

NKHOMO-BENGA PEACOCK

Aulonocara baenschi

Meyer & Riehl, 1985



CLASSIFICATION

Class: Actinopteri

Order: Cichliformes

Family: Cichlidae

No recognized subspecies



NOT LISTED

UNCOMMON



CRITICALLY ENDANGERED

Identification : Males can reach 13 cm in length. Females are usually smaller. Adult males display a bright golden-yellow coloration with dark and shiny blue area on chin, lips and cheeks. Bright blue bands on tail and dorsal fins. Faint vertical bars on flanks.

Range : This species is endemic to Lake Malawi (Africa) and occur around the localities of Chipoka, Maleri Islands, Nkhomo and Usysia.

Habitat : Occurs above sandy bottoms with scattered rocks, down to 16 m.

Behavior : Feeds mostly on sand-dwelling invertebrates. Females live in groups, males occur near rocks and are more territorial. Female incubates eggs in her mouth.

Status in the wild : The species was common but has been heavily collected for the trade to the point of being nearly gone from most of its range now.

In captivity : This species is commonly sold in aquarium fish shops around the world and is very popular amongst private keepers. It's known from about 10 public collections in Europe and is also kept in American zoos and aquariums. Often bred.