

Ornamental Fish from all over the world



Neocaridina heteropoda "Sushi Blue"



Neocaridina heteropoda is for sure the most popular of all dwarf shrimps; probably one must learn a new name for it, as it seems as if the name *heteropoda* is a junior synonym to the name *davidi*. But despite the name, may it be *heteropoda* or *davidi*: the dwarf shrimp scene is unthinkable without that tiny creature.



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There do exist already many different sports of *N. heteropoda*. The wild animal is unspectacular regarding colour, but aquarists have developed red, yellow, checkered or chocolate brown ones already. Currently we obtained a new crystal-blue one that is called "sushi blue" by the breeder.



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For our customers: the shrimp has code 485203 on our stocklist. Please note that we exclusively supply the wholesale trade.

Lexicon: Neocaridina: means "new Caridina"; Caridina is another genus of shrimp. heteropoda: means "with different feet". davidi: dedication name.

Text & photos: Frank Schäfer

Asterophysus batrachus



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We could import a number of still young, about 5-7 cm long specimens of this unusual catfish from Venezuela. The fish feed readily on feeder fish. Here is the story that belongs to the animals:

The Altum-Eater of the Atabapo

In the spring of 2004 Aquarium Glaser managed to import for the first time one of the bizarrest catfishes that the family – not noted for its paucity of remarkable forms – has to offer. There is as yet no common name for this fish, which appears to consist practically entirely of mouth. We are speaking of *Asterophysus batrachus*, scientifically described by Kner in 1858.

We are grateful to Roland Numrich for details of the natural lifestyle of this catfish.

While snorkelling in the Rio Atabapo during an expedition to Venezuela he spotted *Asterophysus* for the first time. According to Numrich's report this catfish lives in rock crevices, from which it emerges with considerable speed to grab its prey, before disappearing again. No wonder that collecting this catfish has proved difficult!



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But the real surprise is the species of fish on which *Asterophysus* preys: altum angels (*Pterophyllum altum*)! Anyone who has seen *Pterophyllum altum* will realise just why *Asterophysus* needs such a barn door of a mouth. The imported specimens were initially difficult to get to feed, but luckily after about 10 days they abandoned their of hunger strike without needing to be fed on altum angels! Even so, feeder fishes are essential. By now the individuals at Aquarium Glaser will even feed from the hand of their keeper, Hidenori Nakano, as he reports with not a little pride.

According to the Check List of the Freshwater fishes of South and Central America, *Asterophysus batrachus* is distributed not only in the Orinoco basin (to which the Atabapo belongs), but also in the upper Rio Negro. Maximum length is given in the scientific literature as 25 cm. These fishes are still imported in only small numbers each year.



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For our customers: the animals have code 208811 on our stocklist. Please note that we exclusively supply the wholesale trade. Available in limited numbers only!

Text & photos: Frank Schäfer



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