

## Kribensis

### *Pelvicachromis pulcher*



#### Common Names

Kribensis, Krib, Red Krib and Rainbow Cichlid

#### Natural Range

Nigeria and Cameroon, Africa

#### Maximum Size and Longevity

Maximum size 8-10cm, with an average life span of 5 years.

#### Water Quality

- Temperature: 24°C - 28°C.
- pH: 6.8—7.5
- General Hardness: 50—180 ppm.

#### Feeding

This species is easy to feed and will accept a range of prepared foods. They will primarily feed at the bottom of the tank, so ensure that they are provided with a sinking food. As with most cichlids, it's a good idea to ensure their diet is varied with the addition of live and frozen foods. AI Naturals Range Frozen Cichlid Mix and Frozen Brine Shrimp are ideal for this species.



#### Compatibility

Kribensis work relatively well in community tanks, with peaceful fish of the same or larger size. It's best to avoid housing them with slow moving species with long and flowing fins, such as angelfish, since they have been known to nip at fins. *P. pulcher* can be reclusive at times, so the addition of schooling or other fish is advised, to reduce their instinctive shyness.

#### Colour and Varieties

Several colour morphs exist in the wild, and we see various morphs make their way into the aquarium hobby from time to time. These morphs range from slight differences to complete colour changes. The albino strain is one to make note of, as it has been long established in captivity and is very popular.



Pic: Albino Kribensis

#### Sexing

Distinguishing between sexes of *P. pulcher* is not difficult. The female is smaller, with a larger belly, and displays brighter colours during the breeding season, when her belly will develop the characteristic cherry red colour. The male is longer bodied and has less intense colour. Another way of sexing young Kribensis is to look at the fins; the dorsal fin of the male will be slightly pointed, and that of the females will be rounded.

#### General Information

*P. pulcher* has held its spot within the aquarium trade for decades, as one of the most hardy and easy to care for cichlids around. The name *Pelvicachromis pulcher* is derived from the Latin words: *pelva* which means belly or stomach, *chromis*, which means colour, and *pulcher*, which means beautiful. The name perfectly describes this species, especially during breeding.



For more Care Sheets, along with Free Fish Care Training Courses, visit [aquariumindustries.com.au](http://aquariumindustries.com.au)