

An Experiment in Curiosity
Fact or Fiction
Frank Schulterbrandt 12/08/2015

Sometimes we hear stories about guppies and wonder if they have any merit. A very long time ago I heard a story about making a guppy cross with a delta tail guppy and a swordtail guppy to make multi colored guppies. I always wanted to have swordtail guppies in my tanks, but never really had the tank space. Now having 135 tanks, I finally got the opportunity this time around to have a few tanks dedicated just for swordtails guppies.

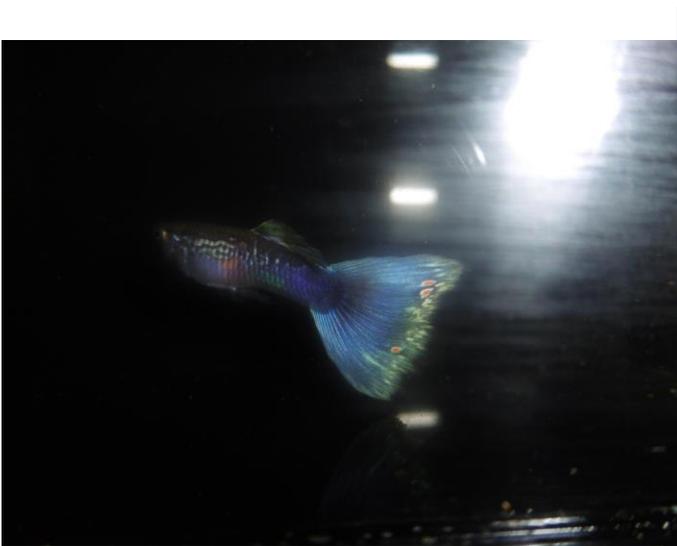
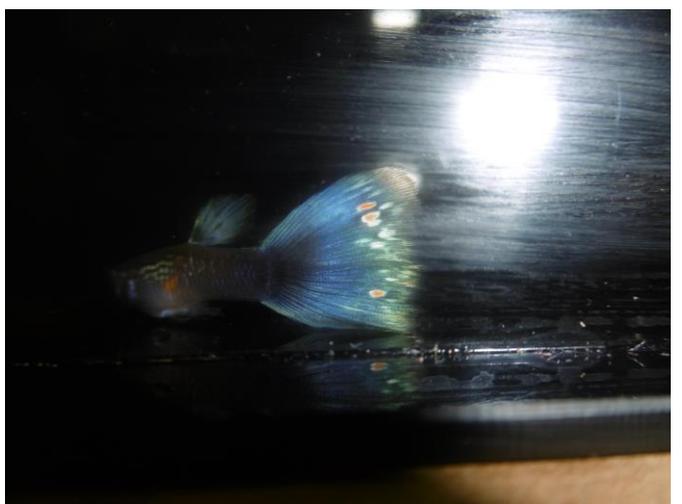
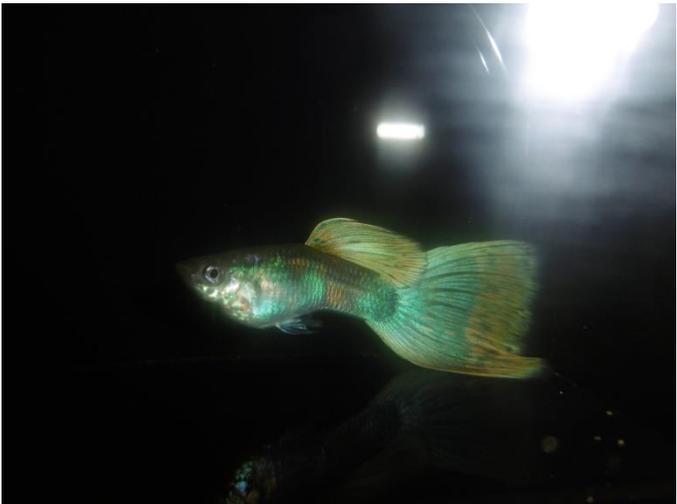
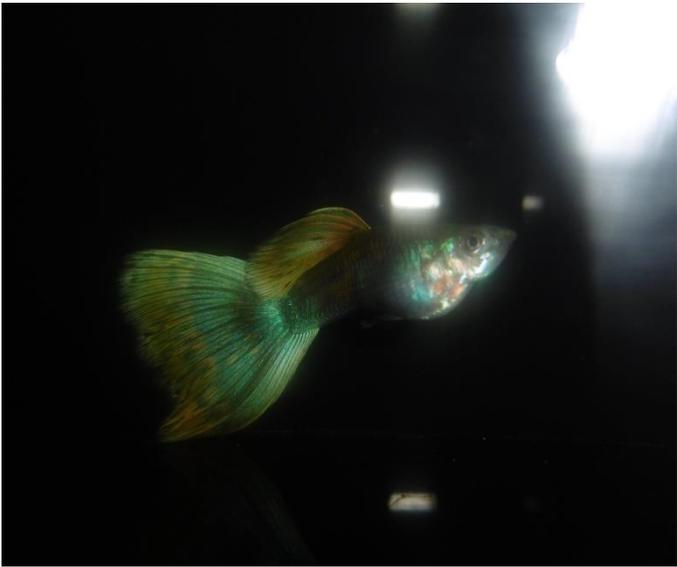
Now I did not conduct a scientific experiment, but just a guppy cross out of curiosity. I only made the cross one way, meaning I only used a male delta tail crossed to a female swordtail. I did not use the swordtail male and a delta female cross. The results of the cross can be seen in the photos below along with the corresponding captions.

