

# LONGFACE AULONOCARA

*Aulonocara rostratum*

Trewavas, 1935



## CLASSIFICATION

**Class:** Actinopteri

**Order:** Cichliformes

**Family:** Cichlidae

No recognized subspecies



NOT LISTED

VERY RARE



## LEAST CONCERN

**Identification** : Males can reach 20 cm in length. Females are usually smaller. Coloration silvery blue with faint vertical bands on flanks. Dorsal fin yellow-edged, blue spots on caudal fin, bright yellow spots on anal fin. Very long face.

**Range**: Endemic to Lake Malawi in Tanzania, can be found all around the lake.

**Habitat** : Occurs above sandy bottoms, usually at depths between 15 and 30 meters but sometimes as low as 64 meters.

**Behavior**: Females are solitary. Feeds mostly on sand-dwelling invertebrates. Breeding males group in colonies and dig a spawning crater for females to lay in.

**Status in the wild**: The species is apparently common throughout its range and doesn't seem impacted by any kind of habitat destruction or over collection so far.

**In captivity**: This species is currently very rare in captivity. It has probably never been displayed in public collections in Europe and America. Very rare in private collections as well because of its need for a very big tank and because it's very rarely imported.