Livebearer News

Official Members Magazine of the
BRITISH LIVEBEARER ASSOCIATION

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Back page photo : Alan Dunne

Editorial

Another magazine, fairly hot on the heels of the last one!

This issue is mainly reissued material from older magazines, I hope this meets with approval as I find reading these older articles very interesting. In this issue we have some timeless advice on using mosquito larvae as live food, a tongue in cheek (well almost) article about being the editor!, a great article on the amazing goodeid *Giradinichthys viviparous* written by James Langhammer in 1995.

I also have included an old article from Dave Cheswright, detailing his fish-house circa 1980.

Finally we have a flyer for our convention – we would love to see you all!

Thank you for reading!

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Editorial by Paddy Davies

Chairman's message

Reading the article on *Tomereus gracilis* in the last journal reminded me that 'livebearing' in fish has evolved a number of times, as has internal fertilization. A couple of years back my encounters with livebearers could not be more diverse. On an island in the Maldives I spotted a pond on the edge of the village (the island was the village!) by the sea and saw surface movement. On closer inspection it proved to be full of sailfin mollies of varying hues- obviously introduced. The next was a bit more dramatic. Whilst on the boat between islands the boat slowed in the open channel and we were told we were going snorkelling. Without really thinking we got ready and into the inflatable and then we spotted our quarry surfacing and jumped in. They were Manta Rays, wonderful graceful and huge. Luckily they are plankton feeders but awe inspiring when heading towards you. Like a lot of other rays and sharks they give birth to live young.

Closer to home if you ever go rock pooling you may come across a livebearing blenny *Zoarces viviparous,* a slippery customer with an eel like body. Killifish in the genus Cynopoecilus are known to internally fertilise the eggs, although eggs are then laid. There again we have some Goodeas that lay eggs in the genera Empetrichthys and Crenichthys! It is all intertwined and is livebearing is obviously a useful strategy for these fish and is likely to have evolved initially from internal rather than external fertilisation.

I hope the convention goes well, I am not able to be there due to family events and apologise for the clashing of dates.

By Chris Cheswright.

The Editors lot,

In order to get this magazine out, we have had to rely heavily on old material from other magazines and journals, I really enjoy reading through these and hope you do too. The articles about fish species are ok, but I really enjoy the personal accounts about the trials and successes of fish keeping.

One thing struck me while reading the old Southern Livebearers aquatic group Journal is that the Editors lot has never been a happy one. The following is an excerpt from issue 7, May 1980 from the editor Joe Sutcliffe:

'The Journal takes well over forty hours to type and edit and a full day (usually my day off work) to print and collate. Add to this three or four Sundays attending Committee meetings at just over 300 miles per round trip (at my own expense) and you will begin to see why I think I am wasting my time doing this job. Especially when only a handful of members (mostly Committee members at that) are prepared to spend an hour or so to provide me with material to work with. Maybe my time would be better spent in the fish shed or garden. I have asked before and I will ask again, but, I will not ask many more times. Let's have something from YOU for the Journal, even if it's only a letter saying "You volunteered so what are you moaning for?" So I did volunteer, and I will do the job willingly and even give up moaning if you will give me a little help.'
Issue 8 was his last journal…

I sympathise with this message! However I can't help but think how much easier things are these days with instant communication via the internet and even easier availability of information.

Although sifting through it all and finding material that we are allowed to use which is relevant to the readership can be frustrating at times, however it does repay itself in the amount of fascinating things I come across, which I would not otherwise read.

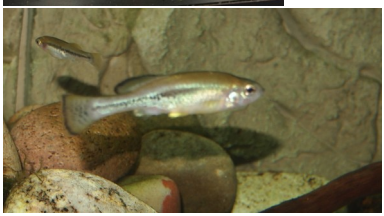
One thing I have found hard however, is having to hand type old articles into the computer, it is amazing how long this takes and how bad at typing I am!

Old articals are great, but new articles are even better and I would like to thank all the members and committee members who contribute to the magazine. I would love more people to contribute, especially photographers, so please get in touch, even if it is just a rough draft of an article or something you want to say about livebearers, all material is gratefully received.

