

FEDERATION OF BRITISH AQUATIC SOCIETIES

FISH CARE SHEET No: 17

Discus

01/01/2002

Species : *Symphysodon*. It is recommended that aquarists who are intending to keep these fish, do adequate research into the necessary parameters for their comfort and health. These are generally considered to be 'specialist' fish.

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 probably the minimum.

Temperature : Should be kept at high temperatures. 28°/30°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.

Water Parameters : 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 species 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. Bogwood with growing plants attached are fine. Breeding tanks are usually devoid of gravel and plants.

Breeding Notes : Usual spawning medium is a terracotta cone. Young fry feed initially from skin mucus of parents and may be difficult to raise artificially. Parental care strong.

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.