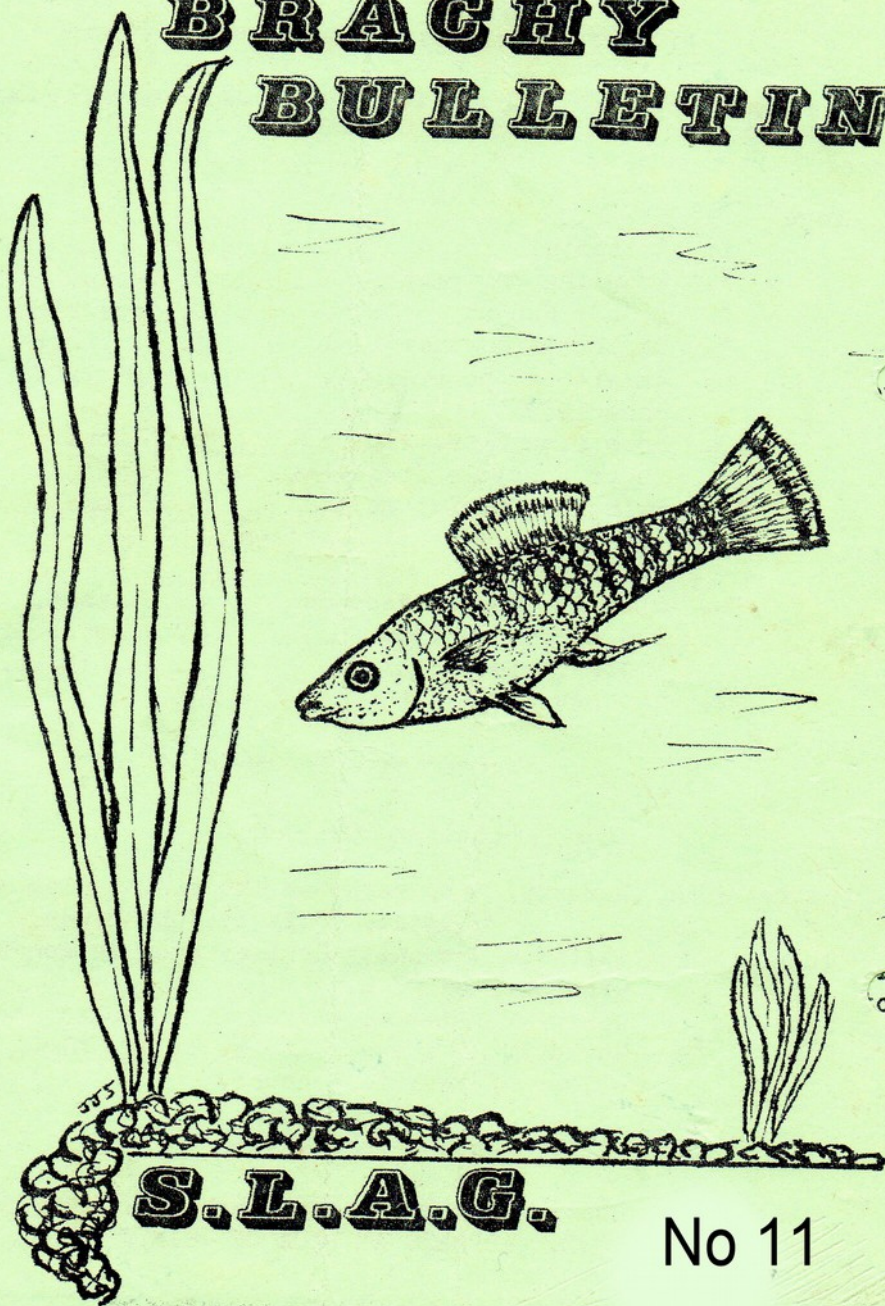


BRACHY BULLETIN



S.L.A.G.

No 11

SOUTHERN LIVEBEARERS AQUATIC GROUP

COMMITTEE	-	1980/81	SLAG No.

1). President - John Dawes, School of Education, University of Bath, CLAVERTON DOWN, Bath.			53
2). Honorary Vice-President - James Chambers, British Museum (Natural History).			159
3). Chairman - Dave Cheswright, 2, Cedar Avenue, Wickford, Essex,			2
4). Vice-Chairman - Barry Banks, 27, The Fairway, MOORENDS, Doncaster, Yorks			82
5). Secretary - Naizby Noble, 58, Woodville Road, BOSTON Lines.			120,
6). Treasurer - Colin Howe, 11, Chandos Road, NEWBURY, Berks,			5
7). Species Control- Mervyn Strange, 10, Loddon Court, Neville Close, BASINGSTOKE, .Hants,			1
8). P. R. O. (U. K.), - Dennis Barrett, 55 Oldfield Road, THORNE, Nr. Doncaster, Yorks,			81
9). P. R. O. (OVERSEAS). - Ivan Dibble, 11, Strode Road, CLEVEDON, Avon,	4		
10). Committee member, (Technical Editor) - Don Kenwood, 28, Bridge House, Channel View Crescent, PORTISHEAD, Avon,			1
11). Committee Member, (Table Shows) - Terry Waller, 32, Hamilton Road, ROMFORD, Essex,			26,
12). Committee member, Co-opted June, 1981. Mike Clarke, 2, Hanger Farm Cottages, FINGEST, Henley-on Thames, Oxon,			39.
13). <u>EDITOR</u> - BERNARD MEECH, 338, Coggeshall Road, BRAINTREE, Essex.			38.