Finally, thank you for reading the magazine I do hope you all enjoy it – and if you are feeling sorry for me, spare a thought for Kim Jones our Publisher and Persuader (not in the mafia sense) Without her support and superlative organisation, this magazine would not see the light of day!

Thanks to our Photo contributors Kees, Paddy, Dai,Alan, Nigel, for there use, and to all our cotributers we may of missed, please send your pictures to paddy and kim see page 23 for email details. thanks

Just some of our livebearer species that may be available come and join us at the Auction in October



A year with Mr and Mrs Bogeyes!

By Colin Howe.

Editors note: This article originally appeared in numbers 7 and 9 of the S.L.A.G Journal

It is an account of keeping four eyed fish, *Anableps anableps.* One of the most characterful species of livebearer you can keep.

I was fortunate during the early part of 1979, in being able to purchase two juveniles of *Anabeps anabeps* approximately 1 to 1½“ long. During the past year, they have grown to about 6”, and I am pleased to say, have sexed out as a pair. They started their life with me in individual 18” tanks, as one was being bullied and looked thin.

Each small tank had a raised bed of gravel at one end, to enable the fish to “waddle up the beech”. After a couple of months, the skinny one was now much stronger and I decided to re-introduce them into a deep sided 245” tank with a gravel bank. This was in natural lighting, and within a very short time, it became impossible to keep the tank free of algae. It covered the gravel and the glass, which blocked the filter. The problem was that the fish loved the sunlight in the tank to bask in, and I didn`t really have to give this aspect up. So I had a 6ft x 12” x 12” tank made. This I half filled with water leaving the bottom almost completely clear, box filters now took over from the U/G , and as sun bathing platform I used a large flower pot topped with a flat slate. This protruded just above the water level. I have now used this tank for about six months, and have found it very successful, but during this time I have never noticed any signs of amorous intention from the male.

A couple of weeks ago I decided I would give their tank a spring clean, to make way for all that lovely sunshine to get in. I removed some of the original water into a 2 foot tank, and after some frantic net work I managed to move them both over.

Within ten minutes, the male was like a thing possessed and appeared to remember everything that mother nature had taught him. Why they had never shown any interest in the larger tank beasts me, perhaps he likes his women in confined spaces!

Now I shall have to wait and see if they.....

Bogeyes' Galore!

Colin Howe.

On the l1th October IT Finally Happened!

As usual at lunchtime I went into my fish house to feed, and lo behold there they were, Anableps Fry! Panic not I cried reaching for the toilet paper. For all my well laid plans were completely forgotten. Where was that carefully prepared fry tank I had promised myself that I would have ready in plenty of time?

A frantic ten minutes produced a 2' tank complete with gravel bank, and some 2" of the original waters Now to set about catching the fry. It wasn't until then that I really "took in" how many fry were about.

The result was not really encouraging; out of six fry born three were obviously 'dead on arrival'. These three were ’split’ underneath, and I assumed that perhaps the birth itself had caused them to SPLIT

That was until I showed these dead fry to our President, John Dawes, who explained that in fact the young were not properly formed at the time of birth, and the skin had in fact not ’joined' up. totally the reverse to what I was thinking. (30 odd years in this hobby, and how little I know).

Meanwhile the remaining three fry were settling into their new home but one was not swimming in the typical "cork-like" Anableps manner and obviously had a swim bladder defect. Next morning it was dead. This specimen I photographed and measured, the fry being 60 mm including caudal. "And then there were Two".

The remaining two fry proved easy to feed and maintain, accepting any food offered, provided of course it stayed within their limited downward travelling distance. For about the first two weeks I found that they seemed unable to reach the deeper (3") part of the tank, but by about 4 weeks this proved to be no problem.

One has to be constantly alert to fouling of the aquarium at these early stages. Because they are gross feeders, there tends to be a large amount of excreta, and waste food. All this in the confines of a limited depth of water. Sifted Daphnia, Brine Shrimp, are not the food for these babies. Chopped earthworm, glass worm, flake food, these are on the menu twice daily and are accepted greedily. Feeding presents no problems in that respect; why should it when you are feeding 60 mm. Fry!!

