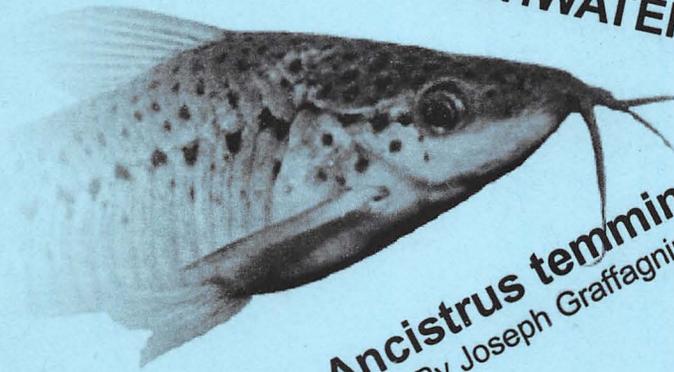


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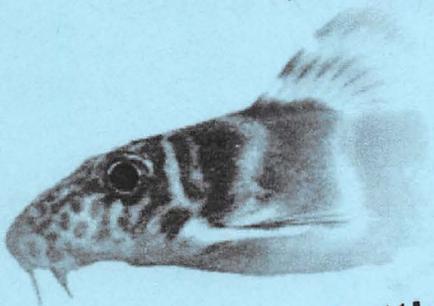
The Journal of the Catfish Study Group (UK)

646 POUNDS A FRESHWATER CATFISH RECORD

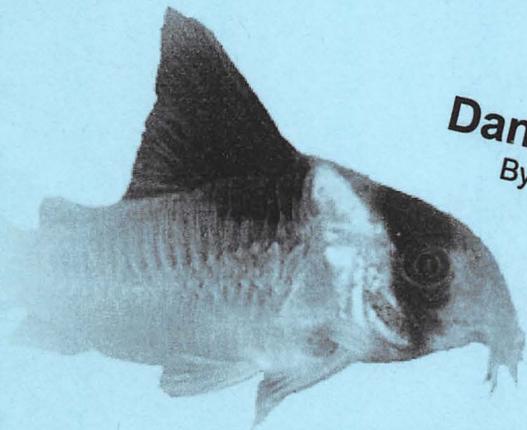


Ancistrus temminckii
By Joseph Graffagnino

"Coming Attractions"
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Getting into a sticky situation:
methods of adhesion in catfishes
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Dance of the Sugar Plum Cory's
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Volume 6 Issue Number 3
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From the Chair



Hi everyone, the annual Open Show is upon us once again, as I write it is but a few days away, all the preparations are complete and I am really looking forward to it. For those of you that cannot make it we will have a full report next time.

Due to the difficulty and expense in obtaining top quality speakers for our monthly meetings, we decided at the beginning of 2003 to change the meeting format. At the beginning of the year we set out a list of subjects, one for each of the six available meetings. A basic program is then compiled on the given subject, usually by one or several of the committee members. In June the subject was 'Miniature Catfish' in July it was 'Catfish Self Defence' and in August it was 'The Specialist Feeders'. The program is presented by whoever has put the program together, with explanations of the images shown, however it is the attending members that do the talking and as the images are shown many interesting and informative discussions ensue. This also encourages the shyer members to actively take part and give of their knowledge, without having to go through the daunting task of standing up in front of an audience, I know just how nerve racking that can be. With the change has come an increased enthusiasm and more and more members are now turning up to the meetings, I hope the trend keeps going in the direction it is.

At the beginning of August I along with our secretary Adrian, took our display stand to the British Aquarist Festival in Manchester, and although the two days were quite busy the public attendance did not compare to the numbers the event attracted in years gone by, however we did gain one new member and drew a fair amount of interest from those that did attend, so from our point of view it was a successful weekend.

There are more changes afoot, in November we will be moving our meeting place from St Elizabeth's Parish Hall, Aspull, Wigan, a little further north to the Highfields Working Men's Club, Ratcliff St. Darwen, Lanc's, Full details and a map is being distributed with this issue as well as on the web site. The need to

change our meeting place is two fold; firstly the size of our present venue has become too small for our Auction and Open Show meetings, the new venue is far larger, has better amenities and will accommodate just about all our needs. The second and a most important factor, especially from our treasurer's point of view is that the cost is a third of that of our current venue. Unfortunately I will not be at the October or November meetings as I have speaking engagements, in October I will be in the USA at the South Michigan Aquarium Society and for the first meeting at the new Darwen venue I will be talking Catfish in Norway, hopefully I will return with more members to the group.

Preparations are just about completed in readiness for the 2006 convention, the full details can be found within these pages, ticket prices, hotel booking details and the provisional program of events, I say provisional because with six months to go some things may change, I don't foresee any changes but we may very well add a few more features.

Finally and I know many of you will be thinking "About time", we are almost settled on a format for a breeders award scheme. Being an international group there have been a few areas where a scheme of this type needs to be made workable from a verification point of view, compared to those that are run by local societies or associations where members can simply do this, internationally it is not so easy. I am confident by the start of 2006 we will have a fully operational scheme running, we will post the rules and full details as soon as we have them finalised.

Until next time happy catfish keeping.

Ian Fuller
Chairman



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Fish whopper: 646 pounds a freshwater record

Researchers cite Thai catch to stress extinction dangers

MSNBC Updated: 4:01 p.m. ET July 1, 2005 Image by: Suthep Kritsanavarin



Thai fishermen netted a catfish as big as a grizzly bear, setting a world record for the largest freshwater fish ever found, according to researchers who studied the 646-pound Mekong giant catfish as part of a project to protect large freshwater fish.

"It's amazing to think that giants like this still swim in some of the world's rivers," project leader Zeb Hogan project leader said in a statement. "We've now confirmed now that this catfish is the current record holder, an astonishing find."

Others have made claims of finding larger sturgeon, but the International Game Fishing Association says the largest sturgeon on record is 468 pounds. That fish has also held the record for largest freshwater fish caught.

"I'm thrilled that we've set a new record, but we need to put this discovery in context: these giant fish are uniformly poorly studied and some are critically endangered," added Hogan, a fellow with the World Wildlife Fund, which is partnering with the National Geographic Society. "Some, like the Mekong giant catfish, face extinction."

'Largest fish species disappearing'

Hogan said his study of giant freshwater fish "is showing a clear and global pattern: the largest fish species are disappearing.

"The challenge is clear," he added, "we must find methods to protect these species and their habitats. By acting now, we can save animals like the

Mekong giant catfish from extinction."

Hogan's project includes two-dozen other species, including the giant freshwater stingray, the dog-eating catfish, the dinosaur-like arapaima, and the Chinese paddlefish – "all of which remain contenders for the title of the world's largest fish," the researchers stated, pending the final results of their work.

"Long shots for the title include caviar-producing sturgeon, goliath Amazon catfish, giant lungfish, razor-toothed gars, massive cods, and Mongolian salmon," they added.

Didn't survive capture

The Mekong giant catfish was caught and eaten in a remote village in Thailand along the Mekong River, home to more species of giant fish than any other river in the world, the researchers said.

Local environmentalists and government officials had negotiated to release the fish so it could continue its spawning migration in the far north of Thailand, near the borders of Thailand, Laos, Myanmar and China, but the adult male later died.

The researchers said the Mekong giant catfish is declining as a species due to habitat destruction and upstream dams.

The Mekong River Basin is home to more species of massive fish than any river on Earth, they added, and Mekong fish are the primary source of protein for the 73 million people that live along the river.

