



**English name:** Bee Shrimp

**Scientific name:** *Caridina cantonensis* sp "Bee"

**Origin:** southern China

**Size male/female:** 1 in / 1.2 in

**Water temperature:** 64 - 78 °F

**Water Parameters:** pH 6.5 - 7.5

**Breeding Rate:** high

**Behaviour:** non-aggressive

**Difficulty:** medium

### Overview

The Bee Shrimp is sometimes called the Black Bee or Crystal Black Shrimp. Unfortunately this species does not get as much publicity as its red coloured cousin.

### Background

The Bee Shrimp is directly related to the Crystal Red Shrimp. In fact the Crystal Red Shrimp is the red colour mutation of the Bee Shrimp and is why it is sometimes called the Red Bee Shrimp. A Japanese breeder, Mr. Hisayasu Suzuki, discovered a Bee Shrimp with red stripes instead of black stripes.

### Water Parameters

The Bee Shrimp prefers soft acidic water. Clean water is also a must as with all shrimp in the hobby. However, like the Crystal Red Shrimp, the Bee Shrimp may also be the most vulnerable shrimp when housed in dirty water. Water changes are a must for this species. Temperature should be lower than 28 and the pH should range from 6.2 to 6.8, GH should be between 4-6 and KH should be between 1-2. It is very important that the Bee Shrimp be housed in specific conditions. Extremes in either water parameters mentioned should be avoided. It cannot be stressed enough how delicate this shrimp is. As you approach higher grades of this species, water parameters become even more important.

### Breeding

Breeding the Bee Shrimp is virtually identical to the breeding of the Crystal Red Shrimp. Breeding is not as difficult as some may think, however this is definitely not a beginner shrimp. You must have experience keeping shrimp before attempting to keep and breed the Bee Shrimp. Water parameters and feeding are extremely

important when it comes to this class of shrimp. Over breeding to achieve high grades also causes susceptibility to diseases as well causing the shrimp to have a fragile nature.

### **Grading**

Grading with this species is exactly the same as the grading with the red variation. Please see the Crystal Shrimp Grading Guide for information on grading the Bee Shrimp. All standards apply with this species as far as the grading is concerned. Acquiring a high grade Bee Shrimp can cost upwards of \$200 for a single shrimp and even more has been reported.

### **Acquisition**

The price of the Bee Shrimp is higher than its red cousin, simply due to its lower level availability. This is a cool looking shrimp and I suspect that one day this species will become more popular as the Crystal Red Shrimp phase wears off. One cool thing could perhaps be a black and red Bee Shrimp, a totally new colour variation. Maybe one day that will occur just as the red variation randomly occurred in 1996.

