



Barbs, Tetras And Minnows

A Part Of The PetFish.Net Guide Series

Spawning Danios - Eggs and Fry

By Sneaky

I have successfully spawned near to a dozen batches of pearl danios.

They are extremely easy to breed. Here is how I do it:

5g tank with heater, sponge filter, bare bottom covered with a single layer of glass marbles.

Large clump of java fern stuck in between the marbles.

I condition the water with prime, run the sponge filter and heater overnight for 80F.

In the morning the following day, I select 1-2 plump females from my breeding stock, and 2-3 males per female of my most colorful, quality danios.

I put the fish in the 5g tank. That afternoon late, just before dusk,

I do a small water change. Then I replace the water taken with conditioned water of 5 degrees cooler temperature (75f).

I slowly sprinkle this water over the surface using a small watering can with a many holed spout I purchased specifically for this purpose. This simulates a cool rain.

That night I pull the blind up a little in the window nearby, to allow the morning sun to hit the tank.

I leave the adults in the tank for 48 hours, during which they will spawn frequently.

I then remove the adults and play the waiting game.

Within about 3-5 days of removing the adults, I check the tank with a flashlight and can usually find the wigglers have hatched, and have risen out of the marbles onto the glass sides of the tanks.

I do not change the water at all during the time from spawning to this time.

Once I see the wigglers become free swimming, I add an apple snail from another tank to this tank. The apple snail will serve 2 purposes, it will produce infusoria for the fry to eat in the first couple of free swimming days, and it will clean up any excess food in the tank.

The day they start free swimming I make up fry food by crushing staple flake food + HBH 8 veggie flake + freeze dried bloodworms, into

a fine powder, and I start feeding a tiny pinch 4-6 times a day. I will feed the babies on this food for about the first week to 10 days of the fry's lives.

I monitor the fry daily and remove any that are belly sliders or deformed and feed them to my adult fish.

After the baby fry move up to the just finger ground flake foods, I start doing water changes. I do 20% water changes 2x weekly until the fry are about 3-6 weeks old, or about 1/2 inch in length, then I reduce my water changes to 1x weekly and reduce the feedings to the normal 2x daily for my adult fish.

By the time the fry reach 3/4 of an inch, or about 6-8 weeks of age, I move them in with their parents to a 25g tall tank.

I have used this method successfully to spawn both pearl danios, copper rasboras and hopefully soon will adapt this method with spawning mobs to raise blue eyed rainbowfish.

I hope this info helps you and good luck! Dont be afraid to try! Danios are probably the easiest egg laying fish to start experimenting breeding/fry raising with, and are easy to raise because they are a fast growing, relatively large egg hatched fry.

Celestial Pearl Danio



Common Name: Celestial Pearl Danio

Latin Name: *Celestichthys margaritatus*

Origin: South East Asia, Burma

Temperature: 68-78 degrees

Ease Of Keeping: Fairly Easy, will do well in ph from 6-8

Aggressivness: easy going

Lighting: Does well in all lighting but prefers subdued lighting created by floating plants

Adult Size: .75'-1'

Minimum Tank Size: 5 gallons

Feeding: Crushed flake food, brine shrimp, daphnia, tubifex worms

Spawning Method: egg scatterer

Comments: This fish is relatively easy to keep so long as it isn't kept with aggressive fish and voracious feeding fish.

Females have a black spot above their urogenital pore and are less colorful. Males have deeper colors and their anal fin has a black hue with an orange line in the middle. To spawn condition males and females in separate tanks for 2 weeks.



Feed them heavily on live foods. The spawning tank should be covered with java moss and shouldn't be larger than 10 gallons. Introduce a male and female in the

afternoon and don't feed them because their waste can harm the eggs. The next morning is when they will most likely spawn. The eggs look like small shards of glass and they can lay up to 30. If they haven't spawned you can either leave them in the tank another night or remove them and try another pair. I have also found that they will readily spawn in the community aquarium but the chances of fry survival is greatly reduced.

Overall the Celestial Pearl Danio has great personality and is a beautiful addition to any peaceful tank.