By the time they were six weeks old and some 70 mm overall, it was time again to decide on their next home, as pollution was becoming a major factor. I eventually decided to reintroduce them to the parents, based on my experience of observing the parents' attitude towards fish of other species sharing their tank.

They have now been together for 2-3 weeks, and no signs of any serious bullying have occurred. At meal times the young may be pushed aside gently, but that's about all, and the young always seem to end up with bulging stomachs.

If I am lucky enough to be presented with further broods, I don't think I shall attempt to remove any healthy fry, but leave them with their parents. I estimate the gestation period to be 12-14 weeks at temperature of 78°F. If I am right, then I should be in luck again in 1981

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The Best Food for Livebearers – and it costs nowt!

By Roy Lee From S.L.A.G Journal - Issue 10

That statement may not be quite correct. But there are not many insects that have fishes named after them even if it's only the common name and the popular brands of flake fish foods now cost upwards of £10,000 a ton. Admittedly you can feed quite a few fish with a ton.

I'm referring to mosquito larvae. Many aquarists, even experienced ones, express surprise at how easy it is to culture.

This is the method I have evolved over the last few years. First one wants a shallow container, with a large surface area, an old 3' tank is ideal except that it is easily broken, or if you leave water in it over the winter frost may freeze the water and crack the glass. It is best sited in a shady spot away from the house. Do this about the time the lawn needs cutting for the first time. Fill the tank with tap water. Mine is about 7.5 PH and 10DH but I do not think this is important.

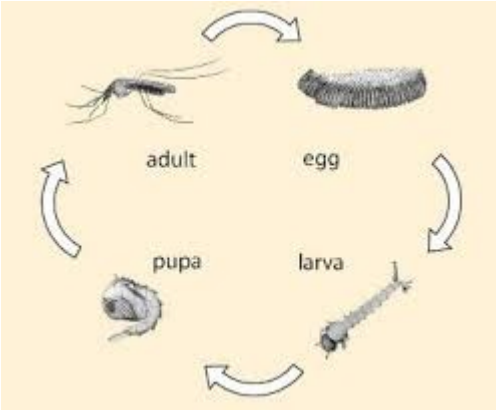
Get your first grass cuttings and put them in a sealed plastic bag. This biologically breaks the grass down and gives the culture a good start. When the weather starts to get warmer get a pair of your wife's stockings or tights and put grass into the foot from the bag. Baking a sausage about 1 foot long and about 3 inches in diameter put this into the tank.. The sausage of grass will need renewing about every three weeks throughout the summer; also the water will need topping up, from time to time.

After 2 or 3 weeks the culture will become ripe. Other members of the family may have another word for it! The odour from the culture attracts the female mosquito and she lays her eggs on the surface of the water. These egg rafts are hard to describe. They are about long and about wide and have the texture of the under side of a mushroom. They are usually on the edge of the container, almost proud of the surface. They are light grey when laid and turn dark brown as they mature.

At this stage one has two choices:- I) Collect the egg rafts and put them in a jar of water in your fish-house or any warm place until they hatch. Newly hatched mosquito larvae makes an ideal substitute for brine shrimp, for the larger fry of *Jenynsia* and Goodeid species and cost nothing. Or 2) Leave the eggs to hatch in the tank in the garden where they will grow to full size. One can feed them to adult fishes. But first they have got to be caught. Mosquito larvae are sensitive to any vibrations, so take a net and creep up the garden to the container. (You will be confirming what your neighbours suspected long ago), and net out the larvae.

These cultures are never very prolific but the larvae are ideal for getting the more difficult species into breeding conditions. An accepted way of breeding livebearers commercially in Florida was to place a Heavy gravid female in a goldfish bowl with some anacharis and as much larvae as she can eat. This idea may even work with b*imaculata* and *Gambusia* species which are very cannibalistic toward their offspring.

If anybody in the neighbourhood goes down with Malaria I would get rid of the culture – QUICK!



Picture From www.mosquitoes.org

Methods of Maintaining and Breeding Live-bearers.

