

SOUTHERN LIVEBEARERAQUATIC GROUP

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EDITOR - J.H.PRESTON (SLAG 21)

SOUTHERN LIVEBEARERS AQUATIC GROUP QUARTERLY JOURNAL SEPTEMBER 1979

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This will almost certainly be my last S.L.A.G. Journal as Editor: I have already informed Dave Cheswright and the rest of the Committee that I shall not be standing for election at the A.G.M. and I wish my successor good luck in what is an interesting aspect of the hobby. I have seen S.L.A.G. through its first formative year, which is pleasing, but reading the final paragraph of Dave's Chairman's Page was enough to dispel any doubts I had as to the correct decision. Dave once said to me that it is up to me how I organise my life - well, it has been my policy all along to keep 3 or 4 hobbies ticking along at the same time. This seems to work after a fashion, but means that the time and money for each are limited. Some weeks, therefore, there is only an hour or less available for working on this magazine, and if no contributions have arrived in the post, then it becomes impossible to bring the Journal out on time! At least now I will have a little more time to actually keep fish. The final straw has been the need to find alternative accommodation (for me) as from November 1st. For the time being the two small fish-houses in Hockley and Westcliff can continue, and I hope I won't be too far away. Keith Dryden has moved back to his old area of South Norwood, London. You will find his new address elsewhere in this Journal, so don't try and contact him at Biggin Hill any more! He has a nice fish-house at his new home, but has had to largely restock with fish. I am pleased to report that my wild Platies (X. maculatus) from the Rio Papaloapan have produced a fair number of fry, a few of which have been passed to Keith and to Mervyn Strange. The maculatus from the Rio Tonala, in the State of Tabasco many miles to the east, have only produced a very small number of offspring, and

those from the Rio Grijalva, none so far. Some of you may have seen the recent 'Horizon' T.V. programme about the Mexican oil boom - to me, the sight again of all those swamps of water hyacinths certainly brought back some memories, and some questions about the future.

J.H.P.

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FROM THE CHAIRMAN

The annual General Meeting on Saturday, 17th. November, will be an important date. On that night you have to agree a Constitution and your Committee has spent a considerable time in drafting the proposals for this which you will all have before that date. Please give this draft considerable thought. It is a DRAFT only and you as Members are the ones who will accept or alter it that day. We have tried to keep it as short as possible as it is only too easy to have endless numbers of rules many of which are to little purpose. Please have any amendments you intend to propose clearly in your minds when you come to the Meeting. I have received two more reports on *Limnurgus innominatus* BUT there must, be many members who have had these from me and who have not yet let. me have any information. We need information on species such as this almost as "life-blood".. This is one of the points Mervyn was making at the July Meeting. Information on all species other than the Amarillo to him PLEASE. Whilst on Species Control may I remind you that all suggestions concerning this should go to Mervyn Strange as Species Control Officer Several members have verbally put forward ideas to me and no doubt to other Committee members. I have asked them to forward these to Mervyn Our membership has grown to 74 and is spread all over the U.K., plus Dublin and Germany. Ideas on species control and other matters are numerous and must be put in writing. It is no good bringing up suggestions at Open Shows or other meeting places, when we are all thinking of other things. Suggestions, other than on Species Control, must go to Keith as Hon. Secretary and not to me or other Committee members. Your Committee next; year is obviously going to be larger than at present. When nominating Members to the various posts please make sure that they are willing to stand and that you have a seconder., The Committee has met only three times since formation in July, 1978, and my feelings are that in the future more frequent Meetings are essential. Attendance at Committee Meetings involves not only time (so far they have been held on Sundays and have used up the whole day) but considerable expense in petrol, etc. Please make sure before you agree to become a Committee member that you are prepared to take this on in addition to the not inconsiderable work involved between meetings. _____ DAVE CHESWRIGHT

LIMNURGUS INNOMINATUS

by Dave Cheswright

This, in my opinion, is still easily the most difficult species

of Livebearer we have come across for the average and many experienced aquarists to keep alive and healthy and to breed. Many have put them into "community" tanks in spite of being told not to. Others have put them in large tanks where they cannot keep an eye on them. In both cases they usually "disappear", quite obviously having died. Fry cannot be expected in these conditions except by luck.

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aquarists report breeding successes in 1979 BUT only one of these in any good number. This member is in a soft-water area but the other 5 vary from very soft to hard London. The water in my area I would class as mid-way between very soft and very hard. Perhaps this is one reason for my success with this and other species although I would incline to the view of special attention and study of the more difficult species resulting in more success.

