

Aquarium fish

Ornamental fish include representative of several families and hundreds of species with more than 3000 varieties of Small, colourful and unique fish. Different kinds of fish will require different care, different condition, different spaces and different equipment.

Aquarium fish can be divided into several major groups, depending on the way of production;

1- Live bearers

The most common fish belong to this groups are popular species such as guppies, swordtails, mollies and platies. Most of them are extremely domesticated, available in many varieties and colour, can be cold water, tropical or marine.

They are called live-bearers because they give birth to live young. Live bearers will give birth to 20 or more young which are capable of swimming and feeding straight away. This makes them excellent fish for beginners.

2- Bubble nest builders

Bubble nesters are egg layers of sorts, as males build a floating raft of bubbles at the surface of the water, and then females lay the eggs underneath these bubbles. Often the male will protect the eggs and fry for a short time, and tend to the nest. Popular examples of the bubble-nesters are gouramies and Siamese fighting fish.

Also, aquarium fish could be divided according to water temperature;

1- Cold water fish

Cold water fish usually means a goldfish, or a few other species that don't need to be kept in heated aquariums.

A- Common Goldfish; Perhaps the most common domestic strain of fish in the world, it could also be the most abused. Often kept in bowls or given away as prizes at the fair, it will do far better in a large cold-water aquarium or outside pond. Keep with members of its kind.

Common Goldfish Profile;

Scientific name: *Carassius auratus*

Origin: China

Size: Up to 30 cm, though usually smaller

Ease of keeping: Easy

Swimming level: All levels

Feeding: Omnivore, feed on flake, and frozen and live foods

Breeding: Can be breed, with female becoming plump and male developing breeding tubercles on gill plates and pectoral fins. Egg scatterer.

Special requirements: Space and ample filtration

2- Tropical fish

Tropical fish come in a huge range of colours, shapes and varieties, and thousands of species are available.

They vary in a size, cost and ease of keeping and continue the most popular type of fishkeeping due to their huge variety. Tropical fishkeeping can be subdivided into many different areas, like planted aquarium, cichlid keeping and Discus keeping. Tropical fish need artificially heated aquarium.

A- Cherry Barb; are perfect addition to the community of small fish. They are easy to keep, quickly become more colourful and can be bred quite easily

too. Open overlooked in the aquatic shop, add these small fish to a mature, planted aquarium and the males will soon be some of the brightest fish in there.

Common Cheery Barb Profile;

Scientific name: *Puntiustitteya*

Origin: Sir Lanka

Size: 5cm

Ease of keeping: Easy

Swimming level: All levels indicate

Feeding: Flake, frozen and live foods

Breeding: Can be breed in the aquarium, males turn bright red, while female maintain a brown and cream horizontally striped pattern. Egg scatterer.

Special requirements: Groups

3-Temperate fish

A-White cloud mountain minnow;

They are very hardy fish that are great additions to the unheated aquarium. Their small size means that they can be kept in small aquariums, and they are very undemanding species. Long finned and wide varieties are available.

White cloud mountain minnow Profile;

Scientific name: *Tanichthys albonubes*

Origin: China

Size: 4 cm

Ease of keeping: Easy

Swimming level: Middle to top

Feeding: feed crumbled floating flakes, and frozen and live foods, feed regularly

Breeding: Can be bred, and often spawns in the aquarium.
Males are smaller and brighter, females are larger and plumper. Egg scatterer.
Special requirements: Small tank mates, temperate water temperature

Aquarium fish in Kurdistan Region;

1-Glass Catfish;

Glass catfish are strange-looking fish that are so-named because you can see right through them. Glass fish is remarkable for being almost transparent. The muscle of glass fish contain oil that makes them nearly as clear as glass, so it is easy to see its bones, intestines, reproductive organs and eyes. They are constantly active and need to be kept in large group. They are distributed in South Asia, with maximum length of 10 cm.

2-Zebra Danio;

Danios are tiny, highly active freshwater fish, they have slender bodies with a silvery sheen. It is popular aquarium fish and several ornamentals have been bred. They are lives in India, with a maximum length of 5 cm.

3- Molly;

They are from Central America with a maximum size of 15 cm, they are from livebearers. There are three species of Molly are available and can be kept in the same way. All Mollies benefit from slightly salty water conditions, failing which they need hard alkaline water.

4- Swordtail;

Swordtails are popular livebearers in many different colours and patterns, and even lyre-tailed, long-finned forms. Give the males plenty of swimming space to encourage the tail to develop to its full potential. Although tales are told of 14 cm Swordtails and larger, most modern Swordtail never achieve that size.

5- Guppy;

Guppies were one of the first tropical fish to be kept and bred commercially, and they are one of the most abundant fish in the world. Many aquarium strains look nothing like the smaller wild guppies, and have much brighter colours and large tails. Due to inbreeding, domestic guppy strains are not very hardy. They are from Trinidad, Barbados, Venezuela and Northern Brazil, with a maximum size of 3.5cm for males and 6.5 cm for female.

6- Platy;

Platies are great fish for beginners as they are easy to keep, easy to breed and very colourful. They are available in hundreds of different pattern and colour combinations, though inbreeding to create these varieties. They are originated in Mexico and Belize, with a maximum size of 4 cm for male and 6 cm for female.

7- Neon Tetra;

Neon Tetras are one of the world's most popular aquarium fish, and are recognisable by hobbyists and non-fishkeepers alike. Neon Tetra is with electric blue sides and bright red tail. They are from Solimoes River and South America, with a maximum size of 4cm.

8- Auratus;

Auratus are one of the most popular Malawi cichlids and often one of the first to be purchased for a new tank. But they are also one the most aggressive cichlids, as juveniles in order to keep the space. Juveniles are stunningly marked, though most become drabber as they get older. They are from Lake Malawi, East Africa, with a maximum size of 15 cm.

9- Angelfish;

Angelfish are popular the world over and although that are only three wild species, there are hundreds of aquarium colours variants; you can even get long-finned Angles. Although they may look and behave angelically when they are small, Angel behave much more cichlids when they are mature, becoming territorial and predatory towards small fish like Neon Tetras. They are lives in Amazon basin and South America, with a maximum size of 10 cm.

10- Red tail Black Shark;

Red tail black sharks are stunning fish, if somewhat territorial, and should be the only one of their kind added to an aquarium. They also like to chase bottom-dwelling rival's fish that are similar in shape or colour to them, so choose tank mates and only keep one red tail black shark per tank as they will fight with their own kind. Provide a large, well decorated tank in order to calm its territorial tendencies. They are lives in Thailand and maximum size is 12 cm.