

Gourami

Colisa sp, Trichogaster sp, Helostoma sp



Above: Male Coral Blue Dwarf Gourami

Right: Male Dwarf Rainbow Gourami



Above: Silver Gourami

Left: Golden Gourami

Introduction

Gouramis are part of the family Belontiidae and are generally referred to as anabantoids or labyrinth fish, the labyrinth organ allows them to extract oxygen from atmospheric air in areas where the water is poorly oxygenated. Dwarf gouramis make an excellent addition to the peaceful community tank whilst the larger species need to be in a semi-aggressive tank as they can be quite boisterous. The pelvic fins on gouramis are adapted to act as long tentacle like sensors to detect other objects in the water such as other fish and food.

Maximum Size

Dwarf species reach up to 6cm. Larger species such as Golden, Blue and Lace gouramis can reach up to 12cm. Kissing gouramis are known to reach 30cm whilst the Giant gouramis have been recorded at 60cm.

Water Conditions

- Tolerates a wide range of water conditions.
- Hardness, 50 – 150 ppm.
- pH 6.8– 7.2

Temperature Range

Tropical 24-29°C.

Colouration

Gourami colouration varies greatly. Dwarf gouramis can range from neon blue to a flame red with variations in between. Kissing gouramis are either pink or green, whilst the larger gouramis feature pretty blue colouration. There are also gold and platinum variants. The Lace gourami has a pearly pattern with a brown horizontal stripe running through the eye to the tail, the males develop a deep red colouration in the throat.

Tank SetUp

Gourami are not fussy about tank décor but do appreciate a well-planted tank with lots of open swimming space.

Feeding

Will eat most aquarium fish foods but they will thrive and be much more apt to breed on a greatly varied diet including some live, frozen or fresh food occasionally. Small size gouramis, at about 3 – 4 cm are still considered fry and require several feeds a day to keep them healthy and growing.

Breeding

In most of the species the male builds a floating nest of bubbles at the surface of the water. Courtship occurs below the bubble nest and the fertilised eggs float to settle within the nest. The eggs are then tended to by the male even after hatching. At the early stage of development the fry are very susceptible to cold drafts as they can damage the immature labyrinth organ as they extract atmospheric air.



The Sparkling Gourami is a small Gourami which only reaches 3cm in size.

care sheet

