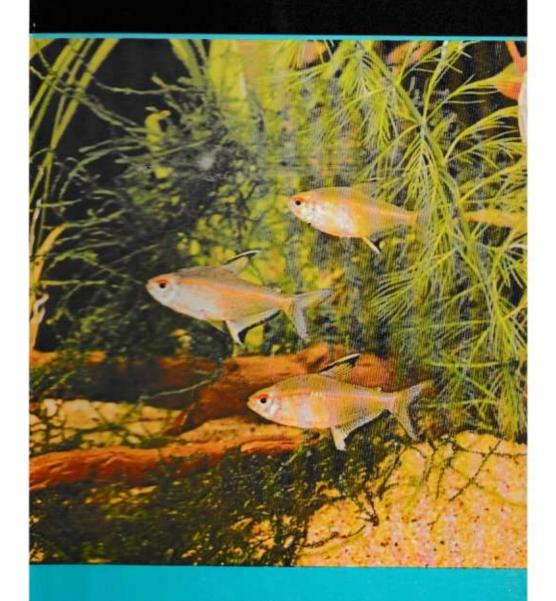
tropical fish hobbyist



Spawning the Lemon Tetra

tropical fish hobbyist

Vol. XIX, July, 1971 (#185, No. 11)

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cover

Loman tetras, Hyphessobrycon pulchripinais. Photo by Ruda Zukal.

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July, 1971

EDITORIALLY ...

Until fairly recently, the aquarium hobby had not been what you could reasonably call a "collecting" hobby. Sure, you could always have a "collection" of fishes, if by collection you meant simply an assemblage of like units having some common basis of relationship. But regardless of the number of fishes you had and regardless of the diversity of their taxonomic status, in most cases you didn't have a collection, because the fishes had not been chosen on the basis of how they fit into a general plan of organization. In most cases, they were chosen simply because they were available and because they happened to appeal to the buyer for mostly subjective reasons. It seems to me that things have changed somewhat over the past few years: more hobbyists than ever before are approaching the purchase of specimens from the standpoint of how those specimens fit into some over-all organizational plan. I've seen or heard of hobbyists recently who are attempting to maintain representative collections of fishes from every fish-holding continent or from every country within a certain continent; one very ambitious gentleman recently wrote and informed us of his decision to maintain at least one species from every family of fishes that had representation in the fresh waters of the world. He mentioned how much tank space he estimated he'd require, so he had at least an inkling of the enormity of the task he was setting for himself. I don't know what has occasioned this chance in habit on the part of some hobbyists. but of the task he was setting for himself. I don't know what has oc-casioned this change in habit on the part of some hobbyists, but I'm certain about one of the factors that has allowed it to happen: the great increase in the diversity of fishes offered for sale. True enough, many of the old standbys of the aquarium hobby have de-clined in quality, but there definitely has been an increase in the number of different species on the market...so hobbyists who had the collecting urge to begin with are finally being given the means to put their accumulative instincts to work.

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Prognathodes aculeatus, Photo by Dr. John R. Randall.

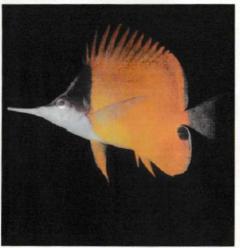
Prognathodes aculeatus

The first specimen of Prognathodes aculeatus that I ever acquired surprised The first specimen of Prognathodes aculeatus that I ever acquired surprised me greatly by doing something that chaetodontids very rarely do: it are almost immediately upon introduction to its quarantine tank. I had expected that it would, like almost every other of the many butterfly fishes I had obtained throughout the years as a marine fish hobbyist, take badly to tank life at first and need all sorts of wheedling and coaxing before it would take food. I was prepared to offer the fish a whole raft of saltwater delicacies and was happy to learn that I wouldn't have to.

Not so pleasant was the reception arranged for Prognathodes when it was put into one of my marine community aquaria after it had finished its

three-week quarantine period. The new fish was immediately attacked by the other chaetodontid fishes, including both butterfly and surgeon fishes, in the tank. But my Prognathodes was no coward and rose to its own defense very well. Assuming the defensive attitude common to members of its family, it erected the huge rays of its dorsal fin and put its head down so that the rays were pointed directly at any fish threatening it. This maneuver served the fish well as far as the other butterfly fishes were concerned, but it didn't keep the surgeon fishes at bay. The newcomer's defense against the surgeons and their superior armament was a simple one: flight. When a surgeon fish approached menacingly, Prognathode got out of its way in a hurry. The surgeons left the new fish alone after a few days of going

Forcipiger flavissimus. The genus Forcipiger, one of the two genera of Pacific long-anouted butterflyfishes, was until only recently believed to include only one species, F. longirostris, but F. flavissimus and F. inornatus are now recognized. Photo by Dr. John R. Randall.



July, 1971

Chelmon rostratus. More colorful and more long-nosed than the Atlantic P. aculeatus, this Pacific species is also more delicate, especially as regards its willingness to accept food upon its introduction to new tank surroundings. Photo by Earl Kennedy.

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Tropical Fish Hobbyist

through their tough-guy routine; I've found that they usually give a new fish a bad time for at least a few days and then stop bothering it. Not always, of course; sometimes they'll pick on a new fish relentlessly, never letting up until the unhappy new rankmate is dead.

letting up until the unhappy new tankmate is dead.

I understand that P. aculeatus is known to English-speaking marine hobbyists as the Atlantic longsnout butterfly fish, probably to distinguish it from the Forcipper and Chelmon species from the Facific and Indian occans, generally sold as Pacific longsnouts (or longnoses) or just plain longsnouts. The name serves well enough, I suppose, even though there are some Atlantic butterfly fishes that are long-snouted enough to cause confusion if one were relying on popular names alone as expressions of definitive characters.

Anyway, my P. aculeatus proved that its atypical feeding behavior upon arrival wasn't a fluke. My specimen was a hearty eater right from the start, taking white worms, microworms, tubifex worms, mosquito larvae, small shrimps, many different freshwater crustaceans, mussel meat, finely chopped beef heart and raw ham, and commercial fluke foods. Vegetable foodstuffs in the form of lettuce and marine algae were also taken readily. The species really offers no complications at all as regards its feeding program, which makes it a welcome relief from some of the other chaetodontid species. But I've discovered that even the more picky chaetodontids don't require as much pampering in dietary matters as they're reputed to require. It is not true, for example, that they must be maintained on a diet of living coral polyps.

coral polyps.

