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**PODZIAŁ ZASOBÓW POKARMOWYCH MIĘDZY KOZĄ  
(*Cobitis taenia* L.) I KOZĄ ŻŁOTAWĄ  
[*Sabanejewia aurata* (Fil.)] W RZECIE NIZINNEJ**

FOOD RESOURCE PARTITIONING BETWEEN SPINED LOACH  
(*Cobitis taenia* L.) AND GOLDEN LOACH [*Sabanejewia aurata* (Fil.)]  
IN A LOWLAND STREAM

**ABSTRACT**

Representatives of native *Cobitidae* - spined loach and golden loach are closely related and morphologically similar species, which rarely co-occur in ecological communities. Sympatric populations of these species were found in Czarna Włoszczowska River (Pilica drainage basin). The aim of this study was to examine mechanisms that might allow this coexistence. The diets of both loach species and their overlapping were estimated. The main component of both species' diets were chironomids larvae (95.9% of prey abundance and 63.9% of food biomass in case of spined loach and 99.8% and 87.5% respectively for golden loach). Both examined species showed high selectivity in regard to different *Chironomidae* taxa. The food niche breadth (D index), estimated for chironomids identified to genus or species level, was 11.10 for spined loach and 6.70 for golden loach, while for chironomids treated as a whole - 2.06 and 1.30 respectively. Other macrobenthos groups were utilised to a greater extent by spined loach. Epibenthic zooplankton, mainly cladocerans *Alona affinis*, belonged to supplementary food.