

Sailfin Pleco (*Pterygoplichthys Gibbiceps*)

Distribution: Peru, Brazil

Water temperature: 23-30 degrees Celsius

Max size: 18 inches (occasionally bigger)

Ideal tank size: 300 litres and above, a 6ft x 2ft x 2ft tank would be the best

A very relaxed fish that spends most of the day on the substrate or on a big piece of wood. Unless a very large aquarium (7ft and above) can be provided only a single specimen should be kept. A great general community fish when small, at full size they should be housed with bigger fish in a big tank.



The amount of algae a full grown Pleco can eat is immense, this is only matched by the amount of waste that is produced! A very large and efficiently setup external filtration system should be used to process this and regular hoovering of the substrate is essential.

Plecos are often sold as a great fish to control algae, which they are, but the eventual size is rarely discussed. This leads to problems later down the line, often resulting in cramped living conditions or the need for rehousing to a much larger aquarium setup. The Bristlenose Pleco is a much better option for smaller aquariums. Algae is the staple food source for the Pleco, which should be supplemented with algae wafers if needed. They also love cucumber/courgette and other blanched veggies. Bogwood/driftwood should also be available for grazing purposes.