



Common name: Red Cherry Shrimp
Species name: Neocaridina heteropoda var. "red"
Maximum size: 1 inch
Environment: Freshwater
Origin: Taiwan
Temperament: Peaceful
Breeding: Easy

Overview:

The Red Cherry Shrimp is one of the most popular shrimp in the hobby due to the relatively easy ability to breed as well as their ability to live in many different water parameters. Most shrimp hobbyists start out with this species because of its easy requirements and to also learn about dwarf shrimp in general. Other names for this species are Cherry Shrimp, Cherry Red Shrimp and the acronym R.C.S. means simply Red Cherry Shrimp.

Background:

The Red Cherry Shrimp is a selectively bred species, meaning that the red coloration was slowly bred from the wild variety. A breeder, who is unknown, slowly bred the red trait from the wild Neocaridina Heteropoda to achieve the all red coloration.

Tank Companions:

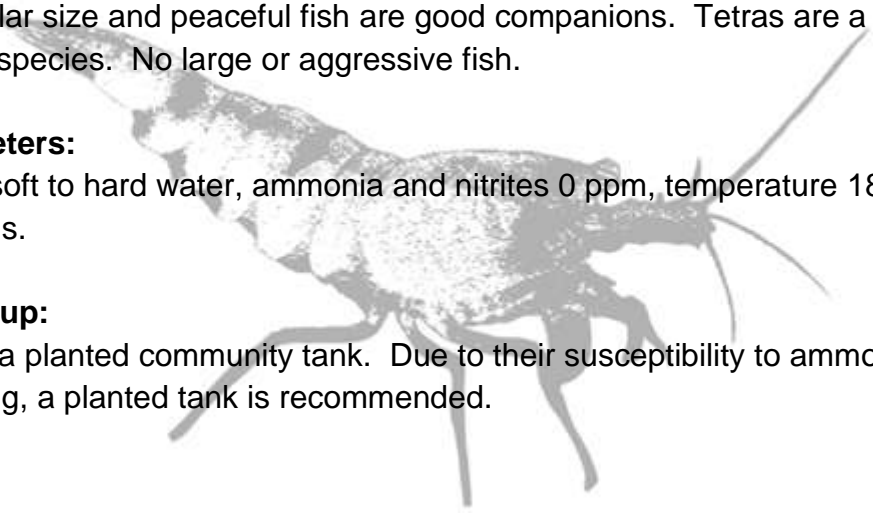
Shrimp of similar size and peaceful fish are good companions. Tetras are a great match for this species. No large or aggressive fish.

Water parameters:

pH 6.5 – 7.7, soft to hard water, ammonia and nitrites 0 ppm, temperature 18 – 28 degrees celsius.

Aquarium setup:

Best suited to a planted community tank. Due to their susceptibility to ammonia and nitrite poisoning, a planted tank is recommended.



Breeding:

Rather easily breed in the aquarium. Female can hold eggs from up to 35 days. Females will have a "saddle" which is the common name for eggs which are still in the ovaries, located behind the head. It is called a Saddle due to the close appearance to the saddle you would find on a horse. Most "saddles" are yellow in colour, however they can also be green. "Saddles" are a sign of sexual maturity as well as soon to come eggs. Shrimp need to molt to breed so it's a good sign to see skins around the aquarium.

Sexing:

Sexing the Red Cherry Shrimp is very easy. Females are easy to identify as they are larger than the males, have a much darker red coloration, and also have a curved underbelly. After keeping the Red Cherry Shrimp for a little amount of time, you will be able to sex this species without a problem.

Feeding:

Cherry shrimp are scavengers and can help combat a lot of algae types. They will feed on sinking wafers and fallen debris. One of the best algae eating shrimp available. Feeding is best done once a day. Over feeding can cause water contamination which can lead to unwell shrimp or death. Only feed enough that the shrimp can consume within 2 to 3 hours then remove uneaten food.

