

## **PetFish.Net Guide – Anabantoids**

**Part Of The PetFish.Net Guides Series**

## Dwarf Gourami - Colisa lalia

By AiWen



Male Dwarf Gourami © AiWen



Female Dwarf Gourami © AiWen

**Common name:** Dwarf Gourami

**Latin or Scientific Name:** Colisa lalia

**Origin or Range:** Asia

**Temperature:** 72°F – 82°F

**Ease Of Keeping:** Not For Beginners

**Aggressiveness:** Semi-Aggressive

**Adult Size:** 2 inches in Females and 2.5 inches in Males

**Life Span:** A few months usually for a specimen purchased at the LFS. 4-5 years for homebred healthy specimens.

**Minimum Tank Size:** 10 Gallon for 1st Dwarf Gourami & add 5 Gallons for each addition Dwarf Gourami

**Feeding:** Omnivores, will eat anything: Flakes, Pellets, Live Blackworms, Frozen Bloodworms, Freeze Dried Bloodworms, Aquatic Snails

**Breeding:** Bubblenesters - no different from breeding Betta splendens. I'm on the verge of spawning my own pair. Will create a detailed spawning article once I have succeeded.

**Sexing:** Males are more vibrant, brighter, and darker in color. (Top Picture)  
Females are lighter, usually dull, but can be as vibrant like mine , and more silver or golden in color. (Bottom Picture)

**Extra Comments:** In my 2 years of this hobby, I was finally able to find a nice male Dwarf Gourami specimen. I have great success keeping him in a tank with female bettas, contrary to what others believe. I do, however, agree about not keep different species of Gouramis in the same tank.

My male is very territorial and will chase off any interlopers including my fierce Convict female. There are however no serious damage as either one usually retreats.

I suggest adding PLENTY of floating plants like hornwort or anacharis in the tank. My male LOVES to blow big bubblenests using the plants as support, especially after I brought home and introduced a new female Dwarf Gourami. He's a very happy camper!

In a quick reminder, you MUST QT your Dwarf Gouramis. They will very easily succumb to illness caused diseases and are usually already sick while in the stores. Most beginners are very idiotic and will buy a whole lot of fish and stuff them into a small cramped tank. With fish as sensitive as Dwarf Gouramis, early deaths are very common.

## Pygmy Gourami



Pygmy Gourami © Clint Norwood



Also called the Sparkling Gourami © Clint Norwood

By Clint Norwood

Also known as: Sparkling Gourami, Dwarf Croaking Gourami

Species/genus: *Trichopsis pumilus*

Origin: Vietnam, Thailand

Temp: 75 - 84°F (24 - 29°C)

Temperament: Very peaceful, sometimes shy

Adult Size: 1 in (2.5cm)

Minimum Tank Size: 5 gallons

Feeding: Most standard fish foods accepted

Breeding: Spawns in much the same way as *Betta Splendens*, but nowhere near as prolific. The fry are exceptionally tiny and will require the smallest of live foods.

Comments: The Pygmy Gourami is a delightful little fish. Their color is spectacular under the right lighting conditions. Though somewhat shy when first introduced to a new tank they will quickly gain confidence and come out to play. This is an excellent fish for a small planted

aquarium.

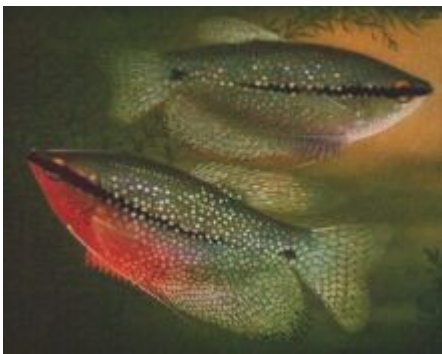
Also sometimes called the Dwarf Croaking Gourami this little fish will produce clearly audible clicking sounds when happy, excited or during courtship.

This is an overall excellent aquarium fish, their only drawback is the difficulty in spawning and raising their fry.

## Pearl Gourami



A Young Male



Pair, Male Below

Species/genus: *Trichogaster leeri*

Origin: Malaya and Thailand

Temp: 73-86°F (23-30°C)

pH: neutral dH: soft - medium hard

Temperament: Peaceful but curious and active

Adult Size: 5in (13cm)

Minimum Tank Size: 5 gallons  
Bigger is much better

Feeding: Easy to feed, accepts all aquarium foods

Breeding: Bubble nest egg layer, lays eggs by the thousands when spawning is successful

Comments: Colorful, active, friendly, an all around good aquarium citizen.

## Paradise Fish



Paradise Fish © Danelle



© Stacy Malbon  
Photo taken in Aqualand in Hopkins, MN.

Species/genus: *Macropodus opercularis*

Origin: East Asia, China, Korea

Temp: 61 - 89°F (16-32°C)

pH: 6.0 - 8.0 dH:- Not Important

Temperament: - Males sometimes fight similar to Betta Splendens

Adult Size: Up to 4in (10 cm)

Minimum Tank Size: 10 Gallons  
Although they are capable of living in much smaller containers.

