



October 23, 2007

tideline aquatics Newsletter

Tideline Aquatics Store Hours

Monday – Friday 11am-7pm
Saturday 10am-6pm
Sundays 1pm-5pm

HARDY REEF CORALS FOR BEGINNERS

With all of the newcomers to the reef aquarium hobby, we are often asked about hardy coral choices for the novice. By making good choices, you will build your confidence and your knowledge eventually to a point where you will want to give more delicate corals a try. But when you are new, we suggest the following additions as they will take a little more abuse in the event that you make a minor mistake during your learning period.



Mushroom Corals (Discosoma species)

Requiring little attention, there are varieties of mushrooms that are just about indestructible. Reds, Blues, Green Stripe and Solid Green mushrooms are all excellent choices. These beautiful mushroom corals do best near the lower half of the reef aquarium in areas where the water flow is light. Mushrooms multiply quickly once they become established and can even be considered a pest to some aquarists! By placing them low in the tank, it will also control some of their spreading as they generally move

downward as they multiply. Some varieties will grow in harmony with one another while others may burn encroaching colonies of a different color variety. If you see this aggression occurring, just separate the sparring varieties to give them more room. Mushroom corals enjoy iodine and, as with any reef, this supplement should be added regularly. Even in lower light conditions, the Discosoma mushroom corals seem to thrive. There are delicate varieties of mushrooms in the trade. Many of the varieties collected from Tonga will require more care than the more common Indonesian mushrooms.



Toadstool Leather Coral (Sarcophyton species)

Toadstool leather corals are undemanding corals that enjoy medium water flow and low to medium lighting conditions. When you first introduce this coral to your aquarium, it may appear lifeless for a couple of days. If left alone, it will soon shed off a layer of skin and bloom with fuzzy polyps of either brown or green color. Though photosynthetic, these corals still enjoy the addition of phytoplankton for supplemental feeding as well as the addition of an iodine supplement. If this coral grows too large for its original placement, it is easily propagated by simply slicing off pieces using a sharp single edged razor blade. These small cuttings can be placed on small rocks to start new toadstool

leather corals. The brown and green toadstool leathers are extremely hardy. If you are a beginner, you will be drawn to the bright yellow Fiji Toadstool leather. Try to hold back on this coral until you have more experience as the yellow variety is much more delicate to keep, especially during the transfer from one tank to another.



Tree Leather Corals (*Sinularia* species)

Found in colors of bright green, brown and even pale yellow, this coral makes a beautiful addition to the reef aquarium. As with most leather corals, it is normal to see regular skin sheddings as the coral grows. We suggest placing this coral lower in the tank to give it room to grow upward. If placed on the top, it will soon be sweeping over the water surface with no room to expand. As with the other corals mentioned, *Sinularia* tree corals enjoy medium water flow and medium lighting conditions. Regular phytoplankton feedings are appreciated as well as a quality iodine supplement. Propagation of these corals is simple. Just slice off a small limb from the main colony using a sharp single edged razor blade and attach it to a small rock. Within a week, the new sprout is attached and growing into a new colony! This coral is a fast grower! There are pink and super bright yellow versions of this coral put up for sale at many stores. Avoid these completely as they are artificially colored with dye products that lead to the death of this coral in a short period of time as the dye blocks the coral from photosynthesizing thus starving the animal. Tideline Aquatics does not stock dyed corals nor do we support this practice!



Star Polyps (*Pachyclavularia* species)

This encrusting soft coral will add vivid color to any reef aquarium. If placed against the glass, we have seen this coral grow right on the walls of the tank until it covers nearly every area making an impressive background! If placed near other rocks, it can quickly cover them. We have also placed this coral around the base of leather corals. It seems to grow around the base of the coral without causing any harm. Another interesting use is to place the star polyps on a piece of branch rock. It will cover every branch looking like a neon green tree. This coral is super hardy but will succumb to hair algae so keep organic levels in your reef low to prevent this from becoming a problem. There are 3 or 4 commonly found varieties of this encrusting coral ranging from bright green polyps to pale brown with bright white centers. All of them are hardy.



Yellow Polyps (*Parazoanthus* species)

Color, Color, Color. Everyone wants to add bright color to their reefs and Yellow Polyps are fit the bill and they are extremely hardy. These polyps need to be located in an area of good water flow with medium lighting conditions. We suggest target feeding the colony a couple of times per week LIGHTLY. Simply thaw out a small portion of brine shrimp, mysis shrimp or

whole plankton. Using a pipette, gently squeeze the food choice over the polyps. They will quickly capture the food choice, wrap around it and swallow it whole. Never overfeed your reef tank!!! As the colony becomes established, the polyps will develop into elongated hair-like extensions that sway in the water flow. Never allow algae to grow around any zoanthid as they will become smothered and refuse to open leading to their demise. Other than this, these beauties are excellent additions to any reef aquarium.

