

# FEDERATION OF BRITISH AQUATIC SOCIETIES.

FISH CARE SHEET No. 21

Rainbow Fish(1)

01/03/2002

**Species:** *Bedotia*, *Chilatherina*, *Glossolepis*, *Marosatherina* & *Melanotaenia*.  
See those fishes listed in the current Federation Size Book under Class M.  
Also see **Care Sheet 22. Rainbow Fishes (2)**.

**Family:** Atheriniformes.

**Geographic Origin:** Papua New Guinea, Irian Jaya, Australia.

**Common Name:** Rainbow Fish.

**Compatibility:** Can be aggressive with small fishes. With similar sized fish, they are fine.

**Minimum aquarium size:** A minimum of 90mm x 380mm x 300mm (36" x 15" x 12") Aquarium is necessary. If you intending to keep a few species, a larger tank is necessary.

**Temperature:** Fairly wide range in their requirements. From 18°/28°C (65°/82°F).

**Habitat.** Prefers a well planted tank, with some water movement. Air stone or filtration.

**Water Parameters.** Very undemanding. Providing the water is clean and clear, they will accept hard and soft water. A water change of 25% each week is beneficial if not essential.

**Health:** Generally free from health problems. May get a slight touch of mouth fungus if they damage that area. Treat as necessary in a separate quarantine aquaria. Do not flush dead fish down the toilet. Incinerate or wrap in paper and put in the dustbin.

**Diet:** Omnivorous. All types of dried, frozen and live foods such as *Daphnia* and *Tubifex* worms. Vary the diet and do not overfeed.

**Plants:** All species of tropical plants are acceptable in the aquarium. These species do not eat plants.

**Breeding Notes :** Spawning straightforward with the adults laying eggs amongst fine-leaved plants or mops. Eggs hang on plants by means of sticky threads. Well-fed adults are said not to eat the eggs.

**Availability:** Many species are widely available. Only select fish that are alert and swimming with fins erect. Inspect carefully for signs of white spot or other diseases. Reject lethargic, damaged or hollow bellied specimens.

**Show Class:** FBAS Classes Mc or M.