

CATCHAT

THE JOURNAL OF THE CATFISH STUDY GROUP



CSG Spring Lecture

Spawning *Brochis splendens*

***Acanthodoras* sp 'Lechera'**

Fishhouse Construction – Part 2

National Catfish Championship

New Descriptions

Parauchenipterus ceratophysus

Mastiglanis asopos

What's New?

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Remaining Diary Dates for - 2012

August 19th	Summer lecture	Anton Immink “African Catfish Farming, West to East and going Dutch” (At Derwent Hall)
September 16th	Open Show and Auction	Show secretary Brian Walsh showsecretary@catfishstudygroup.org Auction pre booking David Barton 01942 248130
October 21st		Mark Walters “The challenges of Breeding & Raising Catfishes”
November 18th	Autumn Auction	Auction pre booking David Barton 01942 248130
December 9th	Christmas Meeting	To be confirmed

Monthly meetings are held at the **Highfield Congregational Church Hall, Edmund Street, Darwen, Lancs, BB3 2DL** on the third Sunday of each Month from 1pm.

Auctions, Open Show and Spring and Summer Lectures will be held at the **Derwent Hall, George Street, Darwen, BB3 0DQ.**

The Annual Convention is held at **The Kilhey Court Hotel, Chorley Road, Standish, Wigan, WN1 2XN.**

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Front cover –The feature of one of this journal’s articles - *Acanthodoras* sp. Image by Steve Grant

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**Publication of the Catfish Study Group Journal
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Editorial

May and June were busy months with plenty of events on hand to keep aquarists satisfied. This did lead to a bit of 'fixture congestion' and events occurring on the same day, reducing the attendance at the May Spring Lecture. This was a great opportunity to share some rare fish amongst catfish keepers and hear from an eminent ichthyologist on the same bill. I've pulled together a write up for the day and hope the CSG can repeat a similar event in the future.

June also saw the annual Castleford Catfish and Loach show and auction, incorporating the first Catfish Championship. The event drew fish keepers from all over the country with attendance from Scotland, Wales, Southern England and the Midlands. An added attraction was probably the best specialist auction there has been in recent years with the most fantastic species on offer at unbelievable prices. I'm already looking forward to next year's event!

This edition of the journal also presents specialist articles on spawning the Corydoradinae catfish *Brochis splendens*, a relatively common 'Giant' Cory, but one not often bred. Adrian Taylor has had some great success with this species and shares his account of their spawning.

Steve Grant has written up his findings with a rarely encountered Dorad – *Acanthodoras* sp. 'Lechera'. Steve provides a great guide to the identification of this species when compared to other more commonly encountered members of the genus.

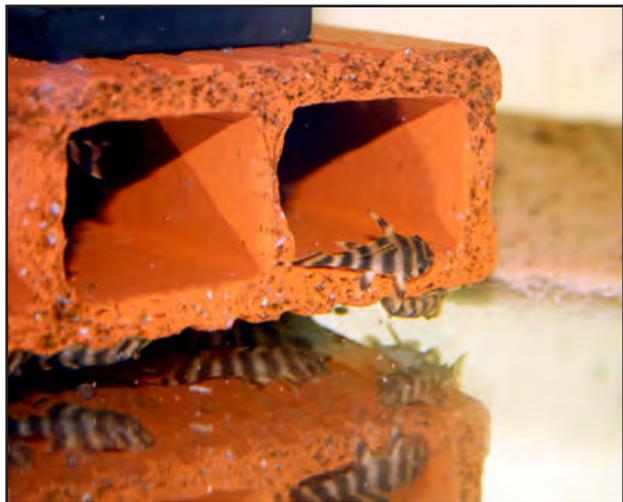
A second article from Steve presents a rarely encountered Auchenipterid catfish of the genus *Parauchenipterus*. This piece emphasises how much we can do as aquarists from the comfort of our armchairs, picking up new catfish from our local fish shops, researching their identity and presenting the 'discovery' to other enthusiasts through the pages of this publication. There is no shortage of new species arriving on our shores, and the challenge to identify them and then report them is an fascinating aspect of the hobby.

In addition to the write ups on events taking place over the spring and summer, I've presented a second article on fish house construction, with an account of my second project completed last year. I featured many of the images in my lecture at the CSG Convention in March. I hope to complete the account with a third article on equipment later in the year. Success in the fish house continues and I've recently bred my second species of woodcat with spawnings from my group of *Centromochlus perugiae*.



Centromochlus perugiae guarding her eggs

The *Peckoltia* eggs I reported in the last editorial hatched and I've had a subsequent spawn from the P. sp 'L038'. The youngsters have grown at an amazing rate and I was able to distribute some of the youngsters after only 3 months old.



Peckoltia sp L038 - 3 month old juveniles

It won't be long before one of the biggest events in the catfish keepers calendar – the annual CSG Open show and auction. I'm already planning what fish I have to exhibit and which fish I can get ready to share with other keepers through the auction.

There are a number of important committee posts coming up for grabs at the 2013 AGM, so if you want to play a more active role in the running of the CSG, contact the Chairman at:

chairman@catfishstudygroup.org.

Mark.

Notices



In Memory of John Cowen, FNAS Class A Judge

John was a devoted husband and family man who loved spending time with his family especially his grandson. John and his wife Stella were well known on the show scene in Scotland, the North East, Yorkshire, Lancashire and at major shows in the South. Recently, John's helped his grandson to show fish also. John was hardworking and diligent in promoting his hobby within the societies he was a member and the federations to which those societies were affiliated to. When not showing, John was often seen on the other side of the bench judging. John was well respected the length and breadth of the country as an A class FNAS judge.

John held the position as Secretary to the FNAS Judges and standards Club 2000, for many years. Recently, John suffered ill health and had spent short and lengthy spells in hospital. These interruptions, as he called them, never deterred John and he was soon back to doing what he loved, keeping and breeding his fish, showing, judging and working on updating norm sizes. John's motto was 'Life is for living' and he did that to the full. John will be fondly remembered and sadly missed throughout the fishkeeping hobby.

Brian Walsh.

