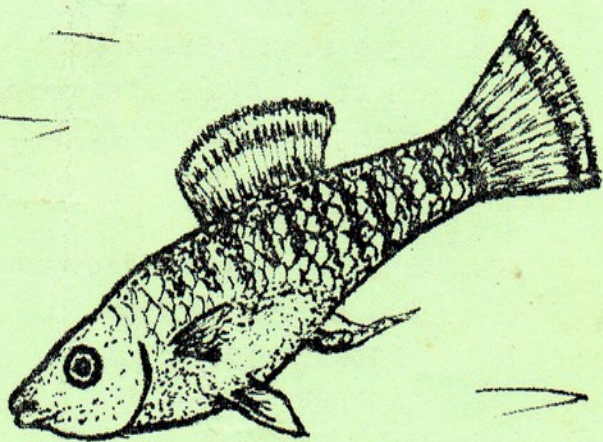
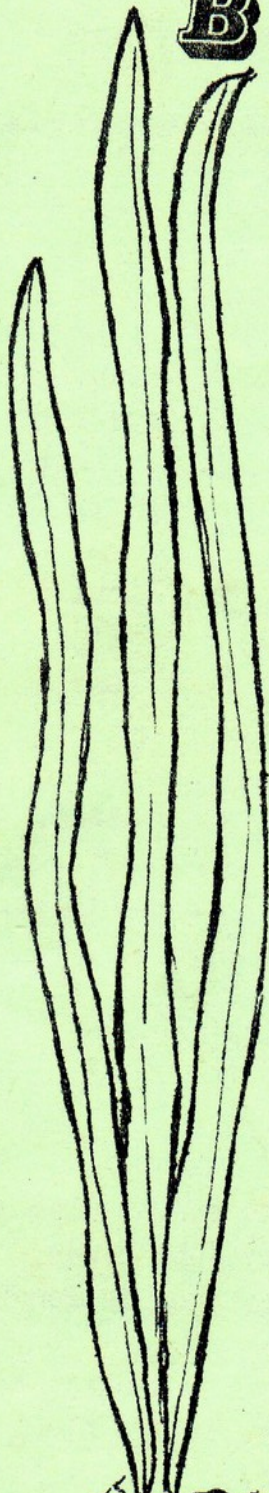


BRACHY BULLETIN



S.L.A.G.

No 8

-x-

SOUTHERN LIVEBEARERS AQUATIC GROUP

QUARTERLY JOURNAL No.8 NOV. 1980.

-x-

- CONTENTS -

Page

1. Editorial	
2. From the Chairman.	D. Cheswright
3.. Time Flies.	, Alan Howard.
5. Nailsea Report,	D. Cheswright.
6.	
8. Some useful Facts & , Some not so useful.	Duncan MacDonald.
12 Methods of Maintaining & Breeding Livebearers.	D. Cheswright.
16. Poeciliopsis viriosa.	Dave Hanns.
17 . Open Show Reports.	W.F.J. Crockford & D. Cheswright.^

—x—x—x-x—x—x-x-x—x—x—x—x-x-x—x-x-x—x-x-x-x-x-

S.L.A.G. ACCEPTS NO RESPONSIBILITY FOR VIEWS
OR OPINIONS EXPRESSED BY AUTHORS IN THEIR
RESPECTIVE ARTICLES IN THIS JOURNAL

-X-X-X-X-X-X-X-

EDITORIAL

Well here are at the end of another club year and its time for our A.G.M. I hope as many of our Members as can, will attend. It is the place and the time for views, nominating and electing new members of the Committee. Talking about nominations, as I will not be standing for re-election as Editor, a nomination will be needed for this post. So, if you know of anyone who has a leaning for this type of work please put his name forward.

As for other things on the addenda I have been informed that the Secretary will be sending out a circular giving full details.

Thirty or so of our members went to the D.G.L.Z. Show in Friedburg, West Germany, at the end of September. As far I know they all had a good time. I can not give you any more details because not one of the thirty bothered to send in a report.

I have heard it is on the SLAG to send out slides of livebearing fishes in the near future. It's early days yet, but it is in the pipe-line. This will be a very good thing for the club & will certainly raise its all ready high standing in the fishkeeping world.

