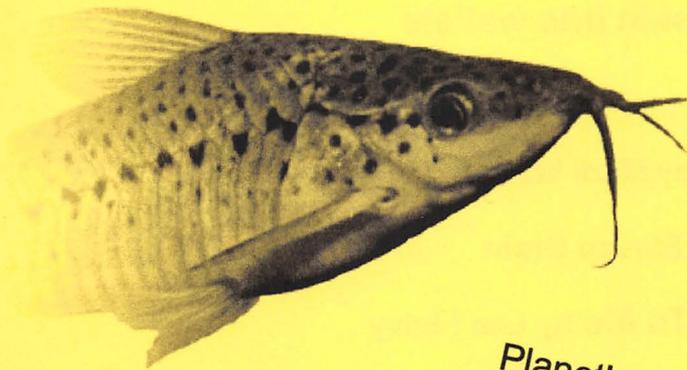


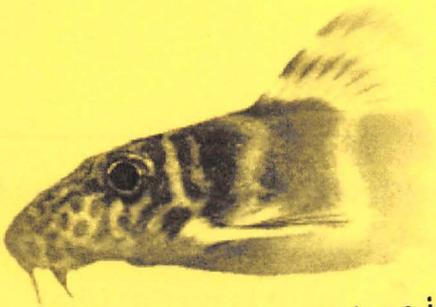
CAT CHAT

The Journal of the Catfish Study Group (UK)

Breeding *Scleromystax prionotus*



Planet's smallest fish is found!



Students turn janitor fish skin into wallets



Microglanis variegatus Eigenmann & Henn

**Volume 7 Issue Number 1
March 2006**

CONTENTS

- 1 Committee
- 2 From The Chair
- 3 Louis Agassiz (1807 – 1873) by A W Taylor.
- 4 Planet's smallest fish is found!
- 5 Breeding *Scleromystax prionotus* by A W Taylor
- 6 Meet Stuart Brown the Membership Secretary
- 7 Students turn janitor fish skin into wallets
- 7 Meet the Member
- 9 'What's New' March 2006 by Mark Walters
- 10 *Microglanis variegatus* by Steven Grant
- 13 It Seemed Mostly Normal To Me by Lee Finley
- 17 Map of new meeting venue - Darwen

The Committee and I apologise for the late delivery of this journal but due to the lack of articles, there would have only been the advertisements to send to you. Without your information, photos or articles, there is no Cat Chat.

Thank you to those of you who did contribute.

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From the Chair



Welcome everyone, to this the first issue of the 2006 campaign. The year started off with the AGM in January, the only major change was the appointment of Stuart Brown as our new Membership Secretary following the retirement of Julian (Jools) Dignall at the end of 2005. Thank you Jools for a sometimes difficult job well-done and welcome Stuart. Stuart has also taken charge of the group's library and is acting Library Reference Officer, so anyone requiring particular information please contact Stuart, I am sure he will help with your request if he can.

THE PRESENTATION



From Left to Right: Lee Finley, Stefan Hertz, Ian Fuller, Stanley Weitzman, Brian Walsh, Ingo Seidel.
The 'missing' speaker, Hans Georg-Evers, had his presentation later due to a previous commitment.

The first and biggest of our year's major events, the Annual Convention, took place on the 17th to 19th February and for those of you who attended will already know that we made drastic changes to our previous events. The first of these being changing from being a one-day event, to an adventurous full weekend package with a five speaker line up giving a total of eight talks. Last year when we moved the event to a hotel conference facility we thought it might affect the number of visitors because of the slightly higher charge for entry but our worries proved unfounded, and in fact, the attendance was higher than the previous year. If there were any disappointments at all, I would have to say it was the lack of overseas visitors

but may be after the word gets out on how good this event was next year may see an improvement. Although we have not fully examined all aspects of the Convention I think it is safe to say that it was an overwhelming success, the mix of speakers and topics had a good balance between the scientific and the hobby and we will be looking to keep a similar balance in future events. At this point I would like to offer our sincere thanks to all our sponsors, without their continued support it would be impossible for us to stage such events like the Annual Convention, a full list of our sponsors can be found in this issue of Cat Chat and on the CSG web site, they have supported us, please support them. Both Rupert Bridges (Tetra UK) and Peter Burgess (Aquarian) attended the convention; both stated that they had thoroughly enjoyed the whole weekend.

Peter said, "This must have been one of the finest hobbyist events that I have attended"

Now all we have to do is put on an even better one next year and yes, plans are already under way.

I had announced previously that we would be introducing a breeder's award programme, this is still our intention, but at the moment there is a definite lack of interest from anyone willing to head a controlling panel to run the scheme. The basic scheme is in place and will start as soon as a panel is in place. Just in case there is a mad rush of people wishing to take on the role, the person heading the panel must be able to attend the quarterly committee meetings. Anyone interested contact me, or any committee member.