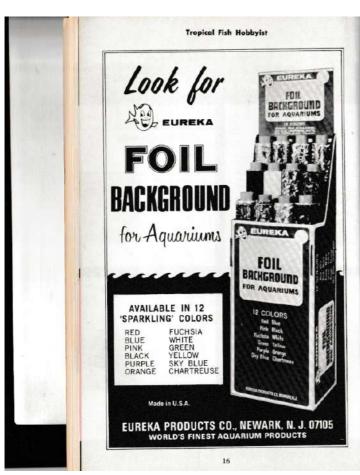
Prognathodes aculeatus is very thankful if you afford it hiding places in its tank. This may be accomplished with either rocks or pieces of real or plastic coral. The fish like caves a lot, and squeeze into the narrowest crevices in order to search for food. The density of the water should range around 1.020 to 1.023. Use good sea water. Artificially mixed ones will do perfectly.

Frequent changes of its water enhances the well-being of the fish. The pH value should not sink below 8, and the temperature of the water should amount to 76°F, or more. During the last few years I have noticed that most coral fishes are less prone to diseases at temperatures ranging from 76 to 79 degrees F, than at temperatures of 75°F. Prognathodes aculeans likes a thorough agitation of the water. For this a Hydra-fio or Hydramatic pump is what the prescription calls for.

pump is what the prescription calls for.

The Atlantic longsnout is an elegant swimmer which is seen during most of the day in search of food. I would like to commend this species to any









He butts his uncles and his aunts; He bites his mate and tears up plants, And doesn't give a damn of bad reports. Most aquarists are turned off by

taxonomy, largely because they see neither rhyme nor reason to it. Well friends, it does make sense, but it takes a little reading on your part to see this sense.

Groups of closely related species are grouped into genera; the genus is the first part of the scientific name. When we say "related," we mean that they evolved from a common ancestor, to the best of our knowledge. In the same way, groups of genera may be related, and these groups are placed in families. The family Cichlidae has

THE ICHTHY OPHILE your dealer's gift to you for being a good Hobby151 Dealers WRITE FOR SAMPLES AND PRICES
THE ICHTHYOPHILE - 13955 Coconut Palm Drive, Homestead, Fla. 33030 an abundance of genera, and here is where most cichlidophiles give up the ghost. Perhaps I can make some sense out of this for you. In this discussion, I will try to show how genera may be grouped, if not into taxonomic categories, at least into categories that make sense.

In Africa, there are two main lines of cichlid evolution, typified by Tilapia on the one hand and Haplochromis on the other. Each principal genus has a number of other, usually smaller, genera allied with it, and these other genera usually differ in teeth, gill apparatus, scales, or some other ways. But

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the big difference between Tilapia and Haplochromis lies pharyngeal apparatus and how it is hooked up to the skull. Closely

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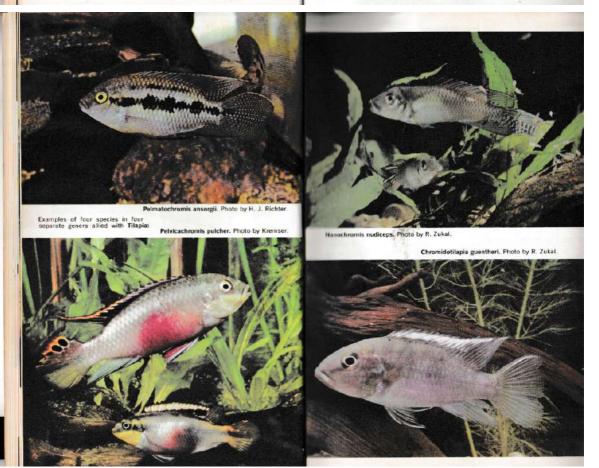
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related to the Tilapia species and in their line of evolution would be Pelmatechronis, Peloicachronis, Nanochronis, Chronidotilapia and a number of others. Tilapia itself is a large genus; very few species have been seen by aquarists.

The Hoplochromis line of evolution is even bigger and more
confused, because many of the
isolated lakes of Africa have experienced explosive, speciation of
the primitive Haplochromis ancestors. This has given rise to an
enormous number of Haplochromis
derivatives, often spoken of as
"species-flocks," in several of the
lakes. Generally, this explosive
speciation is correlated with fluctuating water levels, exploration of
every conceivable mode of life and
food, and the violent geologic upheavals during the history of the
continent. All the mbuna of Lake
Malawi, for example, are members
of a Haplochromis species-flock. And
the Lake Tanganyika cichlids are
almost entirely of a similar ancestry. Ditto for Lake Victoria. So
Haplochromis and its derivatives
have experienced great speciation
in the old lakes, whereas Tilapia

An application for membership in the American Cichlid Association can be obtained from Mr. Guy D. Jordan, 6546 Celia Vieta Drive, San Diego, California 92115. When requesting a membership application form, please provide a stamped, self-addressed envelope.



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Chaetobranchus bitaeniatus; although Chaetobranchus is a Tilapia-allied genus, it is different from the main body of American cichilds in that it is not a member of the "Acara Group." Photo by Dr. Harbert R. Axelrod.

Cichia ocellaris; Cichia is the only Haplochromis-allied genus in the American cichiid group. Photo by Dr. Herbert R. Axelrod.





Acaronia nassa; Acaronia is one of the four genera in the "Acquidens

and its allies have made good use of the African rivers.

Now let's take a look at American cichilds, generally referred to as Nectropical cichids. Again we have the same division, based on the pharyngeal hook-up to the stull. Only one American genus is thus related to Africa's Haplochromis, and that is the genus Cichila. All the other American cichidis have the Tilapia type of hook-up. There were two lines from the Tilapia-like ancestor, one leading to the oddball genus Chaetobeauchas, and the other leading to what Regan called the Acara group. This was a group of fish characterized by three anal spines (unbranched rays). I will call it the primitive Aequidens Group.

