

Apistogramma

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Far left:	Apistogramma Agassizzi Double Red
Top Centre:	Apisto. Hongsloi FarbF
Bottom Centre:	Apisto. Panduro
Above:	Apisto. Cacatuoides

Natural Range

Apistogrammas come in a wide range of varieties. The majority originate along the Amazon River of South America, where they live in small slow flowing streams.

Apistogrammas derive their common name from either the name of the region in which they were first identified, or the first person to officially describe them (so cacatuoides, agassizzi, Borelli, Nijsseni, Panduro and so on).

Tank Range

These small cichlids will cruise around the whole tank. They like hiding occasionally, so provide plenty of plants and caves.

Maximum Size and Longevity

The maximum size of apistogrammas varies depending on species. On average females can range anywhere between 2.5cm and 5cm at maximum. Males range from 5cm to 7cm at maximum.

The average lifespan of an Apistogramma is about 5 – 8 years, if kept happy and healthy and in good water conditions.

Water Quality

Apistogrammas live naturally in soft acidic water; you can use this as a guideline when setting an Apistogramma tank.

pH: 5.5 – 7.0

GH: 30 – 100 ppm

Temperature: 24°C - 28°C

Feeding

Apistogrammas are omnivorous and will accept a wide variety of foods including commercial foods such as flake and crumble. Add variety and essential nutrition by also feeding AI Naturals Frozen Brine Shrimp and Tropical Mix.

Apistogrammas will primarily feed from the top of the tank.

Compatibility

Apistogrammas can become quite aggressive when they are in breeding, but for most of the time they will be very peaceful small cichlid.

They are best kept with other small cichlids like dwarf South American cichlids, and can sometimes be kept with discus and larger tetras due to their water requirements.

Colour and Varieties

There are many different types of apistogrammas, that come in various colours and shapes. Some apistogrammas that are commonly available include agassizzi, Borelli, cacatuoides, panduro, nijsseni.

Sexing

Apistogrammas are very easy to sex. Males have much brighter colours than females, their fins are longer and they grow slightly larger and skinnier than the females.

Females are smaller and plumper in the belly area and have shorter fins. Females are mostly shades of brown, silver or grey in colour, with black highlights and barring. However, when they start to breed they will sometimes mimic the male's colouration and get brighter and more colourful. They can also mimic the aggression of a male.

These cichlids are very easy to breed.

General Information

With 'Nano Tanks' becoming more and more popular these fish are also becoming popular as well. They don't need a great deal of water as they are very small peaceful cichlids.

Ease of Keeping

Ease of aquarium keeping = 3
(1 = easy, 5 = difficult).