

yeast, the latter being most widely used today.

After first setting up a tub, mix in powdered yeast and allow to age for two days before placing your acquired daphnia in the tub. By five days a large colony should be observed and selected harvesting can begin. Don't let them overproduce or they'll eat all the available food and they'll die off. A number of days will be needed before a population returns.

Two points to remember:

1. Overfeeding can pollute and kill off the culture.
2. A 10% dechlorinated water change is beneficial every 2-3 days to prevent ammonia and nitrate build up.

- Rod Campbell

BOOKS

Rainbow Fishes of Australia and Papua New Guinea, Allen G.R. and Cross N.J., Angus and Robertson, Sydney, 1982. 142pp. \$14.95.

This is the first book to review the family *Melanotaeniidae* and to update all available knowledge from the field and for the aquarium.

The book covers maintenance and spawning of all the genera; evolution, zoogeography and classification are explained; and habitat is discussed for the various species, with many good photographs of collecting sites and specimens.

While the keys are useful, I feel the diagnosis would be of more value for the serious aquarist if the number of specimens examined had been included.

The authors refer to a successful hybridization across generic boundaries but, disappointingly for the serious aquarist and student of the family, they go no further. Were the fry raised to maturity? Were they

viable for further breeding? Were there deformities? Why no facts and figures?

In all, however, I like the book's layout and the photography is excellent. - Ray Leggett

KEEPING & CARING

Australian Smelt

Retropinna semoni

Size of tank. Smelt like plenty of swimming space. A tank less than 900mm (3 feet) in length does not do a shoal of these fish justice.

Environment. Smelt inhabit a great variety of streams with other species but in an aquarium seem to do best if kept by themselves in a small group of from 6 to 30 specimens. The tank should be planted and well filtered. Morning sun through the front top of the tank shows Smelt off to great advantage.

Maintenance. Regular small water changes are ideal. I change 25% of the water once a week, always replacing it with tap water that has aged for at least five days. Smelt will tolerate a range of pH and hardness, but I try to keep the water close to neutral pH and around 50-100ppm hardness. A temperature range of 16-25°C is acceptable.

Smelt are strong swimmers and very active in the aquarium. A few tall plants along each end with low plants in clumps across the bottom will suit them well as they generally swim in the top half of the tank. A cover glass is a good precaution as they are liable to jump if frightened.

Feeding. The fish are mainly carnivorous and feed from the surface quite readily. A good variety of foods should be offered with some live food whenever possible. I have found scraped red meat, shrimp, a good quality flake food, occasional white