Some aquarists reported not obtaining broods of fry during the winter of 1978/9. Could this be a rest period? On checking my records I find that I obtained broods at least once per month: from February to December, 1977, and from February to December, 1978, and January, 1979; then a gap until June, 1979 and regularly since then. This "rest period" did not occur in 1977/8 so why should it in 1978/9? I intend to check this in 1979/80.

Summary of Distributions :

1977: To various aquarists. All died as far as I know.

1978/9 (to 21/9/79)

39 different aquarists had pairs and/or fry. A total of 44 pairs
(some had repeat orders when the first died) = 88

Plus fry = 87

175

17 males, 13 females and 43 fry were exchanged with Germany = 73

GRAND TOTAL 248

Results:

(a) I have had no reports as to the fish which went to Germany.

(b) I know that 11 aquarists lost all the specimens. One or two bred them and subsequently lost the parents and fry.

I know that 11 aquarists still have the species. Of these, six have reported some success as I stated above. This leaves 17 aquarists from whom I have not had reports. It must be assumed that some of them have lost them I think.

This does seem to prove my original statement above that this is the most difficult species of Livebearer we have.

Any comments?

... LETTERS * LETTERS * LETTERS...

Chelmsley Wood,
Birmingham 36.

I myself am a recent keeper of livebearers, with a fair range of species. But on going to three big shows and sales of fish I have experienced that some of the better species of fish are being sold at prices the average person cannot afford.

This means of course that the same few people get the better fish, at each of these sales. Could I make a few suggestions please, as a member of S.L.A.G.

Maybe we could set up a syndicate within the club of members who are interested in obtaining good fish from abroad, say approximately £25 per head, or 50p a week per year. In this way a representative could collect the species we require, and send them back in bulk rather than have one or two species of small numbers in the country at one time.

Each member could then receive five or six species of their choice if possible to maintain and breed to perfection.

Also may I say as regards the swapping of fish, do you not think it would be better to send a trio of mature fish rather than 7 or 8 fry? In this way a person can spawn their fish almost at once rather than have to wait six months for fry to mature-

This way will increase the species at a more rapid rate spread over the country, and surely this is the idea of the hobby.

May I say again that these are only suggestions, that I think may improve our hobby.

T. MAYLE.

(Apologies to Mr. Mayle for not being able to publish this letter in the previous Journal, due to "technical difficulties"! I am not quite clear what is meant in his opening paragraph by "better species" - whether he means rarer species, or better specimens of fish we already have? - EDITOR)



Petersfield, Hants.

Each year Portsmouth Aquarist Society hold an exhibition of tropical fishes during the first week in August. For the past four years I have supplied 18 tanks of Guppies on behalf of the F. G.B.S. (to which Society I also belong, being Secretary for the South Hampshire Group). Last year for the first time I helped Portsmouth out with a few other livebearers.

This year, as well as supplying Guppies, I also filled 18 small tanks with livebearers (large ones being one to a tank) on behalf of

the male out of the tank. This was on a Friday night, and by-Saturday afternoon she had dropped about twelve fry. By midnight the female had dropped at least as many again, for in all I counted 25.

Up to the time of writin gthere are one or two which will not survive as they are not swimming normally.

The temperature is quite high as they are kept on the top shelf of my fish house.

Both parent fish seem to have a mouth type fungus, but it disappeared without me doing any water changes or using any remedies. I would mention that apart from salt I never use such remedies anyway.

I have a white-spot cure, but I have only had to use this once in 3 years, on a pair of Half-beaks bought from a shop.

M. MANSBRIDGE

+ +

* Thanks to all those who have sent in letters, and please keep them coming! It must be pointed out that opinions expressed in letters - and other articles - are those of the writers, and so may not necessarily represent the "official" view of S.L.A.G. as a Society - EDITOR. *

SPECIES CONTROL by SPECIES CONTROL

In Journal No. 3 you will have read Don Kenwood's views on this subject and may have concluded that this was S.L.A.G. hierarchy opinion, so to put the record straight I must explain that prior to compiling Fo. 3 we were in the somewhat unique position of having more material than required for a Journal (long may that position continue). So the Species Control data was distributed with the notification of the Newbury meeting, i.s. The Who Keeps What List and the membership list with indication of who 'Declares' for the various species.

I did not get sight of Don's article before it was printed, this is inevitable when S.L.A.G. Committee members are spread thinly over several hundred miles. Those members who attended the meeting in Newbury will already be aware that I and the other committee members endorse completely all those points on identification and the dangers of cross breeding within Don's article, so please read it again and we hope you will agree with his sentiments. What some of us take issue with is that the returns made to Species Control should be "Strictly Confidential". At the time of Don writing his article was exactly that, seeing that I had not then received his return.

