

Kuhli Loach (*Pangio kuhlii*)



Kuhli Loach (also known as Coolie Loach) are a small eel-like freshwater fish belonging to the loach family (Cobitidae), they are slender with slightly compressed sides with very small translucent fins and have pairs of barbels around their mouths which are set at a downward angle. The Kuhli loach is a bottom dweller that borrows into soft places. It's ordinal name '*Acanthophthalmus*' comes from the meaning 'thorn' or 'prickle eye', after a spine beneath each eye.

Kuhli loaches are fairly easy to care for, you will need a minimum aquarium size of 20 gallons (37 litres). They prefer sand as a substrate but if sand is not appropriate a smooth stone can be used so that the loach doesn't scratch its body on sharp edged gravel or stones.

They need a medium-soft to medium water hardness, with a pH around 5.5 – 7.0 (it has been known for them to adapt to most water conditions however) and the temperature should be between 24 - 29°C (75 - 85°F).

Kuhli loaches are a peaceful fish and social typically found in clusters (they are not schooling fish, but enjoy the company of their species). They can reach maturity at 7cm and have a maximum length of approximately 10cm.

They are nocturnal by nature swimming near the bottom where they feed, scavenging for food mainly at dusk or in the dark, spending most of their time hiding in the substrate, plants and decorations during the day. They can be reclusive and when startled, will dart under ornaments or bury themselves.

Being scavengers, they will eat anything that reaches the bottom often cleaning up uneaten morsels which might have been missed by fish with less body dexterity. They will eat most fish foods, however a sinking pellet or tablet food is best as well as small live or frozen foods such as bloodworms and brine shrimp.