CSG 2012 Open Show Results     CSG Summer Lecture

*Lepthoplosternum* (Reiss 1997)     What’s New?

Preston AS Convention
# Catfish Study Group Committee

President – Ian Fuller  
*president@catfishstudygroup.org*

Vice-President – Dr. Peter Burgess  
*chairman@catfishstudygroup.org*

Chairman – Bill Hurst  
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Treasurer – Danny Blundell  
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Assistant Auction Manager – Roy Barton  
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Secretary – Vacant  
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Editor - Mark Walters  
*editor@catfishstudygroup.org*

BAP Secretary – Brian Walsh  
*bapsecretary@catfishstudygroup.org*

Show Secretary – Brian Walsh  
*showsecretary@catfishstudygroup.org*

Assistant Show Secretary – Ann Blundell  

Website Manager – Allan James  
*webmaster@catfishstudygroup.org*

Floor Members – Tony Pickett, Colin Eveson, Adrian Taylor.

## Diary Dates 2012/13

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Meeting</th>
<th>Details</th>
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</table>
| November 18th    | Autumn Auction        | Derwent Hall.  
  Pre booking - David Barton 01942 248130         |
| December 9th     | Christmas Meeting     | Highfield Hall                                   |
| January 20th     | Annual General Meeting| Highfield Hall                                   |
| February 17th    | Spring Auction        | Derwent Hall                                     |
| March 15th/16th/17th | Annual Convention    | Kilhey Court Hotel                              |
| April 21st       | Meeting               | Highfield Hall                                   |
| May 19th         | Meeting               | Highfield Hall                                   |

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** – 2012 CSG Open Show Best in Show – Roy Blackburn’s *Microglanis iheringi*

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Publication of the Catfish Study Group Journal is proudly sponsored by Tetra
Another year, another successful CSG show and Auction. Congratulations to Roy Blackburn for his Best in Show exhibit at this years’ show, featured on the front cover of the journal. A full report with results and a gallery of images is included in this edition. I was pleased to gain Best Loricariid and a few other awards. Thanks to all those who were involved in organizing, judging, exhibiting, auctioneering and all the other jobs which often go unnoticed.

Danny Blundell has written his account of the Preston Aquarist Society Convention, which took place just after the CSG show. This is fast becoming an essential date in the diary with an impressive line-up of guest speakers and massive auction.

I’ve also reported on the highly successful Summer lecture with Anton Immink from Stirling University. The lecture was supported by a table-top sale with some great fish at bargain prices. The format is proving successful and will be included at other regular club meetings.

Steve Grant has compiled the most comprehensive account of the genus Lephthoplosternum, which includes the ‘dwarf hoplo’ L. pectorale, although as Steve’s article informs us, what we think we know as ‘pectorale’ might not be that fish! In addition to editing the journal this month, I’m also preparing to give a talk at the October CSG meeting on the challenges of breeding and raising catfish. I’ll try and include a summary of the talk in a future edition of Catchat.

Sometimes, the challenge of breeding is pretty straightforward, as I discovered when peering into a tank which houses a pair of Ancistrus sp. ‘Rio Paraguay’. I’d only picked up the wild pair a few months ago but was pleased to see lots of youngsters foraging on the tank bottom. I hadn’t even noticed the male guarding the eggs, let alone spawning. Sometimes it’s best to leave them to get on with it with minimum intervention.

Mark
In Memory of Alan Vaissiere

It is with a very heavy heart that I report the passing of Alan Vaissiere he will be sadly missed by a very large number of aquarist, not only for his like of a tipple or two and his ability to create many a lively debate about his beloved fishes. He will probably be remembered best for his ability to breed fishes, many of which were believed impossible to breed. Impossible to Alan only meant that it he hadn’t bred it yet.

To me besides being a good friend, he was the finest fish breeder I have ever met, and with more than a thousand recorded species to his name I would rank him as one of, if not the finest fish breeders in the world. Alan would happily pass on his knowledge to others in the hope that they in turn would perpetuate the breeding of, in many cases very rare fishes. His passion for fishes was with him right to the very end as those who attended the Preston Convention will attest

Alan, I will miss the discussions we have had over the odd pint or several and raise my glass to you.

Rest in peace my friend

Ian
CSG President

Alan Vaissiere receiving his lifetime award from Hans-Georg Evers
At the recent Preston Aquarist Societies annual convention Hans-Georg Evers presented Alan Vassiere with a Lifetime Achievements Award for his unequaled successes in fish breeding. The Award consisted of a carving by Brian Walsh of two Alan’s favorite pencil fish, and the assembled delegates were read a list of some of his greatest aquatic achievements.