Ian Fuller

Louis Agassiz (1807 – 1873)

by A W Taylor.



Louis Agassiz or to give him his full name Jean Louis Rodolphe Agassiz, was born on 28 May 1807 in Neuchâtel, Switzerland. Louis Agassiz was first tutored at his home before spending four years at a secondary school in Bienne and going on to complete his schooling in Lausanne. Having chosen medicine as his profession, he went on to study at Universities in Zurich, Heidelberg and Munich, during which time he was able to study natural history. In 1829 he received a degree of Doctor of Philosophy at Erlangen University in Germany and in the following year, Doctor of medicine in Munich. After moving to Paris Louis fell under two of the most eminent scientists in the world, Alexander von-Humboldt and Georges Cuvier, who encouraged him to study geology and zoology respectively. It was during this time that Louis became fascinated with fish and decided to study ichthyology along with palaeontology.

During the years 1819/1820, two eminent scientists of the time, Johann Baptist von-Spix and Carl Friedrich Phillip von-Martius were on a scientific expedition to Brazil and amongst other natural specimens that they brought back were some fresh water fishes from the river Amazon. In 1826 Spix died having not lived long enough to study the fishes that had been collected. Although Louis had just finished his schooling, Martius singled out Louis and gave him the task of cataloguing

and describing these fishes. With his legendary enthusiasm he set about this task and he completed and published his work in 1829. Louis followed this with research into the fishes of Switzerland's largest lake, Lake Neuchâtel. In 1830 he went on to issue a prospectus of a History of Central European freshwater fishes and the first part was published in 1839 with the final part being published in 1842. In 1832, Louis was appointed Professor of Natural History at the University of Neuchâtel. Amongst other studies Louis enjoyed studying fossilised fishes, especially those that had been found in the so-called "Fishbowl" site of Monte Bolca in Italy. These studies "Research on Fossil Fishes", were published in five volumes over a ten-year period (1833-1843). As his descriptive works were becoming a stress on his financial resources, he sought assistance from private means. It was the Englishman, Lord Francis Egerton who came to his aid, by purchasing 1290 original drawings, which he donated to the British association. In 1838, due to his work on fossil ichthyology, he was elected as a "foreign member" of the Royal Society. It was with great labour that between the years 1842-1846 he published his "Nomenclator Zoologicus", a classification list containing all names used in zoology for groups and genera.

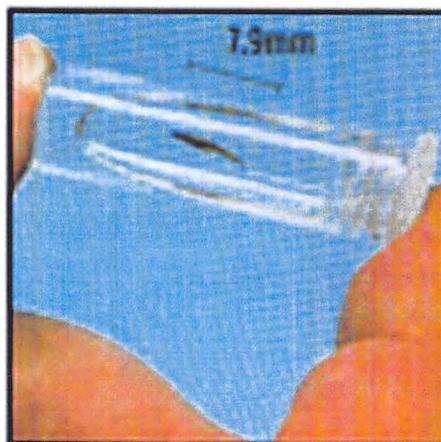
In the autumn of 1846, with a grant of money gained from the King of Prussia, Louis crossed the Atlantic Ocean with two aims in mind; the first being by invitation from J A Lowell (Lowell Institute, Boston; Mass) to give series of lectures on zoology and secondly, he wanted to investigate the geology and natural history of the USA. Due mainly to the scientific and financial resources available, Louis decided to settle in the USA, where he stayed for the rest of his life. In 1847 he was appointed Professor of Zoology and Geology at Harvard University, where he had a profound influence on the teaching and study of these two fields of research. Among the many scientists he taught over the years were David Starr Jordan, Joel Asaph Allen, Joseph Le Conte, Nathaniel Shaler, Alpheus Packard, and his son Alexander. Louis was held in such high regard that it was not just scientists that held him in high regards but also other prominent figures in all walks of life including the poet Longfellow who wrote a piece entitled, "The fiftieth birthday of Agassiz" in his honour.

Due to ill health in 1860 Louis decided to relax by taking up again the study of Brazilian freshwater fishes and in 1865 led a party on an expedition to Brazil in order to study the Natural sciences there. He returned home the following year. In the later part of his life Louis worked hard to set up a permanent college where Zoological science could be taught and studied. In 1873 John Anderson a man of great wealth gave Louis the island of Penikese, Massachusetts and \$50,000 to permanently endow it as a practical school of the natural sciences. Unfortunately the school collapsed shortly after Louis' death, yet it is considered a precursor of the "Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution". Louis Agassiz is buried at Mount Auburn cemetery. His monument is a boulder selected from a moraine of the glacier of the Aar near his old home in Switzerland.

Among his many professional honours received and zoological types that carry his name. The Cambridge elementary school north of Harvard University was named in his honour, with the surrounding neighbourhood becoming known as "Agassiz", however the schools' name was changed in 2002 to the Maria L Baldwin School, in honour of a principal who served the school between 1889 to 1922, yet the neighbourhood continues to be known as "Agassiz". There is a glacial lake in North America, a 'promontorium' (cape like feature) on the moon and a crater on Mars that have all been named in his honour. Jean Louis Rodolphe Agassiz died on the 14 December 1873.