NON-COMMITTEE POSTS

(A), F. B. A. S. Delegate - Philip Martyn, 16, Stukeley Road, BASINGSTOKE, Hants.			30,
(B), P. R. O. - Loondon & Home Counties, Working under P. R. O. Stan Fursstedonn, 79, "toppers Road, WINCHMORE HILL, London, N. 21,			33

SUBSCRIPTIONS

Annual Subscription is £5, Adults, £2, 50, Juniors, aged 16 and under, and Senior Citizens,
Subscriptions expire at the Annual General Meeting on 21st November, 1981,
Members joining before that date receive all Publications issued since the 1980 A. G. M.

COPYRIGHT:- All material in this Journal may be re-printed, other than for Profit, unless Copyright reserved, provided SLAG and the Author are both acknowledged and 2 (two) copies are sent to the SLAG Editor, SLAG accepts no responsibility for the views or statements made by Authors,

SOUTHERN LIVEBEARERS AQUATIC GROUP
 JOURNAL No 11, - JULY, 1981.
 - CONTENTS

PAGE

11/1 From the Editor	Bernard Meech	SLAG 38
11/2 From the Chairman	Dave Cheswright	2
11/3 Letters to the Editor.		
11/4 Badges, slides, meeting dates		
11/5 Overseas P.R.O.	Ivan Dibble	4
11/6 Golden Guppies		
Badges advertisement		
11/8 Committee Announcements		
11/9 Judging of Livebearers to F.B.A.S standards	T. Blackmore	40
Working party	Editor	38
11/10 Area Groups and Meetings.		
S.L.A.G. A.G.M. 21st November, 1981		
11/11 Limurgus innominatus	Dave Cheswright	2
German Trip—: October, 1981.	Editor	38

11/1
FROM THE EDITOR.

(Bernard Meech (38).

We are still looking for more information on the, fishes we keep. As time goes by and new members join us it would be very nice to be able to say we could tell them more about the livebearing fishes than they could find out from the publications.

One of the important points which have been raised by several people recently is **what** fishes can we put together? The usual answer is- if they have the same first name DO NOT. This of course not the answer it appears because new research develops new ideas and some fishes change their names. By the way we call the first name the "genus" and the second name is the "specie. There are other rules by which we can work. DO NOT put fishes that look alike together. They may cross breed. What we need to know is what we do keep together and do not cross. We have not had any reports about the Goodea type fishes crossing at all. This does not mean that they will not or that they cannot. Please if you have any ideas let us know.. There have been reports some time ago that Poecilia and Xiphophorus will cross. There was a report in 1971 of a guppy/platy cross (Xiphophorus maculatus x Poecilia reticulata). The fish shown as a guppy and won a card at Thurrock Open Show, Essex. This report is hearsay and there is no firm evidence existing today. Be warned!

Species control (or records) seems to be having a thin time of it at present. PLEASE let Mervyn know what you are keeping. Your name will NOT be shown on the members/species lists- only your membership number. ONLY MEMBERS will have the information.

Members will be very pleased to hear , and see, that SLAG have now purchased a Good Roneo Duplicator. We have not made a mistake: we did mean to send Journal No 11 on time. We are now back on schedule!

Finally, please let us have information on fishes.

SPECIES CONTROL INFORMATION

Enmlosed with this Journal you will find SLAG IDENTIFICATION RECORD SHEET NO 3, reprinted from Journal No 6 May 1980. Mervyn (1) will be issuing a furtheridentification record sheet, which we hope will be ready for issue, 22nd August meeting. Members tha joined up to the AGM will, of course already find sheet No 3 in Journal No 6 , BUT it is being reissued with all copies of this Journal (11) so that members can keep it and future issues separately.

YOU SHOULD ALL HAVE HAD A SPECIES LISTING FORM either when you renewed your membership or when you joined. If you still have it please list the species you have NOW and send it to species control- if you have lost it, PLEASE make your 1st available piece of paper and sent this to Mervyn. He has received lists from only about 10% of the members.

Mervyn intends to send lists for duplication to Dave Cheswright (2) so that these can be ready by 22nd August, meeting.

New members do not have any of this information and, therefore, have no idea who to contact to obtain true strains of Livebearers, with source information.

Members who have receives fishes with references such as M1, U1, M2, G1, will now be able to see from the Identification Sheets the relevant details to those refs.

PLEASE HELP S.L.A.G. To achieve it`s aims by providing your information and lists to, Mervyn, straight away.

from the Chairman - Cheswright (2). W2

I welcome Mike Clarke (39) to the Committee. Mike has been co-opted to make up numbers and has agreed to assist Mervyn with collating Species Information.

