

## Medaka and Golden Medaka (also known as Japanese Ricefish and Moonlight Medaka)

*Oryzias latipes*



### Natural Range

These fish are found naturally in Japan, China, Korea and Viet Nam. Medakas mainly inhabit rice fields and vegetated riverine habitats.

### Maximum Size and Longevity

Medakas grow to approximately 4cm. They can live for up to 5 years if kept in the correct environment.

### Water Quality

The water quality for a Medaka can be varied because in the wild they will move from saltwater to fresh water with ease, and little health problems. They also tolerate a wide temperature range, and will move from as little as 0°C to as high as 27°C. For best results:

- Temperature: 18°C - 24°C.
- pH: 7.0—8.0
- General Hardness: 50—300 ppm.

### Feeding

Medakas are omnivorous and will eat basically anything from flake to pellets and live food such as baby brine shrimp and small live worms.

### Compatibility

Medakas are suited for community tanks with smaller species of fish like white clouds and danios. They will also get along with goldfish and paradise fish and are ideal for stocking in unheated aquariums.

### Colour and Varieties

There are a few different types of medakas, including the moonlight medaka which is a white version, a gold and orange type and the standard golden variety. They are all the same shape and have the same fin formation. The Golden type is a long slender fish with an arched back and nice colorations of orange and yellows. The wild forms are less colourful and duller.

### Sexing

Telling the difference between the males and females is difficult. When breeding though the female will carry her eggs on the outside of her body for a short time until the male fertilises them then she will drop or attach them to a leaf or something similar. This prolific breeder is ideal for novices.

### General Information

These fish were the first ever vertebrates to have bred in Space! A very popular aquarium and pond fish and a perfect addition to your tank or pond. Hardy species, very forgiving for water quality making it an excellent beginners fish.