



Astronotus sp (*Astronotus orbicularis*)

Order: Perciformes - Family: Cichlidae - Subfamily: Astronotinae



Overview: There are also 2 other species belonging to the genus *Astronotus*. These are not Oscars, but they are closely related and look somewhat similar. They are also pretty rare to find in LFS's. There is some debate as to if these are two different species or one.

Description: *Astronotus orbicularis*, a lesser known relative of the Common Oscar, *Astronotus ocellatus*.

Physical Characteristics: The genus is currently *Astronotus* of 2 types: *A. ocellatus* and *A. crassipinnis*. The best known and most obliged *A. ocellatus*, popularly Pauwoogcichlide (the eyes are visible in the tail and dorsal fin) called. In their absence we have to do with the *A. crassipinnis*. These popular aquarium fish are taken in my experience are very attractive to juvenile color pattern, a white marble design on a dark background. Unfortunately, growing it into a predator fish of 30 cm. These fish are reared in different kleur-variëten, the red variety, Red Oscar, but is best known. Gender differences are not what most females will be smaller. This makes sexing the fish difficult and buying a pair to a hazardous undertaking.

Origin: South America; Rio Paraguay, Villa Maria and Caisara, near Rio Guaporé Matogrosso, Rio Negro, Rio Branco.

Color Form: Stoplight Green

Temperament: A peaceful fish that can be kept in a spacious aquarium. Het ample hiding places and have a thick layer of sand. These fish counts and love hunleefomgeving to suit their specific needs.

Diet: They are omnivorous, small fish inevitably end up as food. Pellets, flakes and frozen food is eagerly taken. They are messy eaters, you often see a portion of the food back out through the gills disappear. A good filter is essential.

Breeding: The hardest part is, how do I get a couple. Take a couple of proven or even better let herself a couple shapes from a group of juveniles that you yourself have brought. *A. crassipinnis* is an open substrate when the light bulb between brother and the parents will be the courtship after the eggs on a substrate (stone, wood) are deposited. Both parents are involved with parental care. The care of both the eggs and the fry will be held in the same manner as those we know from most American cichlids.

Minimum Tank Size:

Care Level:

Water Conditions:

Max. Size:

Aquarium Setup: The bigger the better, as described decorated with lots of hiding places and a large open swimming space interspersed with flat stones, which can serve as an outlet substrate. In nature these fish in calm waters. Coarse plants if the roots are covered with stones can any alternative large plastic plants, available from Xenos, advantage they do not die and will not be damaged by the digging behavior of these fish. Rinse the plastic plants regularly, so they stay fresh and green. A water temperature of around 25 degrees and regular water changes and a subdued lighting will these fish do well. May also lack an effective filter.

