

Raccoon Butterfly fish

Chaetodon lunula



Natural Range

Beautiful marine fish found in the Indo-Pacific region in most reef habitats such as fringing reefs, reef slopes and lagoon patch reefs.

Maximum Size

They can grow up to a maximum size of about 20cm

Water Quality

Temperature: 24°C - 26°C

pH: 8.0 – 8.4

Specific gravity: 1.020 – 1.025

Feeding

They are primarily nocturnal and omnivorous feeders. Give a varied diet of live brine shrimp, frozen mysis, fresh chopped meaty foods and occasionally live black worms and nori. This species of butterfly fish are natural predators of Aiptasia anemones and will keep your tank free of these pests

Compatibility

Raccoon Butterfly fish are bold, hardy, moderately aggressive and are compatible with other peaceful marine fish. They can be kept with other varieties of butterfly fish in a community tank. Provide a larger tank if keeping more than one adult. They are not suitable for a reef tank as they will nip at coral polyps. When frightened at night, their body turns dark in colour.

Colour and Varieties

The predominant colour is yellow with black with white crescent bands over the face and eyes. Immediately behind each eye is a thick white band. Juvenile Raccoon fish lack the black band that extends from the operculum to the anterior part of the dorsal fin.

General Information

The Raccoon Butterfly fish is an exquisite marine fish that is named for its dark mask over its eyes mimicking their terrestrial namesake.

They are a hardy species of the family Chaetodontidae and are an attractive addition to a fish only marine tank.

Sexing and Breeding

Male and females are indistinguishable sexually. In the wild, butterfly fishes are egg-scatterers, meaning they release and fertilize their gametes into the surface currents that are influenced by the moon and the tides.

Hints for successful keeping

Initially, they are finicky feeders; therefore provide them with live brine shrimp or black worms if possible. They may not feed for the first 2-3 days but will resume feeding once acclimatized. Provide adequate shelter and enough swimming room for these active fish and ensure they are provided with highly oxygenated water. Keep them in an established tank with an efficient filtration system and make sure the water conditions are kept stable.

Diseases and Treatments

Raccoon Butterfly fish are prone to saltwater ich (*Cryptocaryon Irritans*), so it is advisable to quarantine them for a few weeks before placing them in the main system. This allows for a copper sulphate treatment to be used if needed without affecting invertebrates and without infecting other fish in the main system.

care sheet



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