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## **Research Article**

# **Ornamental aquarium** organisms trade in Bangladesh

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## Abstract

The study was conducted in Dhaka, Bangladesh, and was carried out for twelve (12) months from March 2018 to February 2019 with a view to represent the trading diagram of ornamental fish in Bangladesh. During the current study 270 varieties (230 freshwater, 36 marine, and 4 brackish water) belong to 149 species (109 freshwater 73%, 36 marines 24%, and 4 brackish water 3%) of 38 families under 10 orders and 6 crossbreeds' varieties were recorded. Considering the number of species maximum 83 (55.70%) was found under the order Perciformes followed by Cypriniformes 24 (16.10%), Characiformes 18 (12.08%), Siluriformes 11 (7.38%), Osteoglossiformes 05 (3.35%), Atheriniformes 03 (2.01%), Lepisosteiformes 02 (1.34%), Polypteriformes 01 (0.6%), Myliobatiformes 01 (0.67%) and Cyprinodontiformes 01 (0.67%). The top five popular species were guppy (13.16%) followed by goldfish (12.39%), molly (8.54%), angelfish (6.23%), platy (5.93%). Most of the ornamental fish species were imported by importers from Thailand, Singapore, Indonesia, India, Malaysia, and Japan on the basis of demand. Then the imported shipment of aquarium fish and fish products was distributed among Dhaka Katabon fish shops, wholesalers, and retailers, according to their given order. After that, these were again distributed locally, to aquarium shops, breeders, ornamental fish farms all over the country. General customers and hobbyists purchase ornamental fish and aquarium products from local aquarium shops and businesses. The increasing tendency of the number of fish species was 5.96 times in the last 15 years and 3.31 times in the last 10 years. Local farms and aquarists' breeders bred 76 varieties under 23 species due to its high demand and profitability. Pricing varied on varieties, species, size, and breeding status (local or abroad), availability and ranged from BDT 40.00-80,000.00 per pair. Considering the findings, aquarium fisheries is highly profitable at present and it will be a potential sector in Bangladesh.

## Introduction

Aquarium fishes are attractive colorful fishes of various characteristics, which are kept as pets in the confined space of an aquarium or a garden pool for fun and fancy [1]. These living jewels need not always have bright colors; as sometimes their peculiar characteristics such as body color, morphology, mode of taking food, etc. may also add to their attractiveness [2].

An aquarium is an enclosed body of water containing a mixture of selected and unselected captive living aquatic organism which is essentially unstable and to obtain stability must be carefully designed and managed [3]. Aquarium keeping is amongst the most popular of hobbies with millions of enthusiasts worldwide [4]. It was projected that 150 million

ornamental fish both marine and freshwater were sold each year worldwide and the trade and its associated aquarium accessories were worth over US\$7 billion annually, in the late 1980s [5].

Since 1985 the value of international trade in exports of ornamentals has increased at an average growth rate of approximately 14 percent per year [6]. More than 100 countries are involved in the ornamental fish trade and approximately one billion fish have moved annually between the trading blocks [7].

[8]. Reported that two common ideas of pet business in ornamental fisher are-either breeding fish or starting an aquarium maintenance service. Globally ornamental fish keeping treats as an industry due to its high market demand and profitability as well as it is a hobby that has been rated as the second most popular and most popular type of pet in the industrialized country [9]. Pet industry surveys have estimated the aquarium industry worth over \$1,000 million USD [10]. Singapore is currently the main exporter of ornamentals to the world [11]. The United States (US) is the single largest importer of ornamental fish in the world [12]. More recently, it was estimated that 1,471 marine ornamental fish [13]. And more than 4,000 species of ornamental freshwater fish were traded globally each year [14]. Both freshwater and marine water fish species are popular among hobbyists. But statistically, from commercial perspective freshwater species dominate 90-96% and are produced in commercial aquaculture facilities [10,15]. Although exact figures on the value and trade of the ornamental fish industry do not exist, the value of ornamental fish and invertebrates imported into different countries worldwide is approximately \$278 million US dollars [12].

The approximate global import value of aquarium fishes is US\$ 321 million [16]. And among them, only US\$ 21-48 million is belong to the marine aquarium fish trade [17]. The business of ornamental fish is now very popular in many countries of the world and a rapidly growing venture in Bangladesh [18]. Nowadays farmers and investors are very much interested to move their business to more diversified fields such as crocodile culture, pearl culture, aquarium fish trades, etc. [19]. The study area was selected in Dhaka city because it is considered the hub of the aquarium fish trade in Bangladesh. The present study was conducted following some specific objectives- to know the types, price, popularity, and trade chain of ornamental aquarium species in Bangladesh. Knowing the ornamental organism's business chain, which will help us to know the economic potential and contribution in Bangladesh.

## **Materials and methods**

The study was conducted at Katabon aquarium fish market, Tajmahal Road, Mohammadpur, Hatipool road, and Kachukhet, Mirpur in Dhaka city for a period of twelve (12) months from March 2018 to February 2019. Frequent field visits were made during the study period to the study area for the collection of primary data. The primary data were collected by the survey which was divided into their sub-divisions such as eye observation, farm walk, and interview with the help of a questionnaire. Forty different aquarium shops and 40 respondents of aquarium shopkeepers, 20 respondents of aquarium hobbyists, and 5 respondents of aquarium fish breeders were interviewed during the survey.

Primary data, the identification of the fish species, and other aquarium organisms for creating the checklist were cross-checked with help of secondary data such as journals, books, authentic online databases, online ornamental fish shops, and other published documents. A taxonomic study was used to prepare the checklist of aquarium fish. The availability of ornamental aquarium fish was determined by counting the numbers of individual species and varieties. Numeric data were analyzed by using Microsoft Excel 2016.

## **Result and discussion**

The present study consists of 270 aquarium fish varieties under 149 species which are belong to-115 genera, excluding 6 crossbreeds varieties under 1 species.

