

Southern Platy or Platy (*Xiphophorus maculatus*)

Distribution: East Mexico and Central America

Water temperature: 21-25 degrees Celsius

Max size: 3 inches

Ideal tank size: 50 litres and above

An active and inquisitive fish that should be kept in a minimum group size of 6.

They mainly occupy the middle-top levels of the tank but can be found relaxing near the bottom of the tank as well. Substrate choice is not overly important as they feed from the surface. They do chase each other around and can be nippy at times, a stocking ratio of 2:1 (female:male) can reduce this behaviour.



I have eight in my community aquarium and they have also bred a couple of times, being live-bearers they breed easily without a special setup. A few floating plants provide top cover and offer a nursery for the young who do well in a community environment.

They will eat flake, dried pellets and brineshrimp. Blanched veggies are also welcomed.