

Australian and New Guinea Rainbowfish



Left: Boesemani Rainbow
Above: Goyder River Rainbow
Below: Murray River Rainbow



Introduction

Australian and New Guinea Rainbowfish are members of the family *Melanotaeniidae* and are one of the more important Family groups in Australian waters.

The taxonomy of the group is somewhat confused and fish from different river systems often have different colours. To help with identification, they are distinguished by including the source in the name e.g. Goyder River.

Larger adult sized fish generally have better colours than juveniles and display well in planted tanks.

Excellent Community Fish

Rainbowfish are excellent examples of fish for beginners because they are extremely hardy and are not prone to many diseases common to other tropical fishes.

They are a suitable community fish that can be mixed with other larger community species.

Water Quality

These small freshwater fish are found in a variety of habitats which include streams of all sizes, lakes, ponds, reservoirs and swamps.

Most Rainbowfish will fare well in aquariums with a neutral pH (7 - 7.5), soft to hard general hardness 100 - 350ppm and slightly warm waters (22 - 28 °C). Murray River Rainbows (pic above) can tolerate quite low temperatures and are suitable for ponds in most areas of Australia.

Feeding

Rainbows will feed on a wide range of artificial and frozen foods. They readily accept most standard aquarium fare like TetraMin^R Tropical Flakes, and live foods like brine shrimp and ants.

Longevity

Given the right conditions, some Rainbowfish can survive for 6 years or more in captivity.

Breeding

These fish are easy to breed but aquarium owners should not keep spare males of one species with females of another species as they can interbreed readily.

Rainbow fish are great for planted tanks and a good community fish.