Alan kept fish for 60 plus years, and has bred a very large number of different species, and was often the first in the country to do so. When the Federation of Northern Aquarist Societies introduced their Breeders Award Scheme Alan was the first to complete it, and when the Scheme was extended to cover many more difficult species he went on to score maximum points.

In recent years Alan had concentrated on Pencil Fishes, both keeping and breeding many species.

![Alan proudly showing his lifetime award](image)
Committee Positions

There are a number of committee positions that are up for re-election at the AGM to be held on 20th January 2013. These positions are:-

President - Position currently held by Ian Fuller who has given notice that he is willing to stand for another term.

Chairman - This position is open and currently has one nominee, Mr Adrian Taylor, proposed Mark Walters, seconded Brian Walsh.

Treasurer - Position currently held by Danny Blundell, who has given notice that he is willing to stand for another term.

Secretary - This position is currently open and needs to be filled.

Merchandise Officer - This position is open and needs to be filled.

If you would like to nominate any candidates for any of the above positions, please contact the Chairman at chairman@catfishstudygroup.org and submit your proposals.

Notices

Catfish Study Group Autumn Auction

Sunday 18 November 2012

Derwent Hall, George Street,
DARWEN Lancs BB3 0DQ

Normal entry rules apply
Any fish other than painted accepted
Name & Tel No on electrical goods
Suitable containers for livestock, etc.
[ If unsure of the rules ask when booking in ]

CSG Commission 15%

Booking in:
Auction Manager: Dave 01942 248130
Or from 11.00 on the day - Auction to start 13.00
Our Open Show this year on Sunday 16th September was held for the first time in our new venue at the Derwent Hall, Darwen. This hall had plenty of natural light for the judging which again proved a difficult task with the quality of fish and also the upturn in entries which amounted to 145 which was well up from last year.

Grabbing a few bargains

Corydoras: panda, weitzmani, trilineatus, paleatus, gossei, aeneus, virginiae, arcuatus, delphax, undulates, concolor, loxozonus, rabauti, nattereri, cruziensis, sterbai, reynoldsi, carlæ, aurofrenatus, orcesi, melini, eques, njsseni, longipinnis, hastatus, schwartzii, similis, habrosus, CW: 023, 021.08 C132; Aspidoras: taurus, spilotus; A sp. C052, A sp. C125 A sp. C35; Scleromystax: barbatus, lacerdai; S. sp. C112.; Brochis splendens

Loricariids: Sturisoma panamense, Ancistrus sp 3, Ancistrus sp.4, Hemiloricaria eigenmani, Panaque. Sp. L191, Dekeyseria sp. L052

Other Siluriformes: Synodontis nigriventris, Microglanis iheringi, Megalechis thoracatum, Synodontis brichardi, Agamyxis pectinifrons

Judges hard at work and the auction in full flow

The CSG Committee once again would like to thank all exhibitors for turning up on the day to show their fish. Thanks must also go to Show Secretary Brian Walsh, his assistant Ann Blundell and the Judges on the day for all their hard work, and the helpers in the canteen again did a sterling job keeping up the teas, coffees and the food flowing along.

Auction in full flow

The auction also went well and of course thanks must go to the CSG members who helped on the day and also our resident auctioneer Steve Spence for another excellent job. Amongst the usual dry goods, fish food, equipment and plants, the following catfish were offered for sale, most being sold for at least their reserves:

Plants and equipment were also on offer

Special mention must be made of course to the sponsors of our show, which you can see below each class, which meant we did not have to charge for fish entries. Remember it is only £10 to sponsor a class for next year’s show.
# CSG Open Show 2012

## Results

### ASPIDORAS

<table>
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<th>Place</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Club</th>
<th>Species</th>
<th>Score</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Colin Eveson</td>
<td>CSG</td>
<td>Aspidoras pauciradiatus</td>
<td>82</td>
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<td>2</td>
<td>Mike Kirkham</td>
<td>CSG</td>
<td>Aspidoras fuscoguttatus</td>
<td>81</td>
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<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>John Hetherington</td>
<td>CSG</td>
<td>Aspidoras fuscoguttatus</td>
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**Sponsor:** Mike Kirkham - CSG Member

### BROCHIS

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<td>Mike Kirkham</td>
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<td>Brochis splendens</td>
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<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>D &amp; L Speed</td>
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<td>Brochis splendens</td>
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<td>3</td>
<td>Mike Kirkham</td>
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<td>Brochis splendens</td>
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**Sponsor:** Mike Kirkham - CSG Member