Ancistrus temminckii

By Joseph Graffagnino

The Ancistrus catfish has always held a strange attraction to me. "How can something so ugly be so beautiful?" Your right, it can't, so we are left with "How can something so ugly be so fascinating?" It must be because there are many hobbyists, scientists and explorers who are fixated by this strange type of catfish. The ancistrus catfish, commonly called "Bristle Nosed" catfish because of the bristle appendages that are part of the males headdress. In some species of ancistrus these bristles can be quite elaborate. Ancistrus catfish are in the family of South American catfish called Loricariidae. This family is the largest of the catfish groups, consisting of over 700 species. These fish have long, flattened bodies, are non-predatory, stay in shallow water and are poor swimmers. These fish are commonly and collectively known as your suckermouths, whiptails and Plecos. In South American these fish can often be found in shallow, fast moving rivers and when they want to spawn they dig caves in the sides of the river. These fish are great algae eaters and love wood.

Within this large family of catfish are the Ancistrus. There are many types of Ancistrus catfish and all are known to have bristles on the male's head. The particular type of Ancistrus I would like to discuss with you is the Ancistrus temminckii and the particular type that I have is the long fin albino ancistrus. This species

is a yellow coloured body, with long flowing pectoral, anal and dorsal fins with pink eyes. This species does not grow larger than 5 – 6 inches (total length). You wont find this species in South America. They have been selectively breed to develop their long fins and maintain true albinism. I have raised the brown long fin ancistrus and the short fin ancistrus (ancistrus multispinis). I have also witnessed a high fin (lyre tail dorsal fin variety)

I received my group of albino long fin ancistrus from my friend Jack Borgese. Jack had received a shipment of fish and had a few left over. I offered to take some and was pleasantly surprised on the beauty of these fish. I was instructed that even though these fish come from South America they must be kept in hard, alkaline water. Ancistrus require clean water free of waste, nitrates, ammonia and other toxins. Frequent, partial water changes became the rule. I placed 4 fish into a 36-gallon wide tank [18½" W X 13½" H X 36"L] these fish were approximately 2 inches in length. After approximately 9 – 10 months two fish started fighting. I saw ripped fins and shredded scales so I removed one of the battling fish and a smaller ancistrus into a 20 gallon long tank [12" W X 14" H X 30" L]. The larger fish were approximately 5 inches long while the smaller ones (later identified as females) were 3 inches in length.



Each tank had Caribbean/Sahara sand (a buffered sand type gravel to maintain a high pH), natural wood pieces (ancistrus love wood and I believe it helps them digest food), large snail shells (provides calcium) and crushed coral (maintains hardness and prevents pH spikes). I use overflow filters (Dynaflow 150 and Millennium 2000) along with a box filter. The filters have high grade charcoal and ammonia chips and these ingredients are replaced every 4 months.

I noticed that the fish doing battle had small bristles growing on their heads. I believe that when these fish become sexually mature only one male can be maintained in an aquarium. For a non-aggressive fish, these males will battle to the death until only one survives. I also placed small clay breeding caves into each tank. One was in the shape of a cone, approximately 7 inches deep, 1 inch high with a 1-inch opening. The other cave was round and approximately 5 inches around, and 1¼ inch high and with a 1-inch opening. To get the fish into breeding condition I feed them zucchini, Romaine lettuce, string beans, frozen bloodworms and high protein flake and pellet foods for approximately 30 days. I slowly raise the water temperature from 75 degrees F. to 84 degrees F. over the course of the 30 days

After one month of heavy feeding I perform a 75 – 80 % water change. I refill with tap water that is approximately 5 degrees cooler than the tank water. I turn off the heaters and the florescent lighting. I stop feeding for 3 days while the water temperature and pH slowly stabilize. Watch and wait. With luck the female will become ripe with eggs. At a certain point the male will allow her entrance into his spawning cave. He will keep her trapped there until all her eggs are released and he fertilizes them. At this point he forces her from the cave and he stands guard over the eggs. He will constantly fan and mouth the eggs keeping them clean while maintaining a clean supply of oxygenated water over the eggs. The water temperature is 80 degrees F., with a pH of 7.8 and a GH of 7.

The eggs are inside individual clear cellophane type sacks. The eggs are clumped together like grapes, are adhesive and are bright yellow in colour. After approximately 5 days the eggs start hatching from their cellophane wrapper. The fish are called "hoppers" at this time because they resemble a head and tail on a large ball (egg sack). In 5 days when the egg sack is almost gone start feeding zucchini. I slice the zucchini and freeze the pieces. When ready to feed I remove

what I need and tie each piece to a small rock with a rubber band and place in the aquarium. I only feed the fry and parents zucchini for the first 30 days and nothing else. After the 30-day period they can have Romaine lettuce (not Iceberg lettuce), string beans, flake food, etc. The fry can be kept with mom and dad. Dad will protect them all, for as long as he can (usually 2 weeks), by then they are all over the aquarium.

I have averaged between 32 and 38 eggs for each hatch. Each egg is 6/16th of an inch in length. The fry grow slowly at first, generally 1/16th of an inch every 5 days. Once they are 3 weeks old they start showing growth differences. Some are ¾ of an inch and other is 1 inch in length. The males grow faster than the females so this can be a method to sex the fry. Spawns are 38 days apart. When one pair release their fry the other breeding pair generally let theirs loose within a day or two. I have noticed that with one breeding pair I am averaging approximately 20 – 25% of the hatch are short fin albino variety. The other pair I am showing less than 10% short fin types. In both pair spawns I am only having albino types, no other colour type fry. The largest clutch of eggs for the albino long fin ancistrus has been 78 eggs. For the brown long fin ancistrus I was averaging 119 fry per spawn. On occasions the male will toss out the clustered eggs from the cave. The aquarium has cichlids and snails in it and yet I have only witnessed once that fish would try to eat the eggs. I then noticed the following day that there were several dead cichlids in the tank near by. The eggs must carry a warning scent that is harmful to other fish. If Ramshorn snails avoid those eggs they must contain something powerful!

I would recommend that these fish be kept in species only tanks, although they could be kept with other fish species that don't eat eggs or fry. These fish are easy to care for and will provide many years of enjoyment for you and your family. This is a great reason to join your local fish club. The clubs affiliation with sister clubs and specialty groups makes it possible to acquire fish you want but either don't know how to or have no connection in obtaining it.

References:

"A Fish Keepers Guide To South American Catfishes", by David Sands, published by Tetra Press in 1988, pages 13,14, 44, and 47.

"Catfish in the Aquarium, by Dr. Carl Ferraris, Jr., published by Tetra Press in 1991, pages 126 – 130.

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“Coming Attractions”

by Lee Finley

When I was a kid, one of the things that I enjoyed most when going to the movies were the previews. This is still the case, though my preview watching is now via television (as best I can recall, Roger Moore was still James Bond the last time I was in a theater).

With my interest in the scientific side of catfishes, previews (or coming attractions) also play an important role. Each year there are many scientific meetings where ichthyologists, and their students, give short presentations on their current projects. Many, but not all, of these presentations will eventually be further developed and published in appropriate scientific journals. Unfortunately, this publishing often takes longer than an interested party might wish, but that is part of the nature of the beast. But, the abstracts of the presentation, which are published as part of the proceedings are often very informative in themselves and worthy of note. So herein I would like to offer up some notes on a few catfish presentations that were made recently in the U.S. While many aspects of catfish science are presented at these meetings, taxonomy is often a strong suit, and this is what I will mainly address, but not be limited to. These are truly (and only) previews of works coming soon (hopefully) to a scientific journal near you.

The following are a few tidbits presented at the 2005 annual meeting of The American Society of Ichthyology And Herpetology:

1. “Revisions of *Lasiancistrus* and *Peckoltia* sensu stricto” by Jonathan W. Armbruster.

Armbruster who is, or should be, well known to loricariid fans presents his tentative results on two genera of this largest of all catfish families.

