

Rummy Nose Tetra (Firehead Tetra)

Hemigrammus bleheri

(also referred to as *H. rhodostomus*)



Natural Range

This fish originates from tropical and sub-tropical regions of South America typically from Rainforest rivers and streams. Captive bred fish are now farmed successfully through out South East Asia and Europe.

Maximum Size & Longevity

This species reaches a maximum size of about 5cm and their life span is between 3-5 years with careful maintenance.

Water Quality

Temperature: 24°C - 26°C

pH: 6.0 – 6.5

General Hardness: 50- 100 ppm

Feeding

They are omnivorous fish and will thrive on any aquarium fish food like TetraMin^R Flake Food, live black worms and daphnia.

Compatibility

Rummy Nose are peaceful schooling fish that are best kept in groups of at least six fish. They will live happily in a community tank.

Colour & Varieties

The Rummy Nose Tetra is a torpedo-shaped fish where most of the body is a translucent silvery colour with a greenish tint. The caudal fin has black and white horizontal stripes and the head region is a deep fiery red colour. Its brilliant red colour is a good indicator of the water quality and the health of the fish.

General Information

There are three similar looking species referred to as rummy nose Tetras. The true Rummy Nose Tetra (*Hemigrammus bleheri*) is by far the most beautiful and most commonly found species within the industry. The Rummy Nose Tetra (*H.Rhodostomus*) and False Rummy Nose Tetra (*Petitela Georgiae*) are less common and not as well coloured.

Tetras are the second most commonly kept fish in community tank setups, after livebearers. They are sensitive to pH and temperature fluctuations therefore extra care is required when water changes are done. A planted aquarium and ample hiding places are welcomed by Rummy Noses.

Sexing

There are no obvious visual differences apart from the fact that female body is looks fuller when it is full with eggs. It is a challenge to breed this fish in captivity as it is not a prolific breeder.