Several new species have been introduced into this country recently and I am sure the members who have them will be spreading them around as soon as stocks are large enough to do so.

This is the end of my last editorial. I hope you have enjoyed the 4 Journals I have produced. I will, no doubt, see many of you around the shows.

Good fishkeeping

Joe. Sutcliffe

FROM THE CHAIRMAN

We will soon be coming up to our second A.G.M. On the 15th of November 1980. The constitution was agreed in November 1980, but due to difficulties, was not sent to all members until July 1980. Older members had a copy prior to the 1979 A.G.M. And only a few amendments were made. I hope members will have read the constitution thoroughly. Your attention is drawn to rule 10 and to rule 5(e) concerning any amendments.

I think that this is the last bulletin before the A.G.M. Our Editor is suffering from a lack of copy. No one can be expected to write and to print this Bulletin, if you want a bulletin YOU MUST WRITE FOR PLEASE. Even short items of, say, experiences with a species, are of use. Please do not keep all your knowledge and experiences to yourselves. Mervyn, Species Control, is longing for a flood of information on the large number of species we have. How can we start publishing useful and accurate information, species by species, if members do not supply it first?.

Thanks are due to Ivan for organising the visit to our German friends on 5th July. It was a pity that, as far as I know, no persons other than SLAG members attended our slide show and lecture in the afternoon. We had hoped that holding our meeting in conjunction with the Nailsea Show would have created attendance from other exhibitors and members of the public visiting the Show.

I do not think there has been any response to my request for volunteers to build and run stands at Open Shows. One member had already offered to build one for the Alexandra Palace Show on 3/5th October 1980, and this will be in the form of an archway, with furnished aquaria and an information table.

Tom Tester provided his stand again at the Hastings Sussex Show on 17th August and yours truly, with some help ran it.

Looking around various Open Shows it is apparent that the quality of our livebearers is still going down. The cultivated species been, with the exception of Guppies deteriorating for some years but, now, it seems to me that the A.O Species are going this way too. Is it that we have a lot of species to keep now, many more than before, I find it difficult to keep up quantity and quality & intend to concentrate on the matter from now on.

The Sunday Express, 27th . July, 1980 reports on a book,"Child of the Tropics"written by the daughter of Lechmere Guppy, and published after her death. Lechmere ran away from England and in 1854 ended up in Trinidad as a Schools Inspector. He discovered the fishes in a river near Port-of-Spain. In her book his daughter writes "he would have been totally amazed and amused that this tiny fish would cause his name to become a household word".The book is published by Collins at £7.95. and is about their family life in Trinidad.

Dave Cheswright, Chairman.

-x-x-x-x-x—x-x

"TIME FLIES"

It is now 8 years since I first purchased an aquarium (mistake No. 1, tank not large enough) the tank being made of plastic, bow fronted and approx"; 22" in length. Also purchased, all second hand, was a heater/stat & a "Rena 101" pump. What a wonderful pump this is.Only minor repairs and still going strong.

The Aquarium was set up with plants purchased from the the local Aquarist shop & on his advice left for six days before fish were introduced. these being 2 male Guppy's 1 pair Platy's, 1 pair Swordtails, and a catfish now known to be a Corydorus punctatus. All went well until the platy decided it was time to release her fry. This is where the rot set in. Another tank was needed to house the Platy fry. What a wonderful sight the first time you see the small fry that you have helped to reproduce. But of course, a larger Tank was needed for the platies to grow on in. So a 3ft. tank, stand, hood, heater, pump and all was purchased second hand for £5.00 through an advert in the local Aquarist shop

This new tank was set up in the back end of the garage. The stand being built to take two tanks I decided that I would buy. Another one;, which I thought I would keep for A.O.V. livebearers. The next problem?, where to purchase these fish?. So it was off to the FBAS.Show in London but none were available. But,I had come back with an Address of Dave Hanns to who I wrote and eventually met on a cold December night on the service area of the M.6. Motorway. Dave had-brought me a number of livebearers so home I went and left Dave and family to carry on on their journey to Essex. The next move was a new tank for the lounge this being a 4ft, and intended to replace the bow front not wishing to part with the bow front I decided to buy a shed to house all tanks except my new 4ft. The shed was well insulated and space heated, all OK till we were away on holiday (things always seem to go wrong at holiday times) a friend was looking after my shed for me but he has a son of eight years of age and little fingers stray but, according to Dad nothing was touched.....