Galaxy Rasbora



Galaxy Danio Male © Clint Norwood

Latin Name: *Celestichthys margaritatus*

Common Name: Galaxy Rasbora, Celestial Pearl Danio, Galaxy Danio

Origin: Inle Lake, Myanmar (Burma)

Size: 1 inch (2.5cm)

Suggested Minimum Tank Size: 2 gallon +

Preferred Temperature: 68-80°F (20-27°C)

Special Considerations:

The Galaxy Rasbora is a tiny fish, it tops out at 1 inch (2.5cm) and is usually smaller than that! Galaxies are very shy fish. I added some Endlers Livebearers to their tank to make them feel more comfortable and this has worked wonderfully well. The Galaxies are now out and about in full view.

When I first got my group of Galaxies they were pretty thin and scrawny but after a couple of weeks of baby brine shrimp, grindal worms and quality flake foods they are fat and sassy.

Breeding these little jewels has proven quite easy. I used the old Zebra Danio trick and just collected eggs by using a gravel cleaning siphon. Let the gunk water sit a couple of days and you will see a multitude of fry.

Glofish

By Thomas Winslow/ Santaaa

Origin or Range: Aquariums, Labs, and Pet stores

Temperature: 70's F

Not Recommend: can live as low as 62 F and as high as 86 F

Ease Of Keeping: Easy

Aggressiveness: easy going

Lighting: Black Light

NOTE Do NOT leave black lights on for more than a few minutes.

Can cause BLINDNESS in your fish. It must be completely dark for your fish to glow
Regular Aquarium Lighting also.

Minimum Tank Size: 5 gallons

Feeding: Fish flakes, live brine shrimp, frozen brine shrimp, HBH betta bites, General Fish food

Breeding: Egglayer. Use same methods as Zebra Danios as they are genetically engineered Zebra Danios.



Glofish © www.glofish.com

Picture Credit: www.glofish.com

Thanks glofish.com for your allowing your web sites pics to be used for publications.

Extra Comments:

There are three colors currently available for purchase.

The original Starfire red, Electric Green, and Sunburst Orange

Can be kept alone but appear more active in groups. My friend currently has had his glofish an original one for about 4-5 years and it is still alive and swimming. Very Hardy fish.

For more information and to find where you can purchase your Genetically Engineered friend visit:

www.glofish.com

Head and Tail Light Tetra

By: Trigun



Head and Tail Light Tetra © Trigun

Common Name: Head and Tail Light Tetra

Latin Name: Hemigrammus ocellifer/ Hemigrammus ocellifer falsus (Both are found in the hobby under the same name)

Origin: Rivers and tributaries of South America

Temperature: Not Critical: 65°-84°F (18°C-28°C)

Ease Of Keeping: Easy

Aggressiveness: Peaceful

Lighting: Not critical, but low light will show off the fish's color.

Adult Size: 1.5in-2in (3.8cm-5cm)

Minimum Tank Size: 15 gallon

Feeding: Flakes, Freeze dried foods, brine shrimp, they also like peas.

Spawning Method: Egg Scatter

The Head and Tail light tetra is a very hardy fish and is a great fish for beginners. Head And Tail Light Tetras are a schooling fish so they should be kept in groups of six or more. They will thrive in almost any water conditions but, soft and slightly acidic water is best for breeding them. Females will be larger with rounded bellies filled with eggs and males will be smaller and more slender in shape. Males may become nippy toward females so try to keep a few more females than males. They are great tank mates for most other schooling Tetras and community fish, but larger carnivorous fish should be avoided as tank mates. Provide open swimming space as well as plants and driftwood for places to hide.

The Neon Tetra



© Danelle Murphy

By: Louis Sutcliffe

Common Name : Neon Tetra

Latin Name : *Paracheirodon innesi*

Origin : The Amazon (South America)

Temperature : 68-77°F (20-25 °C)

Ease Of Keeping : A very hardy tropical fish

Aggressivness : Neons are very easy going

Lighting : Not critical any lightin axeptable

Adult_Size : 4cm (1/2 in)

Minimum Tank Size : 1 gallon

Feeding : Any aquarium foods

Spawning Method : Very hard to spawn

Comments: The Neon Tetra has always been a a long time aquarium favorite and still is. The Neon Tetra is a very hardy fish and is perfect for a begginer fish but because of the size it could be on the bigger fishes menu!

