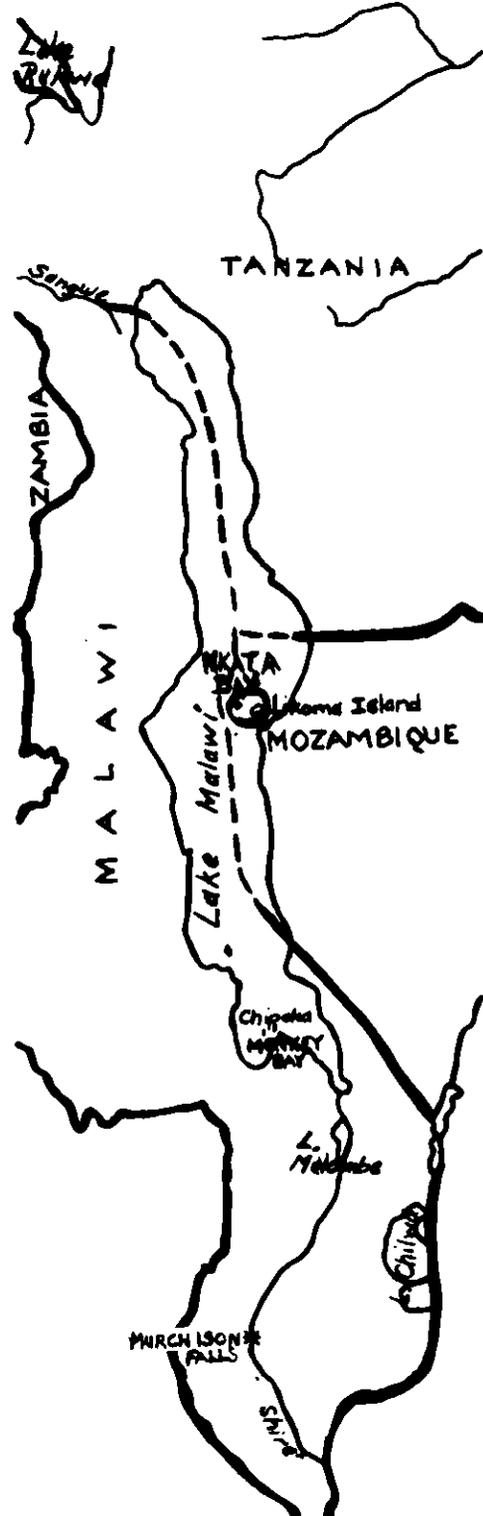


New cichlids from Lake Malawi

Including descriptions of
two new species by
Don S. Johnson

Editor's Note: Lake Malawi is a large body of water, the 11th largest lake in the world, with 10,600 sq. miles of area. The initial surveys of the lake were all made at the southern end. Now as modern fish collectors, such as Peter Davies, expand their operations into the northern end of the lake, many hitherto unknown species, and many new color morphs of known species, are finding their way into the aquarium trade.

Many of the "new" fishes come from the shores of islands in the northern part of Lake Malawi, islands such as Likoma. From Likoma Island come two new *Labidochromis*, described here; the "mini zebra", *Pseudotropheus?* sp.; the "checkerboard Malawi cichlid", probably, according to Fryer, one of the *P. tropheops* complex; what is probably a new species of *Pseudotropheus*, which is being currently sold as *P. lucerna*; the "white-top" *P. zebra*; and a new color variety of *P. macrophthalmus*.



**THE MALAWI CICHLIDS ARE
ONE OF A KIND.**

SO IS THEIR ENVIRONMENT.

**REPRODUCE THIS ENVIRONMENT WITH
MALAWI SALTS™**



130gm \$1.49 640gm \$5.49

**A Professional Product For
The Professional Breeder**

MESCO

PO BOX 7174

Kansas City, Mo. 64113

Malawi

From Chipoka Island come the red dorsal *L. fuelleborni*; *Melanochromis* sp., possibly a new color variety of *M. melanopterus*; while from Cinyankwazi Island, we get the black top *L. fuelleborni*; and the yellow color morph of *Petrotilapia tridentiger*. Red top *P. zebras* are found off the island of Maleri, while the orange morph of *P. zebra* is found off several rock "reefs" off the Malawi enclave of the lake close to Mozambique. From Tumbi Island we get the OB *L. fuelleborni* and OB *P.*

microstoma. Two recently discovered fish from Makanjila Island are *Pseudotropheus johanni* and *Melanochromis simulans*.

As more areas of this immense lake are explored we may look forward to more exciting discoveries which will benefit both science and the aquarium hobby. Study of the explosive speciation of the fishes of Lake Malawi will aid in furthering our understanding of the process of evolution. The demand for these popular and colorful fishes will increase the number of discoveries made available to science. In this way both the ichthyologist and today's aquarist benefit. — JAJ □

Labidochromis freibergi spec. nov.

