

Fish Care Sheet No 15 Large Catfish - African

Genera : *Synodontis*, *Microsynodontis*

Family : Mochokidae.

Geographic Origin : Africa. Nile, Cameroon, Chad, Gambia, Sudan, Zaire.

Common Names : Cuckoo Syno, Upside-down Catfish, Angel Syno.



Compatibility: Some larger species may cause problems but generally OK with most species.

Minimum aquarium size : The smaller species can be accommodated in a 600 x 380 x 300mm (24" x 15" x 12") tank. Larger species need a 1200 X 380 x 300mm (48" x 15" x 12") tank.

Temperature : In the range of 20°-26°C (68°-80°F).

Habitat : Well planted tanks with plenty of rockwork for hiding places.

Water: Some of these species come from soft water areas others from very hard water areas. It is recommended that you research the locality of the species and provide the appropriate conditions before purchasing them.

Health : Some species are susceptible to Velvet Disease (*Oodinium*) generally brought on by stress. Medication may be necessary. It is sometimes possible to treat the affected fish whilst in the aquarium and not use an isolation tank.

Diet : These fish are generally nocturnal so special provision should be made for feeding them. Most are omnivorous.

Plants : All tropical plants are generally suitable although some small specimens may be uprooted by the fishes' constant foraging..

Availability : A fairly wide selection of species available, though more often in specialist shops.

Show Class : F.B.A.S. Show Class G