Our North-West Area Group has got off the ground and our good wishes go to all Members there.

In view of events since the A.G.M. in November, I am, not now going ahead with my idea of cutting down the number of species kept which I mentioned thinking about in Journal 9.

The 1981 A.G.M. is on 22nd November and all Nominations for Committee posts, together with any Resolutions, must be sent in 6 Weeks or more before. i.e. by 10th OCTOBER 1981 latest, to the Hon. Secretary. In view of happenings before and after the 1980 A.G.M. perhaps it would be nice if members agreeing to be nominated for committee posts the members nominating seconding them know of any other interests outside SLAG?

One member has raised a query concerning fishes being promised and this is being looked into. Fishes are obviously the life-blood of any Specialist Society such as ours, but I must point out that at no time has SLAG Committee agreed that SLAG or members of SLAG will supply fishes in order to obtain new members. Any arrangements for the supply of fishes are made solely between members. If there are any members who are under the impression that fishes are supplied as part of joining I would appreciate their letting me know. If there are any members that feel that they have been let down there is nothing that can be done unless they write to a Committee member with full details.

Members will find that if they write to others with S.A.E. they will, I hope, receive replies listing species available with prices and details of posting or collection. Advertising fishes available in Journals does not usually work very well, in my experience, because of the time-lag between sending in the advert and its being published, you will find that most members, particularly those with a large number of Aquaria, usually have surpluses to dispose of.

It has been made clear that the P.R.O. Overseas post does not include obtaining fishes on behalf of SLAG. Some members are of the opinion that it is difficult to separate the 2 items and some, including Committee members, feel that it would be a good idea to have a member, (or members) willing to undertake the trading and obtaining of fishes for SLAG. Other Specialist Societies do have such an Officer, time and, of course, costs have to be considered but it seems to work to other Societies. SLAG is your group - let us have your suggestions on this or any other ideas please. I, for one, do not think that individual members can be as successful in this field as, perhaps, 2 or 3 members willing to have a go on SLAG's behalf, by "individual members" I mean various members independently making contacts which, I would think, can only result in duplications. Already some new locations or, species come into the UK other than via SLAG members and these sources can also perhaps be brought in?

The heating in my fish-house has been off now for about 2 months apart from the odd night, Temperatures have been well within tolerable limits varying between 70/82°F (21/28°C), I have various species out-of-doors - *Goodea atripinnis*, *Xenotoca eiseni*, *Ameca splendens* and am trying outside this Summer - *Phallocerus caudimaculatus reticulatus*, *Brachyrhaphis rhabdophora* and 5 spots (*Poeciliopsis gracilis*). The last species to be one which does not eat its own fry, so provided they can stand the lower night temperatures, should prove successful outdoors.

I and Terry Blackmore (40) went to the Yorkshire area Group meetin on 16th May and clocked up about 400 miles. We had a thoroughly enjoyable time and were very pleased at the number of members attending. I managed as usual to get one or two names wrong among the slides I showed (peoples' names not fishes) but I hope the talk went off all right.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Sir,

In Journal Np 9 (from the Editor), you are requesting us to write whether we think a ring-binder would be a good Idea. Personally I think that one would be very handy; not especially for the Journal, but would be ideal for the Information Sheets.

- This, of course, would depend very much on the cost I think that producing a binder for our 140 plus members would be uneconomical proposition due to the small number required. Even the binder for the American "Tropical Fish Magazine" (TFH.) now costs, I am informed, about £4. How much will our members be prepared to pay, £5?, more if necessary? ^

How about enquiring into what such a project would cost? before too many members start clamouring for one, not realising the possible cost of such a venture,

. Yours faithfully, Terry Blackmore (40),

Dear Bernard,

As 2 members of SLAG since its formation and as Chairman and Committee member we feel that it is time that all Members are made aware of the circumstances which prevail at present concerning the SLAG Committee. These have arisen solely due to the formation by SLAG Committee members of The Society for International Conservation of Livebearing Fishes publicised in the April, **1981** Journal (10).

We are not concerned with individuals or their names; we are concerned with principles. Below are facts with dates appertaining to the formation of the above and events since.

1) On 6th December, **1980**, our Chairman was informed by a SLAG Committee member that a meeting had been held on 30th November with the object of laying a foundation for a new Society. 6 Committee members of SLAG attended this meeting, together with other invited parties.

2) SLAG'S Committee was to meet on **14th** December. On the afternoon of **13th** December, the previous day, our Chairman received a telephone call from the Secretary of the new Society saying that it had been formed and that our Chairman & others (un-named) would be invited to its next Meeting and would receive full details of it. This invitation has never been received. ; -

3) At the SLAG Committee meeting, 14th Dec., **3** of the 6 concerned above were not present, including the Secretary of the new Society. Those present discussed this new event in general after the Committee meeting. Our Chairman said that he would try to find out more details, await the promised invitation and then report to the whole Committee by post. As already said the invitation did not arrive but a report was sent by our Chairman as promised, This resulted in the resignations of 2 Committee members who were apparently upset that anyone on the SLAG Committee should query the formation of another specialist Livebearer Society by members of the SLAG Committee.