Committee Positions

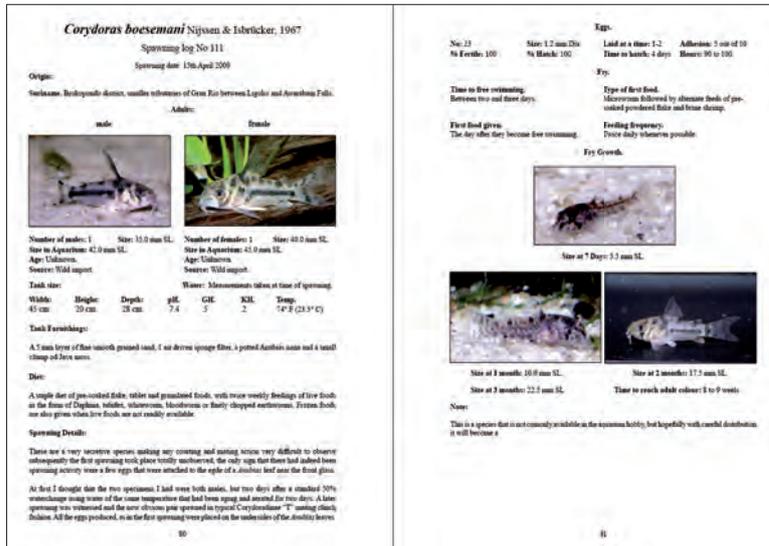
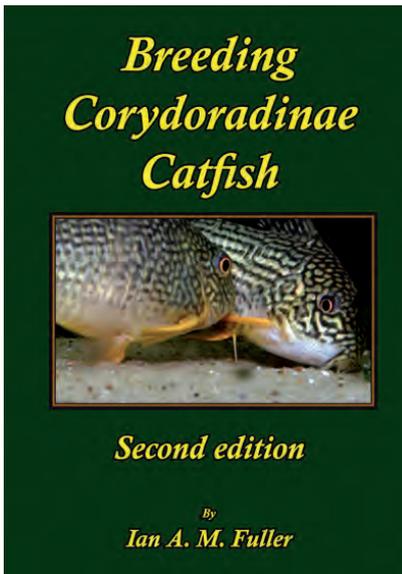
A number of committee positions are open for nomination and election at the 2013 AGM. If you would like to nominate candidates for position of President, Chairman, Secretary and Merchandise Officer, please contact the Chairman (chairman@catfishstudygroup.org).

CSG Show and Autumn Auction

The annual Catfish Study Group Open Show and Auction will take place on **Sunday 16th September** at the Derwent Hall, George Street, Darwen, BB3 0DQ. The annual Catfish Study Group Autumn Auction will take place on **Sunday 18th November** at the Derwent Hall. To book an auction lot contact the Auction Manager David Barton on 01942 248130



“Breeding Corydoradinae Catfishes” Second edition



Sample pages from Ian Fuller’s latest publication

The long awaited revision of Ian Fuller’s seminal work ‘Breeding Corydoradinae Catfish’ has landed! After an epic task, Ian has updated his existing work to produce a book of 376 pages and an incredible 163 records of Corydoradinae species.

We’re not talking a pocket sized book either, this must-have catfish reference is a full A4 size and hard-backed – all for a staggering £38 (at time of review).

For anyone breeding or wanting to breed Cory’s you won’t find a better book anywhere, there is lots of other invaluable information on foods and general keeping advice.

Here are some comments from delighted fishkeepers across the globe:

New book arrived today - looks superb and of course is jam-packed with info. Many thanks Ian for a quick delivery – Graham Ramsey, Scotland

My copy arrived on thursday . Fantastic book my weitzmans must have been reading it over my shoulder they spawned that evening. Spent the weekend planning a fish house!!- Scott Hall, Coventry, England.

My copy arrived in Canada 3 days ago and I haven’t been able to put in down..Great job Ian..... – Les Turnbull, Ontario, Canada

Good work Ian, the other Danes I’ve talked to who’ve received it are very pleased too – Kim Kastberg, Holstebro, Denmark.

Received your fine book today here in Washington state. As I had not owned the previous edition, I cannot compare them, but, would like to tell you from my observations thumbing through it, I am very excited! Large book, great pictures and easy to understand and follow text Thank you very much sir – Don Petty, Washington State, USA

My copy arrived last week. Many thanks, it is a great book! – Serkan Alasaya, Canberra, Australia

Don’t just take their word for it, order your copy today and start your Corydoradinae breeding adventure!

For a copy contact Ian Fuller at: ian@corydorasworld.com



www.catfishstudygroup.org

CSG Spring Lecture and Table Top Sale

Mark Walters



The lecture and sales room

The Catfish Study Group hosted its latest Spring Lecture on May 19th. Our friend Dr. David Price travelled up North from Plymouth University, to deliver a fascinating talk on conservation efforts in Mexico, a country he has much travelled both professionally in his role in Aquatic Biology and aquaristically for his interest in Goodeids and catfish.



David Price on the fishes of Mexico

The talk swung from a background of rich diversity and countless endemic species of fish and other vertebrates, through a recent history of habitat destruction, development and subsequent extinction of numerous endemic species, particularly livebearing toothcarps of the Goodeid family. This rather bleak backdrop included the introduction of many invasive fish species such as Tilapia, Nile perch and big-mouth bass, to provide food fish and sport fishing. The consequence being the forcing out of local populations of fish and some wild extinctions. One group of catfish causing an issue are members of the *Pterygoblichthys*, with a number of species introduced to Mexican habitats.



Invasive Loricariids

David continued with a more optimistic outlook and presented the results of recent studies showing some habitat rejuvenation, recreation and recovery. Indeed some species thought to have been lost have been rediscovered and existing populations have held on to their native habitats. In the past, some intrepid aquarists including the late Ivan Dibble, collected species and introduced them to the hobby where they have remained for 20 or 30 years. Some of these species are now extinct or highly endangered (*Ilyodon xantusi*, *Chapalichthys* species, *Ameioblennius* for example).

What we didn't expect was the range of catfish species present in Mexico, many of them little known to the hobby. Mexico has representatives from North and South American continents with members of the Ictaluridae, Heptapteridae and Ariidae families. It is clear that there are also undiscovered species and a range of habitats including complex cave systems where there are more unknown populations.

It is always a pleasure to receive David and his excellent presentations and he helps to bridge the gap between science and the hobby realising where we can all play a part in improving the understanding of catfish and their preservation both in the hobby and the wild.

