

### **Viresco Aquarium nitrate remover**

We don't run a competition for best new product of the year, but if we did, this would certainly be a strong contender.

Enough has been written about nitrate reduction to fill volumes. Usually, the solutions are expensive, complicated and take a considerable period of time to become effective.

When we heard about Viresco Aquarium we were, to say the least, sceptical. Here was a product which claimed to reduce nitrates to zero and keep them that way. Also, the product is made by a horticultural company.

The science behind the product had us scratching our heads too. The reducer is simplicity itself to use. You simply open the gelatin capsule, pour the contents into a little aquarium water, stir, wait a few hours and pour the water back into the main tank.

The capsules, each of which treats 10-15 gallons, contain denitrifying bacteria, and support nutrients. This contradicts conventional thinking, which states that low oxygen conditions are needed for this to happen.

A version of the product has been available for koi ponds since 1997. Reassured by this, we put Viresco Aquarium to the test.

Our test tank contained messy eaters, mainly barbs, and nitrate had previously been controlled by partial water changes. As these tended to be carried out whenever our tester had a spare few minutes, nitrates tended to be higher than they should. (around 25 mg/litre.)

Within ten days of adding the product, this level was halved.



Within a month the levels were unmeasurable, even on a good quality test kit and have remained so.

Furthermore, in almost three months of continuous use, the front glass of the aquarium has not needed to be cleaned of algae, and there has been a considerable reduction in sludge.

**Our verdict:** We can't quite figure out how this product works, but work it does. An absolute essential for freshwater fishkeepers.