

CatChat

Volume 11, Issue 4.

October 2010

CATCHAT
THE JOURNAL OF THE
CATFISH STUDY GROUP



CSG Annual Show - Results

Fish Nutrition – Part Two CSG on Tour

Synodontis bastiani

Catfish Study Group Committee

Full contact details are available on our website: catfishstudygroup.org

President – Ian Fuller

Secretary – Adrian Taylor

Vice-President – Dr. Peter Burgess

Editor - Mark Walters

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BAP Secretary – Adrian Taylor

Treasurer – Danny Blundell

Show Secretary – Brian Walsh

Membership Secretary – Bob Barnes

Assistant Show Secretary – Ann Blundell

Auction Manager – David Barton

Website Manager – Allan James

Assistant Auction Manager – Roy Barton

Floor Members – Tony Pickett, John Toon

Diary Dates - 2010

Nov 21st Autumn Auction

Pre booking David Barton 01942 248130

Dec 12th Christmas meeting

Details to be announced

All meetings are normally held at the Highfields Working Men's Club, 1 Ratcliffe Street, Darwen, Lancashire, BB3 2BZ on the third Sunday of each Month from 1pm

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Front cover – Best in Show winner: Ian Fuller with his stunning male *Corydoras undulatus*

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Editorial

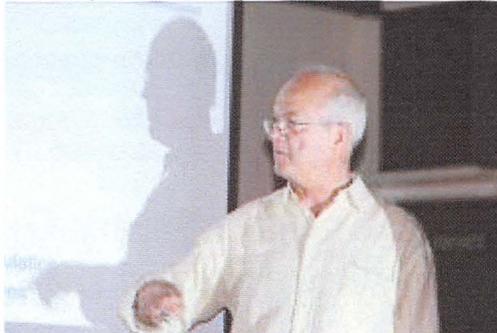
The Annual show and auction was a great success this year with the highest number of entries for over 12 years! It was especially refreshing to see plenty of new entrants and more unusual catfish on the benches.

I was more than pleased with my efforts and managed 5 firsts, 7 seconds and three thirds from 20 entries. I relinquished my master breeder crown but managed to hold on to the best breeders team (L066) and family class with my *Ancistrus cf L144* (now A. 'sp.4'). I was really pleased with some of my placings with fish I haven't exhibited before, especially winning the Scleromystax class (*S. kronei*), and the second places I got for my *Batasio dayi*, L052 and pairs in S. American and Asian classes, which were hotly contested.

The auction provided an opportunity to grab some real rarities and some beautiful specimens of show quality fish. The next big CSG event to look out for is the autumn auction which will no doubt be another packed house.

In August, the club hosted its first summer lecture, with Dr David Price of Plymouth University giving a user-friendly talk on genetics and the role it has played in the fish we see available today.

For those who attended the lecture, it was a unique opportunity to glean the knowledge of a top fish scientist and academic and a fascinating insight into what determines the make-up of catfish species and types. David headed back up north in September for the show, this time donning his judging cap.



As well as the show results, this edition sees the second installment of Michael Hardman's fish nutrition series. Here Mike explains the requirements for catfish and summarises with a mouth-watering (!!) recipe to try at home. North Yorkshire aquarist David Marshall writes about one of his favourite species *Synodontis bastiani*. After a busy few months on the road, Adrian reports on the events that the CSG committee have been supporting, promoting the club's cause in the process. The available copy has squeezed my next installment of the Scleromystax catfish to a future edition.

Following reports about the Belo Monte Dam building project on the Rio Xingu, comes more gloomy news from the Amazon following the worst drought in living memory. Whether natural, climate change or more direct anthropogenic causes, the situation has resulted in a massive reduction in river flow, the complete drying up of many main rivers and tributaries and the loss of immeasurable tracts of habitat. Suffice it to say that all aquatic life will be suffering as a consequence, who knows what species may be lost for good. More reasons to cherish the catfish you have in your collections and try to breed them for others to enjoy in the future. 'The Greatest Amazon River Disaster in History' is reported by Heiko Bleher in the Practical Fishkeeping magazine.

I hear that bookings for the March convention have been increasing recently so if you want to secure your accommodation for the biggest catfish event in the U.K. contact Ian Fuller – the convention manager, at his usual address. It is important also, that as many members as possible attend the annual general meeting, to decide on important committee positions and dictate the future of the club.

Mark

**Notice of Committee positions for election/re-election at the 2011
AGM to be held on January 16th 2011****Editor:** Three-year term of office

Position presently being held by Mr M Walters after being appointed to that position by the CSG Committee in early 2010; The CSG Constitution requires that the Editor is elected; Therefore:

Nominee: Mr Mark Walters; Nomination made by Mr I. A. M. Fuller; Nomination supported by Mr A. W. Taylor.

Treasurer: Three-year term of office

Position presently held by Mr D Blundell

Mr D Blundell has shown willingness to continue in the said position.

Secretary: Three-year term of office

Position presently held by Mr A. W. Taylor

Mr A. W. Taylor has given notice that he no longer wishes to continue as the groups Secretary, although he will be staying on the committee in the lay position of Breeders Award Secretary.

Show Secretary: Three-year term of office

Position presently held by Mr B. Walsh.

Mr B. Walsh has shown willingness to continue in the said position.

Any member wishing to nominate a fellow member for any of the above positions; accompanied by another member who is willing to support the said nomination please do so in writing to:

**Mr A. W. Taylor
CSG Secretary
103 The Uplands, Palacefields,
Runcorn, Cheshire
WA7 2UB**

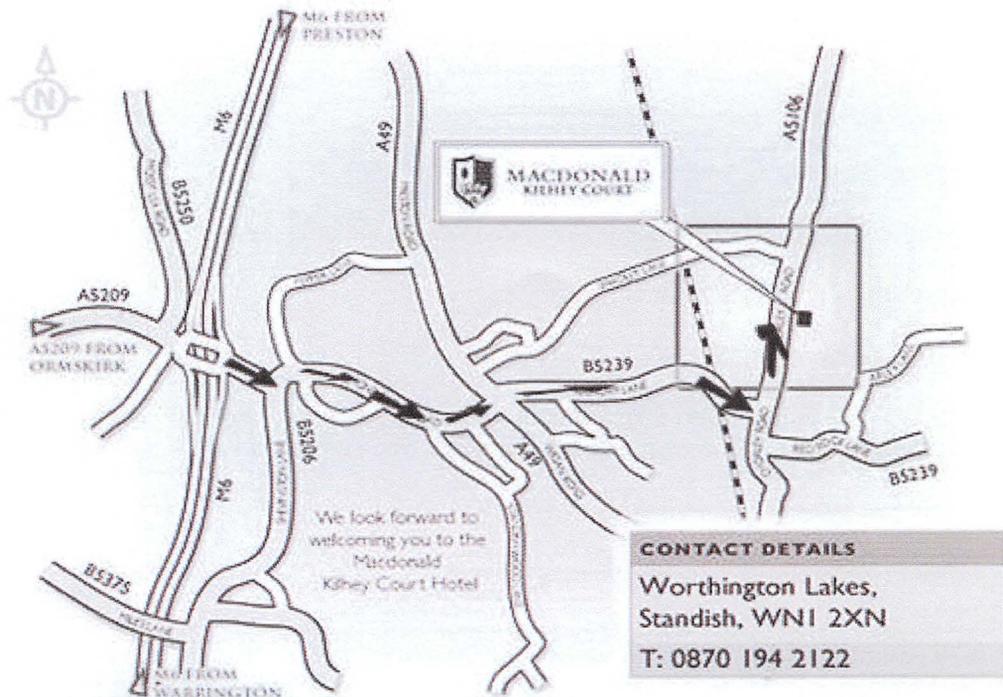
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CSG Convention 2011

The date for the CSG's 2011 Convention has now been set for : - 18th - 19th - 20th March

The venue is totally new and should meet with everyone's approval, it is **The Kilhey Court Hotel, Chorley Road, Standish, Wigan, Lanc's. WN1 2XN**. This is a superb four star hotel with enough room to cater for our every need. The conference room holds up to 300 people.

See map below and directions, or goto: http://www.catfishstudygroup.org/core/find_us.htm



Because this is a relatively small hotel with a total of 62 rooms, bookings will be on a first come first served basis and those that book their tickets early will get discount. Booking forms will be available as soon as everything has been settled and checked. Please check back to the CSG website for upcoming information. Or contact the Convention Manager – Ian Fuller.

Catfish Study Group 32nd Annual Convention

The Venue

The Kilhey Court Hotel
Chorley Road,
Standish, Wigan,
Lanc's WN1 2XN,
United Kingdom

The Speakers

Dr Michael Goulding
Dr Ralph Britz
Dr Devon Graham
Rupert Bridges
Hans-Georg Evers
Bob Barnes

18th-19th-20th March 2011

For full details contact ian@corycats.com or visit the CSG website www.catfishstudygroup.org

Catfish Bites
Mark Walters

Spawning *Microglanis*

Catfish Study Group member Steve Wood has reported the rare occurrence of a spawning of *Microglanis iheringhi*. As many of us will have experienced ourselves, the appearance of more fish than we started with can only mean one thing! Steve bought his group of 5 *M. iheringhi* around a year ago and they have grown into lovely chunky specimens. It wasn't until he stripped the tank down that Steve realised his S. American bumblebee cats had been doing what comes naturally.

Only one youngster has been spotted (circled at the top of the picture below), but with the female obviously roeing up again (two fish behind the youngster in the picture), and with more TLC, Steve might be lucky enough to witness another spawning.



Microglanis group – Pic courtesy Steve Wood

Microglanis are an excellent community catfish, growing not much more than 80mm. Although they will eat fry and tiny fish, they are perfectly happy with prepared foods and of course frozen bloodworm. They are part of the Pseudopimelodidae family, closely related to true Pimelodids.

Corydoras hybridization

Our chairman, Bill Hirst, reported on a *Corydoras* panda cross a few years back when he was Journal Editor (July 2006 – *C. panda* x *C. melini*).

It seems *C. panda* is not too fussy about its partners when it comes to breeding.

I already have a group of *Corydoras* 'CW021' – very similar to *C. axelrodi*, but with the ventral band

running to the caudal, rather than converging with the dorsal band.

A few CW 021 specimens came up at an auction so I purchased them. There was also what appeared to be a jumbo panda on offer, so I bought that also. On closer examination, it was clear that this was not a true panda, but a cross with the other CW021's the owner had housed it with.

On closer examination, traits of both species can be seen on the now adult fish.



Panda



Plus CW021



Equals this!

As it happens, *C. panda*, *C. axelrodi* and *C. melini* are very closely related genetically, following the work undertaken at Bangor University (Taylor, Alexandrou et al).

All other pics by Mark Walters

Out and About with the CSG. By Adrian Taylor, Group Secretary

From time to time the CSG are invited to attend various aquatic events around the UK, USA and mainland Europe. Autumn saw the CSG publicity stand taken out to two events. One was Wharf aquatics anniversary weekend on Friday the 10th, Saturday 11th and Sunday the 12th of September. Membership Secretary Robert (Bob) Barnes and myself had arranged to travel down to Wharf Aquatics on the Friday to set the stand up. Bob before picking me up had to make a detour to the groups show secretary workshops to collect a large trestle table so that the Group could display its promotional material and merchandise.

Upon arriving at the shop, senior staff member Richard Hardwick showed Bob and myself to the cold-water fish room where there was ample space to set up the merchandise table and advertisement screens. Once the information stand was set up we found something to eat and drink and spent the rest of the day answering queries from the shop customers and various aquatic trade and hobbyist groups that were attending the anniversary weekend.

Unfortunately I could not attend on the Saturday, but Bob was again at Wharf Aquatics looking after the CSG display area along with CSG member John Henderson on the Saturday, where they both were kept busy though out the day giving advice on keeping catfishes and explaining what people get out of being a member of the CSG to quite a lot of the stores customers.

On the Sunday Bob and I arrived to find the groups Treasurer Danny Blundell and his wife Ann (who is also the groups Assistant show secretary) 'manning' the groups display stand as Bob and I had ran into traffic problems on the motorway; shortly after the groups President Ian Fuller arrived. Due to other commitments Danny and Ann had to leave, although Ann had directed some store customers over to the stand after they had asked her over whether a catfish they were thinking of purchasing was suitable for their aquarium.

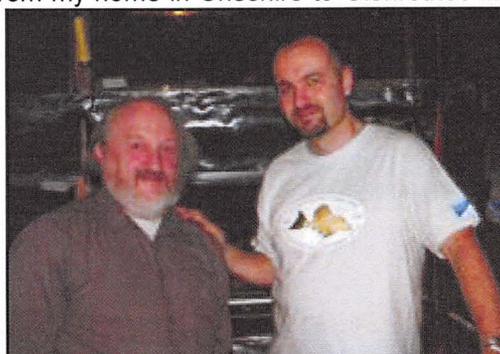


Over the course of the day Bob, Ian and myself was kept busy answering queries on all manner of catfish husbandry; from reproduction to temperature ranges. All in all the weekend at Wharf Aquatics was an enjoyable weekend, as we met many people both customers CSG members and from other societies such as Sheaf Valley and aquatic trade representatives like Tetra and Eheim.