Bring and Buy

For the first time, the CSG delivered a new format of catfish sales.

The selection of fish on offer was outstanding – probably the best selection of catfish (especially Corydoradinae) seen at a CSG event.



My sales table



Danny Blundell sales table

Members were invited to display their sales on their own table. 15 tables were set up and each member had either bags of fish or tanks set up to display their wares.



Aqualife sales table

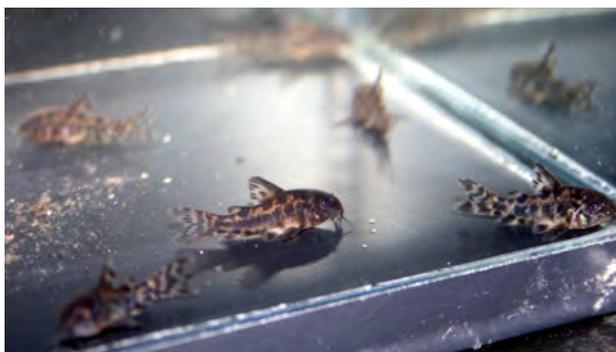
I have listed some of the fish available below:



Mark Breeze sales table



Corydoras ehrhardti



Corydoras sp. 'Paleatus black'



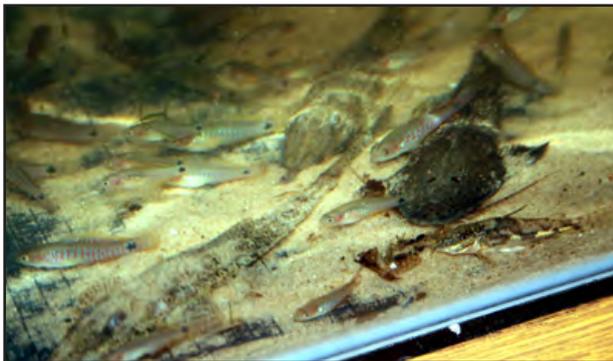
Breeding group of *Corydoras boesmani*

Corydoras - C123 , CW009, CW010, CW09 'green laser', CW010, CW049, *boesemani*, *eques*, *carlae*, *panda* 'white', *paleatus* 'albino longfin', *paleatus* 'black' , *araguaiaensis*, *ehrhardti* , *boesemani*, *aeneus* , *delphax*, *metae*, *reynoldsi*, *simulatus*



Tanks of rare *Corydoras* (*C. longipinnis*)

Scleromystax – *barbatus*, *lacerdai*, *prionotus*
Aspidoras - CW52 'black fin', C35 'black phantom', C125 'gold',



Peacock gobies, *Scleromystax barbatus*, *Planiloricaria cryptodon*, *Hemiodontichthys acipenserinus*

Loricariids -*Sturisoma panamense*, 'super red' *ancistrus*, *Farlowella* sp, *Rhineloricaria* sp, *Ancistrus brevifilis* , L340 [LDA19] , L136, L201, L316, L260-L411, *Sturisoma panamense*, *Hypancistrus* L066, *Planiloricaria cryptodon*.

Provider of many of the new catfish species featured in this magazine and the CSG's major convention sponsor.



Good sized *Hypancistrus* L066

Selected other catfish - *Centromochlus perugiae*, *Megalechis picta*, *Auchenipterichthys coracoides*, *Orinocodoras eigenmani*, *Pseudopimelodus* sp.



Pseudopimelodus sp.

Despite the great turn out by vendors, there were not so many customers coming through the doors which dampened the spirits of some. The event did prove to be a great format and with some changes to the planning, publicity and scheduling should prove to be even more successful in the future.

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Convention Sponsors

The Catfish Study Group would like to thank the following sponsors for their continued and most valued support.



***Acanthodoras* sp 'Lechera'**

Steve Grant



Acanthodoras sp.

A recent import by Pier Aquatics (Wigan) got me wondering about the identity of the specimens, which then led me to some information that meant my article needed an update.

I have been informed by Mark Sabaj, the dorad expert ichthyologist, that there are in fact some undescribed species of *Acanthodoras*. Mark assisted me in identifying the fishes in my photographs, so thanks to Mark we can now show a picture of the true *A. spinosissimus* and identify a similar looking species.

***Acanthodoras* sp. 'Lechera' / sp. 'Peru'.**

This undescribed species was imported by Pier Aquatics, Wigan, in January 2012. I believe 'lechera' means 'dairy' in Spanish, or it may be from 'leche' = 'milk'. This name is probably as a result of the poison that *Acanthodoras* can emit from a pore at the base of the pectoral fin, which looks like milk. It appears that this species can be found in the Loreto region of Peru, probably in the Rio Momon and/or Rio Nanay near Iquitos (Rio Momon.com). A note here about one of the sp. names, i.e. 'Lechera'.

Two different species found in Peru are both given the name 'Lechera': one is labelled as "*Acanthodoras cataphractus* «lechera»" and one "*Acanthodoras* sp. «lechera»" (Sánchez et al 2006).

The specimens imported by Pier Aquatics were small (approximately 5cm TL) and nicely coloured.

It was difficult to tell at that size which species they would be but as they have started to grow they are showing signs of possibly becoming the same species as a specimen owned by my friend Roy Blackburn, that in 1999 and 2009 I mistakenly thought were *A. spinosissimus*.



Acanthodoras sp. 'Lechera' (5cm specimen)



Acanthodoras sp. 'Lechera' (5cm specimen)

The specimen in question used to be owned by me and was in my possession as an adult fish from at least 1999. There are similarities in colouration (almost black base colour), and the pattern along the posterior ridge of the back (spots and a line).

However, there are some possible differences in that sp 'Lechera' could be less spinate on the dorsal surface of the posterior most midlateral scutes, and the midlateral scutes could be deeper. The post cleithral process also seems thicker in *A. sp. 'Lechera'*.

The *A. sp. 'Lechera'* I have is only approximately 9cm TL so a better comparison to the older (and larger) specimen (and to *A. spinosissimus*) will be better made at some point in the future.



Acanthodoras sp. 'Lechera' (9cm specimen)



Acanthodoras sp. 'Lechera' (9cm specimen) dorsal view

***Acanthodoras spinosissimus* (Eigenmann & Eigenmann 1888)**

Originally described from Lago do Coari on Rio Solimões at Coari, Brazil. The picture below is the only definite one of a live specimen that I have ever seen.



