

FEDERATION OF BRITISH AQUATIC SOCIETIES

FISH CARE SHEET No: 23

Dwarf Cichlids

01/03/2002

Species: *Apistogramma*, *Mikrogeophagus*, *Nannacara*, *Nanochromis*, *Pelvicachromis*.
See those fishes listed in the current Federation Size Book under Class Db.

Family: Cichlidae.

Geographic Origin: South America (many from Brazil), Central and West Africa.

Common Names: Cockatoo Cichlid, Rams, Bolivian Rams, Kribensis etc.

Compatibility: Providing they have enough tank space to set up their own territory, they will live quite happily with one another.

Minimum Aquarium Size: One pair of *Apistogramma*, will be fine in an 450mm x 250mm x 250mm (18" x 10" x 10") aquarium, particularly if you are attempting to breed them. A 900mm x 380mm x 300mm (36" x 15" x 12") tank will hold several pairs of fish.

Temperature: 23°/28°C 73°/2°°F, there is some fluctuation in nature..

Habitat: Fine gravel /coarse sand. Rockwork to provide hiding places. Terracotta flower pots are ideal (ensure that the drainage hole is enlarged).

Water Parameters: Ideally, these fish prefer soft acid water but over a period of time, can be changed over to neutral hard water. Water should be filtered. Small weekly water changes.

Health: May have problems with White Spot. This can be treated with a proprietary compound.

Diet: Prefer live or frozen foods. *Daphnia*, Mosquito larvae are readily accepted. May accept dried foods .

Plants: May re arrange the tank to suit themselves in which case, the plants will be uprooted.
Use plants attached to rockwork.

Breeding Notes : Secretive, egg-depositors typically using caves (or flowerpots) in which to spawn.

Availability: A number of species are readily available.

Show Class: FBAS Show Class Db.