Zebra Danio or Zebra Fish

By Clint Norwood



Male left, female right © Janika

Scientific Name: Brachydanio rerio

Adult Size: 5cm (2 in)

Ease Of Keeping: Very Easy

Community Fish: Yes, Very Peaceful

Aquarium Requirements:

The Zebra Fish is an excellent beginner's fish, always active, easy to feed, peaceful and very tolerant of less than optimum aquarium conditions. This fish is at it's best when kept in a school of 6 or more, in neutral to slightly alkaline water with a temperature of about 24 C (74 F) , and plenty of free swimming space. Food for Zebras can include live or frozen brine shrimp, grindal worms etc., but they will get by just fine on flake food alone.

Bread And Butter Fish

The Zebra Fish has been called one of the "bread and butter" fishes because of it's ease of keeping, continued popularity and it's favorable price and availability.

Easy To Spawn

An extremely easy way to get some Zebra fry is to set-up a small tank of about 5 to 10 gallons, install an undergravel filter and use large pebbles instead of normal aquarium gravel. Let the adults stay in this tank for about a week, take them out and start feeding all the fry you will start finding in the tank. This works well because Zebras spawn just about all the time, but they are such avid eaters of their own eggs and fry you never get to see the fry. The large pebbles allow the eggs to fall deep between the cracks so the adults can't get to them. A lot of people use glass marbles instead of pebbles with equal success.

Senthil Kumar has submitted a very good alternative spawning method.

Another simple way to breed zebra danios is to just keep them in their normal aquarium with the usual kind of gravel. Every once in a while one should vacuum the gravel and let the water sit for 2-3 days. Lots of babies are then found in this water.

An added benefit is that all that gravel grunge will supply enough microscopic food for the fry to eat for the first few days.

White Cloud Mountain Minnow

By Clint Norwood



White Cloud Minnows © Luko

Species/genus: *Tanichthys albonubes*

Origin: White Cloud Mountain, Hong Kong

Temp: 60-75°F (16-24°C)

pH and dH Not critical

Temperament: Very peaceful, must be protected from larger aggressive fish

Adult Size: up to 2 in (5cm)

Minimum Tank Size: 2 gallon

Feeding: Standard aquarium fare

Breeding: Egglayer, easily bred, just provide some hiding cover for newborn fry. White Clouds can be kept outside in a small garden pool or large tub in the Summer, thousands of fry can be produced this natural way.

Comment added by Gary Pagura:

I apparently left a few straggler White Clouds in my pond last fall - THEY WINTERED OVER!

We had a pretty bad one too - it was iced over several times. I am not a novice and I am quite sure about the species.

Zone 6 - NEW YORK

Tiger Barbs



© Sverre Nilsen

Species/genus: Barbus tetrazona

Origin: Sumatra, Thailand and Cambodia

Temp: 68 - 81°F (20 - 27°C)

pH: 6 to 7 dH: Soft

Temperament: Can be a fin nipper and shredder. You might not want to keep this "Tiger" with any small, docile or long finned fish. Experienced aquarist's have reported that they are able to keep them safely with other fish if they are kept in a shoal of 6 or more.

Also note that the 3 inches stated for the size of this fish is correct and they need plenty of space.

Adult Size: 3 in (7cm)

Minimum Tank Size: 20 gallon

Feeding: All foods accepted

Breeding: Egglayer, scatters eggs in plants and gravel, eats it's own eggs



© Sverre Nilsen

Comments:

A very pretty fish, named for its black stripes and for its sometimes aggressive behavior.

Likes company and makes a good schooling display. Tigers do better in groups of 6 or more, this seems to spread their natural aggression among more individual fish so that no one fish gets the worst of it.

This is a very beautiful fish, always active and on the move. They are a natural for planted tanks.

