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Dear Reader

Welcome to this issue of FishWorld magazine. Following on from the last edition, our attentions turn from outdoor to indoor fishkeeping with the imminent arrival of autumn. Gone should be all the moans and groans from pondkeepers about green water and blanketweed and now it should all be plain-sailing as the tropical aquarium-keepers (in whose tanks perfect conditions permanently abound?) get down to the serious business.

We have a small apology to make, and one which we are happy to rectify in this issue. John Edwards' previous article on Corydoras was prepared using some network aimed at helping identification of species. Unfortunately, due to lack of guidance from the Editor, these were merely used as decorative additions rather than the constructive additions which was John's intention. Please refer to the previous article when looking at the fuller-sized illustrations repeated in this issue which also features the latest 'Cory' information.

Terry Waller has reached the end of his Breeding series by apparently catching up with John Edwards. Trade products, new books and a look forward to this year's Supreme Festival of Fishkeeping should keep you up with the aquatic picture whilst our suggested activities page should give you an idea or two for next year's outdoor season, unless we're lucky enough to get a prolonged Indian Summer! There were two new Shows making their debut this year and we have reports on these along with the other happenings in the aquatic world. Fish has long been associated as being 'brain power' food - see what Nuala Green comes up with on this subject! All this, together with other stuff too much to include details of here (why spoil a perfectly good 'Contents' column?) should make interesting reading - you can always drop a line to tell us!

Dick Mills, Editor, FishWorld

Contributions for the next issue should be in hand by October 31st 1996 and sent to: FishWorld Magazine, 10 Roskell Grove, Farnham Royal, Buckinghamshire SL2 9DZ. (Tel/Fax: 01753 446134).

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Federation of British Aquatic Societies

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**From the Chairman of the Federation of British Aquatic Societies**



Dear Friends

Since I last wrote to you I have travelled some 35,000 miles and had the privilege of attending two Exhibitions, BBC Gardeners World & The Hampton Court Flower Show.

BBC Gardeners World was in some ways more successful than last year. With a greater number of people visiting our stand for advice & information on various aspects of fishkeeping albeit most questions were regarding Water Gardening & Pond Fish. I would like to thank those who manned the stand at the NEC Birmingham for their generosity in not only giving their time but paying all their own expenses.

Hampton Court Flower Show — we were again greatly indebted to Alan Sargent for his time and expertise in building our pond. This year although we won a Bronze Medal, I regret to say, we did suffer the "Green Water Syndrome". This was due to a faulty UV unit which was not discovered until too late. However, this did not detract from the value of the exhibit as it enabled us to answer many questions on the subject.

Alan has already tentatively offered to build us a pond again next year! Once again all the aquatic plants on display and for sale were supplied by Anglo Aquarion Plant Company and our thanks go to both Rosalind & David Everett for their continued support to the Federation.

Hampton Court 1997. We will be announcing in the March Issue details of how you can visit the Hampton Court Flower Show on a reduced rate ticket — on a cash with order basis.

I would like to thank all those who supported the Seascale First Open Show — well done, unfortunately I was out of the country.

Regards to you all,

Yours in Fishkeeping

Peter A. Furze

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**WESTON ATTRACTIONS**

The line-up of Guest Speakers at the Supreme Festival of Fishkeeping (public days, November 2nd-3rd, Pontins, Sand Bay, Weston-super-Mare), will not only cover a wide range of subjects but they comprise a wide age-range too!

On the Saturday, Bill Rundle, President of the FBAS and from Plymouth A.S., will kick off the proceedings with an illustration presentation on **Aquatic Plants**; Bill's expert knowledge (especially on Water-lilies) has already been put to good use this year at various Garden Festivals including BBC Gardeners World Live! and the Hampton Court Flower Show and visitors to the weekend will learn much from his presentation. Moving on, the condition and wellbeing of whatever fish you keep depends totally on your ability to keep their water conditions at optimum levels. FBAS PRO Alan Benson will be leading you gently through all the terrors that this subject can hold: his **Maintaining Water Quality** presentation should leave you feeling more confident in keeping your fishes' environment that much better.

Sunday will bring exotic pictures — and probably no less exotic anecdotes — from **Marinist Les Holliday** — well-known for his articles in the Aquatic Press. You'll be sure to be ducking beneath the waves at some time or another during this presentation. 'Bring 'em Back Alive' could well be the motto of Colin Grist, from Bristol Zoo Aquarium. Again well known for his articles on fish-keeping, together with his collecting trips, Colin will be persuading aquarists to take **Conservation of Species** more seriously with his lecture.

Catering for the younger aquarist should pay dividends in the long run as they are the aquarists of tomorrow. Already with a successful first Open Show under their belts, members of the **Seascale Junior Fishkeeping Society** will be giving a presentation of fishkeeping in their own inimitable style and it's bound to be as entertaining, if their previous appearance at Weston is anything to go by! **Peter Anderson**, from Hounslow A.S., has a knack of breeding fish (just ask any of his Club members) and he will be passing on his tips on practical aquarium management for the benefit of young visitors to the Weekend.

There's nothing like getting first-hand practical experience and two displays at the Weekend will allow you to do just that. The **Bristol Zoo Animal** feature will certainly let you get close to all manner of animals to touch and learn about their requirements. For those of a less nervous disposition, the combined display organised by the **Junior Section of British Herpetological Society** together with members of the **International Herpetological Society** will allow you to get to really close grips (hands-on event) with many scaly customers — come and get your phobias cured!

Details of the Weekend's events can be obtained from:  
8 Acacia Avenue, Brentford, Middlesex TW8 8NR



## ONE OF LIFE'S GREATEST MYSTERIES – Can You Solve It?

### The Predicament

Several Societies, when asked, deny receiving any Open Show Pack Material distributed by the Federation of British Aquatic Societies on behalf of several generous aquatic manufacturers, including Rolf C. Hagen, Aquarian, Tetra, Interpet etc. You all know the arrangements – print the relevant (supplied) Company advertisement in your Show Schedule (NOT JUST THE DRAFT COPY YOU SEND TO THE FBAS TROPHY OFFICER!), send in the said Schedule and apply for the Pack and leave the rest up to Paul Corbett.

### Issue of Show Support Material is conditional upon these advertisements appearing in the Schedule.

These Show Support items are specifically for use at Society's Open Shows and are expected, by the donors, to be included and displayed with the Trophy (or any other Award) given to each class – enough material is supplied for this purpose.

### The 'Defence'

The most common reason given for not displaying the material is that 'it didn't arrive'.

### The 'Prosecution'

Also included within the same Open Show Pack is the Interpet Best in Show Award, Society Personality Sweatshirt and the Tetra Sports Bags, all of these items are always easily seen at the events, even when the other material is absent.

### Summing Up

For many years, this system of Trade Support for open Shows has been welcomed by Societies and Traders alike, and seems to be running quite smoothly. The Trade appreciate their materials reaching the right people on the day (and the publicity it receives) and do not expect it to be waylaid, or ambushed, on the way to the Show, similarly, Societies know that these awards bring in exhibitors.

At the end of each year, a list of Open Shows provided with Trade-supplied material is sent to all participating manufacturers and will be published in this magazine and the aquatic Press. Exhibitors are asked to scrutinise this list carefully and if they have attended a Show where the material was not displayed and awarded would they please:-

- let Paul Corbett know (FBAS Trophy Officer, The Orchard, Gatcombe, Isle of Wight PO30 3EF)
- let the host Society know of your disappointment (and that's putting it politely!) at not being able to receive your fair share of the Awards

The aim of all our efforts is to obtain the best possible support for Societies' Shows; the Trade recognises the value in supporting Shows and are appreciative of the system as currently operated. For our part, we have assured the Trade of our best intentions in seeing that the system is fairly administered to all applying Societies. It seems that some exhibitors are being denied these benefits by the selfish action of the few.

