

OCTOBER NEWS

from **NIELSEN'S MARINE MATES**

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Lots of great specials this month for both marine and fresh water aquarists. Sailfin Tangs are a great choice for any marine tank as are Peppermint Shrimp which will rid your tank of aiptasia (pest anemones) in no time. Ornate White Fin Tetras are a less common tetra and a small group of these will be a beautiful and graceful addition to a tropical tank. Don't miss out also on the great special on Crypts – these are potted, ready to plant.

Due to the popularity of the Colombian Wood Catfish we have new stocks in, at a really amazing price of \$15.00.

Check out our article on Red Sea Reef-Spec Carbon. This is not only for marine tanks but can also be used in freshwater tanks of all kinds. This high quality carbon will really make your tanks sparkle and vastly improve the water quality.

So we hope to see you soon and until next month - good fishkeeping.

INVERT OF THE MONTH - PEPPERMINT SHRIMP

Best known as eaters of nuisance anemones (aiptasia) these salt water shrimp are also good general scavengers. They are also quite attractive with red striping, but their soft bodies mean they cannot be mixed with toothy fish! Highly recommended for marine tanks. Regularly \$19.00 each.



THIS MONTH ONLY \$14.00.

MARINE FISH OF THE MONTH – SAILFIN TANG

What a great fish and perhaps one of the easiest to keep of all the tang family. Sailfin tangs are a great addition to almost any marine tank.



They are good algae eaters and are quite reef safe. Sailfin tangs can be quite dominant with other tangs, particularly

those placed in the tank later on, so if you want to keep a variety of tangs, best keep the Sailfin as one of the later additions. These fish start life in a more yellow colour but as adults are a brown and cream colouration. The patterning on the large dorsal fins of the adults is outstanding. Tangs are also known as Surgeonfish and this is because they have a razor sharp (ask us how we know!) scalpel-like spine on the caudal peduncle (where the body meets the tail). This is great protection for the fish but keep it in mind when netting etc. Normally \$49.00.

OCTOBER SPECIAL \$43.00

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nielsensmarinemates@bigpond.com

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RED SEA REEF-SPEC CARBON

In a closed system aquarium, all living inhabitants will continually produce organic waste consisting of proteins, fats, carbohydrates, organic acids and phenols. Failure to remove these wastes will see an increase in nitrogens and phosphates along with increased oxygen



demand, reduced pH and excessive CO₂. Yellowing of the water may occur, which not only looks unsightly, but can significantly reduce light penetration (up

to 25%), which is especially detrimental to corals. Despite water changes and using protein skimmers, fine mechanical filtration and biological filtration, there are some super-small organic particles which can only be removed by carbon filtration.

Carbon does this by adsorption, a process which requires an extremely large internal surface area in relation to its physical external size, for it to be most effective.

Carbon is produced from many organic materials that have a high carbon content such as coconut shells, nutshells, lignite, bituminous coal or anthracite. The carbon-based material is "activated" by heating in a furnace, under a controlled atmosphere and temperature. The activation process significantly increases the surface area which is what gives activated carbon its ability to act as a filter material. Be aware that there are many different grades of activated carbon and not all are suitable for use in a reef aquarium.

Red Sea Reef-Spec Carbon has a high total adsorption capacity, ultra-

low phosphate output and ash content and displays rapid removal of organic pollutants.

Tips for using Reef-Spec Carbon in a reef aquarium:

The adsorption activity of the carbon media relies on a good carbon/water contact and therefore moderately active water flow will increase the efficiency. Strong water flow will reduce the contact time and interfere with the adhesion process of the organic molecules to the carbon. Strong water flow may also cause the granules to grind against each other, releasing carbon material to water.

For best results:

- Remove any dust, by rinsing carbon under tap water.
- Insert the recommended amount of carbon into the provided filter bag, avoiding overfilling to ensure optimum water movement through the media.
- Due to air trapped in the pores, carbon will float and therefore it is recommended to soak the carbon in RO water until all of the air has been released.
- Place the carbon in the sump/filter with an active flow of 1000-1500 lph (250-400 gph) per 50 gr carbon.
- In a canister filter, place carbon in the filter bag between two layers of filter floss or foam.
- **IMPORTANT.** Replace carbon every 1.5 – 2 months. Note: When carbon becomes saturated with organics, it may start adsorbing some of the trace elements from the seawater and may even release waste back in to the tank. (Continued next page ..)

Recommended Usage:

Organic load and yellow tint removal: The recommended dosage of REEF-SPEC Carbon is approximately 50 gr (100 ml) per 200 L (50 gallons) for a period of 1-2 months for a moderately stocked reef aquarium.

