

Genera: *Barbus*, *Puntius* including; *Barbus cumingi*,
B. oligolepis, *B. nigrofasciatus*, *B. tetrazona*, etc.

Family: Cyprinidae.

Geographic origin: South-East Asia including India.

Common Name: Generally Barb. Most of the fishes in this group have a common name. e.g. *Barbus oligolepis* - Checkered Barb, *Barbus tetrazonus* - Tiger Barb etc.



Compatibility: Normally peaceful. Best kept in a small groups (6+). Has had a reputation for fin nipping (through boredom?) when kept as a solitary specimen or in very small numbers. These are active and colourful fish well suited for a community collection.

Minimum Aquarium Size: 600mm x 380mm x 300mm (24" x 15" x 12"). With lighting hood and cover-glass fitted. As with the all fish the bigger the aquarium the better .

Temperature: 18°-28°C (65°-80°F). Best around 24°C (75°F), some fluctuation is normal in nature.

Habitat: Best kept in a well planted community aquarium with a coarse sand or gravel substrate, gentle water movement by internal or preferably an external filter is most beneficial.

Health: Isolate at once any fish that appears sick and treat it in a separate container. Do not dispose of dead fish by flushing them down the toilet. Incinerate or wrap in paper and put in the dustbin.

Water: Tolerant of most types but soft, acidic water better when breeding. Keep the water clean and sweet smelling. Change about 25% once a week, do not just keep topping up evaporation losses as this will only concentrate the waste materials in the aquarium.

Diet: Omnivorous: Any proprietary brand of Tropical Fish Food. However a rounded diet of alternative food should always be given, with a form of live food at least twice a week. *Daphnia*, Bloodworms, Gnat Lava, chopped Earthworm, etc. **Do not over feed** - almost all aquarium problems start with this as the cause.

Plants: All types of Tropical Plants acceptable. Not known as a plant eater.

Breeding Notes: Egglayer, using the egg-scattering method, the males chasing the females. Eggs are slightly adhesive, Use dense, bushy plants or several nylon mops as egg receptacles. Deter egg-eating by parents by removing them immediately after spawning. Newly-hatched Brine Shrimp ideal as a first food for fry.

Availability: Widely available. Only select alert free-swimming fish with all fins being held erect, with no signs of damage on body and fins and clean bright body colours. Reject any lethargic, damaged or hollow-bellied specimens.

Show Class: FBAS Class B