

# JULY NEWS

from **NIELSEN'S MARINE MATES**

45 – 47 Beenleigh Redland Bay Road, Loganholme. 4129

[www.nielsensmarinemates.com.au](http://www.nielsensmarinemates.com.au) Ph 3801 4222



*This month we are featuring Serpae Tetras as our freshwater fish of the month. We are offering special prices on single buys, a five buy or a ten buy so this is a great chance to buy a school of these attractive fish. Check out our other cichlid, marine and plant specials also.*

*We have been increasing our range of American cichlids with a great variety in store now. Visit our Facebook page for photos of these fish and come in soon to check them out. As always, till next month ... good fishkeeping!*

## **NEW! AQUAONE REEFGLO LEDs**

The Aqua One ReefGlo LED light unit provides energy efficient high intensity lighting with a spectrum that enhances the colours of fish and corals, whilst providing optimum lighting conditions for coral growth. The full spectrum supports beneficial photosynthesis and enhances pigmentation - creating an optimal environment for invertebrates and fish. Using 3W LED emitters, the high output ReefGlo LED provides both intensity and penetration for larger aquariums. These lights have six strips of LEDs, 4 white and 2 blue, all in a sleek black aluminium casing. Each light has two power supplies, with each supply controlling a separate colour (blue or white). This means that each supply can be put on a separate timer to automate the switching of each colour. There are also three switches, one for blue and one for each half of the white LEDs, allowing for manual adjustment of the lighting.



Three models are available:

**66cm \$410    96cm \$610    126cm \$810**

## **MARINE FISH OF THE MONTH BANGGAI CARDINALS**

Banggai cardinals are a peaceful fish and do well in communities of small



to medium fish as well as in coral reef tanks. As with most cardinals they are a semi nocturnal fish but they do adapt to

feeding in the daytime quite well. Once settled in the aquarium they feed well on frozen foods. In nature, Banggai Cardinals are often seen amongst the spines of long spine sea urchins.

Although they can be kept singly they will display best when a pair is kept.

Banggai cardinals are mouth brooders meaning they carry the eggs, and later the babies, in their mouth. After laying the eggs the female will place them in the mouth of the male who will incubate and care for them. They usually have less than 10 eggs at a time and, as a consequence, the babies are quite large when they become free swimming when compared to other marine fish. The advantage is that the babies are much easier to feed than most species.

This is a fish which has been successfully bred in captivity, which is a good thing as, in the wild, Banggai Cardinals are found only in relatively small numbers in a very limited area, namely the Banggai Islands off Indonesia.

Normally \$45.00.

**JULY SPECIAL TWO FOR \$75.00.**

---

---

## FISH NUTRITION

Most aquarium stores will feature a vast, and sometimes confusing, array of fish foods. Apart from the variety of different brands, mostly this is because dietary requirements differ from one type of fish to another. For instance goldfish have a much lower protein requirement than tropical freshwater fish. Some fish, for instance cichlids, are primarily carnivores whilst others are vegetarian and feeding the wrong type of food can actually be detrimental or even eventually fatal. Many marine fish can not digest beef based foods (not many cows fall into the ocean) and fish of almost all species, freshwater or marine, can not digest animal fats. So, what is the best feeding regime for the health of your fish?

**If you have goldfish** use a *good quality* goldfish flake or pellet.



There is no advantage in feeding a higher protein food such

as tropical flakes and, over time, such food is not good for your goldfish. Supplement the goldfish diet with some vegetable matter. This could be vege pellets, algae discs, spirulina flake, seaweed sheets or frozen vegetable diet or spinach. At least three times per week is desirable for supplementation.

**If you have freshwater tropical fish**, a good quality tropical flake is a great start to good nutrition for your fish. For tropicals there are a wide variety of frozen foods available which will really enhance the diet of your fish. Some of these include frozen brine shrimp, bloodworms, fish eggs, red plankton and, for larger fish, chopped

cockles. You will note that these foods are based on aquatic organisms, not land animal products.



Vegetable based foods can also be offered, depending

on the tank inhabitants. It is worth while noting that, in nature, fish regarded as carnivores would still eat a certain amount of vegetarian types of food, mostly from the gut of the fish they eat and it is surprising how much vegetarian foods they will eat when it is offered.

As with goldfish, supplement your tropical tank with these foods at least three times per week, although many aquarists choose to use them daily in addition to dried foods, with excellent results.

**Cichlids** fall roughly into two categories – American or African Cichlids. American Cichlids as a general rule are mostly carnivores and will feed well on Cichlid pellets (sized according to the fish size),



live and frozen foods. There are a number of frozen foods available such

as cockles, lobster eggs and squid along with a Cichlid Mix which contains fish, bloodworms, daphnia, mysis and cockles. Large fish may appreciate an occasional feeding of live food.

Whilst Discus are an American cichlid they are sometimes a little fussier in their feeding. They usually enjoy small pellets, sized to their mouth



---

---

size plus frozen foods such as brine shrimp, blood worms, daphnia or mysis. A feeding of live brine shrimp can assist in getting Discus to feed when they are new in the tank.