the on` the `stat, but it was from Monday evening till he came up again on Tuesday evening, needless to say all was lost, except for a pair of Heterandria bimaculata which were left on the shed floor in a small tank. These were the only fish to survive, if anyone has had this happen to them they know the state everything was in on the Saturday night following. The friend had turned off the electricity. Locked up the shed and left it till I came home. What a stench! When the door was opened again. Still ! we started again, but this time only with livebearers. My new stock was obtained from fellow aquarists Terry Busfield, Joe Sutcliffe, Ivan Dibble and others who I thank again for getting me started once more. I have learned my lesson. No heat left on when I go on holiday (which is now a week at a time), no food whilst I am away. It is very surprising how well they look when you return.

All has gone well since then – thank goodness.

I have since joined S.L.A.G. Attending the three monthly meetings and making many new friends. The auctions, slide shows and talks are very good value I feel.

May I take this opportunity of thanking once again Ivan and Mrs Dibble for the supper they provided after the Nailsea Show. A very good spread was enjoyed by all.

Alan Howard.

MEETING REPORT – NAILSEA - 5th JULY 1980

This meeting was held at the venue of the Nailsea Open Show. For me, it started the day before. Ivan did a lot of work beforehand organising the visit to the Show and our meeting..... 5

of some of our German friends, including Manfred Meyer and Hans-Peter Weil. He had arranged for me to meet Dr. Hans-Jurgen Klüppel and his wife at Dover as they came by car. The other visitors went on to Bristol by train. The morning of the 4th was not at all nice -rain and fog to Dover and back. Hans- Jurgens was not too happy with our- roundabouts as he said they have only three in Germany!!! Our visitors rested in the afternoon and were wined and dined in the evening. The fish-house was thoroughly inspected and Hans-Jurgens entries entries for the show were checked. He specializes in Livebearers and Killie-fishes so his interests coincided exactly with mine and my sons. He and a friend in Düsseldorf have had a morked success with *Limnurgus innominatus*, his froeind keeping them in an outside pond. He had some specimens with him which he passed onto a SLAG member. It was good to see these fish resulting from the ones we had given the Germans. They were not large but looked healthy and the fry were strong. I hope that our member that had them is giving them priority treatment.

We arose very early on the 5th July. I think it was about 4.00 am. I had already washed show tanks to lend to our friends and had caught fish for the auction, the night before. The two cars were loaded up . SLAG members, Terry Blackmore, Howard Preston, and Bernard Meech had in the mean time turned up and we set off, with my son, at about 6.00 am. We arrived in ample time to enter and bench our visitors` fishes which were his and various friends`. Thanks to other SLAG members for help here as I had to go off to.....

organise our afternoon meeting. Mervyn arrived soon after and helped with this
Ivan had organised the benching for our other visitors.

Judging of the Show took place during the afternoon and we had a good attendance from members to our Slide Show and general discussions. The slides were provided by Colin Howe, Terry Waller, and myself and, in fact we had too many to show them all in a couple of hours. A good discussion on each species took place with members putting forward many useful tips.

I was pleased to see that our German friends had taken some cards, they had a wide entry in both Livebearers and Egglayers.

In general the quality of entries in the show was not above average but there was a good number, somewhere about 500 I think. I do not have the results list so cannot state places won by SLAG members although I do know they did well.

I had a good discussion with members of our Yorkshire Group and we entertained briefly our German friends.

The evening meeting started after the show had been de-benched. Manfred Meyer gave us a short talk illustrated with slides on his trip to Mexico, included in this was a new species, *Xiphophorus andersi*, which he has recently described with Herr Manfred Schaertl. We have their publication of this which I hope we will get translated soon. Manfred also mentioned the U.S.A. Re-classification of certain *Xiphophorus* species and has to send us details. We had a short break and the usual auction.

Dr Klüppel and his wife were staying for a couple of days but our other visitors had to catch the 1.00 am train home. We all went back to Ivan's until then in order to see.....

them off. My passengers and I stayed the night at Ivan's and left about 10.00 am on the Sunday. A hectic but very enjoyable weekend.