Serpae Tetra

By: Yvonne Garcia



Serpae Tetra © Yvonne Garcia

Common Name: Serpae Tetra

Latin Name: Hyphessobrycon serpae

Origin: Central Amazon

Temperature: 73-80°F

Ease Of Keeping: Easy

Aggressiveness: Peaceful

Adult Size: 2" (5cm)

Minimum Tank Size: 20 gallons

Feeding: Woms, bbs, flake food

Spawning Method: Egg layer

Comments:

- Males are much more slender than females
- Serpae Tetras are a very beautiful, and deeply red-colored fish. If stressed or sick, they will dull down in color almost to a grey with a slight hue of red. Feeding live foods and properly maintaining the quality of their water will make for a deeper red in color Serpae Tetras.
- Serpae Tetras swim in all levels of the tank, but mainly stick to the middle. They are less aggressive if kept in a proper school of 6 or more, and usually only then, will they be aggressive amongst themselves while determining the pecking order. Once established, all chaos (if any) should be exhausted.

A personal opinion: I think Serpae Tetras and Tiger Barbs are a great combination to have in a well planted tank. The beautiful reds against the lush foliage makes for an outstanding color scheme.

Scissortails



A group of Scissortails © Fruity

Scientific Name : Rasbora Trilineata

Adult Size: 3-4 inches

pH: 6.0-6.5

Temperature: 72-79° F



© Fruity

Feeding: Tropical flakes or granules. supplemented with frozen bloodworms and shrimp.

Comments: Scissortails come from slow moving streams in Borneo, Sumatra and Malaysia, and prefer a weak or slow water current. The females have a larger girth than males. Scissortails are upper to midlevel swimmers. Gets it's name from the scissor like twitching of it's tail.

Picture and text © Fruity.

Red-Eye Tetra

By Jason Lang



© Jason Lang



© Jason Lang

AKA: Lamp-eye Tetra and Glass Tetra

Species/genus: *Moenkhausia sanctaefilomenae*

Family: Characins

Origin: Bolivia, Brazil, Paraguay and eastern Peru

Adult size: almost 3 inches

Temp: 73 - 82°F

pH: 5 to 8.5

dH: soft to medium hard

Temperament: This is a very peaceful fish that is well suited for a community tank. But do tend to nip fins occasionally.

Numbers: This is a shoaling fish and should be kept in Groups of at least 6

Minimum tank size: 20 gallons

Tank setup: Does well in a planted tank with a large open shoaling area.

Feeding: Omnivorous, will accept mostly anything

Sex: Females are a little larger with a more round shape.

Breeding: Can be difficult. An egg-scatterer. Female scatters the eggs among the plants and gravel. Fry hatch after a couple of days.

Comments: These are hardy and good beginner fish. They tend to like to nip on plants so keep tough or fake plants.

They also tend to pair off when kept in groups. These fish are quite popular and shouldn't be too hard to find.

Neon Tetra



© Danelle Murphy



© Danelle Murphy



Neon Tank © Plecosaurus

Species/genus: *Paracheirodon innesi*

Origin: South America

Temp: 72 - 82°F (22 - 28°C)

pH: 5 to 6.5 dH: Soft

Temperament: Non aggressive

Adult Size: 1 1/2 inches (4 cm)

Minimum Tank Size: 1 Gallon

Feeding: - Eats all standard aquarium foods with gusto

Breeding: - Difficult to spawn, requires very soft acidic water, eggs must be kept in total darkness and the fry are very tiny and a challenge to raise

Comments: One of the most popular aquarium fishes. It almost seems as if they were made for a planted tank, their bright colors are magnificent against the backdrop of green plants. They are excellent schoolers when kept in groups of 6 or more. they are quite a chore to spawn and raise but many experienced aquarists have done it. Neons are indeed a good choice for beginners to keep; they are hardy, pretty, always active and very interesting.

Neons do not retain their color at night. If the aquarium lights are suddenly turned on in a dark room you will notice that all the Neons appear colorless. This is normal and their bright colors will return in a matter of minutes after the lights are turned on.

