

## Black Ruby Barb (or Purpleheaded Barb)

*Puntius nigrofasciatus*



### Natural Range

Black Ruby Barbs come from the Kelani and Nilwala basins and streams of Sri Lanka. They inhabit slow flowing mountain streams with dense aquatic vegetation.

### Maximum Size and Longevity

Black Ruby Barbs grow up to 8cms if kept with the correct tank mates and in the right conditions. They can live for up to 6 years.

### Water Quality

Black Ruby Barbs prefer water that is slightly acidic

- Temperature: 22°C - 26°C.
- pH: 6.0—7.0
- General Hardness: 50—200 ppm.

### Feeding

Like all barbs, Black Ruby Barbs are omnivorous and will eat most types of flakes or pellets. They will also readily eat frozen foods like blood worm or brine shrimp and live foods such as black worm.

### Compatibility

These barbs are compatible with most other barb species and have a relatively placid nature. Unlike some other barb species they are not really aggressive towards other fish and are suited to community tanks.

### Colour and Varieties

These fish are a stunningly coloured fish when fully matured with a dark grey/copper body with bright red crimson nose which spreads to the rest of the male's body during spawning season. The sides of the fish have 3 to 4 dark transverse bars. They are a deep bodied fish with a similar shape to that of Tiger Barbs.

### Sexing

The males will have much brighter colours in breeding season so they can show off to the females during courting. The females are slightly longer than the males and are not as brightly coloured as males. The female will have a more rounded abdomen than males, due to holding eggs. This species breeds readily in captivity if provided the right conditions.

### General Information

Black Ruby Barbs prefer tanks that are slightly too heavily planted (almost half of the tank) as they are a shy fish that likes to shelter and hide. They are a peaceful schooling fish that should be kept in groups of 3 or more.