On the other hand, previous studies recorded the number of aquarium fish species were 78 varieties under 45 species, 41 genera and 2 cross-breeds by [18]. 25 species by [20]. In Dhaka Katabon, 26 species by [21]. In Dhaka katabon, 12 species by Mohsin, et al. [22]. In Rajshahi city, 22 species by Arif, et al. [23]. At Sylhet Sadar Upazila, 29 varieties by Alam, et al. [24]. In Barisal division and 30 species by [19]. In Khulna district. The number of aquarium fish species recorded in the present study is higher than in previous studies. Except for the present study, no marine and brackish water aquarium fish and other fisheries items were recorded in the previous studies Tables 1,2, Figure 1.

During the study most popular and highly contributed species in the surveyed shops were guppy (13.16%) followed by goldfish (12.39%), molly (8.54%), tetra (6.54%), angelfish (6.23%), platy (5.93%), gourami (5.48%), swordtail (4.41%), koi carp (3.79%), zebrafish (3.31%), barb (2.83%), suckermouth catfish (2.46%). In a previous study according to consumer demand the most demandable aquarium fish species were goldfish, comet fish, koi carp, angle fish, platy, guppy, fighter fish, parrotfish, and discus by Faruk, *et al.* [21], Figure 2.

The number of aquarium fish species, aquarium shops, aquarium fish breeders, and hobbits has increased immensely due to the profitability for traders and acceptability by the aquarists.

During the study period, 149 aquarium fish species are recorded which is 5.96 times in the last 15 years [20]. (25 species) And 3.31 times in the last 10 years [18]. (45 species) (Figure 3).

During the study, it was recorded that 76 varieties of aquarium fish under 23 orders were bred by local aquarium breeders and farms (Figure 4).

On the other hand, according to Galib [18]. Artificial breeding techniques of at least 17 varieties of exotic ornamental fishes have been developed by amateur fish breeders. According to present findings, it is clearly indicated that the number of varieties as well species of native and non-native ornamental aquarium fish is highly increased rapidly.

Moreover, the diversity of the habitat and number of locally bred non-native species are raised as well. It is concluded that the native and non-native ornamental aquarium fish breeding and keeping practice (hobby and business) is becoming a potential sector in Bangladesh.

### Trade chain of aquarium fish and aquarium other fisheries items

During the present study, it was observed that people of different categories were connected to each other in the

Table 1: Checklist of aquarium fish in Bangladesh, with scientific name, common name, and price.

Table 1: Checklist of aquarium fish in Bangladesh, with scientific nam           Common name	e, common name, and price. Scientific name	Price range (BDT/pair)
Black ghost knife fish	Apteronotus albifrons	850-1100
Silver shark	Balantiocheilos melanopterus	150-250
Green tiger barb	Puntigrus tetrazona	220-260
Tiger barb	-	60-120
	Puntigrus tetrazona	
Golden tiger barb	Puntigrus tetrazona	150-220
Albino tiger barb	Puntigrus tetrazona	180-250
Denison barb	Sahyadria denisonii	1100-1300
Tinfoil barb	Barbonymus schwanenfeldii	220-380
Ruby barb	Pethia nigrofasciata	400-450
Cherry barb	Puntius titteya	160-180
Rosy barb	Pethia conchonius	120-180
Zebra danio	Danio rerio	80-120
Fireline devario	Devario sondhii	350-400
Spotted danio	Danio nigrofasciatus	90-120
Blackmoor	Carassius auratus	80-450
Bubble eye	Carassius auratus	400-2000
Calico	Carassius auratus	80-300
Celestine Eye	Carassius auratus	120-450
Comet	Carassius auratus	80-350
Fantail	Carassius auratus	80-750
Veiltail	Carassius auratus	180-450
Lionhead	Carassius auratus	120-550
Oranda	Carassius auratus	200-450
Redcap	Carassius auratus	150-450
Ryukin	Carassius auratus	250-650
Pearl scale	Carassius auratus	600-1500
Shubunkin	Carassius auratus	180-500
Assorted koi carp	Cyprinus carpio	120-5000
Tiger koi carp	Cyprinus carpio	120-2000
Harlequinr rasbora	Trigonostigma heteromorpha	250-450
Common name	Scientific name	Price range (BDT/pair)
Galaxy rasbora	Danio margaritatus	800-1200
Glowlight rasbora	Trigonostigma hengeli	250-450
Albino shark	Epalzeorhynchos frenatus	180-220
Rainbow shark	Epalzeorhynchos frenatus	120-140
High fin shark	Myxocyprinus asiaticus	3000-3500
Roseline shark	Puntius denison	800-1200
Horse-face loach	Acantopsis choirorhynchos	250-450
Clown loach	Chromobotia macracanthus	600-650
Y-loach	Botia lohachata	180-350
Burmese Border loach	Botia kubotai	250-550
Bengal loach	Botia dario	120-220
Cory cat	Corydoras aeneus	400-450
Panda corydoras	Corydoras panda	200-250
Leopard corydoras	Corydoras julii	250-350
Albino catfish	Clarias batrachus	120-150
Redtail catfish	Phractocephalus hemioliopterus	1800-5000
Tiger Shovelnose	Pseudoplatystoma tigrinum	800-1000