Terry Waller also resigned but in protest at the way the new Society had been formed.

4) Our Chairman wrote and spoke to the Chairman of the new Society & suggested that a report outlining their intentions be agreed between the 2 Chairmen and published to the SLAG Members. The Chairman of the new Society suggested that a SLAG Committee meeting be held and our Chairman asked him to outline their intentions then. This Meeting was held on 8th Feb., 1981, specially called for this purpose. The **3** who had resigned were invited and 2 attended. It was finally agreed that the new Society would send a report to you, as Editor, to be published in the Feb Journal (**9**).

11/4

(The 3 who resigned withdrew their resignations). This report, as you are aware, did not arrive until the end of March, it having been said that it was posted to meet the Feb. deadline and must have been lost in the post.

At our Chairman's suggestion the 2nd copy was sent recorded delivery. So, having agreed to give a report in February, which our Chairman asked for in Jan it finally arrived in March.

Within a Week of the Feb. Meeting it came to our Chairmans notice that the first discussions to form this new Society, in fact, took place on 25th October, 1980. The SLAG AGM was on the 15th November followed by the second meeting of the new Society on the 30th November, One SLAG member who attended on the 30th November said he was not aware that a previous meeting had been held. The report in (4) was before the A Committee on 12th April The make up of that meeting was such that prospective members of the new Society outnumbered the remainder present. That meeting decided to publish the report in Journal 10.

We draw all members' attentions to the followings-

Agenda for SLAG A.G.M. finalised on 12th Oct. at which date members proposed knew they would be appointed as there was only 1 nomination in for each post. 1st new Society meeting held 25th October, SLAG A.G.M. 15th November, 2nd new Soc. Meeting 30th November. The rest of the SLAG Committee knew nothing of this until December and did not have all the above facts until April, 1981. IF the formation of this new Society was considered to be necessary to the well-being of Livobearers and needed in addition to SLAG, why were such lengths gone to in presenting an accomplished fact, without suggesting the necessity to SLAG. ?

Why were certain Aquarists, not members of SLAG invited to the 2nd Meeting whereas apparently, no further members of SLAG were considered suitable to be invited?

Can SLAG's Committee function solely for the benefit of all members when, it is dominated by members of a very similar Society; when conflict has already arisen at the 4 Committee meetings held since November, 1980?-

Can any Society function to its best advantage when under the dominance of another similar, or even unsimilar Society's influence?

Yours sincerely,

Dave Cheswright (2)
Terry Waller (26)

badges _____

Many Members do not have a SLAG BADGE., Send £1.30. WITH S.A.E., to Colin Howe, Treasurer, NOW - He awaits your orders.

SLIDES/IMFORMATION SHEETS.

Slides are being ordered for :- Ilyodon whitei.
Ilyodon xantusi. . -
Priapella intermedia.
Priapella compressa.

Species control still wants information on the other species listed on journal 9/4 PLUS on Limmurgus innominatus

Next Meeting (See Notice with this Journal) Saturday, 22nd August.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING Saturday, 21st November, 1981 .-followed, as usual by non-Business Meeting and Auction

OVERSEAS P.R.O.

I.H.Dibble (4)

Due to the attitude of some members, it has been necessary for me to ask the SLAG National committee to define the post of P.R.O, Overseas, as it had become apparent over the past year that these Members were under the impression that SLAG were financing the importation of fish I have been undertaking. I would like to take this opportunity to set the record straight.

I was importing fish prior to the formation of SLAG, so when the subject was raised at one of the early committee meetings, I was in the position of knowing what was involved and the costs, etc. At that time there was no way that SLAG could afford to pay for the tracking down and eventual importation of shipments of fish) and as I was already doing this I offered to let SLAG reap the benefits of efforts in this direction by passing through the Group the offspring of and sometimes part of the actual shipments of fish I received. To date I have continued to do this. During the past 3 years I have imported over 150 species or collections of fish, most of which have been spread throughout our membership. In telephone bills alone, after deducting my normal household bill, this has cost in excess of £3000, over the 3 years. Some members say that I am mad, while others have adopted the attitude that because I am SLAG P.R.O. I should be doing this for love and pass on any shipments I receive to others immediately. To them all I can say is "would you"?

Another thing to consider is that, although I have no intention of resigning for some time to come, it is quite possible that I may not be re-elected at the A.G.M. In which case, do you think it would be fair for whoever gets the job to be put in the position, of having to finance those shipments himself? Therefore, I asked the National Committee to make it plain that it is not an actual part of the job of P .R.O. Overseas to bring in the fish, but it is a service I was freely making to SLAG.

So the next question you may ask is "Why does he do it"?, so if you will bear with me I will tell you.