The author notes that the genus *Lasiancistrus* contains “...about 15 species...” (CLOFFSCA lists 14). His work indicates that only four of these are valid: *L. castelnaui*, *L. caucanus*, *L. guacharote* and *L. heteracanthus*. Two of the remaining species are *incertae sedis* (“of uncertain position”) and one (*L. nationi*) is noted to actually be an *Ancistrus* species. In addition to this, Armbruster notes that there are two species that need to be described (presumably by him).

Peckoltia is a bit more complex, but Armbruster

notes the *P. vittata* species group (at least six described and two undescribed species) is a core group of *Peckoltia*. It is also notes that one species (*P. bachi*) may be a unique genus. This fish (using the synonym *P. ucayalensis*) was placed in *Sophiancistrus* by Isbrucker, but Armbruster states that *Peckoltichthys* is an older available name.

2. “School and shoal distributions in a freshwater catfish species, *Corydoras paleatus* (Callichthyidae)” by Tara B. Breeland and Richard E. Strauss.

The two authors consider *Corydoras paleatus* a good laboratory subject and have directed their attention to the group activity of the species. In the study the following aspects are explored: “...(1) how individuals allocate their time among foraging/shoaling, schooling, aeration, and resting; (2) how much time individuals spend in available aggregations; (3) distribution of nearest-neighbor distance; (4) numbers of groups as a function of density; (5) activity patterns; and (6) how these factors change with density.” This has the making of an interesting *Corydoras* study and I, for one, will look forward to the full published results.

3. “Angels with barbelled faces: a fanciful new heptapterid catfish from Brazil” by Lucia H. Rapp Py-Daniel, John G. Lundberg and Gislene Torrente-Villara.

This falls into the “another new species” group... but what a fine sounding species! There are seven known individuals of the new species which were collected in two tributaries of the Rio Guapore. The specimens range in size from 165-340 mm SL. The fish is tentatively placed in the genus *Pimelodella*, and based on the size would be “...one of or the largest *Pimelodella*.” The following, from the synopsis, describes the high point of the species: “The species shows a remarkable development of all the dorsal-fin rays; the dorsal-fin spine has a flexible extension, longer than the spine itself; the second and third rays are the longest and approximately three times the size of the hard dorsal-fin spine.” In that the largest specimen has well developed testes, the authors

suggest that the fin development may be a form of secondary sexual dimorphism. This sure sounds like one to look for...something to give *Synodontis eupterus* a case of fin envy!

4. "The *Conorhynchos* conundrum: Investigating the phylogenetic position of an enigmatic neotropical catfish (Siluriformes, incertae sedis)" by Flavio A. Bockmann, M.C.C. DePina, J.G. Lundberg and Carl J. Ferraris, Jr.

Conorhynchos conirostris is a catfish that we will most likely not see in the hobby. It is an endemic species to the Rio Sao Francisco in Brazil and is listed by Brazil on the threatened and/or endangered list. The main reason to note this paper is that it will evidently lead up to the description of a new monotypic catfish family. The authors note that this species, which has been considered in the family Pimelodidae, has differences that are not shared by any other catfish family. They do suggest some general relationships, but these await further study.

5. "Growing the tree of catfish life in the fertile garden of ACSI [All Catfish Species Inventory]" by John P. Sullivan, John G. Lundberg and Michael Hardman.

While this work deals with higher level phylogeny of catfishes, and the various problems involved, it does contain one interesting nugget, which you might find of interest. As a part of their overall work the authors interestingly note: "About 1 in 4 valid species of freshwater fishes, 1 in 10 fishes, and 1 in 20 vertebrates, is a catfish". With this in mind, we catfish lovers are definitely going to need some more tanks!

6. "Fishes of the Rio Ventuari" by Nathan K. Lujan.

The author provided a brief description of a survey of the Rio Ventuari (tributary of the upper Rio Orinoco, Venezuela) funded by the All Catfish Species Inventory. The main item of interest is the note of collecting 38 species of loricariids, 13 of them undescribed. It is also noted that there were collectors in the lower Ventuari harvesting loricariids for the ornamental fish trade. According to "L-Numbers, DATZ Special" there are L-number loricariids whose only location is noted to be Venezuela, upper Rio Orinoco (e.g. L 202, L 243, L 280, L 328, etc.). Possibly some of these catfishes might come from this area and may have a name in the near future.

7. "Genera of Sisoridae and Erethistidae" by Alfred W. Thompson and Lawrence M. Page.

With increased, and apparently growing, aquarist interest in the two families of the title, this work should be of interest when it is published. The authors note that many genera of both families are "...poorly diagnosed and appear to lack traits to distinguish them from other genera...".. Consequently their stated objective "...is to examine all publications providing diagnostic information on sisorid and erethistid genera and, in conjunction with the examination of specimens, provide morphological diagnoses for all described valid genera in Sisoridae and Erethistidae." As a result of their study the authors consider that there are 16 sisorid genera (with around 120 species) and five erethistid genera (with around 19 species) that are valid.

And last but not least from ASIH:

8. "Phylogenetic relationships of the erethistid catfishes (Teleostei: Siluriformes)" by Heok Hee Ng.

In this paper Heok Hee, well known to readers of these pages, presents his vision of the family Erethistidae. His arrangement of the family contains seven genera (*Erethistes*, *Hara*, *Conta*, *Erethistoides*, *Pseudolaguvia*, *Caelatoglanis* and an unnamed genus). You can notice that this is two more than noted in the work immediately above. To be fair, *Caelatoglanis* was probably published after the authors had submitted their abstract. And, the presence of an unnamed genus would not overly affect their work...at least until it is given a formally proposed name.

That brings this little "coming attractions" to an end. I had initially considered adding in material from the 16th Encontro Brasileiro de Ictiologia conference book, but I fear this would just go on too long. Maybe in the next issue we can take a look at some abstracts from this conference including: a revision of the genus *Panaque* from the Rio Tocantins; a new *Hypancistrus* from the Rio Tapajos; a new *Scleromystax* from Santa Catarina, Brazil; and a new *Trachelyichthys* from the Rio Negro. You might consider these brief mentions little "previews" in themselves.



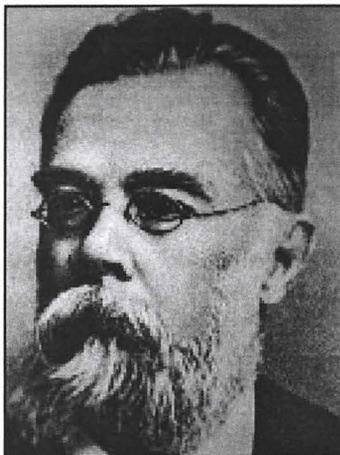
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Hermann Von-Ihering (1850-1930)

An insight by A W Taylor

Hermann Von-Ihering was born on the 9th of October 1850, in Kiel Germany. His father being non other than the acclaimed German legal scholar Rudolf von Ihering (Ihering)(1818-1892). When Hermann was 18 his father accepted a position in Austria as the chair of Roman law in Vienna and Hermann went with him. Two years later Hermann enlisted in the 117th Musketeers regiment in Darmstadt and served as Unterarzt in Lazarette, His military career however didn't last very long and he turned his attention to biology, going on to pass medical degrees in Berlin and Gottingen and it was in 1876 that Hermann passed his PhD in zoology.



In 1880 Hermann decided that the time was right for a change and headed for Brazil where he settled in Rio Grande do Sol as a physician. This also allowed him to pursue his naturalistic tendencies. Three years later Hermann is hired as 'explorer' by the national museum in Rio de Janeiro. It was during these times that Hermann married and became a father himself.

