

Upside Down Catfish

Synodontis nigriventris



Natural Range

These Catfish are found in Zaire and the Niger River basins and other African rivers.

Maximum Size and Longevity

These catfish can grow to approximately 10cm long and can live to in between 5 or more years if kept in the right sized tank and conditions.

Water Quality

Upside-down Catfish are not that fussy when it comes to water quality.

- Temperature: 22°C - 26°C.
- pH: 6.8—7.5
- General Hardness: 100—200 ppm.

Feeding

Upside-down catfish are omnivorous and will eat basically anything from vegetables to meaty such as beefheart. They also readily feed on most types of crumbles, pellets and flakes. They are also known as the tanks “clean- up-crew” because they will scavenge anything left over from the bottom of the tank. Upside-down Catfish are heavy feeders and will actively compete with other fish at feeding.

Compatibility

Upside-down catfish are peaceful by nature and tolerate a large water quality range. Therefore they can be kept with almost any type of community fish. They are compatible with gouramis, clown loach, elephant noses, and even African cichlids, making them an ideal community fish.

Colour and Varieties

These catfish are a beautiful fish. They are mostly a light brown colour with dark brown patches positioned all over their bodies. As their name suggests they swim upside-down most of they time— the only time they don't is when they are eating. There are other types of upside-down catfish called Upside-down Catfish 'Zebra', which have whiter or lighter stripes vertically down the body.

Sexing

The females will be lighter in colour and have larger bellies. The males will have darker coloured skin and more defined blotches.

General Information

Upside-down Catfish should be kept in a group of three or more as they will feel insecure without others around. They will be shyer with more aggressive fishes and hide a lot more. They prefer well planted aquariums with many places to hide and forage for food.