

## Adaptable Molly Fish (*Poecilia vandepolli*)

**Bonus content from the December 2009 AFI magazine article "Mollies of the ABC Islands."**

*By Ronny Lundkvist*

*Poecilia vandepolli* seems to be adaptable. I legally collected 22 fry in Curacao in a nonpermanent rooi on a Saturday morning. I kept them at the hotel until the following Tuesday evening. I had them in a plastic ice pail in the room without air conditioning at daytime and on the balcony at night. The temperature was 79 to 82 degrees Fahrenheit all the time. I changed half a liter of the water twice a day; I took the water from the hotel pond where they kept red platies. I had brought an American air pump, but I could not use it, as they had changed to European standard as to voltage and plugs. I had to act as an air pump myself by blowing through plastic tubing with an airstone at the end. I kept the fish in two plastic bottles containing 2 cups each during the flight to Europe in the cabin. I suppose that the temperature dropped some during the night, but the fish did not seem to suffer. I put them in a planted tank that I had prepared before leaving that had Anubias and some sea salt. The fish grew rapidly at a temperature of 80 degrees Fahrenheit. I have fed them with Artemia and vegetable-based dried food flakes.

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