

Mangrove Jack

Lutjanus argentimaculatus



Natural Range

Widely spread throughout the Indo-Pacific Region. Within Australia, found in coastal northern waters. Typically inhabit mangrove systems and estuaries.

Maximum Size

Grows up to one metre and 12 kg.

Water Quality

Will live in fresh, brackish and pure sea water.

- Temperature: 22 - 26 °C
- pH: 7.0—8.0
- GH: 200 - 300ppm
- Salinity 8—20ppt

Feeding

An aggressive feeder that should be provided with a carnivorous diet of live, fresh and frozen foods.

Compatibility

This species is an ideal display fish but large specimens should not be kept with other fish due to their aggressive, predatory nature. Juveniles can be kept with similar sized brackish species.

Colour and Variety

The Mangrove Jack's body colour is chocolate to reddish brown, with vertical white stripes on the body. Blue streaking can also be seen under the eye. Fins tend to be a similar reddish brown colour.

Sexing

Difficult to sex.

General Information

The Mangrove Jack makes a wonderful display species. They are very hardy, colorful and display well as they usually swim at the front of the aquarium. Their aquarium should be large and decorated with mangrove roots and natural rock. In nature it is assumed they spawn in estuaries and mangrove swamps, where juveniles usually grow to several kilograms in weight before migrating to off shore reefs. On the other hand, large mangrove jacks have been found over 100 km up river in completely fresh water.

Use caution when feeding and handling large specimens. They can cause a nasty wound with their teeth.

Native