### The Verdict, and the Remedy, is Yours!

Any comments you may have on this situation would be welcomed.

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## 1996 SHOW DATES

(Rule Codes: A=A of A; FB=FBAS; FN=FNAS; FS=FSAS; I=International Goldfish Standards; N=NEFAS; U=USofA; Y=YAAS)

1.9.96	CRAMLINGTON A.S. (FB)
7.9.96	US of A Show (USA)
7.9.96	BRISTOL A.S. (I)
8.9.96	LINCOLN & D.A.S. (PROV)(Y)
8.9.96	NORTHERN CATFISH GROUP
14.9.96	HOUNSLOW A.S. (FB)
15.9.96	MID-SUSSEX A.S. (FB)
15.9.96	PLYMOUTH & D.A. & P.S.(FB)
15.9.96	SILKTOWN A.S. (FN)
15.9.96	SOUTH SCOTLAND A.S. (FS)
22.9.96	GRAMPIAN A.S. (FS)
28.9.96	BRISTOL TROP. F.C. (FB)
28.9.96	NORTHERN GOLDFISH P.S. (I)
29.9.96	DARWEN A.S.(FN)
6.10.96	GRANGEMOUTH A.S. (FS)
6.10.96	HALIFAX A.S. (FN)
6.10.96	WASHINGTON A.S. & P. (FB)
13.10.96	SOLWAY A.S. (FS)
19/20.10.96	SCOTTISH INTERNATIONAL FISH SHOW (FS)
20.10.96	LEEDS A.S. (Y)
20.10.96	WEST CORNWALL F.K. (FB)
25/27.10.96	B.A.F. (BOWLER'S) (FN)
1/3.11.96	SUPREME FESTIVAL OF FISHKEEPING (FB) Open show, Supreme Championship Final Sunday 3rd BRADFORD A.S. (Y)

### Note to Society Show Secretaries:

The above dates are provisional and are those available as FishWorld went to press. For the latest, most accurate dates and venue information (together with trophy Allocations, where applicable), please refer to the Quarterly Supplement issued by the FBAS giving details of Shows around the country. The Show Supplement is available, price 50p post paid from:-

### Show Information,

Dept FW, 22 Flamsted Avenue, Wembley, Middlesex HA9 6DL

In order to provide the most complete service to all Societies, please communicate your Show Information to the same address.

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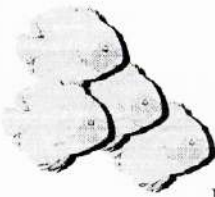
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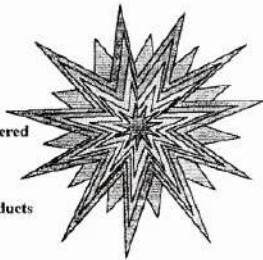
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**Q2. How much water will a 24" x 15" x 12" aquarium hold?**  
**Q3. What do the letters TFH stand for?**

Send your answers, together with your name address and telephone number, on a postcard or sealed envelope to:

**Supreme Festival Competition (FW)**  
**8 Acacia Avenue, Brentford**  
**Middlesex TW8 8NR**

to arrive no later than Friday 27th September 1996.  
 The Winner will receive a pair of Tickets for the Supreme Festival of Fishkeeping (held at Pontin's Sand Bay Holiday Chalet Centre, Weston-super-Mare, 1st-3rd November 1996) and will be notified as soon as possible after the closing date.

★

★

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### CHALLENGES FOR WESTON '96

With plans for this year's **SUPREME FESTIVAL OF FISHKEEPING** well under way, the Federation of British Aquatic Societies announces details of **two exciting challenges** for the Weekend event.

#### 1. INTERPET FISHKEEPING CHALLENGE

Question Packs will be sent to all Societies by the FBAS containing three questions from each of the following categories: Coldwater fish, Marines, Livebearers, Catfish, Cichlids, Community fish, Fishbreeding, Fish Disease, Aquarium management, Aquarium Plants.

A Tie-break question will also be asked, this will only become applicable in the event of a tie to determine Finalists.

The completed answer sheets to be returned to  
**Interpet Fishkeeping Challenge**  
**The Orchard, Gatcombe, Isle of Wight PO30 3EF**  
 for marking.

Only one entry per Society will be accepted. The four highest-pointed answers returned will be eligible to contest the Interpet Fishkeeping Challenge Final at the Supreme Festival of Fishkeeping in November.

**A FREE Weekend Ticket for two** (one Society member to compete in the Final on behalf of their Society and partner) will be supplied to each of the four Finalists with the compliments of Interpet.

**The remaining two other Finalists will be chosen by Competitions run in association with the aquatic press.**

#### The Prize

The Winner of the Interpet Fishkeeping Challenge will receive a **Trophy plus £400.00 mrrp worth of Interpet products** of their choice. All competing Finalists at the event will receive a trophy.

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### CHALLENGES FOR WESTON '96

#### 2. SUPREME SOCIETY CHALLENGE (sponsored by Bullseye Trophy Centres)

The popular Society-participation event which made its appearance at the 1995 Supreme Festival is to be continued this year.

The 'Table-top' competition (open to any aquatic Society) is based on displays by entrants and must include the following five categories —  
 ● Handicrafts ● Junior ● Furnished Aquarium  
 ● Breeders Teams and Theme Area ●

The Competition is open to any bona fide fishkeeping Society.

Entries will be by application only and limited to a maximum of ten Societies (unless space permits) on a 'first-to-apply' basis.

Entries to be divided into two sections —  
 with backgrounds and without.

**Applications for entry must be received the 1st October.**

All exhibits must be completed by

**11pm on Friday 1st November**

Judging begins **9.30am Saturday 2nd November.**

Awards presented Saturday evening.

Societies to provide two members to act as Judges — judging all exhibits other than their own.

Dismantling will not be permitted until  
**5pm Sunday 3rd November.**

#### Awards

**First Place** receives Perpetual Trophy (returnable after one year) Society Trophy, Certificate, Hagen Aquarium as supplied.  
**2nd-4th Places** receive Society Trophy, Certificate, Hagen aquarium as supplied.

All participating Societies will receive a Certificate of Appreciation and a Hagen 'Goodie-Bag'.

Full details and Rules of this Competition can be obtained by sending a S.A.E. to:

**SUPREME SOCIETY CHALLENGE**  
**The Orchard, Gatcombe, Isle of Wight PO30 3EF**

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## WESTON WORDSEARCH

compiled by Adrian Dempsey, East Kent A.S.

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Because, like all these words, they can all be found at Pontins Sand Bay, Wton-super-Mare. Sponsored by Rolf C. Hagen, the Federation of British Aquatic Societies SUPREME FESTIVAL OF FISHKEEPING invites you to a superb Weekend.

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## HAVE YOU READ?

### ANEMONE FISHES and THEIR HOST ANEMONES

BY Daphne G. Fautin and Gerald R. Allan (Tetra Press, £8.95) takes you into the fascinating world of symbiosis (some say commensalism) where two animals live in complete harmony with each other despite being entirely different in habits, shape and size.

Of course, this particular example is well-known — even to non-fishkeepers — as the sight of the Anemone fish despoiling itself within the Sea-anemones tentacles appears regularly in all wildlife magazines. The book is not, however, a 'how to do it' work (although a brief chapter does deal with Aquarium Care) but concentrates on the identification of, and associations between, definite species from both fish and invertebrate genera. No less than 10 species of Sea-anemone are featured each with their attendant 238 species of Anemonefish, perhaps more widely referred to as Clownfish; it seems that depending on location certain fish species are associated with certain Sea-anemones.

