

MARCH NEWS

from **NIELSEN'S MARINE MATES**

45 – 47 Beenleigh Redland Bay Road, Loganholme. 4129

www.nielsensmarinemates.com.au Ph 3801 4222



If you are looking to keep freshwater tropical fish but yearn for something a little different from the usual guppies and neons, then consider some of the more oddball species in our article on page 2. Whilst they cannot all be kept together in the one tank, some are compatible with one another, others are still considered community fish and others still are best kept as single specimens or in a species tank. We hope these will inspire you to try something different.

We are pleased to advise that we are extending our range of Hikari fish foods to include some of the specialty foods for tropical, cichlids and marines. Hikari is a premium fish food manufactured by a Japanese company with an incredible 133 years' experience in breeding fish, so obviously they know all about what fish like!

As always we are offering some great monthly specials so be sure to check them out.

Until next month - good fishkeeping.

MARINE FISH OF THE MONTH – BANANA WRASSE

The bright citrus yellow of this fish makes it a real standout in the marine aquarium.

Banana Wrasse tend to mind their own business



in the tank so make a great community fish being compatible with most tank mates of suitable size. Almost all wrasse will bury in the substrate to rest and whilst

Banana Wrasse will certainly do this at times, it is generally out and about and on display once it is settled in the tank. This fish is easy to feed on frozen marine foods, brine shrimp and dried foods. Usually \$39.00.

MARCH SPECIAL \$35.00.

FRESHWATER FISH OF THE MONTH – GOLD SUCKING CATFISH

Sucking Catfish are great algae eaters and thus are a useful addition to the aquarium. The standard colour



is brown which is possibly a little dull, but this gold colour version is a nice highlight in the tank. For some unknown reason the gold version seem to be very peaceful in comparison to the brown suckers which can be inclined to pester other fish.

Whilst Sucking Catfish eat algae, their food should be supplemented with sinking pellets and algae discs as they will rarely get enough nutrition from algae alone.

Though not a true cold water fish, Sucking Catfish will usually tolerate cooler temperatures than most tropical fish. Normally \$7.99

THIS MONTH \$6.50

Please remember all specials are available for the month of March only unless sooner sold out.

AND NOW FOR SOMETHING COMPLETELY DIFFERENT

BLACK GHOST KNIFE FISH

These would have to be one of the most bizarre looking fish for the freshwater aquarium. They originate from South America and can grow to about 30cm in the aquarium.



They have little eyesight but have a weak electrical sensor to locate food etc. They are semi nocturnal and like plenty of roots and rocks for hiding places and subdued lighting. If you would like to see

more of your black ghost, supply a clear plastic tube for it to hide in. The fish will feel secure as it can sense something around it, and you will be able to view him easily.

Unusually, these fish can swim backwards as fast as forwards. They are relatively peaceful with fish of their own size or larger but cannot be trusted with very small fish. They are sometimes aggressive towards other black ghosts especially if kept in a very confined space.

They eat frozen foods, especially bloodworms, chopped earthworms and small pellets and in time they may become tame enough to hand feed.

ELEPHANT NOSE



Originating from Africa, these fish can grow up to 20cm,

although often smaller in the aquarium. They can be quite shy when first introduced to an aquarium and so should be supplied with plenty of hiding places – caves, tree roots and/or heavy planting.

The 'nose' is actually the top lip and Elephant Nose use this to probe in the substrate looking for worms and food. As with the Black Ghosts they emit a weak

electrical signal which assists them in locating food. Fine gravel is usually the best substrate for these fish.

Although a nocturnal fish, Elephant Nose quickly adapt to day time feeding and relish frozen and live foods but also eventually accept small sinking pellets and even peas!

They are best mixed with other peaceful fish, similar or larger in size than themselves.

BLUE YABBIES

These freshwater yabbies originate from southern New South Wales and Victoria. The blue colouration is natural and occurs in about 10% of the yabby population.

The blue colour intensifies as the yabby sheds his shell and



will become progressively brighter. In the aquarium they usually grow to approximately 12 to 16 cm.

Yabbies are generally not too fussy about water quality – keep them in clean, dechlorinated water at a temperature between 8°C and 23°C for best results.

Decorate your tank with plenty of hiding places, particularly if keeping more than one yabby, as they are territorial. Rocks, tree roots and driftwood, even terracotta flower pot on their side, all make good homes for a yabby. Yabbies will be soft bodied for a day or two after shedding, making them vulnerable to attack, so good hiding places are essential at this time.

Yabbies will attempt to catch fish so if you wish to mix some in your yabby tank, choose fast swimmers who prefer to stay at the water surface.

Yabbies will feed on almost any aquarium food but sinking foods are easiest for them to access.

YABBIES WILL CLIMB OUT OF TANKS using the silicon in the corners of the tank to make their escape, so heavy, close fitting covers are essential.

ARCHER FISH

Mostly found in coastal areas of northern Australia and tropical Asia, Archer Fish move from salt water to brackish to fresh water. In the aquarium they are usually kept in freshwater with a little salt added. Archers are best known for their amazing ability to shoot down



insects and other prey from above the water surface by squirting water from their mouth. Adults achieve this with deadly accuracy using their great eyesight and the ability to compensate for the distortion created where water meets air. Juveniles need to practise to achieve the same accuracy.