Planet's smallest fish is found!

Scientists have discovered the planet's smallest fish.



The snappily named *Paedocypris progenetica* has been discovered in swamps on the island of Sumatra, between the Indian and Pacific oceans, and measures just 7.9mm long. That's smaller than the diameter of a two pence piece!

The mini fish belongs to the carp family and is the world's smallest backboned animal. It lives in dark, tea-coloured waters with an acidity of pH 1-3, at least 100 times more acidic than rainwater. The UK's smallest fish is the Guillet's goby, a tiny sea fish that reaches 24mm long.

Article and image (both undated) courtesy of IYCF magazine Apr 2006.

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Breeding *Scleromystax prionotus* (Nijssen & Isbrücker, 1980).

By A W Taylor



Having bought a trio (2 females & 1 male) housing them in a 15-litre tank that contained a sand substrate and aged water, which was filtered using a small sponge filter. I then spent the next month conditioning them up, feeding them on a diet of bloodworm, newly hatched brine shrimp & tablet food; carrying out water changes of 10% every third day. After two weeks I noticed that the fish were getting a rather nice bluish sheen to them and that the females were seemingly getting a bit more rotund. It was due to this observation that I increased the quantity of water that I changed to 25%, and added a spawning mop. Two days later I found a few eggs in amongst the mops, which proved to be infertile, along with subsequent spawning at this time. Because of this I cut back on

the amount of water changes I was carrying out, reasoning that these fish were not quite mature.

After a couple of months with the fish looking noticeably larger, I positioned two spawning mops at opposite ends of the tank, as one end of the tank received more light than the other; and reduced the quantity of water changed, to 20%, but I increased the frequency to every third day. Four days later I found 31 eggs, some being amongst the mop itself, and some against the glass near to where it touched the





glass. I collected these eggs and transferred them to a plastic hatching container. The next morning six of these eggs were fungused and were removed. The remainder hatched some 48 hours later, taking another 24 hours to absorb their yolk sacs and become free-swimming. The fry were

fed on a diet of paramecium and a liquid fry food, six days later the fry were of a size that they readily took micro worm and newly hatched brine shrimp. Further spawnings resulted in over four hundred eggs being collected.



Two things that I found fascinating when observing these spawnings, was that the spawning embrace was very gentle, little or no trembling occurred with the "T" embrace seemingly very lax, with the male spawning alternately with the females, and each female using opposite spawning mops in which to lay their eggs.

These medium-sized Corydoradinae are an undemanding fish to keep, as they tolerate a wide range of conditions although they are at their best when kept at temperatures around 22°C with a neutral Ph and a Gh readings of 6. One more thing to report, and that is by coincidence during writing this article; which was about their spawning in 2004/2005. The fish now quite large have started to spawn again without any immense water changes, and this morning I collected a total of 209 eggs.



Meet Stuart Brown the Membership Secretary

I live in Stafford Staffordshire England and currently maintain 13 tanks and several fry hatcheries mostly Corydoradinae.

It all started when I was about twelve years old and a new tropical fish shop opened just down the road from where I lived. Whenever I passed I always looked in fascinated by the different types of fish that you could buy. Piranhas must have some of those I thought to myself, and when Christmas time came around my parents said what do you want. A fish tank or a commodore 64 came the reply. Well a computer is too expensive (well they got that wrong) so we will get you a fish tank. I got my fish tank Christmas day and my first fish a couple of weeks later, which was a male Siamese fighter. A few years and many fish tanks later after having a couple of holidays from fish keeping I came across the catfish study group and met a certain enigmatic chairman (Ian Fuller) who reignited my

passion for keeping and breeding Corydoradinae.

I had spawned Ancistrus species and bronze and peppered corys before but never had much success with some of the more difficult species.

But two years down the line with advice and idea's from other group members I have now spawned 20 plus species of Corydoradinae and Aspidoras plus some Loricariids. My latest species that I have spawned are Aspidoras depinnai, Corydoradinae diphyses and Corydoradinae reynoldsi.

Whilst in the process of writing this I was press ganged into I mean volunteered as the new membership secretary of the catfish study group carrying on Julian Dignall's good work.

Most of you who use Planetcatfish, Scotcat and Corydoradinaeworld will know me as chef.

Students turn janitor fish skin into wallets

First posted Dec 21, 2005 by Edson C. Tandoc Jr. Inquirer

FISHERMEN may hate them, but the janitor fish, which thrive in the Marikina River, are bringing out the best in the science students of Marikina City.

Students of the Marikina Science High School (MSHS) have found various uses for the fish.

Its skin could be used with leather to make shoes and wallets. The meat could be turned into chicken feed.