By Dave Cheswright

This article was originally published in issue 6 of the Southern Livebearers Aquatic Group (S.L.A.G) Journal in May 1980. Dave's son Chris is now our current Chairman.
I am at present keeping over 50 species of livebearer plus about 10 blood-lines, a total of 54 species at February 1980. In addition, my son, being active member of the British Killifish Association, has some twelve species of killifish.

We have at present an outside fish-shed , size 12`x8`x8' , space heated with an electric fan heater which incorporates its own thermostat. As a consequence we have a wide temperature range, in the winter anything from 65 to 80F can be found somewhere in the shed. In the Summer we can still find 65F if required and of-course,much higher. Indeed in the Summer we leave the door open to keep the temperature down. We find that the high shelves, which can be used from September to June, have to be vacated in hot weather.
You can assume we ignore filtration, we have adequate aeration but do not use it at full power, except on any species which must have it, such as Priapella & Xiphophorus, X.pygmaeus in particular. We prefer to have only a reasonable number of fishes in each container and I will not in any way get into the situation of depending on aeration to cover excessive over-crowding.

We have a very good plant growth and do not worry about algae on the glass, so long as the front glass is kept clear. Such species as *Goodea atripinnis* are kept in tanks with good plant cover on the bottom, such as *Cryptocorynes*. Algae is no problem with Goodeas as they eat it and this dispenses with the need for green foods such as spinach, peas and let-tuce.

Cleaning out of the larger tanks (18" up) is done in situ and then very seldom. Water is changed in this size of tank upwards at the rate of 20% once a month, more often if the species needs it. Water changing is a job of work as far as I am concerned, and in my opinion, is over emphasise by magazines and many aquarists. A little changed often is far better than a lot changed every now and again. Between monthly changes, small amounts are changed very often using pint jug. Any smaller tanks than above get special treatment. If females are in small containers to obtain fry, or fry are in small jars for a time, then almost every day a small amount of water is changed.

The advantage with apace heated shed is that fishes are in more natural conditions, with regard to lighting and temperature changes. This produces a much more natural atmosphere in which to keep any species. The shed is completely double glazed in 6mm plate glass and has two inches of polystyrene on the walls, covered in hardboard. Natural daylight to me is a must, I do not like artificial light, heating costs are considerable but can be covered by disposals of fishes bred. We as humans would not like to be shut-up all day indoors, neither do fishes or any other living creature.

Feeding is by flake food (the well known German product). Live food is provided to all when available - garden worms, ox-heart, daphnia etc. A large amount of brine shrimp is used and endless amounts of micro-worm, these last two are for fry only.

All fishes and plants coming into the shed are quarantined from whatever source. Fishes from Mexico and other Countries are treated as suspect for at least one year and are not put with any earlier stock during that period. Any other acquisitions are quarantined for one month regardless of the source. This I think is the only answer to avoiding trouble. I would emphasise that we have experienced no troubles apart from the odd wasting away (unexplained), & deaths of fishes from abroad.

We have about 70 aquaria from 14" long up to 5 foot. In addition, small tanks, buckets & plastic boxes are used for pregnant females, fry and quarantine. Also difficult fishes to breed, we find, are best kept in smaller containers so that an eye can be kept on the females easily, and special attention given to feeding and water changing. At any given time, we could have up to 20 plus of such small containers

I used to specialise in breeding Cichlids,barbs, labyrinths and characins at various periods but livebearers and killifish have taken over in the last five years. The shed is run temperature wise etc. to suit these.
The present shed has been in use for 14 years and was old when we moved to Cedar Avenue. I am now converting our garage and will be moving into this in March 1980. Details of this new building and the contents, plus more about livebearers will follow.

