



Species: *Symphysodon*. It is imperative that aquarists intending to keep these 'specialist' fish, do adequate research into the necessary parameters needed for their comfort and health.

Family: Cichlidae

Geographic Origin: Brazil.

Common Names: Discus, Pompadour or Emperor fish

Compatibility: Generally kept on their own but can be kept in a specialist community tank. Prefer slow-moving tank mates.

Minimum Aquarium Size: These fish can grow to 200mm or more so a large tank is necessary. A 1200mm x 380mm x 380mm (48" x 15" x 15") tank is the minimum.

Temperature: Should be kept at high temperatures. 28°-32°C (82°-86°F) is usual; there is some variation in nature.

Habitat: Gravel substrate with a well-planted tank. Amazon Swordplants are often a featured plant. Bogwood with attached plant is also decorative.

Water: The best water conditions are soft and acid. Low hardness with a pH of less than 7 is ideal. Good filtration without too much water disturbance.

Health: Not always the easiest fish to keep in good health. Careful inspection for 'Hole-in-the-Head' disease should be made. This must be treated with a proprietary medicine.

Diet: Special Discus foods both dried and frozen are on the market.

Plants: Gravel substrate (preferably lime free) with large plants. Breeding tanks are usually devoid of gravel and plants.

Breeding Notes: Eggs are deposited on terracotta spawning cones. Fry initially feed from mucus on parents' skin before moving on to the more traditional fry foods, such as Brine Shrimp etc.

Availability: There are many different colour varieties on the market. Some shops specialise in Discus and have a wide range.

Show Class: FBAS Show Class D.