Holotype deposited in American Museum of Natural History, New York City, catalog No. 33466. Collected off Likoma Island, Lake Malawi, Malawi by Peter Davies, et al.

Holotype: Female? 62mm standard length; 77mm total length. Dorsal XVII,9; anal III,5. Color as shown in Figure 1.

Diagnosis: Total length, 77mm; standard length, 62mm. Pelvic fin II,6. Body depth contained 3.1, head length, 3.2; dorsal length, 1.6; least depth of caudal peduncle, 7.6, all in standard length. Snout length, 3.9; eye diameter, 3.9, all in head length. Gill rakers on outer arch, 5. Teeth, typical *Labidochromis*, 3 rows, pointed, anterior teeth protruding forwards. Anterior teeth red tipped. Third ray of anal fin extremely spiny. Named in honor of the importer who first brought this species to our attention and who first made it available to hobbyists in the United States — Jacob Freiberg.

Of the eight specimens of *L. vellicans* in the British Museum, two bear close similarities to *L. freibergi*. Similar convergences and discrepancies are noted in reading Trewavas' original description of *L. vellicans*. When the genus is revised, as we understand will soon be done by Michael Oliver, these points will undoubtedly be resolved. We did not wish to go further into this at this time for fear of even greater duplication of Mr. Oliver's forthcoming work on this genus.

Labidochromis joanjohnsonae spec. nov.

Types deposited in the American Museum of Natural History, New York City. Holotype catalog No. 33464; Paratype catalog No. 33465. Collected off Likoma Island, Lake Malawi, Malawi by Peter Davies, et. al.

Holotype: Female? 72mm total length; 60mm standard length. Dorsal XVI,8. Color as shown in figure 2.

Paratype: Male? 81.5mm total length; 68.5mm standard length. Dorsal XVII,8.

Diagnosis Type: Total length 72mm; standard length 60mm. Head length 4.6; dorsal length 1.8; head depth, 3.6; body depth 3.1; least depth of caudal peduncle, 7.5; all in standard length. Snout length, 3.3 in head.

Paratype: Total length 82mm; standard length, 67mm. Scales below lateral line 8. Dorsal length 1.6; least depth of caudal peduncle, 9.8; head length 3.7; all in standard length. Eye diameter, 5.5, snout length 2.5, both in head length. Gill rakers on first arch 10, pointed, moderately long. Named in honor of Joan Johnson, editor of TODAY'S AQUARIST.

Acknowledgements: The following were most helpful in providing information, commentary and specimens. We are grateful for the assistance of: Dr. Ethelwynn Trewavas; Dr. Geoffrey Fryer; Dr. James Atz; Michael Oliver; Jack Freiberg; Lee Finley; Peter Davies.

Pseudotropheus johannii Eccles 1973

Following is an abstract of Dr. D. H. Eccles' description of a new species of *Pseudotropheus* in *Arnoldia* Rhod. **16** (16): 4-7. While the original description of this fish notes that the types were collected near Cape Ngombo, Lake Malawi, Malawi, the species in question is also found off Makanjila Island, Lake Malawi. Types are deposited in the United States National Museum, Washington, D.C.

Holotype: Female. Total length 84.3mm; standard length 70mm.

Paratype: Male. Total length 84.5mm; standard length 68.5mm.

Diagnosis: (Where holotype and paratype differ, holotype is given first.) In standard length: depth body 3.4, 3.3; head 3.4, 3.5; caudal peduncle 8.4, 7.7. In head: eye, 3.3, 3.5; snout 4.1, 4.1; lower jaw, 2.9, 3.0. Dorsal XIX,7 (8), XVIII,58 (9). Anal III,7 (8). Gill rakers: 10.1.1; 8-9.1.3-2. Named in memory of John James, a collector of fishes for the aquarium trade.



Fish courtesy of African Fish Imports, Verona, NJ Photograph by Don S. Johnson

Figure 1: *Labidochromis treibergi* Johnson 1974 is a new species from Likoma Island, Lake Malawi. This is the holotype.

Fish courtesy of African Fish Imports, Verona, NJ Photograph by Don S. Johnson

Figure 2: *Labidochromis joanjohnsonae* Johnson 1974 is also a new species from Likoma Island, described here for the first time. This is the holotype.



Fish courtesy of African Fish Imports, Verona, NJ

Photograph by Don S. Johnson

Figure 3: *Pseudotropheus johanni* Eccles 1973 shares with *P. auratus* the distinction of being the only *Pseudotropheus* so far discovered having horizontal instead of vertical stripe. Female is at left. A different color morph from Likoma Island has tan females, males with one broken blue stripe.

Fish courtesy of African Fish Imports, Verona, NJ

Photograph by Don S. Johnson

The "white-top" zebra is a recently discovered color morph of *Pseudotropheus zebra*. It comes from Likoma Island, Lake Malawi, and has a dorsal fin edged in white.

