

Cherry Spider Crab

Amarinus laevis



Natural Range

Southern Australia. Found in a wide array of environments including rivers, lakes and brackish coastal streams. Normally lives amongst submerged tree branches, aquatic plants or under and around rocks.

Maximum Size

While the average size is around 2.5cm across the carapace (body), the leg span can be up to 5cm. Females are slightly smaller than males.

Water Quality

Cherry Spider Crabs do best in brackish water, however our crabs are bred and kept in freshwater.

Artificial Sea Salts can be used to create 20% - 30% of sea water strength (approx 1 cup of Artificial Sea Salts to 50 litres of water).

- Temperature: 8°C - 24°C.
- pH: 7.0—8.0

Feeding

In the wild feeds on detritus and scavenges. Will eat most sinking aquarium foods large enough to be picked up. Enjoys fresh or frozen foods.

Compatibility

If keeping with fish, ensure the fish are not slow-moving or bottom dwellers (therefore possible food items for the crabs) or too large (where the spider crab becomes the food item!).

General Information

Spider crabs are small fully aquatic crabs native to Southern Australia. Cherry Spider Crabs are very distinctive looking with their extremely spider-like long thin legs. Males also have prominent orange “bubbles” at the base of their claw (similar to cherries), which adds to this crab’s interesting appearance.

Fully aquatic crabs usually don’t climb out of water but it’s a good idea to keep their aquarium covered just to be safe. Provide plenty of hiding places. For stocking densities in retail shops it’s recommended that no more than 40 are kept per 50 litres of water. Aeration and filtration should be provided to ensure dissolved oxygen levels are adequate. This crab is not as aggressive or territorial as many other crustaceans.

Aquatic invertebrates are very sensitive to copper in water, so ensure treatments containing copper are not used in their tank.

A very distinct and different pet for the aquarium.