



CURRENTLY OUT OF STOCK

German Black Ram

Mikrogeophagus ramirezi

The German Black Ram cichlid will thrive in an aquarium with a sandy substrate and plenty of refuge such as clay pots, driftwood, and rock formations.

CARE LEVEL	MIN TANK	TEMPERATURE	PH	GROUP
Moderate-Advanced	20 gallons (~75 L)	78-85 °F (26-29 °C)	5.5-7.0	Pair or solo

OVERVIEW

The German Black Ram is a dark-bodied selectively-bred form of the dwarf cichlid *Mikrogeophagus ramirezi*, smouldering in near-black with electric blue speckling and red eyes. Like all rams it is a peaceful, intelligent, pair-bonding centerpiece — beautiful and characterful, but best kept by an aquarist who can hold warm, soft, spotless water.

NATURAL HABITAT

The wild ram comes from the warm, soft, acidic savannah waters of the Orinoco basin in Venezuela and Colombia — shallow, sun-warmed pools over sand and leaf litter. The black form is a captive line; all of our stock is bred, not wild-caught.



VIEW ONLINE

Scan for the full German Black Ram listing

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

jojoaquatics.com/products/german-black-ram

TANK SETUP

A 20-gallon (~75 L) tank with a sandy substrate, gentle filtration, and plenty of cover — clay pots, driftwood, smooth rocks, and broad-leaved plants — gives a pair the territory and spawning sites they need. Warmth and stability matter more than sheer tank size.

DIET

A micro-predator that sifts the substrate. Feed small sinking pellets and granules with frozen and live foods — bloodworm, brine shrimp, daphnia, and cyclops — in small, frequent meals. A varied diet keeps colour and condition high.

WATER PARAMETERS

Warm, soft, very clean water is essential: 78–85 °F (26–29 °C), pH 5.5–7.0, GH 2–10 dGH. Rams are sensitive to nitrate and to the instability of a new tank — add them only to a mature, fully-cycled aquarium and keep up small, frequent water changes.

TEMPERAMENT & TANKMATES

Peaceful and rather shy; pairs become mildly territorial only around a spawning site. Good companions are calm, warm-water species — small tetras, rasboras, pencilfish, Corydoras, and Otocinclus. They are a classic dither-fish partner for discus. Avoid boisterous or nippy tankmates.

BREEDING

Devoted open-substrate spawners. A bonded pair cleans a flat rock or pit and tends the eggs and fry together — among the most rewarding sights in the hobby. Spawning is triggered by warmth, soft water, and stability; pristine conditions are key to raising the fry.

HEALTH & ACCLIMATION

More demanding than the average community fish — most losses come from cold or unstable water, high nitrate, or an immature tank, not from the fish being delicate. Buy only well-coloured, alert stock, quarantine, drip-acclimate slowly, and keep the water warm and clean.



APPROXIMATE SHIPPING SIZE

German Black Rams ship as juveniles to young adults at approximately 1–1.5 inches (2.5–4 cm). Adult size is approximately 2–2.5 inches (5–6 cm). All orders are covered by our Live Arrival Guarantee.

TECHNICAL DATA

Family	Cichlidae
Origin	Orinoco basin (dark colour line)
Bred	Captive Bred
Care	Moderate-Advanced
Adult size	2–2.5 in (5–6 cm)
Min tank	20 gallons (~75 L)
Lifespan	2–4 years
Temperament	Peaceful (territorial when spawning)
Diet	Omnivore
pH	5.5–7.0
Temperature	78–85 °F (26–29 °C)
GH	2–10 dGH
Group	Pair or solo

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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CARE LEVEL

Moderate-Advanced

MIN TANK

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TEMPERATURE

78-85 °F (26-29 °C)

PH

5.5-7.0

GROUP

Pair or solo

KEEPING ESSENTIALS

- Keep a pair in a mature, fully-cycled 20-gallon (~75 L) tank with sand and plenty of cover.
- Warm, soft, spotless water — 78–85 °F (26–29 °C), pH 5.5–7.0, GH 2–10 dGH.
- Feed small sinking pellets plus frozen bloodworm, brine shrimp, and daphnia.
- Peaceful and shy — pair with small tetras, rasboras, Corydoras; a classic discus companion.
- Sensitive to nitrate and new-tank swings — stability is everything; never rush them in.

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ACCLIMATION IN BRIEF

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