

Copperband Butterflyfish

Chelmon rostratus



Natural Range

This beautiful marine is found in the Indo Pacific, West Pacific to Australia

Maximum Size

The Copperband Butterflyfish grows up to 20cm and is a very active fish, so provide plenty of swimming room. The minimum tank size required is 250 litres.

Water Quality

Text

- Temperature: 24°C - 26°C.
- pH: 8.0—8.4
- Specific Gravity: 1.020—1.026

Feeding

In the wild this butterflyfish spends most of its day picking worms, crustaceans and sessile invertebrates from reef structures. In the aquarium their diet should consist of finely chopped meaty seafoods including shrimp, clam, mussel, frozen mysis and frozen brine shrimp. They are reluctant feeders and will need to be presented with live food to keep them sustained. Feed at least 3 times per day (young specimens will need more frequent feeding).

Compatibility

Only one Copperband Butterflyfish should be housed per tank unless a male – female pair is obtained. They are otherwise very peaceful towards other non related tank mates, although be sure not to keep them with aggressive feeders that may out compete them at feeding time.

General Information

The Copperband Butterflyfish is difficult to maintain in captivity, and so is recommended for the more experienced enthusiast. It can take a while to settle in to new surroundings and often the fish will not eat, resulting in deteriorating health. Feeding live brine shrimp the next day after arrival can tempt them into feeding.

They can also be susceptible to lymphocystis which is a viral disease that will clear up over a few weeks by improving water conditions and providing a stress free environment.

Suitability for Reef Aquariums

The Copperband Butterflyfish is generally suitable for reef aquariums but will decimate populations of polychaete and fan worms and will eat glass anemones (*Aiptasia* spp.).