And yes, oil from the fish could be converted into biofuel, MSHS teacher Janet Amurao, 50, said.

"We were able to prove that the janitor fish is no longer a pest, but a form of marine life which has many uses," she said.

Janitor fish, also called suckermouth fish, has been multiplying quickly in the river, gobbling up the algae and depriving other fish of needed nutrients, thus giving the city government a headache.

To solve the problem, the city government launched several programs to control the janitor fish population, even promising cash rewards to fishermen who would catch a big number of janitor fish.

Amurao was a member of the citywide committee organized last year to solve the problem. She also sought her students' help in finding a solution.

Rising to the challenge, her students started conducting experiments, the initial results of which were presented this year at the Department of Science and Technology Science Fair, sponsored by Intel Philippines.

Their efforts paid off. The students won third place in the regional level's team category with their "leather-out-of-janitor-fish-skin" project.

Amurao said the skin was thick enough to be used along with real leather in making shoes and wallets, for which Marikina City is known.

Her son, Raymond Joseph, 15, also won first place in the individual category. His experiment was converting oil from the fish into biofuel, which is "almost similar" to the quality of the coco-diesel the national government is promoting, Amurao said.

The bio fuel from janitor fish could be used to run vehicles, she claimed.



Meet the Member

Mark Walters

I got my first 3 foot tank 1981 – the best surprise Christmas present a 13 year old could wish for! I started working in fish shops whilst at school on Merseyside and joined the Ellesmere Port Aquarium Keepers Society where I started showing fish at open shows around Merseyside and Lancashire.

I took a break from fish keeping whilst at University where I studied Marine Biology (BSc) and Water Resource Management (MSc) before joining the Environment Agency where I have worked for the last 13 years.

I actively started fish keeping again in 1994 and finally got round to building a fish house last year. I've got 15 tanks at present (only one half of the fish house is complete) mainly housing Corydoras, including C. axelrodi, metae, sterbai, adolfoi,

undulatus, aeneus, elegans (gold-stripe), Scleromystax barbatus, S. prionotus and Aspidoras pauciradiatus. Other species include Brachramdia meesi and a few ancistrus. I want to concentrate on studying and breeding corydoras, so far I've only had breeding (but not rearing) success with the barbatus. My time is divided between work, fish keeping and 2 young boys – so fish time is usually squeezed in to late nights!

Joined the CSG in November 2005 – a great source of expertise for all catfish interests!



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'What's New' March 2006

by Mark Walters

This is a new, hopefully quarterly, article providing information on what's new in the hobby and science. As well as references to scientific papers, I also hope to include reports of new introductions, uncommon and unusual species to the hobby. If you have any contributions including reports of any unusual or new species introductions, let me know and I will include them in future listings.

For the record in the last few months, I have come across the following species available in the North of England – uncommon by my standards at least! :

<i>Brachyrhamdia meesi</i>	<i>Hara hara</i>
<i>Corydoras cf. axelrodi</i>	<i>C. 121</i>
<i>C. undulatus</i>	<i>C. pantanelensis</i>
<i>Chiloglanis cameronensis</i>	<i>C. robustus</i> ,
<i>Brochis multiradiatus</i>	<i>Hisonotus sp</i>
<i>Parotocinclus jumbo (LDA25)</i>	<i>Dysichthys sp</i>

Selected Scientific Publications

The following is a selection of papers describing the classification of new species and the reclassification of catfish groups. A brief description of the paper has been included. If you are unfamiliar with the convention of a reference, the first paper provides a complete reference including: Author, Year, Title, Publication (series and volume) and page numbers. For the other listed references, I have abbreviated this to author and year. For complete details, the full reference can be used to source the original paper (e.g. from the British Library).

Britto M, Lima F and Santos A (2005)

A new *Aspidoras* (Siluriformes: Callichthyidae) from rio Paraguacu basin, Chapada Diamantina, Bahia, Brazil. *Neotropical Ichthyology*, 3(4): 473-479- A new *Aspidoras* *A. psammatis*. It shares some similarities with *Aspidoras velites*. The new species brings the total number of fish in the *Aspidoras* genus to 20.

Fisch-Muller, S; Cardoso, AR; da Silva, JFP and VA Bertaco (2005)

Two new species of *Ancistrus* – *A. verecundus* and *A. parecis* are unusual among *Ancistrus* in that they lack an adipose fin. The paper includes a key for the identification of species of *Ancistrus* lacking an adipose fin.

Britto, M and RE Reis (2005)

A new *Scleromystax* species from coastal rivers of

Southern Brazil. *S. salmactis* has a colour pattern which is said to be similar to that of *S. macropterus* but lacks the black spot common at the base of the tail on this species. The new species differs from *S. barbatus* and *S. prionotus* by its more rounded snout. The new catfish is the most southerly known *Scleromystax* recorded to date.

