

Reticulated Loach

Botia lohachata



Natural Range

They are mainly found in Nepal, India, Pakistan and Bangladesh. They live in waters that are slow running.

Maximum Size and Longevity

Reticulate Loach can grow up to 10 to 13cm and have been known to live up to 20 years plus if kept in the correct conditions.

Water Quality

The reticulate loach is easily adapted to different water conditions but prefers :

- Temperature: 24 - 28 °C
- pH: 6.5—7.5
- GH: 50 –150ppm

Feeding

Reticulate loaches are omnivorous bottom feeders. However, they occasionally feed at the water surface and can make 'clicking' noises while feeding. They will feed on regular foods such as flakes, pellets, live black worms and frozen bloodworms, as well as snails.

Compatibility

They can be fine within a community tank but can sometimes be aggressive with slower, more timid fish. Putting these fish with long finned variety fish could be a problem because they have been known to fin nip.

Colour and Variety

Reticulate loaches have a typical loach shape with the exception of having a more slender body with barbels around their mouth, which are used for foraging for food. They are a silver colour with darker brown patterns through the body. Some people say that the patterns spell "Yo-Yo", so they are sometimes called the Yo-Yo loach.

Sexing

Males will display a red colour around the barbels. Females will have a more rounded stomach than males due to eggs.

General Information

When getting your tank ready for loaches you should take into account that they like to hide until they settle in. They should be kept in small groups of at least 4 to 6 fish.

Loach