

# JULY NEWS

from **NIELSEN'S MARINE MATES**

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*As always, lots of fish specials this month including two Central American cichlids for those of you who love biiig fish.*

*We are also featuring an article on how and what to feed marine fish and invertebrates which we hope you will find interesting. As with all fish, variety in the diet is the key to healthy fish. It is also interesting to note that many fish are easily addicted to certain foods and will refuse to eat anything else – quite a problem should that food become unobtainable and another good reason to offer your fish a variety of foods.*

*If you long for a lushly planted freshwater aquarium then Co<sup>2</sup> injection will help to achieve this goal. We have a great kit available including full Co<sup>2</sup> cylinder, so be sure to check that out.*

*Until next month ... good fishkeeping.*

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

## **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 \$42.00.

**JULY SPECIAL ONLY \$38.00.**



## **SHARKS AND** **MORE SHARKS!**

Bringing the kids to see the shark and ray display? How about these cool little dancing shark ornaments for a souvenir? Place in a sunny spot and the shark will do its dance for you. We

have other shark themed ornaments and novelties available. They are not submersible aquarium ornaments just fun ornaments and a great way to remember your trip to the shark and ray display.

## FEEDING MARINE FISH AND INVERTEBRATES

The most basic rule with marines is to avoid a meat based diet as it is mostly too fatty and indigestible for fish (we're guessing not many cows fall into the ocean!).

As with fresh water fish, there are good quality flakes and pellets made specifically for marine fish and these are a good basic diet for many. 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 marine dinner, marine green, brine shrimp and mysis shrimp (larger than brine shrimp) plus other specialty foods such as fish eggs, red plankton, cockles and krill. It should be noted that brine shrimp by itself is not nutritionally all that great and should always be used as a supplement to other foods. Alternatively, Spirulina Brine Shrimp is also available and is a better option. This is brine shrimp which has been fed on spirulina algae which boosts the nutrient value of the shrimp.



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. It is surprising the number of fish which enjoy



these sheets, even some which would seem unlikely such as Cleaner Wrasse. Vege-clips are available with either a suction cup to hold them to the tank or the deluxe version which has a magnet which anchors the clip to the glass.

### Live Coral & Inverts.

Yes, corals and anemones do need to be fed. Whilst they will derive some nutrition via lighting, they also require gross feeding.



There are many liquid and powdered foods available for filter feeding corals and inverts and we particularly recommend the powdered ReefRoids. In addition, fine particle frozen foods can be used. Gross feeders such as anemones and larger corals along with inverts such as shrimp, seastars and molluscs are best fed with chopped seafoods such as fish and prawn along with greens where indicated. This is preferable to frozen marine dinner and the like which is likely to break up and pollute the water.

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 fish such as hawkfish which may struggle to get to the surface especially in a deep tank.

## CICHLIDS OF THE MONTH SYNSPILUM

These are a Central American cichlid which are capable of growing up to 30cm.



The one pictured is an actual fish in the shop and is a juvenile. Adult colouration is even more spectacular and males develop a large hump on the head. As cichlids go they are relatively peaceful, but a fact of life is generally big fish eat little fish so keep that in mind. They will need a large tank with very good filtration to be kept successfully. Whilst regarded as omnivores by most, they do require a large amount of green in their diet, so cichlid pellets, seaweed sheets, spinach, zucchini and lettuce can be fed. These good sized Synspilum have been \$26.50.

**THIS MONTH \$23.00.**

## RED DEVILS

Our second cichlid, also from Central America, grows to a massive 40cm. If Synspilum are regarded as quite peaceful,

these big boys are the opposite – an aggressive fish with the teeth to back it up.



