

CATCHAT

THE JOURNAL OF THE CATFISH STUDY GROUP



CSG Annual Open Show and Auction

Brachyrhamdia thayeria

Summer Lectures

Preston AS Annual Convention

What's New

The Latest Corydoradinae 'CW' Numbers

PlanetXingu

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Diary Dates - 2013/14

Date	Meeting	Details
November 17 th	Autumn Auction	Derwent Hall
December 10 th	Christmas meeting	Darwen Valley Community Centre
January 19 th	Annual General Meeting	Darwen Valley Community Centre
February 16 th	Spring Auction	Derwent Hall
March 14 th /15 th /16 th	Annual Convention	Kilhey Court Hotel
April 27 th	Discussion on filtration	Darwen Valley Community Centre
May 18 th	Discussion on Catfish breeding	Darwen Valley Community Centre
June 8 th	Summer lectures and Sales Meet	Derwent Hall
July and August	NO MEETINGS	—————
September 21 st	Annual Open Show and Auction	Derwent Hall
October 19 th	Discussion on ‘L’ numbers	Darwen Valley Community Centre
November 16 th	Autumn auction	Derwent Hall
December 14 th	Christmas meeting	Darwen Valley Community Centre

Monthly meetings are held on the third Sunday of each month except for the December meeting, which takes place on the second Sunday. Meetings start at 1.00 pm and are held at the

Darwen Valley Community Centre, Sudellside Street, Darwen, Lan’s BB3 3DL

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 – CSG Open Show 2013. *Scleromystax* C113.
Best Corydoradinae owned by Jamie Horne. Image by Steve Grant

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Editorial

The latest edition of CatChat focusses on the hugely successful annual Open Show and Auction, held on the 15th September at the Derwent Hall in Darwen. The accommodation provides an excellent venue for the show, with plenty of space for the exhibits and for the auction to flow alongside without interruption. The room is really well lit has plenty of seating an excellent catering facilities. There were plenty of exhibits on the bench and lots of auction entries. Thanks to all those who took part.

Without wanting to sound my own trumpet, I was particularly pleased with my first ever Best in Show and a total of seven first places, seven seconds a six thirds – certainly my best day out in 30 years of showing fish. There is a full report on the event, with plenty of fantastic images and a listing of all the placings.

I was especially pleased to see so many breeders teams exhibited, especially the Loricarid class. This included the winning breeders team by Colin Eveson. Judge Brian Walsh commented that this was the best breeders team he had seen benched for over 20 years.



Best breeders team of *Peckoltia compta*

The disadvantage of going on a family holiday is missing CSG events, and this year I'd already booked my families flights before the Summer Lectures were arranged. It meant I missed out on great talks from Steve Bishop and Michael Hardman. Ian Fuller has written an article on the lectures and the table-top sales that accompanied the event.

Danny Blundell attended the annual Preston Aquarist Society Convention, witnessing lectures from renowned international professional and amateur aquarists. Danny has written up his experience.

In addition to the usual feature on new descriptions, Steve Grant has presented an article on a new member of the genus *Brachyrhamdia*, a group of Heptapterid catfish which have a habit of mimicking other species. This follows a definitive guide to the genus presented in CatChat by Steve in 2010.

The trouble with the welcome flow of new descriptions and non-described new species is keeping up to speed with their introduction into the hobby. Ian Fuller introduced an invaluable classification system over 5 years ago, enabling us to identify the steady stream of new Corydoradinae entering the hobby. The supplement to his identification book presented the first tranche of 'CW' numbers, and Ian has given permission for the CSG to publish subsequent CW numbered Corydoradinae through CatChat. Here we present images of 6 newly introduced species.

It was with regret to hear the announcement that our Chairman, Adrian Taylor, would be standing down from his committee position due to ill health. Adrian has served in numerous committee positions over the years and has made a fantastic contribution to the club. We wish Adrian a steady recovery and hope he can play a part in the CSG in the future. Into the breach steps our vice-chairman Danny Blundell.