Suckermouth catfish	Hypostomus plecostomus	60-320
Dwarf suckers	Otocinclus vittatus	400-550
Tiger shark	Pangasius hypophthalmus	180-220
White tiger shark	Pangasius hypophthalmus	180-220
Glass catfish	Kryptopterus bicirrh	850-1600
Red-tailed catfish	Phractocephalus hemioliopterus	650-950
Bloodfin tetra	Aphyocharax anisitsi	450-650
Black skirt tetra	Gymnocorymbus ternetzi	160-250
Rummy nose tetra	Hemigrammus bleheri	200-220
Phantom tetra	Hyphessobrycon megalopterus	130-150
Rathbuni bloodfin tetra	Aphyocharax rathbuni	600-700
Neon tetra	Paracheirodon innesi	100-150
Congo tetra	Phenacogrammus interruptus	700-800
Columbian tetra	Hyphessobrycon columbianus	180-320
Ember tetra	Hyphessobrycon amandae	150-180
Red ember tetra	Hyphessobrycon amandae	160-250
Gold tetra	Hemigrammus rodwayi	80-120
Gold light tetra	Hemigrammus rodwayi	120-180
Lemon tetra	Hyphessobrycon pulchripinnis	90-120
Silver tip tetra	Hasemania nana	220-320
Cardinal tetra	Paracheirodon axelrodi	180-250
	Moenkhausia sanctaefilomenae	150-180
Red eye tetra		
Silver dollar	Metynnis hypsauchen	150-650
Marbled hatcher fish	Carnegiella strigata	450-680
Pirapitinga	Piaractus brachypomus	600-800
Red piranha	Pygocentrus nattereri	400-1600
Silver Arowana	Osteoglossum bicirrhosum	1500-8500
Golden or Asian Arowana	Scleropages formosus	20000-80000
Black Arowana	Osteoglossum ferreirai	18000-40000
Clown knife fish	Chitala ornata	650-850
Elephant nose	Gnathonemus petersii	950-2000
Dwarf rainbowfish	Melanotaenia praecox	1500-2100
Threadfin rainbowfish	Iriatherina werneri	1600-2200
Boeseman's rainbowfish	Melanotaenia boesemani	1300-2300
Spotted gar	Lepisosteus oculatus	500-800
Common name	Scientific name	Price range (BDT/pair)
Alligator gar	Atractosteus spatula	250-600
Reedfish	Erpetoichthys calabaricus	650-800
Glassfish	Parambassis ranga	120-180
Veiltail betta	Betta splendens	350-400
Delta tail betta fish	Betta splendens	600-700
Yellow butterfly betta	Betta splendens	1400-1600
Feather tail betta	Betta splenden	1600-1800
Placket betta	Betta splendens	1100-1200
Comtail betta	Betta splendens	1300-1400
Rose-tail betta	Betta splendens	1250-1400
Double tail betta	Betta splendens	1000-1200
Half-tail betta	Betta splendens	1300-1400
Full-tail betta	Betta splendens	1000-1200
Half-moon tail betta	Betta splendens	1250-1350
		1200 1000

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Full-moon tail betta	Betta splendens	1100-1200
Crown tail betta	Betta splendens	450-550
Koi half-moon betta	Betta splendens	2200-2400
Spade betta	Betta splendens	1250-1400
Rainbow Snakehead	Channa bleheri	5500-6000
Scarlet badis	Dario dario	350-550
Blue acara	Aequidens pulcher	220-3500
Lombardoi mbuna cichlid	Maylandia lombardoi	600-800
Kenyi cichlid	Maylandia lombardoi	950-1450
Humphead cichlid	Cyphotilapia frontosa	600-1200
Yellow belly cichlid	Trichromis salvini	550-1250
Ram Cichlid	Mikrogeophagus ramirezi	9501500
Bumblebee Mouth brooder	Pseudotropheus crabro	1000-1800
Demasoni	Pseudotropheus demasoni	1800-2500
Nyererei	Haplochromis nyererei	1500-2200
Electric blue cichlid	Sciaenochromis ahli	950-1250
Deepwater hap	Placidochromis electra	1500-2000
Super VC-10 hap	Placidochromis milomo	800-1500
Ice blue cichlid	Maylandia greshakei	1100-1900
Orange zebra cichlid	Maylandia estherae	400-1200
Venustus hap	Nimbochromis venustus	850-1150
Venustus cichlid	Nimbochromis venustus	750-1000
Blue dolphin cichlid	Cyrtocara moorii	1200-2000
Earth-eater	Geophagus sp.	1600-2000
Julies	Julidochromis transcriptus	1200-1800
Sunshine peacock	Aulonocara sp.	350-1250
Five color cichlid	Labeotropheus fuelleborni	350-850
Red spot severum	Heros Efasciatus	650-850
Golden oscar	Astronotus ocellatus	800-2500
Red oscar	Astronotus ocellatus	700-2000
Longfin oscar	Astronotus ocellatus	1200-4000
¥	Astronotus ocellatus	700-2000
Albino tiger oscar Albino red oscar		
	Astronotus ocellatus	700-2000
Albino oscar	Astronotus ocellatus	700-2000
Blue dolphin cichlid	Boulenger moori	1200-1800
Blood red parrot	Cichlasoma citrinellum x C. synspilum	650-3000
Green parrot	Cichlasoma citrinellum x C. synspilum	800-3600
Red heart shape parrot	Cichlasoma citrinellum x C. synspilum	1000-4000
Common name	Scientific name	Price range (BDT/pair)
Red love parrot	Cichlasoma citrinellum x C. synspilum	450-2500
Yellow love parrot	Cichlasoma citrinellum x C. synspilum	450-2600
White parrot	Cichlasoma citrinellum x C. synspilum	550-2500
Golden mbuna	Melanochromis auratus	300-500
Black angel	Pterophyllum scalare	50-550
Marble angel	Pterophyllum scalare	50-550
Sunset angel	Pterophyllum scalare	80-750
Koi angel	Pterophyllum scalare	80-700
Leopard angel	Pterophyllum scalare	130-850
Veil-tail angel	Pterophyllum scalare	120-650
Blue angel	Pterophyllum scalare	180-850

