

Cherry Spider Crab

Amarinus laevis



Natural Range

South-eastern Australia, found in coastal streams and lakes in brackish water. Normally lives amongst submerged tree branches, aquatic plants or under and around rocks.

Maximum Size

Males up to 4-5cm across carapace (body), leg span of about 8-9cm. Females remain slightly smaller.

Water Quality

Cherry Spider Crabs do best in brackish water. Use Artificial Sea Salts and make up to 20% - 30% of sea water strength (approx 1 cup of Artificial Sea Salts to 50 litres of water).

- Temperature: 8°C - 24°C.
- pH: 7.0—8.0

Feeding

In the wild feeds on detritus and scavenges. Will eat most sinking aquarium foods large enough to be picked up. Enjoys fresh or frozen foods.

Compatibility

If keeping with fish, ensure the fish are not slow-moving or bottom dwellers (therefore possible food items for the crabs) or too large (where the spider crab becomes the food item!) Do not keep with fish in small bowls, as fish may be nipped by the crabs due to the confined space.

General Information

Spider crabs are small fully aquatic crabs native to South-eastern Australia. Cherry Spider Crabs are very distinctive, looking extremely spider-like because of their long thin legs. Males also have prominent orange “bubbles” at the base of their claw (similar to cherries), which adds to this crab’s interesting appearance.

Fully aquatic crabs usually don’t climb out of water but it’s a good idea to keep their aquarium covered just to be safe. Provide plenty of hiding places and for stocking densities in retail shops it’s recommended that no more than 40 are kept per 50 litres of water. Aeration and filtration should be provided to ensure dissolved oxygen levels are adequate. This crab is not as aggressive or territorial as many other crustaceans.

Aquatic invertebrates are very sensitive to copper in water, so ensure treatments containing copper are not used in their tank.

A very distinct and different pet for the aquarium.