The fish available at Wharf were not only well displayed and identified correctly but looked in excellent health. I would like to thank all the staff at Wharf who kept us well supplied with hot drinks over the weekend.

The following month, 10th October, the CSG publicity and information stand headed north to Scotland for the Scottish Aquarist Festival. This time it was Brian Walsh the groups Show secretary who accompanied me. Due to the distance involved in traveling from my home in Cheshire to Glenrothes in Fife, we were kindly offered accommodation at the home of Scottish committee member Harry Sheilds. Brian and I left Cheshire at around 11 am and stopped for a bite to eat and a rest around 2.30pm.

At around 4pm we were close to Bathgate Nr Edinburgh and we decided to take the opportunity to call in on CSG member and owner of the web site 'Planet Catfish' Julian (Jools) Dignal; and have a look at his new fish room. Supplied with a refreshing cup of tea, we took a look at his main display tank that was set into the wall of his front room.



The tank contained some really good-looking different species of filament barbs and also a few denisoni barbs amongst other community species. Jools showed Brian and I around his fish room where there seemed to be hidden jems in every tank. One of the tanks that interested me was his Australian tank which had not only some really nice rainbow's in it but a couple of large Australian catfish, *Tandanus tandanus*.

After looking in various tanks and discussing such things as breeding catfish, it was time for Brian and myself to take our leave but not before we helped Jools thin out his collections of crystal shrimps and assassin snails. Not long after we arrived at Harry Sheilds house on the other side of Edinburgh and we were treated to a hearty meal of a delicious home made steak pie and fresh vegetables made by Harry's lovely wife.

After a look at Harry's lovely gecko's we were taken to Jack Irish's home where we enjoyed a good evening looking around Jacks large fish house; again full of fish of such quality that spoke volumes for Jacks aquatic skills, the night was finished off with a few beers and an exchange of fishy tales of years gone bye.

The following morning we traveled over the forth bridge and on to Glenrothes to the Festival venue, unloaded Brian's van and set up the groups displays stand.

After Brian and I had finished erecting the advertising stands and sorted out the display & sales table out, I got busy sorting out the four fish that I had brought to enter in the Festival open show.

During the day there was an aquatic auction where various genera of fish were offered for sale, which was well attended with people coming from not only all area's of Scotland but from Cumbria and Yorkshire in England and there were many bargains to be had.

Both Brian and I was kept busy not only promoting the Group its publications and activities but answering a wide range of questions mainly on Catfish Identification and husbandry, but on occasion we had a few people asking questions on a wide range of tropical fish genera and species.

Later on in the day when the show arena was opened up for viewing, I was delighted to find that I had not only won first place (*Corydoras melini*) and second place (*Corydoras elegans*) in the Corydoras class; but, my *Corydoras melini* had also won 'Best catfish Exhibit' and it was also awarded 'second best exhibit' in the show.



The best of show went to a cichlid, a fine example of *Aulonocara jacobfreibergi*.

Brian was asked to present the trophies, certificates and prizes to their recipients.

When all was done and the Scottish Aquarist Festival came to a close and we had dismantled the groups display table, put away the groups publicity stands and loaded up Brian's van; we were invited to share a meal with the Scottish Federation committee judges and people who had



worked to make the festival a successful event that it was, before we headed back South to the North west of England.

In closing I would like to thank Harry Sheilds wife Margaret and Jack Irish's wife Moira for welcoming Brian and myself into their homes.

All images by Adrian Taylor

Fish Nutrition – Part Two

Michael Hardman

In his last article, Mike Hardman presented the fundamentals of fish nutrition. In the second part of his series he explains what you should keep in mind when designing the correct food for your catfish.

Mike also reveals his secret formula for a perfectly balanced catfish recipe!

In the first installment, I explained that protein is required for growth, repair, reproduction and how it can also be used to make energy. As well as protein, fishes use both fats and oils as their main energy source but feeding animal fat to fishes can lead to health problems. While carbohydrates are rare in the aquatic environment, fishes can and do use simple sugars to make energy.

Vitamins are essential to good health and must be included in the diet, but fishes can absorb most of the minerals and trace elements they need from the water.

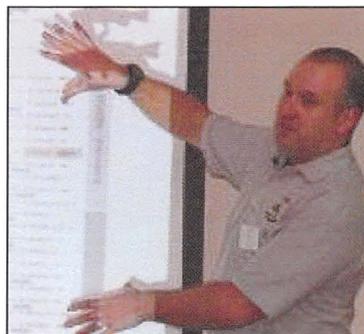
This article describes some of the things that should be kept in mind when designing and feeding a food specific to the mutual needs of you and your fishes.

In my case, I designed a food for suckermouth catfishes (Loricariidae) that is nutritionally balanced, palatable and can be attached to objects for scrapers or placed directly in the aquarium.

Although it was designed for loricariids, I feed it to all my other catfishes, tetras as well as a growing family of discus. I believe most other fishes would thrive on it too.

Rations and trials

First, a disclaimer. Most of what we know about the nutritional needs of fishes is based on farmed salmon, trout, channel catfish, eel and carp. Though the picture is far from clear,



different fishes need different amounts of each food group.

What's more, too much of something can be just as damaging as too little. So, when deciding on the proportions of each food group, think about whether most of your fishes are predators (more protein and less carbohydrate), herbivores (less protein and more carbohydrate), or omnivores (somewhere in between).

Proteins for growth

The recommended amount of protein varies from 35-40% for young channel catfish (omnivores) to 50-56% for young eel (predators). Most of the other fishes studied need about 45%.

Juveniles typically need about 10% less than they do when newly hatched. Adults need a further 15% less. Most of my fishes are young omnivores, so I set the protein to 45% so as to make sure of a good growth rate.

Protein is found in animals and vegetables and the evidence suggests that fishes use both kinds equally well. Overfeeding protein is not a good idea, as fishes cannot store the protein so, unless it is used to make energy, any excess is excreted as ammonia.

I mentioned last time that feeding meat from *warm-blooded* mammals (swine and cattle) to *cold-blooded* fishes can cause problems because the fat that red meat contains remains solid after it has been digested. So if you want

to use animal protein, choose unsalted white fish and shellfish such as prawns, shrimp, clams, mussels or crabmeat.

Small amounts of poultry, beef or pork heart can be used provided that all the visible fat is removed. Liver is a great source of vitamins and adds an appealing taste, but it is often fatty so use it sparingly.