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Zebra angel	Pterophyllum scalare	60-600
Gold angel	Pterophyllum scalare	100-800
Altum angel	Pterophyllum scalare	120-750
Silver angel	Pterophyllum scalare	80-650
Albino angel	Pterophyllum scalare	100-700
Brown discus	Symphysodon discus	1500-6000
Turquoise blue discus	Symphysodon discus	2200-4800
Blue diamond discus	Symphysodon discus	1500-4500
Red Marlboro discus	Symphysodon discus	1500-5000
Brilliant blue discus	Symphysodon discus	2200-4800
Red eagle discus	Symphysodon discus	1800-5000
Ghost discus	Symphysodon discus	2500-6000
Pigeon blood discus	Symphysodon discus	2200-4500
Red turquoise discus	Symphysodon discus	2500-5000
Marble discus	Symphysodon discus	1900-4200
Tomato discus Red snakeskin discus	Symphysodon discus	1400-4000
Golden pigeon discus	Symphysodon discus	1500-4500
	Symphysodon discus	900-3500
Red ruby discus	Symphysodon discus	1500-4000
Yellow Marlboro discus	Symphysodon discus	1800-5000
Red turquiose discus	Symphysodon discus	2000-4500
Red pearl pigeon discus	Symphysodon discus	1600-4500
Pigeon blood snakeskin discus	Symphysodon discus	1500-5500
Checkerboard discus	Symphysodon discus	750-3500
Golden pearl discus	Symphysodon discus	1300-4500
White scorpion discus	Symphysodon discus	1000-4000
Red-brown discus	Symphysodon discus	900-3500
White pigeon redline discus	Symphysodon discus	800-4000
Snow white discus	Symphysodon discus	1200-4500
Red white diamond	Symphysodon discus	1000-3500
Yellow-white diamond	Symphysodon discus	1500-4000
Red melon	Symphysodon discus	1200-4500
Bumblebee goby	Brachygobius xanthozonu	500-650
Kissing gourami	Helostoma temmincki	180-2000
Snakeskin gourami	Trichogaster pectoralis	80-2000
Dwarf gourami	Colisa Ialia	200-220
Honey gourami	Colisa sota	120-140
Chocolate gourami	Sphaerichthys osphronemoides	1700-2200
Giant gourami	Osphronemus goramy	1500-3500
Pearl gourami	Trichogaster leeri	220-380
Blue gourami	Trichogaster trichopterus	180-260
Common name	Scientific name	Price range (BDT/pair)
Golden gourami	Trichogaster trichopterus	180-280
Multicolor guppy	Poecilia reticulata	40-80
Sail fin guppy	Poecilia reticulata	200-300
Blue mosaic guppy	Poecilia reticulate	350-500
Tuxedo blue dragon half-moon guppy	Poecilia reticulata	100-200
Half black yellow guppy	Poecilia reticulata	180-220
Tuxedo white high dorsal guppy	Poecilia reticulata	250-300
Half black blue guppy	Poecilia reticulata	150-220
		015

Albino blue tail guppy	Poecilia reticulata	160-200
Blue eagle guppy	Poecilia reticulata	400-500
Red lace guppy	Poecilia reticulata	1000-1200
Yellow platinum guppy	Poecilia reticulata	100-250
Yellow king cobra guppy	Poecilia reticulata	250-300
Elephant ear guppy	Poecilia reticulata	900-1000
Yellow galaxy guppy	Poecilia reticulata	250-300
Blue neon guppy	Poecilia reticulata	150-200
Full pink guppy	Poecilia reticulata	500-600
Purple mosaic guppy	Poecilia reticulata	350-500
Blue lace guppy	Poecilia reticulata	150-220
Full black guppy	Poecilia reticulata	200-250
Platinum half red sakura guppy	Poecilia reticulata	180-300
Full red guppy	Poecilia reticulata	300-400
Moscow guppy	Poecilia reticulata	80-160
Balloon molly (Golden)	Poecilia sphenops	120-140
Balloon molly (White)	Poecilia sphenops	120-140
Black molly	Poecilia sphenops	120-130
Orange sailfin molly	Poecilia sphenops	100-160
Golden calico sailfin molly	Poecilia sphenops	120-180
Golden dust molly	Poecilia sphenops	200-300
Silver sailfin molly	Poecilia sphenops	120-180
Mixed color molly	Poecilia sphenops	120-130
Lyre-tail molly	Poecilia sphenops	60-80
White molly	Poecilia sphenops	80-200
Mickey mouse swordtail	Xiphophorus helleri	120-180
Koi swordtail		
Double tail swordtail	Xiphophorus helleri	100-160
	Xiphophorus helleri	180-250
Hi-fin swordtail	Xiphophorus helleri	120-220
Bumble bee platy	Xiphophorus maculatus	80-180
Hi-fin platy	Xiphophorus maculatus	120-200
Wag tail platy	Xiphophorus maculatus	120-150
Tuxedo platy	Xiphophorus maculatus	90-160
Sunset platy	Xiphophorus maculatus	120-180
Ocellate river stingray	Potamotrygon motoro	15000-25000
Golden panchax	Pachypanchax playfairii	300-400
Spotted scats	Scatophagus argus	180-350
Malayan angel	Monodactylus argenteus	300-600
Banded archerfish	Toxotes jaculatrix	1500-2100
Orange chromides	Etroplus maculatus	950-1500
Yellowtail clownfish	Amphiprion clarkia	2500-5000
Tomato clownfish	Amphiprion frenatus	2000-4500
Common name	Scientific name	Price range (BDT/pair)
Maroon clownfish	Amphiprion tricinctus	3500-6500
Sebae clownfish	Amphiprion sebae	3000-7000
Clown anemonefish	Amphiprion ocellaris	2000-4500
Skunk clownfish	Amphiprion akallopisos	5500-6000
Blue green damselfish	Chromis viridis	5000-5500
Yellow chromis	Chromis analis	950-1900
Yellowtail damselfish	Microspathodon chrysurus	1200-2000

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Neon damselfish	Pomacentrus coelestis	1550-3200		
Yellowbelly damselfish	Amblyglyphidodon leucogaster	1050-2100		
Cross' damsel	Neoglyphidodon crossi	1400-2800		
Goldtail demoiselle	Chrysiptera parasema	1600-3200		
Regal angelfish	Pygoplites diacanthus	6500-13000		
Yellow tang	Zebrasoma flavescens	2800-5600		
Sailfin tang	Zebrasoma velifer	7000-14000		
Spotted surgeon fish	Ctenochaetus strigosus	6500-10500		
Yellowfin tang	Acanthurus xanthopterus	2500-5200		
Sixline wrasse	Pseudocheilinus hexataenia	3000-6000		
Foxface	Siganus vulpinus	6000-12000		
Vagabond butterflyfish	Chaetodon vagabundus	3500-6500		
Latticed butterflyfish	Chaetodon rafflesii	3000-6000		
Melon butterflyfish	Chaetodon trifasciatus	5500-10500		
Yellowfin blenny	Enchelyurus flavipes	2000-4000		
Bicolor blenny	Ecsenius bicolor	2000-4000		
Yellow prawn-goby	Cryptocentrus cinctus	1800-3600		
Dispar anthias	Pseudanthias dispar	4400-8400		
Bicolor angelfish	Centropyge bicolor	4400-7500		
Keyhole angelfish	Centropyge tibicen	4200-7000		
Midnight angelfish	Centropyge nox	5200-9500		
Russet angelfish	Centropyge potteri	3700-6500		
Black tail angelfish	Centropyge eibli	5500-12000		
Emperor angelfish	Pomacanthus imperator	7000-15000		
Bluegirdled angelfish	Pomacanthus navarchus	5500-12000		
Magenta dottyback	Pictichromis porphyria	1500-3500		
Royal dottyback	Pictichromis paccagnellae	6000-7000		
Alongside aquarium fishes, other fisheries items were also very popular in the market.				