Acanthodoras spinosissimus

Visually it is very similar to the above species but doesn't tend to be as darkly coloured and the midlateral scutes near the anal fin are much deeper, so that they extend down near the anal fin base. The post cleithral process is also very thick and spiny.

I can heartily recommend any *Acanthodoras* species as they are peaceful, attractive, and appear to be relatively long lived. They will happily eat dried pellet foods, frozen foods, live foods, and earthworms.

Acknowledgements

Thanks to Mark Henry Sabaj Pérez of the Academy of Natural Sciences, Philadelphia, USA.



Acanthodoras spinosissimus dorsal view

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**CSG Convention will take place on
15th - 16th - 17th March 2013**

at

**The Kilhey Court Hotel, Clorley Road,
Standish, Wigan, Lanc's WN1 2XN**

For further details contact
conventionmanager@catfishstudygroup.org

Fish House Construction Part 2

Mark Walters

Part 1 described my first attempt at fish house construction, which in all honesty was built on an extremely tight budget without any experience of what a good fish-house should constitute.

In 2011, I planned to begin an extension to our house, which according to the plans, cut through the existing fish house. Before foundation work could start on the new build, I had to make a decision about the old fish house. My wife agreed to a new, totally separate building which could be used as an outbuilding if we moved house or I gave up fish-keeping (unlikely!). The next decision was temporary or permanent construction and after consulting the local planning department we realised we were permitted to build an outbuilding up to half the size of the garden assuming it was a set distance from a boundary and didn't exceed a certain height.

Following a reasonable quote from our builders, we agreed to the design and construction of a solid walled 150 square foot building. Work started in March 2011 with demolition of half of the existing garage (due to be removed as part of the house extension anyway). I was fortunate in that the footprint of the new fish house was just beyond the old one so I could keep my old fish house going whilst the new one was being constructed, so no need to temporarily house the fish.

The photo journal I kept pretty much speaks for itself on design, build and progress. Following a couple of lost days due to the weather, the builders completed their work by the end of March. It was time for me to finish off the work and turn the empty shell into a fish house.

First job was to batten the walls and insulate the breeze-block with 75mm of kingspan. I was unsure about the final finish and proceeded to clad the entire internal structure with tongue and groove hardwood salvaged from the old garage.



Ground prepared



3" insulation laid over membrane



Concrete laid over insulation



Site cleared



Blockwork constructed



Double glazed units installed



Insulation battened to walls



Door and roof completed



Fibreglass applied

After the insulation was completed and a top coat applied, the walls and ceiling were finished with a few coats of bathroom paint. The only interruption to progress at this stage was an accident suffered whilst balancing on a precarious collection of drinks crates to complete glassfibring the ceiling.



Roof trusses from inside

This provided a nice finish, but one which my wife wasn't entirely happy with. After a fair amount of thought and consultation with other fish keepers I decided to fibreglass the whole of the interior.

The obvious benefit is to create a water-tight shell, reducing the possibility of damage from condensation and water. The other benefit is increased insulation and a pretty nice finish.



Not a safe support

The obvious happened and I took a tumble breaking two ribs and spending the next few weeks laid up.

Thankfully my wife took pity on me and completed the glassfibring and even encouraged her friend to help paint the walls and ceiling!



Completed fiberglass skin ready for resin top coat



Completing the top coat of fiberglass resin



The painting crew

I had also been pondering what to do with the concrete floor. I'd considered floor paint, as the cheapest and easiest option. Again, a few online chats with catfish colleagues and a decision was made to tile the floor. The biggest cheapest floor tiles available at around £6 per square meter were laid by a handyman for a total cost of around £300. The finish was excellent and provided an easily cleaned surface. I would say the building was looking as good as it ever would with pristine white walls and a clean floor but I couldn't wait to get stands and tanks in.



Floor tiled

A friend in East Yorkshire was making some changes to his own fish house and had advertised a few racks of tanks for sale.

The size of the stands sounded about right for my needs and I hired a van and picked up the 21 tanks and timber racking. I ended up linking two of the stands to create a continuous 12 foot run of tanks on one side, housing 14 tanks in three tiers. 4 three foot tanks on the top, and 1 x 30 inch, 1 x 3 foot and 3 x 2 foot in the middle and bottom tiers. All these tanks were 15" wide and 15" high.

Construction of this first stage enabled me to transfer all my existing fish house inhabitants, although some had to share their quarters until more space was created. The racks from the old fish house were carefully dismantled and re-used to build a timber rack on the opposite side. This rack was again over three tiers and was designed to hold 21 of my tanks from the old fish house, comprising 20 x 2 foot (x12" x15") tanks, and 1 54"x24"x24" tank for some specimen loricariids.

The final stage of racking construction utilised the 7 remaining 30"x15"x15" tanks over three tiers, at one end of the fish house. Six of the tanks would contain stock and the 7th was set up as a sump. Initially, all tanks were set up as separate systems. However, all the new tanks were bottom-drilled with risers to act as an overflow. During the course of the next 6 months I used this to my advantage and centralised three groups on the 14 tank stage and the group of seven tanks into 4 centralised systems. This has enabled me to maintain conditions for similar species, with a reduction in maintenance requirements. I have these systems at a higher temperature for loricariids. The remaining tanks, are all individual requiring their own maintenance, but enabling me to keep cooler species on lower tiers. I have managed my stock over the year so that each tank is now a species tank, at a very low stocking density, hopefully providing optimum breeding conditions. I have summarised the stocking of the systems in the tables below:

Rack 1

S1 – Leporacanthicus 36"	S2 – Peckoltia 36"	S2 – Peckoltia 36"	S3 – Hypancistrus 36"
S1 – Pseudacanthicus 30"	S2 – Peckoltia 24"	S2 – Peckoltia 24"	S2 – Peckoltia 24"
S2 – SUMP 30"	Corydoras 24"	Scleromystax 24"	Scleromystax 24"
			S3 – Hypancistrus 36"

S1 = Centralised System 1, S2 = System 2, S3 = System 3



Rack 1 tanks installed



Rack 1 tanks filled

Rack 2 all 24" (arranged end-on) except large 54":

