

Common Aquarium Fish Diseases and Their Control Measures

Fish suffer ill health from a variety of reasons. The best way to prevent the disease is to maintain a healthy environment in the aquarium for all times to avoid the stress which is one of the most important factor for many fish diseases. Stress may be associated with the temperature variation, deterioration of water quality, stocking density, insufficient or excess supply of food and poor environmental conditions. To overcome this problem one should take care of these factors.

Before going to diagnosis of fish disease one should know the condition of healthy and unhealthy fish. Healthy fishes generally have clean body, erect fins, bright body colour, bright eyed, faster movement if frightened and skin and fins are in intact conditions. While unhealthy fishes may change of four factors. Common clinical symptoms shows by unhealthy fishes are irregular swimming movement, jumping of the fish, rubbing of the body against any rough substrate, surfacing on water, gasping air, refusal of feed and excessive mucus secretion etc. Abdominal swelling or cyst formation also indicates some internal disorder of fish.

Commonly occurring tropical aquarium fish disease and their control :

| Types | Symptoms | Control measures |
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| A. Parasital disease | | |
| 1. White spot disease <i>Ichthyophthirius multifiliis</i> | Tiny white nodules or spot on the body, fins and gills covered; can be seen with naked eyes. | Prolong Bath : Malachit green : 0.05- 0.10mg/l,10day Flush : Malachite green+ Formalin : 0.5ppm+100- 160 ppm for 1-3hours alternate days Prolong Bath : Methylene blue : 1- 2drops of 5%solution |
| 2. Velvet disease <i>Oodinium spp</i> | Dusty appearance of yellow or rust colour on gills and skin. | Short Bath : NaCl : 1.5-2.5% Long Bath : NaCl : 0.7-1.0% Dip:CuSo4 :500ppm for1min. |
| 3. Blue slime disease <i>Costia necatrix</i> | Slimy bluish-white appearance of the skin. | Prolong Bath : M. green :0.15mg/l Bath:Formalin:160-250mg/lt. For 1h. Short Bath : NaCl : 1.5-2.5%soln |
| 4. Trichodiniasis <i>Trichodina spp</i> | Greyish-blue veil like coating over the body surface; colour of the gills turns pale | Prolong Bath : Quinine : 1%st. soln Acriflavine : 0.001% soln. NaCl : 0.7-1.0%soln |
| 5. Whirling disease <i>Myxosoma cerebraalis</i> | Whirling movement of the fish; malformation of vertebral olumn, cranium etc. | Difficult to control, remove the sick fish. |
| 6. Neon Tetra disease Endoprotezoan parasites | Milky white patches shine through skin, especially on <i>Neon tetra</i> ; in the Neon the iridescent strip is broken up, hence common name | Long Bath : Methelene blue : 1g/100lt. 1-2 hours |

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| 7. Gyrodactylosis and Dactylogyrosis Gyrodactylus sp & Dactylogyrus sp. | Skin becomes spotted, necrotic and dark, covered with bluish grey mucus Layer in Gyrodactylus infection. Fish become restless, swim restlessly and gasp air, gills spotted in Dactylogyrus infection. | Short Bath : NaCl : 1.5 - 2.5 % soln Short Bath : Formaline : 160-250mg/lit Short Bath : Chloramine 0.5-1% soln |
| 8. Clinostomum sp and Diplostomum sp | Yellow pigmentation in muscle, distended abdomen in clinostomum infection Exophthalmos, opacity of lens and blindness In diplostomum infection | Infection occurs for snails, avoid introduction of snail into the tanks ; cure is not possible. |
| 9. Argulosis <i>Argulus sp.</i> | Fishes are restless with Erratic swimming behave our and loose appetite; ulceration at attach muscle visible with naked eye like "louse". | Dip : DDT 10 ppm for 30 seconds. S. bath : NaCl 1.5 -2.5 solution S. bath:Formalin : 5-10 ppm. |
| 10. Lernaesis <i>Lernaea sp.</i> | Fish become restless and rub against side and bottom of and tank due to irritation; visible thread like structure. | Dip : DDT 10pp for 30 sec. Short Bath : NaCl : 1.5-2.5% solution from nostril. Long Bath: KMnO4 :1g/lit. for 1 h. |
| B. Fungal diseases | | |
| 11. Cotton wool disease <i>Saprolegnia and Achyla</i> | Affected areas of the skin covered with cotton wool like deposits with grey- white patches, hyphae filamentous extended out into the water. | Long Bath : Acriflavine : stock solution 0.001% solution - 10ml of stock soln. added to tank. |
| C. Bacterial diseases | | |
| 12. Dropsy <i>A. hydrophila</i> | Accumulation of water in the body cavity or in scale pockets; scale become loose; abdomen swollen. | Long Bath: KMnO ₄ : 1g/100lt. for 1 hour. |
| 13. Fin and tail rot <i>Pseudomonas sp.</i> | Disintegration of fin and Tail by appearing a white lime on the outer margin of the fin, droppings of fin occurs tail become torn, rays become fragile. | Long Bath : Terramycin : 10-20mg/lit 2-3 hours. Oxytetracycline 3-5mg/lit. Long Bath : Sulfonamide : 100mg/lit. 3-4 h. |
| 14. Skin ulcer disease <i>Psuedomonas aeruginosa</i> | Presence of skin ulcers and hemorrhagic patchy lesions all over the body | Long Bath : Terramycin : 10-20mg/lit 2-3 hours. Oxytetracycline 3-5mg/lit. Long Bath : Sulfonamide : 100mg/lit. 3-4 h. |