#### Table 2: List of aquarium non-piscine fisheries items in Dhaka.

Non-piscine species	Scientific name	Common name	Price range (per piece
Turtle	Trachemys scripta	Red-eared slider	380-650
	Geoclemys hamiltonii	Black pond turtle	450-850
Snail	Clea helena	Assassin Snail	60-80
	Engina mendicaria	Bumble Bee Snail	250-300
	Conasprella pagoda	Pagoda snail	130-150
	Neritina natalensis	Zebra Snail	180-200
	Taia naticoides	Piano Snail	120-160
	Pomacea bridgesii	Apple Snail	40-60
Shrimp	Caridina cf. cantonensis var. blue tiger	Blue tiger shrimp	650-700
	Neocaridina davidi	Fire Red Shrimp	150-200
	Neocaridina cf. zhangjiajiensis var. white	Snowball Shrimp	500-600
	Neocaridina davidi var. Yellow	Yellow Shrimp	400-450
	Neocaridina heteropoda Var.	Chocolate Shrimp	500-600
	Neocaridina heteropoda var. Orange	Orange Sakura Shrimp	150-180
	Caridina multidentata	Amano Shrimp	280-350
	Neocaridina davidi var. rili	Red rilli Shrimp	250-300
	Procambarus clarkia	Snow White Crayfish	900-1100
	Cambarellus patzcuarensis	Mexican Dwarf Orange Crayfish	500-650
Amphibian	Ambystoma mexicanum	Mexican walking fish	650-800
			0

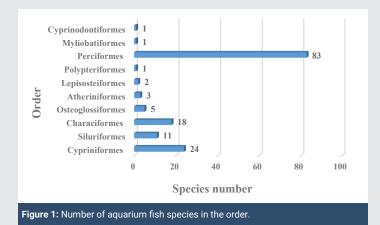
Crab	Pagurus bernhardus	Hermit Crab	1600-1800
Coral, mushroom, and polyps	Sinularia notanda	Finger leather coral	4500-6500
	Actinodiscus cardinalis	Red mushroom	5000-5500
	Protopalythoa mutuki	Green button polyps	2500-6000
Aquarium plant	Anubias afzelii	Anubias Afzelii	300-350 (PB)
	Anubias barteri var. glabra	Water aspidistra	300-350 (PB)
	Anubias hastifolia	Anubias hastifolia	350 (PB)
	Anubias heterophylla	Congo anubias	300-350 (PB)
	Cryptocoryne balansae	Balansae plant	250 (PP)
	Cryptocoryne parva	Dwarf crypt plant	250 (PP)
	Cryptocoryne undulates	Cryptocoryne undutalus	250 (PP)
	Cryptocoryne wendtii	Water trumpet	250 (PP)
	Echinodorus tenellus	Mud babies	200 (PB)
	Blyxa japonica	Bamboo plant	200 (PB)
	Cardamine lyrata	Japanese cress	200 (PB)
	Alternanthera reineckii	Roseafolia	200 (PB)
	Aegagropila linnaei	Moss ball	200 (PB)
	Vesicularia montagnei	Christmas moss	250 (PB)
	Taxiphyllum Barbieri	Java moss	200 (PB)
	Echinodorus bleheri	Broadleaf Amazon Sword	200 (PB)
	Bacopa caroliniana	Blue water hyssop	200 (PB)
	Limnophila aquatic	Giant ambulia	200 (PB)
	Bacopa myriophylloides	Water hyssop	200 (PB)
	Hygrophila difformis	Water wisteria	200 (PB)
	Hygrophila polysperma	Indian swamp weed	250 (PP)
	Hygrophila pinnatifida	Miramar weed	200 (PB)
	Hygrophila corymbosa	Giant hygo	250-300(PP)
	Pogostemon helferi	Downoi	200 (PB)
	Pogostemon erectus	Erectus plant	250 (PP)
	Glossostigma elatinoides	Glosso	250 (PP)
	Hemianthus callitrichoides	Cuba	200 (PB)
	Ludwigia ovalis	Oval ludwigia	200 (PB)
	Ludwigia palustris	Marsh seed box	200 (PB)
	Ludwigia peruensis	Red Star Ludwigia	200 (PB)
	Ludwigia repens	Creeping primrose-willow	200 (PB)
	Ludwigia arcuata	Piedmont primrose-willow	200 (PB)
	Rotala Indica	Indian tooth cup	250 (PB)
	Rotala wallichii	Red wallichii plant	200 (PB)
	Rotala macrandra	Giant red rotala	200 (PB)
	Riccia fluitans	Floating crystalwort	200 (PB)
	Nymphaea zenkeri	Tiger lotus red	250 (PB)
	Corynephorus canescens	Hair grass	250 (PB)
	Mayaca fluviatillis	Bog moss	200 (PB)
	Microsorum Pteropus	Fern	200 (PB) 200 (PB)
	Microsorum Pteropus	Fern Shade mud flower	200 (PB) 250 (PP)
			200 (PP)

(PP: Per Pot; PB: Per Bundle)

aquarium fish marketing channel in Bangladesh. Detailed information of import of exotic was not maintained systematically in Bangladesh [19,20].