Feeding: - Easy to satisfy, will eat just about all standard aquarium foods. As an added benefit Paradise fish will eat planaria flatworms and even hydra in some cases.

Breeding: - Bubblenest builder, large quantities of eggs are produced and the fry are easily raised. The male will protect the eggs until hatching occurs.

Comments: The Paradise Fish is extremely hardy, easy to keep and undemanding. These fish can tolerate a wide range of temperatures and since they are air breathers they can survive in

very small containers. They were the second ornamental fish introduced to Europe and caused a craze around the 1890's where they were commonly kept in small glass jars. They are very colorful as you can see in the picture above. Their only drawback is their excessive aggression.



## Kissing Gourami

By Brandon Campbell



© Brandon Campbell

Latin Name: *Helostoma temmincki*  
Origin: Tropical far East or farm raised  
Temperature: 70-88°F (21-31°C)  
Ease Of Keeping: moderate  
Aggressivness: Semi Agreesive  
Lighting: moderate to Bright  
Adult Size: up to 8 inches (20cm)  
Minimum Tank Size: 30  
Feeding: Flakes, Frozen or live bloodworms  
Spawning Method: Pairing up then eggs float to top

Comments: These are 2 of my 3 Kissing gouramis I have in my 37gal Tank. The tank is only a week old, and still being stocked. So far it has Anachris, Anubis and Willow Moss plants, and a fairly large Pleco who is very peaceful and like a babysitter for the young Gouramis at times. This is a at PetFish.Net there is a Video of the Kissing action everyone loves. It is said to be a test of strength. Usually the winner becomes the Big Fish in the tank and tends to boss around others.

## Gold Gourami



Gold Gourami © Yvonne

By: anonymous

Common Name: Gold Gourami

Latin Name: Trichogaster Trichopterus

Origin: Thailand

Temperature: 72°F to 82°F

Ease Of Keeping: Hardy fish

Aggressivness : Peaceful

Lighting: Any

Adult Size: 6 inches (15 cm)

Feeding: Omnivore

Spawning Method: Bubble nest builder

Comments: This fish may become aggressive if it is not kept in groups. Some large fish will try to eat other fish but I have found them to be quite peaceful. Feed it a staple flake occasionally feeding blood worms or brine shrimp. Very easy to keep.

## Giant Gourami



A Giant Gourami named Gulliver, © Elin Jansen, Norway

By: schfiftyfive12345

Common Name: Giant Gourami

Latin Name: *Osphronemus gorami*

Origin: Southeast Asia - Found in medium to large rivers and stagnant water bodies including sluggish flowing canals

Temperature: 70-86°F 21-30°C

Aggressivness: They are generally peaceful. When they are young they will fight with there own kind, but as they get older they ussually calm down alot. But remember, these are very big fish, and like many other fish this size they will eat smaller fish.

Adult Size: up to 24+ inches 60 cm

Minimum Tank Size: BIG

Feeding: They are not very picky eaters. Besides offering them regular fish foods, they will even eat cooked meat, bread, boiled potatoes and other vegetables. Feed brine shrimp (either live or frozen) or blood worms as a treat.

Spawning Method: Like most fish in this family, the Giant Gourami are bubble nest builders. The male will build a ball-shaped nest out of bits of plants just below the surface of the water. Their eggs as well as the fry, are lighter than water and float to the top. To sex these fish you look at the dorsal and anal fins the males are longer and more

Comments:

This is a very large fish, the 24 inches is correct and if kept in good condition they can exceed that length. These fish are fairly common and pretty inexpensive. These are beautiful fish that require tons of tank space.

### Breeding the gourami:

This fish is difficult to breed because of size. If a pair does breed, the eggs will be laid in a bubble nest previously built by the male. To get them to breed you should feed the pair live or frozen brine shrimp for a few weeks then separate the male and female for a few days; then put them in a spawning tank that is  $\frac{3}{4}$  full, and has plenty of floating plants. Set up a breeding tank about a week before breeding to establish food cultures for fry. Raise the temperature to 82°F and make sure the tank is covered. Let the parents raise the fry.

## Dwarf Gourami



A color variety of Dwarf Gourami  
© Loki



The Flame or Neon Gourami is a  
color variety of the Dwarf Gourami

Species/genus: *Colisa lalia*

Origin: India

Temp: 75-86°F (24-30°C)

pH: around neutral

dH: medium, not critical

Temperament: Usually peaceful, but there is the occasional rogue male that is downright mean, or just plain crazy.

Adult Size: 2in (5cm)

Minimum Tank Size: 2 gallon

Feeding: Thrives on flakes

Breeding: Bubble nest builder. Spawning is similar to Bettas except the fry are very small and will require infusoria or egg layer tube food for the first 2-3 days.

Comments: An extremely colorful fish. Multiple color varieties now exist. But only the males have the vivid coloration, females are rather plain in comparison.

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