

FEDERATION OF BRITISH AQUATIC SOCIETIES

FISHCARE SHEET No: 18

Loaches.

01/02/2002

Welcome to these information Sheets that will not only help you make the best fish choices for your aquarium but also provides details on their best care.

Genera: *Botia*, *Gyrinocheilus*, *Nemacheilus*, *Pangio*.

Family: Balitoridae, Cobitidae.

Geographic Origin: Virtually worldwide distribution with the exception of South America and Australia.

Common Names: Chinese Algae Eater, Chain, Clown, Tiger Loaches.

Compatibility: Generally quite peaceful fish, that are well suited to a community aquarium. Large specimens of the Chinese Algae Eater may become aggressive, as may groups of five or more of the *Botia* species.

Minimum Aquarium Size: Should not be kept in tanks of less than 600mm x300mm x 300mm (24" x 12" x 12"). Bigger aquariums are much better as they tend to move around the tank searching for food.

Temperature: With a few exceptions, all are quite happy at temperatures between 20°/27°C 70°/80°F.

Habitat: Most are found in rivers or hill streams. (these are often considerably cooler and may be fast flowing). Like a well planted tank with rockwork or places to hide.

Water Parameters: Undemanding, providing it is clean and clear. A weekly water change of 25% is recommended.

Health: Some - particularly the Clown Loach (*Chromobotia macracanthus*) is often susceptible to White Spot. Treat with proprietary medicines.

Diet: Dried, frozen and live foods such as *Daphnia* and *Tubifex* are all readily accepted. Algae wafers are beneficial to their diet.

Plants. All tropical plants are acceptable in the aquarium.

Availability. Many different species are available.

Show Class. FBAS Show Class Usually Class L or La. Some are shown in Class M or W.