Early in the history of the Acquidens Group, another line spit off, characterized by more than three anal spines. This line gave off Cichlasoma, Pterophyllum, Symphysodon, Uaru, Herotilapia, Petenia and Neotropha. The remainder of the Acquidens Group gave off three other lines, still retaining the three anal spines. These groups can be indicated as (1) Acquidens, Astronetus, Acaronia and Namnacara; (2) Crenicaru, Batrachopi and Crenicichia (characterized by a comb-like edge on part of the gill cover); and (3) Apiutogramma, Biotodoma and Geophogus (characterized by a lobe on the first gill arch).

So you see, taxonomy does make sense. It's not just a game.



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An adult brook trout, Salvelinus fontinalis, exhibiting a lesion caused by chronic furunculosis. (From Diseases of Fishes, Book 2A, Bacterial Diseases of Fishes, by Bullicck, Conroy, and Snieszko).



July, 1971



hocolate gouramis exhibit (immediately under the frontal portion dorsal fin in the fish at left and immediately under the middle of the dorsal fin on the fish at right) bacteria Raused skin infec-f a type associated with lesions produced by Aeromonas salmon-nicto by R. Zukal.

not, however, look like furuncles on humans. A blister is formed by ollection of fluid under the skin. The fluid may be clear or appear quite bloody. The blisters eventually break, exposing the muscle. If the disease is mild and the fish recovers, these sores heal but may be black. Certain pigment cells, called melanocytes, frequently collect at the healing edge of wounds. They remain there after the sore is healed and the dark pigment (melanin) causes a black "scar."

If the disease is severe and the fish die quickly, there are usually no external symptoms seen. How-ever, when the fish is opened, the intestine and liver and sometimes the muscles and fat will be spotted with bloody areas—hemorrhages. When fish are resistant to furunculosis or the bacteria are not strong, hemorrhages may appear at the base of the fins, or the anus may become swollen and inflamed; the symptoms may appear together.

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requires identification of the bacteria Aeromonas salmonicida. This organism is a gram negative bacillus (rod shaped and stains red with special staining) which grows best between 68 and 86 F. On special culture media a brown pigment is formed. The bacterium is non-motile (has no flagella) and does not form spores. Aeromanas salmonicida is an obligate parasite: it cannot live long outside the fish.

Furunculosis occurs most frequently where environmental conditions are poor for the fish. A dirty aquarium with poor acration makes an excellent place for the disease. Good housekeeping goes a long way towards preventing this disease as well as many others. As always, new fish should be quarantined

Several sulfonamides, antibiotics and nitrofurans have been found to be effective against this deadly bacterium. Unfortunately, simply adding drugs to the water usually is not enough to cure the fish. The bacteria grow inside the fish, and not enough drug passes the gills to kill the bugs. Feed sosked in a strong solution of drug works well if the fish are still eating. Sulfa-methazine (Sulmet) and sulfisoxazole (Gantrisin) are among the better sulfonamides. Chloromycetin and Terramycin are the antibiotics of choice. Drug in the water will help to prevent spread of the disease to non-infected fish. Use 200-400 milligrams per gallon or follow directions on the product package. Disinfection of the tank is desirable after an outbreak of furunculosis.

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July, 1971

Authorigh the lack of popularity of some fishes that seem admirably the aquarum remains a mystery, I've always believed that the to the fish don't keep it right, and the coloring of the fish is such that if it is not provided with proper lighting and tank conditions it will acre be able to live up to the pleasing yellowish coloration ascribed to things, but it does have a subdued charm if given a chance to show its the many other basically light-colored fishes) must be kept in a tank that is shaded at the bottom by use of a dark substratum and not too brightly lighted at the top. A nice planting also helps to bring out the

Lamon tetras do well in soft, slightly acid water of a type generally must be for small characins. They do not demand much in the way of heat and may be maintained at close to 68°. They of course prefer to one small live foods, daphnia being among their favorites, but they will *** prepared foods of all kinds. They are not combative with other species, although male lemon tetras will engage in some roughhouse with other males during and immediately before spawning.

I have heard it said that lemon tetras are difficult to spawn, but I don't believe it. If they are fed correctly on a variety of rich foods, including live foods, the females will fatten up and fill with roe and be ready to spawn, and if you choose a number of good nimble, frisky males and pay attention to providing clean and roomy tanks with soft, said water you should have no great trouble. I think that one reason why paratively so few aquarists have any success in breeding any of the

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male approaches the female and, after overtaking her (below) ensely planted area in the tank, captures her attention by taking arised directly in front of her and vibrating his fins and body. e and female lemon tetras may show the black edging to the athough the color is usually more prominent in males; somet female entirely lacks the black seam.



Tropical Fish Hobbyist

I use three plastic children's wading pools. Each pool is about 4 feet square and 9 inches deep; they cost about \$3.00 each. The pools are stacked one above the other on one of the racks in my fish

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Pure rock salt is added until the specific gravity is about 1.040, then to each pool is added half a cup of epsom salts and a tablespoonful of

added each day for about a week to each pool; in three weeks the shrimp are of adult size. The pools are started one week apart, and each pool supplies adult shrimp for one week. When one pool is depleted, the next one is ready and is harvested for a week, then the next pool is harvested, and so on.

ment and the walls and bottom

baking soda. Freshly hatched brine shrimp are

After a pool is depleted, the bottom is siphoned clean of sedi-

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Here the spawning lemon tetras have entered the plant thicket and begun the first of the spawning embraces.

characins lies in their refusal to get a large enough number of fish as their basic parental stock. I never stock fewer than thirteen individuals of any of the tetra species that I want eventually to breed.

The spawning portrayed in the photographs accompanying this article resulted in about 200 eggs. The parents were removed immediately, for they are avid egg-eaters. Maintained at a temperature of 77°, the eggs hatched in a little over a day, and the fry became free-winning in about six days. The fry were tiny and required the smallest infusoriance of first.

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scrubbed with a sponge. New salt water is added to replace that which was removed by the siphon, and the specific gravity is adjusted to 1,040. New shrimp are added each day for a week, and in three weeks this pool is again ready to harvest.

