

Margined Butterflyfish

Chelmon marginalis

Beautiful Australian Marine Fish



Location

Endemic to Australia, this beautiful fish inhabits coastal reefs from the northwest to the Great Barrier Reef.

Temperature

Temp 24 °C - 26°C

Water Parameters

pH 8 - 8.4, SG 1.020 - 1.026

Size

The Margined Butterflyfish grows up to 18cm and is a very active fish, so provide plenty of swimming room. The minimum tank size required is 250 litres.

Feeding

This Butterflyfish spends most of its day picking worms, crustaceans and sessile invertebrates from reef structures. In the aquarium their diet should consist of finely chopped meaty seafoods including shrimp, clam and mussel. They will accept frozen and live brine and mysis shrimp which should be presented at least 3 times per day (young specimens will need more frequent feeding).

Compatibility

Only one Margined Butterflyfish should be housed per tank unless a male – female pair is obtained. They are otherwise very peaceful towards other non related tank mates, but be sure not to keep them with aggressive feeders that may out compete them at feeding time.

General Comments

The Margined butterflyfish is a moderately hardy fish that tends to fare much better in captivity than the closely related Copper-band Butterflyfish (*Chelmon rostratus*). They can be very shy on arrival and may take a few days to settle in and start feeding.

They can be susceptible to lymphocystis which is a viral disease that will clear up over a few weeks by improving water conditions and providing a stress free environment.

The Margined Butterflyfish is suitable for reef aquariums but will decimate populations of polychaete and fan worms.

care sheet

