

FEDERATION OF BRITISH AQUATIC SOCIETIES

FISHCARE SHEET No: 10

Small Asian Barbs (up to 75mm standard length)

01/02/99

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 : *Barbus*, including; *Barbus cumingi*, *B. oligolepis*, *B. nigrofasciatus*, *B. tetrazona* etc.
See those fishes listed in the current Federation Size Book under Class B.

Family : Cyprinidae

Geographic origin : South-East Asia including the Indian Sub-Continent.

Common Name : Generally Barb. Most of the fishes in this group have a common name. e.g.
Barbus oligolepis - Checkered Barb; *Barbus tetrazonus* - Tiger Barb ;
Barbus nigrofasciatus - Ruby Barb.

Compatibility : Normally peaceful. Best kept in a small groups (6+). Has had a reputation for fin nipping (through boredom?) when kept as a solitary specimen or in very small numbers. These are active and colorful fish well suited for a community collection.

Minimum Aquarium Size : 600mm x 380mm x 300mm (24" x 15" x 12"). With lighting hood and cover glass fitted. As with the majority of fish the bigger the aquarium the better

Temperature : 18°/28°C 65°/80°F. Best around 24°C/75°F, some fluctuation is normal in the nature.

Habitat : Best kept in a well planted community aquarium with a coarse sand or gravel substrate, gentle water movement by internal or preferably an external filter is most beneficial

Water : Tolerant of most types but soft, acidic water better when breeding. Keep the water clean and sweet smelling. Change about 25% once a week, do not keep topping up evaporation losses as this will only concentrate the waste materials in the aquarium. See the guide lines set out in **AQUARIUM CARE SHEET No: 8 (Routine Maintenance).**

Heath : Isolate at once any fish that appears sick and treat it in a separate container. Do not dispose of dead fish by flushing them down the toilet. Incinerate or wrap in paper and put in the dustbin.

Diet : Omnivorous: Any proprietary brand of Tropical Fish Food. However, a rounded diet of alternative food should always be given, with a form of live food recommended at least twice a week. *Daphnia*, Bloodworms, Gnat Lava, chopped earthworm, etc. Do not over-feed, most problems start with this as the cause.

Plants : All types of Tropical Plants acceptable. Not known as a plant eater.

Breeding Notes : Egglayer, using the egg scattering method the males chasing the females. Eggs are slightly adhesive, Use dense, bushy plants or several nylon mops as egg-receptacles. As a deterrent to egg-eating by parents remove parents after spawning. Newly-hatched Brine Shrimp ideal as a first food for fry.

Availability : Widely available. Only select alert free swimming fish with all fins being held erect, with no signs of damage on body and fins and clean bright body colors. Reject lethargic, damaged or hollow bellied specimens

Show Class : FBAS Class 'B'