

## **Midas Cichlid Information**



The **Midas Cichlid** is one of the most beautiful cichlids of Central America. Its outer appearance, which can vary in color immensely from one specimen to the other, as well as the huge frontal hump of the males has rendered him a very popular tank fish; there are many Midas Cichlid fans especially in North America and Asia. However, you should not underestimate this fish, which can stand up very easily! This species knows how to fight it out with its strong mouth and its brawny shape.

### **Midas Cichlid Keeping**

The **Midas Cichlid** is a rather robust fish, which does not have any problems with the pure tap water. It is possible to foster it in rather hard as well as in quite alkaline water. A tank size starting from 1,50 m \* 0,60 m \* 0,60 m is appropriate for Midas Cichlids and makes it possible to keep this species.

Adult fish require more space and – according to their character – possibilities to retreat; in addition, they **need view barriers** in order to reduce stress. You can create frontiers and ambushes with the help of plenty of radix woods or stones. The number of fish you can keep in a tank strongly depends on the size of the tank – in a 1000 liter tank, you can keep some cichlids.

A perfect socializing is possible between **other robust cichlid** species of Central America as well as other big fish or catfish. Night active predator catfish are not suitable as a tank companion, because they strongly disturb the Cichlids' sleep. Peaceful Oscars or Heros species sometimes have a positive influence on the character of the Midas Cichlid – especially when they grow up together. However, Oscars and other species unfortunately lose in controversies and can easily be injured seriously.

## **Midas Cichlid Food**

The Midas Cichlid is not very delicate regarding its various sorts of food. As it is the case in any animal's feeding, the feed range of the Midas Cichlid should be varied. In addition to **high-quality Cichlid sticks** of a pet shop, these cichlids like to feed off water and other flying insects. Water insects are to be taken out of clean waters. However, red larvae are not suitable for the *Amphilophus Citrinellus*.

As flying insects, you can **feed crickets** and small locusts, that any good terraristic or pet shop offers.

Feed containing carotene has a strong intensifying effect on the cichlids' color; this means that the yellow or orange color breed develops more strongly. This is an advantage for the outer appearance and does not have any negative consequences. Beef hearts or feed containing a lot of proteins, in contrast, affect the inner organs of the *A. Citrinellus* in a **negative way**.



## **Midas Cichlid Aggression**

The Midas Cichlid is one of the most aggressive cichlids. It was especially the yellow and orange kind of color that succeeded in usurping the best and deepest areas in a river – thanks to its strong power in specific regions of its natural habitat. Usurping the deeper areas offered them the possibility to escape the dynamite fishing – this kind of fishing that depleted the grey, less aggressive specimen of the *Amphilophus Cetrinellus*. Even some young specimen of that fish are not intimidated anymore – p.e. by the larger *Astronotus Ocellatus* (Oscar). Adult males with strong frontal humps can easily become killers of their females and other fellow fish because of their power. There are some specimen that pick out another fellow cichlid for turning their aggressions on.

A huge tank, that contains radices, stones and caves for retreating and other viewing barriers, offers the possibility to keep the aggression in check. A well chosen fish stocking of several fellow cichlids and other smaller or similar-sized fish of Central America eases the aggressive demeanor immensely. This renders these fish suitable inhabitants, who are not always violating each other.

## **Midas Cichlid Relationship**

**Amphilophus Labiatus** is the closest as well as most similar relative of the Midas Cichlid. Often, these two fish – that both come originally from Central America – are confused with each other.

Basically, the Amphilophus Labiatus differs from the Amphilophus Citrinellus because of its mouth section. Also its frontal hump reminds one more of a bump, that increases in size in male cichlids during courtship. The body form of Amphilophus Labiatus, that is also called Blood Red Devil in Asia, is long; the Citrinellus' shape, in contrast, appears more robust.

**Amphilophus Trimaculatus** – also a spectacular species from Central America – has a body shape similar to that of the Midas Cichlid. However, its design is completely different and this fish does not develop a big frontal hump. The A. Trimaculatus' character is just as rowdily as the A. Ctrinellus' and absolutely prevailing.



A. Trimaculatus, affectionately nicknamed Trimac or rainbow cichlid, has the most beautiful colors within the **Amphilophus family**. With its red eye color and the pretty black splendor spots on its temples, this cichlid was used as the basis for Flower Horn hybrids. The Trimacs can obtain a length of up to 30 – 35 cm.

**Cross breedings** with the Amphilophus Labiatus are quite common in an aquarium. These two species of Amphilophus look rather alike, but do not live in the same natural habitats.

A very popular hybrid of the Midas Cichlid is the so-called Blood Red Parrot. This hybrid has already caused a lot of dispute among tank fans – keyword: torture breed. Its outer appearance strongly reminds one of a VW beetle pasted up with a young songbird's pecker. This fish – mostly orange in color, but sometimes artificially colored – was supposedly produced by pairing an Amphilophus Citrinellus with a smaller Cichlid of Central America.

Another hybrid is the Flower Horn, which is bred mainly in Asia. These very beautiful fish are only possible because of the fact that most of Central America's cichlids are easy to cross breed. The Midas Cichlid gave the Flower Horn the Vieja Synspillum as well as the big frontal hump.

**Do you have Questions? Feel free and use the Midas Forum ([www.midas-cichlid.com](http://www.midas-cichlid.com))**