



**Species:** *Apistogramma*, *Mikrogeophagus*, *Nannacara*, *Nanochromis*, *Pelvicachromis*.

**Family:** Cichlidae.

**Geographic Origin:** South America. Many from Brazil.

**Common Names:** Cockatoo Cichlid, Rams, Bolivian Rams, etc.

**Compatibility:** Providing they have enough tank space to set up their own territory, they will live quite happily with one another.

**Minimum Aquarium Size:** One pair will be fine in a 450mm x 250mm x 250mm (18" x 10" x 10") aquarium, particularly if you are attempting to breed them. A 900mm x 380mm x 300mm (36" x 15" x 12") tank will hold several pairs.

**Temperature:** 23°-28°C (73°-82°F), there is some fluctuation in nature.

**Habitat:** Fine gravel /coarse sand. Rockwork to provide hiding places. Terracotta flower pots are ideal (ensure that the drainage hole is enlarged).

**Water:** Ideally, these fish prefer soft acid water but over a period of time, can be changed over to neutral hard water. Water should be filtered. Small water changes only on a weekly basis.

**Health:** May have problems with White Spot. This can be treated with a proprietary compound.

**Diet:** Prefer live or frozen foods. *Daphnia*, Mosquito larvae are readily accepted. May accept dried foods.

**Plants:** May rearrange the tank to suit themselves in which case, the plants will be uprooted. Use plants attached to rockwork.

**Breeding Notes:** Egg-depositors, often somewhat secretive - inside a flower-pot is often a favourite spawning site.

**Availability:** A number of species are readily available.

**Show Class:** FBAS Show Class Db.