

## Paradise Fish

*Macropodus opercularis*



### Natural Range

Paradise fish are mainly found in Asia, in large swamps around Korea, Vietnam and China.

### Maximum Size and Longevity

The lifespan of a Paradise fish is about 6 years depending on the way they are kept. Maximum size for this fish is approximately 10cm including the length of the tail and fins.

### Water Quality

The Paradise Fish is fairly tolerant of a wide range of water qualities:

- Temperature: 16 - 24 °C
- pH: 6.5 —7.5
- GH: 50 - 200ppm

### Feeding

Paradise Fish are omnivores. In the wild this fish will feed on live insects and small crustaceans. In captivity they will willingly accept ready made dry foods, and enjoy Aquarium Industries Frozen Tropical Mix as well.

### Compatibility

Paradise fish are generally a peaceful fish that won't usually hassle others in a tank as long as they are similar in size, smaller fish can be in danger as they can be a predatory fish. Males become aggressive and will fight each other when in spawning condition.

### Colour and Variety

Paradise fish can have very striking colours and patterns. They are a long fish with a compressed body. The main colour you will see in shops will be a plain coloured body with bright red streaks running vertically down the body; in between the red streaks you will see blue streaks. These colours also go out through the fins.

There is in an albino form; these have a creamy white replacing the blue streaks. A blue form is also available which is much smaller than the other types. They are blue all over with the same long fins, with the females smaller and a little plumper.

### Sexing

Sexing these fish is very easy. Once they have reached sexual maturity the males will be full of colour whereas the females will be quite dull. The males will also have much longer finnage, particularly the dorsal fin, while the females have shorter fins.

### General Information

Paradise fish are a labyrinth fish, the same as a betta or gourami. This means that they have a special organ that allows them to breathe air.

These fish are a very easy fish to look after. They are very adaptable to their environment and different water conditions and make a great first fish.

Ease of aquarium keeping = 1  
(1 = easy, 5 = difficult).

Misc. Tropical