

Freshwater Prawn

Macrobrachium australiense



Natural Range

Eastern Australia

Maximum Size and Longevity

Can grow to about 7cm.

Water Quality

- Temperature: 12°C - 25°C.
- pH: 6.5—7.5 Do not allow to drop below 6.5
- General Hardness: 50—300 ppm.

Feeding

In nature a scavenger. In the aquarium they will eat any sinking fish food.

Compatibility

Australian Freshwater Prawns have the second pair of limbs tipped with pincer like claws, which are used for hunting and defence.

If kept with aquarium fish they should not be mixed with bottom dwellers or slow moving varieties such as fantails, especially in the confines of small containers. Under these circumstances they are capable of nipping fish and causing damage.

Colour and Varieties

Translucent brownish green.

General Information

Freshwater Prawns make an interesting addition to the home aquarium, living quite happily in either tropical or indoor cold water aquariums. They make good scavengers and are not destructive to aquatic plants as they poke around in all corners looking for the tiniest particles of left over food.

To enable them to grow, Freshwater Prawns moult several times a year. For a short time after they moult their skeleton is quite soft and they should not be handled or moved. They should also be provided with adequate shelter and hiding places in the form of plant thickets, rocks or caves.

Freshwater Prawns derive their oxygen from water they live in and are adversely affected by the accumulation of waste products. They are sensitive to copper in the water, so ensure medications containing copper are not used. Their water and their environment should be looked after as for aquarium fish.