Post-medication treatment: The recommended dosage of REEF SPEC Carbon to adsorb medication residuals is approximately 100 gr (200 ml) per 200 L (50 gallons) for a period of a week.

Ozone post-treatment:

The recommended dosage of REEF SPEC Carbon to remove residual ozone is 50 gr per 50mg/hr of ozone injection. The carbon should be placed at the ozone reactor/ protein skimmer outlet. Carbon should be replaced once it has reached approximately 50% of its original volume.

THIS CARBON IS SUITABLE FOR FRESH WATER USE ALSO.

Available now in **250g \$29.50** and **500g \$49.50**.

GET READY FOR SUMMER STORMS WITH A BATTERY OPERATED AIR PUMP

As they say on those ads – ‘Are you ready for storm season?’ Take the stress out of summer storms by having a battery operated air pump handy. Comes complete with air line



and air stone. Ridiculous not to have one when you consider the value of your

fish and corals – why not take advantage of the special price and get one for each tank?

Regularly \$19.99. **NOW \$15.00.**

COLOMBIAN WOOD CATFISH

Growing up to 28cm, these are quite a peaceful fish despite their size, although they will eat small fish if they happen along. As the name implies, they originate from Colombia and prefer plenty of



driftwood and caves but still some free swimming space. Males can be distinguished by the ‘nape’ of the neck bending sharply upwards and an elongated curved dorsal spine. Females are generally larger and less heavily patterned. Colombian Wood Catfish are greedy feeders and will emit quite a loud grunting sound when excited (especially at feeding time). Available now **\$15.00**.

FRESHWATER PLANT OF THE MONTH – ASSORTED POTTED CRYPTS

Most crypts come from tropical Asia with many from Sri Lanka. They range from low

growing, right up to tall background plants and are one of the few plants which will generally



tolerate low light. Although they like soft acid water best, most will adapt to other conditions and, as a heavier leafed plant, will tolerate a little nibbling from plant eaters. These come ready potted for easy planting.

Normally \$7.50

OCTOBER SPECIAL \$6.50

NEW! XTREME FISH FOODS

Earlier this year we introduced a limited range of Xtreme fish foods. Following a great response, we are now expanding our range to include several new varieties.

Xtreme foods are formulated using only premium ingredients with no hormones, and high quality ingredients - Krill, Shrimp, Herring and Squid meals. The best protein, from Krill, and the best blue-green aquatic algae, from Spirulina, are used in Xtreme feeds, along with paprika and cayenne pepper extracts. Utilizing this combination of natural ingredients enhances, but does not alter, the fish's natural colours (reds, oranges, blues, greens and yellows).

The food has been developed and refined over 35 years of trial and error on the part of Florida Exotic Fish Sales. They fed the formula to the half-million fish on their wholesale fish farm and tweaked the formula to provide the optimum amount of protein whilst producing stunning colour in the fish. Interestingly, they found that, if protein levels were higher than 43%, the fish bred at an amazing rate but only for a short time, whilst protein levels lower than 32% meant the fish would not breed at all. Thus they established that the ideal protein level was between 35% and 38%, depending on fish type and food type. As a result of all this research, Xtreme Fish Foods finally became available to hobbyists only a short time ago.

We now stock the following products:

XTREME CICHLID PEEWEE



This 1.5mm pellet is easily digested, promotes good health and good growth. It is especially recommended for daily feeding and breeding stock.

XTREME BIG FELLA

A slow sinking and dissolving stick in a 3mm size, especially formulated for large cichlids and other aggressive eaters.



XTREME MONSTER

A monster 9mm size for, what else, monster fish. This food can also be ground up for feeding fry.



FRESHWATER FISH OF THE MONTH – ORNATE WHITE FIN TETRAS

These tetras can grow up to 5cm and have a deep body shape similar to the Bleeding Heart and Rosy Tetras.



They originate from the Amazon River, in slow moving water with heavy overhang of

foliage, so do best in planted tanks to provide some cover and shade and areas without fast currents. Given good water quality, these are a hardy fish and they feed well on good quality flake with occasional feedings of live or frozen foods. Ornate White Fin Tetras are a pretty pink to rose colour with a darker spot near the gills and dark red markings on the white tipped fins. Males have longer fins whilst the females are shorter and heavier bodied. As with most tetras, they do best in schools and are a peaceful community fish. Usually \$7.25.

THIS MONTH \$5.60.

**SPECIALS IN THIS NEWSLETTER
ARE AVAILABLE ONLY FOR THE
MONTH OF OCTOBER UNLESS
SOONER SOLD OUT.**