Amphiprion omanensis

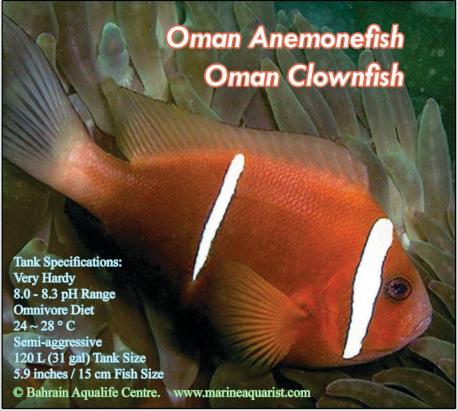
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Identification

Amphiprion omanensis, also called the Oman Clownfish or Anemonefish, is one of the largest clownfish species. The Oman is a deep bodied clownfish from the Clarkii Complex, but it has a very distinct look. These fish typically have a stout, rounded body and a forked tail. This forked tail helps them to swim faster than other anemonefish with rounded tails. But its distinctive tail fin has a strongly forked, lyre shape with filaments streaming from the ends of the tailfin's lobes. When fully grown, the Oman can be just over about 6 inches / 15 cm in length. Males grow smaller than the females. Similar to others in the Clarkii complex, the Oman Clownfish can live at least 15 years in captivity with proper aquarium care.

Juveniles are light brown though yellow ventrally with two white bars on the sides. Adults have an orange to orangebrown, or red-brown body with a head that is paler and almost tan colored. There are two vertical white bars located Amphiprion omanensis was the newest ing an anemone with an adult pair. on each side, one just behind the eye and the other on the mid-body. These bars are very narrow, which is quite distinct from other clownfish. As adults, the bar at the head area usually does not reach across the nape, nor does it extend all chin, as seen in other clownfish.

The second stripe is narrower than the first and typically does not extend into the belly area in adults. Sometimes, the mid-body bar will fade away completely or until only a slight pigment remains near the dorsal fin. The tail fin is typically white while the pelvic and anal fins also one color variation called the Brick color" on the body and on the tail fin.



Distribution / Background

clownfish to be scientifically described by Like others in the Clarkii complex, Allen and Mee in 1991. They have a limited these juvenile fish are less dependent distribution as they are only found in the Ara- on a host anemone. In nature, the sub bian Sea off the coast of Oman at the tip of adult Amphiprion omanensis will the Arabian Peninsula. Their limited dispersal may also be due to their very short larval the way down to the very bottom of the stage. The Omani Anemonefish very rarely cupied by adults. enters the aquarium trade. These fish are very hard to acquire since collection from the Oman Peninsula is very restricted. Consequently this is a very rare and expensive clownfish to come across in the aquarium trade. They are not evaluated or listed on the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species.

are always dark brown to black. There is reefs at shallower depths between 6-27 feet / 2-9 m. Adult clownfish pairs commonly host Red Oman, which has a "brick red in these anemones; Heteractis crispa, Heter- ---- Symbiosis, Breeding & Aquarium actis magnifica, and Entacmaea quadricolor. Care... continued on next page.

Juveniles can be found alone, or sharoften prefer to hide in a reef crevice instead of a host sea anemone already oc-

The Amphiprion clarkii's forked tail enables it to swim faster than other types of clownfish. This clownfish is more visually distinctive because its caudal fin has a strongly forked lyre shape with filaments streaming from the ends of the tailfin's lobes. This fin They occur in small aggregations on inshore is typically white while the pelvic and anal fins are always dark brown.