

Cherry Shrimp *Neocaridina davidi* var. red

By John Moyles

Neocaridina davidi are found in lakes in Taiwan. Their natural color is greenish brown but they have been bred to have many different colors in captivity. The red variant or “cherry shrimp” is the most popular. These are small shrimp; they max out at about an inch and a half in size. They prefer cool (72°F), clean water that is neutral to slightly alkaline. They are omnivorous and can live up to 2 years if well taken care of.



Housing and Maintenance

Cherry shrimp are pretty easy to keep and care for. They do well in small planted aquariums as small as 2 gallons and a colony will thrive in a ten gallon tank. They do well in a wide variety of tank conditions and are not particularly picky about water parameters as long as the water is clean. They really enjoy plants in their tank which gives them cover from potential predators, but also provides a place for biofilm (which shrimp eat) to grow. The rich red color of cherry shrimp also looks nice contrasted on the green foliage of live plants. Speaking of color, cherry shrimp will color out nicely in tanks with dark substrates and backgrounds, in lighter colored tanks, the shrimp’s color tend to wash out.

Feeding

Cherry shrimp are easy to feed and will spend hours eating algae and biofilm from all surfaces of the tank. In addition they will eat commercially available fish food and shrimp food. Blanched vegetables such as zucchini, carrots and spinach will be appreciated as well as live blackworms and microworms.

Breeding

Males are smaller and less colorful than the females. Both sexes come into maturity at about 4 to 6 months. Females carry about 20 to 30 eggs on her swimmerets under her tail. This is commonly called being “berried”. Eggs hatch into perfect replicas of the adults in about 2-3 weeks and the females can breed again within a few days.