

Maroon clown fish (Spine Cheeked)

Gold Stripe Maroon clownfish (Sumatran clownfish)



Maroon Clownfish

Premnas biaculeatus

Premnas epigramma



Gold Stripe Maroon Clownfish

Natural Range

Maroon clownfish are found in the Indo-Pacific and Great Barrier Reef and the Gold Stripe Maroon clownfish is found in Sumatra, Indonesia.

Max. Size and Longevity

It can reach a maximum size of 17 cm and it can live for more than six years in captivity.

Water Parameters

Temperature: 24 °C - 26 °C

pH: 8.0 – 8.4

Specific gravity: 1.020-1.025

Feeding

They are very good eaters. Feed them a varied diet of fresh meaty chopped foods, live and frozen brine and mysis shrimp, Tetra flakes and pellets.

Compatibility

They become very territorial as they mature and are best kept as an individuals or as a mated pair. They are more suited with bold tank mates such as angelfish, tangs triggerfish and wrasses. They will harass small peaceful fish (including other clownfish species).

Colour and Varieties

Maroon clownfish have striking deep maroon colour with three distinctive white stripes on them. The Gold Stripe clownfish is very similar apart from the bands which are thicker and yellow in colour. Both species are available as captive bred and wild caught.

General Information

The two spines on the gill cover give the maroon clown fish its species name *biaculeatus* (meaning spine cheek), which also poses a handling problem as the spines can become

tangled in the net when catching. They do not need a host anemone to survive, but are generally not fussy about what type of anemone they live in if one is provided. The Gold Stripe clownfish is a recent discovery to the genus *Premnas*. Captive bred Goldstripe Maroons take a while to develop the gold colouration of the stripes, it usually occurs a while after they have paired up in an established tank.

Sexing and Breeding

Maroon clownfish have successfully bred in captivity. Males are redder, and diminutive in appearance and less aggressive when compared to the females. Clown fish are protandrous hermaphrodites, meaning they have the ability to change sex when the dominant female dies or is removed from the tank. A larger male will turn into a female and develop a deep maroon colour as the transition takes place, the most dominant juvenile in the tank will then transform into a male.

Handy Hints for success

Tank bred fish are hardier than wild caught fish but both are very aggressive. It is best to keep an eye on them to observe any territorial behaviour. To curb their aggression, either add them last to the tank or rearrange the décor when introducing them in to the tank.

Common diseases or problems

Clownfish caught from the wild are susceptible to diseases such as white spot (*Cryptocaryon irritans*), velvet (*Oodinium ocellatum*) and *brooklynella hostilis*. White spot and velvet can be treated with a copper based remedy and *brooklynella* can be treated with a multicure (ensure invertebrates are not present with both medications). It is best to quarantine your fish before putting them in your main system.