was bristle nose. Also he had 4 special acrylic tanks made just for growing out all the fry. I asked a few beginner questions and when I was done listening I realized these sounded pretty easy to spawn. He gave me a bag of 10 plecos over 3 inches and I rushed them home to my tanks.

The Tank

I pretty much have these bristlenose in all my tanks. They do the best job of any of the plecos in my opinion on cleaning up the algae and any extra food. I placed my bristlenose in a 29gal tank with a bunch of different style caves and some driftwood on slate. Not all males prefer the same style caves so I have some terracotta saucers silicone together, also some made from slate. I just started to try out some live plants so I have a big chunk of java fern on a mat in there as well. I keep the tank dark about 75 percent of the day. My group of bristlenose range in size from 2 to 4+ inches. I have albino and regular bristlenose plecos mixed together. Both kinds have the regular and albino gene in them so when I get fry it's a mix. I tend to get like 80 / 20 split of regular and albino. I feed them once or twice a day. The male chooses his cave and usually hangs his head out of the opening. The males only really come out to eat and then the rest of the time just sit and wait for a female that's ready to breed come by. I usually notice if a female is ready to breed because their stomachs become very big and round. Then I notice that she is hanging out by the male's cave she wants to enter. I read and heard from other breeders that the male bristlenose blocks the entrance to the cave so the female cannot come out until she deposits the eggs but I have not yet witnessed this myself with my experiences breeding plecos. I have noticed

that when the male is sticking his head out of the cave he usually does not have eggs in the cave but if he is head first in the cave and his tail towards the entrance there is either eggs or fry in the cave. The males vent the eggs from the day the eggs are deposited till the fry are ready to go waterborne. I have let the male vent the eggs until the fry are clustered in group in the back of the cave. I then usually grab the cave and shake all the fry in a container and place the male and the cave back in the tank. I set the fry in a little hang on specimen container with an air stone. I place some java moss and little pieces of driftwood and alder cones. I feed the fry twice daily. They are fed lots of spirulina and veggie flake. I noticed when they are young they do not eat the algae wafers but will eat the flake. Usually around 1 inch or bigger they will start eating the algae wafers. I also have the long finned variety of these fish and they are just as spectacular if not more then the regular finned. The brown long-finned group I have throws out albino long finned as well as regular finned bristlenose in both albino and brown. Both of my groups spawn pretty regularly and hopefully it always stays that way.

Tank / Equipment

Aquarium: 29gal

Lid: Glass Top

Light: 24' Fluorescent Light Strip

Substrate: Carib Sea Aragonite
Special Grade

Filter: 2 - ATI Sponge Filter
H-V

Heater: Jager Submersible
Heater 150 W

Background: Painted Black

Food: Spirulina, Veggie Flake

PH: 7.2 - 7.6

Temp: 78 - 80

Ornaments: Diff Breeding caves

Plants: Java Fern



The Conclusion

I can definitely say I will always keep and breed bristlenose as long as I can stay in the hobby. Even though these are not a rare fish by any means, I think these will always be the bred and butter of plecos no matter how many of these fish are kept and bred. For the amount of money you spend on these fish, they are worth the amount of work these fish do to constantly keep your tank clean. You can't find help this cheap anymore with the way the economy is, so I recommend these fish to anyone just starting out or to a veteran that's out there that hasn't gotten their hands on these plecos yet.