Over the years fish have in one way or another given me tremendous pleasure and as I have become more involved with livebearers over the past 8 years, I was naturally quite concerned when I heard of the rate at which species were becoming endangered Or extinct. Even within SLAG in the early days there were species I had brought in and widely distributed, and yet a year later, when I was looking for stocks of these fish for myself, there were none to be had. Poeciliopsis viriosa was a classic example of this. This is one reason why I pioneered the pedigree system we started so that the bloodlines could be controlled and we would have a fair idea as to where stocks were. This idea, although widely acclaimed at the A.G.M. when it was introduced never really got off the ground because members simply would not make the effort to give our species records the required information, with the exception of the dedicated few that is, and so I decided to do what I could myself to maintain in access of 120 species or collections.

At that point the hobby for me changed from one of simply getting enjoyment from keeping and showing fish to the more serious problem of conservation of the animals which had given me so much pleasure.

At the same time I became aware that I was not alone in the U.K. in this trend of thought and there were others who were prepared to put the preservation of the fish before their own personal interests and so I set about gathering together such of these people as I knew and out of this the S.I.C.L.F. was formed last year. Their prime directive is to prevent endangered species from becoming extinct whilst preserving them as true as possible to their natural state within the aquarium. Some people are expressing concern about the formation Of this new organisation, with wild talk about "takeover bids" and "breakaway groups", well let me put these ridiculous ideas to rest once and for all because, despite their joining the new organisation last year, a number of SLAG Committee members hav continued if anything with greater enthusiasm, to promote SLAG, interests and have largely been responsible for the formation of 2 more regional groups and various other things this year. Speaking for myself, I shall continue to act in the best interests of SLAG and distribute.....

any new species I acquire as long as I feel those efforts are appreciated by the majority.

GOLDEN GUPPIES

- Terry Blackmore (40)

POECILIA RETICULATA.

ABOUT 2 TWO YEARS AGO DAVE CHESWRIGHT RECEIVED, A CONSIGNMENT OF FISH FROM THE USA HE DID AT THE TIME SAY FROM WHOM AND WHAT THE CONSIGNMENT CONTAINED BUT OVER THE PERIOD BETWEEN NOW AND THEN I HAVE FORGOTTEN. AMONGST THIS CONSIGNMENT WERE 2 TINY FRY, WHICH QUITE OBVIOUSLY WERE NOT THE SAME SPECIE AS THE OTHER FISH. HOW THEY MANAGED, TO SURVIVE WITHOUT BEING EATEN, IN SUCH A CONFINED SPACE I'LL NEVER KNOW. BUT THE MOST AMAZING THING - THEY TURNED OUT TO BE A pair OF P.RETICULATA, BUT LOOKED TO ALL INTENTS AND PURPOSES TO BE JUST ORDINARY WILD GUPPIES WITH A SLIGHT EXTENSION OF THE RAYS OF THE UPPER CAUDAL FIN. DAVE BRED THIS PAIR ONCE AND THEN PASSED THE PAIR ON TO ME.

IT WAS ONLY A COUPLE OF WEEKS BEFORE THE FEMALE DROPPED ANOTHER BROOD OF FRY AMONGST THE 40 OR SO FRY WERE ABOUT A DOZEN THAT WERE OBVIOUSLY DIFFERENT FROM THE OTHERS, LOOKING RATHER PINKY IN COLOUR INSTEAD OF THE NORMAL GREY. TO ME THIS STRAIGHT AWAY CREATED MORE INTEREST, AS IT WAS SOMETHING DIFFERENT,

I SEPARATED THESE YOUNG FROM THE REST, AS I HOPED TO BREED FROM THEM. BERNARD MEECH (38) SAW THEM AND BECAME INTERESTED. I LET HIM HAVE 6 SINCE THEN BERNARD HAS REPORTED TO ME THAT HE WAS NOT ABLE TO DO ANYTHING WITH THESE FISH DUE TO LACK OF TIME AND GRADUALLY HE LOST THEM.

I STRUGGLED ON TRYING TO GROW THESE FISH BUT NEVER SEEMED, TO GET ANY SIZE AT ALL.

HERE AND THERE THE ODD GOLDEN GUPPY WOULD TURN UP AMONGST BROODS OF THE COMMON GREY FISH, THESE WERE ALWAYS SEPARATED FROM THE OTHERS. FROM THESE I, MANAGED TO GET 3 MALES AND 2 FEMALES TO REACH A FAIRLY REASONABLE SIZE.

THE FIRST FEMALE TO HAVE YOUNG, HAD ONLY 1 FRY. THEN THE OTHER HAD 3, 2 OF WHICH HAD SWIM BLADDER TROUBLE. AT THE THIRD, ATTEMPT THE FIRST FEMALE GAVE BIRTH TO 3 FRY. THESE SEEMED TO BE GROWING ALL RIGHT BUT AS YET ARE ONLY 2 WEEKS OLD. ALL THE FRY ARE OF THE GOLDEN VARIETY.

WHY I SHOULD GET SUCH TROUBLE FROM THE GOLDEN VARIETY I DON'T KNOW THE ORDINARY GREY GUPPIES GIVE NO PROBLEM AND BREED IN TRUE GUPPY MANNER (JUST LIKE RABBITS) - THEY ARE BEGINNING TO TAKE OVER THE SHED.

