

Red Tailed Shark

Epalzeorthynchos bicolor,
formerly *Labeo bicolor* of the Family Cyprinidae.



Natural Range

Thailand, come from swamp areas

Maximum Size

Up to 17cm

Water Quality

- Temperature: 22°C - 26°C.
- pH: 7.0—7.5
- General Hardness: 100—150 ppm.

Feeding

While Red Tailed sharks are primarily omnivorous, they can also be predatory and eat smaller fish. They will eat any fish food provided but some greens should be offered, as in nature a larger part of its diet is algae.

Compatibility

They are very aggressive to their own kind, which increases as they grow, so only 1 specimen should be kept in the home aquarium. They can also be aggressive with smaller species and are not suited to a community tank with small Tetra species. However, they can be kept successfully in a larger community tank with other species of Barbs, Gouramis and Rainbows.

Colour and Varieties

The body is a velvety black colour with a striking red tail. There is also a golden/albino form available.

Sexing

The sex of Red Tailed Sharks is difficult to determine. Females tend to be slightly larger than males and their stomach can be more of a grey rather than black colour. The stomach area of female fish will also tend to be more rounded during spawning season due to developing eggs. Breeding in aquariums is rare and generally requires hormone injections to promote breeding.

General Information

Even though shark shaped, the Red Tailed Shark is more closely related to a goldfish than a shark. Red Tailed Sharks make a spectacular aquarium fish, with its velvet black body and brilliant red tail. Do not be disillusioned if the colours are a little washed out initially, as they will develop stronger colours once settled.

Within hours of being transferred to a well planted home aquarium the red tail shark comes into full colour.

Hiding places and a large, well planted aquarium should be provided.