



TROPICAL FISH LIST WITH HISTORY

S/N	COMMON NAMES	LATIN NAMES	DESCRIPTION
1.	Elephant Longnose	<i>Gnathonemus petersii</i>	<p>Size: 10-23cm</p> <p>Shape, Colour/Markings: Unusual but attractive dark brown to soothly black body. Chin is prolonged into tapering mental appendage.</p> <p>Habitat: Live in muddy or marshy waters.</p> <p>General care: House in matured water with plenty of cover and do not disturb except when necessary.</p> <p>Temperament: Community fish, appreciate dimly lit environment with hiding places.</p> <p>Diet/Breeding: Will take dried Daphnia and plant detritus, Tubifex, Red worms and mosquito larvae are best food. Not yet breed successfully in captivity.</p>
2.	Butterfly Fish	<i>Pantodon buchholzi</i>	<p>Size: 8cm (3") ready for sale at 5cm.</p> <p>Shape: Modified pectoral wings like a butterfly.</p> <p>Habitat: Open waters along the banks of major rivers.</p> <p>General care: Can be stored in buckets without aeration.</p> <p>Temperament: Peaceful fish stays at upper part of water.</p> <p>Diet/Breeding: Accepts flakes. Breeding is very difficult.</p>
3.	Reed or Rope Fish	<i>Erpetoichthys calabaricus</i>	<p>Size: Up to 45cm (1½ ft) but 20cm size exportable.</p> <p>Shape, Colour/Markings: Round and very elongated body. Colour is uniformly grey.</p> <p>Habitat: Found only in the Niger Delta and adjoining rivers up to Lagos.</p> <p>General care: Prefers plastic basin or earthen ponds rather than concrete. Needs no aeration.</p> <p>Temperament: Peaceful, community fish.</p> <p>Diet/Breeding: Worms, Daphnia are best food. It will also take flakes. Not yet bred in captivity.</p>
4.	Dolphin	<i>Momyrus deliciosus</i>	<p>Size: Grows to large size of 1 metre (3 feet) but 13cm (5") more common.</p> <p>Shape, Colour/Markings: The back is concave between the head and the start of dorsal fin. Greyish on the sides, darker and with a blue mauve tinge on the back.</p> <p>Habitat: Murky parts of large rivers, all over Nigeria.</p> <p>General care: As for Longnose, but it needs regular water change and aeration as it easily pollutes water.</p> <p>Temperament: Peaceful, but needs plenty of swimming space.</p> <p>Diet/Breeding: Worms only. Not yet bred in captivity.</p>

5.	Lung Fish (African)	<i>Protopterus annectens</i>	<p>Size: About 20 inches, but exported at 10cm.</p> <p>Shape, Colour/Markings: Pectoral & pelvic fins are reduced to thread-like filaments.</p> <p>Habitat: Muddy beds along river banks, endures dirty conditions in nature.</p> <p>General care: Extremely hardy, but must have clean water in captivity.</p> <p>Temperament: Sluggish by nature, but nips the fins of mates of same species, can give you a nasty bite!</p> <p>Diet/Breeding: Eats fishes, small reptiles, amphibians and raw meat.</p>
6.	Knife Fish	<i>Xenomystus nigri</i>	<p>Size: Up to 20cm (8"), average size 10-12cm</p> <p>Shape, Colour/Markings: Long, compressed & tailless body. Dark grey or brown in colour.</p> <p>Habitat: Large streams and rivers in lower part of Nigeria.</p> <p>General care: Nocturnal fish dislike well-lit ponds. Needs clean, slightly acidic water.</p> <p>Temperament: Can coexist with fish of its own size, cannot be trusted with smaller species.</p> <p>Diet/Breeding: Live foods preferred. Not yet bred in captivity.</p>
7.	Aba Baby	<i>Gymnarchus niloticus</i>	<p>Size: Large sizes 11/2 metre (15kg wt.) but exported as 4cm yolk sac fry 10cm juveniles and 30cm adult.</p> <p>Shape, Colour/Markings: Long, cylindrical body, tapering into a cylindrical rat-like tail. Colour is slate grey on the back & sides.</p> <p>Habitat: Common in swamps along major rivers.</p> <p>General care: Covered ponds with clean water and aeration.</p> <p>Temperament: Vicious, to be kept alone.</p> <p>Diet/Breeding: Baby fish & Carnivore flakes. Not easy to breed commercially captivity.</p>
8.	Polytyrus	<i>Polypterus senegalus</i>	<p>Size: 25cm (10") exported at 12cm (5m)</p> <p>Shape, Colour: Sub-cylindrical body. Grey or olive-green.</p> <p>Habitat: Much more common along the edges of major rivers and lakes.</p> <p>General care: Easily fouls water, needs frequent water changes, no aeration needed.</p> <p>Temperament: Unpredictable habits make it unsuitable for the community.</p> <p>Diet/Breeding: Worms and occasionally, flakes. Not yet bred in captivity.</p>
9.	Short-Finned Bichir	<i>Polypterus palmas</i>	<p>Size: Maximum 28cm (1ft) exportable at 10cm (4"). 14 spines.</p> <p>Shape, Colour/Markings: Body is long and thin and protected by rhomboid scales. Colour is greenish-black with large black patches on sides always at the bottom.</p> <p>Habitat: Shallow areas of fresh water lakes and rivers.</p> <p>General care: Not fussy with water, can breathe with gills and swim bladder that serves as auxiliary</p>