African Cichlids are a very diverse group of fish and their feeding characteristics are just as diverse –



carnivores, omnivores and vegetarian. We would recommend avoiding bloodworms, black worms and beef heart when feeding African Cichlids. This is especially true of Tropheus species which are prone to 'bloat' when fed these foods. There are any number of good African Cichlid pellets available and they can also be fed frozen fish, mysis, krill and daphnia. Include Spirulina, spinach and sinking algae discs in the diet for good results.

**Native fish** such as Rainbows can generally be fed a similar diet to freshwater tropicals, whilst larger natives like saratoga, mangrove jacks etc. will do well on a diet similar to American cichlids.



**Marine Fish.** The most basic rule is to avoid a meat based diet with marines. As with fresh water fish there are good flakes and floating pellets made specifically for marine fish and these are a good basic diet for most. There are some marines though that will rarely, if ever, come to the surface to feed or, if they do, will find it difficult to get enough food because of their mouth shape. These will



require a sinking or slow-sinking food and generally a combination of both floating and sinking food is a good idea. Most flakes, if soaked, will sink, so these can be used for both purposes but unfortunately some marines will never take to dry foods. Luckily most will eat frozen foods much more easily. Foods for marines include frozen brine shrimp, fish eggs, lobster eggs, red plankton, cockles, krill and marine mixes containing a mixture of some of these ingredients. A great food for many marines (and indeed freshwater fish as well) are seaweed sheets. These can be cut into squares and anchored to the tank with a vege-clip so that the fish can graze on the seaweed as desired.

**Live Coral & Inverts** – there are many liquid and powdered foods available for filter feeding corals and inverts. In addition, fine



particle frozen foods such as rotifers, microplankton, fish eggs and red plankton are also excellent (and relished also by many marine fish). Chopped seafoods are suitable for gross feeders such as anemones and larger corals along with inverts such as shrimp, seastars and molluscs.

In summary - Variety, variety, variety! Try to feed your fish a number of different foods – flake, pellets, frozen, even fresh. Feed protein based and/or vegetable based as appropriate for the fish you keep. Feed foods appropriate for fish which feed at different levels of the tank. Don't forget those catfish lurking on the bottom of the tank or a hawkfish which struggles to get to the surface especially in a deep tank.

---

---

## CICHLID OF THE MONTH COBALT BLUE ZEBRAS



Cobalt Blue Zebras (M. Callainos) are an easy to keep African cichlid comes from the rocky areas of Lake Malawi. It

grows to around 12 – 15cm and unlike some cichlids, has the advantage of colouring up to the beautiful cobalt blue at a young age. These are a mouth brooding cichlid, with the female incubating the eggs in her mouth. The fry are quite easy to raise and will feed on baby brine shrimp from an early age.

Cobalts are good feeders, accepting most cichlid pellets and frozen foods. They should be supplemented with some vegetable matter in their diet on a regular basis.

These Zebras are a mildly aggressive fish so should be mixed with other Malawi cichlids of a similar temperament and given plenty of rocky hiding places. Regularly \$16.95

**JULY SPECIAL \$13.00**

## FRESHWATER PLANT OF THE MONTH – AMBULIA

Ambulia is a spectacular plant with fine, lush, lime green foliage. It is a beautiful background plant as it grows quite tall and full, so is good for hiding filters, heaters etc. As it is a soft leafed plant it is perhaps not suited to keep with plant eating fish and will do best in a well lighted community aquarium. Sold in bunches. Normally \$6.50 per bunch. **THIS MONTH'S SPECIAL**

**\$5.50 PER BUNCH.**



## FRESHWATER FISH OF THE MONTH – SERPAE TETRAS

This tetra can reach up to 3.5cm in size and has a deeper body than neons and similar shaped tetras. It



is a hardy fish and readily feeds on any quality flake, small granules and frozen and live foods.

Serpae Tetras have an attractive rose red colouration with black markings and white edging on some of the finnage. It is a very active fish in the aquarium and displays best when kept in a school.

Serpae are generally a satisfactory community fish although they do have a tendency to nip the fins of other, particularly long finned, fish. This can be averted by keeping them in groups of at least five and not mixing them with slow moving and long finned fish such as guppies and fighters. Usually \$5.10 each.

**SPECIAL OFFERS –  
BUY ONE FOR \$4.70  
BUY FIVE FOR \$21.00  
BUY TEN FOR \$35.00**

## NEW WEBSITE

Our new website is now up and running. You can visit at [www.nielsensmarinemates.com.au](http://www.nielsensmarinemates.com.au). Here you will find our monthly specials, information on what's new and back issues of some of our newsletters. You can also visit our Facebook page for regular updates and photos of new livestock and products just arrived.

**REGISTER FOR OUR NEWSLETTER** either in store or email us at: [nielsensmarinemates@bigpond.com](mailto:nielsensmarinemates@bigpond.com) Check out our Facebook page which is regularly updated with lots of photos of new livestock and products as they arrive. 'Like us' to receive notification of updates. 