Lemon Tetra

By: Yvonne Garcia



Lemon Tetra © Yvonne Garcia

Common Name: Lemon Tetra

Latin Name: *Hyphessobrycon Pulchripinnis*

Origin: South America (no precise location)

Temperature: 72-78

Ease Of Keeping: Easy

Aggressivness: Peaceful

Adult Size: 1.6"

Minimum Tank Size: 10 gallon

Feeding: Worms, bbs, flake food, vegetables (blanced)

Spawning Method: Egg layer

Comments:

- Swims middle to lower stratus of tank.
- Males darker black edges on their anal fins, while females have a more contoured shape to their body.
- Lemon tetras are a very peaceful and beautiful fish. Lemons are almost translucent in color, but do have a tinge of yellow to them. The better foods they are fed, and the highest of water quality, will ensure a brighter color yellow to their bodies. In a heavily planted tank, it is sometimes difficult to find Lemons, as the plants show through their body.

IMO, Lemons are one of the more timid Tetras, and will usually shy away from any trouble among other fish in the tank. Also, they are not the hardiest in the Tetra family. I lost an entire school of them while moving them to another established tank in the house. While all of the other species lived through that transition, the Lemons did not.

Harlequin Rasbora



Harlequin Tetra Tank © Stacy Malbon
Photo taken at Aqualand, Hopkins, MN

Species/genus: *Rasbora heteromorpha*

Origin: Southeast Asia

Temp: 72 - 88°F (22 - 31 °C)

pH:6.5 dH: Soft

Temperament: Very Peaceful

Adult Size: 1 ½ in (4 cm)

Minimum Tank Size: 5

Feeding: Always hungry, eats all standard Aquarium foods

Breeding: Hard to spawn and not very productive when it does. Spawning requires water with a low pH and very soft with a temperature around 80° F. Only produces about 50 eggs. Hangs it's eggs from plant leaves.

Comments: A very desirable small and undemanding fish. Harlequins are great schoolers, always active and are made to order for a planted tank. Harlequins can live up to 5 years.

Golden Tetra

By: Julian Plante



Golden Tetra © Julian Plante

Common Name: Golden Tetra

Latin Name: *Hemigrammus rodwayi*

Origin: Guiana

Temperature: 76-82 °F (24-27°C)

Ease Of Keeping: Easy

Aggressivness: slightly aggressive at feeding time

Adult Size: 2 inches

Minimum Tank Size: 5 gallon

Feeding: Flakes, some blood worms. Very aggressive eaters

Comments: Keep in groups of 3 or more. They sometimes chase each other in a slightly aggressively manner to get more food. They swim around at all levels; will eat flake food off the surface and rest near the bottom.

GlowLight Tetra

By: Trigun

Common Name: GlowLight Tetra

Latin Name: Hemigrammus erythrozonus



Glowlight Tetra © Janet Luft

Origin: Originally from the Essequibo River, Guyana in South America but, most in the trade now are farm raised.

Temperature: Not critical: Anywhere from 70-80°F (21-26°C)

Ease Of Keeping: Very Easy, great beginner fish also a wonderful addition to any advanced planted tank.

Aggressivness: Very easy going: They can become aggressive toward each other if not keep in groups of 6 or more.

Lighting: None in particular but, low light makes their neon strip really stand out.
Adult Size: 1.5 Inches (4.5cm)

Minimum Tank Size: 10 Gallons

Feeding: Tropical Flakes are fine as a staple diet but, they also love freeze dried blood worms.

Spawning Method: Egglayer

Comments: These are great fish to start the hobby out with and are also a great challenge for the expert aquarist to try and breed. The minimum tank size I listed is ten gallons but, I found that Glowlights do much better in groups of about 12 (The usual group of six is fine though) so to keep the larger groups a tank size of about twenty or more is best. Glowlights also love a lot of cover and are great for the planted tank. Glowlights don't really require any special water conditions and will adapt to any pH, hardness, etc. but, I have noticed that the color of their neon strip fades to a pale grey when the water quality is bad or shifts rapidly. They are non-aggressive so they will be great tank mates with any other tetras; because of their small size they are not suited to a tank with large predatory fish. Sexing is difficult when the glowlights are young but, when they are older the Females will be a bit larger and more rounded than the smaller more slender males.

