



Fish leaflet



Cyprinid

Barbs, danios and rasboras are popular, easygoing and strong fish that adapt well. Because they are active fish, there is always something to see in the aquarium. Keep in mind that the larger and the very active species need a lot of space and that not every species is easy to combine with other species.

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General

The fish in the groups barbels, danios and rasboras are freshwater fish that fall under the carp-like fish. These three groups are closely related and correspond in the way they can be kept. Characteristic of cyprinids are the bearded threads next to the mouth, although not every species has these and they are not equally visible in every species. These beard filaments give the barbels owe their name: barba is Latin for beard. They are tactile organs and are, among other things used to search for food. They do this on the bottom, during which they can slightly protruding.

Variants

These three groups include a large number of species. Aquarium fish from these groups grow about 1 to 35 centimeters long, but the most commonly kept species remain around four to six centimeters long. Among the rasboras there are very small species: the dwarf or microrasboras from one to two centimeters long. There are also differences in temperament. Among the barbels there are smaller, quiet species, but also very active species that shoot through the aquarium and bite at the fins of other fish. Well-known species that fall into these three groups are the sumatran (*Puntius tetrazona*), the fire-tailed labeo (*Epalzeorhynchus bicolor*), the cherry mullet (*Puntius titteya*), the zebra danio (*Danio rerio*), the cone-spotted mullet (*Trichonostigma heteromorpha*) and Boraras maculata (a dwarf grass bora).

Nature

Barbs, danios and rasboras are active fish that usually occur in groups in the wild. The most species are found in Southeast Asia and India and some in Africa and Europe. They often live in flowing water with aquatic plants that dampen the light.

Housing

Setting up, decorating and maintaining an aquarium involves a lot. In the practical information on "the tropical freshwater aquarium" tells you how to go about it and explains the terms used. Keep barbels, danios and rasboras in your aquarium in a group of at least five to eight conspecifics so they can form a school. However, there are exceptions, such as the fire-tailed labeo, which are actually better kept alone, or with several but plenty of hiding places in the aquarium. A shoal of these fish can often be kept with other species as well. However temperament and size of the fish must be taken into account. Keep the active barbels and danios for example not together with very calm fish, especially if they have long fins. They still like to bite these. Do not keep the small dwarf grassboras with large, aggressive fish. The barbels mainly use the bottom layer of the aquarium. Rasboras swim a lot in the middle layer, and danios can be found mostly at the top of the tank. Barbs, danios and rasboras are generally strong fish that can survive in many different conditions. However, this does not mean that they will not suffer if the conditions are not ideal. However, some dwarf rasboras do have high demands on the water composition. This makes them unsuitable for a community aquarium. Make sure the aquarium is well balanced before you put in the fish. They prefer to live in a tank with lots of plants, but there should also be open spaces where they can swim freely. The bottom material should be soft, as some species like to root around in this. For most species, the ideal water temperature is between 20 and 25 degrees Celsius. The water should be neutral or slightly acidic (pH preferably between 6 and 7) and have a hardness between 5 and 8 DH. Some wild-derived Boraras species (dwarf grass boras), on the other hand, come from very acidic (pH 4.5) and very soft water (hardness close to 0 DH). Please check the exact

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values for the species of your choice at your aquarium retailer. Of course, the size of the aquarium should be appropriate to the species and number of fish. Especially with the active and large species, make sure there is enough swimming space and make sure that different fish species can avoid each other. The small dwarf grassboras can be kept in a nano aquarium kept in a nano aquarium. Cover the top of the aquarium well, these fish can jump.

Care and Handling

Daily you should take a look at the fish to see if they are healthy. Also check the water temperature and remove any food debris. Remove loose plant debris every week. Test the water regularly with test kits that you can buy in pet stores. Important are the acidity (pH), hardness and the amount of ammonium, nitrite and nitrate. At a well-functioning filter, ammonium and nitrite are not measurable. Nitrate can be easily removed from the water by fast growing plants or by good aeration, faster this is done by changing water. Change the water regularly, depending on the measured water quality. A guideline is to replace about a third of the water every two weeks. replace. With dwarf grassboras, however, this should be handled with care because of their special water requirements. Clean the mechanical part of the filter regularly by rinsing it in the old aquarium water. If necessary, clean the panes with a magnetic sweeper, a scraper or filter wads. Use attributes intended for the aquarium, such as a bucket and scoop net, only for the aquarium and not for other household activities. Always wash your hands both before and after handling the aquarium. If you are using a siphon hose, make sure that you do not get any water inside. Some fish diseases are also contagious to humans.

Feeding

Barbs, danios and rasboras are omnivores by nature. They are therefore fed both plant and animal matter. You can give them dry food or frozen food, but it is good to also give them occasional occasionally give them live food as well. Tubifex, fruit flies, earthworm, water fleas, brine shrimp and shrimp are among the options. Cooked vegetables or algae tablets also appeal to many many species. The very small dwarf grass bora species need special, very fine food. Feed as much as the fish can finish in a minute. Feed leftovers should be removed because they pollute the water.

Reproduction

The difference between males and females is not very noticeable in these species. Males are in a number of species somewhat smaller and slimmer, females have a somewhat rounder belly. Males are generally more colorful than the females, especially during the breeding season. Barbs lay their eggs among the plants or on the bottom of the aquarium. After laying the eggs, no brood care takes place. It is best to keep the eggs separate from the fish, as they are often eaten. In any case, provide plenty of plants that can serve as shelter. When the eggs hatch, the animals are about 3 millimeters long. They are often many young per time, which grow very fast. You can feed these young fish with very fine live food, such as young brine shrimp, infusions or finely ground dry food.

Disease and Disorders

To keep your fish healthy, it is very important to ensure good water quality and proper nutrition. Stress can be prevented by leaving the fish alone as much as possible and a fixed daily pattern. Do not put species together that harass each other. Signs of health problems are dull or damaged skin, pinched fins, an abnormal body shape body shape or an abnormal way of swimming (for example, rocking or crooked). Barbs, danios and rasboras are generally strong fish. However, they are susceptible to

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the parasitic skin diseases white spot and velvet disease. The fish can additionally contract bacterial infections, such as fish TB or infections with *Aeromonas*, for example. The practical information on "Diseases and disorders in freshwater fish" you can read more about fish diseases. Often fish can recover through prompt treatment. Pet and aquarium shops aquarium store for general advice on diseases and possible treatments. treatment methods. You will also find some remedies to treat diseases. Make sure that continue treatment long enough so that all pathogens are killed.

Required Experience

Many species from these groups are suitable for beginning aquarists; no specific experience is needed. Do keep in mind their temperament when making combinations with other fish species. The dwarf grass boras are less suitable for the beginning aquarist because they have higher demands on the water composition and their food. Be sure to inform yourself well in advance about setting up an aquarium.

Purchase and Costs

Barbs can be purchased at aquarium specialty stores. When buying fish, make sure they come from clean tanks with healthy animals. Choose the most active fish. Make sure that the fish have nice clean skin and are not skinny. Gradually allow the animals to get used to the new water conditions, even better to put new fish in a quarantine tank. place. Barbs, danios and rasboras are generally not expensive, they cost from a few euros. The start-up costs of an aquarium depend on the size of the aquarium and the desired technology. Recurring costs are, for example, those for the purchase of food, test kits and costs for heating and lighting. In addition, you may incur additional expenses if diseases develop in the aquarium.