



**English name:** Black King Kong Shrimp  
**Scientific Name:** *Caridina cantonensis* var. "Black King Kong"  
**Origin:** Spontaneous Mutation of cantonensis  
**Size male/female:** 0.9 inch / 1.2 in  
**PH Range:** 5.8 - 6.8  
**Temperature Range:** 22 to 24  
**Hardness Range:** 1 - 2 KH  
**Life Span:** 1 - 2 years  
**Gestation Period:** 30 days  
**Size:** 1" - 2"  
**Diet:** Omnivore  
**Breeding Rate:** Low  
**Behaviour:** non-aggressive  
**Difficulty:** Hard

### **Overview**

In May 2009 a pair of Black King Kong Shrimp were sold for US\$ 8,500 at auction. Why so high? Simply a case of supply and demand. Presently breeders of this attractive little freshwater crustacean can only breed fewer than 100 or so a month and the survival rate is less than 10%. Whilst the demand exceeds availability then the price will remain high.

The shrimp hobbyists are very keen to acquire something which is just that little bit different and outside of auctions a price of \$1000 are not unusual. The aim of course is to breed successfully, to hit on the formula for success. The normal lifespan for this small 2 centimetre shrimp is less than two years.

There is no argument that such creatures are attractive and have a special and interesting beauty. However they are not natural. They have been created by selective breeding to produce something which is rare and different.

### **Origin and Background**

There is some debate to the origin of this shrimp with some claiming it is a spontaneous mutation of the Snow White Bees while others claim that it is a cross between a (CRS)red bee/(CBS)black bee hybrid with Blue Bee.

### **Breeding**

Black King Kongs can be bred to other Black King Kongs, Wine Reds, Panda, Shadow Pandas, Blue Bolt, Mischling, CRS, CBS shrimp. They can also probably

mix with other *Caridina cantonensis* eg,(Tigers and Bees. How you breed your BKKs really should depend on your line and the breeder you are dealing with. Your breeder should be able to give you some indication of the survival rates of the particular shrimp you are buying. BKK x BKK survival rates can be lower than 10% but could be as high as 100% (although unlikely), and you should understand the quality of the specimen you are receiving. It may be better to have multiple tanks on shared water/filtration to make it easier and safer to separate berried females into birthing tanks. Unless you know your lines are strong enough that BKK x BKK has a high survival rate it may be beneficial to pick up some hybrids as they will have a higher survival rate.

### **Sexing**

The Black King Kong can be difficult to sex until sometime after sexual maturity is reached. It is impossible to identify a saddle on the females and even if a female is berried it can be difficult to spot the eggs at first glance. Once they are well into sexual maturity size and body shape can be used to identify the sexes as females will be a little larger and have a rounder undercarriage as is the case with most *Caridina cantonensis* species.

### **Water Parameters**

There are many claims to successful breeding in a variety of water parameters. Generally most people do not recommend keeping them in smaller tanks, at least 60ltrs is often recommended, and the reason for this is the more volume of water the easier it is to maintain constant water parameters. Whatever your water parameters are make sure they remain constant, larger amounts of water are easier to maintain at a constant value and natural changes tend to occur less rapidly in larger bodies of water. Excellent filtration is a must: sponge filters, aeration, Canister filters, ect. Usually more than one is used sometimes all are recommended, no matter how you achieve it, your water should be very clean, almost drinkable clean.

### **Feeding**

They tend to be picky eaters, but generally it is accepted that blanched spinach and high grade vegetarian shrimp feed is sufficient. A varied diet is a healthy diet. There are also some reports of the benefits of feeding freeze dried copepods as a dietary supplement because the high amounts of calcium and protein and the ease of digestion, this is particularly recommended for the very young. Feeding as with all shrimp should be done in moderation.