The food for the shrimp is yeast. I got the idea for this method from an old friend of mine, the late Tom Schubert, of Camden, New Jersey. Tom told me how commercial growers used yeast and pablum to grow adult brine shrimp. I tried this method for a while and my basement ended up smelling like a combination of brewery and cesspool. I decided that this was not a good method for me, so I tried yeast alone with the idea that if I used the right amount of yeast, it would not be necessary to feed

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mental textibook was written in Russia and is used exclusively behind the Iron Curtain in training fish pathologists. Recently it has been translated into English and is now being used as a textbook in course; offered in America and course; offered in America and and is not recommended for the beginner. A useful book for every dealer, importer or student. Cemplethy illustrated in Cemplethy illustrated in the property of the course o

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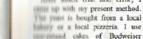
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an local pizzeria. I use paid cakes of Budweiser which cost less than a dollar. The yeast is cracked into the paid pieces, about the size of a more dias marble, and stored in the freeze. Twice a day one such less is fed to the three pools. I had a pint of hot water to the most and stir it until all the yeast than a fine milky suspension. This is trivided between the three pools.

If you want to try this method, is prepared for some foul-smelling future; too much yeast and the mad will get foul; too little yeast and the shrimp starve. Some people in hiddle pools, refrigerator liners and even coffin liners to raise shrimp audoors. In this method, algae is grown as mentioned in the previous witch, but the algae may be applemented with yeast.

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July, 1971

Bypassed Member of a Bypassed Family

by R. Bruce Gebhardt

The most hudable trend in American aquarium circles is the resurgence of interest in domestic species. Once aquarists cease to regard fish as merely to be collected, like stamps, and regard them instead as integral of their environment, education and conservation will receive as who of a boost as their tanks.

One of the most interesting native fish, Ambloplites rupestris, the rock has been overlooked. A member of the sunfish family, and not really has a tit is also known as the red-eye or goggle-eye by anglers, for whom it is a rear "trip-saver"; that is, if the trout or walleye aren't biting, chances the rock bass are.

found throughout central and castern states, as well as parts of Canada and the south, the rock bass is fond of clean, swift streams with weeds, recipiles or other cover. Water chemistry is probably unimportant, but since I've found them in all kinds of water, individuals might have preferences. Considering its midwestern concentration, a hard alkaline combination is most frequent.

Best hunting methods are: using a dip net and lifting rocks; pushing a minnow seine through weeds; and trapping with bread for bait above weed beds. Angling would be fine. Big ones may be more than a foot long, but half that is good-sized, and one-inch specimens are nice for your tank.

Color is extremely variable, and individuals can change radically according to mood and background. Generally, they are light with dark mottlings: brass and light green; black on brown, or gray, or maroon. They are thus quite colorful, and should have a dark background. They resemble baby oncars, and this comparison describes their shape as well.

The acclimation period is important. Newly captured specimens should have rocks and plants to hide in, but they should be able to see "vecteran" tankfish feed. (This trick works well for other fish as well, and slow learner—rock bass usually aren't—learn faster if the models are somewhat like them in shape or color). Otherwise, they hang back in the scenery for a long time.

Eating, it soon turns out, is no problem. It is sometimes said that this fish only eats live food. Ridiculous. It eats dried or freeze-dried food—and



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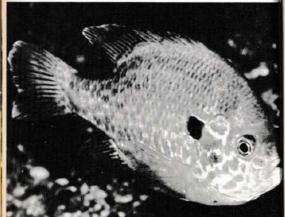


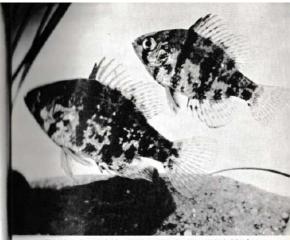
anything else-with aplomb. But it likes food that moves, to be sure, especially minnows. It probably does not occur to one at first just how big the species' mouth is. Actually, it's huge; I guess that's why "bass" was thought appropriate.

A one-inch rock bass actually is capable of swallowing a one-inch dace It swallows as much as it can get down; then, over the next day, it gradually ingests the rest, making like a pencil sharpener, with the prey sticking out of its mouth. I've seen a rock bass with two minnows in its mouth at once, as though smoking two cigars: I've seen the head end of a swallowed minnow stretching the abdominal skin of its swallower to the breaking point, spreading the scales askew. It's not unusual for them to cat themselves to

Yet, voracious as rock bass are, they are generally less quarrelsome than other sunfishes. Part of the species' charm, however, lies in the "personality" differences among specimens, so there are exceptions. Sometimes they seem territorial. In nature, they don't school like some other sunfishes, preferring solitary hiding places.

Less pugnacious than its look-alike relative, Lepomis gibbosus (below), the rock bass is generally peaceful toward fishes that are too big to be regarded as food. Photo by G. Mercuse.





entire sunfish family. Centrarchidae, has been neglected by Amer hobbysts, even though fishes of the family provide good-lockini interesting species. Probably the most sought after of all of the fishes is the attractive pygmy sunfish. Ennecanthus (Mesogonistius todos), shown here. Photo by Milan Chrokia.

Rockies are alert and look for their feeder, whose hand they soon eat from. When acclimated, they are often up front.

I have not bred them, but European writers (naturally) say they adhere

to the pit-spawning pattern of the Centrarchids. In nature, however, they often next between and under rocks, or in clearings among the weeds.

Sex distinctions are not always clear, but in spawning season, there is considerable difference in girth. In equal conditions, males probably have clearer definition to their mottlings and darker pectoral fins, whose prominence is a further similarity to oscars. If kept over the winter before breeding, many other temperate zone fishes should be given rather cool water during this period, i.e., forties and fifties, and this is probably advisable.

This least-known member of a family underrated by aquarists has much

to recommend itself. I would place it ahead of many of its cousins on the basis of its temperament, appetite and behavioral variability.

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In German peat moss better than American peat moss?" This is a question I receive frequently, and a few words about peat moss might straighten out a number of people who think they have a problem (but don't). Peat moss, whether it comes from Michigan, Canada, or Germany, is still just peat moss. Some brands come in large heavy paper macks and this peat moss is generally extremely dry. To use it you must souk it for a long period or boil it to get it to sink. This is good peat moss because it has many large strands of material (usually sphag-num and other detritus). It can be washed under the tap in a large will go down the drain. I prefer

coarse material as a spawning medium, but there are many killifish experts who swear by finely ground material and will run their peat moss through a blender before using it. A second type of peat moss comes in plastic bags and is generally rather wet. This material is already very finely ground (ex-cept for some sticks and other detritus); it sinks right away, but it has a tendency to color your water immediately and very darkly. I have personally quit using it. A third type of material is ordinary peat, and this should not be con-fused with peat moss. Ordinary peat is not a good spawning medium.