### CORYDORAS “A” up to 55mm SL (F)

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<tr>
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<td>Corydoras napoensis</td>
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<td>Mark Walters</td>
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<td>Corydoras diphyes</td>
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<td>DJAY</td>
<td>DJAY AS</td>
<td>Corydoras kanei</td>
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**Sponsor:** Ian Fuller – Corydorasworld.com

### CORYDORAS “B” over 55mm SL

<table>
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<td>DJAY AS</td>
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**Sponsor:** Ian Fuller – Corydorasworld.com

### CORYDORAS TYPES C & CW Nos/Unid.

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**Sponsor:** Ian Fuller – Corydorasworld.com

### SCLEROMYSTAX

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**Sponsor:** Ian Fuller – Corydorasworld.com

### AOV CALLICHTHYIDAE

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<td>Callichthys callichthys</td>
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<td>DJAY</td>
<td>DJAY AS</td>
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**Sponsor:** Mike Kirkham - CSG Member

### ASPREDINIDAE

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<td>A &amp; C White</td>
<td>Alden</td>
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<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Roy Blackburn Castleford</td>
<td>Microglanis iheringi</td>
</tr>
<tr>
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<td>Microglanis iheringi</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Mark Walters CSG</td>
<td>Imparfinis minutis</td>
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Sponsor: Roy Barton – CSG Auction Manager

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<td>Pimelodus tetyzamorus</td>
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<td>Pimelodus sp</td>
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<td>Batrochoglanis acanthoroides</td>
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Sponsor: Dave Barton – CSG Auction Manager

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Sponsor: Dave Barton – CSG Auction Manager

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<th>21</th>
<th>AOV CATFISH – S AMERICAN</th>
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<tr>
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<td>Ituglanis metae</td>
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<td>1</td>
<td>Mike Kirkham CSG</td>
<td>Lophiobagrus cylurus</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>DJAY DJAY AS</td>
<td>A. macrostoma</td>
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Sponsor: In memory of Terry Ward

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<th>23</th>
<th>AOV CATFISH – ASIAN</th>
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<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>D &amp; L Speed CSG</td>
<td>Akysis prashadi</td>
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<td>2</td>
<td>Roy Blackburn Castleford</td>
<td>Erethistodes pusillus</td>
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<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Roy Blackburn Castleford</td>
<td>Akysis prashadi</td>
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Sponsor: Adrian Taylor – Asiancatfish.com

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<th>24</th>
<th>PAIRS – CORYDORADINAE</th>
<th>ENTRIES 5</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Mike Kirkham CSG</td>
<td>Corydoras pulcher</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Steve Grant Castleford</td>
<td>C140</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>John Hetherington CSG</td>
<td>Corydoras seussi</td>
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Sponsor: Midland Waterlife

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>25</th>
<th>PAIRS – LORICARIIDAE inc L&amp;LDA Nos</th>
<th>ENTRIES 2</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Roy Blackburn Castleford</td>
<td>Peckolita brevis</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Mark Walters CSG</td>
<td>Peckolita sp. L038</td>
</tr>
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Sponsor: Midland Waterlife

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<tr>
<th>26</th>
<th>PAIRS – AOV S AMERICAN</th>
<th>ENTRIES 3</th>
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<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Steve Grant Castleford</td>
<td>Bunocephalus amaurus</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Mike Kirkham CSG</td>
<td>Imparfinis minutis</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Mark Walters CSG</td>
<td>Centromochlus perugiae</td>
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Sponsor: Bob Barnes – CSG Membership Secretary

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<tr>
<th>27</th>
<th>PAIRS – AOV AFRICAN</th>
<th>ENTRIES 3</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Roy Blackburn Castleford</td>
<td>Mochokiella paynei</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Mark Walters CSG</td>
<td>Microsynodontis sp.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>DJAY DJAY AS</td>
<td>Synodontis batesii</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Sponsor: Bob Barnes – CSG Membership Secretary
28 | PAIRS – AOV ASIAN | ENTRIES 2
---|---|---
1 | Roy Blackburn | Castleford | Akysis prashadi | 83.5
2 | A & C White | Alden | Erethistoides infuscatus | 79

Sponsor:

29 | BREEDERS–CORYDORADINAE | ENTRIES 6
---|---|---
1 | Colin Eveson | CSG | Corydoras panda ‘white’ | 92
2 | Mark Walters | CSG | Corydoras ehrhardti | 91
3 | Adrian Taylor | CSG | CW021 | 87

