

Cherry Shrimp

Neocaridina heteropoda



Introduction

Cherry Shrimp (*Neocaridina heteropoda*) are small freshwater atyid shrimp that are an interesting addition to the aquarium. Providing they are housed with plenty of cover such as plants in order for them to avoid predatory fish, they will thrive in an aquarium. These Shrimp are both hardy and useful, as they will eat any left over food and graze on algae.

Their common name of Cherry Shrimp is reflective of their characteristic red colour, although they vary from a pale pink through to the bright red you see here, often depending on the background against which they are placed. Females (pictured here) are usually more brightly coloured than males.

Natural Range

Asia

Maximum Size

Maximum of 4cm

Water Quality

Avoid any treatments containing copper.

- Temperature: 22°C - 27°C.
- pH: 7.0—7.6
- General Hardness: 100—200 ppm.

Feeding

An omnivore, the Cherry Shrimp will accept most prepared foods.

Colour and Varieties

Females are more red than males. The darker the aquarium background the darker red the Shrimp will become.

Sexing

Easily sexed and bred, the female has a wider abdomen to carry the eggs and is usually more brightly coloured than the males.

General Information

Will not harm fish. Provide plenty of cover so that they do not get eaten by fish.