Archers are a large growing fish which should be fed meaty foods and live insects as a special treat. They can be supplemented with seaweed sheets anchored with a clip.

These fish are jumpers and need to be kept in an aquarium with sturdy, tight fitting covers.

SPINEY EELS

Spiney Eels come from South and South East Asia and generally reach 15 – 20cm in an aquarium. They are a good community fish except with very small fish. Spiney Eels like to bury in the substrate so fine gravel or sand is the best solution if keeping these fish.



Initially they are quite shy and will hide away during the day. It is a good idea to feed your eel at night with the lights out for the first few weeks until it settles in, after which it will usually adapt to day time feeding. They are bottom feeders and eat most frozen foods, and, of course, live foods. Chopped earthworms are relished and they will also enjoy freeze dried shrimp and tubifex.

Spiney Eels are great escape artists and will get through any small gaps in the covers.

IMPORTANT NOTE: Black Ghosts, Elephant Nose and Spiney Eels are scaleless fish and are thus sensitive to many medications, but particularly those containing copper. A lower dosage may be needed if treating tanks containing these fish but if in doubt please check with us first. Of course, as an invertebrate, yabbies should not be treated at all.

PLANT OF THE MONTH – SMALL AMAZON SWORDS



Amazon Sword Plants come from, well, the Amazon! There are a wide variety of leaf forms available in this plant family, ranging from quite broad to very narrow and colours can be various greens to reds. A wonderful feature plant in the aquarium, they can be prolific growers given a little TLC. Most grow to a larger sized plant. As a tougher leaf plant these will often do better than some other plants in tanks with plant eating fish. Normally \$6.50

THIS MONTH \$5.50

CICHLID OF THE MONTH – TANGERINE PEACOCKS

Peacocks are an African Rift Lake Cichlid from Lake Malawi. They are a territorial and semi-aggressive fish and are best



mixed with other Malawi Cichlids of a similar temperament and size with plenty of caves and hiding places provided.

They are simple to feed. They are omnivores and do well on a varied diet of cichlid pellets and flakes, frozen foods both meaty and vegetable and occasional feedings of live food. Foods rich in carotenoids will enhance their colour. Normally \$16.50 **NOW \$14.50**

NEW - EXTENDED RANGE OF HIKARI FISH FOODS

We have added the following Hikari foods to our range:

HIKARI TROPICAL FANCY GUPPY – A scientific diet for all livebearers, especially guppies, platies, swordtails and mollies.

HIKARI TROPICAL MICRO PELLETS

– Multi coloured granulated pellets providing superior nutrition for tetras, barbs and other small mouthed tropical fish.



HIKARI DISCUS BIO-GOLD – a scientific diet for all varieties of discus, angelfish, dwarf cichlids and other tropical fish.

HIKARI CORALIFIC DELITE

– ideal for direct fed coral. A nutrient package that stimulates feeding response.



HIKARI MARINE A – for larger marine fish. A superior colour enhancing diet for larger marine fish.

HIKARI MARINE S – for smaller marine fish. The perfect diet for all smaller marine fish.

HIKARI MARINE SEAWEED EXTREME – ideal supplemental diet for herbivorous marine fish with more than 67% of natural seaweed.

HIKARI CICHLID SINKING CICHLID EXCEL – sinking type daily diet for herbivorous cichlids and larger tropical fish offering higher levels of vegetable matter.

HIKARI CICHLID EXCEL – a specially formulated daily diet for herbivorous cichlids and larger tropical fish offering higher levels of vegetable matter.

HIKARI CICHLID BIO-GOLD+ – a powerful colour enhancing daily diet for carnivorous cichlids and larger tropical fish containing a source of live (viable) naturally occurring microorganisms.

HIKARI CICHLID GOLD SINKING – sinking type daily colour enhancing diet for all types of cichlids and larger tropical fish.

CONTINUUM REEF BIO PELLETT FUEL

For the removal of nitrates and phosphates.

Proper use of Reef Bio Pellet Fuel will result in reduction of nitrates and phosphates and accelerated growth of bacteria and bacterioplankton for food sources for corals and other inverts. Reef Bio Pellet Fuel is designed for use in a reactor or fluid bed filter with good water flow. When used in conjunction with BacterGen M or BacterCleanM, both aerobic and anaerobic bacteria growth will be accelerated, reducing levels of toxic ammonia and nitrites, as well as nitrates, phosphates and organic pollutants.



This product should be used with an efficient protein skimmer and strong aquarium circulation or aeration to maintain proper dissolved oxygen levels. Monitor phosphate and nitrate levels during use and if at any time cloudiness develops, reduce dosage. In a normal system use Bio Pellet Fuel initially at the rate of 20ml (12gms) per 100 litres of aquarium water. After two weeks, double the dose may be used if nitrate and phosphate levels are still high. In a low nutrient system start with a dosage of 10ml (6gms) per 100 litres.

REGISTER FOR OUR NEWSLETTER

either in store or email us at:
nielsenmarinemates@bigpond.com

Check out our Facebook page which is regularly updated with photos of new livestock and products.

'Like us' to receive notification of updates.