



**English name:** Blue Tiger Shrimp

**Scientific Name:** Caridina cf. cantonensis "Blue Tiger"

**Origin:** Selectively bred colour mutation of normal Tiger Shrimp

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

**Water temperature:** 21 - 26 Celsius

**Water Parameters:** pH 6.5 - 7.5

**Breeding Rate:** medium

**Behaviour:** non-aggressive

**Difficulty:** medium

### **Overview**

The blue tiger shrimp is an awesome looking shrimp. Unlike the normal tiger shrimp, the blue tiger shrimp has blue throughout its body and has orange eyes as well. The contrast of the orange eyes to the blue body is superb. You would have to see this in person to really appreciate its beauty. This is a great species to keep but is on the more expensive side due to its rarity. Care is just like the regular tiger shrimp and maybe just a little more attention is needed due to the high price.

### **Origin and Background**

As far as the history of the blue tiger shrimp, we are unsure how the blue coloration was developed and I also do not know how the orange eyes came about. I have heard that the blue coloration is found in the wild and perhaps the orange eyes are also a mutation found in the wild as well.

### **Breeding**

The blue tiger shrimp does not breed true. Some offspring will have the blue coloration but some will not. The non-blue offspring are simply called orange eyed tiger shrimp or sometimes called blonde tiger shrimp. The exact ratio of blue: non-blue offspring is unknown. It is said that breeding both blue species will produce a higher ratio of blue offspring. Breeding this species can be difficult however. Since it is constantly inbred to achieve and keep the blue coloration, the blue tiger shrimp can be susceptible to disease and become vulnerable in poor water conditions.

### **Sexing**

Sexing the blue tiger shrimp is very easy. Females are easy to identify as they are larger and also have a curved underbelly. As far as the differing of the intensity of the blue coloration we believe that the females will be somewhat darker than the males. However, we do not believe that the difference in coloration is enough to truly sex this species. Instead look for size difference and more importantly the shape of the underbelly. The saddle of a female blue tiger shrimp may be virtually impossible to see due to the dark blue coloration.

## **Water Parameters**

The water parameters for the blue tiger shrimp are typically the same as other tiger shrimp species. A pH around 6.5 - 7.5 is suitable and this species also prefers soft water. Clean water is also a must as with all other shrimp. Due to the blue tiger shrimps lack of genetic diversity, the shrimp can be more vulnerable to poor water conditions than other shrimp in the hobby.

## **Feeding**

Feeding the blue tiger shrimp is also easy but due to the delicate and expensive nature of this species some breeders feed specialized foods. They eat anything from blanched spinach, zucchini and algae wafers. Shrimp 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 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.

## **Coloration & Grading**

There are several grades of blue tiger shrimp that differ as far as the intensity and/or darkness of the blue coloration. The different grades vary from light blue tiger shrimp to dark blue tiger shrimp. In our opinion it is a matter of preference to the intensity of the blue coloration you prefer. Dark blue tiger shrimp are more expensive however some hobbyists prefer the lighter blue coloration over darker blue. Make sure that if you plan to purchase blue tiger shrimp you have pictures sent and inspect them to determine the intensity of the blue.

