

Southern Pygmy Perch

Nannoperca australis



Introduction

Southern Pygmy Perch are a small native fish, usually found in small streams or swamps of South-eastern Australia. They are ideal for mosquito control in small garden ponds and being tadpole-friendly, are also quite suitable for frog ponds.

They can also be kept in unheated aquaria (including Nano Tanks).

Maximum Size

Commonly grows to 5 – 6 cm in length, occasionally growing to a maximum of 8cm.

Water Quality

Temperature: tolerates 5°C - 30°C (preferred range 8-22°C).

pH: 7.0—8.0

General Hardness: 75 - 300 ppm.

Southern Pygmy Perch usually inhabit slightly alkaline water, they are not too fussy about water chemistry, but they do appreciate clean, well filtered water. They prefer cooler temperatures rather than tropical temperatures, making them ideal for garden ponds and unheated aquariums in temperate climate areas.

Colouration

When not in breeding colour, mainly olive-brown body colour with mostly clear fins. In breeding colour, males develop bright red and black fins, and heightened body colour. Various slightly different geographic colour variations occur in nature.

(To help protect the natural variations of this fish in the wild, please first consult with your state fisheries if you want to stock this species in wetlands or farm dams that drain into natural waterways).

Tank Set-Up

An easily cared for fish that does well in either in a single

species tank, or with other peaceful species. Give them a tank with driftwood and live plants for hiding places, and some open swimming areas. Although not a schooling fish they benefit by being kept with a number of their own kind.

Feeding

Pygmy Perch will eat aquarium fish foods such as small slow-sinking pellets, and frozen or live foods. They greatly benefit from a varied diet, and if being fed dry foods, they relish receiving frozen food treats such as Aquarium Industries Frozen Brine Shrimp, Bloodworm or Daphnia, these fresh foods help stimulate their appetite. Also excellent for controlling mosquito wrigglers in garden ponds.

Breeding

Southern Pygmy Perch are egg-layers, scattering their eggs on water plants and over the substrate. This fish comes into breeding season in winter (in nature coinciding with water levels starting to rise due to winter rains, and food becoming more abundant as a result). They typically spawn throughout late winter-spring as water temperatures rise into the mid-high teens. After hatching, the free swimming baby fish require small live foods such as infusoria and baby brine shrimp. Pygmy Perch will readily breed in a garden pond and can create a self-perpetuating population.

Sexes can only easily be distinguished when the fish are in breeding colours: males are more brightly coloured and slightly slimmer compared to gravid females.

Compatibility

Southern Pygmy Perch are a good cold-water community tank species and will mix well with other peaceful community species such as Murray Rainbows and small Goldfish.

Unpacking Procedure

Before unpacking, float bag to match water temperatures and follow unpacking procedure on the bag.