In 1887 he was made responsible for supervising the

reconstruction of the Paulista Museum in Sao Paulo. After returning from the Paris fair of 1889 and the congress of Americanists in Berlin during the same year, Ladislau Netto issued some rules and regulations that included the daily presence of all staff. Due to the fact that most of the naturalists lived away from Rio they found that Netto's rules were impracticable. Hermann along with Fritz Muller, Wilhelm Schwacke, Orville Derby, Emil Goeldi and Lacerda resigned in protest.

Although Netto suffered a stroke in 1891 and resigned his position a year later, most foreign scientists had by then followed Ihering and joined other museums.

In 1893, Hermann was offered and accepted the position of Director in the state Museum in Sao Paulo. Hermann wrote many works on all types and species of Fauna. He is remembered especially for a joint piece of work called "The Atlases of the Fauna of Brazil"(1917) the co-author being none other than his son Rudolf Von Ihering (or to give him his full name Rodolfo Teodoro Casper Wilhelm von Ihering) His son Rudolf (1883-1939) went on to be an acclaimed scientist in his own right.

FLUORESCENT LIGHTING

From an article in 'Water Life and Aquaria World' magazine dated February - March 1950

Contemporary Press Comments' Reviewed by LW Ashdown

Fluorescent lighting has received considerable attention in recent months and it is noted that experiences with this form of illumination are recorded by Mr F Kalivoda in a recent edition of the Czechoslovakian *Akvaristické Listy*.

Shallow aquaria were used and the 40 watt lighting unit was suspended 60cm above these. Natural light was very poor and light from the fluorescent unit on the water surface was 2,300 lumens. Plants flourished when the unit was on for only 4 – 6 hours daily, exactly as in aquaria situated in a SE window, except that no algae developed. Growth and vitality of the fish were normal.

The shallowness of the tanks possibly explains the effectiveness of this low wattage unit but the daily period of illumination was considerably less than that which has proved necessary in this country.

The New York Aquarium has been experimenting with the same lighting and Messrs CW Coates and JW Atz publish their findings in the December issue of *The Aquarium Journal*, concluding that they "consider the new type of fluorescent light to be the most important development in aquarium lighting in years." "Warm Tint" fluorescent tubes with a few frosted incandescent bulbs have been given a better response in the Aquarium's 300 gallon tanks than any other form of lighting. These units were placed as near to the water surface as possible. Experiments have shown that that any form of lighting is aesthetically more attractive when situated above and in front of the tank. This has no adverse effect on the fish but a similar lighting result obtained by illuminating from the ends of a tank has a nervous effect on the occupants.

How long do Catfish Live?

Reply by Danny Blundell

Reading the articles by Steve Pritchard and Allan James triggered my memories of catfish that I have kept over the last 35 years. Unfortunately I do not have the records of their demise as many of the larger cats were sold when we moved house (three times).

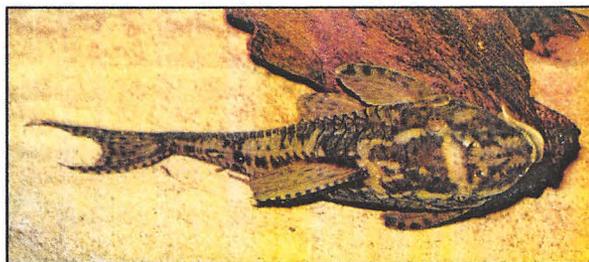
In 1984, I was given a 2cm long brown Loricaridae by Colin Sykes, friend and Coydoras specialist, this was one of the small fish that moved north with us in 1986. The fish grew into a *Cochliodon* sp. (L138), and lived in a 6ft x 2ft x 2ft with a group of Mochokidae, Bagridae, a *Calophysus macropterus*, and a *Distichodus lusosso*.

Spot, (my pet name for the L138) had two discrete patterns, the first was a spotted pattern, see below:-



Cochliodon sp. (L138) pattern 1

Spots' second pattern was blotchy:-

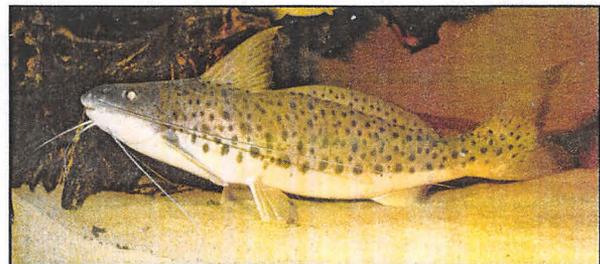


Cochliodon sp. (L138) pattern 2

Spot grew quickly as it would eat anything, especially prawns and mussels for which it would 'elbow' any other tank mate out of the way.

Spot was a gentle giant and lived until the Millennium; 16 years and attained a length of 27cm (nose to caudal peduncle). There was no obvious cause of death, I found him as in the first picture, with the spotted pattern and fins erect.

I purchased a *Calophysus macropterus* (Vulture catfish), in 1987, it was approximately three years old and 15cm long and lived in the above tank. Spot number 2 (my pet name) was also a gentle giant and a complete poser, to such an extent if I was trying to photograph his tank mates he would deliberately swim in front of them and pose.



Calophysus macropterus 'Posing'

Spot number 2 started to show signs of age when his tail started to curve upwards and the first ray of his dorsal fin started to twist, but he carried on posing until the year 2003, which made him 19 years old. He was 56cm long when he died.

I have always assumed that catfish longevity is proportional to size but do we really know? This is a subject that we can all contribute to in the CSG(UK).

AQUARIAN





MEET THE MEMBER

Marcelo Ribeiro de Britto
Member from Brazil

Current institution: Museu Nacional da Universidade Federal do Rio de Janeiro (MNRJ).

Born: January 27th, 1974

Ph.D. in Zoology of fishes, mainly Siluriformes with emphasis in the neotropical family Callichthyidae.

Ongoing research: Systematics of Siluriformes with emphasis in Callichthyidae.

Main works:

Britto, M. R. 1998. Two new species of *Aspidoras* (Siluriformes : Callichthyidae) from Central Brazil. Ichthyological Explorations of Freshwaters 8: 359-368.

Britto, M. R. 2000. *Aspidoras depinnai* (Siluriformes: Callichthyidae): a new species from Northeastern Brazil. Copeia 2000: 1048-1055.

Britto, M. R. & R. M. C. Castro. 2002. A new corydoradine catfish (Siluriformes: Callichthyidae) from the upper Paraná and São Francisco: the sister-group of *Brochis* and most of *Corydoras* species. Copeia 2002: 1006-1015.

Britto, M. R. 2002. Callichthyidae. In: P. A. Buckup & N. A. Menezes (eds.) Catálogo dos Peixes Marinhos e de Água Doce do Brasil. Publicado como página da internet (<http://www.mnrj.ufrj.br/catalogo>).

Britto, M. R. & C. R. Moreira. 2002. *Otocinclus tapirape*, a new hypoptopomatine catfish from Central Brazil (Siluriformes: Loricariidae). Copeia: 1063-1069.

Britto, M. R., F. C. T. Lima & C. R. Moreira. 2002. *Aspidoras velites*, a new catfish from the upper rio Araguaia basin, Brazil (Teleostei: Siluriformes: Callichthyidae). Proceedings of the Biological Society of Washington 115: 727-736.

Britto, M. R. 2003. Phylogeny of the subfamily Corydoradinae Hoedeman, 1952 (Siluriformes: Callichthyidae), with a definition of its genera. Proceedings of the Academy of Natural Sciences of Philadelphia 153: 119-154.

Britto, M. R. & F. C. T. Lima. 2003. *Corydoras tukano*,

a new species of corydoradine catfish, from the rio Tiquié, upper rio Negro basin, Brazil (Ostariophysi: Siluriformes: Callichthyidae). Neotropical Ichthyology 1: 83-91.