Reis, RE, P-Y Le Bail and JHA Mol (2005)

New Arrangement in the Synonymy of *Megalechis* *M. (formerly Hoplosternum) thoracata*, should now be called *M. picta*. *M. personata*, which was formally often mistakenly sold as *thoracata* in the trade, has been also re-examined and found to be *thoracata*!

Papers describing new species in the following genera have also been published:

Hypostomus – (Armbruster, J. W., and L. S. de Souza. 2005)

Peckoltia – (Armbruster, J. W., and D. C. Werneke. 2005)

Microglanis – (Bertaco, V. A., and A. R. Cardoso. 2005)

Rhamdia – (Bichuette, M. E., and E. Trajano. 2005)

Mystus – (Chakrabarty, P., & H. H. Ng. 2005)

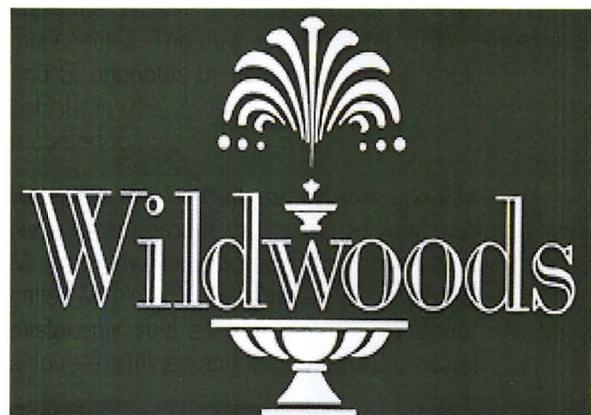
Conta - (Ng, H. H. et al 2005)

Erethistoides - (Ng, H. H. et al 2005)

Pseudolaguvia - (Ng, H. H. et al 2005)

If you would like to track down a paper, contact me for the full reference.

Acknowledgement is made to Practical Fishkeeping Magazine and the All Catfish Species Inventory (ACSI) for the original source of information on papers.

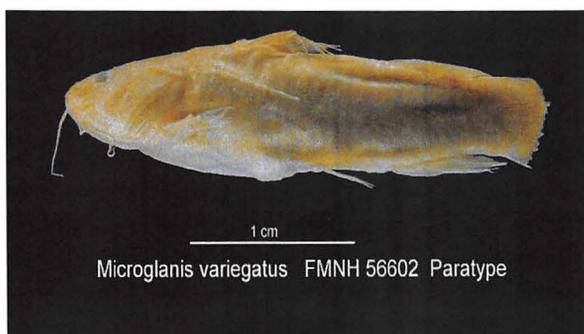


Microglanis variegatus Eigenmann & Henn, 1914

Steven Grant

Images courtesy of FMNH except where indicated

There are currently 14 described species of *Microglanis*, with more to come. As far as I know, out of these 14 species all but one have been visually represented in scientific papers and/or aquarium publications.



Microglanis variegatus FMNH 56602 Paratype

The species I am referring to is *Microglanis variegatus* Eigenmann & Henn, 1914, which was originally described from a forest pool near Vinces, Ecuador. There are 5 type specimens but none of them were illustrated or pictured in the original description and do not appear to have been since. Because of this, and that *Microglanis* species are popular amongst catfish keepers, I have obtained some images of some type, and two non type specimens.

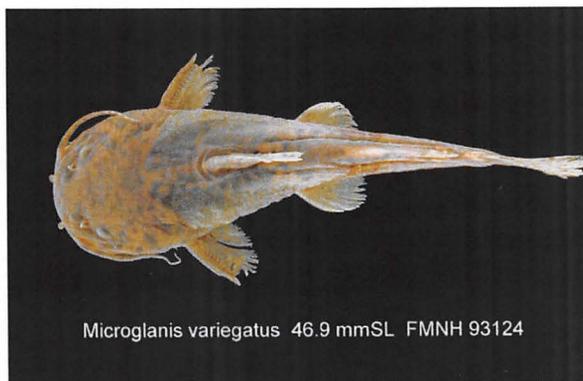
Eigenmann & Henn describe the colour/pattern as: "Adult variegated; fins like the body, traces of a darker band through the dorsal; belly white. Young marbled or less finely variegated. A lighter area through basal half of caudal." This isn't a bad description but isn't as good as an image. However, in the type specimens I have been able to obtain images of (3 of the 5), the colour and/or pattern is faded. Thankfully the Field Museum, Chicago, USA have two (non type specimens) which have some colour and pattern left.