<i>Ancistrus</i>	<i>Synodontis</i>	<i>Centromochlus</i>	<i>Corydoras</i>	<i>Tateurndia</i>	<i>Corydoras</i>	<i>Corydoras</i>	<i>Corydoras</i>
<i>Scleromystax</i>	<i>Scleromystax</i>	<i>Scleromystax</i>	<i>Corydoras</i>	<i>Corydoras</i>	<i>Corydoras</i>	<i>Scleromystax</i>	<i>Centromochlus</i>
<i>Leporacanthicus</i> 54"				<i>Scleromystax</i>	<i>Corydoras</i>	<i>Corydoras</i>	<i>Axolotl</i>



Rack 2 stand constructed



Rack 2 tanks installed

Rack 3: All 30"x15"x15", arranged end-on:

Panaqolus	Panaqolus
Panaqolus	Panaqolus
Panaqolus	Panaqolus
Sump	

The centralised systems use a combination of power filters, pond pumps and sumps to provide effective filtration, circulation and increased flow to many of the rheophilic species. Details of the equipment used will feature in a future article. The fish house has, at the time of writing, been up and running for nearly a year. In the first few months I suffered from some classic new-tank syndrome issues, due to new filters and overstocking where fish were housed together before other tanks were established. As a consequence I lost some groups of fish which I have since replaced.



Rack 3 tanks installed

Things have stabilised over time and I've had plenty of breeding success (my main goal in fishkeeping) from *Corydoras ehrhardti*, *C. boesmani*, *C. sp W09*, *C. sp. CW024*, *C. sp C007*, *C. sp C090*, *Scleromystax barbatus*, *S.kronei*, *S. lacerdai*, *S. sp C112*, *S. sp C113*, *Ancistrus sp. 4*, *Panaqolus sp. L169*, *Peckoltia sp L038*, *Centromochlus romani* and *Centromochlus perugiae*. The extra space has given me the opportunity to introduce plenty of new species and concentrate on trying to crack a few tough nuts! The table below summarizes some of the big-item building costs.

The kitting-out of the fish house, including details on racking, aeration, power, tank set up and other equipment will be the subject of the next article in the fish house series.

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Item	Comment	Cost
Building cost	Foundations, concrete pad, blockwork, window and door units, carpentry and roof work	£5400
Insulation	3" kingspan, approx. 48sqm	£500
Timber cladding	Recycled and salvaged	No cost
Glassfibre supplies	Bought online	£400
Paint	5 litres	£30
Tiles, adhesive and tiler	Approx. 16 sqm	£300
New tanks and racks and van hire	Bought second hand	£400
Existing tanks and racks	All reused	No cost
Lighting, electrical sockets, new consumer unit and supply	DIY internal wiring but used certified electrician to provide new feed from mains	£400
Plumbing	Water supply from house, internal pipework for air ring main. All DIY installed	£200
All other aquatic equipment	No cost allocated. Used a lot of existing equipment.	No cost
Total		£7630

Show Rules (CSG 2010)

Fish will be judged to Catfish Study Group Show Size Guide. Submission of an entry implies acceptance of all of the rules.

1. Fish will be exhibited in clear, flat-sided containers, the smallest of which will be 100mm x 100mm x 100mm. Jars will not be accepted. Exhibitors are requested to label their show tank with the Latin and/or Common name of the fish.
2. Gravel/Sand is allowed. Aeration may be used.
3. Show tanks must be of sufficient size to allow fish to swim and turn. Exhibitors may be **DISQUALIFIED** if the fish is poorly presented, in poor or cramped conditions. Fish will not be fed on the show bench.
4. Breeders teams will consist of **4** fish, minimum age **3** months, maximum **15** months. Date of birth/hatching and name of species must be shown on tanks.
5. Entries may not be moved, or interfered with once judging has commenced, except by order of the Judges or the Show Secretary.
6. **DEBENCHING** is not allowed until the Show Secretary makes the announcement, except by prior arrangement with him.
7. The show organisers reserve the right to **RE-BENCH** any fish into their appropriate class.
8. **PHOTOGRAPHY** of entries will be permitted after judging is completed.
9. Time will be allocated to allow viewing of the judges' decisions.
10. The Judges decisions are final. Judging sheets will be displayed in the hall.
11. Any complaints, comments, etc., should be directed to the Show Secretary.

Whilst every care will be taken, the Catfish Study Group will not be held responsible for the loss of or damage to fish, equipment, or persons.

Spawning *Brochis splendens*. (Castelnau, 1855)

By A W Taylor. F.N.A.S. Dip; MB.



Brochis splendens – Image by Ian Fuller

In late summer of 2009, I purchased five young *Brochis splendens* from fellow CSG member Danny Blundell, and these were put into a 'dump tank' in my fish room to grow on.

Whilst I was carrying out a full clean out of this dump tank, I noticed that three of these seemed more plump than the other two, so I placed them into a mature but empty tank, measuring 25cm x 38cm x 55cm, and which was filtered by a large internal box filter, had a substrate of sand and contained a piece of bog wood having a broad leafed plant attached to it.

I noticed later in the day that the two 'slimmer' catfish seemed to have slightly smaller ventral fins and a less pronounced convex edge to their pectoral fins.

The following morning I fed the five *Brochis* with copious amounts of bloodworms and daphnia, and at night after I turned off the lights I dropped a commercial food tablet into their tank.

Two days later I carried out a 20% water change, using water from a container that held water at the same temperature as the ambient temperature in my fish room.

The following afternoon I observed the males swimming quite vigorously around the tank and making quick dashes to the water surface, and that the females looked more rotund and all fish showed quite metallic lime-green lustre to their scutes; so I settled down to observe as I felt that they must be close to engaging in courtship and spawning behaviour. As it happened it was not long before the males started to offer their flanks to the female, in the way that nearly all *Corydoradinae* catfishes do whilst they are engaging in courtship and spawning.



B. splendens exhibiting courtship behaviour

After nearly an hour of this courtship I witnessed one male and one female spawning in the classic *Corydoradinae* 'T' position. This mating was quite brief and for such a 'large' catfish species I was surprised to see only one egg clasped between the females ventral fins.

During the next couple of hours all five fish were seen mating. I took the measurements of the water conditions during this time, trying very carefully not to spook the catfish too much. The following readings were obtained: Temperature 73°F, pH 6.7, Conductivity 160 µS, GH 3 and KH was zero.