Safe Parameters for your Reef Aquarium

Reef organisms require ideal water conditions with the least amount of variation. If changes must be made in a reef aquarium, it should be done gradually over several days to prevent losses. Animals like shrimp, snails and live corals will not tolerate sudden changes easily and can die within days after a stressful occurrence. When performing partial water changes on these style aquariums, one needs to pay close attention to the existing water parameters so as not to change them too quickly, especially in salinity. The corals we listed above are tough but will still require good water quality to thrive long term. Test your reef aquarium regularly to ensure your parameters remain within the ranges listed below:

pH – 8.1-8.4

Ammonia – 0

Nitrite – 0

KH – 8-12 degrees

Salinity – 1.023-1.024

Nitrate – Below 5ppm

Phosphate – Below .05ppm

Calcium – 400-450ppm

Notice that there are additional tests that are required to maintain a successful reef aquarium compared with a ‘fish-only’ type tank. Inhabitants like shrimp, crabs, live corals and encrusting coralline algae require proper calcium levels for ideal growth and health. Phosphate and nitrate levels are critical for a healthy reef aquarium. Elevated levels are not only toxic to the reef animals; they will also lead to problem algae that will destroy the beauty and health of your reef organisms. Regular additions of reef supplements like iodine, strontium, magnesium and calcium are required as well.



Blue Dolphin Sharks (Cetopsis species)

The Ultimate Predator – Cetopsis Catfish

We just received another shipment of the rarely imported Cetopsis predatory catfish sold under the common names of Blue Dolphin Shark or Blue Dolphin Whale. Though only about 4”-5” long now, these guys can grow to about 15” long in the aquarium. These fish are the ultimate predator as they swim about the Amazon River basin looking for prey. Though they can and will eat small fish, their food of choice is chunks of meat taken from the sides of larger fish. Once an opening is made in the larger fish, the Cetopsis catfish will grab hold of the meat and spin about until it burrows INSIDE the larger fish. From there, the Cetopsis catfish eats the prey from the inside out! Though the teeth are hard to see in the photo below, once the fatty tissue around the mouth is pushed back, powerful sharp teeth are revealed. This fish requires clean, well oxygenated water low in organics to survive. It will eat any meaty foods offered from small fish, shrimp, squid, mussels or a tasty chunky bite out of your Oscar! NICE!!!! This fish was featured in the BBC series Amazon Abyss which can still be found on youtube if you want to check it out!



Fish of the Week



SALTWATER BUMBLE BEE GOBY (AMBLYELEOTRIS WHEELER)

Whether you have a reef aquarium or a fish aquarium, if the other fish in your tank are peaceful, you might consider adding one or two Bumble Bee Gobies. This is one of those rock solid marine fish that accepts all types of prepared foods, is not water quality demanding, never bothers other fish and is quite inexpensive even when not on special. This is another of what is often referred to as a shrimp goby meaning that the fish will pair up with a pistol shrimp if housed together. The pistol shrimp digs a shallow pit within the aquarium that it shares with the goby. In the wild, if a predator approaches, the goby alerts the shrimp by moving its tail. The pistol shrimp, in turn, makes a load popping sound with its claw that spooks the predator fish thus allowing the goby time to dive into its hole with the shrimp. This symbiotic relationship is seen with many gobies of the Amblyeleotris species. In the aquarium, the bumble bee goby is quite happy either with or without its shrimp buddy! This is just one of the specials this week at Tideline Aquatics. Print off the coupon at: www.tidelineaquatics.net

What's New At Tideline

FEEDERS (ARRIVED ON TUESDAY):

Ghost Shrimp, Guppies, Rosy Redds, Goldfish, Live Black Worms, Crayfish and Fiddler Crabs.

FRESHWATER FISH (ARRIVED ON TUESDAY):

Large Jet Black Angelfish, Large Gold Marble Pearlscale Angelfish, Small Super Veil Zebra Lace Angelfish, Electric Green Glo-Fish,

Sunburst Orange Glo-Fish, Starfire Red Glo-Fish, Red Rummynose Tetras, Jumbo Florida Bred Cardinalfish, Awesome Gold Spotted Motoro Stingray, Ebrardt's Redfin Halfbeaks, Nice Size Bala Tricolor Sharks, Banded Kuhli Loaches, Blue Dolphin Sharks, True Siamensis Flying Fox Algae Eaters, German Gold Rams, Medium Jaguar Cichlids, Super Red Kribensis Cichlids, Red Chromides (Brackish), Roseline Denisonii Sharks, Tinfoil Barbs, Pink Kissing Gouramis, 24K Tuxedo Platies, Red Velvet Swordtails, Dalmation Mollies, Silver Arowana, Small Gold Marble Angelfish and more!!!!

German Stendker Discus Now In Stock!!!!