As the Sea-anemone can be likened to the aquarium, when researching what the fish's needs are, these animals are described first. To make positive identification possible, two Keys (one Anatomical and the other Habitat-based) are used. Within the individual species description details such as Previously-used names, Diagnostic Field Characteristics, physical details, Similar Species, Distribution and, most importantly, associated Fish Symbionts.

With so many more species to identify (some with very similar but only slightly different markings), the Keys to the fishes themselves are extremely comprehensive in their detail. They are first divided into four groups - A: no white bars, B: one white bar, C: two white bars and D: three white bars. It then gets a little

more tricky and further sub-Keys become necessary. Group A is further divided into two sub-Keys based on body colour — red/blackish and orange/pinkish. Group B has two similar sub-divisions but this time based on colours of pelvic and anal fins; Group C splits on the appearance of the mid-body bar and whether it is abbreviated/slanted or always full; Group D is also concerned with the mid-body bar but this time whether it has a forward bulge or not. With skilful application of these Keys matched up with visual information from the fish, identification can be pinpointed with great accuracy. Information within each species description included Colour Features and Size, Similar Species, Distribution and Host Sea-anemone Species.

Three further chapters deal with The Biology of Sea-anemones, the Life History of Anemonefishes and the Interaction between Fish and Sea-anemones.

Bearing in mind that the fascinating combination life-style shared by the Anemonefish and the Sea-anemone was first witnessed and described by Dr. Cuthbert Collingwood on a trip to the Fairy Cross Reef off the coast of Borneo in 1868, and that this particular attraction has maintained the fishes' popularity with aquarists ever since, it seems to have taken an awfully long time for such a book to come to light. But, this only reinforces another facet of aquarium-keeping — we are (or should be) all learning something new all the time; apart from providing all the facts required for positive identification of both fishes and invertebrates, the book also gives a wonderful insight into one of Nature's best-known and longstanding neighbourly institutions.

Two pond-associated books made their appearance just too late for inclusion in the last issue of FishWorld

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## Have You Read?

(continued)

but they provide excellent reading at any time of year and may be just the thing to see you through the winter months as you plan for next year's season.

The **POND DOCTOR — Planning and Maintaining a Healthy Water Garden** by Helen Nash (Tetra Press, £9.95) contains almost every practical suggestion from most of the world's foremost water-gardening experts.

The constructional aspects includes judicious siting, getting the best amount of sun but also taking consideration prevailing winds and maybe poisonous trees. Water quality and filtration not only cover familiar ground in theory but also offer some slightly different approaches to achieving the desired end results; typical useful are the hints on controlling algae! As to the safety aspects of pondkeeping, the author tends to detail things that may not have been anticipated (or maybe carelessly ignored!) with excellent advice on keeping the pond hazard-free.

Plants (mainly Water-lilies) are given good coverage and it was refreshing to see excellent pictorial guidance on re-planting several marginal plants. Fish descriptions are almost minimal but their care, treatment of disease and counteracting poor pond conditions is comprehensively dealt with; again, there is a cautionary warning about Koi in an ornamentally planted pond!

Pond visitors, such as insects, crustaceans and birds, together with some of the more unexpected larger animals found in other countries, make for interesting reading especially when 'regional' advice pops up; a case in point is the discussion on winter maintenance under Canadian conditions.

The first of two Appendices shows of the Michael Duff Collection of Water-lilies whilst the second is a collection of 'must know' facts and figures, conversion tables and even what size pump to use for various 'heads' and pipework sizes.

Production is excellent with superb colour photographs and line drawings; one quote I liked best of all is 'it takes less effort to prevent a problem than it does to solve it'. With its widespread base of information, this book will certainly be all things to all pondkeeping people.

### WATER GARDENING, WATER LILIES AND LOTUSES

by Perry D. Slocum and Peter Robinson with Frances Perry (Timber Press c/o Silent Books, 10 Market Street, Swavesey, Cambridge CB4 5QG, £45.00) is a huge book covering everything you need to know about water gardening and the culture of Water-lilies and lotuses (and then some more).

The name of the late Frances Perry is synonymous with water-gardening and especially the Water-lily and this new book has been produced almost to her specifications laid out before she passed away; for instance, she wanted to include 'at the time, hard to obtain' species as they would probably be more easily available come publication date and, true to her wishes, this book does include all the 'latest' species. But, despite the original plans, each of the co-authors has contributed immensely to it in their own individual right.

The first part, dealing with Water Gardening is written by Peter Robinson, now a freelance horticulturist and water gardener designer; but for many years was Principal of the Copel Manor Horticultural College for North

## Have You Read?

(continued)

London; he brings much expertise to the design and construction of the water-and bog-garden, their stocking with aquatic plants, marginal, moisture-loving trees, shrubs and grasses together with suggestions for fish and other creatures. Looking after the Water Garden naturally deals with water clarity, weeds, diseases, pests and seasonal changes — especially winter.

The second half covers Water-Lilies and Lotuses. Perry Slocum is the founder of Slocum's Water Gardens on Perry's Water Gardens in America and is one of the century's most important breeders of aquatic plants, gaining a Water Lily Hall of Fame Award from the International Water Lily Society in 1986. All species and major cultivars (hardy, tropical day and night-blooming plants too) are included with details of their cultivation and suggestions for their best usage. *Nymphaea* and *Nelumbo* receive the most emphasis but others such as *Nuphar*, *Victoria*, *Euryale*, *Barclaya* and *Ondinea* are also included. No less than 445 colour photographs make up the book plus many line drawings and maps. A feature of the book is cultivation information for Water-lilies in any area of the world, together with their suitability for the varying climatic seasons found there. Another most interesting chapter deals with the Water-lily and Lotus flowers throughout history, their importance as a religious symbol for instance and the lengths that people went to grow or exhibit them.

The **A REFERENCE DICTIONARY OF FRESHWATER FISHES** (Booklets No. 26, 26a, 26b - FBAS, £1.50 per section, £4.00 with 1 section and loose-leaf Binder) has been an ongoing mammoth task to collate

species with all the latest book titles. The task has been progressing nicely, with all the 'easy' genera appearing first (maybe they put off the hard ones until last, for various reasons!) but now, in the final release, the really difficult ones — such as Cichlids, where names change with exasperating regularity — have been incorporated.

Each issue is produced along the same format. Fishes are shown in Open Show Class groupings and within each group order can be found each species' correct name (at time of going to print) together with a list of Key Numbers which refer to the relevant publication, together with the page number too, containing the information. No less than 40 plus files are listed as being used as references, including the Federation's own publications where applicable, but obviously each species does not necessarily feature in every one! In practice, each species may average 6-10 titles depending on popularity or specialisation merits.

To date, with the latest release, all freshwater Classes (including Plants) have been completed. Rather than list all the contents here suffice to say that the Issue 1 contains:

Classes B, Ba, (Barbs); C, Ca, Cb, (Characins) Dc (Angelfish), Dd (Dwarf Cichlids), Gc (Cottish), H (Aspidoras, Brechtis, Corydoras), J (Rasbora), K (Danio), Ma (Loach), Mb (Dyzia), Q (Xiphophorus-Swordtails), R (Xiphophorus - Platies), S (Poecilia and Limia), T, To, Tb, Tc (AOS Livebearers) and W (Coldwater). By inference (and deduction) the latest issue contains all the rest - Cichlids, Labyrinth, Killifish, loaches, AOS Egglayers etc with the exception of Class Y (Marines).

The title is available from the FBAS direct by Mail Order (see Publications Advertisement page for details).