They are easy to feed (omnivores) with large cichlid pellets, frozen foods and some green foods. Limit, or preferably eliminate meat based foods from their diet. Red Devils become very 'tame' and relate to their owners well. They will also require a large aquarium with good filtration and plenty of water changes. The colour of Red Devils varies from fish to fish and can be white, pink, red and even grey/brown. Regularly \$35.00

**JULY SPECIAL \$29.00.**

## AQUAMEDIC REEFDOSER EVO4

This dosing unit can independently control the four dosing pumps included with automatic or manual dispensing and each pump having individual calibration. The interval



control allows for adjustment of the duration of the on/off cycle for each pump over a broad time span – from seconds to days. The addition of many additives including, but not limited to, trace elements, fertilizers, calcium, Kalkwasser etc. can be fully automated and the external controller can be placed away from the pumps for ease of programming. With the addition of Reefdoser Add4, this unit can be expanded to eight dosing pumps. It is recommended that non-return valves be used in the lines. **\$269.99.**

## FRESHWATER FISH OF THE MONTH – BRISTLENOSE CATFISH

One of the most popular algae eating catfish for freshwater tanks, Bristlenose Catfish are a hardy and



easy to keep fish and very peaceful

These fish are astonishing with the amounts of

algae they can consume and will clean this off the glass and fossick around amongst the stones as well. Our usual price is \$8.99

**NOW \$7.50.**



## FRESHWATER PLANT OF THE MONTH – JAVA FERN



Java fern is an aquarium plant which does well in high or low light situations and can usually be kept successfully with plant eating species such as gold fish and cichlids. Whilst Java Fern can be planted in the gravel, it

does best when attached to rocks or drift wood where the plant will send out roots to attach itself over time. We recommend tying the plant on with cotton, rather than fishing line which is sometimes recommended. By the time the plant has established itself firmly, the cotton will have rotted and will not cut in to the plant causing damage. Usually \$7.50

**THIS MONTH \$6.50.**

## GREAT CLEAN-UP MOLLUSCS FOR THE MARINE TANK

**NASSARIUS**, also known as Zombie Snails, are amongst the best available for cleaning up uneaten food, fish waste and general detritus. They spend a lot of time seeking out food and have a keen sense of smell. When



not busy foraging, they will bury in the sand with their syphon tube extended from the substrate to pick up the scent of any available food. For this reason, they prefer to be kept in a tank with some depth of substrate. Their burrowing behaviour will also assist in keeping the substrate from compacting.

**TROCHUS SHELLS** - Huge eaters of algae which will chomp their way along the glass as well as over rocks etc. Whilst you may not see these on a daily basis, they will be busy eating away somewhere in the tank and will pop up when least expected. The perfect partner for Nassarius Snails.



## Co<sup>2</sup> SYSTEM

Growing plants successfully in a freshwater aquarium is difficult without the addition of Co<sup>2</sup> fertilizer. Without sufficient Co<sup>2</sup> plants cannot photosynthesize. This system comes



complete with a regulator which has a bubble counter to allow the calculation of the exact flow rate of Co<sup>2</sup> required and a magnetic solenoid valve to turn the flow on

and off. Used in conjunction with a 24 hour light timer, this ensures Co<sup>2</sup> is only released when the lights are on. This is desirable as levels of Co<sup>2</sup> can rise at night when plants are not photosynthesizing and as a result the pH levels can fall.

The complete unit consists of a full 2.6kg Co<sup>2</sup> cylinder, a regulator with built in solenoid valve and drop counter, Co<sup>2</sup> tubing, check valve, diffuser and Co<sup>2</sup> checker. **\$379.50.**

## MARINE PURE CUBES



This open pore ceramic bio-media is ideal for use in fresh or salt water and in almost any kind of filter. Through bacteria

colonizing the bio-media, it removes ammonia and nitrite and lowers nitrates. The interconnected structure of the media ensures water flows through, not around, it and accumulates less detritus. Use of Marine Pure can reduce filter and tank maintenance and allow higher fish loads. The two inch cubes can be easily cut to size to fit snugly into a filter or sump and are priced at **\$3.50 each.**