



**Species:** *Rasbora*, *Microrasbora*, *Trigonostigma* and *Rasboroides*.

**Family:** Cyprinidae.

**Geographic Origin:** S/East Asia, India.

**Common Names:** Harlequin, Scissortail, Elegant Rasbora, Red-tail Rasbora.

**Compatibility:** Generally active fish that are best kept in a shoal of at least six fish. Not aggressive towards one another or to tank mates. Good fish for beginners.

**Minimum Aquarium Size:** The smaller species can be kept in a 450mm x 250mm x 250mm (18" x 10" x 10") aquarium. A tank of 900mm x 380mm x 300mm (36" x 15" x 12") is more suitable for the larger species such as the Scissor tail and Sumatrana. Aquariums should have well fitting lids and cover glasses. These fish can jump extremely well.

**Temperature:** Ideal temperature is around 20°C (68°F) but quite happy at higher or lower temperatures.

**Habitat:** Prefers a well-planted community tank, with a gravel substrate and water movement, particularly from the outlet of an internal filter.

**Water Parameters:** Tolerant to soft and hard water. Will generally only breed in soft acid water. Water change of approximately 25% each week is beneficial.

**Health:** Generally not over susceptible to White Spot or fungus. As with all new fish, quarantine for at least one week in a separate tank. Any fish that appears sick, isolate immediately in a separate tank. Do not flush dead fish down the toilet. Incinerate or wrap in paper and put it in the dustbin.

**Diet:** Omnivorous: These fish will accept dried, frozen and all types of live food (e.g. *Daphnia*, Mosquito larvae). Do not overfeed. Many problems can be caused by overfeeding (pollution of water by decaying food).

**Plants:** All species of tropical plants are acceptable. Not known as plant eaters.

**Breeding Notes:** *Trigonostigma heteromorpha* (the Harlequin) is an egg-depositor; others are egg-scatters.

**Availability:** Widely available. Only select fish that are alert and swimming with fins erect. Inspect carefully for signs of disease. Reject lethargic, damaged or hollow bellied specimens.

**Special Note:** *Rasbora kalachroma* and *Rasboroides vaterifloris* are regarded as difficult to keep for the inexperienced aquarist - generally only thrive in soft acid water. Unless you can provide these conditions, they are best avoided.

**Show Class:** FBAS Class J.