



# GOLD FISH

*Carassius auratus*



GOUDVIS



PIMPÃO



PESCE ROSSO



POISSON ROUGE

## Geographical Distribution

The gold fish (or crucian carp) is a taxon that have been presumably imported from China in the early seventeenth century for ornamental reasons. This specie is now widespread throughout most of the continental territory, except some river basins in the South of Portugal- Arad, Mira and Ribeiras do Algarve - although usually it's not represented by very abundant populations.



## Habitat

The gold fish is mainly associated with lentic systems (still waters), but it can also adapt to lotic characters with weak current, lush vegetation and sandy bottoms. It has a high resistance kbeing able to sustain unfavorable environments such as water contamination and low levels of dissolved oxygen.

## Description

The body is similar but smaller to that of the carp. The mouth is devoid of barbels. The fish selected for ornamental purposes exhibit a reddish color. However, when they colonize natural aquatic systems their color turns greenish-brown. It is assumed that this phenomenon is due to differences in the type of food in captivity and in the wild. Average length: 10-20 cm.

## Feeding behavior

The gold fish displays a benthic feeding behavior and a omnivore regime, consuming essentially aquatic macroinvertebrates and vegetation (algae, macrophytes).

## Fishing

**Closed season:** none. **Minimum retention size:** 10 cm.