



**Accession Number: -Z00004**

**Scientific Name: *Paracanthocobitis botia***

**Family: Nemacheilidae**

**Common Name: Mottled zipper loach**

**Physical Characteristics:**



Earlier, they were placed under the genus *Acanthocobitis*. These fish have an elongated, cylindrical body shape with a distinctive pattern of vertical bars along their sides. They have a slightly flattened head and downturned mouth, well-adapted for scavenging and digging through substrate. Banded Loaches typically grow to a moderate size, with adults reaching lengths of around 10 to 15 centimetres (4 to 6 inches). However, some individuals may be slightly more prominent in suitable aquarium conditions. The colouration can vary from light brown to olive green, with darker bands and often a yellow or orange hue on the underside.

**Geographical Distribution:**

It is found in South and Southeast Asia, mainly in rivers, streams, and ponds across countries like India, Bangladesh, Myanmar, Thailand, and Laos.

**Economic Importance:**

It contributes to the economy through the aquarium trade, fish breeding and farming, international trade, tourism, education, and research activities. Additionally, its conservation is crucial for maintaining biodiversity and the health of freshwater ecosystems, which can yield broader economic benefits through ecosystem services and sustainable resource use.