



English name: Black Tiger Shrimp or Black Diamond Shrimp

Scientific name: Caridina cf. cantonensis "BlackTiger"

Origin: selectively bred

Size male/female: 1 inch / 1.2 in

Water temperature: 24 - 26 °C

Water Parameters: pH 7.2 - 7.4

Breeding Rate: medium

Behaviour: non-aggressive

Difficulty: hard

Overview

One of the newest shrimp to hit the shrimp hobby is the black tiger shrimp also known as the black diamond shrimp. This species was selectively bred from the normal tiger shrimp for broader black stripes, eventually becoming entirely black over time. It is becoming a very popular shrimp.

Origin

The black tiger shrimp is selectively bred from the normal tiger shrimp. The original tiger shrimp were bred for broader black stripes and after many generations the black stripes began to fill the entire body. This method however has its consequences such as poor genetics and vulnerability to diseases and bad water conditions. There are two different types of Black Tiger Shrimp, one with normal black eyes and ones with orange eyes. The ones with orange eyes fetch a higher price than their black eyed cousins. In Japan this species is commonly called the black diamond shrimp even though it is in fact the same as the black tiger shrimp.

Water Parameters

The black tiger shrimp prefers colder more alkaline water. Breeders typically keep the black tiger shrimp at a pH above 7.2 and temperature in the 18F – 22C range. It is reported that this species does not do well in the same water parameters as required by the crystal red shrimp. Clean water of course is a must as with all hobby shrimp.

Breeding

Black tiger shrimp are reported to be very difficult to breed and even to keep them alive. Experienced breeders have managed to breed enough of this species to sell. Their rarity fetches a very high price depending on their grade as well as eye colour. Due to inbreeding it is very important that it is given its particular water requirements. Poor genetics make this species very fragile. This shrimp is meant for experienced hobbyists.

Sexing

Sexing the black tiger shrimp can be difficult at juvenile stage. Once females reach adulthood, you can then tell the difference between males and females. Females are easy to identify as they are larger and also have a curved underbelly. The saddle of a female black tiger shrimp is virtually impossible to see due to the solid black coloration of the shrimp itself.

Grading

There are several grades of black tiger shrimp. Grades differ based on the solidity of the black coloration as well as the eye colour. The less the solid black coloration the lower the grade therefore, the more solid black coloration the higher the grade. Orange eyes are preferred over black eyes and deem a higher price. Exactly how the orange eyes were introduced to the black tiger shrimp is unknown however it may have occurred by breeding an orange eyed tiger shrimp (non-blue) with a black tiger shrimp.

Feeding

The black tiger shrimp is not too different from other algae eating shrimps. It is a scavenger and an algae eater. Feeding is best done once a day. Only feed an amount of food that the shrimp can finish within 2-3 hours maximum. It is not good to feed in excess and have food sitting in the tank for too long. Overfeeding is a known cause of death and can also cause water quality issues. Remember that shrimp are scavengers in the wild. They will eat whatever they find and are not used to a constant food source 24/7. Not feeding for one or two days is fine and will not harm this species at all.