There were approximately 160 opaque eggs laid all over the sides of the tank and amongst some broad leafed aquarium plants.

Half the eggs were removed to an egg hatching tray and the other half to a 'breeding hatching container' of the type that hangs onto to outside of the tank and utilises an air pump to circulate the tank water through the hatching container.

The eggs took not quite 4 days to hatch and a further 24 hours to absorb their yolk sac. For the first two weeks the fry were kept in a small growing on tank that had a sand substrate and was filtered by a small sponge filter and were fed twice daily on marine invert food for the first week and then milli-worm for the next week.



B. splendens fry

During this time I was carrying out a 30% water change every other day on this tank. The fry seemed to grow quite fast and after the second week the extended sail like dorsal fin was already prominent. It was in part due to this growth that I moved the fry on to a larger tank that already contained some month old *Aspidoras*.

The fry were then fed on an alternating diet of microworms, newly hatched brine shrimp and a commercial food tablet. A water change was carried out every third day, as the type of brine shrimp egg that I use, seems to me to have a negative effect on the filtration bacteria, resulting in high nitrate levels and the loss of fry if water changes are not kept regular.

It was just after they reached three months of age that they started to lose the sail like dorsal fin and by the

time they were four months of age the dorsal fin was looking quite normal, at this time I again transferred them to a large tank that was filtered by an external power filter.



1 month old *B. splendens*



3 month old *B. splendens*

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Catfish Study Group 33rd Annual Convention

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STUDY GROUP

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Julian Dignall
Mark Duffill
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15th-16th-17th March 2013

Contact conventionmanager@catfishstudygroup.org for full details

Castleford Aquarist Society Annual Catfish and Loach Open Show Incorporating the First National Catfish Championship

Mark Walters



Champion Catfish - *Corydoras gracilis*

Castleford Aquarist Society held its fourth annual Catfish and Loach Open Show, for the first time incorporating the National Catfish Championship; this competition was open to any catfish which had achieved a Best in Show or other special award in the previous 12 months. There were over 120 entrants to the Open show and championship, with cash prizes for all place winners. The National Catfish Champion was awarded an Aqua One integrated aquarium, donated by the show sponsors Pier Aquatics (Wigan, Lancashire). The standard of fish on display was exceptional, proving a tough job for the two 'A' class judges, David Marshall (Ryedale AS) and Brian Walsh (CSG).

The Championship class was awarded to the most diminutive fish on the bench, *Corydoras gracilis* (the dainty *Corydoras*). The same fish was best Corydoradinae at the 2011 CSG Open Show.

Highest pointed catfish in the Open Show was awarded to John Egan (Port Talbot AS) for his spectacular *Callichthys callichthys*. John also won the highest pointed loach in the show. Cash prizes of £25 were awarded for each of these top places. £3, £2 and £1 were awarded to 1st, 2nd and 3rd respectively for each of the 19 show classes, with selected winners and images as follows:

Champion Catfish – Mark Walters; Best *Aspidoras* or *Brochis* – John Hetherington; Small *Corydoras* – Mark Walters; Large *Corydoras* – Mike Kirkham; AOV Callichthyidae – John Egan;

Small Loricariidae – Mark Walters; Mochokidae – Mike Kirkham; Bagridae – Mark Walters; Pimelodidae et al – Jim Howarth; Auchenipteridae – Jim Howarth; Doradidae – DJAY;



Callichthys callichthys

AOV Catfish – Roy Blackburn; Pairs – DJAY; Breeders Corydoradinae – Mark Walters; AOV Breeders – DJAY; Aspredinidae – Steven Grant.



Scleromystax kronei



Synodontis schoutedeni

*Amblydoras monitor**Pseudotropius sp.**Tetranemataichthys sp.**Mystus micracanthicus**Scleromystax barbatus**Otocinclus mimulus**Agamyxis pectinifrons*

Whilst the judges were hard at work, the CAS club members were in the thick of an exciting auction. It is no exaggeration that the specialist catfish and loach only auction was the best exhibit of catfish available through any sale, in the experience of over 30 years of auctions. CAS members had pulled out all the stops to source rare and unusual fish from all corners of the world at unbelievable prices.

There were over 15 lots with the top price going to a breeding group (two pairs) of zebra plecs (*Hypancistrus zebra*). The following is a list of most of the species available on the day:

Ancistrus: sp Rio Paraguay, 'L144', L338 (juveniles), Red and Black, Longfin, Super Red, Common, Albino; *Hypancistrus*: King Tiger L066; L340 Mega Clown, L046

Panaqolus: LDA01, L002, L226; 'Olga', L204, *Peckoltia*: L134 Leopard Frog, L015, L038, L28, L202, *snethlagae* L141,

Hemiancistrus subviridis L200, L128; *Leporacanthicus triactis* L091; *Panaque* L191

*Panaqolus sp 'onga'*

Corydoras: *ehrharti*; *habrosus*; CW024; *polystictus*; black *aeneus*; *ambiacus*, *burgessi*, *nijsseni*, *trilineatus*, *boesemani*, *carlae*, *panda* 'white', *paleatus* 'albino longfin', gold laser, CW052, *araguaiaensis*, *panda*, *gomezi*, *weitzmani*, *delphax*, *sterbai*, *reticulatus*, *loretoensis*, *napoensis*, *melini*, *concolor*, *hastatus*, *pygmaeus*, *diphyes*, C123,

Scleromystax barbatus, *Scleromystax lacerdai*, *Scleromystax prionotus*,

Aspidoras C125, *Aspidoras pauciradiatus*, *Aspidoras* C118, *Aspidoras* C119, *Brochis splendens*, *Megalechis picta*,



Peckoltia sp L288

Hemiodontichthys acipenserinus,
Sturisoma aureum, *Sturisoma panamense*,

Centromochlus altae, *Tatia* sp tahuyao green, *Tatia strigata*, *Tatia dunni*, *Trachelyopterus* sp Peru, *Trachelyopterichthys taeniatus*, *Auchenipterichthys coracoideus*.

Chaca bankanensis, *Parakysis anomalopteryx*,
Bunocephalus verrucosus, *Glyptothorax siamensis*,
Hypodoras forficulatus.

