



#### **84. MILLER'S THUMB / GROPPPE / MUEHLKOPPE (*Cottus gobio*)**

**IDENTIFICATION:** A small fish that reaches a length of no more than 18 cm with a stocky body. The pelvic fins of Miller's Thumb are located far to the front, close to the pectoral fins. The gill covers have a well-developed thorn. Miller's Thumb do not have air bladders. The Miller's Thumb is of no significance for fishermen. In German fishing laws, the Miller's Thumb is granted all-year protection.

**HABITAT:** The Miller's Thumb is found in clear brooks of the trout region. Sometimes also in the upper zones of the grayling region. In lakes located in higher altitudes, the Miller's Thumb is sometimes found near stony bank areas. Most Miller's Thumb hide under rocks or in other hiding places and are actively only at night.

**FOOD:** Miller's Thumb feed on smaller bottom animals.

**SPAWNING:** Miller's Thumb spawn from February through May. Females deposit their eggs under stones in a little hollow created by males. Males will watch the clod-shaped nest of eggs. Like many other type of fish the Miller's Thumb is said to be a bad spawn predator.