

Mandarin Fish

Synchiropus splendidus



Common Names

Mandarin Fish, Psychedelic Fish, and Green Mandarin Fish

Natural Range

Western Pacific Ocean, in tropical reef areas

Maximum Size and Longevity

Maximum size 6cm, with an average life span of 5 years.

Water Quality

- Temperature: 24 °C - 26 °C.
- pH: 8.0—8.4
- Specific Gravity: 1.020 — 1.025

Feeding

Mandarin Fish are slow and methodical feeders. In the wild, they primarily feed in between rocks, selecting small organisms such as copepods and amphipods. When introduced into a home aquarium, Mandarins can at first be finicky feeders, so it is recommended to regularly feed them live brine shrimp. If they're introduced into in a well-established reef tank, this will provide plenty of opportunity to feed on the small invertebrates that naturally occur in any thriving reef tank. While feeding on live foods, they can then be gradually switched to frozen foods. We recommend combining live brine shrimp with Aquarium Industries Naturals Range Frozen Brine Shrimp, to help speed this process up.

Compatibility

Completely non-aggressive to other fish species and an excellent addition to a mature reef tank.

Mandarins will spend their days carefully hopping over the live rock or sand, searching for small food morsels such as any amphipods or copepods. Best to have either a single Mandarin per tank or a male/female pair.

Colour and Varieties

With their amazingly intense colour and patterning, Mandarins are one of the most attractive of all commonly kept reef fish. The body of the fish is primarily blue or green, overlaid with orange wavy lines giving it a psychedelic appearance. Two species are commonly kept in aquaria: the Mandarin Fish pictured above (*Synchiropus splendidus*) and the Spotted Mandarin Fish (*Synchiropus picturatus*).

Sexing

Distinguishing between sexes is quite easy. Males can be distinguished from females by their more elongated first dorsal spine and bulkier stature.

General Information

The Mandarin is an extremely docile and friendly fish, so it should not be kept with aggressive species. Also ensure that tankmates (especially the more active types) are not out-competing the Mandarin Fish at feeding time. We suggest feeding in 2 or 3 spots around the tank to reduce the chances of the Mandarin missing out on food. Alternatively you can offer food directly to your Mandarin by using a long pipette or turkey baster.

The name Mandarin comes from its bizarre and extreme coloration, which resembles the robes of an Imperial Chinese Mandarin (a bureaucrat officer/scholar). Having this fish in your marine aquarium will bring you hours of enjoyment and *S. splendidus* earns a spot as one our "Must Haves" for any marine aquarist.

For more Care Sheets like this, visit our website: aquariumindustries.com.au