

## Tetradon

### Classification :

Kingdom : Animalia  
Phylum : Chordata  
Class : Actinopterygii  
Order : Tetraodontiformes  
Family : Tetraodontidae  
Genus : Tetradon



For further details, [Link](#)

### Characteristics :

- **Beak-like mouth:** Their most distinctive feature is a beak formed from four fused teeth (two upper and two lower) that function like scissors for crushing hard-shelled invertebrates.
- **Inflation:** Like other pufferfish, they can inflate their bodies to several times their normal size by rapidly taking in water through their mouths, a defense mechanism against predators.
- **Tetrodotoxin:** These fish are highly poisonous due to tetrodotoxin, a potent neurotoxin produced by symbiotic bacteria, which blocks sodium channels and prevents nerve function.

### Anatomical features:

- They also lack ribs and a pelvis, which facilitates their inflation ability.

### Habit

- **Diet:** They are carnivores that use their powerful jaws and beak-like teeth to consume and crush small, hard-shelled prey, including crustaceans.
- **Behavior:** They are generally quiet and solitary fish that move by using their fins to "walk" along the substrate.
- **Defense:** When threatened, they inflate rapidly with water to appear larger and more intimidating to predators.

## **Habitat**

- **Freshwater:** Tetradon species are predominantly freshwater fish.
- **Geographic distribution:** They are found in freshwater systems across Africa.
- **Water quality:** They prefer quiet, clear waters, as turbid or sediment-rich water can block their pores, hindering their ability to feed and breathe.
- **Conservation status:** Some species, like the dwarf pufferfish (*Tetraodon miurus*), are endangered due to factors like dam construction, deforestation for agriculture, pollution, and overfishing for the aquarium trade.