

Harlequin Rasbora

Trigonostigma heteromorpha

Rasbora heteromorpha to the Family Cyprinidae.

Recently re-classified under the name *Trigonostigma heteromorpha*



Natural Range

Throughout South East Asia in areas such as Malaysia, Singapore, Sumatra, Thailand. The Harlequin Rasbora generally inhabits streams and other watercourses with low mineral content and pH due to high concentrations of dissolved humic acids from flowing through peat swamp forests.

Maximum Size

Grows up to 4.5 cm.

Water Quality

Harlequin Rasbora prefer soft acid water and respond well to the addition of peat water or black water concentrate to the aquarium.

Temperature: 23°C - 26°C

pH: 6.0—7.5

General Hardness: up to 150 ppm

Feeding

Harlequin Rasbora's are not demanding with their food and are omnivorous. Community foods such Tetra Crisps are readily taken. Frozen foods or live foods such as Daphnia are also good

Compatibility

An ideal community species that is absolutely peaceful and must be considered one of the most peaceful aquarium fish. It actively shoals or schools and is a great addition to any aquarium. Displays best when kept in schools of six or more and kept in a well planted aquarium, with some floating plants on the surface and open swimming areas.

Colour and Varieties

The fish is a red colour with a black triangular band or wedge that runs from the lateral line to the caudal peduncle and to the base of the stomach. It is sometimes confused with Hengel's Rasbora which has similar colour and pattern – however the triangular wedge is much bigger in Harlequins.

Sexing

Sexes are difficult to distinguish, with the male being a little more slender. This species requires very soft, acid, water to breed and in this regard it is considered quite a challenge. The pair will spawn and produce adhesive eggs which are scattered around the tank and will stick to plants – spawning mops are ideal for use in this species. Most Harlequin fish sold in the trade were once wild caught, however they are now produced widely throughout Asia.