

## Ornamental Fish Farming

### (4) Spawning medium

The intention is to provide a medium on or in which the eggs can be deposited, at the same time also creating an environment as conducive as possible to the spawning of the species.

(A few egg-scatterers, notably the small danios, will spawn without any spawning medium at all, but they are exceptional.)

- **Type of medium**

Add the spawning medium most suited to the species. Coconut fibre is very quick and easy to use, and can be used for most. It **must** be used in preference to acrylic yarn (synthetic wool) for tetras with characin hooks. Yarn mops can be used where suitable and preferred. Plastic plants are only suitable in a few exceptional cases, and they are infrequently used.

- **Amount of medium**

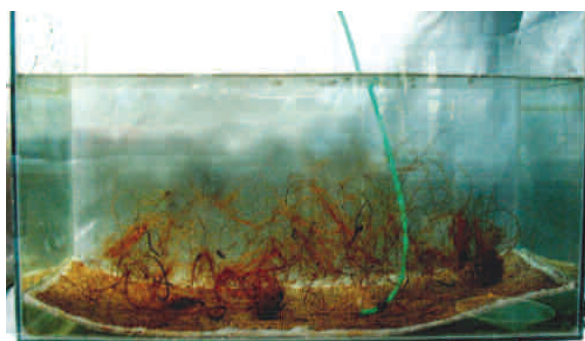
With the proviso that the principles given below under the headings **Space** and **Arranging the medium** must also be taken into account, a generous amount of spawning medium should be provided. Insufficient spawning medium is not conducive to spawning for the majority of species, though a few species require only very little, or even none at all.

- **Space**

With very few exceptions, as already mentioned, it is good to give breeders plenty of room to move. This means either placing the spawning medium towards the back of the tank with space in front, or, with timid or skittish species, a row of the medium down the centre will enable them to hide behind this. The astute breeder will also observe which species favour swimming above the medium (giant danios) or spawning near the surface (penguin tetras) and make sure there is clear water space above the medium for them.

- **Arranging the medium**

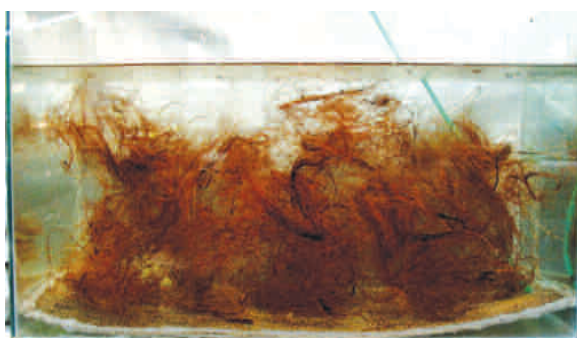
Fish deposit their eggs in subtly different ways. Observation of the spawning behaviour of all species can help considerably in deciding how best to arrange the spawning medium. In particular, attention must be given to the spaces created within the medium itself. For optimum results the medium should always be 'teased out' and opened, not left in tight



**FIG 3.27.** Front view of a very light (minimal) quantity of coconut fibre over an egg-screen. Such a small amount of coconut fibre is seldom used, but is good for a few species, for example the less common danios such as *Brachydanio kerri*. For them it is preferable to the bare tank used for the easier danios. Note the stainless steel spawn protecting screen.



**FIG 3.28.** A medium density of coconut fibre. This is a good general purpose layout, suitable for many tetras, barbs and other small egg-scatterers.



**FIG 3.29.** Coconut fibre, dense, but still giving smaller fish enough space to move in. Suitable for groups of *kerri* tetras.