The Emperor Tetra

By: SteveK



The Emperor Tetra - pictures © Fredjikrang

Species/genus: Nematobrycon palmeri

Origin: South America: Atrato and San Juan River basins

Temp: 74 - 81 F (23-27C)

Temperament: non-aggressive when kept in schools

Adult Size: almost 2 inches (5 cm)

Minimum Tank Size: 10 gallon

Feeding: prefers live or frozen, will eat floating flakes also. They can be slightly aggressive during their "feeding frenzy"

Sexing: The male will have a trident shaped tail (3 points) the middle point is a continuation of the blackline that runs down the side of the body. Females do not have this middle point, and have what most people would consider to be a regular shaped fish tail (kind of U-shaped).

Breeding: Use soft water, lower the PH to 5.0-5.6, filter the water through peat. Do water changes to lower the temperature about 3 degrees, feed live or frozen foods. If you do all that the fish will spawn in a cave filled with Java Moss or a Spawning Mop. You will notice the fish sending tail signals to each other and going through dramatic color change from all white to all purple/black. The female will enter first, then male follows, this keeps repeating for up to 5 hours. All the other tetras will stay on the opposite side of aquarium, and the spawning male becomes VERY aggressive in defending cave. The male will dart around his territory frantically, all the while going through color changes and sending tail signals to other fish to leave the area, warning them that he will attack if they don't leave. The parents and other fish might eat the weaker babies, but this is not an issue when there is PLENTY of Java Moss for the fry to hid in. Each clutch contains 50 to 100 eggs, I usually get about 40 that make it to adulthood.

Comments:

Very color fish, sometimes they will have hints of bright yellow and purple after they reach adulthood. Takes at least 18-24 months to reach full size, but they can spawn after about 6 months. They school the best when they are kept in groups of at least 5 or 6. They usually have extremely bright blue eyes, but they flash a dark red during spawning and sometimes when they are in direct light. They generally prefer a PH of no more than 7, but 5.8-6.2 is ideal. If you have a large enough cave, and a large enough school for proper schooling behavior, the entire school will sleep in the same cave each night. It is pretty fun to watch, one by one they each go into the cave right before lights out (if you use a timer to shut off the lights at the same time each night)

Diamond Tetra

By: Jane Lane



Diamond Tetra © Jane Lane

Common Name: Diamond Tetra
Latin Name: *Moenkhausia pittieri*
Origin: Venezuela
Temperature: 76-82°F or 24-28°C
Ease Of Keeping: Relatively easy
Aggressivness: Peaceful
Lighting: subdued is best
Adult Size: 2 ½" or 6.3cm
Minimum Tank Size: 15 gallon, bigger is better
Feeding: Flake, frozen, or live
Spawning Method: Egg-layers

Comments: In my experience, the Diamond Tetra is an active and easy fish. To keep it happy, all you need is clean water, plenty of room, and some areas of low lighting. Mine have become much more active since I added a large amount of plants to their tank. This picture really doesn't show the glittery effect of this fish's scales and the lavender color of its fins. In many pet stores, poor water quality makes them sluggish and look a little brown and dull. Males of the species are a bit more colorful than females and have much longer fins. Diamond Tetras are great to have not only for their beauty, but because they are one of the least nippy large tetras. They may quarrel among themselves occasionally, but they would never nip at a different species.

Columbian Tetra



Columbian Tetras © fishkeeper

By: fishkeeper

Common Name: Columbian Tetra

Latin Name: Hyphessobrycon

Origin: Rio Acandi in Columbia

Temperature: 73-80°F (23-27°C)

Ease Of Keeping: average

Aggressivness: Peaceful, a lot less nippy than other tetras.

Lighting: doesn't matter

Adult Size: 2.5 inches (6.25cm)

Minimum Tank Size: 15 gallons (60 liters)

Feeding: This fish will accept flake foods but a little treat like freeze dried blood worms, black worms, brine shrimp etc. will be very helpful.

Spawning Method: Egg scatterer

Comments: I have these tetras with medium sized angelfish and blood fin tetras. They don't pick on anybody else. They have a bright, metallic blue on there back side and red fins. Great for communities, but keep no less than 5 in a tank.

