

Tilapia

Mozambique Tilapia

Order: Perciformes

Family: Cichlidae

Genus:
Oreochromis

Species:
Oreochromis
mossambicus



Description

- The Mozambique tilapia (*Oreochromis mossambicus*) is a species of freshwater fish belonging to the Cichlidae family.
- It has a deep, laterally compressed body with a pointed snout and a single dorsal fin.
- Typically, juveniles display shades of grey, silver, or olive with darker spots or bars, while adults may develop a more uniform coloration.
- They can grow up to 30 cm (12 inches) in length.

Distribution and Habitat:

- Originally native to southeastern Africa, Mozambique tilapia have been introduced widely across tropical and subtropical regions worldwide.
- They thrive in various freshwater habitats, including lakes, rivers, ponds, and estuaries.
- They prefer warm, shallow waters with abundant vegetation and moderate salinity levels.

Ecology

- Mozambique tilapias are omnivorous, consuming a diverse diet that includes plant material, algae, invertebrates, and detritus.
- They are known for their ability to tolerate a wide range of environmental conditions, including low oxygen levels and high temperatures.
- This adaptability has contributed to their successful establishment in various aquatic ecosystems globally.

Aquaculture

- Due to their rapid growth rate, tolerance to poor water quality, and ease of breeding, Mozambique tilapia are extensively cultivated in aquaculture.
- They are farmed for both food and ornamental purposes, ranging from small-scale operations to large commercial farms.
- Their adaptability makes them a popular choice among aqua culturists in tropical and subtropical regions.