

OCTOBER NEWS

from **NIELSEN'S MARINE MATES**

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Yes, it's only October, but it's not too early to be thinking about Christmas! For some reason which escapes us, some of our suppliers close over Christmas, one of our busiest times of the year. Consequently there is always a juggling act in predicting the demand for products over Christmas balanced by the room to store them all. Bulky items such as tanks and setups sometimes are difficult to source, despite our best efforts. So, if you are thinking of a new tank, whether as a gift, or to treat yourself, now is the time to order yours for pickup before (or even after) Christmas or take advantage of our layby. This month we are featuring a range of fighter tanks which are always popular, especially as gifts. We have a great range on display so come in soon to choose from the best selection. As always, till next month good fishkeeping!

FRESHWATER PLANT OF THE MONTH - LILAEOPSIS



Lilaopsis is a bright green, low growing plant which grows by runner to form a dense mat across the substrate of the tank. It is sold in clumps or bunches and the bunch can be teased out or broken up into pieces for planting. It is excellent as a foreground plant and does not generally require trimming. Lilaopsis is commonly known as Spawning Grass and, as the name implies, it is favoured by a number of egg laying fish as a spawning medium. Lilaopsis is usually \$6.50 per bunch.

THIS MONTH \$5.50 PER BUNCH

FRESHWATER FISH OF THE MONTH - CLOWN LOACHES



Apart from its smart colouration of gold and black stripes with red tail and fins, the Clown Loach is a very useful fish in that it LOVES to eat snails. As most freshwater aquarists know, snails can be an absolute nuisance - particularly the small cone shaped ones. Clown Loaches are very diligent in seeking out and eating every single snail in the tank - they may take some time to clean up big numbers as, after all, there are only so many snails which will fit in the Clown Loach stomach at one time.

Apart from this, Clown Loaches often exhibit very amusing behaviour, lying upside down or on their side - somewhat disconcerting for the aquarist at times!

As Clown Loaches are primarily bottom feeders, be sure to include some sinking foods in their diet.

Clown Loaches mix well in the community tank (except with snails) and can be kept either singly or in groups. In groups they are inclined to be less shy and more outgoing. Be warned though that these are a large growing fish.

Regularly \$11.99 each,

**OCTOBER SPECIAL
THREE FOR \$30.00.**

HERE ARE JUST SOME OF OUR GREAT RANGE OF SMALL AQUARIUMS AND FIGHTER TANKS. CHECK OUT OUR IN-STORE DISPLAY.

PETWORX SCENIC 400

Measuring 400 x 250 x 445 and holding 29 litres, this tank comes supplied with a 3w light and built-in top mounted filter. Available in either black or white, this is great for a fighter or other small fish. \$119.99.



PETWORX SCENIC 450

The bigger brother to Scenic 400, this tank is 436 x 295 x 465, holds 40 litres and is supplied with 4w light and top filter. Also available in either black or white. \$139.99. Great gift!



AQUAONE BETTA VILLAS

These stylish little fighter (Betta) tanks come in three sizes. As you probably know, male fighters can not be mixed together (they aren't called fighters for nothing). These divided tanks make it possible to keep a single fighter, two fighters or three fighters. They come supplied with colourful gravel, a plastic plant, and a mini filter and heater concealed behind the back plate.



Single Villa 16x16x16,
holds 4 litres. **\$81.99**



Duo Villa 24x17x17,
holds 6 litres. **\$101.99**



Trio Villa 36x17x17,
holds 9 litres. **\$121.99**

OPTIONAL EXTRAS

Suitable for the Duo Villa and the Trio Villa are the Aquananno 25 and Aquananno 30 Lights. These clip on lights are 5.76W, 25cm long and \$58.50 and 7.2W, 30cm long and \$66.50 respectively.



BELOW ARE SOME GREAT PRODUCTS WHICH, THOUGH THEY HAVE BEEN AROUND A WHILE, YOU MIGHT NOT HAVE COME ACROSS OR HAVE FORGOTTEN ABOUT!

BOYDS CHEMICLEAN RED SLIME ALGAE REMOVER.

This product cleans red cyanobacteria in marine aquariums. It is safe for fish, coral, invertebrates, desirable algae and nitrifying bacteria BUT must be used strictly according to directions. Chemiclean works within 48 hours oxidizing trapped organic sludge. \$36.99



AIPTASIA-X

Aiptasia are a small anemone, which multiply at an alarming rate. They actually attack, kill and overgrow most corals and other anemones and have been considered one of the marine aquarium's worst pests. They can be easily introduced into the aquarium on rocks or even coral. **Red Sea Aiptasia-X** is designed to kill these pests. It comes with a syringe to inject the treatment directly into the Aiptasia which dissolve almost instantly after application. The product is reef safe for use with all fish and sessile inverts.

HIKARI SINKING WAFERS

A soft wafer developed for fish with downward facing mouths such as corydoras catfish and clown loaches. This extremely flavoursome wafer contains premium grade fish meal, spirulina, silk worm and krill meal and is relished by most catfish type fish. These wafers can also be used in marine tanks and are enjoyed by some inverts such as shrimp along with bottom feeding marine fish.



HIKARI ALGAE WAFERS

These have been developed to promote proper growth in most herbivorous fish and contain high levels of vegetable matter and multiple algae especially suited to algae eating catfish such as plecostomus, bristle nose and suckers. The discs are designed to quickly sink to the bottom and to retain their shape. May also be used in marine aquariums.

WHITE CRANE COLOUR FOODS are an outstanding colour food suitable for use with all freshwater fish, including goldfish, and especially cichlids. Two types are available.

Super R has PSB and Astaxanthin and will enhance red colours on all kinds of fish which have a red colour base. Fish colour improvement can be noticed in as little as seven days. Feed your fish daily for a few weeks until high colour is achieved and then decrease to once or twice a week to maintain the colour. Alternatively, mix a little in with regular food and feed daily.

Super G with PSB and Spirulina is the one to use for fish with a blue (particularly Electric Blue cichlids), green, black, platinum or yellow colour base. Feeding regime is the same as for Super R.

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.

OCTOBER SPECIAL \$39.00

CICHLID OF THE MONTH – ELLIOTTI

This beautiful cichlid originates from eastern and southern Mexico and grows to around 15 – 17cm. It is closely related to the more common Firemouth Cichlid.

This is a cichlid which colours up from a small size and begins breeding at about 6 – 7 cm. It is a substrate



spawner and sexes can be differentiated by the female generally having

a dark blotch on the dorsal fin whilst the males are usually larger in size.

As cichlids go, these are relatively peaceful and are best mixed with quieter cichlids such as severums, blue acaras and rainbow cichlids.

In nature Elliotti like to sift in a sandy substrate so ensure the aquarium substrate is not too large or sharp. Provide plenty of hiding places with rocks and driftwood with an open swimming space at the front of the aquarium.

These are good feeders and should have a mixture of flake, sinking pellets, frozen and live foods. They will also eat snails.

Normally \$23.00.

THIS MONTH \$19.00

BACK IN STOCK – SEACHEM REEF SALT

We have again been able to source regular supplies of this quality salt.

Available in three sizes:

189Lt bag \$47.50

600Lt bucket \$145.00

750Lt box \$179.50



PLEASE REMEMBER

Monthly specials are available only until the end of October, unless sooner sold out. Rewards Points do not apply to items on special.