			lungs. Slightly hard water, no aeration. Temperament: Nocturnal predators, aggressive to fellow members. Diet/Breeding: Fishes, Frogs, Earthworms & Larvae. Not bred in captivity.
10.	Delhazi	<i>Polypterus delhazi</i>	Size: Up to 60cm (2ft) Shape, Colour/Markings: Similar to pama but grows larger and has a black-11-13 spines, and has black-like bands along body length, scales are bigger. Habitat: As for pama. General care: As for pama. Temperament: As for pama. Diet/Breeding: As for pama.
11.	Puffer	<i>Tetraodon fahaka</i>	Size: Up to 16cm (6½”), marketable at 2”. Shape, Colour/Markings: Squat rounded shape, large head and body tapers to a tin tail used for steering. Habitat: Swampy tributaries of the lower Niger. General care: Hardy and long lived if properly cared for, preferably in salty water. Temperament: Not particularly good community fish because of unpredictable snapping habits, though they mix well with monos. Diet/Breeding: Prefer water snails. Breeding very difficult.
12.	Network Fish	<i>Synodontis network</i>	Size: About 7cm (2½ in) Shape, Colour/Markings: Has a very long soft ray in its dorsal fin, giving it a sail-like appearance. Body is olive dotted with white spots, all over-belly is white. Habitat: Found in open waters and swamplands of the lower Niger. General care: Undemanding, aeration not compulsory. Temperament: Community and peaceful. Diet/Breeding: Flakes with vegetable matter. Not bred in captivity.
13.	Occellifer	<i>Synodontis ocellifer</i>	Size: Up to 7cm (2½”) Shape, Colour/Markings: Body and adipose fin is covered with large spots (ocelli) which are blackish brown with a light centre. Habitat: As for the Featherfin. Temperament: Community and peaceful. Diet/Breeding: Flakes and pellets. Not bred in captivity.
14.	Nile Perch (Lates)	<i>Lates niloticus</i>	Size: Grows to enormous size 2metre (80kg common). Export sizes are about 10cm. Shape, Colour/Markings: Characteristic feature is the first dorsal fin which has 7 to 8 strong spines. Habitat: Large rivers. General care: Clean water and aeration. Temperament: Keep only with that of its kind. Diet/Breeding: Small fishes and flakes. Not bred in captivity.

