

**Genera :** *Brachyrhamdia*, *Phractocephalus*, *Leiarius*, etc

**Family :** Pimelodidae

**Geographic Origin :** From Mexico to Argentina.

**Common Names :** False Cory, Red-tail Cat,  
Marbled Antennae Catfish.



**Compatibility :** The small species, like *Brachyrhamdia*, are fine with other community fish providing they are too large to consume. Most species grow very large and are total predators. In the wild, they are primarily food fish. Before considering keeping the larger species (which grow rapidly) thorough research is essential.

**Minimum aquarium size :** As species can grow to two metres, very large tanks are necessary!

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

**Habitat :** The large species are usually kept in tanks with few furnishings. Large diameter plastic or earthenware pipes make suitable 'hiding' places.

**Water :** Are found in soft water but will adapt to hard. Many are very 'fussy' regarding water changes and pre-conditioned water is often necessary. As they can be large fish, consequently having large appetites, an efficient filtration system using external units (often several) is essential.

**Health :** Generally not unhealthy but chlorine 'burn' on some species can be a problem.

**Diet :** Many of the Pimelodidae are carnivores so choice of tank mates are important. Most will eat frozen prawns when they are small but as they grow, more substantial food is required. The feeding of live fish is unacceptable and most can be trained to eat frozen fish, Mussel meat, 'crab sticks' etc.

**Plants :** Unless they are very firmly attached to rockwork, they will be uprooted.

**Availability :** Often available, usually in specialist fish shops.

**Show Class :** F.B.A.S. Show Class G or Ga