

Platy

Xiphophorus maculatus



Introduction

Platys are peaceful, hardy, active and very colourful. In numbers they can effectively brighten up a dull, drab tank. They have a very inquisitive personality, and will explore all levels of the tank.

Maximum Size

Commonly around 4 – 6 cm in length, with females occasionally growing a little larger, up to a maximum of 8cm.

Water Conditions

They prefer slightly alkaline water, but are generally able to tolerate a wide range of water qualities and quite hardy.

A pH of 7.0-8.0 and a general hardness of 200-300 is best.

Temperature

24 - 28°C

Colouration

The species has many colour varieties – red, black, blue, yellow, wagtail, tuxedo, neon, mickey-mouse and many more.

Tank Set-Up

An easily cared for fish that does well in all types of community aquaria. Give them a fairly large tank with live plants and open swimming areas, avoid too much driftwood as a rule the livebearers do not like acidic water. Although not a schooling fish they benefit by being kept with a large number of their own kind.

Feeding

Platys will eat most aquarium fish food and also algae growing within the aquarium. They can also be kept in ponds outdoors (in warmer climates) to control mosquito levels and algae levels.

Breeding

Platys are livebearers, meaning the female gives birth to fully formed, free swimming baby fish, about 30 days after fertilization. Sexes can easily be distinguished; the anal fin of the male is modified to form the Gonopodium (the male sex organ).

Compatibility

Platys are one of the best community tank species and will mix well with other community species.

Unpacking Procedure

Before unpacking, please check temperature of both shipping water and future holding tank. Options such as addition of salt and lowering of pH in the tanks should be considered.