Acanthodoras sp 'Lechera', *Pseudopimelodus bufonius*, *Microglanis iheringi*, *Pimelodus pictus*, *Synodontis batesii*, *Synodontis greshoffi*, *Euchilichthys royauxi*



Pseudopimelodus bufonius – Image by Mark Walters

Yoyo loach, *Pseudogastromyzon myersi*,
Syncrossus helodes, *Pangio semicinctus*, *Schistura* sp, *Trachatichthys pulcher*



Panaqolus sp. L02 – Image by Mark Walters

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***Parauchenipterus ceratophysus* (Kner 1858)**
(Siluriformes: Auchenipteridae)

Steven Grant



Parauchenipterus ceratophysus (juvenile)

This is a short note on the identity of some auchenipterid woodcatfish that were available in the UK hobby in 2007.

Roy Blackburn purchased his specimens in 2007 at a local aquarium shop (Tingley Tropicals), and at the time they measured around 7cm TL. 5 years later they have currently grown to around 18cm TL. I am aware that shortly afterwards the same fish (but at larger sizes) were turning up in other outlets in the UK (Pier Aquatics, Wigan) and also overseas (e.g. Singapore).



Male – *Parauchenipterus ceratophysus*

On my image pages on Scotcat.com they are currently listed as *Trachelyopterus* sp. E, and on Planet Catfish they are listed as *Trachelyopterus* sp. 3. I also think the specimens listed as *Trachycorystes* sp. 1 on Planet Catfish are this species too.

Genus identification

As stated above this fish has been most recently placed in the genus *Trachelyopterus* Valenciennes 1840. *Trachelyopterus* currently houses all the species formerly placed in *Parauchenipterus* Bleeker 1862 (Ferraris, 2007) but in an unpublished Ph. D thesis Akama (2004) shows that *Trachelyopterus* should just be restricted to one described species (*Trachelyopterus coriaceus* Valenciennes 1840), and potentially one or more undescribed species. This leaves *Parauchenipterus* for the other species. Although Akama's work is not published within the meaning of the rules of zoological nomenclature,

it appears to have been adopted in Akama & Ferraris (2011) and I consider *Parauchenipterus* is the correct name.

Species identification

Due to obtaining all the descriptions and some images of all described *Trachelyopterus* and *Parauchenipterus* species I was able to identify these fish.

The first thing that led to the identification was the comment in Akama & Ferraris (2011) that *Spinipterus acsi* was unique among auchenipterids in having four rows of serrations running along the length of the pectoral and dorsal fin spines, although *Parauchenipterus ceratophysus* (Kner 1858) has (different) serrated ridges on the upper surface of the pectoral fin spines.

I had noticed in a picture of Roy's fish that these spines were present. Upon checking the description of *P. ceratophysus* and images of some of the type specimens, and also looking at all *Parauchenipterus* I am convinced that *P. ceratophysus* is the correct name for these fish.



Female - *Parauchenipterus ceratophysus*

As well as the serrated ridges on the upper surface of the pectoral fin spines, these specimens have the following combination of characters that are present in *P. ceratophysus*:

- Lower jaw projecting
- Post cleithral process short and granular
- Posttemporal supracleithrum process thick, granular, and diagonal
- Cranial bones exposed and evenly granulated or partially striated
- Anterior fontanel closed, round, and small
- 20 anal fin rays
- Relatively short dorsal fin spine
- Relatively depressed head (in some specimen)

The species is distributed in the Paraná, Guaporé, Branco, and Negro River basins in Argentina and Brazil (Ferraris in Reis et al. 2003). The largest of the type specimens is 11 inches.



Dorsal view of *Parauchenipterus ceratophysus*

Roy has found them to be peaceful, and will readily take pellet/tablet foods, earthworms, and frozen bloodworm when fed at night. Luckily the two specimens he purchased turned out to be a pair. The male has the thickened first few rays of the anal fin and slightly more ornate colour/pattern. Males also appear to have a more flattened head/body.

Acknowledgements

Thanks to Helmut Wellendorf, Naturhistorisches Museum Wien, Austria; Alberto Akama, Universidade Federal do Tocantins, Brazil, for images of type specimens. Roy Blackburn for allowing me to photograph his fish.

All images of *Parauchenipterus ceratophysus* by Steve Grant, not to be used without permission.

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The Dark One – Steve Grant's Photo Gallery at ScotCat
<http://www.scotcat.com/thedarkone/thedarkone.htm>.



What's New?

Mark Walters



Hisonotus leucofrenatus

In addition to the species encountered at the events featured in this edition of the journal, new imports have presented us with some more fantastic catfish. Although Pier Aquatics gets a regular mention in these pages, this isn't without merit.

The shop in Wigan continues to be the first to import many rare species providing the hobbyist with some fantastic opportunities.

This month, colleagues from the Castleford Aquarist Society made a trip to Pier Aquatics following news of a Peru shipment. Species on offer included: *Corydoras* sp C052, *C. sp* CW014, *C. sp* CW016, *C. sp* C06, *Brochis multiradiatus*, *Panaqolus* sp. 'Mazan', *Spinipterus* sp. 'Otorongo', *Trachydoras steindachneri*, *Ageneiosus cf. atronasus*,



Brochis cf multiradiatus



Corydoras sp CW016



Spinipterus sp. 'Otorongo'



Hemiodoras cf. morrisi



Ageneiosus cf. atronasus

*Trachelyichthys exilis**Trachydoras steindachneri**Corydoras sp CW06**Xylophius melanopterus*

New Descriptions

Three new species of hypoptopomatine loricariid have been described in three separate papers.

New *Parotocinclus*

A new species of *Parotocinclus* is described based on material from three rivers belonging to the upper and middle Rio São Francisco basin, the Rio das Velhas and Rio Jequitaí on the right margin and the Rio Paracatu on the left margin.

For further details refer to the paper:

Lehmann A, P & RE Reis, 2012. A new species of *Parotocinclus* (Siluriformes: Loricariidae) from the upper Rio São Francisco, Brazil. *Zootaxa* 3390: 56–64.

New *Hisonotus*

Hisonotus piraicanjuba is described from headwaters of the rio Paranaíba, upper rio Paraná. There is a close phylogenetic relationship among *H. insperatus*, *H. leucofrenatus* (pictured above) and the new species.

