

FISH CARE SHEET No: 14 Catfish - South American

Genera: *Agamyxis*, *Ancistrus*, *Panaque*, *Platydoras*, *Otocinclus* etc.

Family: Doradidae, Loricaridae. etc

Geographic Origin: South America.

Common Names: Whiptail, Algae Eater, Royal Panaque



Compatibility: Many of these catfishes grow very large. Adequate research is recommended before keeping some of these catfish. Others can be cannibalistic to its tankmates. Consult specialist books on the subject.

Minimum Aquarium Size: Depends on species. The small *Otocinclus*, are fine in a 450mm x 280mm x 280mm (18" x 10" x 10") community aquarium but others may require much more spacious accommodation.

Temperature: Generally will tolerate a wide temperature range from 18°-26°C (65°- 80°F).

Habitat: Many of these catfish, can only be kept in tanks with a rockwork decor and again, others are fine in a planted community tank. See also under Diet.

Water: Although many of these catfish are found in soft water, they readily adapt to hard water.

Health: Not particularly prone to health problems.

Diet: Some are algae eaters, others will happily dine on frozen foods or as in the case of some of the larger catfish, frozen fish. Some of the Loricaridae need wood as an essential part of their diet. Therefore the tank should contain large pieces of bogwood for them to graze on.

Plants: Some of the larger catfish, will cause havoc in a planted tank. Research necessary!

Breeding Notes: Bristlenose Catfish (*Ancistrus* sp) and some other members of the Loricaridae Family readily breed in captivity. All are egg-depositors.

Availability: Some, like *Otocinclus*, are readily available. Others such as the Royal Panaque may be less so. There is generally a large selection of catfish available. Do not buy 'on spec' unless you know what you are buying.

Show Class: F.B.A.S. Show Class. G or Ga.