Dave Cheswright

SOME USEFUL FACTS & SOME NOT SO USEFUL

During the years I have been keeping tropical fish, I have noted several pieces of information regarding our hobby in reference books. Looking at my note book now there seems to be some information that could be of use to someone.

Most if the information recorded in this article are odds and ends I have jotted down when I noted something of interest. Some of the items I have used with good and bad results. For instance I purchased a nice looking male red wagtail platy. Within three days of the purchase the fish became very sulky with drooping fins and its body covered in a white film. As I could not identify the disease I experimented with Copper sulphate and Potassium permanganate solution for seven days. This drastic treatment cured the fish from whatever it had and the disease never returned.

Therefore if you have a diseased fish and can't get advice or obtain your treatment from the local pet/fish shop or have tried remedies which in the past have failed then this article may be of some use to you.

1. Measurement

1 teaspoon = 5 ml

4 teaspoons = 1 Dessert spoon.

.....

2 Desert spoons = 1 tablespoon
 2 Table spoons = 1 fluid ounce
 1 pond weight = 0.53 kilograms or 7,000 grains
 1 Gallon (UK) = 160 fluid ounces or 4.546 litres
 1 cubic foot = 6.24 gallons Or 28.3 litres
 1 gallon of water occupies = 0.16 cubic foot & weighs 10 lbs
 1 US gallon = 0.83268 imperial gallon.
 1 litre = 1.76 pints or 35.196 fluid ounces
 1 oz. = 28.35 grams Or 437.5 grains
 1 grain = 0.065 grams
 65°F = 18.3°C
 70°F = 21.1°C
 75°F = 23.8°C
 80°F = 26.6°C

Percent solution	Oz per gallon	Grains per gallon	Parts per million	Grams per litre
0.10%	One sixth	70	1000	1
0.50%	Three quarters	350	5000	5
1.00%	1½	700	10000	10
2.00%	3¼	1400	20000	20
3.00%	4½	2100	30000	30
5.00%	8	3500	50000	50
10.00%	16	7000	100000	100

Size in Watts of Heater.

Required tank temp` (A). Minimum Room temp` (B) tank capacity (C) gallons

A-B X C X 2.5 = Watts

4. Wattage of lights

$$\text{Watts} = \frac{\text{Length of tank in foot} \times 32}{\text{Number of hours of light}}$$

Number of hours of light

Experiments I have conducted show a minimum of ten hours of light is required in the above formula to obtain plant growth.

NOTE:- For Fluorescent light divide the above answer by two.

5. Aquarium Glass thickness

12" tank require glass 1/16" thick

18" " " 3/32" "

24" " " 1/8" "

36" " " 3/16" "

48" " " 1/4" "

60" " " 3/8" "

6. Disinfectant

Add to tank 1 tea spoon of rock salt to every 2 gallons of water.

7. Stand-by Cures

a) Potassium permanganate (fines) 22 grains per 100 gallons (Pond Treatment)

The water in the pond will become a wine colour but should clear in a few days as the Potassium permanganate is deposited as an insoluble non-poisonous compound. This treatment is useful in helping to cure coldwater diseases found in ponds and will check free swimming algae.

Potassium permanganate can also be used for a treatment 1/8 to 1/4 grain per gallon for two hours, (if the fish shows.....)

any distress it must be placed in clean water for any treatment listed check).

- B) Epsom Salt ½ ounce to 1 gallon for two hours
- C) Ammonia treatment 10 drops per gallon for two hours
- D) Copper sulphate 0.25 grains every 10 gallons
- E) Sea Water treatment 1 part seawater to 5 parts freshwater, for two hours.
- F) Salt treatment 2 heaped teaspoons to 1 gallon of water, arrange treatment to increase strength daily so full strength is obtained on the fifth day, then slowly bring back for the next five days. Double strength is the last chance.
- G) Last Last Chance Swab effected area with a solution of ½ two spoons of ammonia in 8 ounce glass of water.

8. Disinfecting Plants Soak in 4 tea spoons of Ammonia to 1 quart of water or one cup of ammonia to 3 gallons of water for two hours.

.....

