

SYNOPSIS



Malawi and the Lake of Stars

Lake Malawi - See der Sterne

The very year of 1859, when Charles Darwin presented his work «On the Origin of Species» and therefore his theory of evolution to general public, David Livingstone in south-eastern Africa reached a yet undiscovered inland sea of freshwater which the natives in their language called «Nyassa» - simply «the lake».

579km long, 75km wide and more than 700m deep these waters were the third largest lake of Africa which came into existence more than 3 million years ago in the East African Rift Valley.

«A lake of stars!» Livingstone is alleged to have said, as the waves reflected the last rays of the evening sun in the form of thousands of iridescent lights. He didn't know that day how to the point this description of «Lake Malawi», as it is called today, was.

A glance beneath the waves reveals a stunning sight and a unique wonder of nature: The «stars» of Lake Malawi are alive! Colorful and brightly iridescent fish, so called «mouth breeding Cichlids», inhabit the crystal clear waters of this Lake and impress by their spectacular behavior. Through millions of years they have evolved from a single species of river dwelling fish to more than 880 different but closely related species which are endemic to Lake Malawi.

Charles Darwin never got the chance to see this stunning example of evolution. He would have been very pleased.

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Directed by Christian Redinger

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