



HARD-WATER GEM

Boesemani Rainbow Fish

Melanotaenia boesemani

Stunning two-tone rainbowfish from Indonesia — males show deep electric blue heads and vivid orange-yellow rears. Peaceful, active, and dazzling in well-planted hard-water community aquariums.

CARE LEVEL

Easy

MIN TANK

30 gallons
(~115 L)

TEMPERATURE

75-82 °F (24-28 °C)

PH

7.0-8.0

GROUP

6+ recommended

OVERVIEW

The Boesemani Rainbowfish (*Melanotaenia boesemani*) is one of the hobby's most striking community fish. Mature males split into two colours along the body — a deep blue-grey front fading into vivid orange-yellow toward the tail — a contrast that intensifies with age, a good diet, and a little morning light on the tank. Active, peaceful, and long-lived, they shoal beautifully in a planted hard-water aquarium.

NATURAL HABITAT

Endemic to a handful of lakes on the Vogelkop (Bird's Head) Peninsula of West Papua, Indonesia — most famously Lake Ayamaru. The water there is hard, alkaline, and clear, over rock and submerged wood. Wild populations are now restricted, so virtually all stock in the hobby, including ours, is captive-bred.



VIEW ONLINE

Scan for the full Boesemani Rainbow Fish listing

Live price, current stock, and our Live Arrival Guarantee:

jojoaquatics.com/products/boesemani-rainbow

TANK SETUP

Give them swimming room: a 30-gallon (~115 L) or larger tank, three feet or longer, with a darker substrate, driftwood, and dense planting around the back and sides that leaves an open lane down the front. A gentle current and a tight lid suit them — they are strong, occasionally jumpy swimmers.

DIET

An enthusiastic omnivore. Feed a quality flake or small pellet as the staple, alternating with frozen and live foods — brine shrimp, daphnia, and bloodworm — to bring out the colour. Two or three small feeds a day keep them active and well-conditioned.

WATER PARAMETERS

Hard, alkaline, stable water suits them best: 75–82 °F (24–28 °C), pH 7.0–8.0, GH 9–19 dGH. They tolerate a range as long as it is consistent and well-filtered; sudden swings dull their colour faster than anything else.

TEMPERAMENT & TANKMATES

Peaceful and gregarious — keep six or more, ideally with several males so their colours compete. Excellent companions for other rainbowfish, larger tetras, rasboras, barbs, Corydoras, and peaceful gouramis. Avoid slow long-finned fish and tiny shrimp that may be outcompeted at feeding time.

BREEDING

Free-spawning egg-scatterers. Conditioned adults lay daily among fine-leaved plants or spawning mops; the eggs hang by tiny threads and hatch in 7–12 days. Fry are small and need infusoria or powdered fry food before graduating to baby brine shrimp.

HEALTH & ACCLIMATION

Hardy and disease-resistant once settled. Colour develops slowly over months — young fish in the shop look plain, then transform with maturity. Quarantine new arrivals 2–4 weeks and drip-acclimate over 45–60 minutes; stable hard water keeps them at their best.



APPROXIMATE SHIPPING SIZE

Boesemani Rainbows ship as juveniles at approximately 1.5–2 inches (4–5 cm), before full colour develops. Adult size is approximately 4–4.5 inches (10–11 cm). All orders are covered by our Live Arrival Guarantee.

TECHNICAL DATA

Family	Melanotaeniidae
Origin	Lakes of the Vogelkop Peninsula, Indonesia
Bred	Captive Bred
Care	Easy
Adult size	4–4.5 in (10–11 cm)
Min tank	30 gallons (~115 L)
Lifespan	5–8 years
Temperament	Peaceful, active
Diet	Omnivore
pH	7.0–8.0
Temperature	75–82 °F (24–28 °C)
GH	9–19 dGH
Group	6+ recommended

FROM OUR KNOWLEDGE BASE

Water chemistry essentials

- **Cycle first.** Add livestock only to a fully cycled, matured tank — ammonia and nitrite at 0, nitrate kept low with weekly water changes.
- **GH & KH.** General hardness feeds livestock; carbonate hardness buffers pH. Match the ranges in the table above rather than chasing a single number.
- **Stability over targets.** Most freshwater species adapt to a wider range than the internet suggests, as long as water is clean, stable, and well-cycled.

Drip acclimation, step by step

1. Float the sealed bag 15–20 min to match temperature.
2. Open into a clean container; start a slow drip from your tank.
3. Drip over 45–60 min until the volume roughly triples.
4. Net the fish into the tank — never pour bag water in.
5. Quarantine new arrivals 2–4 weeks before adding to a display tank.

Live Arrival Guarantee. Every order is packed with a heat or cool pack as the forecast requires and arrives healthy, or we make it right. Photograph any loss within 2 hours of delivery and email help@jojoaquatics.com.

— The JoJo Aquatics team, Key West, Florida


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SCAN TO SHOP

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PH

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GROUP

6+ recommended

KEEPING ESSENTIALS

- Keep 6 or more in a 30-gallon (~115 L) or longer tank with open swimming room and a tight lid.
- Hard, alkaline, stable water — 75–82 °F (24–28 °C), pH 7.0–8.0, GH 9–19 dGH.
- Feed varied flake and pellet plus frozen brine shrimp, daphnia, and bloodworm for full colour.
- Peaceful community fish — great with rainbowfish, larger tetras, barbs, and Corydoras.
- Colour deepens with age — juveniles look plain, then transform over several months.

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ACCLIMATION IN BRIEF

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