

Tropheus



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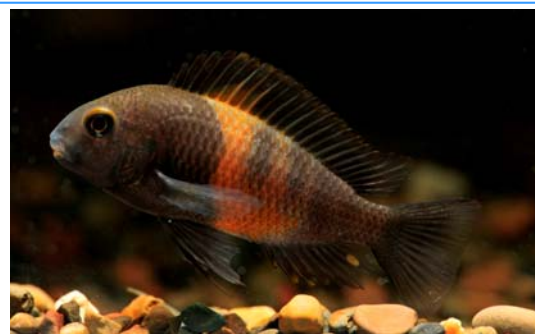
Top left: Juvenile Tropheus Duboisi



Bottom left: Juvenile Tropheus Black Kirschfleck. As this Tropheus matures, the body becomes black, with a bright red stripe.



Right: Tropheus Red Moliro



Right: Tropheus Black Red Brabant

Common and Scientific Names

Fish in this family are generally referred to by the name "Tropheus", followed by their species name. The second name can also be used to provide details such as geographical and / or colour morph. For example: Tropheus Duboisi, Tropheus Brichardi.

Natural Range

All Tropheus cichlids are endemic to Lake Tanganyika in Africa.

Tank Range

Tropheus will stay mid water most of the time, unless grazing off a rock.

Maximum Size and Longevity

Most Tropheus Cichlids will get to about 12cm in length, and can live for up to 10 years or more if kept healthy and happy

Water Quality

- Temperature: 24°C - 26°C.
- pH: 8.1—8.8
- General Hardness: 200—300 ppm.

Feeding

Tropheus are predominantly vegetarian grazers, but they will occasionally eat meaty foods. They will eat frozen foods from the AI Naturals Range including Leafy Spinach, Mysis, Brine Shrimp and Malawi Cichlid Mix. Other suitable foods include spirulina flakes and lettuce. These fish are algae grazers in the wild, and will eat algae off rocks and glass in tanks.

For more Care Sheets like this, visit our website: aquariumindustries.com.au

Compatibility

Tropheus are ordinarily moderately aggressive fish, however they become highly aggressive when breeding. Most aggression will be mainly directed at other Tropheus. Suitable tank mates would be any other fish with the similar temperament and adult size such as Peacock Cichlids, Electric Yellows and Gobies.

Colour and Varieties

The majority of Tropheus are coloured black from head to tail, and are differentiated by their different markings, usually in the form of vertical stripes. Markings can change as the fish matures, with juveniles often exhibiting very different markings to mature fish. Most Tropheus available commercially in Australia are juvenile, and exhibit juvenile markings.

There are many different colour variations and species of Tropheus, which is one of the reasons that they are so interesting to the hobbyist. While there are a large number commercially available on a regular basis in Australia (such as Tropheus Duboisi), rarer forms are only available infrequently. The Aquarium Industries website can provide information about new varieties, as they become available.

Sexing

Tropheus are sexually dimorphic. This means that they have no obvious physical characteristics which make it easy to sex them at a glance. The best way of determining the difference is via a technique called 'venting', in which the underside of the fish is inspected to see if it has a vent opening for the production of sperm or eggs. Females have a tiny tube, males do not.

General Information

Always keep in a nice sized group in a large tank.