

# FEDERATION OF BRITISH AQUATIC SOCIETIES

**FISH CARE SHEET No: 14**

**Characins – Tetras**

**01/02/2001**

**Genera:** *Cheirodon*, *Hemigrammus*, *Hyphessobrycon*, *Paracheirodon*, *Pristella*.

See those fishes listed in the current Federation Size Book under Class Ca.

**Family:** Characidae.

**Geographic Origin:** South America. Very widespread throughout.

**Common Names:** Cardinal Tetra, Neon Tetra, Serpae Tetra, Lemon Tetra etc.

**Compatibility:** Generally, these fish are very compatible with one another. One exception is possibly the Brass or Yellow Tetra – *Hyphessobrycon bifasciatus*. This fish can be a 'fin nipper'.

**Minimum Aquarium Size:** As they are mainly fish that grow to less than 50mm (2"), they can be safely kept in a 600mm x 300mm x 300mm (24" x 12" x 12") inch aquarium. Larger aquariums however, are always preferable.

**Temperature:** Generally between 24°/28°C 75°/82°F, although many will be quite happy at lower temperatures.

**Habitat:** These fish really show their best colours in a well planted aquarium. Water movement provided by an internal or external power filter is ideal.

**Water Parameters:** These fish come from areas where the water is soft and acid and will always do best under these conditions. Most Tetras however will readily adapt to hard alkaline water though not for breeding purposes. Water should be clean and clear. Fish will benefit from a 25% water change weekly.

**Health:** Not generally noted for having health problems.

**Diet:** Will readily accept all forms of dried, frozen and live foods.

**Plants:** Not plant eaters. All species of tropical plant are acceptable in the aquarium.

**Breeding Notes :** Egg-scatterers. Use dense bunches of fine-leaved plants, or nylon mops, as egg receptacles when spawning. Fertilised eggs may be adversely affected by wrong water conditions and exposure to light.

**Availability:** Probably the most available of all tropical fish. Only select fish that are alert and swimming with fins erect. Inspect closely for signs of white spot or other diseases. Reject lethargic, damaged or hollow bellied specimens.

**Show Class:** FBAS Show Class Ca or C.