In the present study, the access pathway, the distribution, and the marketing channel of aquarium fishes and other fisheries organisms are shown in (Figure 5). It was found that most of the imported aquarium fish and other fisheries items were introduced from Thailand, Singapore, Indonesia, India, Malaysia, Japan, etc.

The goldfish was introduced from Pakistan former West Pakistan in 1953 [25]. And the tiger shovelnose catfish was introduced from Australia in 2009. Mainly aquarium fishes and other fisheries organisms were imported by aquarium fish importers of Bangladesh, located in Katabon area of Dhaka city [26–31].



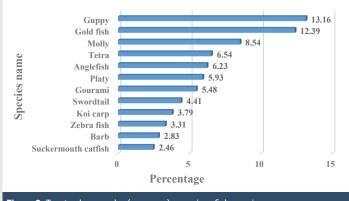
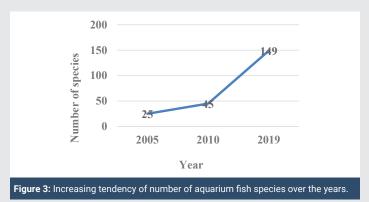
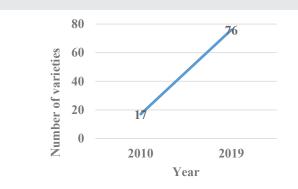


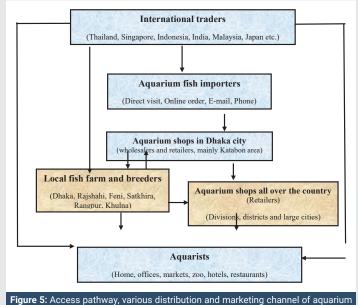
Figure 2: Top twelve popular (common) aquarium fish species





9

Figure 4: Increasing number of locally breed aquarium fish varieties over the



fish and other fisheries items in Bangladesh

Aquarist sometimes personally import their products but it is very rare. Various online agencies are importing aquarium items and trading through online platforms such as websites, Facebook. Breeding techniques of many aquarium fishes and other fisheries organisms are discovered by local breeders online.

Local breeding organisms are also distributed through Katabon and local aquarium shops. Aquarium fish farms are commercially breeding and cultivating aquarium fishes and other fisheries organisms and creating new possibilities in the aquarium business.

(Kohls and Uhl, 1980) stated that the marketing channel may be short or long for a particular commodity depending on the quality of the marketed products, nature, and size of the consumers and producers.

During the study, it was found that the price of aquarium fish is much higher than food fish. The proportion between the space required for aquarium fishes and culture fishes is very significant. Aquarium fishes need a little amount of space to maintain, breed and the management cost is very low compared to the price. The top 3 highly-priced aquarium fishes were found as-Golden Arowana (20000-80000 BDT/pair), Black Arowana (18000-45000 BDT/pair), and Ocellate River Stingray (15000-25000 BDT/pair) (Table 3)

[18]. Recorded silver Arowana as the most expensive species (30000 BDT/pair), Koi carp (12000 BDT/pair), and Tiger shovelnose (4000 BDT/pair). Rahman, *et al.* [19]. Found red parrot as the most expensive species (1000–1500 BDT/pair), in their study followed by discus (800–1000 BDT/pair) and oscar (400–600 BDT/pair). Arif, *et al.* [23]. Mentioned discus as the most expensive species (1500 BDT/pair), parrotfish (1000 BDT/pair), and oscar (650 BDT/pair) Table 4.

During the study, it was recorded that 76 varieties of aquarium fish under 23 orders were bred by local aquarium breeders and farms. Artificial breeding techniques of at least 17 varieties of exotic ornamental fishes have been developed by amateur fish breeders [18].

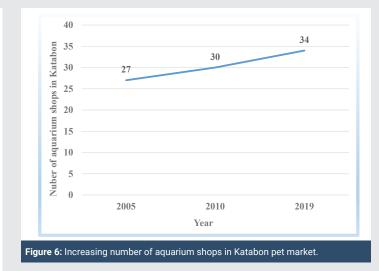
Mostafizur, et al. [19]. Reported that 12 shops and 7 breeders have been found in the Khulna district where 29 different aquarium fish species were marketed of which 12 species were bred for fry production Figure 6.

Rahman [20]. Recorded 25 aquarium shops in the Katabon pet market and in the present study the number had increased

Table 3: Top ten highly-priced aquarium fish species.			
SL	Species name	Habitat	Price range according to size (BDT/pair)
1	Golden or Asian Arowana	Freshwater	20000-80000
2	Black Arowana	Freshwater	18000-45000
3	Ocellate River Stingray	Brackish water	15000-25000
4	Silver Arowana	Freshwater	7000-18000
5	Emperor angelfish	Marine water	7000-15000
6	Sailfin tang	Marine water	7000-14000
7	Foxface	Marine water	6000-12000
8	Bluegirdled angelfish	Marine water	6000-12000
9	Blacktail angelfish	Marine water	5500-12000
10	Spotted surgeonfish	Marine water	6500-10500

#### Table 4: Top ten cheap aquarium fish species.

SL	Species name	Habitat	Price range according to size (BDT/pair)
1	Multi-color Guppy	Freshwater	40-60
2	Black Molly	Freshwater	50-80
3	Tiger barb	Freshwater	60-80
4	Zebra danio	Freshwater	60-80
5	Tuxedo Platy	Freshwater	60-80
6	Mickey mouse sword tail	Freshwater	80-120
7	Rosy barb	Freshwater	80-120
8	Blue gourami	Freshwater	80-120
9	Rainbow shark	Freshwater	120-140
10	Marble angelfish	Freshwater	40-450



8

to 34 due to the popularity and demand of the business. The majority of the shops of aquarium fish are located in Dhaka city [18].

Another study [18]. Stated that there are only 2 shops in Rajshahi city, while 12 shops are found in Khulna city.

[18]. Found that at least 30 aquarium shops are available in the Katabon market of Dhaka city where all kinds of aquarium products can be found.

Aquarium fish price depends on varieties, species, size, and breeding status (local or imported). Considering the price of cheap species, it can be said that aquarium hobby is not only for elite society people but also for common people as well. Due to the demand and profitability, this business spread drastically. So, aquarium fishes and other fisheries items are and will be of great potential judging by the circumstance in our country.

