



90. LOACH / BACHSCHMERLE (*Barbatula barbatula*)

IDENTIFICATION: Loaches reach a length of 15 cm. Female loaches are bigger than male Loaches.

HABITAT: The loach is found in the trout and grayling region of rivers. It inhabits gravely or sandy running waters. Sometimes the loach is also found in small, ordinary ditches, which are rich in nutritious substances.

FOOD: Loach feed on small crustaceans and insect larvae, which they hunt mostly during the night. In the food chain, loach play an important role since they are prey for bigger trout.

SPAWNING: Females spawn from March through May. They deposit their sticky eggs on plants and rocks. Mal loach guard the fry until they hatch.