PART TWO

I have now moved everything to the new set up. The old fish shed is in a bit of a state and we are trying to decide whether to demolish it or whether it is worth re-roofing as a household rubbish store.
My breeze block garage has not had a car in it for years, and last October I decided it would be better as a fish house; notice house instead of shed! , this being a better standard of building. One wall is the wall of the bungalow and it has wooden doors. These were sealed inside and out with mastic and screws, to render them immovable. A new. door was cut in the back and made out of 25 mm timber, lined inside with polystyrene and exterior ply. Half the asbestos roof was replaced with corrugated PVC and sealed. 50 x 50 mm timbers were put on the three outside walls and these insulated with 50 mm sheets of polystyrene; twice this thickness was put on the other half of the roof. The whole was then covered in treated hardboard and painted and all the joints sealed. The sealing around the floor is so good that any water spilt has to be mopped up. The whole job took until Easter 1980, and the first tank was moved in on the 7th of April. Paraffin was used as heating until 27th April when the electric heating was changed over. Paraffin was then used in the old shed until the final tank was moved on the 11th May. To the end of May it was apparent that heating costs will be about half that of the old shed about 2 pounds 50 per week. I will continue my records on this with my check meter and report on the heating costs later

The great improvement on the old shed, apart from the additional space, is the putting in of mains cold water and the installation of drainage to the main bathroom drain; this has already saved hours of work in carrying water, there being a storage tank which is continually topped up. I have always regarded water changing as a job of work and estimate that many of us spend more time doing this than in keeping and studying our fishes. At present I have an old Elsan toilet from caravanning days in use as a chair and try to sit down daily and have a good look round after feeding times. (this is used only as a chair). This will go when I find an old chair that is suitable. I still have more lights to put up and have only run the air lines half way round to date.

A few tanks leaked on being moved and a few old fishes died. *Priapella compressa* were terrified for about 3 weeks and hid in the corners of the various tanks they were in. This seems to show them as the most nervous species I have. A few *Limnurgus innominatus* died about a month of being moved for no apparent reason, apart from the fact deaths of this species are not uncommon. I now have sufficient shelving to ensure that no small tanks are on top of larger ones.

Natural lighting is good as proved by the rapid plant growth so far. I have now started my fish again. Again the nervous *Priapella compressa* have dropped only 7 or 8 fry instead of the usual 12 to 15. I had three *Phallocerus caudomacultatus reticulatus auratus* from member number 4. These turned out to be females and one died. Only one of the other two shows the gold, but this colour covers about 50% of the body, the rest being black. I crossed both to a P. caudo` ret` male showing a slight gold colouration. These matings produced 2 broods which I am keeping separate. It is too early to tell if gold will appear on the fry, but the gold female is truly a magnificent coloured fish.

The basic P. caudomaculatus is known as the “one spot livebearer”. The fry of this and the two other (sub-species?) are n with one spot in the centre of the body. This spot remains only in P. caudomaculatus (which we do not have in the UK). It disappears on the other two and is replaced by the all over black or gold colouration. I have had more than one member query the fry born to P. caudo` ret` when they see this one spot.

The Xiphophorus montezumae (a pair brought back by member 21 from Mexico 1979 are proving very prolific and I have a good stock of these now). The female drops about 30 plus fry which is a very large number for this species in my experience. The pair have many black markings on their bodies and the larger fry are showing these to some extent.

My method of obtaining fry is to remove females which are early pregnant to a small tank filled with any sort of plant and/or nylon mops. These females are checked daily and part of the water is changed 2 or 3 times a week. This is where most of my water changing takes place,on a regular basis. Special treatment of the females, I feel, is the answer to the breeding the more difficult species. The same water changing takes place with the fry if they are in a small tank for a time. The tap water in my area is about pH 7.0 (neutral) and about 120 ppm,quite soft. From my past experience with Characins etc. this water seems ideal for a variety of families of fish. I have found that Poecilia vivipara, stocks of which appear to be very low at present, have settled in very well and I hope to start obtaining fry again soon. How many of our members still

British Livebearer Association Autumn Convention

11/12th October 2014
Best Western Naseby Hotel
Sheep Street
Kettering, Northants NN16 0AN

Saturday 11th October
Speakers booked are Michael Koeck curator of the Haus des meres in Vienna and founder of the GWG (Goodeid Working Group) and Erwin Radax

They will be giving talks on
How the natural biotopes of fish we keep influence the way we keep them and Xiphophorus keeping their way

Fancy Guppies UK will be holding their 8th round of the 2014 Guppy League

Sunday 12th October
An auction will take place of the Show Guppies and other livebearers