Many vegetables also contain a lot of protein (e.g., broccoli, spinach and peas) and their lipids are healthy oils. Vegetables also provide many vitamins and carbohydrates that are lacking in meat and fish.

Always use fresh produce as canned vegetables can have salt or sugar added and their nutritional value can be lower. While vegetables contain many of the essential amino acids, some animal protein should be included in the diet to ensure that all of them are provided.

Carb loading

Although fishes can use carbohydrate to make energy, complex carbs such as starch and table sugar are only partly used, e.g., trout only digest 37% of raw starch. Simple sugars such as glucose are almost completely digested but can cause the same health problems in fishes as they do in people who suffer from type I diabetes.

This is because carbohydrates are rare in aquatic environments and, consequently, fishes have not optimized their physiology to a diet that is rich in them.

However, leaving carbohydrates out of the diet can cause other problems in that instead of sugar, protein is used to make energy and this in turn can lead to an excess of nitrogenous waste in re-circulating systems such as your home aquarium.

For this reason, some starch should be included and root vegetables such as carrots and potatoes are an excellent source.

Fat facts

Lipids (fats and oils) are found in both animal and vegetable. Animal fats should come from cold-blooded sources (fish and shellfish) and vegetable fats are important and should be included in the diet.

Few vegetables are as rich in fat as avocados. In addition to being a great source of oils, avocados also contain vitamin K and choline. Of all the fats to be concerned about, lineolenic acid seems to be essential for good growth and optimal health. A good source of linolenic acid is cod liver oil, which also contains lots of vitamins A and D.

Vitamins

As long as fresh meat and produce are used in the diet, most of the essential vitamins will be supplied in suitable quantities. I have not used vitamin supplements in my recipe as the daily amounts for most fishes are unknown and problems can arise from an excess of certain vitamins being fed.

As such, I rely on the natural sources of vitamins provided by the ingredients in my recipe (see sidebar) and the physiological mechanisms that regulate them in healthy fishes. A couple of vitamins are rather rare in natural foods, so pay attention to the breakdown when designing your own recipes.

Of the rare vitamins, vitamin D (calciferol) is found in prawns and white fish, vitamin E (tocopherol) in broccoli and spinach, and pantothenic acid (vitamin B₅) in liver, heart and broccoli.

Fishes can absorb all of their mineral requirements from the water provided they are present. If not, many of them will be added to the water when you feed.

Similarly, dietary fiber is of little concern as it represents a large component of the fresh produce used in the recipe. Its inclusion in the diet increases the speed at which food passes through the gut, which translates to less of the digestible food being digested and absorbed.

It all adds up

The recipe that I've been using was designed according to the proportions of each food group and the nutritional breakdown of each ingredient.

Putting a recipe together based on percentages is tricky because of how nutritional information is reported. Most raw ingredients contain a lot of moisture that has nearly no nutritional value, and different ingredients contain different amounts of moisture as well as the different food groups.

You need to know the nutritional breakdown of each ingredient and realize that the moisture must be subtracted before calculating the amount of each food group the ingredient contributes.

For example, if 100g of broccoli are 90% moisture and 20% protein, the 20% refers to the broccoli that isn't water. In other words, every 100g of broccoli adds 90g of water and 2g of protein to your recipe, which should be about 45% protein, 30% carbohydrate, 15% fat and 10% fiber after you've accounted for the water.

A great place to get information on the nutritional breakdown of ingredients is from the United States Department of Agriculture's Nutrient Data Laboratory.

The USDA serves a free online searchable database:

(www.nal.usda.gov/fnic/foodcomp/search/) that provides details on raw ingredients as well as prepared meals, right down to each kind of each sugar or fatty acid the food contains.

Three kinds of rations

Another thing to keep in mind when designing a feed is what kind of ration you want. There are basically three to choose from: moist, semi-moist and dry. Moist rations are made from fresh ingredients and are about 70% water.

Semi-moist rations are approximately 35% water and made from dried ingredients such as cereal grains and dried animal and vegetable products added to fresh meat and produce. Dry rations are about 10% water and made solely from dried animal and vegetable ingredients.

Which ration you choose to make is important because it determines how much you should feed.

Because moist rations are mostly water (of no nutritional value), a greater weight must be fed in comparison to a dry ration, which can be thought of as concentrated food.

Also, moist and semi-moist rations should be stored frozen whereas dry rations can be kept at room temperature or in the refrigerator.

Binding agents

So far, I've worked with moist rations, partly because of what is locally available and partly because of the higher nutritional quality of fresh produce, fish, shellfish and meat. Before the ration can be fed, the ingredients need to be ground to make them easier to eat and thoroughly mixed.

After chopping the ingredients finely, I add a cup of water and bring everything to a boil in a large stockpot. After boiling for several minutes, I use a hand-held electric blender to make the stew into a purée. Around this point, our dog gets real friendly.

As a ration, a purée is pretty useless as it disperses in the water like dust and all you feed is the filter. In order to keep the food together, a binding agent is needed. There are two kinds, gelatin and agar agar. Both are used in many of the processed foods we eat.

Gelatin is a protein extracted from bones and skin whereas agar agar is a carbohydrate extracted from seaweed. Gelatin can be bought at most grocery stores. Agar agar usually takes a little searching for but can be found at vegetarian or health food outlets. While gelatin adds protein to the food, agar agar is largely indigestible so adds no nutritional benefit.

Both are dissolved in water and boiled for a few minutes before being added to the hot purée, then allowing them to cool and form a gel. The biggest difference between gelatin and agar agar lies in what happens when their gels are placed in warm water, such as that in the aquarium. Gelatin gels melt at temperatures below 35° C whereas agar agar gels remains solid up to 95° C.

This means that unless the fishes eat the food in 20-30 seconds, gelatin gels will disintegrate and the purée will disperse in the aquarium. If you use agar agar, any uneaten food remains in the gel and can be easily removed.

You can also add medications to moist rations bound with agar agar. Feeding medicines such as antibiotics directly to fishes rather than adding them to the water increases the potency of their therapeutic effect, minimizes the use (and cost) of the medication, and protects nitrifying bacteria in biological filters from their harmful effects.

Moist-gel rations can be formed into any shape or size by using moulds or ice-cube trays and stored in the freezer until needed.

Bear in mind that the longer the rations stay in the freezer, the nutritional value is likely to diminish.

Gel rations can also be "painted" onto objects to be placed in the aquarium if you have a particularly fussy or newly imported fishes that

are reluctant to feed on artificial foods, e.g., many species of *Panaque*.