15.	Jewel Fish	<i>Hemichromis bimaculatus</i>	<p>Size: Neither dwarf nor large species. Length 10cm (4") sells at 2".</p> <p>Colour/Markings: Extremely colourful especially when in courtship.</p> <p>Habitat: Almost all rivers around the country.</p> <p>General care: Fairly hardy and adapts well as laboratory animal.</p> <p>Temperament: Peaceful if kept on their own.</p> <p>Diet: Worms and Fishes // Breeding unusual female is more brightly coloured. Used for school study.</p>
16.	Mudskipper	<i>Periophthalmus koulteuri</i>	<p>Size: Up to 12cm (5") but exportable at 5cm (2")</p> <p>Shape, Colour/Markings: Amusing oddity-eyes are large supported on short stalks on the head.</p> <p>Habitat: Mangrove and swampy salt flats in riverine areas.</p> <p>General care: Provide shallow water, with a sandy bed and warm moisture.</p> <p>Temperament: Cannot be trusted with fishes.</p> <p>Diet/Breeding: Insects, snails. Not yet bred in captivity.</p>
17.	Glass Catfish	<i>Kryptopterus bicirrhis</i>	<p>Size: Up to 4"</p> <p>Shape, Colour/Markings: Compressed & Slender body. Transparent as polished glass.</p> <p>Habitat: Clear streams & rivers in Western parts of Nigeria.</p> <p>General care: Keep in well-aerated water.</p> <p>Temperament: Peaceful, Hardy & shy species. Peculiar ability to remain in one place and undulate only its fins.</p> <p>Diet/Breeding: Fair eater, preferring Daphnia & Tubifex. Feeds at middle of aquarium only. Do not breed in captivity.</p>
18.	Congo Barb, Clipper Barb	<i>Barbus callipterus</i>	<p>Size: 8cm (3") marketable at 5cm (2")</p> <p>Shape, Colour/Markings: Shark-like shape. Dorsal fin has black spot varying in size.</p> <p>Habitat: Niger river, Lagos up to Cameroon.</p> <p>General care: Not fussy about water, but needs aeration.</p> <p>Temperament: Active specie suitable for community tank.</p> <p>Diet/Breeding: Dried flakes. Breeding difficult.</p>
19.	African Leaf Fish	<i>Polycentropsis abbreviata</i>	<p>Size: 8cm (3¼)</p> <p>Shape, Colour/Markings: Body flat & leaf-shaped. Colouration is very variable.</p> <p>Habitat: Common along the major streams and river tributaries.</p> <p>General care: Prefers soft slight acid water.</p> <p>Temperament: Extraordinary predatory fish. Keep with same species.</p> <p>Diet/Breeding: Feeds on meat and Earthworms. Breeds easily using a bubble nest.</p>
20.	Longfin Tetra, Characin	<i>Alestes longipinis</i>	<p>Size: Grows to about 12cm. Exportable specimens from 5cm (2")</p> <p>Colour/Markings: Reddish eye, silver body with short sulphur-yellow stripe by the tail.</p>

			<p>Habitat: All bodies of freshwater, especially shallow sandy rivers.</p> <p>General care: Clear water with plenty of aeration.</p> <p>Temperament: Peaceful, community fish.</p> <p>Diet/Breeding: Readily takes flakes. Breeding very difficult.</p>
21.	Climbing Perch	<i>Ctenopoma kingsleyae</i>	<p>Size: Up to 29cm (8") but sells at 2"</p> <p>Shape, Colour/Markings: Compressed, oval body with tough ctenoid scales giving the surface a rough texture. Brown colour.</p> <p>Habitat: Grassy swamps and forest streams.</p> <p>General care: Can survive low oxygen and crowded conditions, but give clean water.</p> <p>Temperament: Peaceful, community fish though sometimes bullies smaller fishes.</p> <p>Diet/Breeding: Flakes. Not commonly bred in captivity.</p>
22.	African Pike	<i>Hepsetus odoe</i>	<p>Size: Grow to 30cm (1ft) but 5cm (2in) specimen acceptable.</p> <p>Shape, Colour/Markings: Large mouth like that of a Crocodile with formidable teeth, brownish body.</p> <p>Habitat: Swamps</p> <p>General care: Clean water with aeration.</p> <p>Temperament: Voracious predator. Keep only with colleagues.</p> <p>Diet: Mainly smaller fishes. Difficult to breed in captivity.</p>
23.	Arowana (Heterotis)	<i>Heterotis niloticus</i>	<p>Size: Can grow to large size 1metre (6kg weight) but export requests are small sizes 6cm (2in).</p> <p>Colour/Markings: Very large bony scales, olive-grey colour. Fries have external gills like the young of Newts.</p> <p>Habitat: In lakes, rivers with muddy deposits, very wide distribution.</p> <p>General care: Clean aerated water.</p> <p>Temperament: Can easily leap out of water, so cover ponds.</p> <p>Diet/Breeding: Vegetarian, Flakes and Pellets. Bubble nest breeder.</p>
24.	Gardener's Killi, Steel-Blue Aphyosemion, Blue Lyretail	<i>Aphyosemion gardneri</i>	<p>Size: Grows to 6cm</p> <p>Colour/Markings: There are two colour varieties: blue and yellow. They have a lyre tail; female is pale tan in colour.</p> <p>Habitat: Found in seasonal lakes and pools in Eastern Nigeria.</p> <p>General care: Soft acid water with floating plants small aeration.</p> <p>Temperament: Peaceful and community.</p> <p>Diet/Breeding: Eats Insects, Daphnia and Flakes. Can produce over 50 eggs a day for a few days.</p>
25.	African Glass Catfish	<i>Etriopiella debauwi</i>	<p>Size: 4cm (1¾")</p> <p>Shape, Colour/Markings: Body elongated and very compressed, translucent, silvery white belly with 3 well defined blue-black stripes on the sides.</p>

