



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.

Compatibility: Generally quite peaceful fish, well suited to a community aquarium. Large specimens may become aggressive, as may groups of five or 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°-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 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.