

## Common Freshwater Aquarium Fishes

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### **Introduction:-**

Next to birds, fishes are perhaps the most colorful among animal. They are graceful in their shape, body form & movement. It is believed that it is the Chinese who first conceived the idea of growing them in & around the homes, just like plants & flowers to add beauty & charm. Thus, Varieties of goldfishes which are popular among aquarium lovers were bred by them Form ordinary carp like fishes. Gold fishes are nothing but varieties of the genus carassius, a fresh water group of fishes related to the carps keeping of home aquaria has become a hobby which appeals to young & old equally & has opened up a flourishing business in all big cities of U.K. there are also societies of Aquarists who meet not only to exchange ideas, but also near fishes, very much philatelists.

### **Methodology:-**

The paper examines fresh water aquarium fishes in India. The paper based on secondary data which is published by government research institutes, journals, books etc

### **Result:-**

Various freshwater aquarium fishes. Some commonly used freshwater aquarium fishes are described below

#### **I) Poecilia Reticulata (Guppy)**

This is one of the best known fish species. It is peaceful but hardy it is live bearer. i.e. does not lay eggs. Instead, the females give birth to fully formed fry every four or five weeks.

#### **Geographical Distribution:-**

It has been introduced into other countries such as India, USA & Africa to control the larvae of mosquitoes

**Habitat:** - Ditches, Streams & river tributaries

**Food preference:** Wide range of prepared manufactured & live food.

**Size:** - Male up to 3cm & female up to 6cm

#### **Water requirement:-**

It requires well aerated clean, slightly alkaline, soft to slightly hard water at 21<sup>0</sup> – 26c<sup>0</sup>(70<sup>0</sup>-79<sup>0</sup>F) It can tolerate a wide range of water & temperature conditions.

#### **II) carassius auratus (Goldfish)**

The goldfish is the most popular of all the fish species & it is a carnivorous

#### **Geographical distribution:-**

Goldfish is originally from china but now distributed world wide

**Habitat:** - Wide variety moving & still water

**Food Preference:** - It is a carnivorous fish & feeds upon a wide range of foods

**Size:** Adult fish can measure between 15 – 35 cm

**Water requirements:** Critical however good Filtration should be used to maintain clean conditions water temperature should be optimum ie 20-24<sup>0</sup>c

#### **III) Cyprinous Carpio (Koi)**

Koi (common carp) originated in Japan. There are three varieties of this fish.

1. Cyprinous, Carpio Var, Specularis (Mirror Carp)

2. c. carpio var. communis (scale carp)

3. c. carpio var. nudus (Leather Carp) all these varieties are fast growing omnivorous species & Possess numerous colour & scale these are food fishes also.

**Geographical distribution:-**

Originated in Japan but is now widely distributed.

**Habitat:** - Wide range of still or slow moving bodies of water

Food Preference: Very wide range of food accepted should include an adequate vegetable component.

**Size:** - up to approximately 50 cm

**Water requirement:** Not critical but good filtration. High temperatures, Should be avoided.

**III) Pterophyllum Scalare (Angelfish)**

This is probably the best known of all the cichlids several varieties are available. They are often sold when quite small.

**Geographical Distribution:** - The amazon basin but now widely distributed.

**Habitat:** - Slow moving & still bodies of water

**Food Preferences:** - It feeds upon a variety of prepared, manufactured & live foods

**Size:** -Up to around 10 cm in length & 14 cm in height

**Water requirements:-**

Although water conditions are not critical fairly soft, neutral water having 22<sup>0</sup>c-26<sup>0</sup>c temperature is found suitable

IV) *Rhodeus* sp (Bitterling)

VI) *Barbus tetrazena* (Tiger barb)

VII) *Colisa lalia* (Dwarf Gourami)

VIII) *Brachydanio rerio* (Zebrafish)

IX) *Colisa chuna* (Dwarf gourami)

X) *Betta splendens* (Siamese fighting fish)

XI) *Noema cheilus aureus* (Baluaru)

**Conclusion:**

Choice of aquarium fishes depends upon the fancy of the fish lover. A beginners should choose some hardy varieties of fishes to start with like *Gambusia*, *Botia*, *colisa*, or *Nemacheilus* later he may dabble with fancy & more delicate varieties like gold fishes, bettas, angel fishes, etc generally, small sized fishes are preferred for aquarium. Important aquarium fishes (exotic & indigenous) one listed below

Eleven (11 aquarium fishes) are shown in result other aquarium fishes are:

1. *Botia dareo*
2. *Botia lohacata*
3. *Gambusia affinis*
4. *Hemichromis bimaculatus*
5. *Lebistes reticulatus* (Guppy)
6. *Molliesia latipinna* (mollies)
7. *Macropodus opercularis*
8. *Symphysoden discus*
9. *Tilapia trichopterus*
10. *Puntius ticto*
11. *Rhodeus* spp & few other fishes

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