November 2009 - Sin Kovacevic (Milan04)

Congratulations to Sin Kovacevic on winning TOTM for November 2009 with his little reef wonder!

Sin is known as Milan04 on the RTAW Forums and you can read more about his tank in his Tank Journal .

{mosimage cw=300 popup=1}

Introduction

Firstly, i would like to say how excited and surprised i am to win November 2009 TOTM. Like most people i started with a freshwater tank approx 6 years ago setting up a 4x20x20 and keeping African cichlids. During this time i really wanted to setup a saltwater tank and was told that they were too much work and really hard to keep but i was taken in by the colours of the fish and corals that were available. A few years later and many mistakes made i am here with my current tank and loving it.

{mosimage cw=300 popup=1}

Current Setup

My current tank is a 3x2x2 which holds about 340L of water and has been setup since October 08 and has gone through many changes since then. The tank sits on a DIY 900mm high pine stand made without a front centre support so that i could remove the sump if needed, and i also built a matching hood to hide the lights and fans.

Sump and Refugium

My sump is a 2x18x18 is fairly simple containing 3 compartments Right hand side - Overflow and skimmer sectionMiddle - DSB and macro algaeLeft hand side – Contains the return pump, Phosphate reactor and the auto topoff

Filtration

The main display tank consists of approx 80kg of live rock with only a 5-10mm sand bed just for looks. The overflow to the sump is fitted with 2 filter socks which are cleaned every 3-5 days and the skimmer is a Bubble Magus BM-150 (rated 600-800l).The sump also has a 20cm DSB with macro algae.

{mosimage cw=300 popup=1}

Water Flow

My return pump is an eheim compact+ 3000, rated at 3000lph.Currently in the display i have 2 x vortech MP40w’s and 2 x tunze 6045’s for plenty of random flow and a total of 33000lph.

{mosimage cw=300 popup=1}

Water Parameters

Ph – 8.3Calcium – 430Alkalinity – 7Salinity – 1.026Temp – 26deg

Lighting

My lighting consists of a solarmax 8x39w T5 unit and i am running the following configurationBulb 1 - ATI blue plus

Bulb 2 - ATI aquablue special

Bulb 3 - ATI Actinic

Bulb 4 - ATI blue plus

Bulb 5 - KZ Fiji Purple

Bulb 6 - ATI blue plus

Bulb 7 - ATI aquablue special

Bulb 8 - ATI blue plusThe lighting period is10am – 11am - Bulbs 1,3,6,811am – 7pm – All Bulbs7pm – 10pm - Bulbs 1,3,6,8All bulbs are replaced once they are 10 months old.

{mosimage cw=300 popup=1}

Fish

1 x Zebrasoma flavescens (yellow tang) 1 x Pseudocheilinus hexataenia (sixline wrasse) 2 x Amphiprion ocellaris (Orange clownfish)1 x Synchiropus picturatus (Green spotted mandarin)1 x Salarias fasciatus (Lawnmower blenny)1 x Amphipirion perideraion (Pink Skunk clownfish)

{mosimage cw=300 popup=1}

Inverts

1 x Aquaclutured clam1 x Stenopus hispidus (Coral banded shrimp) 1 x Lysmata debelius (Blood Shrimp) 1 x Bubble tip anemone

{mosimage cw=300 popup=1}

Corals

Acropora.sp - Acros

Pocillopora. Sp

Montipora.sp - Monti

Euphyllia sp. – Torch Coral/Hammer/Anchor

Trachyphyllia – Trachy’s

Acanthastrea sp. – Acans

Blastomussa sp.

Lobophyllia sp – Lobos

Zoanthus sp. – Zoos

Acknowledgements

I am very surprised to win TOTM for my little tank and i would really like to thank MASA for awarding me this and all of the Volunteers and sponsors that make this competition happen on a regular basis, Thanks goes to all of the RTAW community for offering great knowledge and support in this hobby. A big thanks to Hunter Pets and Crossroads marine for supplying me with most of my corals and lastly my beautiful wife for putting up with me spending countless hours by the tank and at my LFS.