If you the members of S.L.A.G. want Species Control to function then we are incomplete unless you all who are keeping livebearing

fish return the forms and keep us informed and updated. Some of our members may not or may be able to keep these species, we accept this and welcome membership fees from Judges and others with an academic interest. (Of course we would welcome information they have for our build up of records and/or for the Journal). We also understand that not all members are able to 'Declare¹ for the suggested 'Three interest. (Of course we would welcome information they have for our build up of records and/or for the Journal). We also understand that not all members are able to 'Declare¹ for the suggested 'Three species'. Some of our members have declared for only one species, or sometimes two. We welcome this because if we are to keep all species available to us safe in the sense that enough of each species are being kept by enough members to ensure to continuation of that species within the hobby, we will need all the help we can get.

Species Control can only advise, it is you the members that must do the control, we are only Species Records really and will only function successfully if you the members follow certain ground rules.

a) Provide information to Species Control of what species you are keeping and provide data on Keeping, Feeding, Breeding and Conditions, and where it is appropriate the Source, especially if this is 'Original' (from the wild).

b) Never cross-breed two species (unless under controlled conditions, with any surplus offspring culled and a strictly controlled distribution). This means females must be kept from contact with any similar species. It is well known that most Limia (Poecilia) species will cross-breed, many other Poecilia species will readily cross-breed as will Xiphophorus species. There has been much "Sword X Sword" and "Sword X Platy" cross-breeding occurring. Phallichthys will cross-breed with Carlhubsia. Take extra care with "New" species as a different "Family" name does not guarantee safety.

c) Where S.L.A.G. has identified an original source/recorded bloodline do not introduce "New blood" without a full investigation and a record of the facts. When you have 'Declared' for such a species do not introduce new blood lines if the species is deteriorating, then contact S.C. or other members who have declared for the same species.

(a) When you have 'Declared' for a species ensure you keep a sufficient quantity to secure the species for S.L.A.G. Purposes, take particular care to keep the species "Clean" (True bloodlines) and distribute surplus fish to the Hobby giving preference to S.L.A.G. members especially with any species which are kept by only a few members, or are rare.

(b) In our first year of activity we have achieved a great deal, within the next year I trust we shall begin to receive the information we require in order to produce an information sheet for each species, each member can help.

(c) We have revised the Return Forms which will be distributed at A.G.M. time. Please return these quickly so that an updated

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listing can be included in the early 1980 Journal. You will find you will be asked to 'Declare' for an 18-month period to enable an overlap/sort out period.

Don't be afraid of overloading S.C., - if that happens I will simply split the responsibility three ways, i.e., Poecilia, Xiphophorus and others.

We are considering a "Pedigree" form to be distributed with fish with an identified original source/Recorded Bloodline. This it is hoped will be used in co-operation with D.G.L.Z. and N.G.L.S. Details are being worked out.

M.Strange.

SPECIES CONTROL NOTE,

We have redesigned the Report Form for 1980 and this will be distributed A.G.M. time.

Please return these forms quickly. If you, after thought, want to continue as the previous form then let me know by post or phone (Bas. 67039)- Just SLAG No. and "as before" would be enough

Remember your name and address will only be published to members, whether we publish your Phone Number is your choice.

Contact with D.G.L.Z. should be through Ivan Dibble.

Declare to keep for S.L.A.G. as many species as you have space for, so long as the females of each species can be kept pure Better to declare for less than risk a cross-breeding. If an accident happens (it can to us all) and there is any doubt at all, give the fish involved to a friend to play with his 'Big' fish Oscar, and then start over again; better safe than sorry.

Mervyn Strange

S.L.A.G. RECORD SHEET

21.9.79.