For details please contact
nigelhunter@tiscali.co.uk

Room bookings
stephen.elliott1@virgin.net

.The Husbandry of the black Sailfin Goodeied *Giradinicthys viviparous.*

By James K Langhammer

Originally written in 1991 and re-published in viviparous 29 in 1995

For nearly twenty five years I've dedicated much of my tank space and hobby energies to maintaining colonies of goodeids. Many of which were threatened with extinction in the wild and have become increasingly so in the passing years. There is within the hobby a sort of pseudo-sophistry that implies if a fish bears live young and you can buy a gravid female, then the subsequent birth takes place in "your" tank makes "you" an accomplished aquarist and the fish an "easy species to breed.. No matter of course that few aquarists show any ability to husband these "easy" species through several generations while simultaneously raising quality speciments in terms of size colour and vigour. Remember your school days and being sophomore? Derived from greek and meaning wis foll. Sophomore is an intermediate stage of becoming accomplished. Show me an aquarist who considers livebearing fishes in general as being easy, and Ill show you a sophomoric aquarist who cant raise them successfully! "Too easy to keep", and you can bet the aquarist can't

In any case goodeids include among their ranks some of the most difficult freshwater fish to husband in captivity, Goodeids more so than most. Families of fish vary remarkably in their needs. Consequently some species of fish can be easy in one area and nearly impossible to husband in another area of the country. Sometimes these differences can be difficult to pinpoint..

The black sailfin goodeied is one of those problem species. It is small colourful, and has nice finnage. All qualities which make it a desirable aquarium fish . Yet internationally it has proved very difficult to keep in captivity. Its status in the wild is precarious at best since its habitat is the central valley where Mexico city's urban spread has all but eliminated natural waters and those that remain are highly polluted.

Male G.viviparous – Copyright Goodeid Working Group

After several attempts to husband this species unsuccessfully from stocks acquired from several sources. I received stock from Derek Lambert (England) in august 1990 that were F1 from his own collection. I might have failed with these fish again if Derek had not challenged me to keep them beyond a generation or two, saying this species is inherently weak through inbreeding in the wild and succumbs quickly in captivity. I Love challenges, especially when the gauntlet is dropped by Pat Lamberts prodigal son! (Actually now that I Think Ive solved the 'secret' to keeping the black sailfins. I'm suspicious that those devious Brits tricked me into doing their homework for them!)

The black sailfin comes from the cool high plateau of central Mexico and in no way should be considered a fish of high temperatures. Goodeids by and large are all placed at risk by aquarists that try and husband them at temperatures above 75 degrees F True they can survive higher temperatures, but their metabolism seems compromised and their susceptibility to the toxic nitrogenous excretory waste products of their community is pushed to dangerous limits. No goodeid needs to be kept warmer than 75 degrees F!

A cool aquarium and regular water changes of 50% several times a week provide the minimal conditions for this species. Perhaps because of the cool natural habitat coupled with a relativity short summer season, black sailfins mature faster than any other goodeid I have ever worked with. My shortest generational interval was 44 days between 4th and 5th generation.

Diet is the most critical component in the management of this species based upon my experiences. Nearly everyone who has kept this species has reported deaths of fishes characterized by massive abdominal distension. The problem hits all sizes and ages and never seems to be an epidemic but rather to appear randomly and sporadically. Eventually the colony dies out. Medicated foods containing Tetracycline (for bacteria) and/or Metronidazole (for protozoans) gave no relief. And suggested to me this problem was not pathogenic, My next best guess was that the quality and quantity of foods might be inappropriate and that this fish with its short stubby body might be susceptible to fatal bouts of constipation.

Although the F1's Derek brought me were very small and didn't appear gravid, seventeen days later they had young. Over the next several months I accumulated a large number of F2 offspring, I set up four different colonies to study diets. I also relocated many fish to new homes (all of which but one proved unsuccessful in establishing colonies). The dreaded bloat was showing up every where but reproduction was keeping ahead of mortality in my tanks.

Nonetheless I realised that traditional diets that worked with other goodeids were not successful here. Usually I have tried to feed a variety of foods – dry commercial foods for their vitamin and mineral supplements, home blended meat pastes, and live food. As I sorted and manipulated diet combinations, I became convinced that live worms and flake foods seemed to cause constipation in these fishes and discontinued their use. .