Microglanis variegatus 46.9 mmSL FMNH 93124

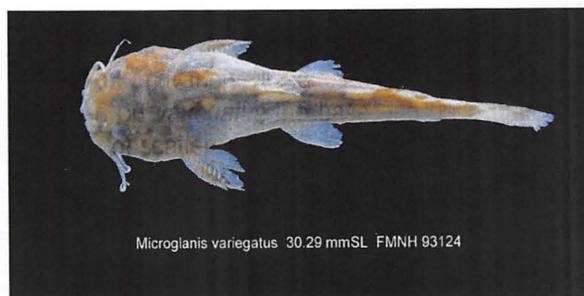
Microglanis variegatus 30.29 mmSL FMNH 93124

The two specimens of lot FMNH 93124 (3.029 cm SL & 4.69 cm SL) were caught with 50 other specimens on 11 August 1978 in a small stream-pool at the Centro Cientifico, on the Rio Palenque, in the province of Los Rios, in Ecuador. Hopefully you can get an idea of the colour and pattern from the images. The dorsal has the typical pattern in *Microglanis* of a hyaline (clear) or perhaps greyish soft fin rays and membranes but with a darker base near the insertion of the dorsal fin spine, and then an arching band of pigment. However, on *variegatus* the base and band pattern is made up of scattered brownish pigment instead of the usual solid dark/black pigment. The adipose fin has a pale un-patterned area at its anterior (front) end, and a similar one (although with some scattered pigment) at its posterior (back) end. The caudal fin is speckled with brownish pigment and the posterior edge of the caudal fin is squarer than most *Microglanis*. The anal, pectoral, and ventral fins are pale, with some scattered pigment near their bases. The head and body appears



Microglanis variegatus 46.9 mmSL FMNH 93124

brownish, with variably sized and shaped blotches of darker brownish pigment. In life the fish may not actually be brownish. I say this because I have seen and photographed a paratype specimen of *Batrochoglanis villosus* Eigenmann, 1912 (see photograph) and this appears similarly coloured (and indeed patterned) to *M. variegatus*, and was preserved in 1911, around the same time the types of *M. variegatus* were. However, in life *B. villosus* can be a



Microglanis variegatus 30.29 mmSL FMNH 93124

greyish colour (see photograph). In 2005 *B. melanurus* was described, and this is similar to *B. villosus* but has a solid dark patterned caudal fin. The freshly preserved (year 2000) holotype and paratype of *B. melanurus* show a greyish colour, thus supporting my view that live *M. variegatus* may not necessarily be as brown as the preserved specimens may show.

At first glance, *M. variegatus* looks like a miniature (4.7cm SL) version of *B. villosus* (which gets to approx. 20 cm SL). We know of course that they are both related, being Pseudopimelodids, but what are the generic differences? According to Shibatta & Benine (2005) the most reliable difference is that *Microglanis* have the premaxillary teeth plates with their posterior margins rounded or not prolonged. In *Batrochoglanis* they are prolonged. The earlier difference of the lateral line proposed by Mees (1974) and given some weight by Shibatta (2003) does not appear to be reliable anymore (Shibatta & Benine, 2005).

(Mees (1974) commented that in *M. variegatus* the teeth patches were not as rounded as in the other species; they were more squared off, but not prolonged. This feature as well as the similarities in colour and pattern may indicate an evolutionary link between *M. variegatus* and *Batrochoglanis villosus* and *B. melanurus*.

If *M. variegatus* does appear in the hobby we should ensure that it is provided with lots of vegetation, which it may hide or breed in. The 52 specimens of lot FMNH

93124 were caught in semi-clear water; with much vegetation along the banks, and dead vegetation in the water.

Acknowledgments

For sending me images of types and non types I would like to thank Sandra J. Raredon and Jeff Williams of the Smithsonian Institution, National Museum of Natural History, Washington D. C., USA; to Mary Ann Rogers and Philip Willink of the Field Museum, Chicago, USA; Jon Fong of the California Academy of Sciences, USA.

References

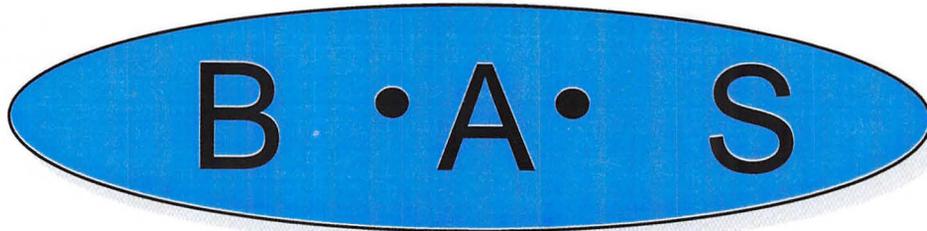
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Batrochoglanis melanurus holotype 13.67 cm SL from Shibatta & Pavanelli 2005 (Copyright Magnolia Press)



Batrochoglanis melanurus paratype 6.08 cm SL from Shibatta & Pavanelli 2005 (Copyright Magnolia Press)



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It Seemed Mostly Normal To Me

by Lee Finley

I recently had the distinct pleasure of being one of the speakers at the 2006 Catfish Study Group (UK) Convention that was held in Wigan. Before moving on, let me first take the time here to thank the organizers and participants of this event for all of the kindness and hospitality that was shown to me during my stay. It was strictly five star.