Cherry Barb

By Clint Norwood



Cherry Barbs © Katie, AKA Bungalobetta

Species/genus: *Barbus titteya*

Origin: Sri Lanka

Temp: 75-81°F (24-27°C)

pH: 6 to 8 - not critical

dH: Medium - not critical

Temperament: Peaceful and active but somewhat shy in bright light

Adult Size: 2in (5cm)

Minimum Tank Size: 5 gallon

Feeding: Omnivorous - eats everything

Breeding: Scatters eggs throughout the tank, with up to 300 eggs produced. The parents will eat the eggs if not protected. The eggs should be kept in the dark while incubating.

Comments: An excellent beginners fish. The male will turn "cherry" red when ready to spawn, hence the name "Cherry Barb". A small peaceful easy to spawn fish. The fry are very small and require the tiniest foods for the first week.



Cherry Barbs © Katie, AKA Bungalobetta

Added By: Shona

I have 4 of these fish and they are very friendly. I haven't noticed them fight with each other either. They even clean some algae of the plants too. They school with the white clouds I have, but also swim on their own sometimes. Very peaceful fish. Their colour stands out more with darker gravel.

Breeding Tetra Fish Successfully

By [Linda Jenkinson](#)

If you are keeping tetras, chances are you are breeding tetras, even if unknowingly. In the wild, tetras normally breed during the rainy season, but in the aquarium, they may breed year round. Female tetras are egg-scatters that typically fill with eggs every ten to fourteen days.

The female tetra indiscriminately sprays her eggs into clumps of fine-leaved plants. The eggs are adhesive and stick to the plants. However, tetras as well as other tank mates often find tetra eggs and small fry an irresistible delicacy.

If breeding tetras is your goal in keeping them, the best thing to do is to separate males and females. This allows you to keep control of breeding and improves your chance of achieving a successful hatch of fry. Smaller species of female tetras become sexually active at nine to twelve months old with larger species ready to breed at 1 ½ to 2 years of age.

Male tetras are generally a month or two older than females for successful spawning to take place.

Males are typically slimmer and more colorful than their female companions are. When viewed from above, the female tetra is distinguishably plumper and rounder because of the build-up of eggs within her body.

Two weeks before breeding tetras, separate males and females within the same tank. This is done simply by putting a clear divider between them, which not only gives you control of breeding but also stimulates spawning behavior since the fish are kept within sight of each other. Breeding tetras is also encouraged during the pre-spawn period by feeding them with high-quality live foods.

When ready to breed tetras, you'll get the best results by using a separate breeding tank, prepared with a peat filter and clean, aged water in which clumps of fine-leaved plants have been strategically placed. Three ways to complete your tank for breeding tetras are:

1. Drape the tank with nylon netting to allow the eggs to fall to the tank floor away from hungry adults.
2. Cover the tank floor with marbles to hide the eggs and protect them from cannibalism.
3. Plant fine-leaved plants or artificial spawning mops in seed trays filled with coarse gravel to trap the eggs and prevent them from being eaten.

Females should be placed in the breeding tank earlier than the males, usually the night before breeding. In addition to allowing her to settle in, it also puts the male in the position of having to court her on her own turf. This technique can deter any aggressive tendencies he may display. After introducing the male to the breeding tank, it's best to watch his *introductory moves*.

Males often show aggressive behavior during spawning. If the male attacks a female, remove her and re-separate the pair. Another female can be tried or alternatively, two to three females can be introduced to the breeding tank to keep the male from focusing his attention on only one. Remove adult fish from the breeding tank immediately after breeding tetras.

If you are interested in Tetra Fish, on our site we have a free e-book available about these wonderful creatures.

Linda is author of [Tetra Fish and Cichlids](#) at <http://www.aquarium-guides.com/>

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Pygmy Rasbora



Pygmy Rasbora © Clint Norwood - PetFish.net

By Clint Norwood

Latin Name: *Boraras maculatus* (formerly *Rasbora maculatus*)

Common Names : Pygmy Rasbora, Dwarf Rasbora, Spotted Rasbora

Origin: Malaysia and Singapore

Minimum Tank Size: 5 gallons, 20 liters

Adult Size: 1 Inch, 2.5cm

Temperature Range: 75-80°F, 24-27°C

Ease Of Keeping: Medium

Aggressivness: Not at all, a very timid fish

Feeding: Usual fish foods, just smaller bites

Comments: This beautiful fish is one of the smallest aquarium fish available, it is really tiny. Adults barely get to one inch in total length. Kept in a group of 6 or more the Pygmy Rasbora will form a nice school, and be much more active and happy. This fish is easy to feed and keep, but spawning such a tiny fish is very difficult, the fry will require the tiniest of live foods. Pygmies prefer acidic water in the 5 to 6.5 pH range and little or no hardness.

