



African Moon Tetra (*Bathyaethiops breuseghemi*)

Order: Characiformes - Family: Characidae



Category: Tropical

Also known as: African Moon Characin, *Bathyaethiops caudomaculatus*

Overview: The African Moon Tetra (*Bathyaethiops breuseghemi*) essentially covers just *B. caudomaculatus*, but it is possible to categorize the two species together, as the similarities outweigh the differences. However, care should be taken not to buy in mixed shoals.

Description: The common name African Moon Tetra essentially covers just *B. caudomaculatus*, but it is possible to categorize the two species together, as the similarities outweigh the differences. However, care should be taken not to buy in mixed shoals.

Physical Characteristics: Breuseghemi are generally silver in colour with a black spot towards the base of the tail, red fleck just under the dorsal fin, large eyes. *Caudomaculatus* are the same but have a yellow/gold base colour rather than silver.

Color Form:

Temperament / Compatibility: Peaceful, very shy fish, one of the larger varieties of tetra. Must be housed in shoals of minimum 6 fish. Avoid housing with fin nippers.

Similar Species: Many similar African characins: *phenacogrammus* etc., large communities of such mixed species possible.

Sexing: Females deeper in belly than the males and more rounded towards the tail. For *B. caudomaculatus* the red spot under the dorsal is smaller in females.

Origin: *Bathyaethiops* is a genus of African tetras that are found in the Democratic Republic of Congo and the Republic of Congo. There are currently three species in this genus.

Diet: Omnivorous. Feed a basic diet of pellet or flake food which must be supplemented with frozen live foods with a preference for small invertebrate prey and midge larvae.

Breeding: Large shoal, equal sex split, spawning mats, ground level mosses and gravel areas, remove eggs to be raised away from parents.

Care Level: Medium

Water Conditions:

- **Water Temperature Range:** 23-25°C
- **Water pH Range:** 6.3-7.5
- **Water Hardness Range:** 5-12 dGH

Max. Size: 8cms

Purchase Size (Appr):

Aquarium Setup:

- **Minimum Tank Size:** 4ft minimum
- **Minimum Tank Volume:** 240 litres
- **Minimum Tank Size:**
- **Tank Requirements:** Heavily planted. The African river locations these fish originate from are very like mid Amazon conditions. Provide plenty of hiding places.
- **Recommendations:** Nicely embellished slow river tank with plants - fond of floating plant cover. Keep substrates dark coloured.

Common Problems: Hides in the presence of boisterous fish, wanes in too small a group. Susceptible to fungus and mouth erosion in less than adequate water conditions.

