

# Fresh Water Brown Back Crabs

*Holthuisana sp.*



## Size

Up to approximately 6cm

## Range

In nature they frequent inland rivers and billabongs in northern Australia that dry up in winter. The crabs burrow deep into the sand awaiting the next rainy season.

## Temperature

18°C - 25°C

## Water

Ensure pH is kept about 7.0 and GH about 100ppm. The fresh water crab can not survive for long in very acid water. Make sure that their water is free from ammonia, nitrite and copper.

## Food

A true scavenger, the fresh water crab will eat any type of sinking fish food (a Tetra Granule is ideal) and are particularly fond of frozen foods.

## Colour

The different species come in a variety of colour patterns e.g. with an attractive pale fawn colour, with a chocolate brown irregular band crossing from front to back of the carapace, or with a tiger stripe pattern.

## Amphibious Nature

By nature these crabs are amphibious and should be provided with an "island" where they can leave the water at will (a mangrove root protruding from the water is a simple solution). It seems they require atmospheric air, at times, for their gills to operate properly.

## Habitats

These hardy little crabs can be kept with tropical fish or goldfish (providing the temperature does not fall much below 18°C). It is wise to keep slow moving fish, water snails and other invertebrates in separate tanks as fresh water crabs are likely to eat anything that they can catch. Sick, dead or dying fish are quickly devoured. Also, ensure there is sufficient cover and enough hiding places for both fish and crabs. Mangrove roots, rocks and caves should be made available for this purpose. A tight fitting cover glass should be used as they are great escape artists.

Freshwater crabs make fascinating pets. They are active, hardy and a delight to watch.



care sheet



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