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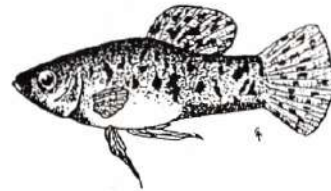
**A REFERENCE  
 DICTIONARY OF  
 FRESHWATER FISHES**  


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**NATIONAL GUIDE**  
**Book No: 26.**

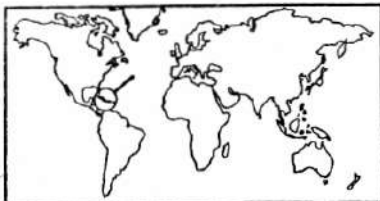
FEDERATION OF BRITISH AQUATIC SOCIETIES

**Poecilia (Limia) ornata (Rogan).**



**Common Name:** Ornate Limia.  
**Colour:** Basic body colour yellowish shading yellowish-brown towards the dorsal contour, pale yellowish on the belly, the whole overlaid with a greenish sheen, numerous irregular dark blotches are scattered on the body. Dorsal and caudal fins orange with a number of dark markings, pelvics and pectorals without markings. Females less colourful than males, with pale greyish-yellow colouration.  
**Characteristics:** Body and fins shaped as illustrated. The anal fin of the male is modified to form a true copulatory organ, the gonopodium, consisting of the third, fourth and fifth rays of the anal fin which become elongated and tapering, the anal fin of the female remains unmodified.  
**Remarks:** An active livebearing species ideal for communities of fish approximately its own size, but as with all livebearing species care should be taken to separate the species within a genus to prevent crosses, hybridizing is undesirable unless carried out as part of a controlled experiment. It should always be the aquarists aim to maintain pure strains in the interest of conservation, science and the hobby. Exhibited in show class T.

FBAS FISH GUIDE.



**Copella arnoldi (Rogan).**



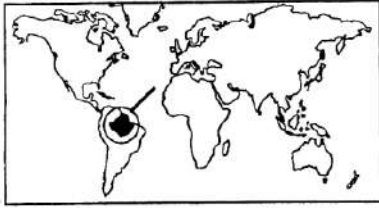
**Habitat:** Mainly found in ponds and streams near Miragane, Haiti.  
**Temperatures:** 24°-28°C (75°-82°F)  
**Water:** PH 7 - 7.4. Neutral to slightly alkaline. The addition of a little salt would be beneficial, old water should be used when introducing new fish.  
**Feeding:** The adults are omnivorous accepting most types of dried and live foods green vegetable matter should be included in their diet in order to maintain good health.  
**Breeding:** This should be carried out in a well planted single species aquaria with floating plant cover, where the young can seek refuge from their parents. Or alternatively females that are ready to drop may be placed in suspended breeding cages where the newly born fry can swim out and avoid being eaten. Adult fish should be removed from the breeding tank as soon as possible after giving birth. The fry will eat almost immediately after birth taking brine shrimp, micro worm and fine dry foods.  
**Comment:** Poecilia ornata has been incorrectly described as Poecilia vittata in which the male displays rows of dots and short bars on the flanks which are lacking in Poecilia ornata.

**Common Names:** Splashing or Spraying Characin.  
**Colour:** Basic body colour varies from yellowish to greenish with a reddish-brown sheen, shading to dark brownish-yellow on the dorsal contour, lighter towards the belly, a brownish-black bar extends from the snout to the eye, and a greenish-gold blotch is displayed on the opercular, scales dark edged with light markings. Dorsal fin yellow shading to red posteriorly, base of fin black with a white blotch, spine white, caudal yellowish at base shading to red, at the root, a few red spots may be present, tips of lobes sometimes black, anal and pelvics yellow at base shading to red, pectorals pale yellow with a faint red tinge.  
**Characteristics:** Body and fin shape as illustrated, the upper lobe of caudal is more produced than lower lobe. Females are deeper bodied, smaller and the fins are less well produced. No adipose fin is carried.  
**Remarks:** A smaller peaceful species that makes a good community fish, it has just one fault, its habit of jumping so the aquarium should be kept covered at all times and special care taken either when feeding or removing other fish. Exhibit in show class C.

FBAS FISH GUIDE.

FBAS FISH GUIDE.





- Habitat:** From the Brazilian Amazon Region, Surinam and Guyana where it is found in slow moving or standing jungle streams or swamps, overgrown with vegetation.
- Temperature:** 23°-25°C (73°-77°F)
- Water:** pH 6.6 - 7. Soft, slightly acid.
- Feeding:** Prefers live foods of all kinds, but can be persuaded to accept dried foods if hungry.
- Breeding:** The aquacium should be about 600mm x 300mm x 300mm filled to a depth of about 150mm with slightly soft acid water at a temperature of 26°-27°C (79°-81°F). Clumps of plants may be used to provide a hiding for the female. As this species lays its eggs above the water line some means must be provided for this to be done. Large leafed plants may be introduced with their leaves above the water, or a large smooth stone. Alternatively a sheet of glass or slate may be inclined at one end of the tank with its top above the water line. Having done all this, the fish will probably be perverse and choose the underside of the cover glass. The adults having been conditioned are placed in the tank at night and in the early morning the male will select a spot for the spawn to be placed. After making a few trial jumps they will both jump to the chosen place where dozens of eggs in a jelly like substance will be laid and fertilized by the male.

FBAS FISH GUIDE.



## Seascale Junior Fishkeeping Society 1st Open Show

Tim Smethurst looks back at an aquatic first.

Picture the scene, a lone Capri and its driver. The ignition turns and the engine roars. A seatbelt fastens the driver securely in his seat. Capri speeds away like a panther that is leaping for its prey.

Well, I would have liked it to be like that too, however, my trusty old bus spluttered into life and shuddered its way to Seascale. It was a lousy day — wind and rain were intermittent, but always there. Fifteen miles from Seascale, all of the bad weather ended and the sun shone gloriously; I am led to believe it was the sun but it could just have easily been routine maintenance on one of the reactors. You can make up your own mind but I did manage to get a wonderful suntan in one and a half hours!

Chris and Helen Steele had invited the lads (and I use the term loosely) from Peterhead A.S., and a couple of local friends — me and Geoff Capes — to a barbecue the evening before the show, presumably to make sure that we turned up. Mind you, it was a nice barbecue, steaks cooked well (you can't beat a nice bit of mad cow, no wife jokes please!). After the barbie, it was off to the hotel for a couple (!) of quiet drinks before bedtime.

Sunday, the day of the Show, Geoff and I had been made Honorary Members of the Society and proudly wore our new Sweatshirts. The children in the Club ran everything from the Tombola to taking the entrance fees. The only thing they didn't get involved with was the judging of the fish. The Judges, from Tyne-Tees, arrived looking relaxed, refreshed and happy. A coffee

and a quick chat were had, then they were banished to the fish benches until judging had been completed.

In the meantime, Border Koi Keepers Society were discussing Koi and helping out with general queries; they also had some pretty damn fine Koi on display. There was also a garden ornament manufacturer displaying his wares, and offering them at very good prices.

Inside, the Auction was in full swing with Ian McDonald on the microphone. I don't think anyone will dispute he is a fine auctioneer, but who can understand him when he is shouting down the microphone in his broad Scottish accent? Ian was ably assisted by the kids and was never short of runners. Prices were a little low, but some excellent bargains were to be had.

Entries for the Open Show came from as far afield as Scotland, Tyne-Tees and Yorkshire with around 350 being benched, a fine turnout I think you will agree. Best Fish in Show was awarded to Geoff and Jane Bell, congratulations to you both.

Chris and Helen Steele marshalled their troops magnificently to ensure that their first Open Show was an unqualified success. I felt privileged to be there and will certainly be back next year. Well done, Seascale Junior Fishkeeping Society!

If you want to see just how good these juniors are, come along and see them at the Supreme Festival of Fishkeeping at Weston-super-Mare (public days 2nd-3rd November) as they will be giving a lecture on their own brand of fishkeeping. Come along and give them your support and encouragement.

