

FEDERATION OF BRITISH AQUATIC SOCIETIES

FISH CARE SHEET No: 31

Sharks

01/06/2002

Genera: *Balantiocheilus*, *Epalzeorhynchus* and *Labeo*.

See those fishes listed in the current Federation's Size Book under Class M and Ma.

Family: Cyprinidae.

Geographic Origin: South East Asia, Thailand, Malaysia and South and East Africa.

Common Names: Red-tail Black Shark, Silver Shark, Black Shark etc. Also the Flying Fox.

Compatibility: These fish are NOT freshwater Sharks. They have common names of 'Shark' and this refers to the Shark-like dorsal fin. Small specimens are quite compatible in a community tank. Large fish such as the Black Shark and the Silver Shark can be aggressive.

Minimum Aquarium Size: Minimum tank size of 900mm x 380mm x380mm / 36" x 15" x 15" is recommended. For the larger species, more tank space is required.

Temperature: 20° to 26°C / 70° to 76°F is ideal. They will accept fluctuations outside of this range for short periods.

Habitat: Widely differing habitats. Can be found in fast flowing water and in slow moving streams.

Water Parameters: Able to cope with most degrees of hardness but seem to prefer alkaline water. Water should be clean and clear and preferably filtered by either an internal or external power filter.

Health: No particular health problems. Select fish that are alert, swimming around and that are not hollow bellied.

Diet: Most are omnivorous and will happily graze on algae, eat algae wafers and all manner of frozen foods.

Plants: A well planted aquarium for the smaller species is recommended. The larger fish will tend to uproot plants and in some cases consume them.

Breeding Notes: Not bred in the aquarium and information on breeding very scarce.

Availability: Many are freely available. Caution when buying small Silver Sharks, they will grow!

Show Class: F.B.A.S. Show Class. M or Ma.