Very recently Joe Anascavage of Columbus, Ohio, introduced me to

new kind of spawning medium These are peat moss pellets, and you can pick them up at large nurseries.

These peat moss pellets are little packets of peat moss, wrapped in coarse netting. The pellets are the size of large checkers. Remove the and simply drop one pellet into a drum bowl or two pellets into a five-gallon aquarium. Within minutes the peat moss expands, soaks up water, and sinks totally. It doesn't contain sticks or other material, there is no unsightly floating remainder, and best of all it doesn't discolor the water. I think this is the most important new find in breeding annuals that has oc-

curred in years. I find the use of pellets so neat and trouble-free that I have finally begun changing pear moss in my breeding tanks every two weeks (the ideal interval for harvests), instead of monthly or less often (which often results in sig nificant mortality of eggs and

lowered breeding activity).

When you harvest your peat moss, be sure to run it under the tap in an aquarium net for a few minutes to clean it up. Then, store it in a plastic bag (for short term incubation) or in jars with per-forated lids (for long-term in-cubation). Most importantly, be sure to label each package with the species and the date of harvest.

How dry should it be? The old adage as dry as pipe tobacco has given way to new information. For South American annuals, the peat moss should be quite dry; lightcolored for Pterolebias species and slightly damper for Cynolebias species. Make it quite moist for Nothobranchius species (almost wet), and the same for Roloffia species.



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CORYDORAS BONDI

Q, Ifave you any information on Corydoras bondi? In EXOTIC TROPICAL FISHES, there is a picture. Are they rare?

SUE DOL TON
NEW YORK, NEW YORK

Corydoras bondi, Photo by Dr.

Herbert R. Axelrod.

A. Yes, Corydoras bondi is comparatively rare in aquaria. The genus Corydoras has caused a good deal of confusion regarding the exact



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status of many of the species in it; new <u>Corydoras</u> species are still discovered from time to time, and quite often a species that is known to science but very little known to aquarium hobbyists comes in with shipments from South America. In general, although no really itemized and concrete information about these little-known <u>Corydoras</u> has been compiled, it is generally safe to proceed on the assumption that they do compiled, it is generally safe to proceed on the assumption that they do not differ greatly in their requirements from Corydoras aeneus and the other more commonly seen Corydoras species. It is assumed, for example, that these fishes will spawn in much the same manner as Corydoras aeneus, but until the actual breeding attempts are made and the information derived from them cataloged, the assumption will be only guesswork.

ALGAE-EATER

Q. I am quite sure that my algae-eater is pregnant. How can you tell the sexes apart? How can you breed them? Also, will females release their roe without the aid of a male? PHILIP TERPSTRA GRAND RAPIDS, MICHIGAN

A. What algae-eater? Do you mean one of the Asiatic algae-eaters like Gyrinocheilus aymonieri (which to our knowledge has never been bred in the aquarium and for which no reliable sex differentiations have been discovered), or do you mean one of the South American Ioricariid catfishes

Gyrinochellus aymonleri. Photo by R. Zukal.





Ancistrus, Xenocara and the sucker catfishes sold under the name restronus Anumber of fishes from the latter group have been bred and as successfully (see the account of breeding Loricaria parva in INTEDING AQUARIUM FISHES, or the account of the spawning of Xenomers delichoptera in the November, 1969 issue of TFH).



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Tropical Fish Hobbyist

ANGEL FISH

ANGEL FISH

Q. Recently my angelfish died of old age. I'm not sure of its age, but I'd estimate it at about seven years. What is the normal life span of the Pterophyllum scalare species? The fish was raised in a 10-gallon community tank and transferred to a 20-gallon tank, with plenty of oxygen and live plants.

KEVIN CAULFIELD. QUEENS, NEW YORK



Mature angelfish. Photo by M. Kocar.

A. There is no way to determine the normal life span of an angel-fish, because not enough records have been kept to provide a sig-nificant enough sample for use in determining any kind of applicable average age at death. Your fish reached a good age, but we don't think it's a record.

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PIKE LIVEBEARERS
Q. Two months ago I bought a part of pike livebearers, Belonesox, belizanus, and two weeks ago the female gave birth to 77 babies. I would like to know how long it will take for them to grow up? They're about an inch long now, and I've been feeding them baby guppies, glass worms, and frozen brine strimp. They are kept in two-10-gallon aquariums. Another question is how often will the female give birth? ale give birth? DON RICHMOND RICHFIELD, MINNESOTA

A. The young should reach sexual A. The young should reach sexual maturity in about half a year, but they won't attain their full growth for another half year or so. You've been feeding them very well, so their growth should be swift, but two 10-gallon aquariums really isn't enough room for them. Spread them out more. The female will give birth on an average of about every month and a half if maintained at a temperature of 74. ed at a temperature of 74

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M. Zukal.



Infant pike livebearers. Photo by G.J.M. Timmerman.

Belonesox belizanus, male. Photo by R. Zukal.



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Tropical Fish Hobbyist

TUNA FISH FOR TINY FISH?

TUNA FISH FOR TINY FISH?

Q. I've never heard anything mentioned about canned tuna fish as a food for tropicals. Now they can it with water so there wouldn't be any trouble with oils. I've tried feeding it to my cichlids and they accepted it surprisingly well. I'm affaid to include it as a part of their regular diet until I'm absolutely certain that it is safe and worthwhile protein-wise.

wortnwhile protein-wise. It sthere anything I can do to get my male betta to breed? He's a bit young but my female is so ready that she's maintaining a bubble nest of her own. They are separated by a glass partition and she keeps tryling to attract his attention although he doesn't seem to care. Assuming I get him to breed before she grows too old, will the spawn be any good? I've heard that if the male is young, it's possible that the eggs may not be fertilized.