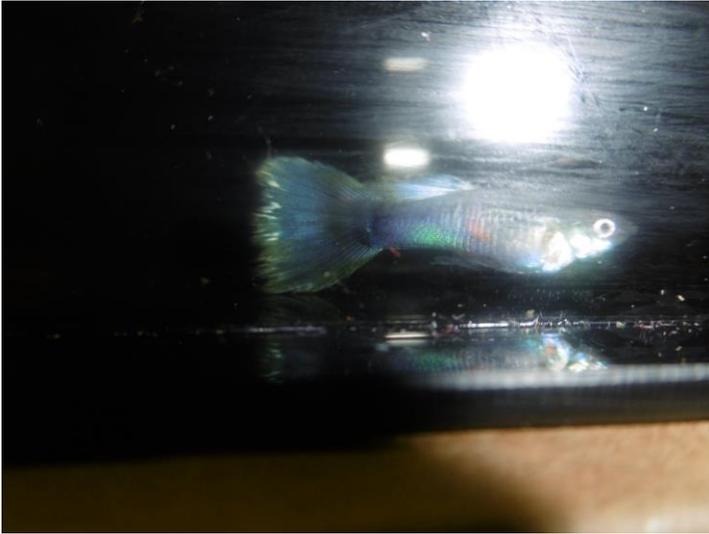
The original male was a Red Bi-Color (red and blue variegation) and the female came from a double Swordtail line. Degradation in color and brilliance in the body color was quite evident. On the plus side of this experiment was the great improvement in the body size on of the swordtails. The Red swordtails were all smaller than the other swordtails in the batch. The body size in the F1 deltas had both large body and small body guppies. Tail size was also both large and small.

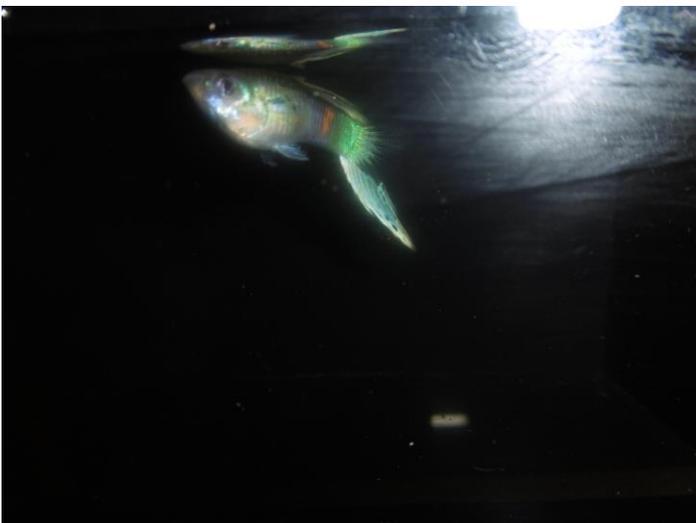
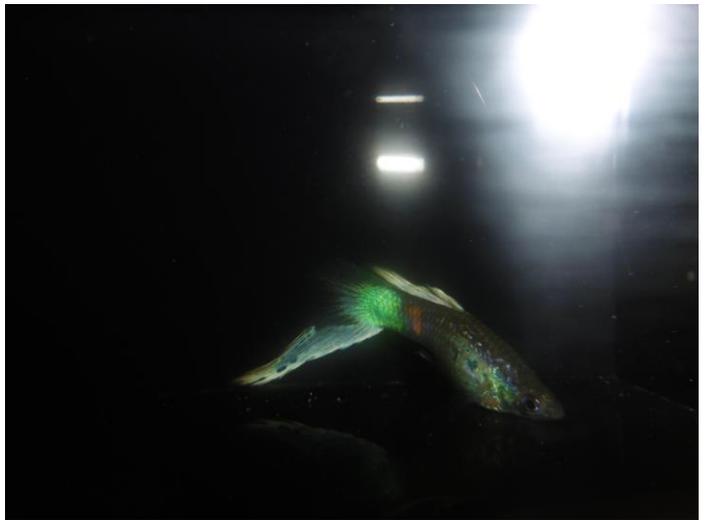
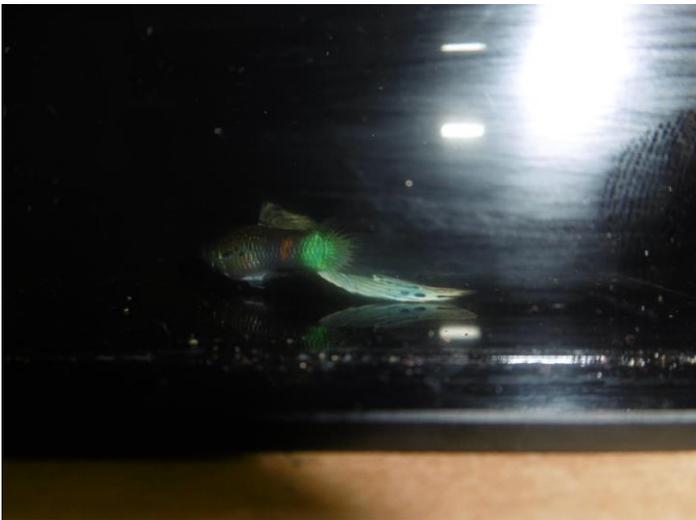
The photos and their descriptions can be seen below.

