

# Pencilfish

Species are available under Genus *Nanostomus* and Genus *Anostomus*. They belong to the Characin (Tetra) family.



Above: Gold Pencilfish



## Pencilfish Varieties

Above: Giant Black Lined

Right: Red Dwarf

Bottom: Giant Red Tail



## Natural Range

South America, from Columbia to Venezuela. It is widely distributed throughout the Amazon basin, in parts of Guyana, Brazil, Peru and Bolivia.

## Maximum Size

The size varies by species and it ranges from 6cm – 40cm.

## Water Quality

- Temperature: 22°C -26°C
- pH: 6.0 - 7.5
- General Hardness: 50 - 200 ppm

## Feeding

They will thrive on small, live, dry frozen food and vegetable matter. They can be fed Tetramin tropical flakes and Tetramin tablets. They will eat aquatic plants so some vegetable such as Cos Lettuce or Zucchini is recommended.

## Compatibility

Overall a peaceful, good aquarium community fish that is compatible with Tetras, Rasboras, Killifish and Danios. However, *Anostomus sp.* (headstanders) can be moderately aggressive with members of their own kind, although are mainly peaceful with other species.

## Colour and Varieties

There are about 16 species available under Genus *Nanostomos* and some attractive varieties include golden and green striped pencilfish. Some *Anostomus sp.* have attractive beautiful dark longitudinal stripes that extend all the way to the tail area. These species available can be either wild caught or captive bred

## Sexing

Males are more attractive in colour and have enlarged elongated anal fins. They are egg scatterers. Aquarium breeding is rare and fish generally require hormone injections for spawning.

## General Information

They will thrive in an aquarium with soft, slightly acidic water conditions. Pencil fish are an attractive, slender, pencil shaped fish that are interesting to watch in schools among a well planted tank.

care sheet



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