Now, to the point of this piece. My friend, and Chairman of the Catfish Group, Ian contacted me in regards to possibly doing a little piece on the Convention. Actually he didn't say "possibly" – it was more like "do it". Not wishing to have any problems with Travelocity in the future, I agreed. So, from my "mental diary" I will try to pull out some thoughts and put them to paper. I'm not sure what is going to pop out, but here goes.

1. First off, in the words of the title of this piece, "It seemed mostly normal to me". I realize that this Convention was the first three-day event that the group had put together and in this way was special. But, as a U.S. participant of such similar events for quite some time this is very normal. All of the major organization conventions (killifish, cichlid, livebearer, Northeast Council, etc.) in the U.S. are built around a three-day weekend schedule. In fact, a number of these groups are now in effect also open on Thursday in varying degrees – "Take a good thing and make it better".
2. After hanging around the airport in Amsterdam for a while (drinking coffee and reading, I believe, *The Star and The Sun* (?) I took off for Manchester. After landing and an easy customs experience, I walked into the U.K. and was met by the smiling face of Danny Blundell. Off we went in the Landrover heading for his place. His wife Ann was elsewhere waiting to collect Stan and Marilyn Weitzman. Eventually, we all got together and the evening at the Blundell's was comparable to what would be the finest of "Southern Hospitality" in the States. To Danny and Ann I offer my personal thanks for hospitality of the first class.
3. On Friday, after helping Danny to load the Landrover to overflow levels, he and I took off for Wigan. Ann, Stan and Marilyn were to follow later...in the luxury vehicle. Actually, I enjoyed the rides in Danny's Landrover, but I must admit that the ride back to the airport in Ann's vehicle made me fall in love with heated seats. (Note to self – keep that I mind for next vehicle – it gets pretty cold in New England).
4. At the Britannia – time to help with the unloading and get checked into the room. It was also my first experience with Velcro doors. I think that there were five of these on the way to my room. (Note to self – tell U.S. hotels about these. Not the amount of doors that is, but the Velcro. Good concept!)
5. Informal Dinner at 7:00 P.M. - I was amazed and quite enjoyed the various programmed lunches and dinners that were scattered throughout the event. At U.S. conventions of which I have familiarity with, there is usually one programmed meal – the Saturday evening banquet. Beyond that it is al-a-carte and catch as catch can. I tend to forget to eat, so I very much enjoyed the set up (i.e. being told when to eat). Aline, my wife, would have been proud of me.
6. Later Friday, a panel, which I was happy to have been invited to sit on, following by curling exercises involving some of the U.K.'s best products.
7. Saturday and Sunday involved going to some of the best catfish presentations that I have ever had the pleasure to attend. Period (not to mention the lunches, Saturday dinner, and tea breaks). The people putting all of this together did the group proud! There was one problem that I noted and, as is said, "We have met the enemy and it is us" (or more to the point, "I" should replace "we" and "me" should replace "us"). I will offer my apology for my lack of "technology". (Note to self – Learn PowerPoint!!). Some things old can be charming. But, this doesn't seem to be the case with 35 mm slides. I would like to thank slide master Brian Walsh for making this as painless as possible.
8. Conventions like this one serve their greatest in people doings. They are a chance to renew old friendships, reinforce newer ones, and of

course form new relationships. I guess I could be dropping a lot of names here, but there are just too many and "everybody" covers it. The event was, of course, about catfishes, but it was also about people. In both areas it was, to my mind, a success of great proportions and I am very proud to have been one small part of it.

I will end where I started in offering thanks to all for the hospitality, the conversations, the good will, and the curls. An event to remember...fondly. So long and thanks for all the fish!

(P.S. I can't end without one last note: My trip originated and ended in Boston, Massachusetts. If you are a bit unfamiliar with U.S. geography, take out a map and plot my trip home through Detroit, Michigan. But, that is another story. I'll tell you about it next time we meet).

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Idle chatter while waiting for the food.
You should have seen them after the food was served



Ingo on the prowl



Lee just posing



There must be something going on, I can't see a thing.



The five wise men of the forum.
Pete Liptrot allegedly telling it like it is.



Well, I don't know about you lot but we've had enough to eat.



I'd like to know what's happening with Brian Walsh while he worships his hero.

CATFISH STUDY GROUP (UK)

OPEN SHOW

17 SEPTEMBER 2006

**Highfields Working Men's Club
Ratcliffe Street
Darwen
Lanc's**

Catfish Classes Only

Doors Open: 1030 hrs

Benching: from 1030 hrs Judging: 1300 hrs

Also:

Auction

Normal Entry Rules Apply

(No painted fish; Name & Tel No on electrical goods; suitable containers for livestock etc. If unsure of the rules, ask when booking)

Starts 1300 hrs

**Booking in: Telephone: 01942 248130
or from 1030 hrs on the day**

Canteen

(Hot & Cold food. Tea, Coffee, Cold drinks)

Information - Displays - Plenty of seating

Details from:

Show Secretary:	Brian Walsh	Tel: 01254 776567
Auction Manager:	Roy Barton	Tel: 01942 248130

CATFISH STUDY GROUP (UK)

Sunday 19 November 2006

Autumn Auction

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..