			<p>Habitat: Fast flowing streams in Western Nigeria and the Congo.</p> <p>General care: Keep in company of others of the same species, single specimens tend to sicken and die.</p> <p>Temperament: Active shoaling fish swims mid-water.</p> <p>Diet/Breeding: Prefer live food but will also take floating dry food. Not yet bred in captivity.</p>
26.	Electric Catfish	<i>Malapterus electricus</i>	<p>Size: Grows to 75cm (2½ ft) exportable at 8cm.</p> <p>Shape, Colour/Markings: Long, but thickset, thickhead with small eyes that glow in the dark.</p> <p>Habitat: All over Nigeria.</p> <p>General care: Its Electric discharge can kill small fishes, stun larger fishes and can make a man jump back with surprise.</p> <p>Temperament: Vicious and dangerous to other fishes especially at night.</p> <p>Diet/Breeding: Worms & Fishes. Difficult to breed.</p>
27.	Spiny Eel	<i>Mastacembelus armatus</i>	<p>Size: 30cm (1ft) marketable at 15cm (6").</p> <p>Shape, Colour/Markings: Eel shaped with extended snout containing the nostrils. Chocolate to tan colour, often with stripes.</p> <p>Habitat: Major rivers with sandy beds.</p> <p>General care: Hardy and nocturnal, so provide shades and sandy beds.</p> <p>Temperament: Safe in community tanks, active at twilight or in darkness.</p> <p>Diet/Breeding: Worms and meat. Breeding not known.</p>
28.	Goby	<i>Dormittator maculatus</i>	<p>Size: 25cm (10") marketable specimens are 5cm (2") in size.</p> <p>Colour/Markings: Colour is greyish brown with a few highlights of blue in the end fins and above the pectorals.</p> <p>Habitat: Estuaries of Lagos and the River Niger.</p> <p>General care: Needs about 20-30% sea water.</p> <p>Temperament: Quiet and sluggish fish.</p> <p>Diet/Breeding: Live feeds, dried flakes. Breeding is difficult.</p>
29.	Lampeye	<i>Aplocheilichthys macrophthalmus</i>	<p>Size: Up to 4cm (1½ in)</p> <p>Colour/markings: Prominent mark on fore head that glows in the dark.</p> <p>Habitat: Open waters edge amongst vegetation in Lagos area.</p> <p>General care: Undemanding, put floating plants for cover with aeration.</p> <p>Temperament: Peaceful and top dweller.</p> <p>Diet/Breeding: Flakes and Daphnia. Breeding not easy.</p>
30.	Moon Fish	<i>Cittharinus citharus</i>	<p>Size: Grows to 50cm but 5cm sizes are best samples.</p> <p>Shape, Colour/Markings: Uniformly rounded with bright silvery colour.</p>

