

FEDERATION OF BRITISH AQUATIC SOCIETIES

FISH CARE SHEET No: 25

Catfish Fish (1) South American.

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Welcome to these information Sheets that will not only help you make the best fish choices for your aquarium but also provides details on their best care.

Genera: *Agamyxis, Ancistrus, Panaque, Platydoras, Otocinclus* etc .
See those fishes listed in the current Federation Size Book under Class G.

Family: Doradidae, Loricaridae.etc

Geographic Origin: South America.

Common Names: Whiptail, Algae Eater, Royal Panaque

Compatibility: Many of these catfishes grow very large. Adequate research is recommended before undertaking the keeping of some of these catfish. Others can be cannibalistic to its tank mates. Consult specialist books on the subject.

Minimum Aquarium Size: Depends on species. The small *Otocinclus* are fine in an 450mm x 260mm x 260mm 18" x 10" x 10" aquarium but are usually kept in a community tank. Others may require much more spacious accommodation. Part of the research.

Temperature: Generally will tolerate a wide temperature range from 18° to 26°c 65° to 80°f

Habitat: Many of these catfish, can only be kept in tanks with a rockwork décor and again, others are fine in a planted community tank. See also under Diet.

Water Parameters: Although many of these catfish are found in soft water, they readily adapt to hard water.

Health: Not particularly prone to health problems.

Diet: Some are algae eaters, others will happily dine on frozen foods or as in the case of some of the larger catfish, frozen fish. Some of the Loricaridae need wood as an essential part of their diet. Therefore the tank should contain large pieces of bogwood for them to graze on.

Plants: Some of the larger catfish, will undoubtedly cause havoc in a planted tank. Research necessary.

Breeding Notes: Bristlenose Catfish (*Ancistrus* sp) and some other members of the Loricaridae Family readily breed in captivity. All are egg-depositors.

Availability: Some, like the *Otocinclus*, are readily available. Others such as the Royal Panaque may be less so. There is generally a large selection of catfish available. Do not buy 'on spec' unless you know what you are buying.

Show Class: F.B.A.S. Show Class. G or Ga.