

Lace Gourami

(also known as Pearl Gourami, Mosaic Gourami and the Leeri Gourami)

Trichogaster leeri



Natural Range

The Lace Gourami is native to Thailand, Malaysia and Borneo. They are found in swamps and lowland rivers with acidic dark water and heavy aquatic vegetation.

Maximum Size and Longevity

Lace Gouramis can grow up to 12cm long and live for up to 8 years, if kept in the correct conditions.

Water Quality

Lace Gouramis prefer water in the soft to medium range and slightly acidic

- Temperature: 23°C - 28°C.
- pH: 6.0—7.5
- General Hardness: 100—200 ppm.

These gouramis are suited more to a dark tank with a lot of plant matter in the tank.

Feeding

Lace Gouramis are omnivorous and easy to feed. They will eat basically anything from flake foods to pellets and live foods, such as live worm and live brine shrimp.

Compatibility

A relatively calm and peaceful fish, although males can be aggressive occasionally when defending territory or spawning. They can be kept with other gouramis, loaches, danios and larger tetras.

Colour and Varieties

Lace Gouramis are a stunning fish with a long dorsal fin and beautiful colours. They have a bright red flash under their gills and mouth and a black line running from their mouth to their tail fin. Their over all colour is mottled white and brown to red spots. Also these gouramis have unique ventral fins that stretch out as long as their body almost giving the impression of feelers on an insect. Males become particularly brightly coloured during spawning.

Sexing and Breeding

Males will have a bright red throat and longer fins, which becomes more intense during spawning. Females will be like most female fish are plumper and fuller in the body due to holding eggs, and tend to be less coloured.

They are bubble-nest builders and maintain their eggs and resultant fry in a bubble-nest they construct by blowing bubbles coated in mucous amongst plant material on the water surface. Once the eggs are laid the female should be removed because the male looks after them. Once the eggs hatch the male should be removed as well.

General Information

Lace Gouramis are one of the most popular of the Gouramis species and is frequently kept in aquariums. They are a great community fish and do well in planted aquariums.