

# Care Sheet

## FRESHWATER PRAWN

*Macrobrachium australiense*



- SIZE:** Can grow to about 7cm.
- RANGE:** Eastern Australia
- TEMPERATURE:** Between 12°C - 25°C.
- WATER:** Not fussy, normal aquarium water conditions  
pH about 7.0. Do not allow the pH to drop below 6.5  
General Hardness 50-300ppm.
- FOOD:** In nature a scavenger. In the aquarium they will eat any sinking fish food.
- COLOUR:** Translucent brownish green.
- COMPATIBILITY:** Australian Freshwater Prawns have the second pair of limbs tipped with pincer like claws, which are used for hunting and defence.

Freshwater Prawns make an interesting addition to the home aquarium, living quite happily in either tropical or indoor cold water aquariums. They make good scavengers and are not destructive to aquatic plants as they poke around in all corners looking for the tiniest particles of left over food.

If kept with aquarium fish they should not be mixed with bottom dwellers or slow moving varieties such as fantails, especially in the confines of small containers. Under these circumstances they are capable of nipping fish and causing damage.

To enable them to grow, Freshwater Prawns moult several times a year. For a short time after they moult their skeleton is quite soft and they should not be handled or moved. They should also be provided with adequate shelter and hiding places in the form of plant thickets, rocks or caves.

Freshwater Prawns derive their oxygen from water they live in and are adversely affected by the accumulation of waste products. They are sensitive to copper in the water, so ensure medications containing copper are not used. Their water and their environment should be looked after as for aquarium fish.