I've been using the moist ration described below for a couple of years now and have noticed increased vigour, good growth rates and better health for all the catfishes, cichlids and characins I keep.

Try it. It's fun, creative and you might learn something new about your own diet!

Mike's 'Secret' Recipe:

400 g	White fish
300 g	Shrimp or prawns (shells removed)
200 g	Mussels (shells removed)
200 g	Pork or beef liver
200 g	Pork or beef heart (fat removed)
500 g	Broccoli
500 g	Spinach
400 g	Carrots
200 g	Peas
100 g	Avocado
1 tbs	Cod liver oil
50g	Agar agar
250 ml	Water

225g protein: 150g carbohydrate: 75g lipid: 50g fiber

Journal Sponsors



OPEN SHOW 2010

The show was a huge success this year with a record number of entries. There were many new exhibitors and rarely-seen before catfish to be viewed and photographed. I've included a few of my snaps and present the results below. More images can be viewed on the CSG website.

Thanks to all of our show and class sponsors, the judges and CSG committee for organizing and delivering such a successful event.

The auction was another great success with many rare species to be had. I managed to record the following species sold:

Corydoras: paleatus, panda, weitzmani, pygmaeus, atropersonatus, gold lazer, pulcher, orcesi, loxozonus, loretoensis, sodalis, C120, C139, CW032, multimaculatus, septentrionalis, burgessi, napoensis. Aspidoras: C125 'gold', C119. Scleromystax barbatus

Other catfish: pinocchio whiptail, Hasar, Sturisoma, Pim albofasciatus, Red&Black Ancistrus, L204, Red Lizard, L66, L144, *Erithistes pusillis, Tatia reticulata, T. intermedia, Hemiloricaria lanceolata, Oncinus morrowi, Ancistrus cirrhosus, L128, Sturisoma panamense, L333, rusty plec, Synodontis notatus, S. lucipinnis, S. decorus,, S. waterlotti, S. nigriventris, Chrysichthys ornatus, Leiocassis siamensis, L129, L75, marbled lancer.*

Results

1	ASPIDORAS		ENTRIES 2	
1	Mike Kirkham	CSG	A pauciradiatus	88
2	John Hetherington	CSG	A fuscoguttatus	86
Sponsor: Bill Hurst – CSG Chairman				

2	BROCHIS		ENTRIES 4	
1	A & D White	Alden	B britskii	88
2	A & D White	Alden	B britskii	85
3	Mike Kirkham	CSG	B splendens	83
Sponsor: Brian Walsh – g.b.w@live.co.uk				



Winning Brochis – *B. britskii*

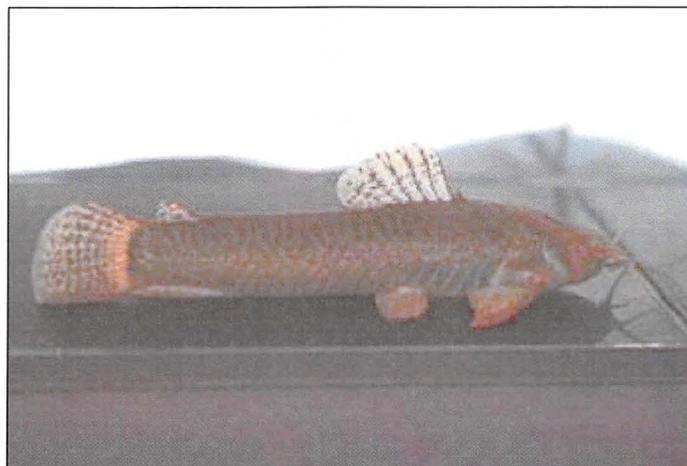
3	CORYDORAS "A" up to 55mm SL[F]		ENTRIES 9	
1	Ian Fuller	CSG	<i>C undulatus</i>	91
2	Adrian Taylor	CSG	<i>C elegans</i>	90
3	Ian Fuller	CSG	<i>C multimaculatus</i>	89
Sponsor: Ian Fuller – Corydorasworld.com				

4	CORYDORAS "B" over 55mm SL		ENTRIES 11	
1	John Hetherington	CSG	<i>C fowleri</i>	88
2	Mike Kirkham	CSG	<i>C pulcher</i>	87
3	I & K Wallbridge	CSG	<i>C concolor</i>	86
Sponsor: Ian Fuller – Corydorasworld.com				

5	CORYDORAS TYPES C Nos/Unid.		ENTRIES 8	
1	Ian Fuller	CSG	C123	91
2	Ian Fuller	CSG	CW09	88
3	Mark Walters	CSG	CW038	87
Sponsor: Ian Fuller – Corydorasworld.com				

6	SCLEROMYSTAX		ENTRIES 6	
1	Mark Walters	CSG	<i>Scleromystax kronei</i>	83.5
2	Ian Fuller	CSG	<i>Scleromystax lacerdai</i>	83
3	Ian Fuller	CSG	<i>Scleromystax lacerdai</i>	82.5
Sponsor: Reef & River – Morecambe				

7	AOV CALLICHTHYIDAE		ENTRIES 2	
1	Kenny Hall	SVAS	<i>C callichthys</i>	81
2	Mark Walters	CSG	<i>C callichthys</i>	80
Sponsor: Prestwood Petzone				



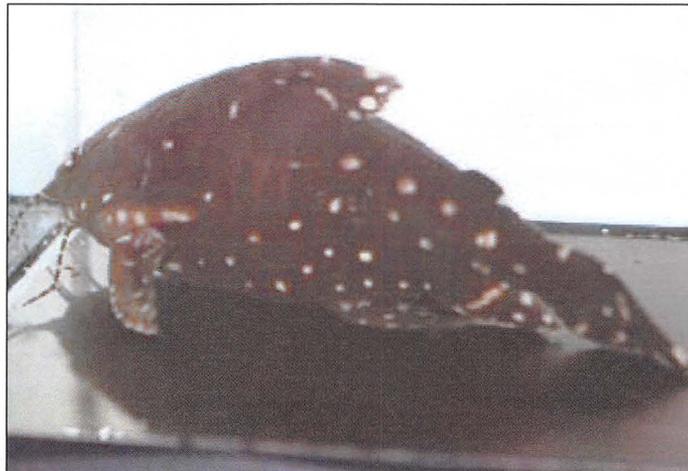
Winning AOV Callichthyidae – *Callichthys callichthys*