<u>SPECIES</u>	<u>DECLARED</u>	<u>OTHERS KEPT</u>
<i>Acraea splendens</i>	11.13.19.28,38, 50.53.	2.4.5.8.10.12.14.26,31,40 45.48.56.63.74.
<i>Acraea cultratus</i>	1.2.4.5.30.50.62.	3.14.16.31.56.
<i>Androctonus belizanus</i>	.	31.62.
<i>Chrysothrix rhabdophora</i>	4.18.22.24.45.	2.5.8.12.14.16.19.23.26. 30.31.48.50.54.56.62.74.
<i>Chrysobothris stuarti</i>	1.4.	2.12.14.30.31, 5.45.56.74
<i>Chrysobothris carnegiei</i>	1.16.	2.4.5.8.14.56.74.
<i>Chrysobothris decimaculata</i>	.	4.
<i>Chrysobothris pusillus</i>	.	8.10.47.
<i>Chrysobothris pogonanthus</i>	.	45.
<i>Chrysobothris aff:affinnis</i>	28.	2.14.20.31.
<i>Chrysobothris holbrooki</i>	2.18.20.29.	4.5.8.12.13.14.16.19.24. 26.31.36.38.48.
<i>Chrysobothris panuco</i>	.	4.13.26.32.38.
<i>Chrysobothris punctata</i>	.	56.
<i>Chrysobothris yucatana</i>	.	2.4.
<i>Chrysobothris regani</i>	.	4.
<i>Chrysobothris sexradiata</i>	.	4.
<i>Chrysobothris vittata</i>	.	4.
<i>Chrysobothris meyalicus</i>	24.36.54.	2.4.5.10.12.13.14.38.56.
<i>Chrysobothris falcatus</i>	1.4.	2.3.5.14.16.20.23.45.
<i>Chrysobothris atripinnis</i>	4.5.12.	2.8.13.14.16.18.22.26.28. 31.38.47.56.
<i>Chrysobothris formosa</i>	10.20.28.36.45.53.	1.2.2x.4.4x.5.8.12.13.14. 16.18.19.31.38.39.40.
<i>Chrysobothris bimaculata</i>	1.2.4.22.54.	3.4x.5.8.12.14.19.20.21. 31.50.56.63.
<i>Chrysobothris jonesi</i>	.	2.4.5.
<i>Chrysobothris lineata</i>	2.	4.11.14.31.5.
<i>Chrysobothris michthys multi-) radiatus)</i>	.	31.
<i>Chrysobothris nurgus innominatus</i>	2.4.31.36.	5.8.12.16 .20.38.48.56.
<i>Chrysobothris heterandria) umbratilis)</i>	1.4.	2.3.5.11.12.14.20.23.31. 45.56.
<i>Chrysobothris morrhaphis sp:</i>	.	8.
<i>Chrysobothris celepenses</i>	.	13.
<i>Chrysobothris elichthys am: amates</i>	1.10.29.54.	2.2x.4.5.8.11.13.14.20. 26.38.45.56.62.63.
<i>Chrysobothris fairweatheri</i>	4.	56.
<i>Chrysobothris illoceros caudomac-) ulata)</i>	.	11.16.
<i>Chrysobothris reticulata</i>	4.30	2.5.11.12.16.26.31.40.45.

Continued

<u>PECIES</u>	<u>DECLARED</u>	<u>OTHERS KEPT</u>
halloceros caudomacu-		4.
lata reticulata aubatus		
halloptychus januarius	4.14.31.	2.5.11.16.30.
oeciliopsis		
gracilis (5sp)	5.12.13.38.56.	2.14.16.20.22)
" (9sp)	38.	1.2.5.8. }10.31.74.76
" viriosa	.	2.4.5.
oecilia reticulata	10.	4.28.
" (wild)	40.	53.
" (Port au Prince)	14.	.
" (Puerto Rica)	14.	.
" Gold	.	38.
oecilia chica	.	2.4.11.31.
Caudofasciata	.	4.11.
dominicensis	.	2.4.11.31.
formosa (females)	.	2.
latipinna (gold)	24.	.
latipunctata	.	4.
melanogaster	1.2.6.10.18.46.	4x.5.8.14.29.37.45.48.53.
	47.55.56x.62	62.74.
nigrofasciata	4x.11.45.	2.5.8.11.12.13.14.16.19.
		20.29.31.38.48.56.62.
orri	5.14.	4.12.56.
perugiaae	2.4.20.38	5.14.16.21.26.31.40.48.
(versicolour))	56.74.
sphenops	6.40.	2.11.53.
" mexicana	62.	74.
" Black	.	40.
velifera (Gold,		28.
Black & Black Lyre)		
vittata	13.	2.5x.8.10.14.20.26.29.30.
		31.40.48.53.54.56.62.74.
vivipara	4.	2.5.11.12.14.16.26.31.
		40.45.
zonata	.	2.4.
Triapella intermedia	2.4.30.	1.5.8.14.16.18.20.50.56.
(compressa)		62.74.3.
" G.stock "	.	2.3.4.31.
Colichthys greenaway		11.
tenotoca eiseni	2.13.16.19.47.	1.2x.4.5.8.10.14.14b.26.28.
	53.55.	31.38.37.40.45.48.75.
" variata	.	1.2.4.
tenophorus captivus	4.31.	1.2.5.11.16.56.14.
tiphophorus helleri red	.	40
" " red/black	.	10.
" " albino	.	2.5.40.

