



OSCAR

Astronotus ocellatus



Although large and predatory, Oscars are relatively undemanding and full of personality, and as such are an excellent choice for hobbyists looking for a first large cichlid to keep.



SKILL LEVEL

Moderate

Not recommend for first-time fishkeepers, but a good candidate for a first large cichlid.



DIET

Carnivore

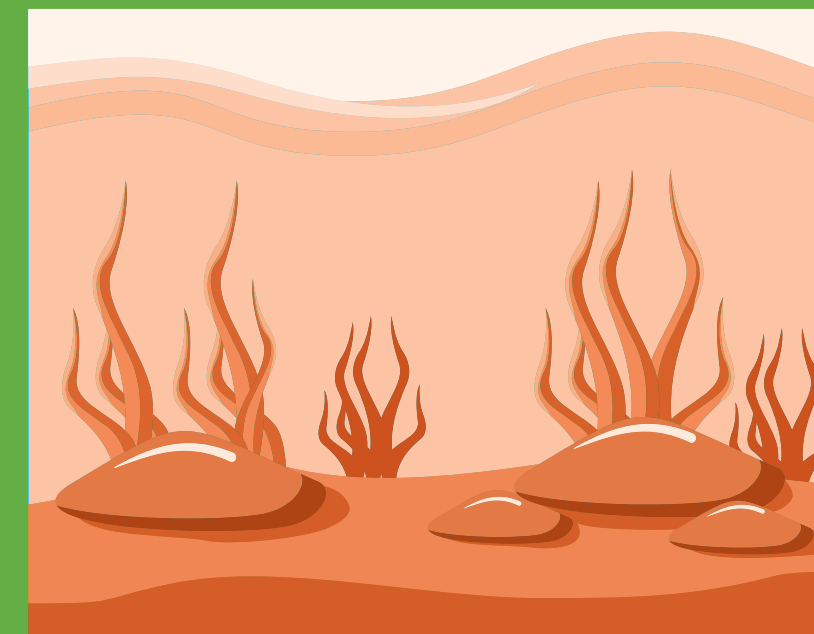
Readily devours large pellets, flakes, frozen foods such as prawns, shrimp and fish, and live foods such as earthworms. Consume some plants in the wild, but generally prefers meaty foods.



DISTRIBUTION

South America

Amazon region: Colombia, Venezuela, Bolivia, Ecuador, Peru, Brazil, French Guiana, Paraguay, Uruguay and Argentina.



MIN. AQUARIUM SIZE

75 US Gal / 300 L

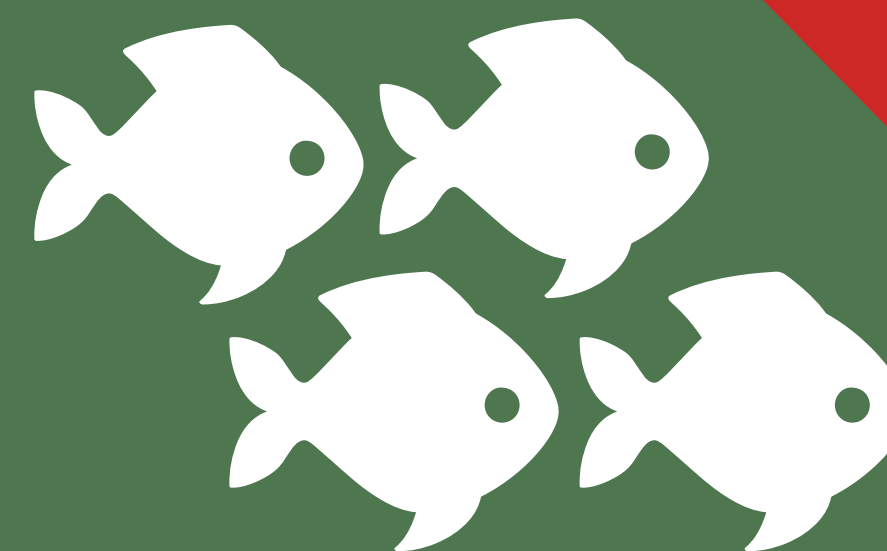
Prefers large, dimly lit aquariums sparsely decorated with large driftwood roots and branches and soft sand substrates.



BEHAVIOR

Aggressive

Not as aggressive as other large cichlids, but not a peaceful species. Highly intelligent and interactive – nicknamed the “water dog”.

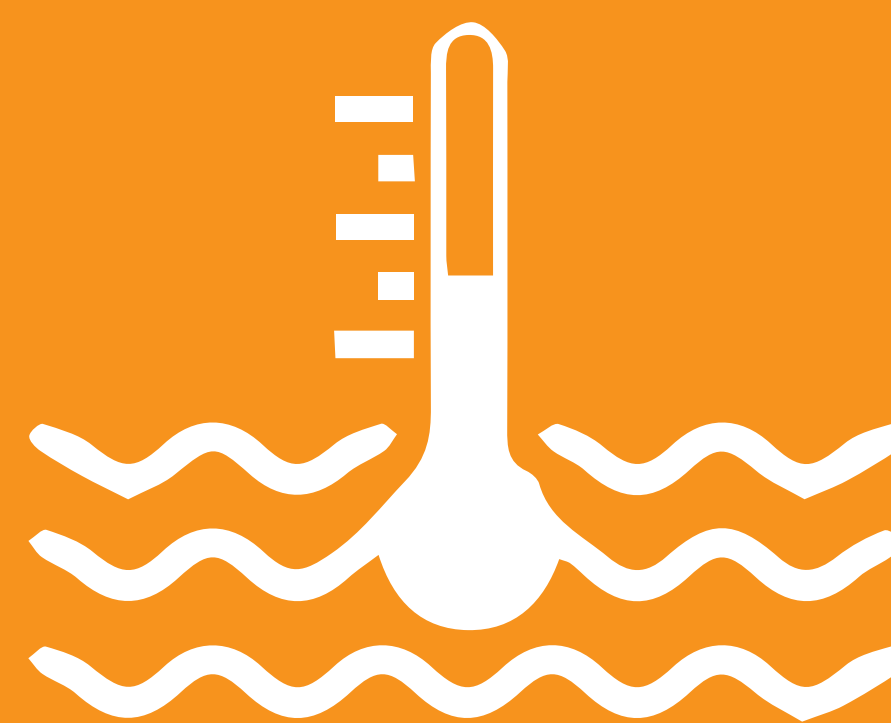


COMPATIBILITY

Compatible with other large species if aquarium is big enough. Potential tankmates include arowanas, polypterids, other large cichlids, large lorcarids, and various large characins.



MAX LENGTH
12" / 30 cm



WATER
Temp: 74-80°F / 23-27°C
pH: 6.0-7.5
Hardness: 3-18 dH