#### Aquarium and aquarium accessories

Aquarium accessories also play a vital role in the trade. Beyond sales of the aquarium, air pumps, food, medications and other supplies, the primary product of the aquarium industry is fish [7]. Katabon market, the most common and popular market in Dhaka city for aquariums and other aquarium products like aquarium fishes, aquarium foods, chemicals, toys, plants, etc.

#### **Aquariums**

There are various types of aquariums according to their shape and size. Some are suitable for fish keeping, breeding and others are for ornamentation. Price differs due to the size, shape as well as thickness of glass or aquarium building material Tables 5,6.

Aquarium decoration toys are mainly used to enhance the beauty and appearance of an aquarium. Such as plastic plants, artificial streams, water flow, etc. Aquarists can add various decorative stuff which can be beneficial for fish as well Figure 7.

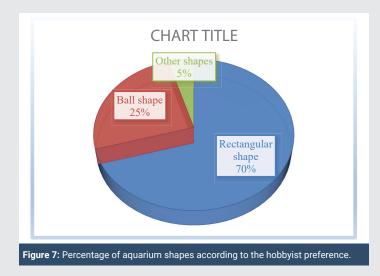
During the study it was found that 70% of hobbyists were having rectangular shape aquariums, 25% ball shape and 5%

#### Table 5: General types of aquariums with their shape, size, and price.

Building material	Aquarium thickness (mm)	Aquarium shape	Aquarium size (length × width × height) feet	Price (BDT/ per set)
Glass	5mm	Rectangle	1.5×1×1 (feet)	1500-2000
Glass	5mm	Rectangle	2×1×1 (feet)	3000-3500
Glass	5mm	Rectangle	3×1×1 (feet)	6000-6500
Glass	5mm	Rectangle	3×1×1.5 (feet)	7000-8000
Glass	5mm	Ball jar	Small	150-180
Glass	5mm	Ball jar	Medium	250-280
Glass	5mm	Ball jar	Large	360-480
Crystal glass	5mm	Rectangle	2×1×1 (feet)	5000-6000
Crystal glass	5mm	Rectangle	3×1×1 (feet)	10000-12000
Crystal glass	8mm	Rectangle	6×2×3 (feet)	40000-42000

Table 6: Exceptional types of aquariums and their price.

Types of aquariums	Price (BDT/ per set)	
USB desktop aquarium	3000	
Mini Desktop Aquarium (full set-Black)	3300	
Wall hanging acrylic fish tank flowers vase 22cm mirror back	2800	
Glass Vase and Aquarium - Transparent	950	
Glass Vase and Aquarium	1100	
SOBO Mini Fish Aquarium (Blue)	5500	
All in One Smart Aquarium (LAT-40)	11000	
Betta Tank- DoPhin BT 104	1000	
Betta Flora Tank (Blue)	2500	



were having other shapes (hexagonal, cube). Mohsin, *et al.* [22]. Described preferences for rectangular shape 69% and ball shape jar 29% in Rajshahi city, Bangladesh. Arif, *et al.* [23]. Found that 80% of the hobbyists were having rectangular shape aquariums and 20% had round shape aquariums in Sylhet Sadar Upazila, Bangladesh.

### Foods used in aquarium

On the basis of the diet, there are different types of aquarium fishes having different preferable aquarium fish food. Some

species are carnivores, some are herbivores, and others other omnivores. According to the different life stages also varies as well Table 7.

#### Turtle food

Table 8.

#### Aquarium air pumps or aerators

Aquarium air pumps or aerators' main purpose is to produce Oxygen by creating water flow. It is vital to have a sufficient amount of oxygen in the aquarium water to keep fish healthy and alive. Numerous types of aerators were observed during the study Table 9.

Fish food	Sub food	Commercial brands	Amount	Price (BDT/ pe
types Dry foods	types Flakes	Tetra bits flakes	<b>(gm)</b> 200g	packet) 700
Diyioous	Flakes	Taiyo tropical flakes	200g 93g	250
		Prime reef flakes		800
	Pellets	Nova	34g	80
	Pellets		100	
		Osaka green-1	100	100
		Optimum	100	85
		Optimum micro pellet	50	120
		Osaka-2000	100	80
		Optimum cichlid pellet	300g	350
		Ultima	100	100
		Ultima betta food	20g	80
		Ultima micro pellet	50g	100
		Taiyo	100g	60
		Taiyo hi-red	100g	150
		Taiyo cichlids	100	190
		Hikari micro pellets	22g	400
		DR. Fish economy fish food	100	450
Fish food types	Sub food types	Commercial brands	Amount (gm)	Price (BDT/ pe packet)
		Hong Shi Mei- Betta food	50g	120
		Hikari Marine S	50g	750
	Cripes	Tetra bits complete fish food	375g	1150
		Taiyo bits complete fish food	120g	350
	Blood worms	Taiyo blood worms	320g	950
	Tubifex	Taiyo tubifix	10g	120
		Siso tubifex worm	80g	1250
	Dried Shrimp	Taiyo dried fresh shrimp	25g	400
	Spirulina	Tetra spirulina		
	Food sticks	Hikari tropical food sticks	57g	550
		Taiyo cichlids sticks	50g	190
	Seaweed	Hikari seaweed extreme	90g	1500
				02

#### Aquarium filters and gravels

Aquarium filters are used to keep the aquarium water clean by removing pollutants (fish waste, degraded food, ammonia, and toxic materials). There were various types of gravels found among the most commonly used were black and white crust gravels. Gravel is mainly used for the sedimentation of water products and keeps the water clean. Gravel prices generally range from 20–40 (BDT/kg) Table 10.

#### Aquarium water heaters

Aquarium heaters are used to maintain the optimum water temperature in the aquarium. Especially in the winter water temperature drops to a critical level which is detrimental for fish health and may lead them to death. Popular heaters are used by the aquarists in Bangladesh Table 11.

