

# Important Coldwater Ornamental Fishes of India



*Danio rerio*



*Barilius bendelensis*



*Channa stewartii*



*Esomus danricus*



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Maintaining an aquarium is the world's second most popular hobby which replaces the out-door leisure attracting more and more hobbyists due to stress in urban life. Coldwater ornamental fishes are one of the important components of aquaculture in the hilly states of India, which have not been exploited till to date for its potential. The majority of fishes in the coldwater region have slow growth rate which are beautiful in appearance thus can be utilized for the ornamental purposes. Characteristic features of fishes like shape, size, color and behavior also promote their aesthetic value and fetches higher price in domestic trade. Breeding and culture of ornamental fishes are considered to be vital since it can provide income generation for the poor people of the hill areas where little other options exist for employment.



*Danio aequipinnatus*



*Danio dangilla*



*Botia sp.*



*Osteobrama belangeri*

Gazing the movement of beautifully colored fishes not only provides immense health benefits to the viewer but also considered as the star product of pet market. India is blessed with rich bio-diversity in the Himalayas with regard to endemic fish resources and quite a lot of indigenous coldwater fishes (*Nemacheilus*, *Lepidocephalus* and *Garra* etc.), which are ideal as ornamental fishes and popular among the ornamental fish traders and aquarium hobbyists. Tropical fishes always attracted aquarium hobbyists but India's contribution to this field is quite negligible. Considering the immense physical resources of this region, the earning potential of this sector is very high.



*Nemacheilus sp.* (Hill stream loach)



*Chanda nama* (Glass fish)





*Badis badis*



*Lepidocephalus guntea*



*Tor putitora*



*Garra gotyla gotyla*

The introduction of beautiful colorful fishes for aquarium purposes and its breeding and culture for domestic trade have large scope and value in biodiversity conservation which needs urgent attention.

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