9. Information on ponds and coldwater fish

a) Curing a new cement pool

1. Fill pool to brim(after cement has hardened of course) and leave for 5 days.
2. Drain and refill pool for a further 5 days.
3. Drain pool and mix up a solution of 1 quart vinegar to 10 parts water.
4. With a stiff brush and vinegar solution scrub the sides of the pool.
5. Wash the sides of the pool thoroughly with a hose.
6. Rinse out pool, it should then be ready for use.

b) Infected fish (sores etc).

Swab effected area with creosote, kerosene and apply daily iodine- glycerine.

c) Mud treatment -sluggish fish

2 to 3 inches of mud in six inches of water and plenty of water plants. Fish left in container for two weeks.

d) Growth

Dripping water on the surface of a container increases growth.

Duncan MacDonald

Methods of Maintaining & Breeding Livebearers

(Part Three)

The new fish house has now been fully operational for over 4 months and I am now concentrating on increasing numbers of several species.....

which need a wider distribution. I am sorry to have to report further deaths of *Limnurgus innominatus*. Almost all the adults I had in March 1980, have died since being moved to the new fish house. How can that be? you ask. I wish I knew. There is no way that I can see that the conditions are different from the old shed. One member has suggested T.B. As being a possible cause for the death of this species so regularly in many different persons tanks, why should it die in all types of conditions?? There appears to be no satisfactory explanation to date. PERHAPS it does not like light. Mine always do better without much light but I have kept them successfully at times right under a 40 watt tube which was in all of every evening. Apart from luckily taking the trouble to obtain fry from three females before they died, other fry were taken from time to time from the 24 inch tank in which the adults were. I have about 50 assorted fry all of which appear to be healthy. Why have the adults with the exception of two weak looking males, died at intervals, since March?, to my mind it must be something to do with the move to the new fish house, BUT, what that something is I have no idea. As there is no one else I know of who has maintained this species for anything like a long time, I am lost for obtaining other opinions Would my specimens all get T.B. As from March?? I doubt it. Did the mere fact of moving them trigger off some nervous or physical trouble? If so, why did the females still successfully give birth? If they had been dying from some sort of shock, why did some last for four months? If they were ill, why did they not look ill; why di they die looking O.K.

Poecilia parae I refer to Don Kenwood's

repor on these in issue No 7. I received a number of these in late 1979 from a memberof the American Livebearer Assoc`. He stated they are very difficult to maintain and breed. 1 female died within a month, 2 females gave birth to about 6 dead fry each, 11 male died plus a further female early in 1980. This left 2 F and 1 M of these females 1 gave birth to 8 fry on the 3rd March 1980 and a further 9 on the 12th April, she has since died as did the male. This left 1 F plus the 17 fry. All the fry are doing well and are just sexing out and there are several pairs amongst them. When a little larger I will separate all the females into small tanks to try to obtain a maximum number of fry. Our American friend suggested the addition of salt, I tried this but they appeared to do better without it. In looks they are like a small version of a guppy. The males have much less colour than one would find on any guppy. I have not yet distributed any of these but will do once I have further fry.

Jenynsia lineata I keep most of these with some other species as they seem to like it better than being by themselves. They spend a lot of time in the bottom half of the tank and take most of the food from the bottom, although they do rise for flake food. They came from D.G.Z.L. Members (Germany) in November 1978. Males are one sided and apparently so are the females. They are easy to match by placing a female by itself and introducing males one at a time. The males are very sexy and it usually only takes a minute to find out if they match. I find that in broods there are males of both bents. Fry are born at about six week intervals. I have spread this species to over 30 others and have had only three come back and ask for males to be changed.....

(Fry went in batches of 6 or 8) This seems to show that there must be a fairly even spread of matched pairs. Brood numbers from the original 1 female I had were:- 26 plus 1 dead, 36, then 36, 43, 62, 36, 6. During this period the female was kept alone to see how many broods she would drop without re-ferilisation. The total live fry were 209 over six broods. I replace the female with the males she became pregnant but died; inside her were about 50 plus half developed fry all dead of course. A 2nd generation female subsequently dropped 13, 12,21, (12 all dead), and 16 to date. This female has been placed back with the males after each brood. The original female was about 3½ inches long and probably died of old age.

