

Barbs

Generally the *Barbus* and *Puntius* genera



Barbs have been selectively bred to emphasise bright colour combinations

Far Left Top: Rosy Barb
Far Left Bottom: Tiger Barb
Left Top: Striped Barb
Left Bottom: Black Ruby Barb
Below: Odessa Barb



General Information

Barbs belong to the Family Cyprinidae which is one of the largest fish Family's in the world, and contains more than 2,600 species. The Family consists of a number of important groups of ornamental fish including Goldfish, Loaches, Rasboras and Sharks.

Colour and Varieties

Barbs have been selectively bred to emphasise colour bright colour combinations. This group of fish includes popular fish like Rosy Barbs, Moss Green Tiger Barbs, Black Ruby Barb, Tiger Barbs, Checker Barbs, Cherry Barbs and Diamond Scale Barbs.

Natural Range

Southern (Sri Lanka) and Eastern Asia, with a few from Africa. Their natural environment varies from fast flowing streams and rivers to calmer lake environments. Many species also prefer shaded areas with aquatic plants.

Sexing and Breeding

Male barbs are generally slender in shape and more brightly coloured than females. Females are also recognised by their fuller abdomen particularly when in spawning condition.

Maximum Size

The species varieties sold for aquariums can reach a maximum size of 8cm.

Barbs will readily breed in captivity. For breeding a separate densely planted tank should be set up and the adults should be removed as Barbs do not engage in brood care after laying their eggs. Most male barbs change colour during breeding.

Water Quality

Barbs are not fussy about their water conditions and they will thrive in parameters such as:

Temperature: 18°C - 26°C

pH: 6.5 – 7.5

General Hardness: 50 -150 ppm

Housing

The tank set up should avoid bright lights as a moderate amount of light will bring out the best colours on them more effectively. Secondly provide a lot of swimming space and hiding places for these active fish. Barbs are undemanding and will be a stunning addition to the home aquarium.

Feeding

They are omnivorous and will thrive on live, frozen and dry food. It is also a good idea to provide some vegetable matter as well.

Compatibility

Barbs are hardy, active and mostly a peaceful fish that are best kept in groups in a community tank. Tiger Barbs are known to nip at fins therefore it is best not to keep them with long finned fish and with small slow moving fish. Provide enough fish to school and the fin nipping tendency will be lessened.



Golden Tiger Barb