

# Ornamental Fish from all over the world



*Boleophthalmus boddarti*



The mudskippers (Oxudercinae) represent a subfamily on their own within the goby family (Gobiidae). One can observe all steps from "normal", aquatic species (for example in the genus *Apocryptes*) to partially land-dwelling, amphibic species (*Periophthalmus*) within the Oxudercinae. Members of the genus *Boleophthalmus* don't leave the water completely, but can be found in zones of the bank in which the water hardly covers the body.



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**Boleophthalmus** are exclusively found in the tidal zone. During the flood they hide and cover on holes in the ground, during the low tide they search for food around their burrow. They feed with the extremely broad mouth on the upper layer of the silt and filter out all edible parts. The area around the burrow is heavily defended against conspecifics.



**In the aquarium Boleophthalmus must be kept in brackish water in long term sight. Of course these fish are completely euryhalin (this means they can live in pure freshwater as well as in pure seawater); however, they are extremely sensitive against nitrite and nitrate in freshwater. Boleophthalmus can be fed problem-free with flake food which is quite equal to their natural food. The fish should be kept in a tank that imitates a bank with a shallow sand strand. It is not necessary to imitate the tide.**



We were able to import the splendid *Bolephthalmus boddarti* from India. Our specimens are 8-10 cm long and sexually mature already. Maximum length reported in literature is around 20 cm. Males can be recognized by the much long filaments of the first dorsal fin and the broader head.



For our customers: the fish have code 396403 on our stocklist. Please note that we exclusively supply the wholesale trade.

Text & photos: Frank Schäfer

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*Synodontis bastiani*



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The squeakers (*Synodontis*) are a species-rich genus of catfish from Africa. Currently 131 accepted species are known. The maximum size of these fish lies between 8 cm and 60 cm. Most species attain a maximum length of 15-20 cm in the aquarium. In their home-countries these fish are very common and heavily used as food fish. Sadly only very few species are imported on a regular basis. Squeakers are very interesting fish, for they have a complicated social structure. One should always try to keep them in groups. Spacious tanks with lots of hiding places are essential for keeping these fish. Regarding water chemistry they are undemanding. They will live happily in any type of tap water. Food is mostly composed from meat, in the wild *Synodontis* feed in insects, small fish and Aufwuchs. If a *Synodontis* is caught and held out of the water it makes a loud squeaking sound - that is the reason for the common name of the genus.



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We could import after a quite long time again *Synodontis bastiani* (*S. eburneensis* is a well-known synonym) from Nigeria. The species can be best recognized by the dark should spot. The body coloration can be plain or spotted, this differs individually. A special juvenile coloration has not been described for that specires so far. However, our smallest individuals have still two light bands on the caudal peduncle, which is a typical feature for many juvenile states of squeaker. According to the literature *S. bastiani* can attain a maximum length of 25-30 cm.



**For our customers: the fish have code 172603 on our stocklist. Please note that we exclusively supply the wholesale trade.**

**Text & photos: Frank Schäfer**

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