

FEDERATION OF BRITISH AQUATIC SOCIETIES

FISH CARE SHEET No: 11

Rasboras

01/04/2000

Species: *Rasbora*, *Microrasbora*, *Trigonostigma* and *Rasboroides*.
See those fishes listed in the current Federation Size Book under Class J.

Family: Cyprinidae.

Geographic Origin: S/East Asia, India.

Common Names: Harlequin, Scissortail, Elegant Rasbora, Red tail Rasbora.

Compatibility: Generally active fish that are best kept in a shoal of at least six fish. Not aggressive towards one another or to tank mates. A good fish for beginners.

Minimum Aquarium Size: The smaller species can be kept in a 450mm x 250mm x 250mm (18" x 10" x 10") aquarium. Aquariums should have a well fitting lid and cover glass. These fish can jump extremely well. A tank of 900mm x 380mm x 300mm (36" x 15" x 12") is suitable for the larger species such as the Scissortail and Sumatrana.

Temperature: Ideal temperature is around 20oC/68oF, but is quite happy at higher or lower temperatures.

Habitat: Prefers a well planted community tank, with a gravel substrate and water movement particularly from the outlet of an internal filter.

Water Parameters: Tolerant to soft and hard water. Will generally only breed in soft acid water. Water change of approximately 25% each week is beneficial.

Health: Generally do not seem to be over susceptible to white spot or fungus. As with all new fish, quarantine for at least one week in a separate tank. Any fish that appear to be sick, isolate immediately in a separate tank. Do not flush dead fish down the toilet. Incinerate or wrap it in paper and put it in the dustbin.

Diet: Omnivorous: These fish will accept dried, frozen and all types of live food (e.g. Daphnia, mosquito larvae). Do not overfeed. Many problems can be caused by overfeeding (pollution of water by decaying food).

Plants: All species of tropical plants are acceptable. Not known as plant eaters.

Availability: Widely available. Only select fish that are alert and swimming with fins erect. Inspect carefully for signs of disease. Reject lethargic, damaged or hollow bellied specimens.

Breeding Note: Not all Rasboras are egg-scatters; the Harlequin deposits eggs under a plant leaf.

Special Note: Two species are regarded as difficult to keep for the inexperienced aquarist. *Rasbora kalachroma* and *Rasboroides vaterifloris* generally only thrive in soft acid water. Unless you can provide these conditions, they are best avoided.

Show Class: FBAS Class J.