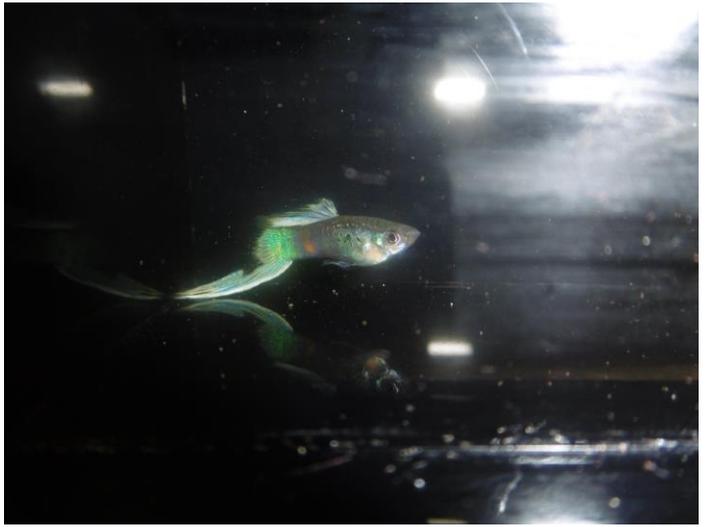
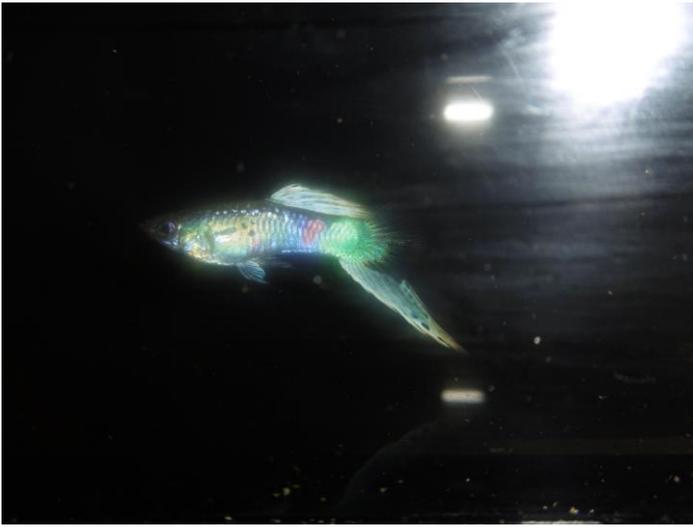
- 1: Red B-Color (colors being Red and Blue)
- 2: Blue Bi-Color (Blue with some red splotching along the base of the tail)
- 3: Clubbed Lower Swordtails (colors being some are Red and some are Blue)
- 4: Good extension Lower Swordtails (colors being some are Red and some are Blue)
- 5: Bi-Color (colors being yellow and Blue)
- 6: Looks like possible Double Swordtails ????