Lima, F. C. T. & M. R. Britto. 2001. A new catfish of the genus *Aspidoras* (Siluriformes: Callichthyidae) from the upper rio Paraguai system in Brazil. Copeia 2001: 1010-1016.



Letter to the Editor

A few mistakes are evident in my article entitled On The Catfishes Of Rainboth's "Fishes of the Cambodian Mekong" which appeared in the March, 2005 (Vol. 6, No. 1) issue of Cat Chat.

Following is some remedy to the errors.

Page 13

The listing under page 141 should read as follows:
Mystus filamentus is *Hemibagrus filamentus*.

Page 14

Under the listing for page 164 the following should be added at the top:

Heteropneustes fossilis is *Heteropneustes kemratensis*.
(Thanks to Ng Heok Hee for clarifying this for me).

Page 15

The listing under page 166 should read: *Arius truncatus* is *Cryptarius truncatus*.

The listing under page 167 should read: *Hemipimelodus bicolor* is *Arius maculatus*.

Thank you for allowing me to correct the mistakes.

Lee Finley

What's in a name?

by A W Taylor

I have recently been going through some archive material that I had been given. One item that caught my eye was a draft for an article by J.T.Morris called "What's in a name" where Trevor looks at the differing names of fish stores. He explains geographical differences when proprietors name their shop. One in particular set my mind wondering when Trevor suggested that in one area of the UK the tendency was to have their shops called not by names but by initials, such as S&G, D&V, etc. I wondered with the way we communicate nowadays what the results would be if I punched the initials of the Catfish Study Group, CSG? into Google's search engine on the Internet.

Whew! Having done this I was amazed when Google threw back a matching figure of 908 000 sites that use those initials.

Schhhh, the first result was yes 'you know who' Cadbury Schweppes Group PLC (CSG). I have to confess at looking at loads of sites but after three hundred sites, I decided to call it a day, most of the sites were company orientated dealing with computer related services but there were plenty of sites dealing with a wide range of topics from religious groups, to sites dedicated to education at all levels. Some caught my eye more than others, so I decided to share a few of them with you.

There were quite a few of animal related sites. One being the 'Caprinae Specialist Group' <http://www.callisto.si.usherb.ca:8080/caprinae/iucnwork.htm> for those who don't know what Caprinae are? They are Wild sheep and goats etc. Another site the 'Cat

Specialist Group' <http://www.catsg.org/>

A specialist site dealing with the study and conservation of wild cats. But one that stood out was the 'Crocodile Specialist Group' <http://www.flmnh.ufl.edu/natsci/herpetology/crocs/CSGpublications.htm>

The title says it all!

Other sites included: - one that had in its heading "USS enterprise" but; sorry for all you Trekkies. Its not about Captains Kirk or Pickard. The CSG in this instances referrers mainly to the US Navy, in particular The 'Carrier Strike Group'. http://www.news.navy.mil/search/display.asp?story_id=10485

Another one that has the word Enterprise in it was one for 'CSG enterprises' <http://www3.bc.sympatico.ca/csg/>

This, believe it or not, is a site that offers scale models of 1930's lumberjack cabins.

But I will finish with my personal favourite; the gloriously named The "Criminal Syndicate Gangsters" <http://csg.qgl.org/wars.html>

This is a site related to a game but it was the thought that there was a site for gangsters, you never know there may well be one!

Please note the Catfish Study Group (UK) do not recommend or endorse any of the sites listed here.

NOTICE BOARD

The Catfish Study Group has on its Website, a 'For Sale and Wants' Section. However, after talking to members at various Group events, I discovered that not everyone is on the net (shock; horror!?).

As a consequence I have decided to create a Notice Board that will be taken to Group events and meetings. Cards can be completed advertising items either for sale or wanted – catfish; plants; hardware. A contact name and telephone number to be attached to each card.

Offers of spare seats in vehicles, or lifts wanted, to attend Group events can also be displayed.

The items, if requested, can also be passed to the Web Officer for inclusion on the web site.

Please contact me,

**J.T. (Trevor) Morris at:-
Event Manager
Catfish Study Group (UK)
22 Sandringham Road
Hindley
Wigan
Lancs
WN2 4QA
01942 516850**

Getting into a sticky situation: methods of adhesion in catfishes

Heok Hee Ng

Catfishes have come to occupy many different kinds of freshwater habitats, including torrential hillstreams. A torrential hillstream is not an easy habitat to reside in. Although the problem of dissolved oxygen (a hillstream is replete with dissolved oxygen) does not exist, the overriding problem is one of maintaining station amidst the strong current.

The body shapes of catfishes in general do not lend themselves well to adapting to living in a strong current. Most other fishes that do so have highly compressed bodies and are strong swimmers. While some major catfish groups (e.g. Siluridae) have laterally compressed bodies, they are not found in fast flowing habitats (the singular exception being *Pterocryptis*, which has a more eel-like body; more of that later). Nevertheless, there are a few catfishes that have laterally compressed bodies and live in areas of strong current (e.g. *Batasio*, *Gagata*). A few catfish groups have evolved an anguilliform (i.e. eel-like) body form for living amongst the crevices of rocks at the bottom of fast flowing streams (e.g. *Olyra*, amblycipitids, *Pterocryptis*), very much like that of some loaches. But overwhelmingly, the general depressed body form of the catfishes means that additional help is required in order to maintain station against the current (although it should also be mentioned that the depressed body form in itself facilitates the use of what is known as the boundary effect, whereby the water flow is slower the nearer it approaches the stream bed; it is for this reason that a few catfishes that live in areas of very strong current, e.g. glyptosternines, have very strongly depressed bodies).

Adhesion mechanisms fall into two broad classes: friction type mechanisms and suction type mechanisms. The former involves increasing friction with the surface via numerous tiny projections (unculi) on the surface of the skin, and is usually associated with unique pleats of skin especially modified for this purpose. Suction type mechanisms involve the formation of a sucker (an enclosed area within which water pressure is reduced and the subsequent difference in water pressure holds the fish tightly against the substrate) can be further subdivided into active and passive suction mechanisms. In active suction mechanisms (oral suckers), the pressure is continuously maintained, while in passive mechanisms (paired fin modification), it need not be. A brief overview of adhesion mechanisms used by catfishes

to maintain themselves against strong water flow is given below.

Oral suckers

One of the more prominent and most common mechanisms utilized by catfishes is the modification of the mouth into an oral sucker (it is the most common because members of the Loricariidae, one of the largest catfish families, all possess oral suckers). The oral sucker is basically formed from the enlargement and fusion of the upper and lower lips into a disc (Fig. 1), and is seen in members of the Astroblepidae, Loricariidae and Mochokidae (Chiloglaninae). Suction pressure is provided from within the oral cavity. Since the mouth is integral to the respiratory movements of the fish (it is through which water is drawn into the gill chamber), a separate inhalant opening through which water enters the gills is generally present (e.g. in the Astroblepidae). This frees up the mouth from involvement in breathing.

