

# Flagtail Prochilodus

## *Semaprochilodus taeniurus*



### Common Names

Flagtail Prochilodus, Flagtail Characin and Fei Feng

### Natural Range

Amazon basin, Brazil

### Maximum Size and Longevity

Maximum size 25-30cm, with a life span of 5-10 years.

### Water Quality

- Temperature: 24°C - 28°C.
- pH: 6.5– 7.5
- General Hardness: 50 ppm – 150 ppm

### Feeding

*Semaprochilodus taeniurus* is omnivorous, with its main diet consisting of primarily plant material. Offering plenty of vegetable matter in the form of algae wafers and spirulina is recommended for optimum health. They will also accept most good quality sinking dried foods and frozen. Aquarium Industries Naturals Range Frozen Leafy Spinach is a great way to get *S. taeniurus* their required greens.



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### Compatibility

*S. taeniurus* can be aggressive towards its own kind when kept in small numbers, but when maintained in groups of six or more in larger tanks, the aggression is not a factor. Otherwise it's best kept as a single individual in a community of medium to large fish. Suitable tank mates in both cases include other large non-aggressive fish, including South American cichlids and catfish.

### Colour and Varieties

Can be mistaken for the similar *S. insignis*. You can tell the difference by the presence of dark spots on the sides that do not fade as the fish matures. It's important to remember that young *S. insignis* also exhibit these spots but they disappear with age.

### Sexing

There is little or no sexual dimorphism between the sexes, but adult female flag tail characins are said to be plumper or more rounded than the males. *S. taeniurus* has not been bred in captivity. This is partly due to the fact they migrate upstream to spawning grounds, swimming through fast water and rapids.

### General Information

As mentioned before *S. taeniurus* requires large amounts of plant matter to maintain proper health, therefore it's not recommended for planted aquariums, as they will devour any plants.

*S. taeniurus* are one of the most common and widespread shoaling fish found in South America. It is common to see them being used as a source of food for many towns and villages. Given the eventual size *S. taeniurus* can reach, it makes a stunning addition to a community of larger fish. In Australia it has become very popular for this exact reason.