- 7: All grey Bodied females
- 8: And yes some borderline multicolors, some with four colors (blue,red,yellow,green)

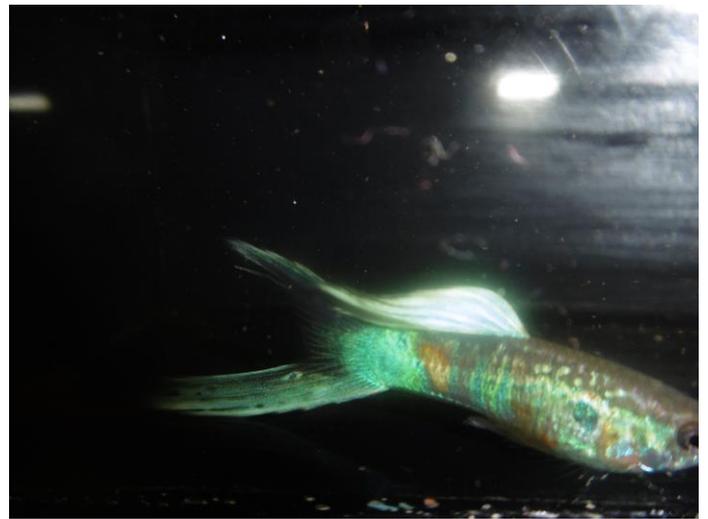
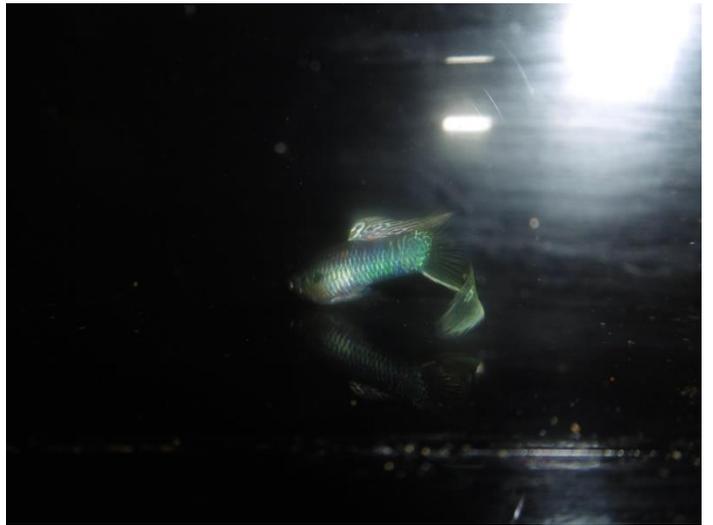
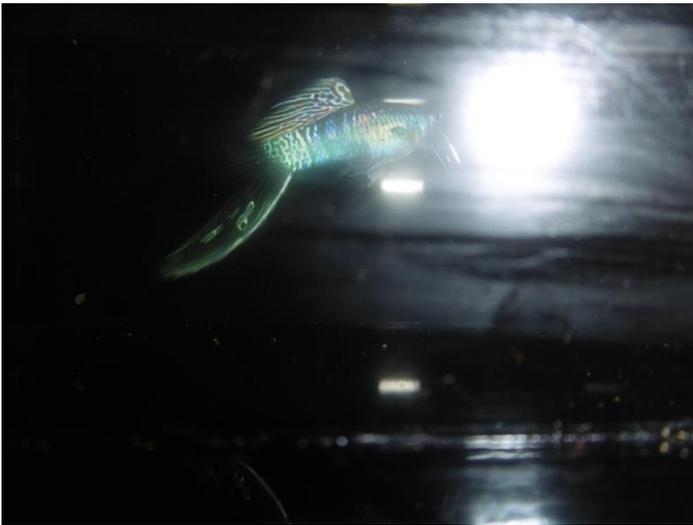
So as a result of this cross, I can conclude that no nice multicolors were produced in the F1 generation. Although no conclusive evidence can be found due to the limited F1 pool that was produced. I can now see how multicolors can be produced from a cross like this in the F1 or F2 generations. It would also be interesting to see the outcome of a swordtail male crossed to the corresponding Red Bi-Color female. It is quite possible that both male and female swordtail guppies carry the gene to produce swordtails, but can they also produce multicolors? I will find out in the upcoming months.

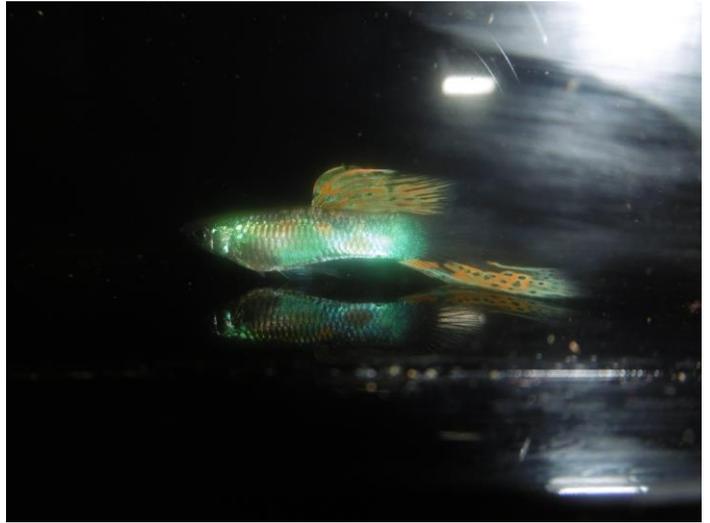
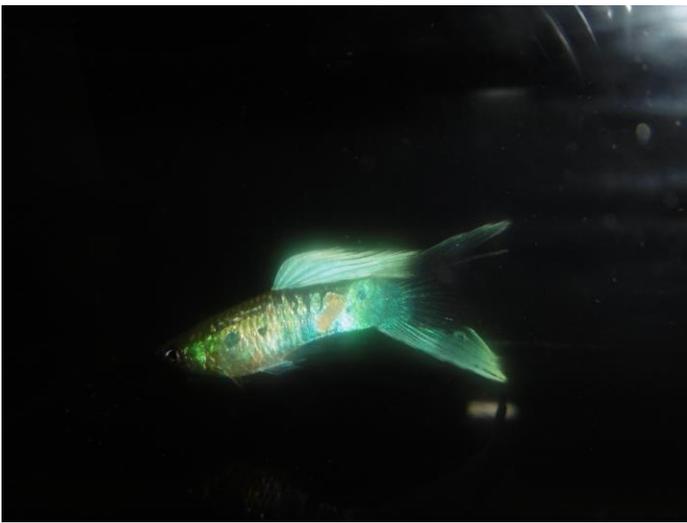
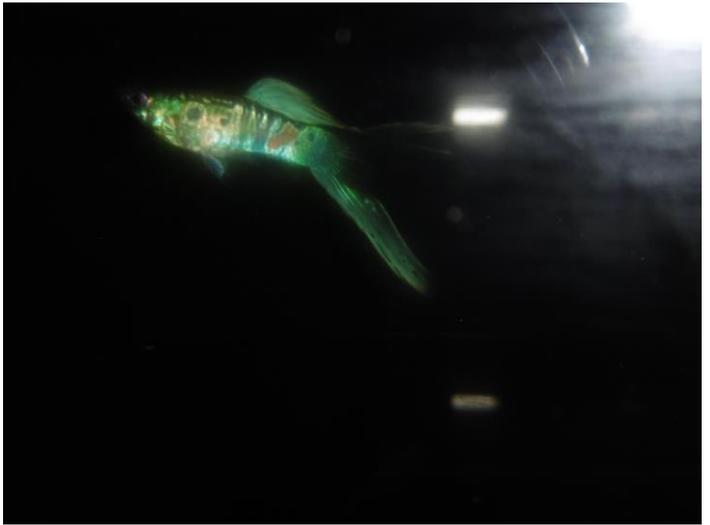


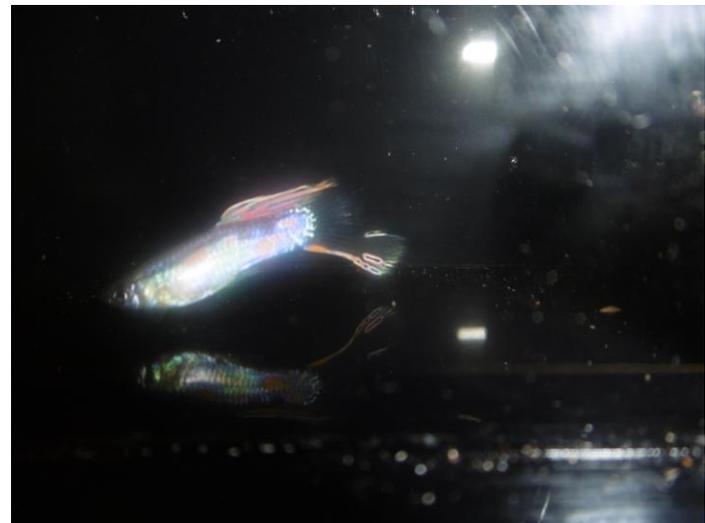