This is an excellent fish for the nano planted tank.

Bloodfin Tetra



Bloodfin Tetra © Nixalba



Bloodfin Tetra © Nixalba

By : Billy McEney

Common Name: Bloodfin Tetra
Latin Name: *Aphyocharax anisitsi*
Origin: South America- Amazon
Temperature: 68-80 F
Ease Of Keeping: Easy
Aggressivness: Peaceful
Lighting: Not critical
Adult Size: 2-3 inches
Minimum Tank Size : 10 gallon
Feeding: Flakes live frozen
Spawning Method: Egg layer

Comments:

EXTRA:

Bloodfin tetras can be kept in an unheated tank but it will dull the coloration. Tetras are happiest in groups of six or more. These tetras are easy to read for health if the red color is lost from the fins for a prolonged period of time the fish is likely to be ill or stressed.

GENDER DIFFERENCES:

Females of the species are larger and not as bright as their male counterparts. Males also have a hook on their anal fin and are noticeably more yellow than females.

BREEDING:

These tetras are easy to breed in a well planted tank. To get them to breed condition them well with live foods and such. The Bloodfin tetra will lay 650 to 800 clear colored eggs. The eggs will float on top of the water. Spawning will be done in the early morning. Parents must be removed because they will eat the eggs when they

sink to the bottom. Eggs with hatch in about 24 hours. Feed the fry brine shrimp. Water for breeding should be slightly acidic. The Bloodfin Tetra are more likely to breed in a species tank but I have had it happen in a community tank.

TEMPERAMENT:

They are a good community fish. They go well with any other tetras that are about the same size. Such as the Black Skirt Tetra. They also go well with many algae eaters like Oto cats. Most any fish that will not eat them make good tank mates for them.

Black Skirt Tetra



Black Skirt Tetra © Snapple



This is an white Black Skirt Tetra that has been dyed pink.
© Snapple

By: Billy McEnery

Common Name: Black Skirt Tetra
Latin Name: *Gymnocorymbus ternetzi*
Origin: South America
Temperature: 68-80 F
Ease Of Keeping: Easy
Aggressivness: Peaceful
Lighting: Not critical
Adult Size: 1.5-2 inches
Minimum Tank Size: 10 gallons
Feeding: Flake, live, frozen
Spawning Method: Egg Scatterer

Comments:

Extra: As with most Tetras they are happiest in groups of 6 or more or small schools. Black Skirt Tetras are commonly known as Black Tetras and Black Widow Tetras. The Black skirt tetra has many color variations most notable are the painted varieties of blues and pinks witch are most likely artificially dyed Albino Black Tetras and should be avoided.

Breeding: Breeding the Black Skirt Tetra is easy. Place in a well planted breeding tank and condition with brine shrimp, bloodworms or the like. The Black Skirt Tetra is and egg scatterer but prefers to lay eggs in small "Clumps" in plants with fine leaves. The fry which hatch in about 24 hours and should be fed brine shrimp, finely ground flake food , or egg yolk.

Gender Differences: The females of the Black Skirt Tetra are plumper and have an

anal fin parallel to the second black stripe on the body. The males are slimmer and smaller than the females and have a more defined anal fin. In rare cases males may have white spots on the caudal fin.

Temperament: Peaceful but as with most Tetras will nip the fins of any slow moving , long finned fish such as a Betta splendens. Good tank mates for Black Skirt Tetras are other Black Skirt Tetras or any other Tetra of similar size and temperament.

They do get along with Oto cats.

Name: fishkeeper

Comments: These fish are really good starter fish, especially for new aquarists. Some of the albinos are artificially colored, but usually not by dying but by feeding them colored foods. Still, do not purchase these fish because then you are supporting a cruel practice.

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