THE COLOURATION OF THE MALE GOLDEN GUPPIES IS RATHER DIFFERENT FROM THE GREY FISH, IN THAT INSTEAD OF BEING ALL THE COLOURS OF THE RAINBOW, THESE HAVE SHORT STRIPES OF IRIDESCENT RED ON THE BODY, WHILST THE REMAINDER OF THE BODY IS A SORT OF GOLDEN/PINK COLOUR WHICH VERY DIFFICULT TO DESCRIBE; ONE HAS TO LOOK AT THEM TO REALY SEE THE COLOUR OF THESE FISH OF THESE FISH.

S.L.A.G. BADGES

PLEASE KEEP OUR TREASURER, COLIN, HAPPY AND BUY A BADGE

YOU ONLY HAVE TO BUY THIS ONCE - ACT NOW -

SEND £1.30 WITH S.A.E TO COLIN HOWE TODAY

A JUDGE'S VIEWPOINT

NORMAN BINDING (55)

Over the Years in which I have been keeping Tropical Fishes Interest in the hobby has not waned but like all of us I have had my failures and successes. I joined a Club became a committee member and when the club folded, I started out to form another and have been chairman for some Years.

Recently, or should I say some some years ago, clubs/Societies in the Bristol Area formed an Association which now goes by the name of **SEVERNSIDE AQUARISTS** ASSn. It was through this Association I attained the distinction of "Judge", one of those who stick their necks out to place an exhibit in the cards.

It is with this in mind that I have finally put pen to paper on a view of my particular side to this hobby in judging LIVEBEARER classes. With the increase in the LIVEBEARERS now appearing on SHOW BECHES, the numerous Associations, Society Groups, F.B.A.S, S.A.A., N.A.A.S., etc, all endeavouring to offer Judges ALL WITH their own standards yet judging the same exhibits, i.e. fishes.

In the short time I have been judging the introduction of colour strains, Finnage shape is something of a nightmare. To the members of SLAG who, if they are true to the format, should be keeping and breeding to maintain a pure strain of species. I know there are a lot of us who do not put any real store on showing but, to those of us who do exhibit, we are liable to drift into the situation of- has happened to the Platy-Swordtail-Molly-Guppy - in colour, shape, size & finnage ?

Here there is a fair argument for progress. I have been on the end of many a good discussion about what I have done in pointing up an exhibit. When challenged as to why I gave those points to a particular exhibit I could only use my tact and reference to the only literature that is available, namely, The F.B.A.S. Book on "Cultivated Tropical Fish" and Kurt Jacobs' "Livebearing Aquarium Fishes", It is here that we hit the problem as in the F.B.A.S. Booklet are given 8 colour standards for Xiphophorus maculatus (Platy) and in Jacobs 40, Xiph. helleri (Swordtails) 11, F.B.A.S, Jacobs, 33. So what problem?

Put to one side the size; they tell me that Swordtails of 100mm are still around **I** have never yet managed to put one above 12 points; what has become of these original Standard colours - Red-eyed Red, tuxedo, Hamburg, Berlin, Weisbaden, Blue Platy, Sunset etc? The Comet, Crescent which is in Jacobs, pp424/425 Hardcover, shows line drawings of 13 variations. The introduction of High-fins as we now know them as opposed to the original Simpsom Highfin Swordtail, including now in the platy where we are seeing High-fins, Pin-tails in all the varieties of colour patterns and, dare I say, not matching to any of the Original Standard Colours that **I** have at hand to refer to.

Now you may be asking yourselves -What has this got to do with SLAG? I feel it has a lot to do with us. If any of the members are maintaining some of these STANDARD COLOUR Patterns why not compliment our hobby by DECLARING a said colour variant to try and return to those Standards. I, as a judge, would like to see SLAG put up a set of standards to which those of us can again work.

I have in my travels around the Shows talked to many hobbyists about the "Rubbish" that is put up for showing; but we as an organisation should put this over in the form of publications, in the same way the F.G.A. have finally attained with Guppies, to which all interested parties can work to keep species in the true manner they rightfully deserve.

Remember that the "Rubbish" is only in the eye of the beholder, not the hobbyist who thinks he has a good fish with good colour patterns and is disillusioned when he or she puts them on show.

I know this will be a difficult task but I have read the N.G.L.S Publication: I understand the F.B.A.S. Is in the process of re-publishing their booklet. If representation could be gained by a joint discussion to give us all who enjoy Livebearers that we keep a common standard which the hobby will recognise and not drift into a mixture of nondescript "Rubbish".

Maybe I as a judge just want an east life but on ther other hand it would save many a disappointment on the show bench. Are there other members who feel the same or is it just that we like to let things drift on.?

It is these thoughts that prompted me to stick my neck out once again to sound the market to see if there is any interest in this side of our hobby.