I have just had account of tanks in the new fish house, it came to 105, including 20 tanks less than 12 inches long, used for fry and pregnant females. About 15 of the total are used by my son for his killiefishes and we have a rule that we can only pinch each others small tanks which are there for the taking. My son has his share of the larger tanks in various parts of the fish house in order to give him varying conditions.

I have the following species in some old tanks in the garden since June 1980. *Xenotoca eiseni*, *Ameca splendens*, *Gambusia affinis holbrooki*. Another member tells me that *Xiphophorus milleri* are doing well in his garden. These will all need to be taken in before the first frosts. Doing the same in 1979 I found that the Amecas died the first frosty night but the other two survived. This was a pure experiment I would not repeat.

Electricity used has averaged 15 units per week so far (April to August).

Dave Cheswright

Poeciliopsis viriosa

When Ivan Dibble and I visited DGLZ Show in Hamburg in 1978 we obtained several livebearers which were new to this country, one of them being *Poeciliopsis viriosa*.

The specimens in this country according to the pedigree form, were caught by Herr Schreiber of West Germany in 1976 in the Rio Cluedor, Vayrit, Mexico. We obtained ours from Gūnter Entlinger DGLZ in Hamburg.

Males growing to 1” and females to 1½” but usually smaller. The body colour is yellowish-olive, the scales have dark edges that give the body a net-like pattern. In both sexes the membrane between the first two rays of the dorsal is black, the same applies to the first two anal fin rays in the female. There is a large black area above and behind the gonopodium. One male in a tank will always change to a very dark almost black colour. If this dominant male is removed, then another male then another male will assume the dark colouration. If the first male is then replaced in the tank then all the other males will once again take on the pale colouration.. The females remain plump all the time, even after dropping the broods.

The best temperature I have found is 80 to 86°F at a lower temperature the fish are susceptible to fungus and fin rot. They mature in about two months. The number of fry per brood is small, from 3 to 15 usually around 6 to 9.

The young can be reared in the same tank as the parents if preferred with no losses.

Portsmouth and District Aquarist Society

Fishkeeping Exhibition

August 4th - 9th 1980

Once again the Portsmouth Aquarists have staged their “Fishkeeping Exhibition” in the basement hall of the Wesley Halls, Fratton Road, Portsmouth.

I was asked on behalf of SLAG, to undertake the setting up of a section on livebearers. The hall was divided up to depict families of fish and the countries that they appear in.

I was given a series of 20 tanks 12” x 8” x 8” with water and gravel supplied, all we had to supply was fish and plants. I had the assistance of fellow member of the FGBS, as I also set up a stand of guppies being the local group secretary. I have been informed that that about two to three thousand people saw the show this year, during the week of the show.

W.F.J.Crockford

Open Show – Bethnal Green A.S. London

There were a number of our members at this Show on thre 7th September, Bethnal Green`s 31st Annual event.

There was a total of somewhere about 400 entries and thee livebearer classes were very well supported. One entry was a male *Poecilia vittata* and this caused some discussion among us. It was very large, somewhere around four inches, but it had very little black markings and no yellow at all. In shape it gave the appearance of *Xiphophorus helleri*, having a high body from the head and being quite rounded.....

underneath. There seems to be a great variation in size and colouration in this species from aquarist to aquarist. There have been reports of cross-breed specimens of *P. vittata* being about over the years but I doubt if this species has been crossed with a *Xiphophorus*. Perhaps it was old and this accounted for the unusual shape. Anyway, there was no way in which its identity could be queried and it was judged as entered. It was the largest male of this species I have ever seen. Any comments on this species to the Editor please.

Our members did well in many classes 1st prizes won livebearer classes as below- apologies if I have missed any:-

Class T. A.O.S. Livebearers.....Fred Holding
Class Not Pairs.....Dave Winder
Class Xot Breeders livebearer.....Dave Cheswright

The fishes that won were, respectively

Heterandria bimaculata
Phallichthys fairweatheri
Alfarao cultratus

Dave Cheswright

Dear Members,

I would like to point out that my term as treasurer does not expire until A.G.M. 1981.

Therefore I will once again be delighted to accept your subscriptions at the November meeting or by post.

Next years membership cards will be a different colour to save confusion with the 79/80 cards.

Please pay promptly to save me wasting YOUR money in postal reminders.

