

# Celestial Pearl Danio

By John Moyles

The Celestial Pearl Danio, *Danio margaritatus*, is also called the galaxy rasbora. In the wild, they can be found in small well planted ponds in South East Asia. They are really colorful and have brilliant white spots on a slate blue body and bright red fins. They are tiny fish and barely reach an inch in length. They are super mellow and do well in smaller community tanks.

If you get these in a pet store, I recommend treating them for internal and external parasites right away and fattening them up with plenty of meaty live and frozen foods. They really enjoy microworms.

Breeding is easy, you can tell the males from the females by size and color. Females are larger and the males are more colorful. I separate the female from the main tank and put her in a bare-bottom 5 gallon with a spawning mop and a lot of floating plants like hornwort. I heavily feed live foods for a week. Live foods include California blackworms, microworms and daphnia. After a week, I introduce the male and continue feeding lots of live foods for 6 days. On the seventh day I do a 50% water change and use room temperature RO water for replacement water. On the seventh day, I pull the male and female out of the breeding tank. In a week or so I have babies swimming around. Babies are fed commercially available fry food and microworms.