NOTE: F.B.A.S. New Book, No 1 , "Cultivated Tropical Fish -National Standards"
Published June 1981

COMMITTEE ANNOUNCEMENTS

1) Table Shows have been suspended due to lack of suport until theAGM on Saturday, 21st November 1981, on that date classes will be:-

- A) BREEDERS- teams of 6 fish from one brood, born since AGM on 15th November 1980
Minimum age of three months. Any specie.
- B) Pairs of adults any specie. Anyone thinking of bringing egglayers -please do not!!
PLEASE SUPPORT TABLE SHOWS IF YOU WANT THEM REGULARLY
Classes may be split if the number of entrees warrants

2) The PEDIGREE SCHEME has been suspended due to lack of response.

3) P.R.O. Overseas post Members please note that the post of P.R.O. Overseas does NOT include the obtaining of fishes on behalf of SLAG.

NEXT MEETING:- Saturday, 22nd August 1981 Sandleford Social Club, Sandleford Road, Newbury, Berks. 7.00 pm.

Our Hon: President is to lecture.

Auction- 25% of proceeds to SLAG - the rest to you.

(see separate Notice re this meeting)

NEXT JOURNAL (12)

COPY, LETTERS, ETC., ETC., MUST BE RECEIVED BY THE EDITOR

By 30th SEPTEMBER, 1981, LATEST

PLEASE EDITOR

CLOSING DATE - JOURNAL 12

30th SEPTEMBER 1981.

JUDGING OF LIVEBEARERS TO F.B.A.S. STANDARDS.

Terry Blackmore (40).

No Doubt many readers of our Journal will have noticed the mention on page 3, Journal No, 9 of the London and Essex Meeting discussing the splitting of man-made and wild -Livebearers into separate classes, it is my personal opinion that fishes such as wild platys and Guppies, to mention just 2, should not have to compete against the more colourful "mad" man-made Strains. By man-made I am taking into account the strains with ridiculous flowing finnage, which, looking at the way these fishes swim, is utterly ridiculous.

I do Relieve that all man-made specimens should be removed into a sub-division of their respective classes?! while the class remains open to **"REAL FISHES"**.

I would mention that some years ago I entered 2 wild Xiphophorus variatus in the Open Show at Corringham, Essex. I was surprised on looking at the judging sheets that these 2 fish were marked up "suspected cross", when looking at the rest of the Platys in the class there was not one fish on display which sometime in its ancestry had not been crossed with a Swordtail (Xiphophorus helleri, etc) that is, barring the 2 fish I had entered. Sometimes even experienced judges are not even aware of whether the fishes they are judging are correct to that class. My own view, taking into account F.B.A.S. rules, is that any fish suspected of being crossed with another specie should be disqualified, in this case it would have been my fish, due to the judge's lack of knowledge.

The only other solution I can see to this problem is that judges at Open Shows should only specialise in certain classes, they would then be able to study in more detail the fish in these classes and correctly judge them, whilst leaving the other classes to judges more knowledgeable to those classes. I would personally like to see my fishes (which are mostly LIVEBEARERS) judged by judges specially trained in the different types. I feel that each fish would be properly judged as a specimen of the specie to which it really belongs and be judged to a higher standard.

It is certain that many other SLAG Members have their own views on how Livebearers should be judged. My ideas, whilst possibly not the final method possible, must go some way to stop the less colourful fish from getting "slaughtered" in competition. I would like to read other members' comments on this, so why not drop our Editor a few lines and let others know what your feeling;s are on this subject,

EDITOR:- A working party is being Formed, which I have agreed to organise, to examine the problems linked to the showing of Livebearers. If we could come up with suggestions that we could recommend to the governing bodies in our hobby I would like to hear from you. If these were then agreed upon we could well have a basis on which to unify standards. It has been suggested that Breeders' Classes entries should be 6 fish at all times, why not take the following as a starting point? •

<u>CLASS I.</u>	<u>Man made -Poecilia</u>
<u>II.</u>	<u>" Xiphophorus</u>
<u>III.</u>	<u>Wild Poecilia.</u>
<u>IV.</u>	<u>Wjld Xiphophorus.</u>
<u>V.</u>	<u>Goodeids.</u>
<u>VI.</u>	<u>Any Other Varieties.</u>

COMMENTS PIEASE - to the Editor.

Does anyone know of **males of Goodea atripinaiis** having black fins?

Please tell the Editor why a **green** Xiphophorus helleri is classed with "cultivated" fish at Shows?

1) - Scotland area Group (SLAG SAG).
Secretary-John Sullivan (151)

r

2), Yorkshire Area Group. (SLAG YAG).

*

Secretary - Naizby Noble (120). meeting details. from Naisby
Meeting dates- 12th September, 1981. -
14th November, 1981.

3). NORTH-WEST Area Group (newly-formed). (SLAG N-WAG).

Chairman - R. Johnson (168).
Secretary- J. Corbett (118).
Treasurer- A. Darby (173).
Other posts- details to follow later.

4) . London and Essex Area meetings.

Secretary/Treasurers- B. Myers (36).