8	ASPREDINIDAE		ENTRIES 1	
1	Roy Blackburn	Castleford	<i>Bunocephalus amauros</i>	84
Sponsor: Prestwood Petzone				

9	AUCHENIPTERIDAE		ENTRIES 7	
1	Mark Walters	CSG	<i>Centromochlus romani</i>	84
2	Mike Kirkham	CSG	<i>Trachelyichthys exillis</i>	81.5
3	A & D White	Alden	<i>T taeniatus</i>	80.5
Sponsor: Sheaf Valley AS –svas.co.uk				

10	BAGRIDAE		ENTRIES 3	
1	Roy Blackburn	Castleford	<i>Leiocassis hossii</i>	82.5
2	Mark Walters	CSG	<i>Batasio dayi</i>	82
3	Jamie Horne	SVAS	<i>H brachysoma</i>	77.5
Sponsor: John Toon – CSG Member				

11	DORADIDAE		ENTRIES 6	
1	A & D White	Alden	<i>A pectinifrons</i>	85
2	Roy Blackburn	Castleford	<i>A pectinifrons</i>	84
3	C Dixon & S Savage	Castleford	<i>P armatulus</i>	83
Sponsor: Brian Walsh – g.b.w@live.co.uk				



Winning Doradid – *Agamyxis pectinifrons*

12	LORICARIIDAE up to 130mm		ENTRIES 8	
1	Mike Kirkham	CSG	<i>Otocinclus mimulus</i>	84.5
2	Roy Blackburn	Castleford	<i>Ancistrus sp</i>	84
3	D & L Speed	CSG	<i>Peckoltia cavatica</i>	83.5
Sponsor: Julian Dignall – planetcatfish.com				

13	LORICARIIDAE over 130mm		ENTRIES 4	
1	C Dixon & S Savage	Castleford	<i>Baryancistrus demantoides</i>	84
2	A & D White	Alden	<i>Loricaria simillima</i>	83
3	Danny Blundell	CSG	<i>Loricaria simillima</i>	81
Sponsor: Julian Dignall – planetcatfish.com				

14	LORICARIIDAE L&LDA Nos up to 130mm		ENTRIES 5	
1	C Dixon & S Savage	Castleford	LDA01	84.5
2	A & D White	Alden	L38	82.5
3	Mark Walters	CSG	L52	82
Sponsor: Julian Dignall – planetcatfish.com				

15	LORICARIIDAE L&LDA Nos over 130mm		ENTRIES 3	
1	A & D White	Alden	L128	81.5
2	D & L Speed	CSG	L333	80
3	Mark Walters	CSG	L249	76.5
Sponsor: Julian Dignall – planetcatfish.com				

16	MOCHOKIDAE up to 130mm		ENTRIES 3	
1	Mark Walters	CSG	<i>Microsynodontis sp1</i>	85.5
2	Ian Fuller	CSG	<i>Mochokiella paynei</i>	84.5
3	Roy Blackburn	Castleford	<i>Synodontis batesi</i>	81
Sponsor: Allan James – scotcat.com				



Winning small Mochokidae – *Microsynodontis Sp1*.

17	MOCHOKIDAE over 130mm		ENTRIES 2	
1	Mike Kirkham	CSG	<i>Synodontis angelicus</i>	84.5
2	A & D White	Alden	<i>Synodontis granulatus</i>	79.5
Sponsor: Allan James – scotcat.com				



Winning large Mochokidae – *Synodontis angelicus*

18	PIMELODIDAE up to 100mm		ENTRIES 8	
1	Roy Blackburn	Castleford	<i>Microglanis iherengi</i>	85.5
2	Phil Blackburn	SVAS	<i>Microglanis carlae</i>	85
3	Ben Savage	Castleford	<i>Microglanis carlae</i>	84
Sponsor: Mike Kirkham – CSG Member				

19	PIMELODIDAE over 100mm		ENTRIES 2	
1	C Dixon & S Savage	Castleford	<i>Pimelodus pictus</i>	81.5
2	Roy Blackburn	Castleford	<i>Pimelodus tetramerus</i>	79.5
3				
Sponsor: Mike Kirkham – CSG Member				

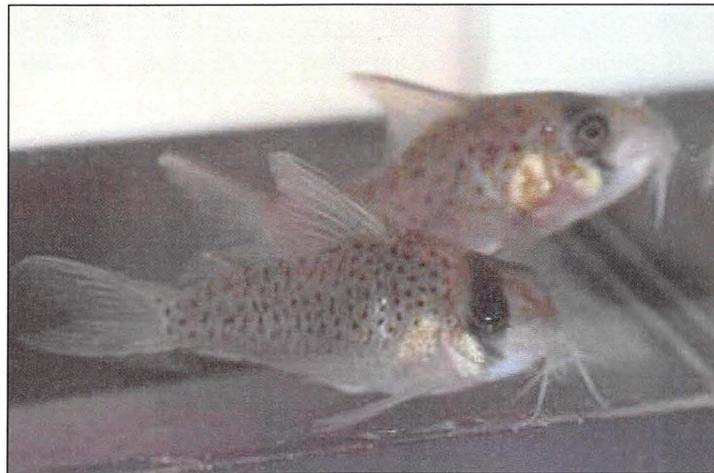
20	COLDWATER CATFISH		ENTRIES 1	
1	Roy Blackburn	Castleford	<i>Noturus gyrinus</i>	70
Sponsor:				

21	AOV CATFISH – S AMERICAN		ENTRIES 1	
1	Roy Blackburn	Castleford	<i>Ituglanis metae</i>	82
Sponsor:				

22	AOV CATFISH – AFRICAN		ENTRIES 6	
1	Mike Kirkham	CSG	<i>Lophiobagrus sp</i>	80
2	Mike Kirkham	CSG	<i>P typus</i>	77
3	Ben Savage	Castleford	<i>P buffei</i>	76
Sponsor: In memory of Terry Ward				

23	AOV CATFISH – ASIAN		ENTRIES 8	
1	A & D White	Alden	<i>Erethistoides infuscatus</i>	85
2	Roy Blackburn	Castleford	<i>Akysis prashadi</i>	84
3	A & D White	Alden	<i>Erethistoides infuscatus</i>	79
Sponsor: Adrian Taylor – hillstreamcatfish.com				

24	PAIRS – CORYDORADINAE		ENTRIES 12	
1	I & K Wallbridge	CSG	<i>C atropersonatus</i>	83
2	Mike Kirkham	CSG	<i>C pulcher</i>	82
3	Phil Blackburn	SVAS	<i>S barbatus</i>	81
Sponsor: Midland Waterlife				



Winning Pairs Corydoradinae – *C. atropersonatus*

25	PAIRS – LORICARIIDAE inc L&LDA Nos		ENTRIES 2	
1	Roy Blackburn	Castleford	<i>Peckoltia brevis</i>	84
2	Mark Walters	CSG	<i>Ancistrus L144</i>	78
Sponsor: Midland Waterlife				

