

Saratoga Species

Gulf Saratoga (*Scleropages jardini*) & Queensland Saratoga (*Scleropages leichardti*)

Pictured:
Gulf Saratoga



2 Australian Species

There are 2 species of Saratoga that are available in Australia, the Gulf Saratoga (*Scleropages jardini*) and the Queensland Saratoga (*Scleropages leichardti*). The Gulf Saratoga is bronze in colour and has a more curved dorsal profile than the Queensland, with the head sloping downwards. The Queensland Saratoga has a silver coloured body, and lacks pattern on its gill covers.

Natural Range

Northern Australia around the Gulf of Carpentaria.

Maximum Size

Grow to about 90cm and 5kg.

Water Quality

- Temperature: 22°C - 28°C.
- pH: 7.0
- General Hardness: 50—200 ppm.

Feeding

Saratoga are active predators. In the wild they eat terrestrial insects, small fish, crustaceans and frogs. In the aquarium they will eat crickets, meal worms, live fish, AI Naturals Frozen Bloodworm and AI Naturals Frozen Brine Shrimp. They can be weaned onto floating pellets such as Tetra Cichlid Sticks. Smaller Saratoga may be trained to eat Freeze Dried Black Worms after acclimatisation—be sure to crumble these before feeding.

Compatibility

Saratoga are solitary fish and are very aggressive towards other members of their own species. They can however be kept with large robust species. Make sure that the tank mates are not overly aggressive and are large enough not to fit into the Saratoga's mouth.

Suitable tankmates include: Eeltail Catfish, large Rainbowfish, Silver Perch and Archerfish.

General Information

Saratoga require a lot of open space in the aquarium and inhabit the upper layers of the tank. They are very flighty fish but will settle down as they mature and get accustomed to their surroundings. Ensure that you provide a secure tight fitting lid because Saratoga are likely to jump.

Good filtration and adequate aquarium maintenance (filter cleans and water changes) are essential as Saratoga are sensitive to water pollutants.