

AQUARIUM FISH AND THEIR MAINTENANCE

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A. AQUARIUM FISHES

A certain number of fish are maintained in aquaria in homes, hotels, work places and other public purpose spots on account of their beautiful colours, agile swimming activities and attraction. These fish are more popularly known as 'ornamental fishes'. Ornamental fish is often used as a generic term to describe aquatic animals kept in the aquarium for hobby, including fishes, invertebrates such as corals, crustaceans (e.g., crabs, hermit crabs, shrimps), mollusks (e.g., snails, clams, scallops), and also live rock. Live rock is a general term for any type of rock encrusted with, and containing within its orifices, a wide variety of marine organisms including algae and colorful sessile invertebrates.

- ❖ Ornamental fishes form an important commercial component of aquaculture, providing for aesthetic requirements and upkeep of the environment.
- ❖ Aquarium keeping of fish began in 1805 with the first public display Aquarium opened at Regent's park in England in 1853.
- ❖ Development of aquaria picked up further and by 1928, there were 45 display aquaria open to public, with over 500 aquaria presently functioning worldwide.
- ❖ Market for ornamental fish in the world-
 1. For Public aquaria-less than 1%.
 2. 99% of the Market for Ornamental Fish is still confined to hobbyist.

Today, modern material, equipment and air transport have made it possible for hobbyists as well as display aquaria personnels to obtain a wide variety of fishes from all over the world and to maintain them with a high degree of success.

In India, the hobby of ornamental fish keeping is nearly 70 years old. It began with the British period and is continuing till date.

As the days passed, ornamental fish keeping became an interesting activity for many, in the process, generating income for the unemployed youth and farmers.

The concept of entrepreneurship development through ornamental fish farming is gaining popularity day-by-day.

Types of Aquarium Fishes

1. Egg-layers(Oviparous):

Important groups of egg-layer are following-

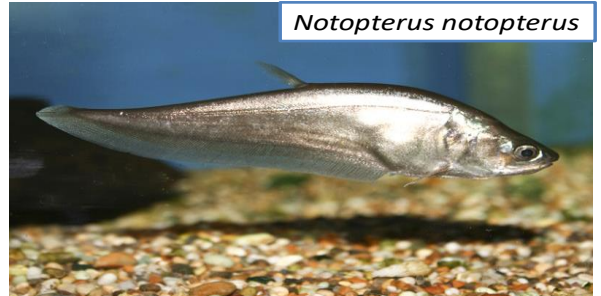
- ❖ Barbs
- ❖ Rasboras
- ❖ Goldfish
- ❖ Tetras
- ❖ Danios
- ❖ Bettas
- ❖ Gouramis

2. Live-bearers(Ovo-

viviparous): Major groups of live-bearers ornamental fishes are-

- ❖ Guppies
- ❖ Platies
- ❖ Mollies
- ❖ swordtails

- Barbs are one of the most important groups among egg layers and most species of the group have originated from India, viz., rosy barb (*Puntius conchonius*), striped barb (*P. fasciatus*) and Aruli barb (*P. arulius*).
- The major species of danios includes giant danio and pearl danio. Zebra danio is a typical example of ornamental fish species of indian origin
- Goldfish is most commonly available fish, preferred by most of the hobbyists because of its attractive coloration



➤ **A list of India's native ornamental fishes**

<u>Common name</u>	<u>Scientific name</u>	<u>distribution</u>
Zebra danio	<i>Brachydanio rerio</i>	All Over India except north hill.
Golden banded loach	<i>Botia dario</i>	Assam, Bengal, Bihar, Orissa
Dwarf gourami	<i>Colisa lalia</i>	Throughout India.
Indian rosy barb	<i>Puntius conchonius</i>	Estern india
Jerdon carp	<i>Puntius jerdoni</i>	Western Ghats
Melon barb	<i>Puntius faciatus faciatus</i>	Western Ghats
Neon hatchet	<i>Chela cachius</i>	Assam
Black knife fish	<i>Notopterus notopterus</i>	All over India
Red gilled violet shark	<i>Labeo boga</i>	Ganga river
Pencil gold labeo	<i>Labeo nandina</i>	Assam

<u>Common name</u>	<u>Scientific name</u>	<u>istribution</u>
Tiger loach	<i>Botia birdi</i>	Punjab, North India
Twin banded loach	<i>Botia rostrata</i>	Assam
Striped loach	<i>Botia striata</i>	Tunga River, Kolhapur, Maharashtra
Butterfly catfish	<i>Hara hara</i>	Northern India
Elongated mouth catfish	<i>Hara horai</i>	North Bengal
Dwarf anchor catfish	<i>Hara jerdoni</i>	North-eastern India
Leaf fish	<i>Nandus nandus</i>	Throughout India
Giant glass fish	<i>Parambassis thomassi</i>	Western Ghats
Peacock eel	<i>Macrogathus aral</i>	Eastern India
Red tailed eel	<i>Macrogathus jacobbi</i>	North Bengal, Orissa
Clown catfish	<i>Gagata cenia</i>	North And Northeast India

<u>Common name</u>	<u>Scientific name</u>	<u>distribution</u>
Sidewinder loach	<i>Aborichthys bijulensis</i>	Garo hills, Meghalaya
Puma loach	<i>Acanthocobitis rubidipinnis</i>	Upper Assam
Leopard loach	<i>Acanthocobitis botia</i>	Northeastern India
Black line loach	<i>Nemachelius anguilla</i>	Western Ghats
Banded loach	<i>Shistura beavani</i>	North Bengal
Polka dotted loach	<i>Schistura corica</i>	North Bengal
Ring loach	<i>Shistura denisoni dayi</i>	Bihar
Panther loach	<i>Lepidocephalus gunthea</i>	Northern And Eastern India
Indian coolie loach	<i>Pangio pangia</i>	North-east Bengal, Eastern Madhya Pradesh
Sun catfish	<i>Horabagrus nigr-collaris</i>	Kerala

(Source: handbook of fisheries, ICAR, New Delhi, 2006)