

Blue, Gold and Opaline Gouramis

Trichogaster trichopterus and belong to the Family Belontiidae, sub-Family Trichogastrinae



Above: Blue Gourami



Top:
Gold Gourami

Right:
Opaline Gourami



Natural Range

South East Asia in countries such as Laos, Cambodia, Vietnam and Thailand. They generally inhabit densely vegetated water bodies.

Maximum Size and Longevity

Up to 12cm

Water Quality

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

Feeding

Blue Gouramis are omnivores and will generally eat any aquarium fish food. They also readily take frozen foods such as AI Naturals Brine Shrimp and, should have some vegetable matter added to the diet. Tetra Crisps are an ideal aquarium fish food.

Compatibility

These are a peaceful fish suitable for a community tank. However, males may fight against each other and fully grown individuals can be quite boisterous. They are a must for any reasonable size community aquarium.

Colour and Varieties

This species is now commercially available in three distinct color forms, Blue, Gold and Opaline. All forms are hardy, peaceful and showy.

Sexing

Males are easy to pick by their long pointy dorsal fin and more colourful body – particularly when spawning. They are easy to breed. Males make a bubble nest at the surface and look after the eggs and fry until they are free swimming. However, as the fry develop they are susceptible to cold drafts, particularly when the labyrinth organ is developing.

General Information

The Blue Gourami has gills like normal fish but is also capable of breathing air from the surface. It achieves this through their Labyrinth organ which is a modified gill situated in the head which extracts oxygen from air that comes in contact with it. This allows all Gouramis to live in water that is poorly oxygenated.

The ventral fins have developed into long, thin feelers which in nature help the fish feel their way through dense growth, as found in plant choked swamps.

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