RANDY BATTY GLENDALE, CALIFORNIA

A. You haven't heard much about feeding fishes on peanuts either, and mostly for the same reason as you haven't heard about feeding them on tuna fish: why bother? If hobbyists want to undertake the feeding of their fishes on untried foods purely for at least mostly) in the spirit of scientific experimentation, that's one thing; perhaps they can come up with a new winner. But if it's their pocketbooks and not their fishes they're concerned about, that's a different story, because trying to do things on the cheap in many cases turns out to be a lot more expensive. If your cichlids like water-packed canner tuna fish and do well on it, there's no reason you shouldn't use it, provided you continue to provide them with a variety in their diet.

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July, 1971

that we can't really see that any fish of the mackerel family, to which at all the turns belong, could be other than oily, regardless of what it's packed in, water or oil.
If your betta is too young to breed, he's too young, and the only thoug that will help is the passage of time. If the male you have thoug that will help is the passage of time. If the male you have you want to breed the ready female that you have, get a different male. Yes, young males just female that you have, get a different male. Yes, young males just female sexual maturity are more likely to allow a greater percentage of unfertilized eggs than males in their prime; but at least some of the eggs should be fertilized unless the male is sterile.

ILITA IN BOWL

It would like to know if it would be safe to keep a single male betta in a one-gallon fish bowl with a round-bottom filter. I have seen these at my pet shop, but they did not have the filters.

In my 15-gallon tank I have a small brown blotch on the filter stem and also on my long-leafed plants. I would like to know if this is algae or a fungus? Could you tell me which product would control or eliminate these brown blotches?

CLINT MURRAY

GRENSBORD. NORTH CAROLINA

GREENSBORO, NORTH CAROLINA

A. Yes, it's safe to keep a betta in a bowl filtered by a small round filter, as long as you pay attention to the fish's other requirements, Bettas can take cramped quarters like a bowl, all right, but they can't take cold water, so make sure that the bowl housing the betta isn't subjected to drafts or left in a cold place in the house.

The brown patches probably are growths of bryozoans, or moss animals, and their appearance is a sign that your tank isn't getting enough light. The product that will control their presence is your aquarium reflector.

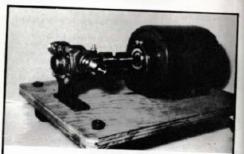
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MANDED SEVERUMS

Young C. severum.

showing prominent

banded pattern.

1 am very interested in banded severums, but I have never seen an uticle about them. Could you give me some information on their breeding habits and how they get along with other fish?

LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA



Photo by Dr. Herbert R. Axelrod. A. <u>Cichlasoma severum</u> is a substratum-spawning cichlid; both parents guard the eggs. The parents are diligent guardians, and adult <u>C. severum</u> are large fish; so at breeding time they are willing and able to do damage to other fishes that happen to get in their way. Young severum are more peaceful than adults. Since you've called your fish "banded," it would seem that you have young specimens, because it is in the younger fish that the bands on the sides are most prominent. As the fish get older, the bands become obscured.

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Tropical Fish Hobbyist

CATFISHES AND SALT

CATFISHES AND SALT
Q. Is there any consensus about the salt content of water for catfish? The older literature, as far as I know, warns against salt.
I am keeping a large number of various species of catfish in water
without salt. A fellow catfish collector is keeping his in water to
which he has added I teaspoon of salt per gallon. I know the beneficial effects of salt in a tank and would like to know if it is safe to do the same, ERNST A, EBBINGHAUS STATE COLLEGE, PENNSYLVANIA

A. Yes, there is a consensus that says that there shouldn't be any A. Yes, there is a consensus that says that there shouldn't be any salt in a tank housing calfishes., but there is no real hard evidence to show that the consensus is correct in all or even most cases. Look at it this way: your friend is having success, and since you are convinced that the salt has a beneficial effect and would therefore like to use it, you should experiment for yourself. Try one or two cats in a tank to which you've added salt, and see how they do. Then use salt or not, according to your own conclusions.

COOLING AQUARIUM WATER

COULING AQUARIUM WATER Q. I have a 10-gallon aquarium with six platies. My problem is simply this--how can I cool the aquarium water during the summer without buying an air-conditioner? In the past I have tried frequent water changes and the addition of ice cubes. Although these methods cool the water, they are not practical and have resulted in the loss of some fish. Can you please offer some practical suggestions? THOMAS WEINMANN, JR.

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July, 1971

A. Apart from the mechanical production of cooled air effected by mining an airline through some type of vacuum device containing use of each coolant and then having the cooled air pumped into the tank, are might try playing a small fan across the surface of the water or as might try playing a small fan across the surface of the water or as might produced cooling. In general, it is best in author evaporation-produced cooling. In general, it is best in water weather to reduce the fish population in the tank, increase aeration, and feed less heavily. Also, you should cut down on any leat-producing equipment like lights.

OVERFEEDING AS SNAIL ERADICATOR

Q. Up until a couple of weeks ago I had trouble with snails and algae in my 20-gallon tank. I tried everything from pills, scraping, and licking the snails out by hand to tearing down the tank completely. Nothing seemed to do any good. Then I had to stop working so closely on the tanks and my wife took care of them for me. When I got back to working on my tanks, I found that the snails and algae cleared up. My wife said that the only thing she did was overfeed the tank one day and it clouded up fo a few days. When it cleared, the snails and algae were gone. Can you tell me what might have happened?

EMIL F. JUPITZ, JR, BALTIMORE, MARYEAND



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A. No, we can't, unless to suggest that possibly the overfeeding was so exaggerated as to cause a pollution sufficient to kill any living organism in the tank...and that's not likely. We're assuming that you didn't have any lights on during the time in which you paid no attention to the tanks, and that's probably what killed the algae.

Q. Could you please tell me what has been plaguing my guppies? I've noticed worms coming out of their ventral area. What is this and how can prevent it?

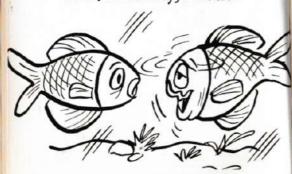
ALBERT G. KAVAL

MASSAPEQUA PARK, NEW YORK

A. Probably what you are seeing are not worms at all, but fecal material expelled from the guppies.

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AQUARIUM SOCIETIES DIRECTORY

The completed forms for our annual listing of aquarium societies have come in heavily, to there (finally) is the 1971 AQUARIUM SOCIETIES DIRECTORY.