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Seascale Scenes

1. Who suggested it was Bob Esson's turn to buy the tea?
2. Geoff Capes keeps the conversation going.



## SHOW REPORTS

### GROCKLEMANIA '96 ★

Dr. David Ford, of Aquarian, crosses the water for the Annual Island Aquatic Get-Together.

The Isle of Wight Aquarists Society held their traditional Annual Show over the weekend of May 17th, 18th & 19th. 100 aquarists booked for the 3 day event at Haven's Harcourt Sands holiday park which was already host to some 400 guests attending a 60's Music Weekend. Whilst these guests were dancing to the sounds of the 60's, the aquarists were competing for the famous Thomas Crapper Award in a separate room (won this year by Erith A.S.)

Sunday 19th was also the Isle of Wight Open Show and a further 120 day guests arrived with fish, displayed and judged in the Ballroom of the Holiday Centre. Of the 212 entries, Best in Show was won by Paul Whiddett of Mid-Sussex AS with a splendid *Garra orientalis*. Best Coldwater was won by the Show Manager himself, Les Pearce (LWAS) with a Silver Goltish.

During the three days, campers were able to attend stands by Hagan (who sponsored the show) and the Aquarian Advisory Service, with one day exhibits by the FBAS and Wight Reptiles who brought 10 tanks of snakes and Geckos.

Lectures were given by Bill Rundle (FBAS President), Brian Walsh (Northern Catfish) and Dr. David Ford (Aquarian). The third heat of the Aquarian AquaChomp competition was also run in the main ballroom while the FBAS judges were pointing the fish. The winner was Alan Stevens of Eastleigh A.S.

### FBAS GOES INTO THE GARDEN ★

Expanding its activities to include Garden Shows in its 'make the public aware of Fishkeeping Societies' campaign, the FBAS attended two garden shows in the early part of the year. Reigate & Redhill Garden and Flower Show and the Bournemouth Garden and Flower Show.

What the Federation (and garden show visitors) were not made aware of, until the actual days of the events themselves, was the non-co-operation of the weather! The first show was bitterly cold and damp, the second, well, when asked by a visitor "Where are the water features," the turnstile lady said "Take your pick, the whole site's a water feature!" — you will understand what we were up against. Despite Alan Benson's team of diehards, neither event can be judged a success although Reigate & Redhill A.S. whose members also bravely faced the elements with an information display did manage to spread the word about their Society.

We are hoping for a better result all round at the Poole Garden & Flower Show over the August Bank Holiday weekend — should we stick with sou'westers and wellies — or hire a dinghy, just in case?

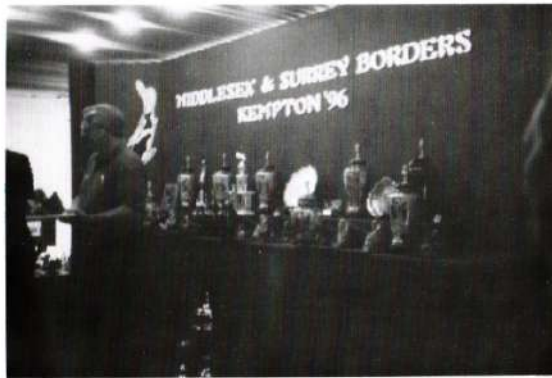
### HOT MEETS COLD ★ by Bob Nelhams, Hounslow A.S.

As Secretary of an aquarist Society, I am constantly on the look out for opportunities to publicise our Society, especially those with a view to maintaining a steady influx of new members. It was therefore with pleasure that we accepted an invitation to put on an informative (publicity-slanted) display at a 'neighbours' fish show — the Middlesex & Surrey Borders Section of the BKKS, held at Kempton Park Racecourse over the weekend of June 29th-30th.

In addition to our stand (selling nothing, but promoting Hounslow A.S.) were 37 more — plenty for the Koi-interested visitor to concentrate on whilst any attendant

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## SHOW REPORTS

(continued)

children were well catered for in their own Play Area with a Bouncy Castle, Magician, Face-Painting, Clown and so on, all housed in a large marquee. The largest Stand was that of Shirley Aquatics, twice the size of any other. There were plenty of Koi for sale ranging in price from 3 for £10 to £275 each. The fish were absolutely beautiful and made you feel jealous, envious (and guilty!) for not having a pond; there was a massive selection of foods, filtration equipment and pumps of course too.

I did feel strongly about one point and that was the way some of the dealers packed their fish into polythene bags — they looked hopelessly overcrowded. In one bag I saw three 20-24 inch koi, almost one on top of another; there were about twenty smaller ones in another bag. We commented much about this on several occasions but couldn't decide whose fault it was, the purchaser's (who may not have been aware that this practice could well cause stress to the fish) or the dealer's; my own view was that it was probably the latter.

There were four Raffles during the two days with 25-30 prizes donated by the traders present. I have to say that we did rather well, carrying off five of them. Now about the Show:

There were in excess of 200 entries in the numerous Show Vats and all had an identifying photo and certificate over the Vat for every fish it contained so that you could see what was what. Also on the certificate was the information as to how the fish got on in the Show; there were 3 awards available for each fish — one for Variety type, one for Size in the Class and one for the major award (apparently similar to our Best in Divided Classes).

The prizes were absolutely magnificent. First Prize was a Sculpture of a Japanese Fishing Gentleman, Second and Third awards comprised of Award Certificates and Red Ribbon Rosettes respectively. The Major Awards were large, glazed china, decorated Table Lamps. Prizegiving was extremely well-organised with the First and minor prizes being collectively presented during a single visit to the platform with the major prizes being awarded individually.

Our hosts were delighted with the Show, between 2,300 and 2,500 visitors attending. The venue has been booked again for the same weekend next year — 28th-29th June 1997.

As for our publicity drive, well it was surprising how many people were unaware of aquarist Societies existing at all or even what they did. Hopefully I put four families in touch with Kingston, one in Cambridge, one in High Wycombe, one in Basingstoke and ten in our own area; and what about this for a coincidence? A chap stopped to talk to us (he kept tropical fish) but didn't know about fish Clubs; he seemed interested in our Society and we found out he only lived ..... in the same road as our meeting place!

We would like to thank Middlesex & Surrey Borders for their kind invitation and hospitality to us. Maybe some of their members might care to come along to see our Show — on the 14th September (see? once you start publicising your society, it's hard to stop!)

## GLOUCESTERSHIRE'S GRAND FIRST

Formed only a couple of years ago, Gloucestershire A.S. lost no time in graduating to an Open Show thanks to some hard work and planning by their Committee.

Held on the 3rd August in the Spa-Town of Cheltenham, the Show proved to be a happy inaugural success for the Society. No less than 417 entries reached the Showbench and the Judges were soon busy. Of course, a good attendance of entries can have two effects on the Show: firstly, it provides plenty to see for the visitors but, on the other hand, these very welcome visitors may have had to wait slightly longer than they anticipated before they were let in due to the size of the task set before the Judges!

## The Green Guide ...

(continued)

good enough reason for the Japanese to consider it a delicacy and eat it! However it has to be prepared correctly as certain parts like the liver, can prove fatal if eaten. With my cooking record I'd soon get rid of the Japanese. We don't have a notice in our kitchen which says, "If you can't smell burning, it must be salad today" for nothing!

The reason why I said 'used to be' when referring to the old wives' tale was because scientists have now discovered the Pufferfish may have something in its Levi's that could help us to beat Alzheimer's disease. The article states that the fish won't develop the illness — I bet it's pleased about that — but because of its DNA structure they can explore more possibilities of a cure for us lesser beings.

All this leaves me wondering how long it will be before we finally discover that we humans were right at the back of the queue when brains

were handed out, because I've always been aware of this fact, I won't find it hard to accept but there are one or two people I know out there who will find it extremely distressing. Imagine people like Hagen's Tim Snelhurst discovering his fish are more intelligent than him ...

