

## Gourami

*Colisa sp, Trichogaster sp, Helostoma sp*



Left: Male Dwarf Blue Coral Gourami



Right: Golden Gourami

### Introduction

Gouramis are part of the family Belontiidae, and are generally referred to as anabantoids or labyrinth fish. The labyrinth organ allows them to extract oxygen from atmospheric air in areas where the water is poorly oxygenated.

### Maximum Size and Longevity

Dwarf species can reach up to 6cm. Larger species such as Golden, Blue and Lace Gouramis can reach up to 12cm. Kissing gouramis are known to reach 30cm, while Giant gouramis have been recorded at an incredible 60cm.

### Water Quality

- Temperature: 22°C - 28°C.
- pH: 6.5—7.5
- General Hardness: 50—150 ppm.

The exception to the above is the Chocolate Gourami, which has quite different requirements—see our specific Care Sheet for this rare fish.

### Feeding

The pelvic fins on gouramis are adapted to act as long, tentacle-like sensors. Using these, they can detect food, as well as other objects in the water.

They will eat most aquarium food, but do require a varied diet in order to thrive. For best result, feed a combination of dry food, live, vegetables, and frozen foods from the AI Naturals Range.

Small size gouramis (3—4cm) are still considered fry, and need several feeds a day.

### Compatibility

Dwarf gouramis make an excellent addition to the peaceful community tank, whilst the larger species can become quite boisterous, and so are best kept in a semi-aggressive tank.

### Colour and Varieties

Gourami colouration varies greatly.

Dwarf gouramis range from neon blue to flame red, with wide variations in between. Kissing gouramis are either pink or green, while the larger gouramis feature pretty blue coloration. There are also gold and platinum variants. Lace gouramis have a pearly pattern with a brown horizontal stripe running through the eye to the tail, the males develop a deep red colour in the throat.

### Breeding

In most of the species the male builds a floating nest of bubbles at the surface of the water. Courtship occurs below the bubble nest, and the fertilised eggs float to settle within the nest. The eggs are then tended to by the male, even after hatching. At the early stage of development, the fry are susceptible to cold draughts as they can damage the immature labyrinth organ as they extract atmospheric air—so ensure that the tank is protected from draughts.

Gouramis appreciate a well-planted tank with lots of open swimming space.

For more Care Sheets like this, visit our website: [aquariumindustries.com.au](http://aquariumindustries.com.au)