

MARINE AQUARIST® FREE

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*Peppermint
Angel*

Paracentropyge boylei

www.marineaquarist.com

This ultra rare gem was first collected by Mr. Charles J. Boyle in 1989. It is currently found off the Rorotonga and Cook Islands, in the Eastern Central Pacific Ocean, at depths of 285-330 ft.

In nature, this highly prized deep water exotic aquarium fish can be found in steep seaward reef areas. These drop off areas have ledges, caves and rubble which provide extensive types of shelter for this animal. The Peppermint angel grows in length to a maximum of 3 inches / 75 mm. The name comes from its unique coloration and striping.

In late 2013, world renowned diver, Mr. Rufus Kimora of Hawaii collected several Peppermint angels. They were shipped to Mr. Koji Wada of Aquarium Factory Blue Harbor in Osaka, Japan for conditioning and display. The majority of these were shipped to a few lucky individuals worldwide. The rarity of this fish makes it an expensive find.

Despite its limited known geographic distribution, there is no threat of extinction since this species occurs in large populations in nature. It is abundantly found at Rorotonga and believed to be stable with no substantial habitat loss. There are currently no apparent threats overall for sensible collection.

In captivity, optimal conditions for keeping this rare jewel is a dimly lit aquarium with a temperature of 59°F - 63°F / 15°C - 17°C. The Peppermint angel should be kept by itself or with others of its own species in an aquarium of around 100 gallons / 378.5 liters with decorations that mimic its natural habitat.

Once acclimated to captive display, it is possible the Peppermint angel can be kept at temperatures of up to 74°F. / 23°C. Any temperature increase from its natural environment of about 60°F / 15.5°C to the new 74°F / 23°C should be adjusted in a minimum time frame of 75 - 90 days. If there is any indication of

stress (rapid respiration, rapid swimming movements, aggression, etc.) the temperature should be slowly lowered to match more natural conditions.

In an unsubstantiated internet blog it was stated that Mr. Kimura found Peppermint angels at a similar but yet undisclosed South Pacific location with warmer water than normally observed in known or established collecting areas. These fish were said to be found and collected at 400-450 feet at a temperature of 76°F / 24.5°C with a surface water temperature of 86°F / 30°C. These Peppermint angels were apparently living in a reef habitat larger than a football field, which made this species one of the hardest they have ever had to catch.

Quite simply, not enough is known about this most exotic and highly prized marine animal to simply add them into a community aquarium. More knowledge is required for maintaining responsible aquarium keeping standards. ♦