Nothing to do with intelligence, but I was recently present at a lecture given by Malcolm Goss, where we were shown slides from the British Museum (Natural History) archives. Not being very bright, and the fact that lots of the species are now extinct, there were quite a few species I didn't recognise, however, one very old, faded, grainy slide of something called an 'Editor'. I think from the beginning of the century was recognisable. As would be expected with age, not only photos fade, because this 'Editor' had a long plume of 'dark' hair reaching from the top of his head down past his chin!!!

S U C S I D R E P E E K H S I F  
I T A N K V I O G C I O E T X N  
L E S M A D N N S L H I A J G O  
I W A I B D I Z L E W A T E R T  
C R Q H E R D P I G I T E G A E  
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R Q Y G D T T I T I E W P S R X  
T R A D O O F R A L L D N A S P  
C H A R A C I N A P E L B A N A

**THERE ARE 35 WORDS HIDDEN IN THIS WORDSEARCH.  
HOW MANY CAN YOU SEE? ALL THE WORDS HAVE SOMETHING  
TO DO WITH THE HOBBY, SO START SEARCHING.**

## Trade Winds - Some New Products

Interpet has put its own name up in lights with their new Lighting Display designed to make customer self-selection as simple as possible. The display holds the full range of Interpet's popular fluorescent aquarium lighting tubes — Triton, Blue Moon and Beauty Light. Accompanying the unit is a new information leaflet 'Guide to Lighting' which explains both to the dealer and to the customer how to select the exact light unit for any aquarium requirement.

Did you see the latest weapon in the fight against green water? Looking very much like something out of Star wars, the new Submersible UV unit can be used both in or out of the pond. Of course, it is the perfect companion for the in-pond Pond Worker filter Unit which can be connected up in series with the UV ahead of the submersible pump so that the pond appears to be cleared of green water and then of any dirt and dissolved pollutants as if by magic.

If your pond develops unsightly foam on the water surface, especially around waterfalls and streams, it could be due to a biological imbalance in the pond perhaps an excess of protein in the water (fish spawning, overfeeding etc). ANTI-FOAM, a new product helps to alleviate this problem by lowering the surface energy of the bubbles causing the foam to break up and disperse naturally with immediate effect, despite the product's effectiveness, steps should still be taken to find out the cause of the foam and take appropriate action.

Interpet has also launched a new-look range of neat, user-friendly aquarium powerheads. They are designed to provide a quiet, powerful filtration and aeration package. Intended for use in conjunction with undergravel filters in marine and freshwater aquaria, there are four models to cater for aquaria from 18" (450mm) to 60" (1800mm). For even larger aquaria multiple powerhead set-ups are used. The features of the powerheads include: venturi aeration system with inbuilt noise suppression, multi-directional flow control with adjuster, includes an adjustable airift stabiliser with suction cup and a "Z"

spacer pipe to enable the powerhead to be used in close proximity to the aquarium wall. The prices range from £20.99 for the PH1 rising to £32.99 for the PH4 unit.

The IPF DUO range of Internal Power Filters is available in four different capacities to suit aquariums up to 1200mm (48") and features a unique two-step filtration process. The first stage, of high surface area porous foam operates basically as a mechanical trapping medium although some bacterial biological action may also occur. The second stage is a refillable chemical media capsule for the removal of colourants and other impurities from the water, if comes filled with carbon but can equally well be used with Ammonia remover. Each filter is quiet in operation and has adjustable built-in aeration with noise suppression, and adjustable flow rate with multi-directional flow control. The novel location cradle allows the filter to be easily removed for cleaning — and you won't get water draining out when you remove it because the twin inlets are at the top.

The new double-sided Waterscape Background for aquaria features a coral reef on one side and freshwater tropical scene on the other. Made of durable, wipe-clean waterproof material it comes in rolls 450mm in width and retails at 99p per 300mm length.

The second introduction is a Total Aquarium Filter Media Solution. The component products are:

- Activated Filter Carbon, Ammonia Remover, Nitrex and Bio-Media and they are designed to work in a variety of Marine and Freshwater filters.
- Ammonia Remover consists of an exceptionally pure source of zeolite.
- Activated Filter Carbon is a unique blend of coal, bone and coconut carbons.
- Nitrex is an established synthetic filter medium which biologically remove nitrate from aquarium water.
- Bio-Media is a sintered glass media designed to produce a massive surface area up to 800m<sup>2</sup> per 400g. The equivalent of 1.5 tennis courts!



## Trade Winds - Some New Products

(continued)

Details available from:  
Interpet, Vincent Lane, Dorking, Surrey  
RH4 3YX (Tel: 01306 881033  
Fax: 01306 885009)

That perennial, well-discussed  
Blanketweed remedy — Barley Straw  
— is constantly making news but like  
washing powders it too now has an  
added extra ingredient which is  
reported to enhance its powers even  
further. Talking to Henry Hoad, MD of  
Norfolk Lavender, at the FBAS Stand of  
the recent Gardeners' World Live!  
Exhibition at the NEC, tests have  
shown that the efficiency of Barley  
Straw in clearing blanketweed and

algae has been considerably enhanced  
by the addition of ... lavender stalks.  
The Company has therefore produced  
Pond Pads for use in blanketweed-  
stricken ponds, the three-pad pack  
costs £5.95 plus £1.75 p & p and can  
be ordered direct from the Company.  
Use is fairly straightforward, one pad is  
hung in the pond, preferably in the  
water flow, and left to rot away,  
further pads are added at four month  
intervals thus giving a full season's  
treatment.

Details from:  
Norfolk Lavender Ltd., Colney Mill,  
Headem, Norfolk PE31 7JE  
(Tel: 01485 570384 Fax: 01485 571176).



1. Total Hidden Filtration System
2. Their New Powerhead
3. The new IFF Range
4. Their New Anti Foam
5. New off-the-roll double-sided waterscape background for aquariums

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## Looking at *Corydoras*

by John Edwards, East Kent A.S.

Can you tell your *geryi* from your *bolivianus*?

Well, what am I talking about? It's not a small bone in your back, but it's certainly been a pain in the backside for us *Corydoras* fans. I am, of course, talking about a group of *Corydoras* catfishes that are very much like each other. These are *C. bolivianus*, *C. latus*, *C. geryi* and, as yet, one undescribed *Corydoras* species.

This saga started about eight years ago when the first of our protagonists arrived in this country in small numbers. The first time this fish was brought to my attention was in a Fish Show in south-west London. I can remember the proud owner of this duty benching it in Class H (the *Corydoras* Class) then going round the local aquatic shops whilst judging was done then fully expecting to come back to find it has won the Class. Was he surprised, when he found it had been moved to Class Ha (for *Brochis*)! When all the fuss had died down, I wandered along to have a look; at first glance, you would have thought you were looking at a *Brochis splendens* — all the familiar characteristics were there — a robust body, elongated head plus that green sheen that *Brochis* have. I sat looking at this fish for some time before I realised that the dorsal fin was smaller. When I arrived home, and put my own fish away, out came the books; how may soft dorsal rays in a *Brochis*? 11-17 but in a *Corydoras* only 7. There was the answer and this was my introduction to *Corydoras latus*. Soon this species became commonplace as was soon readily accepted as a *Corydoras*.

The following year, a highly-coloured species arrived, its body shape appeared the same but the body and fins had a dark mottled pattern. The colour species arrived, its body shape appeared the same but the body and

fins had a dark mottled pattern. The colour varied in intensity from fish to fish although I was told that this colour pattern only occurred in males and if more than one male was kept in the tank only the dominant male would have this colouration. Females remained green in colour very much like *C. latus*. This fish was also called *C. latus* and was accepted as such and became a dominant feature in Class H, showing extremely-developed colour patterning, very beautiful fish. They had one drawback — they were always smaller than the brown and green species which were attaining 75mm. Of course, ichthyology never stands still and soon a Paper appeared naming the newcomer as *Corydoras bolivianus* and, of course, this fish was not new to science having been discovered in 1963 by Nijssen and Isbrucker — it just took time to appear in our aquatic outlets although not as long as *C. latus* which was discovered by Pearson in 1942!