We've made a few changes from the way last year's listing was arranged. For example, this year the listings within each sate and within each foreign country are arranged aphabetically according to the names of the others in which they're situated, not according an international speciality or gain axisons.

as international speciality or gain axisons.

Again, as last year, we do not represent the list to be complete, but it is as complete as we could make it on the basis of the information provided. If we've left any society out, please let us know about your existence; if any dub listed is no longer in existence, perhaps some principal of the expired club will write and authorize us to remove the society's name from the list.

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Yalley Aquarium Society P.O. Box 121 Lock Haven 17745 New Eastle Aquarium Society c/o Mrs. Jean Heinemann 927 Franklin Ave. New Castle 16101 Schuylkill Valley Aquarium Society c o Walter Hoopes, Prs. 903 Buttonwood St. Norristown 19401 Sar Shalom Aquarium Club 1334 Brighton Street Phila. 19111

Pennsylvania Fish Culturista Association c.o Robert W. Britton 1823 Dedley St. Philadelphia 19145 Garfield Aquarium Society 122 So. Atlantic Ave.

ittsburgh 15224 The Greater Pittsburgh Aquarium Society, Inc. Kings Conservation & Cultural Center 1251 N. Negley Ave. Pittsburgh 15206

Aquarist Association c o Mark Douglas 219 Old Gulph Rd. Wynnewood 19096

Polaware County Aquarium Society cjo Fred Denney 310 Leslie St. Ridley Park

RHODE ISLAND The Fireside Aquarium Society, Inc. c/o Raymond L. Mosher, Pres. 374 Cornall Road Adamsville 02801

Tropical Fish Society of Rhode Island, Inc. 36 Ash St. Warwick 02888 SOUTH CAROLINA The Sea Chest Aquarium Club Route #2 Campebello 29322

Columbia Aquarium Society Apt. 23-C Columbia Gardens Columbia 29205 York County Aquarist Club Route 1—Box 176 Rock Hill 29730

SOUTH DAKOTA

Pierre, Fort Pierre Aquarium Hobby Club c/o Paul Baker 306 W. 3rd St. Pierre 57501 Dakota Aquarium Society c o Charles Wohlers 3128 Claudette Drive Sioux Falls 57103

TENNESSEE Knoxville Tropical Fish Fanciers 5505 Valdosta Road Knexville 37921 Mid-South Aquarium Society P.O. Box 11038 Hemphis 38111 Middle Tenn. Aquarium Society 482 Brentview Hills Dr. Nashville 37220

Abilene Aquarium Society 1634 Butternut St. Abilene 79602

Aquarium Hobbylst of Amarillo 3105 N.E. 24 St.

High Plains Aquari C C Roscoe C. Parkhurst P.O. Box 5425 Amarillo 79107

Houston Aquarium Society Inc. P.O. Box 391 Bellaire 77401 Dallas Aquarium Society 3012 McFarlin Dallas 75205

Tropical Fish Hobbyist of Dallas P.O. Box 34748 Dallas 75234

El Paso Aquario P.O. Box 26624 El Paso 79926

Fort Worth Age Box 1456 Ft. Worth 76101

North Texas Amateur Aquarists c/o Fred W. Mother 1705 Horningstar Dr. Gainesville 76240

Galveston County Aquarius Club 6818 W. Bayou Drive Hitchcock 77563 Tropical Fish Hobbyist of Dallas c/o Gary W. Kiley 206 Nichols

Irving 75060 Southplains Aquarium Society F.O. Box 6036

Murryhill Station Lubbock 79413 Alamo Aquarium Society, Inc. 319 Byrnes Drive San Antonio 78209

East Texas Aquarium Association 2700 Yan Highway Tyler 75701

Vermont Aquarium Society RFD 1 Box 247 N. Williston 95495

Potomac Valley Guppy Club 3045 So. Buchanan St. Arlington 22206 University Aquarium Club co Dr. R. D. Ross 614 Airport Rd. Blacksburg 24060

Central VA Aquarium Society P.O. Box 1402 Charlottesville 22901 Greater Charlettesville Aqua

Association P.O. Box 521 Charlottesville 22902

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WATHINGTON
Faget Sound Suppy of Willard Snow
\$11 150 Place S.E.
Bellerae 90004 folund Aquarium Society c u J. W. Meredith 1417 Central Dr. Oct Harbor 98277

Western Washingt #32 S. Plymouth Mympia 98501 Far West Fish Fams 1126 W. 4th Fort Angeles 98362

Evergreen Aquarium Society 6, 6519 9th Spokane 99206

Tacoma Aquarium Society c o Diana Roley 1603 E, 104th Street Tacoma 98445 Yakima Aquarium Club 35 Roza Vista Drive Yakima 98901

WISCONSIN Wisconsin Valley Aquarium Society 1901 Parkwood Drive Kaukauna 54130

Madison Aquarium Club c.o Troy R. Brown, Pres. 2818 Curry Pkway # 7 Madison 53713 Valley Aquarium Society c o Lon Huebner, Sec. 536 8th Street Menasha 54952

Badger Betta Breeders Club 1418 North 68th St. Milwaukee 53213

Cistana Aquarium P.O. Box 2840 Milwaukee 53219

Milwaukee Aquarium Society, Inc. P.O. Box 1416 (Mailing Address) Milwaukee 53201 c o Robert Watkins 3416 S. Kansas Ave. Milwaukee 53207 Fond Du Lac Aquarium Society

14 Prospect Avenue North Fond Du Lac 54935 Milwaukee Cichlid Club c,o Pete Thielen 1926 Grange Ave. Racine 53403

West Bend Aquarium Society P.O. Box 394 West Bend 53095

Wyoming Aquarium Society 209 West 6th Avenue Cheyenne 82001

PUERTO RICO Aquarist Society of Puerto Rico co Alvin Ramirez Reparto Feliciana A35 Mayaguez 00708

AUSTRALIA

Queensland Gold & Tropical Fish Society P.O. Box 708 Fortitude Yalley Brisbane, Queen Aquarium & Terrarium Society of Queensland 176 Thynne Road Morningside, Brisbane, Queen Canberra Aquarium Society C-22 Blackman Crescent Macquarrie A.C.T. 2614 The Aquarium Society of N.S.W. Bex 31 Brickfield Hill New South Wales

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Illawarra Aquarium & Terzarium Society c o Hrs. M. Egan 11 Armagh Parade Thirroul 251 New South Wales

Newcastle Aquarium Society P.O. Box 145 Charlestown 2290 New South Wales Aquarium Society of Victoria c/o Mr. Fred Watts 30 Bamfield St.

