

Dwarf/Pea puffer fish (*Carinotetraodon travancoricus*)

Distribution: India

Water temperature: 25-26 degrees Celsius

Max size: 1 inch

Ideal tank size: 20 litres for one fish. 40 litres and above for groups.

The Pea Puffer is a very clever fish and will take a keen interest in activity going on outside the aquarium, often trying to catch the attention of the owner, mainly to be fed of course.



Their behaviour has often been likened to that of a puppy, begging for food and welcoming their owners. The much larger Mbu Puffers (*Tetraodon Mbu*) also enjoy belly rubs!

They may only be tiny but they can be aggressive especially when feeding. A group of 4-6 is ideal as this will reduce the aggression.

As the natural habitat in the wild is very stable, the aquarium should be set up in the same way. Keeping the water very clean is a must as is using a powerful filter that can maintain the conditions, although a slower water flow is required.



A well planted and fully established aquarium with hiding spots is required, this will also help to establish boundaries/territories within a larger group.

All puffer fish have a 'beak', like a large tooth, which they use to break open snail shells. As their beak will continually grow, snails (Ramshorn, MTS) **MUST** be provided in the diet to mill down the beak. A puffer fed only on a soft food diet will eventually starve, this is because the beak will grow through the bottom lip.

Frozen foods, bloodworm, brineshrimp and daphnia are also enjoyed.