Sponsor: Danny Blundell CSG Treasurer

30 | BREEDERS–LORICARIIDAE Inc L&LDA | ENTRIES 4
---|---|---
1 | A & C White | Alden | Loricaria simillima | 90
2 | Mark Walters | CSG | Panaqolus sp. LDA01 | 89
3 | A & C White | Alden | Loricaria simillima | 87

Sponsor: Mark Walters – CSG CatChat Editor

31 | BREEDERS – AOV S AMERICAN | ENTRIES 0
---|---|---

Sponsor: Allan White – CSG Member

32 | BREEDERS – AOV AFRICAN | ENTRIES 0
---|---|---

Sponsor: Allan White – CSG Member

33 | BREEDERS – AOV ASIAN | ENTRIES 0
---|---|---

34 | FAMILY CLASS – Pair & Breeders Team | ENTRIES 1
---|---|---
1 | Mark Walters | CSG | Peckoltia L038 | 164.5

35 | BREEDERS – MASTER CLASS | ENTRIES 1
---|---|---
1 | Mark Walters | CSG | 266

Ted Derrick Memorial Trophy

SPECIAL AWARD WINNERS

Best In Show - Committee Cup
Roy Blackburn | Castleford | Microglanis iheringi | Class 18

Best Corydoradinae - Yvonne Cank Memorial Trophy
DJAY | DJAY AS | Scleromystax kronei | Class 6

Best from Classes 7 to II - Masterstaff Cup
A&C White | Alden | Agamyxis pectinifrons | Class 11

Best Loricariidae - Masterstaff Trophy
Mark Walters | CSG | Peckoltia braueri | Class 12

Best Synodontis - L.M.B. Aquatics Shield
Mike Kirkham | CSG | Mochokiella Paynei | Class 16

Best Pimelodidae - S & PS Cup
Roy Blackburn | Castleford | Microglanis iheringi | Class 18
Best AOV Catfish - A.O.V. Catfish Cup

Mike Kirkham  CSG  Lophiobagrus cuyurus  Class 22

Best Pair - Clint Cup

Steve Grant  Castleford  Bunocephalus amaurus  Class 26

Best Breeders Team - Kings Carpets Trophy

Colin Eveson  CSG  Corydoras panda “White”  Class 29

Gallery of Show Fish

Synodontis angelicus – Image by Mark Walters

Leporacanthicus sp. L240 – Image by Mark Walters

Peckoltia sp. L202 – Image by Allan James

Scleromystax kronei – Image by Steven Grant

Crossoloricaria cephalaspis – Image by Steven Grant

Aspidoras pauciradiatus – Image by Steven Grant

Corydoras sp. CW024 – Image by Steven Grant

Corydoras haraldschulzei – Image by Steven Grant
Corydoras panda (white) – Image by Allan James

Mochokiella paynei – Image by Allan James

Pimeldous tetramerus – Image by Allan James

Bagroides melapterus – Image by Steven Grant

Agamyxis pectinifrons – Image by Mark Walters

Megalechis picta – Image by Steven Grant

Loricaria simillima – Image by Allan James

Megalechis picta – Image by Steven Grant

Mastilganis asopos – Image by Steven Grant

Parauchenoglanis ballayi – Image by Steven Grant

Amblydoras monitor – Image by Steven Grant

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Preston AS Convention 2012
Danny Blundell

Hot on the heels of the CSG Show, Preston Aquarist Society hosted their annual convention. Danny Blundell reports on another successful event.

On Sunday 23rd September, as a Preston member, I attended the 3rd Convention, whilst representing the CSG with its stand. The programme looked really interesting, with four talks, an auction and a two course lunch included in the £12 ticket.

When setting up a tank for a particular species it is important to research their requirements as Anabantoids range from South East Asia to Africa, with biotopes varying from black water swamp of pH 4, to fast flowing white water of pH 7.8.

Colin showed us photographs of many colourful species, and the spawning sequence for a mouth brooding species, with far more information than I can impart here.

Morten Ask – Collecting in Gabon

Morten is a Norwegian farmer with a passion for travelling the world collecting and photographing biotopes, fishes, animals and the local inhabitants.

Gabon is a small country on the Equator in West Africa with a stable government that protects its rainforest which covers 85% of the country. Travelling around by road is very safe, very hot, but slow, and waders have to be worn when in the rivers as bilharzia is prevalent.