26	PAIRS – AOV S AMERICAN		ENTRIES 6	
1	Roy Blackburn	Castleford	<i>Bunocephalus amaurus</i>	81
2	Mark Walters	CSG	<i>Megalechis picta</i>	77
3	Ben Savage	Castleford	<i>Microglanis carlae</i>	76
Sponsor: Bob Barnes - CSG Membership Secretary				

27	PAIRS – AOV AFRICAN		ENTRIES 2	
1	Roy Blackburn	Castleford	<i>Synodontis batesii</i>	68
2	Mark Walters	CSG	<i>Synodontis nigriventris</i>	63
Sponsor: Bob Barnes - CSG Membership Secretary				

28	PAIRS – AOV ASIAN		ENTRIES 4	
1	Roy Blackburn	Castleford	<i>Erethistes pusilus</i>	78
2	Mark Walters	CSG	<i>Batasio dayi</i>	76
3	C Dixon & S Savage	Castleford	<i>Hora longissima</i>	75
Sponsor: Pier Aquatics				

29	BREEDERS–CORYDORADINAE		ENTRIES 9	
1	B & K Myers	CSG	<i>C sterbai</i>	76
2	B & K Myers	CSG	<i>C gold laser</i>	70
3	Ian Fuller	CSG	CW32	69
Sponsor: Ian Fuller – Corydorasworld.com				

30	BREEDERS–LORICARIIDAE Inc L&LDA		ENTRIES 6	
1	Mark Walters	CSG	L066 Hypancistrus sp	86
2	C Dixon & S Savage	Castleford	L066	84
3	Colin Eveson	CSG	<i>Sturisoma panamense</i>	83
Sponsor: Danny Blundell CSG Treasurer				

31	BREEDERS – AOV S AMERICAN		ENTRIES 2	
1	John Hetherington	CSG	<i>Tatia perugeae</i>	78
2	I & K Wallbridge	CSG	<i>Tatia perugeae</i>	74
Sponsor: Hikari				

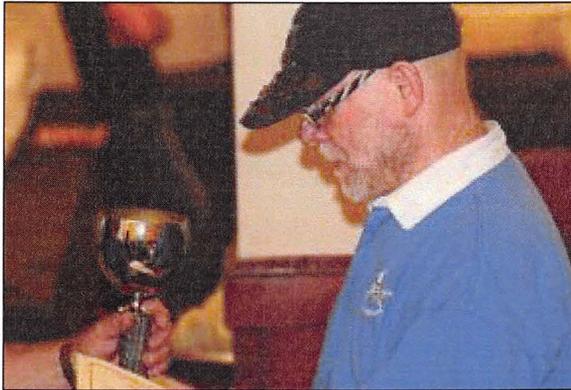
34	FAMILY CLASS – Pair & Breeders Team		ENTRIES 6	
1	Mark Walters	CSG	<i>Ancistrus L144</i>	160
2	B & K Myers	CSG	<i>Corydoras sterbai</i>	153
3	Ian Fuller	CSG	CW009	149
Sponsor: Aqua One				

35	BREEDERS – MASTER CLASS		ENTRIES 3	
1	C Dixon & S Savage	Castleford		248.5
2	Mark Walters	CSG		230
3	B & K Myers	CSG		209
Sponsor: Aqua One				

SPECIAL WINNERS 2010

Best Fish in the Show

Ian Fuller of CSG for a *Corydoras undulatus* - Class 3



Ian Fuller receiving the Best in Show award

Best Corydoradinae

Ian Fuller of CSG – Class 3 – *Corydoras undulatus*

Best from Classes 7-11

A & D White of Aldren AS – Class 11 - *Agamyxis pectinifrons*

Best Loricariidae

C Dixon & S Savage of Castleford – Class 14 – LDA 01 Panaque sp.

Best Synodontis

Mark Walters of CSG – Class 16 – *Microsynodontis emarginatus*



Craig Dixon – Winner of the Master Breeder Award

Best AOV Catfish

Roy Blackburn of Castleford – Class 21 – *Ituglanis metae*

Best Pimelodidae

Roy Blackburn of Castleford – Class 18 – *Microglanis iherengi*

Best Pair

Roy Blackburn of Castleford – Class 25 – *Peckoltia brevis*

Best Breeders Team

Mark Walters of CSG – Class 30 –L066

Junior Trophy

Ben Savage of Castleford – Class 18 – *Microglanis carlae*



Trophies and prizes



***Synodontis bastiani* – The Ivory Syno**

David Marshall

David Marshall is a well known and highly regarded fishkeeper and show judge from North Yorkshire. David plays a key role in the organization of the Ryedale Aquarist Society and is active in bringing together fishkeepers from the North East of England at the auctions, open shows and unique special events his club hosts.

David also edits and distributes the Aquarium Gazette, a unique aquatic publication available in electronic format.

David is especially keen on *Synodontis* and here presents his experience with an attractive member of the genus.

Background to the Ivory Synodontis

In textbooks *Synodontis bastiani* is more likely to be found under its junior synonym name of *Synodontis euberneensis*. Commonly known as the Ivory Synodontis, *S. bastiani* is known from Ghana and the Ivory Coast. It is reported to reach 20cm.



S.bastiani

Body characteristics

The background colour of juveniles varies greatly from an ivory colour to plain brown to lime green. Some populations have a foreground of light spots. As maturity is reached the body sports a beautiful rich golden colour with the thick edges of the pectoral fins and dorsal fin a deep yellow.

The gills are frilled and to the left of this area is a large dark spot. The adipose fin is extremely thick. In juveniles the first ray of the dorsal stands erect like a blade but this distinction is lost as maturity is reached.

The caudal fin is deeply forked and maturity is signaled when the upper lobe starts to extend its growth before forming a sickle-like extension that extends to a stage where it is almost touching the lower lobe.

This fish is built for speed. At the adult stage the body thickens and begins to arch. The eyes of this species can reflect light like those of a cat. Compared to many fellow *Synodontis* the eyes of this species

appear very primitive and, at a distance, often look to have a thin skin membrane covering them. *Anabas* (an Asian labyrinth fish) and *Clarias* deploy similar kinds of eye defence for crawling overland so wonder if *Synodontis bastiani* has such qualities.

Something I do know, from the experience of fellow aquarists', is that the eyes of this species suffer in Rift Valley set-ups, for which they are often sold, as either the hard water conditions or presence of salt turns the eyes very cloudy and once this damage is done cannot be repaired.