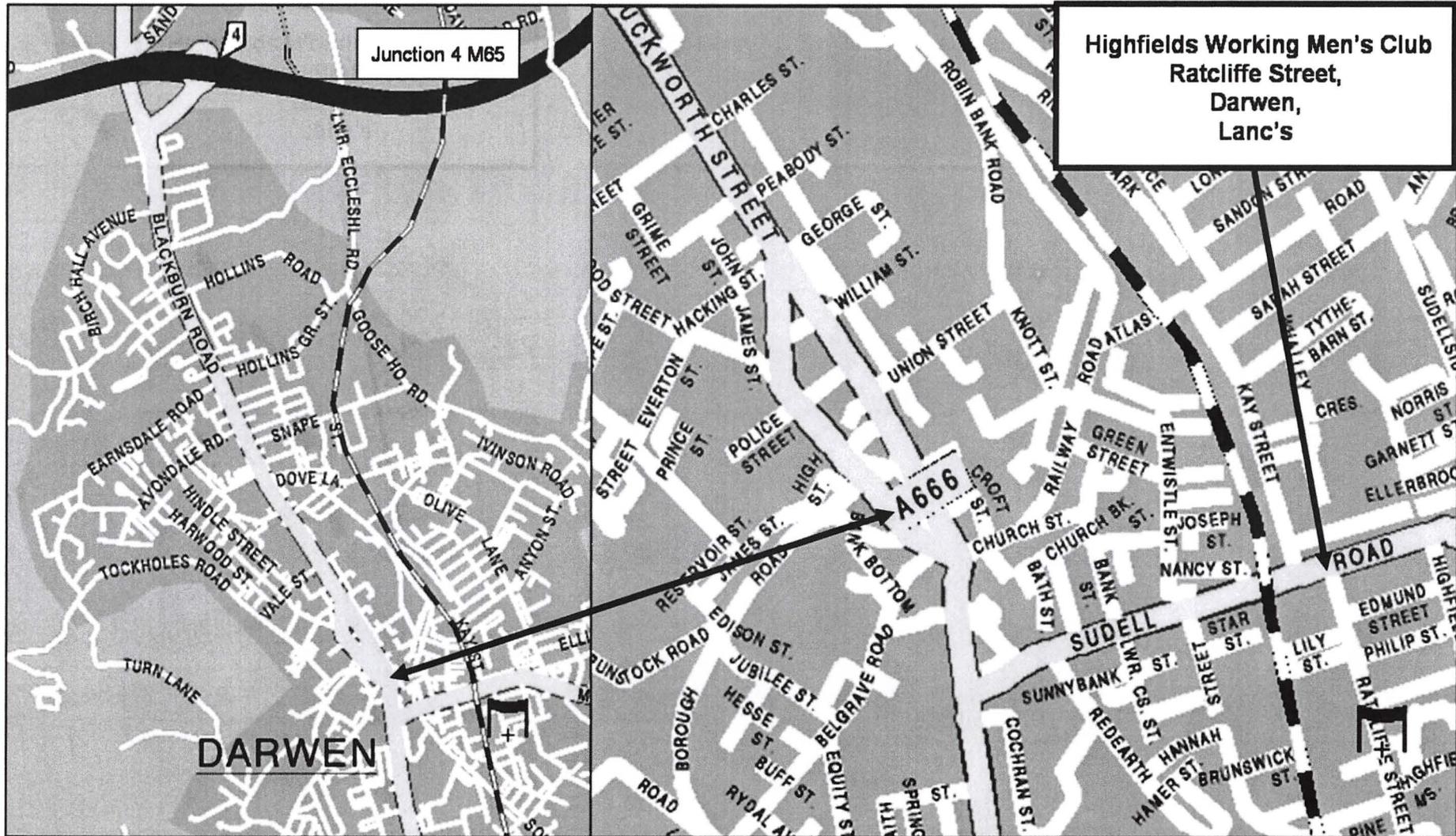
All plants and fish to be auctioned should be in clear plastic bags, or jars large enough for them. Large fish may be offered in plastic containers/buckets. Fish should be identified (Common or Latin names). 'Painted' fish will not be auctioned.

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.

CATFISH STUDY GROUP

New meeting place starting 20th November 2005



The Catfish Study Group

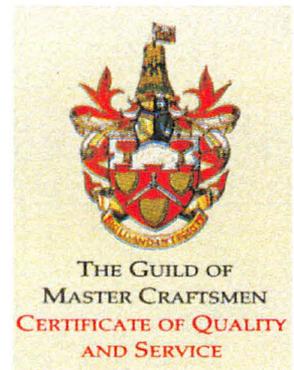
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