23rd April, 1981, at Dave Cheswright's (2). There was a discussion on
Information stand at various shows. Strains of Xiphophorus xiphidium were
examined and there was a borrowed tape on Livefoods.

25th, June 1981, at Stan Furredonn's (33). General fishy discussions
and look at Stan's fish-house were a large surplus of Mosquito larvae (&
their parents 1) were noticed apart from some excellent livebearers.

23rd July, 1981, at Dave Cheswright's. Stan Furredonn reported that the
Stand with display of fishes and fishes for sale, had been to Croydon, London, 28th March, Southend, Essex, on 2nd
May, Medway, Kent, 17th May, Mid-ussex, 31st May and South East London, 5th July. Future venues for the stand
are planned at:- Ashford, Kent., when the area is donating a Trophy **for** Breeders'
Livebearers to help, their 1st Show on 30th August. Ilford, Essex, 26th Sept.,
Walthamstow, London, 11th October and Bethnal Green, London, ., 18th October. & Diss, 20th SEPTEMBER A Slide Show was
put on by Dave Cheswright and Terry Waller (26).

Norfolk (81) the meeting decided to apply to become an Area Group.

Next Meeting at Terry Waller's (26) - on 17th September, 1981.

5) F.B.A.S. Assemblies. At Conway Hall, Red Lion Square, LONDON, W. C. 1.

, . . . 5th September, 1981,

A. G. M, 5th December, 1981.

6) SLAG ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING- SATURDAY 21st NOVEMBER. 1981.

You will, of course receive the formal Notice and Agenda in October 1981.

Committee posts which will be available for election to are-

- 1) Chairman - for 2 Years. 2). Treasurer - for 2 Years.
- 3). Secretary - for 1 Year.
- 4.) All other Committee posts - 1 Year (See Rule 8 (and Committee list at
front of this Journal).

Vice-Presidents can also be proposed.

ALL NOMINATIONS MUST BE SENT TO **THE SECRETARY** AT LIAST 6 **WEEKS BEFORE THE AGM** i.e. by 10th October 1981,
and must be signed by the proposer, seconder and the PERSON NOMINATED

All RESOLUTIONS must similarly be sent in 6 weeks before and be signed by
proposer and Seconder.

F.B.A.S. Vice-Chairman Confirmed by Phill as being Ken Saxby (9). Hard Luck - Mervyn.

Phill says there was nothing of importance to report apart from this.

Limnargus innominatus

Dave Cheswright (2).

Following Ivan's (4.) interesting article in Journal 10, I would like to bring my experiences with, the above up-to-date. Some other response was received as I have notes from 2 other members who had this species from me but, unfortunately, lost it.

Since I reported losses of most of mine after changing to the new Fish-house in 1980 I am pleased to say that all is not lost. To re-cap our Editor acquired his specimens from Germany, which had originated from my stocks, bred from the strain brought in by Howard Preston (21), SLAG SLAG ref. M1. Likewise, other Members having these will, I think, find that they all came from this source.

By mid-1980 my stocks of these were at a dangerously low level, However, in October, 1980, I let one other member have a female plus 2 males as he had had some success with them previously, that member, in May, 1981, kindly let me have 1 male and 2 females back from fry he had bred. My remaining few had, in the meantime, produced 4 dead fry in November, 1980, and 7 live fry early in May, 1981, Bernard Meech gave me a pair in June, 1981, and 12 fry were born on 17th July, from that female.

Between January and May, 1980, 11 Aquarists had this specie from me. Of these I know that 2 still have them. What of the other 9?? Even if you have lost them our Editor would appreciate details as to how they were kept, whether they bred and why they died. The latter is, of course, usually difficult to work out,

It does seem that the lower range of temperature is part of the answer to keeping this difficult specie. I have not met anyone who has kept them long enough to be able to comment on "hardness levels" or this and that pH although I have been given the same comments. In view of most Aquarists losing them regardless of these 2 factors, and with my own experiences, the lower temperatures and not too much light seem to suit them, Food, provided they have enough, does not appear to present any problems. I have not heard anyone say that they have had no problems with this specie. What commonly happens is that they settle in all right, even produce fry, then disaster strikes and they all die off over a period - this has been the experience of many Aquarists. They need daily checking and care, only SMALL amounts of water-changing, they do not like being disturbed or frightened, pregnant females should be kept alone, if possible, when you will be more likely to get a viable brood of fry than if you move her too near to her time for birth, IF they get established in a certain Aquarium leave them there - you should find fry being born and these can be CAREFULLY removed. Very little aeration should be used - heavy aeration appears to create just the disturbance which they do not particularly like, filters appear to be unnecessary. Floating plants help give them security,

GERMAN TRIP - 8th to 13th OCTOBER. 1981.

Please note this event is still on, subject to receiving a few more Bookings. Priced at approx. £105. -could be less if enough support is forthcoming.

WRITE TO Ivan Dibble (4) AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.

Frankfurt now the destination.

£50. Deposit required.

Deadline was extended to 31/7/81 but Members can still obtain Seats, provided they contact Ivan