Having believed that the problems with these fishes had finally been ironed out, along came a fish which was being called *Corydoras geryi*, again a fish similar to the other two in body shape but only appearing in the shops as an emerald-green fish. The word was that it took a little time to settle down before displaying any patterning on the body. They also differed in size, *geryi* being a lot smaller.

So we were back to the beginning again, having three fish fish that had the same body shape and all appearing to have the ability to change from a base colour to having a colour pattern on body and fins. They could all be found in the same country Bolivia, and on the same river systems. The seeds of doubt were sown when my fellow *Corydoras* fans suggested that we had not seen *C. geryi* in this

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## Looking at *Corydoras*

(continued)

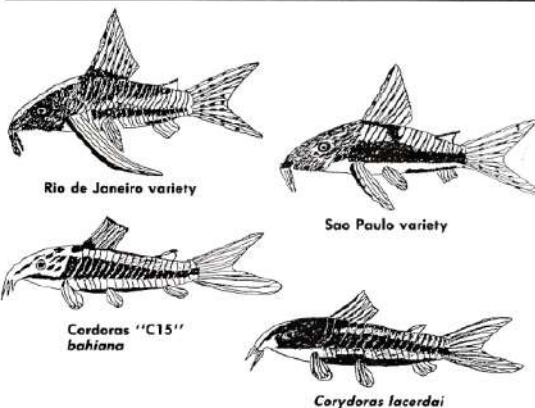
country at all: they stated that they had seen it in Holland and Germany but that the fish imported into this country was nowhere near the description which appeared in Werner Seuss' book on *Corydoras*.

It was at the Northampton Open Show where all the evidence started me in the face. I had been looking at the *Corydoras* Class with a view to judging it when I came across a fish I had not seen before, a mouse-faced looking fish rather like an *Aspidoras*. Securing the Judge's Sheet, I looked for the name that the exhibitor had given it and, sure enough, he had given it as *Aspidoras*. As I had the Werner Seuss book on *Corydoras* with me, I quickly leafed through it stopping at *C. geryi* — this was a perfect match — at last I had seen one for myself. After judging, I traced the owner to see where he

had bought the fish and how many he had got, it appeared he has about five and had kept them about three years. He went on to say that they were a mid-water swimmer and had always been that colour pattern.

But what of the *Corydoras* we had accepted as *C. geryi*? Well, I do not know perhaps a species yet to be described. If it is possible I shall put together some sketches on these fishes and hopefully the Editor will have stopped playing with his reducing set.

Editor's Note:  
John's final remarks refer to the June issue of FishWorld, where his supplied artwork showing the differences between various *Corydoras* species was reduced in size and used as section headings. Just to make sure that John continues his good work, we are reprinting his illustrations in their intended sizes so that you use them as identification pointers.



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## BREEDING ..... *Corydoras!*

by Terry Waller

Now the first thing I must make clear is that in no way do I mean to cramp John Edwards' style or encroach on his territory, in his capacity as the resident expert on *Corydoras*. This is the last of my 'Breeding...' articles which I hope have been of interest and perhaps helped, or introduced, you to this wonderful aspect of fishkeeping. The reason for the subject of this article is that, coincidentally, it was *Corydoras* that got me started in the first place; here's how.

Peering back down through the mists of time to when I started to look seriously at fish reproduction some 25 years ago (the year West Ham won the FA Cup!) I became rather obsessed with the idea of breeding *Corydoras* catfish. I was always fiddling about, trying this and that, with no result at all. You see, in the late 60s we did not have the information, or 'Know How' — all we had was the complete lack of experience — and I had plenty of that. These fishes were rather regarded as being almost impossible to breed, even sexing them was a bit of a miss experiment. How it has changed in the last few years, it seems that almost every enthusiast is turning to his or her talent and knowledge to breeding them.

Of course, fish have always been bred and have had many very fine strains of all types maintained and developed but certain fish are problematical and, in those days, only the rare 'accidental spawning' was recorded of the more advanced fishes such as *Corydoras*. Nowadays we are fortunate to have 'amateur' experts in all fishy fields and thanks to people like John Edwards, who are only too willing to pass on their hard-earned knowledge to others, we can now undertake projects with a head start. I learned to breed *Corys* out of sheer frustration of not being able to breed them and giving up, if

this sounds double-Dutch, then read on.

We were at a Show, having one of our 'mini-seminars' over several cups of tea, discussing who was breeding what and how (I never come across anyone who wasn't!) and it transpired that I had overlooked a basic breeding fact 'Fishes bred for the Trade are easier to breed than wild-caught specimens.' This fact opened a door because, on reflection, all my *Corydoras* breeding failures had been with the schwartzi, nanus, melanistius etc types that were being imported directly from South America. Perhaps I would have better luck with the rather less attractive (to me) Singapore-bred varieties. To be honest, the selection was not vast — two species with an albino of dubious origin but they were *Corydoras* and we hoped it would turn out to be the start of something big (well, it couldn't get any worse!).

So it was then that we trooped into our local shop and bought five each of Bronze, Peppered and Pink Cats or, to use their more correct descriptions, *Corydoras ocellatus*, *C. paleatus* and an albino form. They were a good size, been well looked after and reasonably priced. Sexing these three species is quite easy and is best done looking down upon them from above the tank; the females are much rounder and bigger-bodied noticeably so. I settled for three females and two males of each type.

Upon getting them home we set up three 18" x 12" x 12" tanks half-filled with water, an airstone and heater. All the males were placed in one tank, the females in another and the third was left to act as an eventual spawning tank for any conditioned, selected pair of fishes. We spent the next two weeks pumping Bloodworm, Tubifex, Earthworms and Ox-heart into the fish until the females were very swollen (and rather sluggish), the males coloured up and looking very active.

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## Breeding ....Corydoras

(continued)

Now came the big moment — into the breeding tank went the three aeneus females and a little while later in went the males. We put on the cover glass and waited. One day, two days, three days — nothing!

Never mind, out came the aeneus and in went the paleatus — same result, NOTHING. Desperation set in — in went the albinus. Devastation! Nothing, a real BIG NOTHING. I could not believe it, the lack of positive reaction was absolute. 'This,' I said, 'was the end. I'm giving it all up and resurrect my Essex Cricket Club career — where's Trevor Bailey's telephone number? What do you mean, the second team's got a new opener called "Gooch"? How can anyone be any good with a name like that, it's a joke! I chucked all those Corys in that old tank on the floor and never wanted to look at them again.

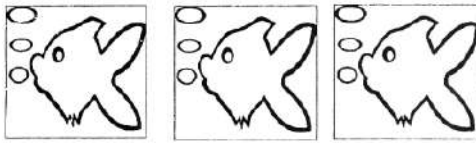
A couple of weeks later still suffering from the humiliating experience, a good friend of mine, Ronnie, gave me a super Pumpkinsaed,

*leporis gibbosus*. As this is a coldwater fish I had nowhere to put him so I went to dump him in the coldest tank I had — the one on the floor. First, I decided to take those horrid Corys out before they got eaten and choked the Sun Boss. I swept the net up and down their tank and looked into it, there were two male *aeneus*, three female *paleatus*, one albino and ..... about twenty assorted coloured babies!

You see, we had done everything right; split them up, fed them well but did not provide the 'trigger', a sudden drop in temperature, that occurs in nature. Hence in future, all spawnings of *Corydoras* and up after all the preparation with a dousing of cold water from a bucket! So, out of frustration, despair and final abandonment, came success and the answer.

