



## Albino Cory Catfish ( *Corydoras aeneus* ) Albino

Order: Siluriformes - Family: Callichthyidae - Subfamily: Corydoradinae



**Overview:** Albino Cory Cats are also a very peaceful species that can be kept with any variety of other peaceful freshwater community fish.

**Description:** Albino Cory Cats are found throughout the tributaries and flood plains around the Amazon river and nearby areas of South America. They are normally found moving along the bottom of the river amongst the roots and plants scavaging for a variety of foods.

**Physical Characteristics:** The adult size is 6½ cm for males and a slightly larger 7 cm for females (2½ to 2¾ inches). Their average life span is 10 years. It has a yellow or pink body, white belly, and is blue-grey over its head and back. Its fins are yellow or pink and immaculate. In common with most Corydoras the dorsal, pectoral and adipose fins have an additional sharp barb and have a mild poison which causes fish which try to attack them to get stung. A brownish-orange patch is usually present on the head, just before the dorsal fin, and is its most distinctive feature when viewed from above in the stream. Their upper sides are often a greenish color, which is the reason another common name for this fish is the green corydoras.

**Sexual Dimorphism:** Like many other catfishes, females are larger than males in this species.

**Origin:** Amazon, South America

**Color Form:** Albino

**Temperament:** Peaceful

**Diet: Omnivore** - In the aquarium environment Albino Cory Cats will readily accept a variety of meaty and vegetable matter foodstuffs including: flake, freeze-dried, frozen, live foods and pellets. This species is an excellent scavenger that will work to keep the aquarium substrate clean of excess foodstuffs and some decaying plant matter.

**Breeding:** Egg layer—Reproduction occurs with the onset of the rainy season, which changes the water chemistry. Females spawn 10–20 egg-clutches with multiple males at a time, but an entire egg clutch is inseminated by sperm of a single male. Bronze cories have a unique method of insemination. When these fish reproduce, the male will present his abdomen to the female. The female will attach her mouth to the male's genital opening, creating the well-known "T-position" many Corydoras exhibit during courtship. The female will then drink the sperm. The sperm rapidly moves through her intestines and is discharged together with her eggs into a pouch formed by her pelvic fins. The female can then swim away and deposit the pouch somewhere else alone. Because the T-position is exhibited in other species than just *C. aeneus*, it is likely that they also exhibit this behavior. In the wild, eggs are laid on waterweeds. Males do not form territories or compete over females; interference between males might only happen when two males present their abdomens simultaneously. On the other hand, females do not choose between males. Mating is more or less random; therefore, male reproductive success is directly related to courtship frequency. The eggs of *C. aeneus* exhibit a unique surface pattern with small villi-like protuberances which resemble attaching-filaments of teleost eggs. These structures allow the eggs to be adhesive and stick to a specific place or to each other. The presence of these structures may be related to the turbid habitat in which this species lives

**Minimum Tank Size:** 10 - 30 Gallons

**Water Conditions:**

- Temp: 72-79° F
- pH: 5.8-7.0
- KH: 2-12

**Maximum Size:** 2"

**Care Level:** Easy

**Aquarium Type:** Community

**Aquarium Setup:** It is recommended that ample vegetation, driftwood or root structures be present in the aquarium so that the Albino Cory Cat can retreat from the bright aquarium lights when it feels the need. The Albino Cory Cat will search the aquarium substrate for most of its food, but may require supplemental feeding via sinking wafers or pellets if not enough excess food is present in the aquarium substrate. This species can be kept singularly or in groups of any size, and in the case where they are kept in large enough groups it is not uncommon for specimens to pair off and even mate within a suitably aquascaped aquarium.