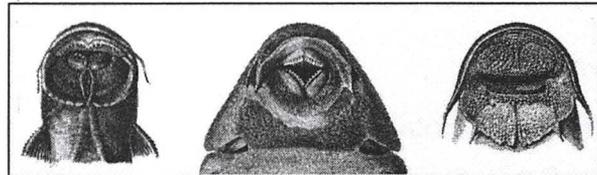


Fig. 1. From left to right: oral suckers of *Astroblepus* (Astroblepidae), *Hypostomus* (Loricariidae) and *Euchilichthys* (Mochokidae)

Modifications of paired fins and barbels

Paired fins can be modified to form suckers (the most ubiquitous example in fishes being the sucker of gobies formed from modified pelvic fins). This usually involves enlargement and in some cases, fusion. The modification of paired fins into a sucker has independently evolved several times within bony fishes, being seen in gobies, scorpion fishes, catfishes and balitorine loaches, to name a few groups. In catfishes, the modification of paired fins into a sucker is seen only in glyptosternine catfishes (e.g. *Euchiloglanis*, *Exostoma*, *Oreoglanis*), a group that inhabits the mountainous regions throughout southern and eastern Asia. The modifications involve enlargement of the paired fins and the maxillary barbels, such that they enclose an area consisting chiefly of the abdomen and the head (Fig. 2), which is flat (the lower lip is greatly flattened); this area functions like a large suction cup. The first fin rays of the pectoral and pelvic fins are greatly thickened and

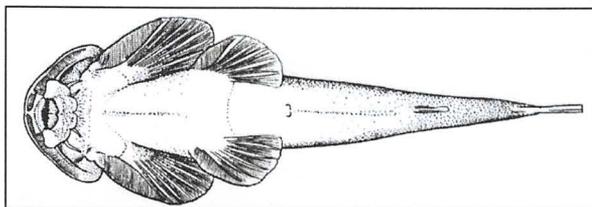


Fig. 2. Ventral view of *Oreoglanis*, showing modifications to paired fins and maxillary barbels to form a large sucker

striated ventrally (Fig. 2) as are the ventral surfaces of the flattened maxillary barbels, which then act as the edge of the suction apparatus (the striations most likely help to maintain friction and a good seal for the suction apparatus). As mentioned previously, glyptosternines are typically greatly depressed (Fig. 3);

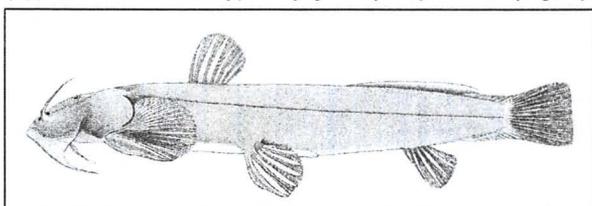


Fig. 3. Lateral view of *Exostoma*, showing the depressed body form

this makes use of the boundary layer effect and in combination with the suction apparatus, makes for a fish that is able to cling on even in the strongest of torrents.

Thoracic adhesive apparatuses

One of most extreme manifestations of a friction type adhesive apparatus is the thoracic adhesive apparatus seen in many sisorid (and some erethistid) catfishes. This involves numerous pleats of skin arranged (either longitudinally or transversely) in an elliptical field in the thoracic (breast) region of the fish (Fig. 4). The pleats

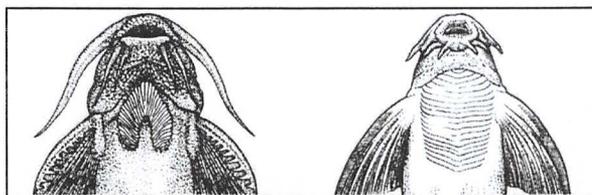


Fig. 4. Thoracic adhesive apparatus of *Glyptothorax* (left) and *Pseudecheneis* (right)

of skin are densely covered with small projections (unculi), which aid in increasing friction (somewhat like the fin hairs on the feet of a gecko), thus enabling the fish cling on to the substrate. It is interesting to note that the friction type mechanism does not function well when the water is full of suspended particles. This has been duly observed by Indian fishermen, who note that the silty water accompanying the first flush of the monsoons usually yield plenty of sisorids (most notably *Glyptothorax*). They attribute the silt in the

water to cause these "stone-sucking fish" to loosen their grip and be flushed with the current, which makes for easier capture.

Spines

While not fully effective adhesion mechanisms per se, dorsal and pectoral spines can sometimes help a catfish in maintaining station against a current. This can be done when the catfish wedges itself tightly against a crevice by using the spines. The serrations on the spines may also aid in snagging the catfish against vegetation (it has been noted in some species of *Hara* that the fish rest amongst dense thickets of vegetation with the spines extended).

It should be noted that more than one mechanism may be utilized, and this has occurred for at least one species of catfish, *Pseudecheneis sympelvica*. This species has a thoracic adhesive apparatus consisting of transverse pleats of skin typical for the genus, but also has a suction apparatus formed from the fusion of the pelvic fins (Fig. 5).

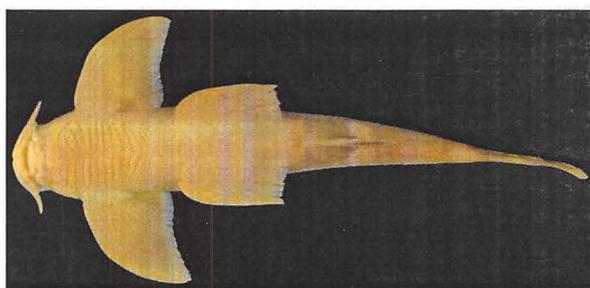


Fig. 5. Ventral view of *Pseudecheneis sympelvica*

As can be seen from the examples above, a strong current is no deterrent to the exploitation of hillstream habitats by catfishes. The adhesion mechanisms they have evolved span practically the entire gamut known in bony fishes, and is further testament to the

practical
fishkeeping

TROPICAL
World

INTERPET 2005

Alfred Russel Wallace (1823 - 1913)

By Steve Pritchard

Question: What have *Ageneiosus militaris* (Bloch) *Cetopsis coecutiens* (Lichenstein), *Pimelodus ornatus* (Kner) *Canderu miri* and *Bunocephalus* sp, to name a few, have in common?



Answer: They all are found in Brazil, and the specimens were collected and drawn by Alfred Russel Wallace between 1848-1852

At this time in France, the catalyst for the revolutions in the rest of Europe, the monarchy was replaced by the Second Republic. Although some of the revolutionaries had republican ideas, many more were motivated by economic grievances. The revolution began in France with the overthrow of Louis Philippe and then spread to Italy, the Austrian Empire, and Germany.

Potato crops failed in Ireland and in North America Buffalo Bill was still a baby. Queen Victoria was on the throne and the Great Exhibition had been and gone. And Britain was still in the grip of an overwhelming enthusiasm for Natural history.

Born in the village of Usk in Monmouthshire, England. Alfred joined his brother, William, in surveying a number of English counties including parts of Bedfordshire where I live now. This was excellent experience for the young man, it taught him to make accurate observations and detailed recordings, skills which would be of immense importance in South America.

In 1843 he was appointed drawing-master at Collegiate School in Leicester, where he spent most of his recreational hours in the library reading all he could on natural history and exploration. It was here in 1844 that he met Henry Walter Bates, another future explorer of the Amazon.

After two years Wallace and Bates set out for South America on an expedition which would see them

explore the Amazon and Rio Negro rivers. It is not recorded in their writings why the pair separated after spending time collecting in Para, but they did, Bates travelling towards the Amazon headwaters while Wallace travelled up the Rio Negro.

The trials of exploration in the Amazon basin are easier today than in Wallace's day, with malaria, fever and dysentery, being common and sometimes of epidemic proportions. During Wallace's time in Brazil his brother Herbert joined him in his exploration and collecting. Herbert did not survive to return to England he was unwell and returned to Para where he died of yellow fever, aged 22.

Wallace spent over four years in the tropical jungles of Brazil. During this time he formed extensive collections in ornithology and botany and, through a long sojourn among the Indians of the Upper Amazon, obtained valuable information concerning their dialects, habits, and manners. Setting sail for home in 1852, disaster struck on the high seas, Wallace's ship caught fire and had to be abandoned in great haste. He lost his entire collection and most of his notes. Luckily, the crew and passengers were rescued by a passing vessel. Wallace had managed to keep a tin with him during this tragedy which contained some of his notes and drawings made during his explorations, including some of the fish he had caught on the Rio Negro. These drawings are now in the British Natural History Museum, South Kensington.