I never did go back to Essex County Cricket Club but that Gooch guy didn't do too bad after all!

George



1 2 3  
Don't worry about me, I just swallowed the airstone.

## News from Ryedale A.S.

March was a very busy month for the members of Ryedale Aquarist Society, based at Pickering in North Yorkshire.

The month began with the launch of the Societies new quarterly Newsletter. If your Society would like to 'swap' Newsletters please contact the Editor:

Mrs J Rutter, 1 West View, Middleton, Pickering, North Yorks YO18 BNT.

On Saturday 30th March the Ryedale members put on a stand at the Malton and Norton Hobbies Exhibition, which was held at the Milton Rooms in Malton. This event attracted a wide range of local Societies (all hoping to attract new members) including model railway enthusiasts, Victorian coin collectors and even a local brass band.

The Ryedale stand was used to promote the Society, the fishkeeping hobby in general and to make the public aware of the need for aquatic habitat conservation.

As no water or living fish were allowed to be used on the stand aquarium scenes (representing coldwater, tropical freshwater and tropical marine systems) were created using potato crisp boxes and cardboard cut out fish. These scenes had taken several weeks to make and created much interest and comments from visitors. A dry tank showed off the various equipment needed in order to maintain tropical fish in the home aquarium. Well known Yorkshire fishkeeper Mr. G. Hawksby kindly loaned two show tank displays. Fishkeeping information booklets, courtesy of Aquarium, were handed out to members of the public.

To highlight aquatic conservation a map of the world was specially made showing many fish species in danger of extinction. This map was augmented by a variety of aquatic conservation leaflets which were sent courtesy of Chester Zoo and the Anabantoid Association of Great Britain.

Although the success of the stand will be measured by the amount of new people who, hopefully, come along to the next meeting, the Ryedale members enjoyed taking part in this event and realised that fishkeeping is not the only hobby which fascinate people.

Meetings of Ryedale Aquarist Society are held on the 1st Wednesday (when possible) of the month at the Bay Horse Hotel, Market Place, Pickering. If you are in the Ryedale area on holiday/business at this time please call in and say 'hello'.

## Wessex Area Cichlid Group

We are a relatively new Club, having held our inaugural meeting in March. At this meeting (at the Eastleigh Hotel, Southampton Road, Eastleigh) were not only local people but from as far a field as Bournemouth and Basingstoke. We decided that meetings would be held on the 2nd Tuesday each month at the above venue at 8pm.

In addition to our regular meetings featuring auctions, a wide range of cichlid-orientated topics etc, we hope to foster interaction with other Cichlid Clubs, who are welcome to get in touch with us. Further details of the Group's meetings and activities can be obtained from myself at the address below or from Mike Dadman on 01202 673342 (Answerphone available).

Jayne Mallard, 10 Jellicoe Close, Poole, Dorset BH14 0PX.

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## More Recollections of a Tired Old Aquarist

by Wart Ellery

One of my fondest memories of joining a good Club was the companionship and the Sunday morning visits to other members' fish-houses and fish-rooms. Armed with a bucket of *Daphn*, some spare plant or fish we would turn up much to the delight of the bloke's wife who was trying to get the dinner going and doing her washing.

Alf Field had a fish shed that went back about thirty years — and it looked ill. Worm-ridden wood walls held up with string and 5" nails. There was a sign on the door 'DON'T TOUCH ANYTHING METAL!' You soon found out why, as you got a heavy jolt because the wiring resembled Cleopatra Junction on a wet night, an absolute disaster with Sellarape hiding bare wires, water dripping from lights and the usual socket with an adaptor, and another, and another on top. My son Andrew set on an oil heater and got an electric shock (right where you don't want it).

Stan Furssead had a fish-house that was buried in some fast-growing Ivy and a machete was needed to get in (and out) the door! Once in, you were systematically eaten alive by the millions of insects that thrived on all the flake food, peas and Ox-heart

strewn all over the place. But the fish — wonderful, gorgeous, full of colour and in perfect health.

Then there was the guy at East London, Ken Wriggleson. In the ten years I knew him he built about 15 fish-houses and never finished one of them. Everytime he got close to finishing one, he suddenly thought of a better idea or moved — either way he tore it down and started again.

Frank Chapman was a legend in the Show side of the hobby, he was the one who introduced fog ash into Show tanks (he was the Judge!). His fish room was a front bedroom in a house in Ilford High Street; it also had a front garden. Empty tanks was no problem for Frank — no buckets required, just up with the window, suck and hold the siphon tube out all over the passing shoppers!

What happened to all those fish sheds? It was a whole different game in those days — no technology, just plain aquarist skill.

### FROM HAYWOODS BY DESIGN

Due to failure of essential equipment, not all the articles submitted have been included in this issue. However, this will be rectified in the next issue.

My apologies for this inconvenience.

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## Even experienced FISHKEEPERS have problems

If you have a catastrophe in your catfish tank, you're pondering over your pond or your plants are a disaster area, do you know who can help? Fishkeeping Answers has an expert answer to every question. Created to help all fishkeepers get the most out of their hobby, we can help you make a success of keeping healthy fish, breeding, setting up a new aquaria for tropicals, marines, coldwater or all three.



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Club Secretary: Bob Williams, 35, Exforth Avenue, Ashford, Middx, TW17 2EP. Tel: 01784 259880.



by Dr. David Ford  
 Senior Consultant



**Q.** I took a jar of water to my local fish centre because I was worried about the water quality. They told me that there was a high amount of chlorine and the pH was too high. They advised me to do a full water change. As I was there, I bought some Interpret Fresh Start and a pH tester. I went there again today and another man told me that I should not have done this.

Now there is no nitrite or ammonia in the water but the pH is still high. I am now worried about the fish. What should I do? Mr. M.

**A.** Water quality means everything to your fish. How to achieve good water is complex and the experts often disagree ... some boast that their filter system is so good it means you never need to change the water. I subscribe to the school 'the solution to pollution is dilution' and do as many small water changes as possible.

Once the experts said never use rainwater because of 'acid rain' that is destroying all the trees across Europe. These experts have been rather quiet lately! This is because it is now believed that there is no such thing as 'acid rain' and the tree losses are due to a 10 year drought (on average) in Europe. So we can safely collect rainwater again.

To remove chlorine without the use of chemicals, just preboil the tapwater, this also lowers the hardness. To bring the pH down (usually due to additives by the water company) dilute the tapwater with collected rainwater. This can be stored over night to make it more acidic if the pH of the tapwater is very high ... aim for neutral (pH 7) for community tropical fishes. In all this, it is important to remember it's the

changes in quality that are most harmful to your fish — if the water coming out of the tap has a high pH to start with then maybe there's nothing to fear necessarily. Always make adjustments to pH (in whatever direction) slowly for your fishes' sake.

**Q.** My tropical fish appear to have red worms protruding from their vents. These eventually lead to death. Post-mortem reveals that the worms adhere to the intestines and are hard to remove. I can find no treatment which deals with this specific problem. Mrs. F.

**A.** Sorry to read of the problem with worms, these are *Camallanus*. You need to treat with an anti-helminthic compound. Unfortunately most are prescriptive drugs, so I suggest you visit the local Vet and ask for help. Tell him/her that details are given in the BSAVA books Manual of Exotic Pets and Manual of Ornamental Fish (Ray Butcher MRCVS).

Treatment can be Levamisole 7.5% at 1mg/l in the aquarium water (or whatever the Vet decides) but repeated after 2 weeks because of hatching eggs. Dose the whole tank.

If only one or two fish seem to be affected, you can use a Worming Powder from the pet shop, as sold for dogs or cats. If a tablet, break off a small piece and grind up. Use about a pin head size of powder per fish and roll in a small piece of raw Liver to make it palatable. One dose should kill all the worms, which are then passed.

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