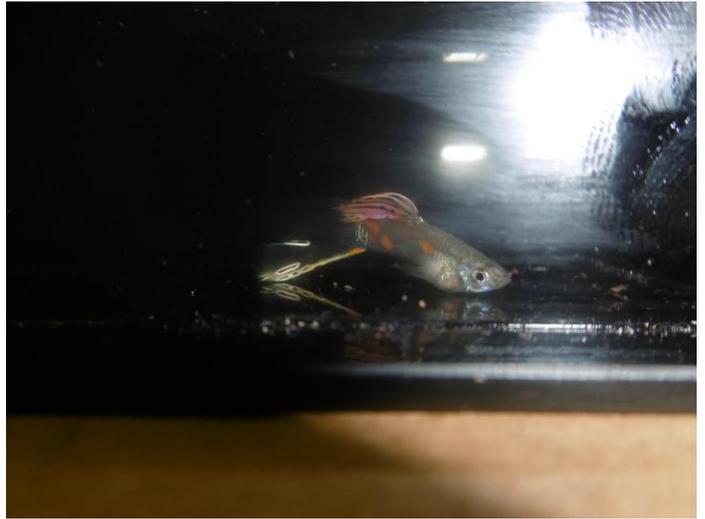
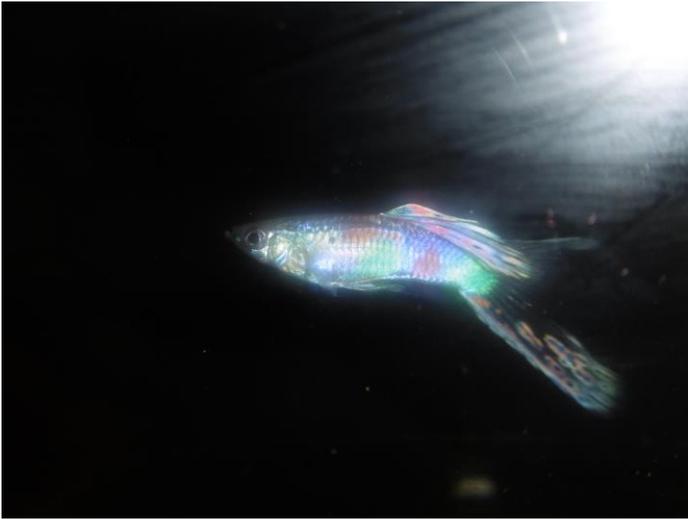


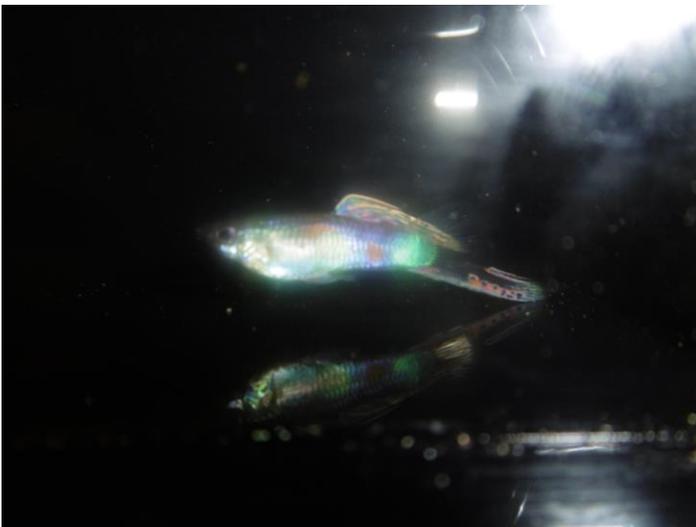
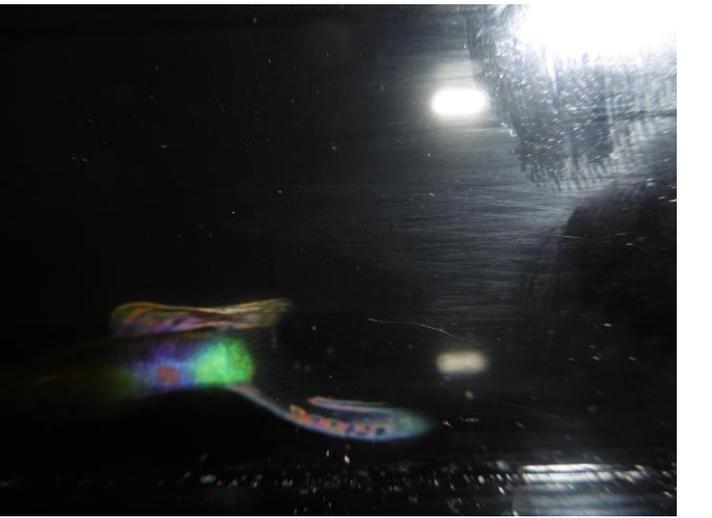
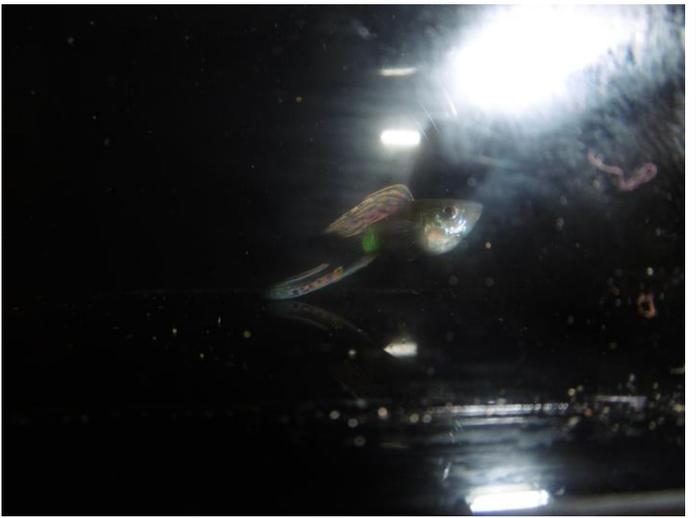
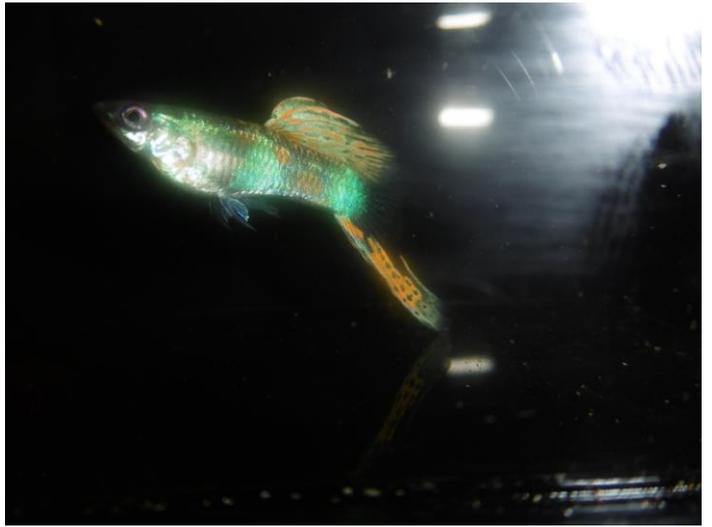
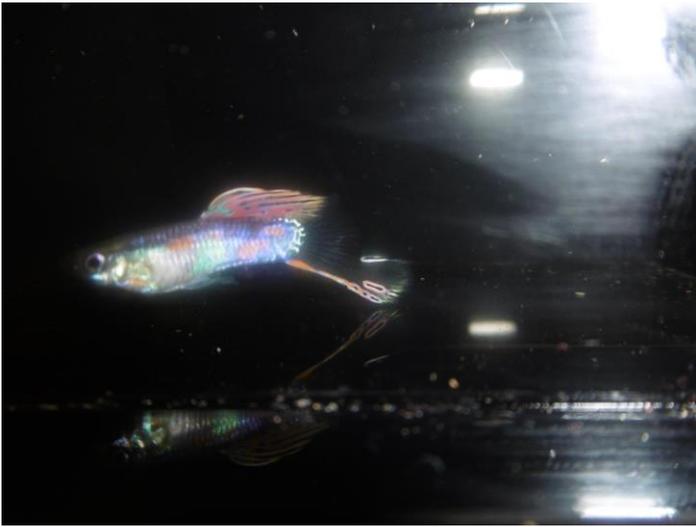


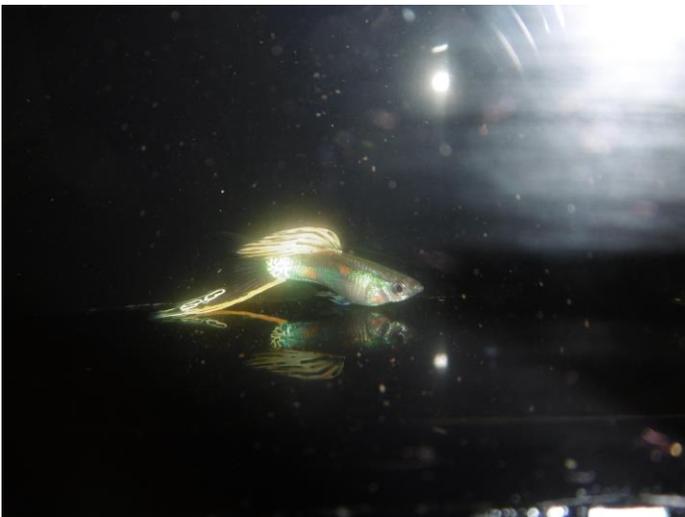
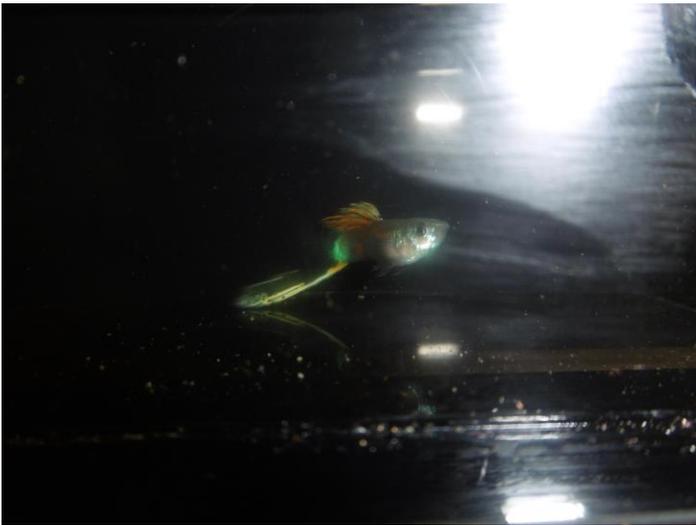