Sandringhan, Victoria 3191 Rockhampton Aquarium Society Hr. R. Lewis 31 Face Street North Reckhampton 4701

The Aquarium Society of W.A. (Inc.) 73 Birkett Street Bedford 6052 W.A.

BELGIUM

Gracilis

CANADA

Victoria, B.C.

Calgary Aquarium Society co Graham Wood P.O. Box 6116 Postal Sta. D. Calgary 2, Alberta Edmonton Society of Aquarists General Delivery South Side Post Office Edmonton, Alberta Lower Mainland Aquarium Society c/o 4407 Bienheim St. Vancouver, B.C. Nanaimo Aquarium Club c/o 668 Sterling Ave. Nanaimo, B.C. Na 'Quarium Club P.O. Box 412 Nanaimo, B.C.

Winnipeg Aquarium Society P.O. Box 1203 Winnipeg 1, Manitoba Acadian Aquarium Society 237 Astral Drive Dartmouth, Nova Scotia Aquarists of Troy c/o Mrs. Brenda S RR #4 Box 1 Aylmer, Ontario

Barrie Aquarium Soci c/o Mrs. Margaret Jos 2 Essa Rd. Barrie, Ontario

Chatham Aquarium Club c/o Chatham Hemorial Cor 80 Tweedsmuir Ave, West Chatham, Ontario

Preston-Galt Aquarium Society 103 Wellington St. Galt, Ontario

1.0.A.D.S. R.R. #1 Glen Cross, Ontario

Kitchener-Waterloo Aqu P.O. Box 1324

London Aquaria Society Box 484 London, Ontario Tri Town Tropicals Box 1627 New Likeard, Ontario

Ottawa Valley Aquarium Society P.O. Box 542 Stn. B. Ottawa, Ontario Scarborough Aquarium Society P.O. Box 2031 Station B

Niagra Aquarium Society 41 McCalla Drive St. Catherines, Ontario

Aquarium Club anne 10. Ontario

Formatin Guppy Associati F.H. Hox 875, Terminal A Accounts 1, Ontario

toppy Associates of Montreal some our stat Street thomeday (taval) P.Q. Hantreal Aquarium Society 1.07 Hex 653 Sta. B.

Stantenal, P.Q.

Frairie Aquaria Society
a Boug Ward
1010 4th Ave. N.W. Box 333
Home Jaw, Sask. tactatoon Aquarium Society

If McAutill Cres. Institution, Sask.

Hoylako Aquarists Society 11 Newton Park Road Hewton, West Kirby Cheshire, 148 9XE

Coventry Pool & Aquarium Society

c/o B. Hirst Flat 5 Quinton, Paraoe Coventry, CV3 5HW Southend Leigh & District 9 Locarno Ave. Runwell, Wickford

Bishops Cleeve Aquarist Society c/o N. W. Dooley 57 Welch Rd. Cheltenham, Glos.

Portsmouth Aquarist 196 Moneyfield Avc. Copnor, Portsmouth Hampshire

Mid-Herts Aquarist Society Co Mr. Charles Withers, Sr. 15 Charmouth Rd. St. Albans, Hertfordshire Fancy Guppy Associates

212 Ashton New Rd. Beswick, Manchester Lancaster Freelance Aquarist Society c/o R. A. Thomas S4 Beecroft Rd., Crofton Pk. London, S.E.4

Newport Aquarium Society 3 Wyeverne Rd. Newport, Mon.

Nottingham & District Aquarium Society 65 Seymour Rd. West Bridgeford

Littlehampton and Bognor Aquariet Society 1 Beulah Cottages

Yapton Road Barnham, Sussex

Brighton & Southern Aquarist Society c/o David McFarlane 92 Bevendean Ave. Saltdean (New Brighton) BN2 8PE Sussex

Sussex
Haden Society
c/o 8. Smith
28 Thornbill Road
Hacsower, Warcester
Horsferth Aquarism Society
c/o R. E. Hampson
The Hadlands, Scotland La.
Horsferth, Leeds
Yorkshire

S. INDIA

Quilon Hobbyist's Club c o Sahidi Sadanam Uliyakovil Quilon-B

KENYA

Aquarist Club of Kenya c/o Hr. F. W. Jeffery Box 9951 Nairobi, Kenya

MALTA

Maita Aquarist Society c.o S. Lungaro Mifsud 9 Floridia Mansions Enrico Mizzi St. Meida

RHODESIA

The Aquarium Club of Rhodesia P.O. Box 1365 Salisbury

SINGAPORE

Singapore Aquarists Society GPO Box 2216

SOUTH AFRICA

Eastern Cape Aquarist Society P.O. Box 72 Port Elizabeth

SWEDEN

Tidskriften Asvariet P.O. Box 22105 Goteborg 22

NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL SPECIALITY GROUPS

SPECIALITY GROUP
American Cichiid Association
co Guy jordan, Pres.
6546 Celia Vista Drive
San Diego, Ca. 92115
American Goldfish Society
42-69 99th St.
Box 114
Rego Park, N.T. 11374

American Killifish Association Frank Smith, Hembership Chairm 17257 Via Chiquita San Lorenzo, Ca. 94580

Betta Breeders Association c/o Dr. Gene A. Lucas Dept. of Biology Drake University Des Moines, Iowa

British Killifish Association c/o Miss G. License 217 Horland Rd. Croydon, CRO SHE Surrey

Surrey
International Betta Congress
co Stan Smith
4422 Anglebrook Drive
Grove City, Ohio
International Guppy Club
German Guppy Club
Wetsche Guppy Gesellschaft
1 Barila St
Alt Reliafschendorf 30 B
Germany
International Marine Study So

Germany
International Marine Study Society
co Mr. G. H. Jennings, Director
2 Gattombe Rd.
Tufneil Park, London, N.19
England

International Turtle & Tortoise Society 8847 De Haviland Ave. Los Angeles, Ca.

Contest Winners



Landscape: Patricia Pilgrim, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania

Closeup: D. Palmer, Plymstock, England