1852; Wallace's travels were not over, within twelve months he again left England and sailed eastwards towards Singapore. It was here, over the next eight years, that Wallace was to make the great voyage which led to his formulation of the theory of Natural Selection and spurred Darwin to publish 'The Origin of Species'

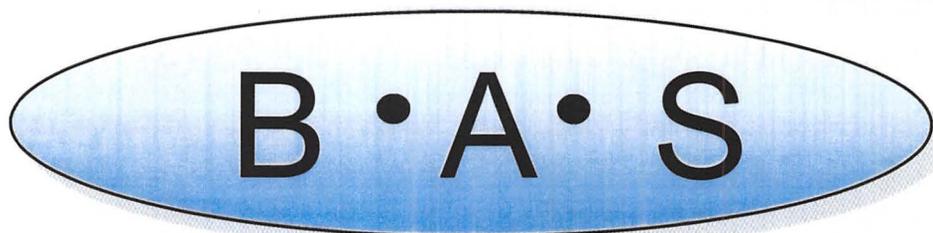
Further reading :

Travels on the Amazon and Rio Negro (1853). A.R. Wallace,

The Heyday of Natural History (1980) Lynn Barber ISBN 0- 224 - 01448-x

Footsteps in the Forest (1999) Sandra Knapp ISBN 0-565-09143-3

Alfred Russel Wallace – A Life (2001) Peter Raby ISBN 0-691-10240-6



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Dance of the Sugar Plum Cory's

By Al Miccio of the Brooklyn Aquarium Society

Well boys and girls, it looks like one of those articles again. I hope you will bear with me because what I'm going to tell you is going to try your imagination. I know that all of you are probably wondering what I'm going to come up with this time. I don't blame you, because what happened is so unbelievable or not even possible but I saw it happen more than five times right before my very eyes'

CAN MUSIC AFFECT FISH?

What happened was that one day I was in me mood ot listen to some of my classical music. I was playing Bizet's Carmen and my albino corydoras all started to swim along the front of my fish tank. I really paid no attention to it for a while, until I began to notice that every time I put music on, the cory's would swim in a very playful way along the front glass.

THE MUSICAL EXPERIMENT

I said to myself, "How am I going to prove that these fish are swimming to the music I'm playing?" The first tiling I did was to feed them until they were what you would call overfed. After that feeding, I offered them better food like sun dried daphnia. After fifteen minutes all the daphnia were eaten and I was ready for the next and more tempting feeding. This time I fed them freeze dried brine shrimp and the albino cats ate until they would stay in one spot and would not move. Now I waited for about five minutes to see if the fish were

going to look for more food. At this point it looked like they were not going to move at all, so I tapped the tank with my finger and still no movement. They were stuffed.

OK. at this point the cats were ready to face the musical experiment. Since they were not moving, the time was perfect to play Bizet's Carmen again. When I played the recording again the cats looked like they wanted to swim but it seemed that the overfeeding really had them down until the music motivated them to swim about the front glass of the aquarium again. When I stopped the music the cats stopped also. I did this five times, until I started to feel sorry for the cats. I started to think they might drown from swimming right after eating. But then I said to myself: "Hey wait a minute! How can a fish drown if it lives in water?"

ALBERTS MUSICAL CATS

It looks like this experiment has a familiar ring to it, like in the Pavlov's dog experiment. Is it possible that these fish react to certain circumstances like that experiment? I really do not know for sure, but I would like to think of this experiment as Albert's musical cats.

P.S. I recommend that you play classical music while you are reading this article. If possible try Bezel's Carmen and see what your cats do, and remember it's a free concert from now on!.

Al, you're driving your fish crazy!



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MEET THE CONVENTION SPEAKERS

Dr. Stefan K. Hetz



Dr. Stefan K. Hetz was born in Küps, a small village at the entrance of the „Frankonian Forest“ in 1962. He is married to his wife Martina since 1989 and has a son of 4 years. Stefan grew up on the countryside of northern Bavaria with many forests, brooks and rivers (all with soft water!). Animals and plants were his main interests during childhood. He set up his first fish tank when he was 11 and he raised his first *Apistogramma steindachneri* (called *A. omatipinnis* at that time) at the age of 14 (when he already owned 4 fish tanks one of them being a 150cm tank).

Like many young aquarists, he wanted to become a biologist after he finished high school. He did it and studied Biology with the main topics Zoology and Botany at the University of Erlangen. During his studies, he worked in several pet stores around Erlangen, but also was employed at the university as “student assistant”, as “technician” and “roady” for local rock bands and also worked in the car repair trade. He finished his studies 1990 in Erlangen with a work on pH-regulation in insects – a field that appeared more promising than fish taxonomy. In 1994 he received his doctor of natural sciences. He is still working on insects at the Humboldt-University at Berlin where he is giving lectures and courses at the department of animal physiology. The main topics at the department are respiration, ion regulation and acid base regulation in fish and insects.

Despite his high workload at the department, he is still engaged in the hobby. In about 30 smaller aquaria he is keeping and sometimes breeding smaller members of the Loricariidae (*Otocinclus*, *Hisonotus*, *Schizolecis*). He always keeps some species of dwarf South American cichlids and, at the moment, some species of characins from the Lebiasinidae, Tetragnopterae, Crenuchidae and Glandulocaudinae families.

After his move from Erlangen to Berlin in 1994, his contact to the BSSW was very much intensified. Since 2000 he is running the characin division within the

BSSW as the “Spartenleiter Salmmler”. He is a physiologist, so he is more interested in “life strategies” and ecophysiological stuff rather than in systematics and taxonomy. Stefan especially enjoys to investigate some physiology relevant hypotheses raised by aquarists in the context of actual scientific results. Some smaller articles dealing with physiology and ecophysiology of aquarium fishes have been published in the DATZ, AF and the BSSW-Report.

Dr. Stefan K. Hetz
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++49 30 4545167
stefan.k.hetz@rz.hu-berlin.de

Lee Finlay



Lee has been an aquarium hobbyist/professional for 40 years. As an integral part of this, Lee has regularly written on various aquarial topics over the past 25 years and has over 300 published articles to his credit. Among these writings are included almost 12 years of a monthly book review column (“Aquarist’s Library”) in Aquarium Fish Magazine, and almost six years of a monthly catfish column (“Catfish Corner”) in Tropical Fish Hobbyist Magazine. After a little “vacation”, Lee has once again returned to the “Catfish Corner” in TFH, with the re-starting of this column taking place June, 2005.

Lee has enjoyed the pleasures of many different fishes over the years and many of his early experiences were mainly with cichlids. From there he moved on to catfishes and this fascinating group has kept him interested and challenged for the past 25 or so years. This interest has prompted some travel, and Lee has made four trips to South America (Brazil and Peru) to observe and catch catfishes in their natural habitat.



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Lee has been involved in many other aspects of the aquarium hobby/industry. In the past he was owner/operator of an independent pet store. For the last six years, Lee has run a predominately mail order book business (Finley Aquatic Books) dealing in both new and used literature encompassing all aspects of the aquarium hobby and aquatic natural history.

In addition to catfishes, Lee has a great interest in the early history of aquaria and he is now involved in a number of short and long term writing projects covering various aspects of both home and public aquaria in the 19th century.

As noted above, Lee has returned to the "Catfish Corner" and this (and other writing projects) will be developed around the many and varied aspects of catfishes and their captive care and breeding. Another great interest regards the natural diets of catfishes. Lee is working on a web publishing (ad)venture to address this topic, and hopefully by the time this little bio is published the website will be up and running.