Colin Dunlop - Anabantoids

Colin is a Consultant Ecologist, at present working on many projects, including the effects of wind turbines on bats and birds, and is passionate on all Anabantoids. He is also an active member of the Anabantid Association of Great Britain and the European Anabantid Club.

This is a diverse family of fishes varying in size from the smallest Parosphromenus sp at 20mm to Channa argus at 1000mm plus, which requires a licence to be kept in the UK.

Anabantoid is Greek ‘to travel up’ which refers to their ‘labyrinth organ’ which allows these fish to survive in oxygen deficient water.

Colin mainly keeps the smaller species, one specie per tank with no filtration, and a tight fitting lid specifically for the Betta species to prevent the fish from ‘carpet surfing’. It is also important to leave a warm air space above the water or the fish could drown.

We were shown the biotopes where they collected many Killifish species in shallow water with deep leaf litter and even deeper muddy substrate.
Some of the most successful collecting areas were where villagers have cleared a laundry area, bounded by copious Anubius plant species which house many species of Barbs and Mormoridae.

Following Morten’s talk we had a two course lunch. We were shown slides of some of the fish collected, including stunningly colourful large Cichlids, Tetras, Loricaridae, Corydoras, and Killies.

During these collecting trips there are opportunities to observe and photograph animals, birds, snakes, spiders and fish.

**Lifetime Achievements Award**

At this point in the proceedings Preston Aquarist Society presented Alan Vassiere with their Lifetime Achievements Award. The Award consisted of a carving by Brian Walsh of two Pencil fish, and the assembled delegates were read a list of his aquatic achievements.

Alan has kept fish for 60 plus years, and has bred a very large number of different species, and was often the first in the Country to do so.

When the Federation of Northern Aquarist Societies introduced their Breeders Award Scheme Alan was the first to complete it, and when the Scheme was extended to cover many more difficult species he went on to score maximum points.

Recently Alan has concentrated on the family of Pencil Fishes, both keeping and breeding many species.

**Around the world- Hans Georg-Evers**

Hans started this pictorial adventure in his basement fish room, Hamburg, Germany where he keeps and breeds many species of Loricaridae, Corydoras, Barbs, Tetras and Rainbows. He still has one Corydoras that he has kept for 27 years, but is past breeding age.

Filipe lives in Salinos, Uruguay and runs Agra Terra Eco Travel, the country has a population of 4 million, with 1.7 million living in the capital Montevideo. Uruguay has a vast number of rivers, with the majority of the country savannah, and with the only trees growing to 5 metres they form a dense ribbon alongside the rivers.

There are many area types that Filipe takes his clients to on collecting trips, and he showed slides of the following biotopes:- muddy ponds; sandbanks; rocky rivers; planted areas and beneath bridges. Each type of biotope requires different fishing techniques, such as seining, rod and line, hand nets, cast nets, and fish traps.
We travelled firstly to Mumbai, India where we met a lady fish breeder who has successfully continued the family business and still uses 60 year old metal framed tanks. Amongst the many spectacular fish was a stunning *Channa barca* snakehead which had a trade price of £1200.

We then visited Thailand and Indonesia where we were shown Mayu Aquarium, Jakarta, where the majority of the fish for Europe are bred. At present one of their largest exports are shrimps, producing 120,000 per month for the Japanese and German markets.

Next it was off to Hong Kong where we visited Tung Choi Street, which is a 500 metre long street of hundreds of aquarist shops, including plant only stores, with stunningly planted aqua-scapes. On the level above was a ‘Shrimp Studio’ where we saw many colourful varieties, some costing £1200 each. We also visited Wayne’s Discus, where you can visit the showroom, look at the available adult fish, select the Discus you would like, order them, and they would be bred to order.

Our final visit in Hong Kong was to ‘Tommy’s’ breeding facility where he breeds 5000 Piranha and 3000 Silver Dollars per month. The last visits were to New York City, Argentina, and Brazil.

A ‘Question and Answer’ session took place later in the evening, but unfortunately I was not there to report on it.

In conclusion the Convention committee can be proud of this event, as it ran smoothly, with four superb speakers, a good lunch and all for £12.

All images by Danny Blundell

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**Grand Auction**

The afternoon session was completed with the huge Raffle and the Auction run by Steve Spoencer.

In conclusion the Convention committee can be proud of this event, as it ran smoothly, with four superb speakers, a good lunch and all for £12.