Continued

<u>SPECIES</u>	<u>DECLARED</u>	<u>OTHERS KEPT</u>
iphophorus helleri		
" (wild) " green	.	5.
" " " red	.	28.
" " " "	.	1.28.
" " " Catemaca	14.	21.
" " " Vera Cruz	14.	21.
" " " signum	.	4.
" " " strgatus	.	4.
" milleri Catemaca	14.21.30.	2.8.
" " "	.	4.14.16.26.40.45.
" mont:montezumae	1.4.11.50.	2.4x.5.5x.8.10.12.14.14x. 20.26.28.29.31.38.76.
" " cortezi	.	4.
" pyg:pygmaeus	2.21.	4.4x.5.16.31.
" " migrensis	.	4.
" xiphidium	2.4.74.	2x.4x.21.50.
" maculatus	.	38.
" " red	.	2.4.36.
" " red wagtail	.	4.36.
" " marigold	.	4.36.
" " highfin	.	36.
" " red pintail	.	4.36.
" " wag pintail	.	4.
" " tuxedo pintail	.	4.
" " (wild)	.	40.
" " " Rio Jamapa	4.	21.
" " " Papaloapan	1.	3.4.21.
" " comet	.	4.
" " salt and pepper	.	4.
" " moon	.	4.
" variatus blue	56.	5.29.
" " green	56.	.
" " salt and pepper	.	4.
" " moon	.	4.
" " comet	.	4.
" " (wild) Rio nautia (no colour)	40.	3.21.

.....
 he numbers refer to membership as recorded by Treasurer/Secretary.
 etail is complete from paperwork received by Species Controlas on
 1.9.79. This will be the final list issued by S.C. until it is
 ossible to revise from the forms that will be issued at the A.G.M.
 or posted shortly after). These are simplified forms which will
 equest you the members to 'DECLARE' for the species of your choice,
 o record which other species you are keeping and so that you can
 nform S.C. of any 'new' source, PLEASE RETURN THESE FORMS QUICKLY -
 r confirm you wish to continue your declared species as before -
 ithout confirmation your details WILL NOT be included on the
 evised RECORD SHEET.

SOME COMMENTS ON S.L.A.G. RECORD SHEET

by J.H. Preston.

Thanks to Mervyn for his hard work in compiling the latest list showing 'who keeps what', etc., As the member with a special interest in *Xiphophorus*, I must confess to making a few subtle alterations to the last genus, as listed by Mervyn. Not exactly changes, but additions or corrections.

And I must ask a few questions.....

(1) Since the only known habitat of *X. milleri* is Lake Catemaco, why do we call this *X. milleri* Catemaco - as though it were a separate sub-species - shouldn't it just be *X. milleri* ?

(2) Can Member No. 4 give any more details of what are *X. maculatus* . , (a) salt and pepper (b) moon (c) comet. Are these wild or domesticated strains? - bearing in mind that the dozen or so young adult fish which I brought in April this year all from the same pond in the flood plain of the Rio Papaloapan near the town of Tuxtepec in the State of Oaxaca were each different in markings, and included (a) salt and pepper (b) moon (c) comet!!

(3) Also for Ivan (Member No.4). The penultimate variety or subspecies is shown as "*Xiphophorus variatus comet*". I've seen a good many *Variatus* over the years, but have yet to meet a comet-marked specimen! Have I missed something? - or is this actually a *maculatus*, or a hybrid, like the comet swordtail???

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION: The last fish, shown as *X. variatus* (wild) - no colour, kept by Member 40 (Terry Blackmore) was 'wild' from the Rio Cautla drainage, being captured from a muddy brook near San Raphael (just to the north of the main river) by J.H.Preston and C.J.Lyon in, I think, 1973. I was able to select some males which eventually developed yellow dorsal fins and orange, sometimes red, caudals. When at last I was down to just 2 males, with Terry's help, I mated these to some fry from his stock so, with luck, we may have saved this race. I recently passed a pair to Keith Dryden. Some of these fish have always shown black markings, or blotches, on the body and/or caudal peduncle.

NEW SUB SPECIES. The paragraph above refers, I am fairly sure, to *Xiphophorus variatus variatus*. I have a few new fish of the same subspecies, caught 8 km. from Tamazunchale (Rio Montezuma?) in April this year, but so far no fry. Of course they are being kept apart from the Rio Nautla fishes. When I was with Erich Hnilicka and Dr. Radda in Puebla, again in April this year, I was shown a tankful of what they described as *Xiphophorus variatus evelynae*.

This is a separate sub-species, a little different to *X. Variatus variatus*, which I suspect would be new to the U.K. (Actually the

females look very similar! - but the male is distinctive, if a bit drab). There is a tendency to- yellow/orange colour which perhaps can be concentrated in a few generations, and also various black markings. I have no reason to doubt Dr.Eadda's identification, but shortage of time plus the limited mixture of German/Spanish/English spoken by the three of us meant that I didn't get a note of where these were captured, a few days earlier.