We have 3"-4" juveniles: Green Turquoise (Flachen), Blue Cobalts, Blue Diamonds, Pidgeon Blood Reds, Marlboro Reds and Red Scribbled. These fish have been through dewormer treatment and fluke treatment. They are already eating all types of dry and frozen foods. Want to check out photos from the hatchery in Germany: Follow the link below - www.diskuszucht-stendker.de/pages/about_us.html

LIVE AQUARIUM PLANTS (ARRIVED FRIDAY):

Pogostemon Stellata "Broad Leaf", Blyxa Auberti Grass, Anubias Nana "Petite", Nesaea Bunches, Bacopa Bunches, Ludwigia Peruensis Bunches, Potamogeton Gayi Bunches, Rotala Indica Bunches, Hygrophylia Difformis Bunches, Wideleaf Sagittaria, Red Foxtail Bunches, Cryptocoryne Wendtii "Bronze" Clumps, Dwarf Lily Plants, Dwarf Baby Teardrop Growing On Stones (SOLD OUT), Pennywort Bunches, Limnophila Hippuroides Bunches, Hygrophylia Balsamica Bunches, Aponogeton Ulvaceous Bulbs, Crinum Onion Plants, Banana Plants, Driftwood w/ Baby Teardrop Growing Throughout! The plants are quite incredible this week!

SALTWATER FISH (ARRIVED TUESDAY):

Tonga Coral Beauty Angelfish, Hawaiian Flame Angelfish, Hawaiian Potters Angelfish, Christmas Island Bartlett's Anthias, Indian Ocean Ocellaris Clownfish, Indian Ocean Bright Red Tomato Clownfish, Solomon Island True Percula Clownfish, Sumatra Gold Bar Maroon

Clownfish, Indian Ocean Neon Velvet
Damsel fish, Indian Ocean Snowflake Moray
Eels, Bali Yellow Head Moray Eel, African
Golden Head Sifter Gobies, Indian Ocean
Firefish Gobies, Indian Ocean Bumble Bee
Gobies, China Sea Yellow Clown Gobies, Indian
Ocean Green Clown Gobies, Indian Ocean
Candy Cane Gobies, Cebu Greisengeri Goby,
African Algae Blennies, Bali Rainfordi Gobies,
Indian Ocean Panther Groupers, Bali Flame
Grouper, Indian Ocean Bicolor Pseudochromis,
Indian Ocean Dwarf Lionfish, Indian Ocean
Antennata Lionfish, Indian Ocean Fuzzy Dwarf
Lionfish, African Volitan Lionfish, Bali Dogface
Pufferfish, Bali Valentini Pufferfish, Indian
Ocean Powder Brown Tangs, African Powder
Blue Tangs, Indian Ocean Sailfin Tangs, Indian
Ocean Niger Triggerfish, Indian Ocean Humu
Triggerfish, Bali Coral Hogfish, Bali Harlequin
Tuskfish, Indian Ocean Blue Sided Fairy
Wrasses, Bali Lunare Wrasses, Indian Ocean
Yellow Coris Wrasses, Bali Green Bird Wrasse,
Java Red Banded Fairy Wrasses, Sulawesi
Tricolor Fairy Wrasses, Bali Spotted Hawkfish,
Bali Foxface Rabbitfish, Ecuador Barnacle
Blennies, Hawaiian Yellow Tangs, Hawaiian
Sufflamen Triggerfish, Hawaiian Saddle Wrasse
Super Male, Red Sea Purple Tang, African
Radiant Wrasses, Bali Square Back Pink
Anthias, Bali Engineer Gobies, Indian Ocean
Purple Firefish, Bali Blue Regal Tangs, Bali
Peacock Flounders, Bali Blue Mandarin
Dragonettes, Indian Ocean Kauderni
Cardinalfish, Brazilian Royal Grammas.

SALTWATER INVERTEBRATES

(ARRIVED ON TUESDAY):

Zebra Long Tentacle Anemones, Green Long
Tentacle Anemones, Green Bubble Anemones,
Coral Banded Shrimp, Cleaner Shrimp, Purple
Reef Lobsters, Chocolate Chip Starfish, Fancy
Colored Sea Urchins, Trochus Reef Snails,
Yellow Polyp Rocks, Green Wall Hammer
Corals, Green Octopus Wall Corals, Green Torch
Corals, Cultured Euphyllia Corals (these are
awesome colored corals), Sally Lite Foot Crabs,
Red Tip Reef Hermits, Arrow Crabs, Mexican
Turbo Snails, Glove Daisy Polyp Rocks, Green
Trachyphyllia Corals, Branching Green Hammer
Corals, Blue Leg Reef Hermits, New Zebra Reef
Hermits, Cortez Cerith Snails, Nassarius Sand
Sifting Snails, Royal Sea Urchins, XL Green
Sinularia Tree Leather Corals, Yellow Leather
Corals, Symphyllia Corals, Green Zoanthid
Rocks, Green Star Polyp Rocks, Super Red
Mushroom Rocks, Super Red Encrusting
Montipora (Awesome), Short Sinularia Leather
Coral, Super Green Turbinaria Corals, Premium
Fiji Live Rock, Assorted Live Rock w/ Polyps
and Mushrooms (sold are regular live rock this
week!), Super Red Blasstomussa Corals, Super
Green Blasstomussa Corals, Tonga Fancy
Mushroom Rocks, Bright Orange Ricordea Polyp
on Rock (only 1 available!) and much more!!!!