All images by Danny Blundell

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**Catfish Study Group 33rd Annual Convention**

**The Venue**

The Kilhey Court Hotel
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United Kingdom

**The Speakers**

Dr Mark Sabaj Pérez
Dr Martin Taylor
Ingo Seidel
Julian Dignall
Mark Duffil
Neil Woodward

15th-16th-17th March 2013

Contact conventionmanager@catfishstudygroup.org for full details

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**CSG Convention 2013**

**What will it cost**

The basic Convention ticket is £25.00 for the two days if booked before the 31st January, after this date the price will be £35.00.

Day tickets are available at £15.00 for each of the two days, again if booked before the 31st January, after this date the price will be £20.00 per day. The ticket price also covers light refreshments (tea, coffee, caudial) during the morning and afternoon breaks.

Hotel rooms have been negotiated especially for the event and will cost £65.00 per person per night, this includes a buffet breakfast and a three course evening dinner.

Booking forma can be downloaded from our website at http://www.catfishstudygroup.org/core/convention_2013.htm or for further details contact convention manager@catfishstudygroup.org
Convention Sponsors

The Catfish Study Group would like to thank the following sponsors for their continued and most valued support.
**Lepthoplosternum** Reis, 1997 (Siluriformes: Callichthyidae)

Steven Grant

You would be forgiven for thinking that all the *Lepthoplosternum* we see in the UK hobby are *L. pectorale* (Boulenger 1895), based on what is said at auctions and in most publications. However, based on what I can see, *L. pectorale* isn’t commonly found in the UK.

This article briefly discusses the 4 species I found recently, and reproduces the key for identifying them from Reis and Kaefer (2005), because all the species are visually very similar.

**Genus identification**

First of all, what differentiates *Lepthoplosternum* from the similar *Hoplosternum* and *Megalechis* Reis, 1997? The following are only found in *Lepthoplosternum*: lower lip with deep medial notch and small, additional lateral notch, forming fleshy projections on each side (Figs. 1A, B) and a single unbranched ray preceding the branched ones on the anal fin (Reis, 1997).

**Lepthoplosternum ucamara** Reis & Kaefer, 2005

This species was described from a tributary of the Rio Pacaya, Rio Ucayali drainage, Loreto, Peru, but was found in the Japurá River mouth, Brazil.

Based on my limited recent checks it looks like this is the species most readily available in the hobby, and I suppose the fact that this species is within easy reach of Iquitos may be the reason for this.

**L. ucamara**

Originally described from Monte Sociedad, Chaco Dept., Paraguay; distributed in the Paraguay River basin in Paraguay, Argentina and Brazil.

Because of the distribution listed above, I think this is less likely to be seen on a regular basis that *L. ucamara*, despite the claims that almost every *Lepthoplosternum* we see is this species.
One appears to key out to *L. pectorale*, the other I’m not sure as it seems to have two unbranched dorsal rays.

*Leptoplosternum altamazonicum*  
Reis, 1997

Described from Río Ucayali, Pucallpa, Peru, but distributed Upper Amazon River basin, Brazil and Peru.

Despite being from an area collected in for the aquarium trade, this species only appears to make it into the hobby on a few occasions.

Having said that, it does sometimes find its way into the hobby and in 2012 Aquarium Glaser GmbH imported some from Paraguay.

Thanks to the kindness of Jan Wessel I was able to obtain 2 large specimens.

Neil Woodward of Pier Aquatics, Wigan got a single specimen sent as a by-catch and thanks to Neil I now have it. Obviously the key should be used to identify these very similar species but one tip for quickly identifying *L. altamazonicum* is the large/high dorsal fin.
This species can be found in the Jacui River drainage, southern Brazil. Because of where it originates it is rarely found in the hobby.

A tip for quickly identifying *L. tordilho* is the relatively high posterior portion of the body, around the adipose fin area.

### Identifying the species

Reproduced below is the key to identify species of this genus. The first thing to look at is the shape of the fleshy projections on the lower lip, then follow the key from there. Another important identifying factor is how many unbranched rays are in the dorsal fin.