I was offered any number of these fishes, but as they were pretty badly smothered in 'white spot' I chose just the healthiest looking trio. These were still alive early in October in Hockley, Essex, but I had only been able to save 5 rather large fry from 2 broods! Hopefully there will soon be more so that they can be distributed around S.L.A.G.

POECILIA RETICULATA: For the benefit of members who purchased Guppies at the last auction at Newbury, these fishes were stock caught at various places in the small island of Puerto Rico by the writer in 1975- They may be considered as wild, I suppose, though I do not know whether Guppies were always found on the island or whether, like the red and tuxedo swordtails found there also, they were introduced by the American Government (for mosquito control?) many years ago.

KEITH DRYDEN has recently moved and would like to remind members that he is now living at : 4 3 Belmont Road,
South Norwood, London S.E.25.
Telephone 01-656-4271

THE POECILIID FISHES, THEIR STRUCTURE, ZOOGRAPHY AND SYSTEMATICS,
BULLETIN 0? THE AMERICAN MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY,
Volume 126, Article 1,
New York, 1963 by Donn Eric Rosen & Reeve M. Bailey
is available for 04*00 (money order) from The American Museum of
Natural History, Central Park West @ 79th Street, New York#,
NY 10024 (or. contact Ivan Dibble).

NEWS AND NOTES by Dave Cheswright

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KEITH DRYDEN has recently moved and would like to remind members that he is now living at : 4 3 Belmont Road,

South Norwood, London S.E.25.

Telephone 01-656-4271

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BULLETIN OF THE AMERICAN MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY,
Volume 126, Article 1,

New York, 1963

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bulk of that was set up by Mervyn and Phill - I remember slopping some paint about late in the day. I understand that Mervyn stayed all night to finish off the two Tableaux under his care. It was pretty obvious to me and most others that Basingstoke would win the Tableaux section and they did - well done! Our Tardis Tableau, whilst attracting a lot of attention (and comments on the sound effects) did not win a prize. On the information desk, apart from me, thanks are due to Keith Dryden, Terry Waller, Stan Furssedon and others who manned it. Many enquiries were dealt with and 11 new members obtained. The 1st Prizes taken by our members were in Classes T, Mervyn, NO-t, me, XO-t Terry Woolley. Non-livebearers Ists were won by Phil, Mini Furnished, Terry Woolley, G, Coldwater Furnished and Angels. Photographs of the Show are in the September F.B.A.S. Bulletin and include our Tableau and Information desk.

MEETING AT NEWBURY - 20th JULY, 1979

This was a bad day for me. I started to catch fishes for the Auction and on lifting an empty plastic bag my back went. I should of course have gone straight to bed but, in faat, carried on painfully in the shed. I felt a bit better later and left for the meeting, picking up Ken Saxby and Terry Blackmore on the way. We headed painfully and with a slight bumping noise in the car to Colin Howe's where I was in trouble getting out of the car. After a look at Colin's new fish-house, we went over to the Meeting Hall and a couple of drinks made my back a little easier. There were about 25 members present and the Hall was ideal. Ray Rownsend's wife had organised some refreshments and many thanks are due to her for this which she had done without "pressure" from us. This was most welcome for members who had travelled straight from work. Mervyn had a few words on Species Control and. he will report on this in due course. Phill had set up his projector and Mervyn and I gave a short talk on some of the "new" species we have acquired since formation. Slides were provided by Phill, D.G-.L.Z., and my son, Chris. Best wishes were given to Ivan Dibble who was off to Germany with his family for a fishy holiday. He, too, will be reporting later on his trip.

Once again the Table Show did not get held - as far as I know no entries were forthcoming. We had a very short break and concluded with the usual Auction, finishing at 11 p.m. I and my passengers left immediately because of my back-ache but many members went back to Colin's house. I could see nothing wrong with the car but by Piccadilly Circus the front tyre was flat and this had been the cause of the bumping - a very slow puncture. Ken and Terry changed the wheel there and then as I wandered about like a cripple (this was about 1 a.m.). I ended up in bed for a week and did not lift a bucket of water for three weeks- but I thoroughly enjoyed the meeting as, I think, did everyone else.

F.B.A,S. MEETING - 1st SEPTEMBER, 1979. A sad announcement was the death of Hugh Parrish, who had held the post of Hon. Secretary since 1974. He will be sadly missed by our hobby and difficult to replace.

As Phill Martyn was at the Belle Vue Show with Mervyn, I asked Terry Woolley to act as delegate. Tony Noronha is up-graded to a B-class judge as from 1st January, 1980. Colin Howes has been accepted as a C class judge, which means we now have a choice of F.B.A.S. judges who are S.L.A.G. members. It was announced that there may be a Dinner/Dance early in 1980.

