

Variatus Platy

Xiphophorus variatus



Introduction

Variatus Platies are peaceful, hardy, active and very colourful. In numbers they can effectively brighten up a dull, drab tank. They have a very inquisitive personality, and will explore all levels of the tank. They are also suited to Nano Tanks.

Maximum Size

Commonly around 4 – 6 cm in length, with females occasionally growing a little larger, up to a maximum of 8cm.

Water Quality

Temperature: tolerates 15°C - 28°C
(preferred range 18-27°C).

pH: 7.0—8.0

General Hardness: 200—300 ppm.

They prefer slightly alkaline water, but are generally able to tolerate a wide range of water qualities and are considered quite hardy.

Colouration

In nature this fish can be quite variable in colour. Many different aquarium colour strains have been developed – Hawaiian, Sunset, Blue, and Hi-fin are some of the more popular varieties.

Tank Set-Up

An easily cared for fish that does well in all types of community aquaria. Give them a fairly large tank with live plants and open swimming areas. Avoid too much driftwood, because as a rule livebearers do not like acidic water. Although not a schooling fish they benefit by being kept with a large number of their own kind.

Feeding

Variatus Platies will eat most aquarium fish foods and will also graze on algae growing within the aquarium. They will benefit from a varied diet, we recommend also feeding them Aquarium Industries Frozen Tropical Mix to add much needed variety and nutrients. Variatus can also be kept in ponds outdoors in warm climates (eg tropical and sub-tropical regions) to control mosquito larvae.

Breeding

Platies are livebearers, meaning the female gives birth to fully formed, free swimming baby fish, about 30 days after fertilization at 25-27°C (longer at cooler temperatures).

Sexes can easily be distinguished; the anal fin of the male is modified to form the Gonopodium (the male sex organ). Male Variatus usually are more brightly coloured than the females.

Compatibility

Variatus Platies are a very good community tank species and will mix well with other peaceful community species.

Unpacking Procedure

Before unpacking, please check temperature of both shipping water and future holding tank. Options such as addition of salt and lowering of pH in the tanks should be considered.

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