The following paper provides the full description:

Martins, FO & F Langeani, 2012. *Hisonotus piraicanjuba*, a new species of Hypoptopomatinae (Siluriformes: Loricariidae) from the rio Paranaíba, upper rio Paraná system, central Brazil. *Ichthyological Exploration of Freshwaters* 23: 29–36.

Another New *Hisonotus*!

Hisonotus bockmanni has also been described based on specimens collected in a sandbank in the Rio Cururu, a tributary to the Rio Teles Pires, one of the rivers forming the Rio Tapajós in the Amazon Basin.

The new taxon is distinguished from its congeners by a unique color pattern, whose most striking features are: two elliptical white spots, anterior to nostrils; predorsal region darkly pigmented with five unpigmented spots arranged as anteriorly pointed chevron; and a rostrocaudally elongate cross along most of the caudal peduncle. The placement of the new species in *Hisonotus* as well as its possible affinities within that genus are discussed in light of the current knowledge of the phylogenetic relationships among the Hypoptopomatinae.

Refer to the paper for a full description:

Carvalho, M & A Datovo, 2012. A new species of cascudinho of the genus *Hisonotus* (Siluriformes: Loricariidae: Hypoptopomatinae) from the upper Rio Tapajós basin, Brazil. *Copeia*, 2012: 266-27

My First Experience of using an Easy Breeding Box

Danny Blundell

I purchased my 'Easy Breeding Boxes' at the 2011 CSG Convention, following a practical demonstration on our BAP tanks.

I thought that they might be useful as I had recently experienced one of my 'L number' males ejecting a bunch of eggs out of his cave which I lost although I put them into a show tank with an air stone and the water dosed with Melafix. I therefore purchased both 1.2 and 2.0 litre models, which were stored until required.

March 2012



My trio of *Sturisoma panamense* were spawning repeatedly in my 48x18x18inch planted community tank, of which a few fry survived. I decided to move them to a tank of their own, which involved removing all of the planted pieces of bogwood, but a week before their move they spawned again. The eggs were placed in a single group on the front glass and were stuck too well to be removed.

In preparation the box was hung onto a tank and an air line attached to the 'rise pipe' which lifts water from the tank into the box, and back to the tank.

A week later they hatched over a period of approximately 24hours and as the fry exploded from the eggs I sucked them into a 'turkey baster', and deposited them into the 'box'. The fry all survived and after four days the yolk sac was consumed and I started feeding them with cucumber and a few New Era Catfish Pellets.

Due to the confined space the fry are always near food, and grew quickly which gave rise to copious quantities of faeces.



Using a length of airline I siphoned the waste out of the box, which is made easier as the air lift continuously tops up the box.

Care must be taken on the choice of foods used, as I found that if I fed cucumber, and used too large a piece, and left it in the 'Box' too long it would disintegrate, float, block the outflow grill and would flood if ignored.

Five weeks later I transferred the fry into the tank that the Box was attached to, thus avoiding any shock due to a change in water parameters.

So far, my only failure occurred when raising a group of *L136a Hypancistrus* sp. and we had an overnight power cut, therefore no water flow and the fry succumbed.

Overall I have found this system easy to use and maintain, and the pluses overcome the minuses.



***Mastiglanis asopos* Bockmann, 1994**

Ian Fuller

*Mastiglanis asopos*

This little Catfish excited me the moment I first saw it during the unpacking of a shipment of fish that had arrived from Colombia. Its diminutive size and delicate looks were something that appealed to me straight away. There were only 9 specimens in the bag, and all of them were about the same size, measuring between 45 to 50 millimeters standard length. They also looked to be mature specimens, something that also appealed to me, as I do have an affinity with small fishes and these would certainly fit into my fish house set up. The group were immediately put into a small quarantine tank to be checked out for a few days to make sure there were free of parasites and feeding well before heading to my fish house. In the quarantine tank they acted like most bottom dwelling Catfish finding the darkest area to congregate in, only becoming active when food was introduced. Looking at the slender elongate body shape and the broad mouth they looked to be typical ambush predators, but at that size the foods that seemed to fit the bill were *Daphnia*, glass worm and blood worm, all of which they took to straight away. They were also offered small manufactured sinking granular foods, which they also took to without any hesitation and were soon swimming around with their bellies full and well distended.

After ten days or so I decided they in the clear in regard to carrying any unwanted guests and decided it was time to take them home. I did spend a long time trying to decipher any sexual dimorphic characters, but I could not see anything distinctive at all, so in good old Cory fashion I selected three fat ones and three thin ones and took them home.

The quarantine tank was plain bottomed, but the tank that I put aside for them in my fish house has a substrate of fine sand about a centimeter deep, as it happened a perfect choice, because after a period of acclimatization, the first thing they did once being released from the bag was to dive straight into the sand and completely out of sight.

It was another two days before I saw any of them again, and if anything startled them they would dive into the sand for cover.

Once were settled they were far less skittish and would not dive for cover quit so quickly. I find it quite comical to see them with just their eyes breaking the surface of the sand.

Looking at the position and shape of the eyes it is easy see why they would be happy buried in sand. Another striking feature of these little fishes is the extremely long pectoral dorsal and anal fin spines, which they will often sit, perched up on their anal fins as though waiting for something to come within range so they can pounce on it.

Their exact catching location is not known at this time, they were shipped from Bogota, Colombia, but that is no real indication of their actual distribution. A little research shows that they are fairly wide spread, from Eastern Colombia, Venezuela, (Rio Orinoco basin), Brazil, (upper Rio Amazon tributaries) and Guyana.

There are no known breeding accounts for this species, but I will be keeping a very close watch on my group and making notes of their activities.

*Mastiglanis asopos* close up of head

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Breeding reports are especially interesting and can be supported by photos of mating behaviour, egg deposition, egg development, fry growth – in addition to the wealth of information you could share on maintaining the breeding fish, spawning triggers, feeding regimes and the tricky stages of egg hatching and raising youngsters. Sharing information will raise your profile in the catfish community and encourage more people to share their experiences and help you further with your efforts. In addition, you can use the material to support a Breeders Award Programme submission and enter into the annual award for the best breeding report published in the journal.

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Two green parrots are perched on a wooden branch, facing each other. The parrot on the left has a speech bubble above it containing text. The parrot on the right has a speech bubble above it containing text. The background is a gradient from light blue at the top to light green at the bottom.

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