

Amphiprion ephippium

red saddle, fire or tomato clown fish from the Indian Ocean

Amphiprion ephippium is found in the Indian Ocean. When juvenile, this fish grows only 1 1/2 inches / 3.75 cm, and has a vertical white band just behind the eye and lacks the black body patch. The white vertical band disappears as the black or saddle coloration develops. The adult fish, shown in the picture, grows to about 3 inches / 7.5 cm.

Amphiprion ephippium exhibits more of a rich orange-red color vs. a deeper red coloration found on other "tomato" clown fish. It can be more aggressive than other tomato clown fish such as the Amphiprion frenatus, Amphiprion melanopus clown fish from the Indo-Pacific.

Like other amphiprion species, it selects a host sea anemone. It will protect and feed in captivity, as it does in nature. Amphiprion ephippium is a robust and hardy aquarium pet. It eagerly accepts a wide variety of meaty foods. It is best to keep only one Amphiprion ephippium in the aquarium, since it can be aggressive towards other clown fish.

Pairing Amphiprion ephippium for breeding can be challenging. They will show aggression before and after spawning.

If viable eggs occur and develop, larval stage animals must be observed for fighting, which could result in the loss of fry.

As with all new aquarium arrivals, it should be quarantined for no less than 30 days. If signs of parasites or disease are indicated, it should be treated with copper sulfate at 0.015 ppm. for the entire quarantine time. ♦



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