

Convict Cichlid

Cryptoheros nigrofasciatus

Natural Range

Convict cichlids are native to Central America. They can be found in a host of different habitats.

Maximum Size and Longevity

These cichlids will grow to approximately 15cm's, with females generally smaller than males. The lifespan of these cichlids is usually 8 to 10 years.

Water Quality

These are a hardy fish that will adjust easily to a lot of different water conditions. The water conditions we have listed are optimal conditions for Convict cichlids.

- Temperature: 21 - 27 °C
- pH: 7.0 —8.0
- GH: 100 - 150ppm

Feeding

Convict cichlids are an omnivorous fish and will eat basically anything they can fit in their mouths, including AI Frozen Foods such as brine shrimp, mysis shrimp, and bloodworms. In their natural habitat their diet consists of mainly small insects, crustaceans, and vegetable and plant matter.

Compatibility

If you are going to keep them with other fish, ensure that the other fish are of a similar size. Convict cichlids are tough, and can definitely look after themselves when put in a tank with Oscars, *Aequidens rivulatus*, and other larger cichlids. If you are keeping a pair it is best just to keep the pair in the tank due to the severe aggressive behaviour of these fish while they are breeding. They will kill fish that get in the way of their spawn.



Colour and Variety

Convict cichlids are named for their obvious black stripes down the body. They have a typical South American cichlid shape body with a grey to silver colour with black bands vertically down the body.

There are different types of convicts as well, such as the white convict, which have a full white body, while the females will get a bright red hue across their belly.

Sexing

These cichlids are difficult to sex until they reach sexual maturity. When they reach maturity the males will be slightly larger than the females and have longer fins also. When the females reach sexual maturity they will get a slight pink tinge to their belly.

General Information

These cichlids are regarded as one of the easiest fish to breed in the industry, they will spawn very often once they hit maturity.

They are a very aggressive fish when in breeding and will attack anything that goes near their babies.

Because of their wide range in water quality they are said to be one of the easiest beginner fish to keep.

Ease of aquarium keeping = 1
(1 = easy, 5 = difficult).

CICHLID