

Green Babaulti Dwarf Shrimp

(*Caridina babaulti*)

INFORMATION GUIDE

Hobbyist Experience Level
Beginner

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Critters Direct
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Lifespan: 1-2 years

Size: ½" – 1.5"

Color: Neon Green & Orange

Body Type: long and cylindrical



Scientific Classification

- Kingdom: Animals
- Phylum: Arthropods
- Subphylum: Crustacean
- Class: Malacostraca
- Order: Decapoda
- Family: Atyidae
- Genus: Caridina
- Species: Babaulti

Natural Predators

- Fish
- Crustaceans

Description

Babaulti shrimp were discovered in the freshwater waterways of India around the turn of the 20th century by the French wildlife collector Guy Babault. There are several color variants within the *Caridina babaulti* species with green being among the rarest in captivity. Other *Caridina Babaulti* shrimp include the Indian Zebra, Malaya and Rainbow shrimps.

Though these are "Green" Babaulti, roughly half are born with a sun-kissed orange coloration. As eye-catching as these shrimp are, their colors stand out best against a darker substrate. Green Babaulti are extremely adaptable freshwater shrimp and can live in almost any freshwater aquarium. They enjoy heavily planted tanks and are great for algae control and waste management. They breed very quickly and their constant foraging make them interesting to watch.

Water Parameters

- pH: 6.5 – 7.8
- Temperature: 64 – 84 degrees F
- kH: 0-10
- gH: 4-14
- TDS: 80-400

Habitat/Diet/Feeding

All dwarf shrimp prefer heavily planted tanks. Plants such as Willow Moss, Java Moss, Hornwort, Baby Tears, and Green Cabomba make excellent plants for shrimp to hide and graze in. Plants also help keep the tank water clean. Babaulti require little food. Overfeeding is a common cause of death. Do not feed them more than they can eat in a 2 hours. In established tanks where there is plenty of algae and biofilm, dwarf shrimp may not need extra food at all. In addition to fish or shrimp flake foods and pellets, dwarf shrimp will also eat blanched vegetables (such as zucchini, carrots, and spinach), as well as algae wafers or pellets.

Breeding

Green Babaulti are fairly easy to breed as long as the water parameters are followed (see above). The best pH level for breeding is at the higher end of the range (7.6 – 7.8).

Females will carry between 30 – 50 eggs at a time in a cluster beneath their tails. Green Babaulti eggs tend to be smaller in size than most other types of dwarf shrimp eggs. The newborn shrimp hatch (after about 30 days) as miniature versions of the adults and are immediately able to fend for themselves. Green Babaulti fry are smaller than other dwarf shrimp fry, mature at a much slower rate, and are thus more difficult to keep alive until they grow into adulthood.

There must be adequate algae and/or biofilm in the tank for the fry to feed on. In tanks lacking algae or biofilm shrimp can be fed by crushing algae flakes before dropping them in the tank. After several months, the newborn shrimp will be sexually mature and able to breed.

WARNING: Nearly every species of fish will eat dwarf shrimp fry, so breeding is best accomplished in species-only tanks.