

## Blue Dolphin *Cyrtocara moorii*



### Natural Range

Lake Malawi, Africa. Also found in Lake Malombe, Africa.

### Maximum Size and Longevity

Maximum length is 20-25cm, with a life span of 10-15 years when cared for appropriately.

### Water Quality

- Temperature: 24°C - 28°C.
- pH: 7.8—8.2
- General Hardness: 200—350 ppm.

### Feeding

In the aquarium hobby, *Cyrtocara moorii* will happily take most floating and / or sinking foods with no fuss. They will benefit from frozen foods which have a high protein content, such as Aquarium Industries Naturals Range Malawi Cichlid Mix.

In the wild, *C. Moorii* is classed as a micro-predator. It will follow closely behind substrate digging cichlids, feeding on the small crustaceans and particles that get stirred up in their wake.

### Compatibility

This is a shoaling species and is best maintained in a group between 5 -10 individuals. *C. moorii* is generally a peaceful Malawi cichlid. Males can become more territorial when spawning, but for the most part this fish is a great community cichlid.

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### Colour and Varieties

*C. moorii* is solid blue in colour with faint black banding. While many other Malawi cichlids have geographical colour variants within the same species, *C. moorii* has no discernible colour difference, impressive considering their extensive distribution.

### Sexing

This species shows minimal sexual dimorphism, therefore can be difficult to sex. Both species exhibit the blue dolphin nuchal hump and colouration is identical. Males will grow larger than females and the species is slow to reach sexual maturity.

### General Information

*Cyrtocara moorii* derives its common name, “Blue Dolphin”, from the unique hump that increases in size as the fish ages. This fish is an attractive, peaceful Malawi cichlid that is ideal for larger community tanks.

### We feed and recommend:

