

Keyhole Cichlid

Aequidens Maronii



Natural Range

Found mostly around the Rio Orinoco basin and in the rivers of Guyana in South America.

Maximum Size and Longevity

It doesn't get very large and will only grow to about 10 to 12cm. They will live for up to 10 years or longer if kept healthy and happy.

Water Quality

- Temperature: 24°C
- pH: 7.0—7.5
- General Hardness: 100—150 ppm.

Feeding

This fish is an omnivore and will regularly eat any type of commercial foods as well as live worms and brine shrimp.

Compatibility

Keyhole cichlids are not really an aggressive fish and will get along well with other cichlids of the same temperament, such as Green or Gold Severums and Rivulatus.

Colour and Varieties

This cichlid isn't very colourful but it is unique with each fish having a different shaped "keyhole" pattern along the side. Some of the fish will have only one dot and some others will have two that are joined almost like a figure eight. When they are young they have a darker colouration to the body and as they mature they lose this characteristic and go a lighter whiter colour.

Sexing

The male will have an elongated, more pointy dorsal fin and will be slither than a female. The female doesn't have this long dorsal but will be plumper in the belly especially during breeding season as she may be holding up to 300 eggs.

General Information

These cichlids are not one of the rarer types and can be found readily at most specialty stores. When these fish are breeding the male will become more aggressive and protective of his eggs and his female.