Dr. Stanley Weitzman



Stanley H. Weitzman, Curator
Division of Fishes & Research
Scientist, Department of Zoology,
Smithsonian Institution

Born: Mill Valley, California, 16
March 1927; Married, Marilyn J.
Weitzman, two children.

Home: 8704 Hidden Hill Lane, Potomac, Maryland
20854-4229

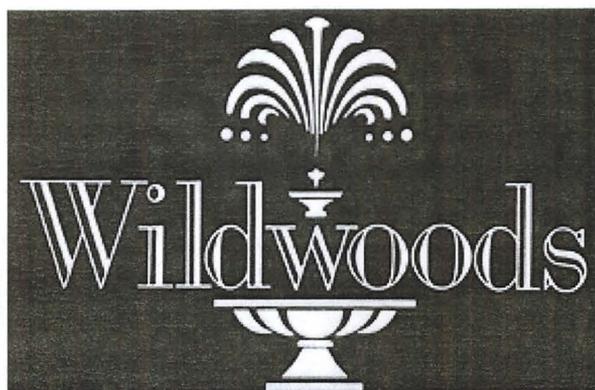
Principal Research

Comparative morphology, reproductive modes, systematics, and biogeography of neotropical characiform fishes are currently of primary interest. This includes studies of their comparative osteology, other gross anatomical features, histology and ultrastructure of the gonads and their cells of internally and externally fertilizing South American characid fishes. Secondary sexual features are studied by the same methods. Also, statistical comparisons of secondary sexual and other morphometric features, growth patterns of internally fertilizing characids, all of the subfamilies Glandulocaudinae and Cheirodontinae as well as more the plesiomorphic related outgroup characid subfamilies are some of the more specific subjects of these studies. In using the obtained data for systematic purposed cladistic methods are employed. In the past I have also studied the comparative morphology and evolution of deep-sea

and oceanic stomiiform fishes and was the first to do this using cladistic methods and theory. Essentially the studies of characid and other characiform fishes have answered questions about various aspects of their diverse reproductive modes, provided new insights about their phylogenetic relationships based on the data recorded, and provided a beginning base for certain biogeographical studies of South American freshwater fishes.

General biogeography of the freshwater fishes of South America has been treated in a couple of papers, pointing out that except in a few instances we still know so little about the phylogenetic relationships of most Neotropical freshwater fish groups at especially the species levels, but also generic levels, that broad hypotheses of biogeography still remain tentative. Still needed are phylogenetic trees of many freshwater fish groups especially at the species and generic levels so that the resulting phylogenetic hypotheses can be compared with hypotheses of geological histories of river and river systems to see if one confirms the other. In a few papers enough information about phylogeny of certain fish groups present in various river systems has been presented so that some limited hypotheses of biogeography or distribution have been presented. Now, especially Brazilian ichthyologists are beginning to collect fishes and study them with similar objectives in mind.

In the process of getting the necessary data from new collections, one by-product study has concerned the broad general ecology and conservation of the Neotropical aquatic habitat in reference to fishes of the Atlantic Forests of Brazil. We have compared some areas regarding fish diversity before deforestation with the same or nearby areas some years after deforestation. The general conclusion is that deforestation has had a catastrophic effect on the diversity and numbers of fish species in deforested areas.



CONVENTION

2006

A two day event at

**The Britannia Hotel
Almond Brook Road, Standish, Wigan, WN6 0SR
Tel: 01257 499988**

17th to 19th February 2006 inclusive

Speakers include

**Dr Stanley Weitzman & Lee Finlay
from the USA**

**Ingo Siedel, Hans-Georg Evers & Dr Stefan Hetz
from Germany**

Doors Open At 1000 hrs

Entrance Fee

See Page 21 for full details of prices

(Included in the price are all-day refreshments)

Also:

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CATFISH STUDY GROUP (UK)

Formerly the Northern Area Catfish Group

GSG CONVENTION 2006

17th to 19th February 2006 inclusive

The Britannia Hotel

Almond Brook Road, Standish, Wigan, WN6 0SR

Tel: 01257 499988

Friday 7.00 for 7.30	Informal Dinner followed by Catfish Question Time	with a panel of experts consisting of Julian Dignall, Lee Finley, Ian Fuller and others to be announced
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Saturday	9.30 am	Doors open	
	10.00	Program start	Introductions
Talk 1	10.15 - 11.30	Lee Finley The History of Fishkeeping	
Talk 2	11.45 - 12.30	Stanley Weitzman Hearing in Otocinclus	
Lunch			
Talk 3	2.00 - 3.15	Ingo Siedel The Rio Xingu in Brazil - Searching for Loricariids in the river with the highest "Pleco" Diversity	
Tea break 30 min			
Talk 4	3.45 - 4.30	Stefan Hetz Otocinclus respiration	
Announcements			
Evening	7.30 for 8.00	Convention Dinner	With after Dinner speech by a Mystery Guest

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Sunday	9.30 am	Doors open	
	10.00	Program starts	Introductions
Talk 5	10.15 - 11.00	Stefan Hetz Breeding Hisonotus	
Talk 6	11.15 - 12.30	Stanley Weitzman Breeding modes in Characins	
Lunch			
Talk 7	2.00 - 3.15	Hans-Georg Evers Rare & unusual Corydoras	
Tea break 30 min			
Talk 8	3.45 - 5.00	Lee Finley Auchenipteridae	
End	5.15	Presentations	President

Please note:

Rooms should be booked directly with the hotel and to ensure that you are only charged the Convention rates, please state when booking that you are there for the **Catfish Convention**.

CATFISH STUDY GROUP**Convention 2006****PRICE LIST****ENTRANCE FEE**

One day. Saturday	Members	£9.50	None members	£12.00
One day. Sunday	Members	£9.50	None members	£12.00
Both days.	Members	£17.00	None members	£21.00

MEALS

Friday evening meal (three course)	£11.95	Choice of three menus
Saturday Convention dinner (three course)	£11.95	Choice of three menus

Note: - Menus will be made available shortly, please make your choices and return to me.
To save any confusion, your selections will be recorded on your place cards.

Saturday and Sunday lunches (Carvery) £5.99 per day

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ACCOMMODATION

Single per night	£48.00
Double/Twin	£60.00

Bookings should be made directly with the hotel, stating that you are attending the Catfish Convention to get the Convention rate including breakfast.

The Britannia Hotel
Almond Brook Road,
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CATFISH STUDY GROUP (UK)**Autumn Auction****Sunday 20 November 2005**Starts at 1300 hrs

at

**Highfields Working Men's Club
Ratcliffe Street
Darwen
Lanc's**Booking in from 1030 hrs on the day
Pre-book by telephone on 01942 248130**Canteen**

Tea, coffee, cold drinks, hot food sandwiches, cakes.

Rules:

Items for the fishkeeping hobby only.

All Electrical Goods must have a Name and Telephone number on them, together with the condition of the item i.e. Spares, Working Order, Faulty etc..

All plants and fish to be auctioned should be in clear plastic bags, or jars large enough for them. Large fish may be offered in plastic containers/buckets. Fish should be identified (Common or Latin names). 'Painted' fish will not be auctioned.

There is a 15% commission to the Catfish Study Group on all sales. Payments to vendors will be made at the interval or at the end of the Auction.

The CSG is in no position to accept responsibility for the condition of any item sold at the auction or to exchange any item purchased. If in doubt, bid for an item 'as seen'. The vendor's name will be available to the purchaser, in the event of a problem, on the day only.

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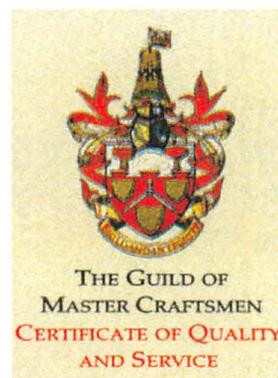
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