#### KEY TO THE SPECIES OF *Leptoplosternum*  
(adapted from Reis & Kaefer, 2005)

1a. Lower lip with pointed, crenulate, triangular fleshy projections, lateral to the medial notch (Fig. 1A) ______________________ 2

1b. Lower lip with rounded fleshy projections lateral to the medial notch (Fig. 1B) ______________________ 3

2a. Caudal peduncle comparatively shallow (15.7–18.9% SL); body and fins light, covered with many small, dark brown dots ____________________________ *L. stellatum*  
(Middle Rio Amazonas in Tefe’ area)

2b. Caudal peduncle comparatively deep (19.3–23.8% SL); body and fins dark, with darker dots especially on fins ____________________________ *L. altamazonicum*  
(Upper and middle Rio Amazonas)

3a. Dorsal fin with one unbranched and seven branched rays; skin of belly and ventral portion of head with dark brown dots ____________________________ 4

3b. Dorsal fin with two unbranched and six branched rays (rarely i+7 or ii+7 in *L. tordilho*); skin of belly and ventral portion of head with or without dots ____________________________ 5

4a. Body comparatively wide (cleithral width (28.3–30.3% SL); maxillary barbel reaching lower series lateral plate 8–15; dorsal lateral series of plates 24–25 ____________________________ *L. beni*  
(Upper Rio Madeira basin)

4b. Body comparatively narrow (cleithral width 25.9–28.0% SL); maxillary barbel reaching lower series lateral plate 16–17; dorsal lateral series of plates 25–26 ____________________________ *L. pectorale*  
(Rio Paraguay basin)
Acknowledgements

Thanks to Roberto Reis for clarifying some issues for me. Neil Woodward, Jan Wessel, Andy and Vicky Littlewood for assistance in procuring fish. Mark Walters for allowing me to photograph his fish.

References

Dward Armoured catfish from Paraguay arrived!

Check list of the freshwater fishes of South and Central America. CLOFFSCA. 2003: i-xl + 1-729.

Ichthyological Exploration of Freshwaters v. 7 (no. 4): 299-326.

Reis, R. E. and C. C. Kaefer, 2005.
Two new species of the Neotropical catfish genus *Leptoplosternum* (Ostariophysi: Siluriformes: Callichthyidae).
Copeia 2005 (no. 4): 724-731.

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

All photos by Steven Grant, not to be used without permission

CSG Convention will take place on
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Send in your Articles!

If you’ve ever thought you had something to say about your fishkeeping experiences, or an achievement you were proud of, or some research you’ve done on a fish-shop find, share it with the rest of the Catfish Study Group through the pages of Catchat.

Any information or experience you have could be of real value to another aquarist looking for the correct food, spawning trigger or conditions to suit a certain species. It doesn’t matter if you don’t have good images to share; we have an extensive catalogue of photos at our disposal to illustrate an article.

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.

You will see from the range of articles routinely published there is a wide breadth of subjects to base an article around including: Breeding reports; Meet the member articles; New discoveries; Product reviews; Book reviews; Equipment articles, Fish house construction; Show reports; Fish-shop finds; Expedition write-ups; or for that matter, anything relating to furthering the study of catfish.

Send your submissions to the editor@catfishstudygroup.org and enjoy the reward of seeing your efforts featured in future editions.
On 19th August, the CSG welcomed Anton Immink to Darwen from Stirling University’s Department of Aquaculture (Scotland, U.K.). Anton is involved in the development and promotion of freshwater fish farming throughout the world, chiefly in African countries where the demand for food fish is great. The University has a long track-record of research and development of freshwater tropical fish culture with breeding stocks of Tilapia and other species.

Of the countries involved in catfish production, Vietnam was the largest by weight with the farming of Pangasius species providing the greatest contribution. Other Asian countries also farm huge numbers of Pangasius as well as other species, including hybrid Clarius.

Some quite remarkable statistics were presented, indicating that aquaculture was close to producing as much food by weight as wild fishery efforts. A closer examination of these figures shows that production of macro-algae is now a major contribution (used in food, animal feed and ingredients).

Of course, the biggest producers were the fastest developing nations with China streets ahead of the rest of the world. Their greatest production comes from farming cyprinids (carps, barbel and others).
It was the production of *Clarius* catfish that Anton was most involved with, especially in developing fisheries in African nations especially Uganda. Here, the production of food fish has really taken off in recent years, providing a significant contribution to the protein intake of local populations.

Much of Africa’s natural marine fish resources are harvested by Northern Hemisphere nations and don’t reach the table of local people. The reliance has always been on subsistence fishing from rapidly depleting lakes and rivers. The managed production of food fish has the potential to plug the gap as wild stocks diminish. What was surprising was the strong protection afforded endemic species, with strict regulation on the species of fish which can and can’t be farmed. This means only locally available species can be artificially produced, reducing the chance of introduction of non-native species.

**Clarius** species are widespread throughout Africa and provide a good subject for aquaculture. As an air-breathing species, they can tolerate relatively poor water quality at high stocking densities, they grow rapidly to a good size and have palatable flesh.

