

Cockatoo Dwarf Cichlid

Apistogramma cacatuoides



Natural Range

Amazon River of South America

Maximum Size and Longevity

5 – 9 cm, approximately 3 – 5 years

Water Quality

- Temperature: 25°C - 29°C.
- pH: 6 – 7.
- General Hardness: 30 – 100 ppm.

Feeding

Apistogramma cacatuoides are omnivorous and will accept a wide variety of foods including commercial foods such as flake and crumble as well as frozen foods such as Brine Shrimp and Blood Worm.

Compatibility

Males can be aggressive when spawning and can be protective of their harem, but generally they can do well with other small dwarf cichlids as long as you have plenty of small hides such as caves and rock areas for them to retreat to. They will generally not bother other community fish.

Colour and Varieties

Males can have moderate green to gray base colouration, with red dots and orange zones in the fins. There are various colour forms available, these include: gold, yellow, blue, green and red. Many varieties are becoming available from Asia and Europe.

Sexing

It is not difficult to sex this species, males have elaborate fins (especially dorsal and caudal) and bright colours, whilst the females are rather drab in comparison and have shorter fins.

General Information

Apistogramma cacatuoides are a reasonably hardy Cichlid that will flourish in a small aquarium (minimum 50 litres) decorated with plants and caves to hide and spawn in. The addition of driftwood will also make them feel at home.

It is best to keep small harem groups consisting of 1 male for every 3 – 4 females. During spawning the female will lay about 50 eggs per clutch in a cave or pot. She will then protect the eggs and fry from potential predators whilst the male defends the wider territory.

