

# Black Phantom Tetra

*Megalampodus megalopterus*



## Natural Range

These fish can be found in South America in the waterways of Brazil and Bolivia.

## Maximum Size and Longevity

Black Phantom tetras grow to 4 to 5 cms and can live for up to 5 years if kept at the right conditions.

## Water Quality

Black Phantom Tetras live in soft acidic water in their natural habitat, but they can handle slightly alkaline waters also.

- Temperature: 22°C - 27°C.
- pH: 6.0—7.5
- General Hardness: 100 ppm.

## Feeding

They are omnivorous and will feed on most foods especially dry foods such as TetraMin Tropical Crisps, flakes and freeze dried worms.

## Colour and Varieties

A small oval shaped tetra with a silver coloured body and flashes of black over the fins. Females have the red through their fins and can sometimes be mistaken for another type of phantom tetra. The male can become darker in colour when ready to spawn or if they are defending their territory in the aquarium against other Black Phantom Tetras.

## Sexing

The males have fins that are longer than the females fins. Females are plumper and fuller in the body and have a red flash through the fins.

## General Information

Black Phantom Tetras are a very versatile species in the terms of water quality with a wide tolerance for pH and hardness. They are best kept in schools of about 6 – 8 fish. Males can be slightly aggressive but only when claiming territory and may fight with other males over areas in the tank, most do not lead to injuries to the fish though. The males are even known to 'push' the females around when breeding.