The results were dramatic but not completely successful; there were still occasional deaths. Thinking they might be exclusively vegetarian in their natural diets, I tried a number of commercial child food pastes that wre only fruit/vegetable combinations. Tanks that were fed exclusively or partially on these herbivorous supplements did no better and in the former case , I felt fared worse.

In frustration, I asked Derek to describe their natural habitat. He said he found them swimming in a foul broth of crustaceans and algae. This raised the interesting concept fr me that these fish might need a continuous source of high roughage food. So that the guts more of less processed food continuously, without interruption and without pockets or spaces of intestinal gasses that might interfere with the faecal column.

n addition to colonies fed the herbivore paste, I next restricted two colonies to diets consisting of only 1) Daphnia and green water fed so generously that the foods were present 24 hours a day, and 2) Live baby brine shrimp morning and evening fed essentially to the fishes satiation but without polluting the tank with uneaten shrimp (usually I find that brine shrimp will live for about 12 hours in freshwater) Unquestionably the last two diets have proven the best. As I move now into the F5 generation, the colonies fed essentially only one crustacean, either baby brine shrimp or *Daphnia* are thriving and I have seen no mortality in these colonies for several months. I've now discontinued all colonies fed on other food.

Although I'll probably continue with independent colonies fed exclusively on these two different diets of crustaceans, my best subjective evaluation is that the colony fed on *Daphnia* and green water diet seems more colourful. In most other respects I would say these two diets offer comparably healthy colonies of the black sailfins. The black sailfin is one of those fishes that may not reach the 21st century as a wild species. It needs your help to survive. I hope my experiences and observations will assist in making this species a commonly kept aquarium fish.

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Update 2014

23 years on from the publication of this article, this species (also known as the amarillo) is still not a common species of Goodeid, although not the rarest, very occasionally it is seen on commercial lists and does seem to just about cling on in the UK hobby, although occasional crashes in the population seem to occur. When success occurs, this species an be very prolific, but when passed on this species can be difficult to establish. Most success is had with a similar diet to that described above – usually brine shrimp is used. Temperature is also important and this species appears to do best at cooler temps around 20 degrees C and lower.

John Lyons listed this species as endangered, with only remenant populations existing in the Valle de México.

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50 tons of dead Goodeids...

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The beginning of September shocked the world with an ecological desaster in the Lago Cajitlán between Guadalajara and the Lago de Chapale. By non - certain circumstances, but probably by not legal disposed sewage sludge of a nearby purificacion plant, about 50 tons of endemic fish died, the biggest part of it had been *Goodea atripinnis*.

It's almost high noon in central Mexico, fish are disappearing rapidly, not only Goodeids. In a few years it may be that we have lost about 50% of species there. One of the worlds biggest hotspots of evolution may be gone within the next decade....unnoticed, because no pandas are living there, no Orangs and no tigers... in a time, when big NGO's are being flooded with millions of Euros and Dollars to save their key-species, many other species, some of time even more threathened are allowed to dy out because nobody knows them, and because they bring no money, simply said. Organisations like the ZGAP or the GWG are fighting for those "grey" species, and being in the front row, I know how difficult it is for us to get a 15.000 Euros per year over 5 years for the repatration and salvation of a single fish, eben when it is beautiful like *Zoogoneticus tequila*... may it be that everything is too late already? That we are hunting after dreams and ghosts, without having real hope to change our minds, and our future? I still can't believe it and I won't give in. The GWG won't give in, and hopefully, when we have many travelling knights like the GWG-members on this planet, we may change the course of this sinking ship!

From the Goodeid Working Group

Data Protection Act

In order to comply with the requirements of the Data Protection Act, we need to inform members that their name, address, e-mail address and telephone number are being maintained on a database, the purpose of which is for the distribution of the Association's magazine and to inform members of forthcoming events. This information will not be provided to any other organisation for any purpose whatsoever without prior consultation.

The Association agrees to remove any details at a member's request.

Copyright Information

The print date for the next issue is 30th August 2014, could all contributors please ensure that articles are provided to the Editor by the Editor by the 120th of August 2014

Committee:

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