Aquarium care

If purchasing a young *Synodontis bastiani* find a full bodied fish, as emaciated youngsters never regain the habit to feed. Youngsters like to hideaway among the décor emerging into the open, in hyperactive bursts that will see them 'spook' and bully small tank companions.

At all stages of their lives these fish will fend for themselves and will feud not only with each other but also with fellow *Synodontis* species. There are times when their aggression will know no bounds. The mature trio in my care have a strict 'pecking order'. They live in a 60x12x10" aquarium in the company of *Synodontis decora*, *S. schoutedeni*, *S. njassae*, large Plecostomus, Raphael catfish, large Botia species and a group of Red Parrot Cichlids. I would not trust them with smaller fish species.

The pH of their aquarium is 7 and has a high temperature of 79 F. Substrate of fine gravel. Decor of rounded pebbles, ceramic caves and mopani wood. .

Rough territories are formed. The skin of *S. bastiani* is not as tough as that of many other *Synodontis* so avoid using sharp edged rocks etc. in your aquarium. As long as regular water changes are made filtration can be minimal. Large sized flake foods, catfish pellets, prawns and pieces of Thai crabstick are taken with great gusto.

Please remember that the pectoral spines of *S. bastiani* are extremely sharp so we never use a net to catch this fish but lower the water level and shepherd into a plastic bowl.

When removed from the water many species of *Synodontis* make squeaking noises but have never heard such a sound coming from *bastiani*. I would not be at all surprised if this specie would bite as a last defence.

Breeding

Breeding is reported to occur during the West African rainy season when large tracts of grassland become flooded. Scientific research indicates that distinct pairing takes place. Dark coloured eggs are scattered in open water and over the substrate. There is no parental care of these eggs.

As the eggs hatch the fry feed upon abundant microorganisms so that they grow quickly and put on enough body fat that will enable a high number to survive when the dry season begins and the waters thus recede back to their normal river courses.

Synodontis bastiani has only found its way into the U.K. aquarium hobby on a regular basis since the autumn of 2003 and there are no aquaria breeding reports.

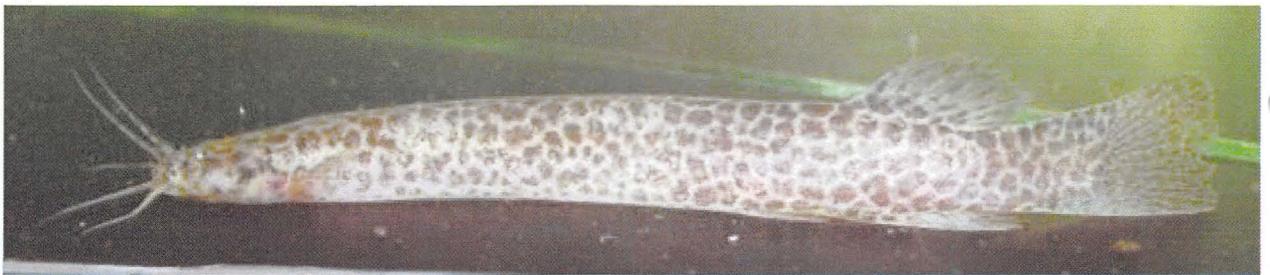
You can find full details of all the Issues published to date plus a review of the latest Issue of The Aquarium Gazette by going to the official website at www.theaquariumgazette.co.uk

What's New? - Mark Walters

A great source of unusual fish species are the many aquatic society auctions. I attended a recent auction at my local club **Castleford Aquarist Society**, which included the following species for bargain prices: *Orinocodoras eiganminii*, *Platydoras costatus*, *Agamyxis pectinifrons*, 'tawny dragon', *Synodontis angelicus*, *Tatia intermedia*, *Hypancistrus zebra*, *Hypancistrus* sp L066, CW021, *C. panda*, *C. leopardus*, *Scleromystax barbatus*, *Pseudopimelodus* sp., *Liosomodoras morrowi*, *Auchenoglanis* sp.

The club hosts up to 4 evening auctions a year. For further details drop me a line.

Other species spotted at shops and wholesalers include *Cordoras eques*, *C. similis* and this rarely seen Trichomycteridae ('parasitic' catfish) *Ituglanis cf metae*. Despite the family's reputation, this parasitic cat is peaceful with other fish.



Ituglanis cf metae – Pic courtesy of Steven Grant

A New Banjo Catfish

It is unusual for a new Aspredinidae to be described, with much more attention on studying new loricariids and SE Asian hillstream cats (it seems). It is quite a diverse family with 13 recognised genera and the new species *Buocephalus erondinae* hails from the most diverse genus. This southern Brazilian fish comes from the laguna dos Patos system of the Rio Grande do Sol. A typical habitat for banjo cats would be a leaf litter substrate or fine sand and mud to bury in. Further morphological details can be found in the paper:

Cardosa, AR, 2010. *Buocephalus erondinae*, a new species of banjo catfish from southern Brazil (Siluriformes: Aspredinidae. Neotropical Ichthyology 8: 607-613.

New Glyptothorax

For those of you who watched the excellent series exploring the Himalyan foothills of Bhutan for tigers and other wildlife must have wondered what undiscovered species of fish might exist in these little visited habitats. Hillstream cat species seem to be described from Himalyan drainages in quick succession and I'm sure there will be many more to follow.

A new species of Sisorid catfish *Glyptothorax chimtuipuiensis*, has been described from the Koladyne basin of Mizoram State, India. The Koladyne River, also known as Kaladan or Chintuipui in Mizoram, is a drainage that flows between the Ganga-Brahmaputra and the Chindwin-Irrawaddy drainages. Glyptothorax represent the most diverse genera of Sisorid catfish with over 70 valid species. They have unusual thoracic apparatus ('suckers' for all intents) formed by the pelvic fins, for adhering to the substrate in the fast flowing waters they inhabit.

More details can be found in the paper:

Anganthoibi, N & W Vishwanath, 2010. *Glyptothorax chimtuipuiensis*, a new species of catfish (Teleostei: Sisoridae) from the Koladyne basin, India. Zootaxa 2628: 56-62.

Thanks to planetcatfish.com for the original source of papers. If you have any sightings you would like to share or would like to track down a paper featured, contact me for the full reference: mark.walters100@yahoo.com.

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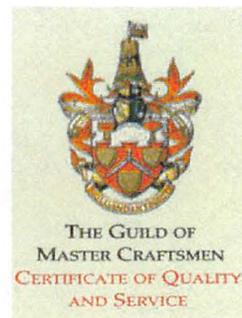
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