

FEDERATION OF BRITISH AQUATIC SOCIETIES

FISHCARE SHEET No: 24

Labyrinth Fish

01/03/2002

Genera: *Betta, Ctenopoma, Trichogaster, Trichopsis* etc.

See those fishes listed in the current Federation Size Book under Class E.

Family: Anabantidae , Belontiidae.

Geographic Origin: Africa and Asia.

Common Names: Siamese Fighting Fish, Leeri or Pearl, Three-spot, Croaking and Sparkling Gouramies. Climbing Perches.

Compatibility: Many of the 'Gouramies' are compatible with one another and with other species e.g. Tetras. Siamese Fighters can only be kept on their own. Climbing Perches (*Ctenopoma*) are best kept in a species aquarium.

Minimum aquarium size: The small Gouramies can be safely accommodated in a 600mm x 380mm x 300mm (24" x 15" x 12") aquarium. As ever though, a larger aquarium is always to be preferred. A well fitting hood is required if considering keeping the Climbing Perches (because they do!).

Temperature: These fish are from regions where the water temperature can be over 30°C(86°F) and as low as 15°C/60°F. Set aquarium water around 25°C/78°F.

Habitat: Many are found in rice paddies and in small ponds in wooded areas. They are air breathing, which is fortunate as their natural water conditions are often very poor but this does not mean water conditions in the aquarium should be neglected!

Water Parameters: They benefit from having a good clean water environment. Most are quite happy in hard water. Benefit from a weekly water change of 25%.

Health: No particular problems health wise.

Diet: Will readily accept all dried, frozen and live foods such as *Daphnia*.

Plants: All species of tropical plant are acceptable in the aquarium.

Breeding Notes : The breeding tank should have plenty of plant refuges into which the female can safely retreat. Although the Chocolate Gourami is a mouthbrooder, the majority are bubble nest builders with eggs being guarded by the male after spawning. Remove female at this time.

Availability : Many such as Three-Spot and Leeri Gouramies are readily available. Others are less so.

Show Class : *Betta splendens* (Fighting Fish) Class Ea, the other Labyrinths Class E.