			<p>Habitat: Abundant in swamps. General care: Clear, well aerated water. Temperament: Peaceful, community fish. Diet/Breeding: Insect larvae, Plants and Daphnia.</p>
31.	African Red-Eyed Tetra	<i>Arnoldichthys spilopterus</i>	<p>Size: 7cm max (6") Shape, Colour/Markings: Beautiful little, easily recognised by the large iridescent scales on the upper part of the body. Large black spot on dorsal fin. Habitat: Mouths of river Niger and Lagos coasts. General care: Timid and easily frightened when being transferred. Temperament: Peaceful when among fishes of its own size. Diet/Breeding: Live & dried fishes. Breeding not yet observed.</p>
32.	Upside Down Catfish	<i>Synodontis nigriventris</i>	<p>Size: 10cm (4") ideal specimens at 5cm Shape, Colour: Occasionally swims upside down. Habitat: Major rivers in western part of Nigeria. General care: Undemanding, aeration is beneficial. Temperament: Peaceful and community. Diet/Breeding: Algae main diet plus Tubifex worms. Not bred in captivity.</p>
33.	African Butter Fish	<i>Schilbe mystus</i>	<p>Size: Up to 35cm, exportable at 7cm. Shape, Colour/Markings: Short broad head and wide mouth. Back is black with white on belly and an overall golden sheen. Habitat: Clear water along major rivers. General care: The spines are sharp and can inflict painful wound. So handle with care. Temperament: Voracious, little predator. Diet/Breeding: Likes flakes. Difficult to breed.</p>
34.	African Clawed Frog	<i>Xenopus laevis</i>	<p>Size: 8-12-5cm (3-5") Shape, Colour/Markings: Smooth, slippery skin, greyish with clawed and webbed toes. Habitat: Lakes, swamps, ponds, slow streams rich in vegetation. General care: Keep in cover pond with little water. Temperament: Able to jump backward both above and under water. Often eats its own tadpoles. Diet/Breeding: Insects, Tubifex. Easy to breed.</p>
35.	African Rainbow Crab	<i>Cardisoma armatum</i>	<p>Size: Up to 23cm (9") exportable at 5cm (2"). Colour/Markings: Bluish to brown carapace with red to pinkish legs. Habitat: Holes along the edge of rivers, ponds and lakes. General care: Shallow water with hidden places undercut elephant grass. Temperament: Keep alone or with same species. Diet/Breeding: Leaves and grass. Not yet bred in captivity.</p>
36.	Mono	<i>Monodactylus sebae</i>	<p>Size: 20cm but 7cm (2½") specimens most common. Shape, Colour/Markings: The fish has a greater</p>

			<p>depth for its length than any other aquarium fish with 2 large black stripes running across the body.</p> <p>Habitat: Lagos estuaries and adjoining rivers in fresh and salt waters.</p> <p>General care: Less hardy, though it is trapped in salt or brackish water. It fares better when 1 gallon of sea water is added to every 5 gallons of fresh water. Each single fish needs at least 5 gallons of water regardless of size. Never use unseasoned water, but old water.</p> <p>Temperament: Peaceful species.</p> <p>Diet/Breeding: Meat, Worms, Daphnia, flakes. Breeding not known.</p>
37.	Snakehead	<i>Channa obscura</i>	<p>Size: Small size about 15cm in length large ones up to 2 metre.</p> <p>Shape, Colour/Markings: Distinctive snake-like head, brownish-olive body with large black patches.</p> <p>Habitat: Dirty and muddiest of waters.</p> <p>General care: Extremely hardy, keep tank covered, they are expert jumpers and crawlers.</p> <p>Temperament: Predatory fishes, unsuitable with other fishes.</p> <p>Diet/Breeding: Need large quantities of fish, preferably fish as large as themselves. Young fish eat tadpoles and worms. Difficult to breed.</p>
38.	Tiger Fish	<i>Hydrocynus vittatus</i>	<p>Size: Grow to 75cm (2½ ft) but exportable at 6-8cm.</p> <p>Shape, Colour/Markings: Strikingly coloured. Main body is bright silver with series of black spots running along the body. Dorsal fin is grey, pectoral and pelvic fins are yellowish red. Lower lobe of deeply forked tail fin is brilliant red.</p> <p>Habitat: Found in open waters and big lakes and rivers.</p> <p>General care: Needs plenty of aeration and clean water.</p> <p>Temperament: Vicious – so keep only with same species.</p> <p>Diet/Breeding: Small fishes. Very difficult to breed.</p>