## FISHCARE SHEET No: 20 Loaches

Genera: Botia, Nemacheilus, Pangio.

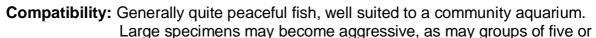
Family: Balitoridae, Cobitidae.

Geographic Origin: Virtually worldwide with the

exception of South America

and Australia.

Common Names: Chain, Clown, Tiger Loaches.



more of the Botia species.

**Minimum Aquarium Size:** Not to 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 happy at temperatures between 20°-27°C

 $(70^{\circ}-80^{\circ}F)$ .

**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 formulated for Loaches.

**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.

Breeding Notes: Isolated cases of Clown Loach spawnings reported. Details unknown.

Availability. Many different species are available.

**Show Class.** FBAS Show Class Usually Class L or La. Some cooler water species are shown in Class M or W.