

## Zebra Lionfish

*Dendrochirus zebra*



### Natural Range

Found on coral or rock rubble throughout the Indo-Pacific region.

### Maximum Size and Longevity

In nature, up to 18cm—25 cm

### Water Quality

Temperature: 24°C - 26°C.

pH: 8.0—8.4

SG: 1.020—1.024

### Feeding

Greedy and carnivorous, so feed meaty foods, live shrimp or small feeder fish.

### Compatibility

Their toxic spines – they have 13 along their back – mean that they have no natural predators. The Zebra Lionfish has a very large mouth, which it uses to eat fish that can be nearly as big as itself. Ensure that any other fish in the aquarium are not small enough to be eaten, particularly cardinals, damsels, clownfish and gobies! However, it is peaceful to any fish that it can't swallow such as large angels, rabbitfish, boxfish and eels. Males are very territorial and will attack a smaller male Lionfish, so only one male per tank.

### General Information

This striking marine will be a talking point in any aquarium. Their bright stripes serve as a warning to other fish to stay away and also confuse predators, as it allows them to blend into the reef. For added protection, juveniles have a large spot on either side of the body, which confuses potential predators into thinking that they are looking at the eyes of a much larger creature.

Provide plenty of hiding places for this venomous fish. They like to take a rest from strong light, so ensure that they have some rock or a piece of coral under which they can hide.

They are a popular marine aquarium fish and easy to care for as long as water parameters, a good feeding regime and correct handling procedures are maintained.

### Caution!

The Zebra Lionfish is venomous. Handle with caution! Download the "Handling Hazardous Fish" Care Sheet from Aquarium Industries website [www.aquariumindustries.com.au](http://www.aquariumindustries.com.au) for guidelines on handling these fish safely.

For more Care Sheets like this, visit our website: [aquariumindustries.com.au](http://aquariumindustries.com.au)