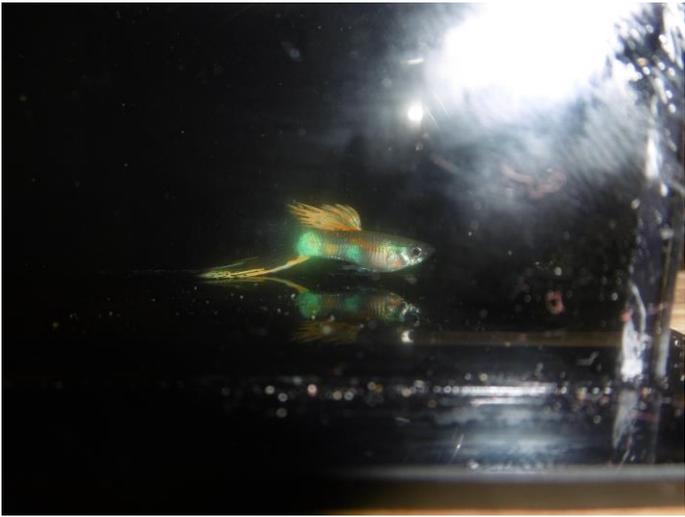


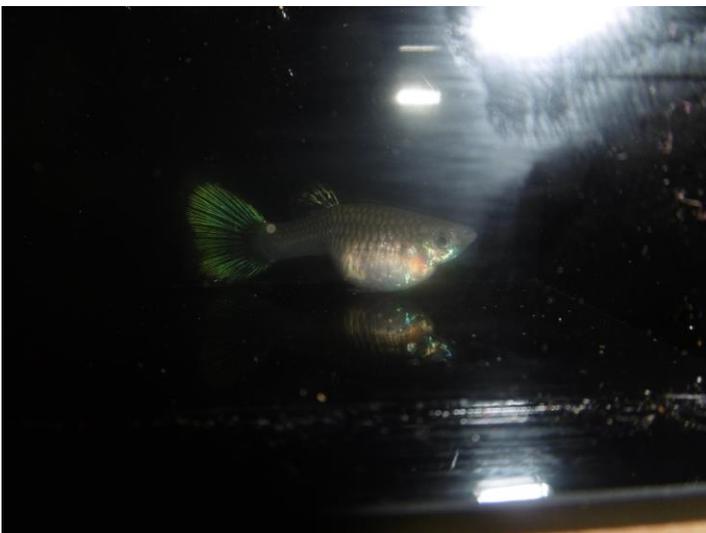
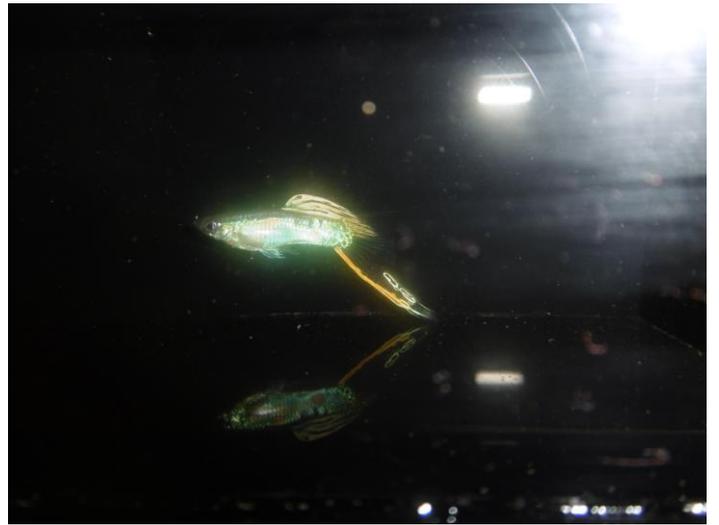
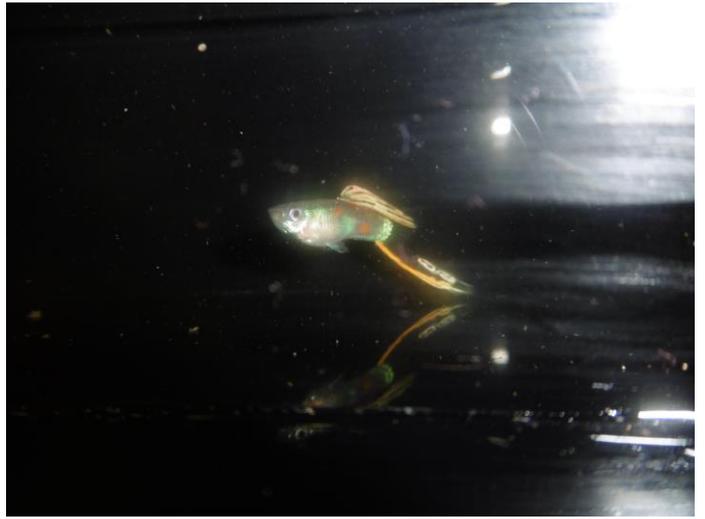
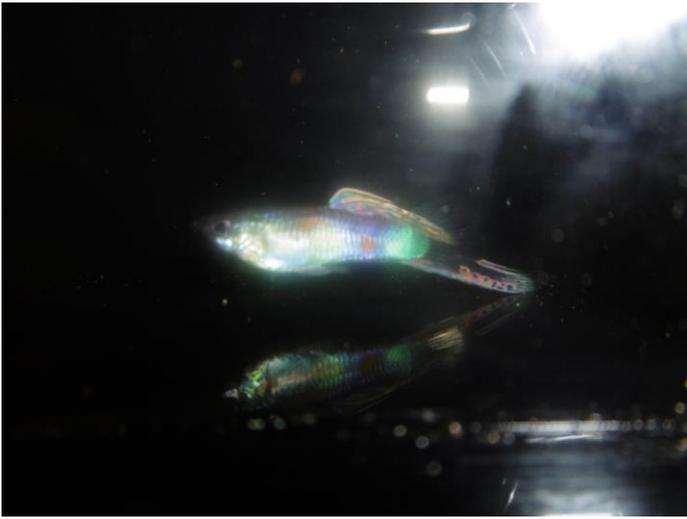












This is the BIG RED DS FEMALE X MY RED BI DELTA: MOTHER OF ALL OF THE ABOVE



Father of all of the above