After hatching, the fry grow quickly and soon reach a marketable size of a kilo, fed largely on a vegetarian diet of locally made pellets. In the region of Uganda where Anton’s development has centred, there are existing fish production plants on the banks of the Lake Victoria, which have historically processed a Nile perch (*Lates niloticus*) fishery. As stocks of Nile perch have diminished, there is capacity to take on processing and distribution of *Clarius*.

Stirling University have gone further and in partnership with various other organisations (including the Dutch connection!) have embarked on the construction and development of a fish farm utilising many of the farming practices developed at the University. The farm is recruiting local expertise and will produce hundreds of tonnes of catfish each year.

The talk was a fascinating insight into how the catfish we love to keep in an aquarium are much more valuable a commodity in their native lands as an important source of protein.
**Bring and Buy**

Before the lecture started, members set up their stalls with home grown produce of their own.

Ian Fuller offering home bred Corydoras

Breeding pair of *Hypancistrus* sp L136a on offer at £30

Many rare and uncommon species were on offer including: *Corydoras njsenni, C. sterbai, C.sp CW08, CW09, CW010, CW049, Scleromystax. sp. C112, Hemiancistrus subviridis, Peckoltia sp. L038, Hemiloricaria sp., Synodontis nigriventris, Hypancistrus inspector, H.sp. L136a, H.sp. L260, H.sp. L340.*

There was also a range of non-catfish species, books and dry goods available.

Bags and bags of catfish!

More sales tables

Everyone who attended agreed it was a great success and thanked Anton for taking the time to attend our meeting. In addition to the great talk, I was pleased to sell most of the fish I had on offer and picked up some *Corydoras CW010 ‘gold lazer’s’* from Ian Fuller and a trio of *Hemiancistrus subviridis* (L200).

Corydoras sterbai, CW010, Scleromystax sp. C112

It would of course be great if even more members and other interested catfish keepers could attend future lectures and take advantage of the sales tables which are becoming a regular feature of club meetings.

All images by Mark Walters
Over the summer there have been some great imports of catfish from South America, including the following viewed at Pier Aquatics, Wigan, UK: *Brochis multiradiatus*, *Corydoras adolfoi*, *C. cochui*, *C. serratus*, *C. duplicareous*, *C. imitator*, *C. narcissus*, *Corydoras sp. CW062*, *Corydoras cf. evelynae*, *Corydoras nijsseni*, *Pseudacanthicus sp. L097*, *P. spinosus*, *Panagrolus sp. ‘red fin’*, *Spiniperus acsi*. 
BREEDERS AWARD PROGRAMME DISPLAY TANKS AT THE CONVENTION

As in previous Conventions, there will be ten B.A.P. tanks available for B.A.P. registered fish to be displayed along with details of the fish, maintenance and breeding conditions required. These will be set up prior to the Convention, with heated, filtered HMA water, which may be replaced by the exhibitor.

Allocation of tank space is via Brian Walsh, B.A.P. Administrator, prior to 6 March 2012.

SALE OF FISH AT THE CONVENTION

The CSG has purchased two 48x18x15h ins aquariums as per the B.A.P. Design, each divided into four separate tanks of approximately 12x15x12h ins. These will be set up prior to the Convention as the B.A.P. tanks.

Each tank may be hired for the weekend at a cost of £10.00 - priority will be given to residential delegates staying for the duration as there are only eight available. The vendors will be responsible for the selling, catching, and bagging of their fish.

Allocation of tank space is via the BAP Secretary Brian Walsh prior to 6 March 2013.

Unless indicated otherwise, all images by Steven Grant
Three New Imported Corydoradinae Species

Ian Fuller

The three Corydoradinae species pictured below are believed to be new to the hobby, all three species were recently imported and kindly supplied by Pier Aquatics, Wigan.

The two Corydoras species were collected in the Rio Tapichie a tributary of the Rio Ucayali, which is an area of Peru south west of Iquitos. These are very interesting discoveries. Being so close to Iquitos just proves that you don’t have to make expeditions into unchartered areas to fine new species.

The collection area for the Brochis species at this time is unknown, but is believed to be from southeast Colombia. The species is similar looking to B. multiradiatus, having a similar number of dorsal rays, but the snout shape differs in being almost straight and the depth of the head is greater.

To be more involved in the groups activities there is the forum on the web site at Catfishstudygroup.org where you can communicate with other members.

Or there is our Face Book page at http://www.facebook.com/groups/210148032410074/?fref=ts where you can also communicate with other members to discuss your favourite fish and find out all the latest news.
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