D.M.C.

IHB PURPLE SPIKE-TAIL PLATY (XIPHOPHORUS XIPHIDIUM)

(Part 3)

by J. H. Preston

In the first two articles I described in some detail how and where I found this species in a number of locations near the city of Cd. Victoria in north-east Mexico, by exploring the same area where Dr. Myron Gordon had discovered the fish many years earlier.

With my primitive equipment and organisation, I was of course only able to bring a handful of live specimens home both in 1974 and again in 1979. A few others have reached us in the past year or so from D.G.L.Z. members. This species does not always respond well to normal aquarium cars and therefore will, in my opinion, always remain quite a rare fish.

There is a school of thought which classifies this fish as merely a sub-species of *Xiphophorus variatus*. Certainly *X. xiphidium* females are extremely similar in outward appearance to both *X. variatus variatus* and *X. variatus evelyna*^ as well as *X. montezumae*, so I suggest that they should never be kept together, as apart from the obvious dangers of cross-breeding, only an expert could identify and separate them again! Rather a

suggested by the common name only appeared intermittently on the original stock and first generation offspring in the tanks of Dave Cheswright and also Steve Jordan (of Harlow). I would say that we never have been able to equal the colours (blue and yellow too) found in the 1974 stock from the Rio Purificacion at El Barretal. Has any. other reader any comments on this? We seem to have the same problem with size, in that aquarium produced stock never quite grows as big as the wild fish. This is not a large species anyway and probably always stays a little smaller than the variatus Platies.

Like most of the other members of the genus, there is a wide variety of black markings (crescent, twin-spot, spotted body, moon, etc.) which may or may not be present. Domesticated strains tend to become uniform after a few generations as certain of these features become eliminated from, or concentrated in, the stock. The presence or absence of any of these markings cannot therefore be taken as proof that a particular fish is from a given location.

Dave Cheswright has probably been as successful as anyone with these Platies, and his fishes have had no special treatment, being kept in moderately hard water with 'average' conditions as regards feeding, temperature and the like. They have produced broods of usually 15 to 20 normal Platy-sized fry which grow well enough - up to a certain point! They don't waste away (as the Montezuma Swords tend to), and may be kept as community fish (if you have enough of them!) as their temperament is peaceful.,

Contrary wise, they do not do well for me, only a few miles away from Dave Cheswright. I do not use air or filtration and the fish house temperature varies quite considerably, otherwise conditions are very similar. Many other species do well enough under my set up, so here again is a suggestion that the Purple Platy does need that little bit of extra care. It would be interesting to have the views of other members.

S.L.A.G. SPECIES IDENTIFICATION RECORD SHEET NO. 2. 9/79.

No further information has been received regarding section 1. 2. and 5. on Sheet 1.

Our German contacts are of the opinion that section 5. will require a name change to *Xiphophorus montezumae cortezi*, Documentary evidence is being sought to confirm identification - M.l. will remain valid.

Our German contacts are convinced that section 8. will require a name change to *Priapella compressa*, confirmation is being sought - M.l. will remain valid.

All name changes will be confirmed by Species Control through the Journal.

SPECIES.	SOURCE IDENTIFICATION	ORIGINAL SOURCE	DISTRIBUTION
Alfaro cultratus	U.1.	U.S.A. Aquaria stock from J.Norton A.L.A. to West Germany by Dr.Fröhlich 1974.	Received G. Etlinger by I. Dibble, 1978, to S.L.A.G.members.
12.			
Alfaro cultratus	B.Z.	B.Blight Basingstoke A.S. from Kingston aquarist 1979. (origin W.Germany 1978).	To S.L.A.G. members via l. and 30.
13.			
Cnesterodon carnegiei	B.l.	Import via J.Mackay Kingston A.S. to Keith Dryden 1976.	All areas of U.K. 1977 onwards. To W.Germany 1978.

After several names had been used to describe, these fish were identified as *C.carnegiei* by J.Chambers of the Natural History Museum, London.