#### **Aquarium medicines**

Aquarium medicines are used for the treatment of contaminated organisms and aquarium water. Some medicines were listed during the study period such as Table 12.

#### Economic importance of aquarium fishes

During the study, it was found that the price of aquarium fish is much higher than culture fish which is taken as food. The proportion between the space required for aquarium fishes and culture fishes is very significant. Aquarium fishes need a little amount of space to maintain, breed and the management cost is very low compared to the price.

Table 8: List of aquarium turtle food items.					
Food types	Commercial brands	Amount (gm)	Price (BDT/ per packet)		
Dry food	Taiyo turtle food	1000g	400		
	Hello pets	100g	80		
	Inch-gold	40g	100		

 Table 9: List of aquarium air pumps.

Air pump	Price (BDT/per piece)
Aquarium air pump SOBO SB -248A	250
Aquarium air pump SOBO SB- 350A	350
SOBO 360-degree aquarium super wavemaker	3000
Solar oxygenator	1480
Atman air pump	1600

#### Table 10: List of aquarium filters.

Aquarium filter	Price (BDT/per piece)			
Aquarium internal filter SOBO WP -320F	350			
Aquarium internal filter SOBO WP -1200F	500			
Aquarium internal filter SOBO WP -3000F	1200			
Aquarium internal filter SOBO WP -320F	400			
Aquarium internal filter Xinyou XY -2835	150			
Aquarium top filter SOBO WP -1880F	1550			
External filter- Resun cyclone CY20	2500			
External hang on filter -330L/h	7200			

Table	11.	List of	aguarium	heaters
Table		LISCOL	aquanum	neaters.

·				
Aquarium heaters	Price (BDT/per piece)			
Sobo aquarium heater 50W	500			
Sobo aquarium heater 150W	700			
Sobo aquarium heater 200W	550			
RS electrical 300 watts aquarium heater	550			
Aqua heater- Periha	1000			
Periha Aqua heater HB-200	1500			
Periha Aqua heater T-300W	1200			
Shanda glass heater (SGH-318)	400			

#### Table 12: List of aquarium medicines.

Medicine name	Amount	Price
Agua grow plant nutrition	100 ml	450
Herbtana reef and marine	473 ml	3000
Aqua grow + Plant nutrition	100 ml	250
Aqua grow + Plant nutrition	250 ml	300
Aquaguard anti chlorine by porpoise	150 ml	350
Aquarium Additive (Super 4) by ADA	100 ml	400
Bonuses-Concentrated Nitrifying Bacteria	150 ml	300
Coral Pro Salt	22 kg	9000
Coral Pro Salt	7 kg	3000
Dr. Aqua- Anti Fungus Special	120 ml	110
Medicine name	Amount	Price
Dr. Aqua- Anti White Spot	120 ml	110
Dr. Aqua- Antichlor Special	120 ml	110
Dr. Aqua- Antirot Special	120 ml	110
Esy Clo( antichlorine)	100 ml	300
Green Bacter- ADA Nature Aquarium	100 ml	2000
Leecom Antichlor-Medicine	120 ml	250
Plant Plus- Natural Plant Food by White Crane	25 ml	350
Bonuses Aquaguard (anti-chlorine)	150 ml	350
Shanda- Saltwater Microelement Phosphorus	120 ml	550
Shanda- Bacterial Killer	120 ml	500
Sera- Crystal clear aquarium water	250 ml	500
Star- Aquarium salt	10 gm	30
Star- Methylene blue	20 ml	30
Star- Water cleaner	20 ml	30

On the other hand, culture fish species need a lot of space, maintenance costs, and comparing to the price. For example, the price of Thai pangasius (*Pangasius hypophthalmus*) is 90–120 BDT/kg but the same species are known as tiger sharks keep in the aquarium an 80–360 per pair which is a much higher price than its cultural value.

The top 3 highly-priced aquarium fishes were found as-Golden Arowana (20000-80000 BDT/pair), Black Arowana (18000-45000 BDT/pair), and Ocellate River Stingray (15000-25000 BDT/pair) Table 13.

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5	Emperor angelfish	Marine water	7000-15000
6	Sailfin tang	Marine water	7000-14000
7	Foxface	Marine water	6000-12000
8	Bluegirdled angelfish	Marine water	6000-12000
9	Blacktail angelfish	Marine water	5500-12000
10	Spotted surgeonfish	Marine water	6500-10500

#### Table 14: Top ten cheap aquarium fish species.

SL	Species name	Habitat	Price range according to size (BDT/ pair)
1	Multi-color Guppy	Freshwater	40-60
2	Black Molly	Freshwater	50-80
3	Tiger barb	Freshwater	60-80
4	Zebra danio	Freshwater	60-80
SL	Species name	Habitat	Price range according to size (BDT/pair)
5	Tuxedo Platy	Freshwater	60-80
6	Mickey mouse sword tail	Freshwater	80-120
7	Rosy barb	Freshwater	80-120
8	Blue gourami	Freshwater	80-120
9	Rainbow shark	Freshwater	120-140
10	Marble angelfish	Freshwater	40-450

## Conclusion

Considering the present study, it was very much clear that the current situation of the aquarium business had become a potential commercial sector in our country. Connecting the past and present studies observation it can be stated that the popularity, diversity of aquarium fisheries products, and the number of shops had drastically increased. In the past, most of the aquarium fishes were imported from foreign countries but according to the current study 23 species under 76 varieties were locally bred by our hatcheries and local breeders. Marketing had become more flexible; customers can purchase aquarium fish and other products by ordering them in online shops as well as by going to the shops. Aquarium fish cost, management, and space are much less than culture fish. Due to the immense potentiality, the sector is not contributing to national GDP. If we raise our concern and realize the value of the sector and properly nurture it will become one of the remarkable foreign currency income sources in the near future.

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- Signatory Publisher of DORA (San Francisco Declaration on Research Assessment)
- Articles archived in worlds' renowned service providers such as Portico, CNKI, AGRIS, TDNet, Base (Bielefeld University Library), CrossRef, Scilit, J-Gate etc.
- Survey and the second s
- OAI-PMH (Open Archives Initiative Protocol for Metadata Harvesting)
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