SPECIES	SOURCE IDENTIFICATION	ORIGINAL SOURCE	DISTRIBUTION
15. Girardinus falcatus	G.1.	German Aquaria stock via Hamburg Botanical Gardens To U.K. from G. Etlinger 1978.	All areas of U.K. by I.Dibble. 1979.
16. Jenysia lineata.	BR.1.	Collected from Lagoa de Freitas (a pond in Rio de Janiero) Brazil by Bodart 1977. To U.K. from W.Germany 1978.	All areas of U.K. by D.Cheswright 1979 onwards.
17. Heterandria Bimaculata	M.2.	Collected from Rio Tabasco, Nr.Teapa, Mexico, by Wilkens and Peters. March 1975. To U.K. from G.Etlinger Aug.1979.	To S.L.A.G.member No.4.
18. Heterandria bimaculata	M.1.	Mexico, Rio Coy, Nr.Cd. Valles (30 Klm south of the town)	To S.L.A.G.members by I.Dibble 1979 onwards.
19. Priapella intermedia.	M.2.	Mexico. Rio Sarabia (Nr. Motorway over River Isthmus coming from Tehuantepec by Peters Hamburg University 64. To U.K. from H.D.Georg W.Germany 1979.	To S.L.A.G.members 2 & 4. with fry passed on to 3.
20. Xiphophorus pygmaeus pygmaeus.	M.2.	Mexico. Rio Axtla. by Zander, Hamburg University 1964 via G.Etlinger 1979.	To S.L.A.G.member No.4.
21. Xiphophorus maculatus	M.1.	Mexico. Rio Papaloapan near Town of Tuxtepec, State of Oaxaca, by J.H. Preston and E.Hnilicka April 1979.	To S.L.A.G.member No.1 with fry passed on to 3. and 4. plus.

SPECIES	SOURCE IDENTIFICATION	ORIGINAL SOURCE.	DISTRIBUTION
Necheterandria umbratilis	U.l.	U.S.A. Aquaria stock to W.Germany from D.Fromm A.L.A. To U.K. from G.Etlinger and M.Meyer. Oct.1978. Nov.1978 and April 1979.	To S.L.A.G.members No. 2. and 4., fry to all areas of U.K. 1979 onwards.
<p>It is suggested that Xenophallus should be the Family name, Neoheterandria should continue to be used until any alteration has been established and published in the Journal. <u>U.l. to remain valid.</u></p>			
22.			
Poecilia vivipara	BR.l.	Brazil, Logo de Freitas, Rio de Janiero, by Dr. Bodart 1977. To U.K. from H.Klein of W.Germany Oct. and November 1978.	To S.L.A.G.members No.2 and 4, fry to all areas of U.K.
23.			
Xenophorus captivus.	U.l.	U.S.A. Aquaria stock from member of A.L.A. to Dr. Fröhlich of Wewt Germany 1974. To U.K. from G. Etlinger Oct. 1978.	To S.L.A.G.member No.4, fry to all areas of U.K. 1979 onwards.
24.			
Phalloceros caudomaculata reticulata	G.l.	West German Aquaria stock	To S.L.A.G.member No.4, fry to all areas of U.K. 1979 onwards
25.			
Phallophy-cus januarius	BR.l.	Brazil. Lagoa de Freitas Rio de Janeiro by Dr. Bodart 1977. To U.K. from G.Etlinger. Oct. 78 and November 1978	To S.L.A.G.members No. 2 and 4, fry to 3. 5. and 30. plus.
26.			

This series of record sheets are to enable the serious aquarists within S.L.A.G. to keep a personal record of fish being kept and enable them to make contact with other members who wish to keep stock true to bloodlines, by using a simple code that can

You may not wish to maintain fish in this serious manner, but it is only fair for us to co-operate with those members who wish to maintain bloodlines for their own or scientific purposes. Remember it is the serious aquarist that obtains the stock in the first place usually, and he may be the one that can supply you with fish that are of your particular interest.

Remember S.C. can only publish the information supplied by members. As yet we are not able to mind read, we will only publish COMPLETE, DOCUMENTED information, so do not complain that we have not published what information you require. It will mean, we have not received that information from you and other members.

JOURNAL PRINTING

This issue could not be photo-copied as the Southend, Leigh & D.A.S member who has been doing this for us free is moving to near Cambridge. He hopes to be able to help us again once he has settled in at his new work base. Howard having spent hours on immaculate typing for copying we have had to revert to duplicating and I think that the quality is good, we could not have the usual photograph on the cover as there was no time to have an electronic stencil made. Thanks for the typing of stencils is due to Mrs Miell of Southend L. & D.A.S. and to that Society for the use of the Duplicator. We had to pay for the materials of course. Labour supplied by Howard and myself and Ken Dyke of S.L.A.D.A.S.

Dave Cheswright.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

All members should have received Notices and copies of the Draft Constitution.

The A. G.M. is at 4. p.m. At:- Sandford Hospital Social Club,
17th November, 1979* New Town Road, NEWBURY, Berks.

Followed by:- at 8.30p.m., Howard Preston Slides:- Mexico.
and Auction.

I was told 2 weeks ago that on this date there is also an all day Meeting of the Catfish Association. Apologies for this clash of dates.

D.M.C.