With the position of Chairman now open, along with the 3-yearly re-election for other committee posts, January's Annual General Meeting will be an important event for all members to attend and have their say. If you would like to be considered for a post, please contact Danny through the CSG website contacts.

And Finally, Julian Dignall, owner of Planet Catfish, has written an article describing the initiative to support scientific study of the Rio Xingu, one of the largest Amazonian tributaries home to many catfish found nowhere else on the planet and threatened by many factors including a massive hydro electric dam project at Belo Monte. Jools is raising awareness and seeking funding to support some of the most eminent ichthyologists to document this unique habitat and record the fauna before its too late. Please take the time to consider making a donation, no matter how small, to enable as comprehensive a study as is possible. The output of this work could prevent other environmental disasters in the future. I hope we can present updates to the work in future editions of Catchat.

Mark

From The Chair



Since the last edition of CatChat our Chairman Adrian Taylor has resigned the post due to ill health. Adrian has lived with heart problems for many years for which he has recently undergone an operation from which he is now recuperating, and has been instructed to avoid all stress. We wish him a speedy and successful recovery, and hope to see him at future Catfish Events.

As the long standing Vice Chairman it falls to me to take over the Chairman's duties until a new Chairman can be voted in at an Extra-ordinary General Meeting which will be convened immediately following the Annual General Meeting in January.

As usual the Open Show in September was a great success, with many unusual species of catfish on the bench, and so many 'breeders teams' on show.

For those members that made the October meeting, they were entertained with a talk on 'Catfish Mouths', given by Brian Walsh and Ian Fuller. Their photographs illustrated the many types of mouth construction and variety of teeth, and hence their favoured foods and the methods of obtaining it. The illustrations were enhanced by the inclusion of Electron microscope pictures courtesy of Dr. David Price.

The talk concluded with a request for more photographs, and observations of members' catfish and their dietary habits as this talk is a collaboration of several CSG members.

The most important date for your 2014 year planner is our March Convention, which will be held as usual at the prestigious McDonalds, Kilhey Court Hotel. I have included an advert, an order form and the 'Three Course Dinner' menus with this 'post out'. For those members who do not like postal orders, cheques or cash, please go to our website, reserve a place and pay by Paypal.

The 2014 logo is the Red Tail Catfish – *Practocephalus hemiliopterus*. Pictured above is the brooch that can be purchased for the princely sum of £2.50.

For those members who can make the December meeting, on Sunday the 8th, we will be providing a Christmas buffet, raffle and a light hearted catfish related talk.

I wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a successful catfish New Year.

Danny Blundell
Vice Chairman & Treasurer

Catfish Study Group 35th Annual Convention



The Venue

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



The Speakers

Hans-Georg Evers
Barbie Fiorentino
Brian Perkins
Haakon Haagensen
Mark Duffill
Allan James

14th-15th-16th March 2014

Contact conventionmanager@catfishstudygroup.org for full details

**A new species of *Brachyrhamdia* Myers, 1927
(Siluriformes: Heptapteridae)
Steven Grant**



Brachyrhamdia thayeria – a newly described mimic catfish of the family Heptapteridae



A well-conditioned specimen of *B. thayeria*, closely resembling some species of *Corydoras* catfish

In October 2009 Steve McAlear imported some undescribed species of *Brachyrhamdia* to the UK that he had caught in Colombia. The species appeared to mimic what is known in the hobby as *Corydoras arcuatus* Elwin 1938. The species had actually been first brought to my attention in 2006 when it was included in a book on fishes of Leticia in Colombia (Galvis et al, 2006, p281-282, 492).

It was given the name sp. 1 in the hobby, but from correspondence with one of the describers I was aware in 2009 that it was in the process of being described to science (Grant, 2010). The species has now been described as *Brachyrhamdia thayeria* Slobodian & Bockmann 2013.

The type specimens are from the Rio Japurá, a left margin tributary of the Rio Solimões, Amazonas basin, Brazil.

However, we know from Galvis et al (2006) and McAlear that it is also present in the Amazon River and tributaries in Colombia. Early in 2009 I had also seen it on the website of a now defunct Peruvian exporter, so it is probably found in Peruvian Amazon waters too.

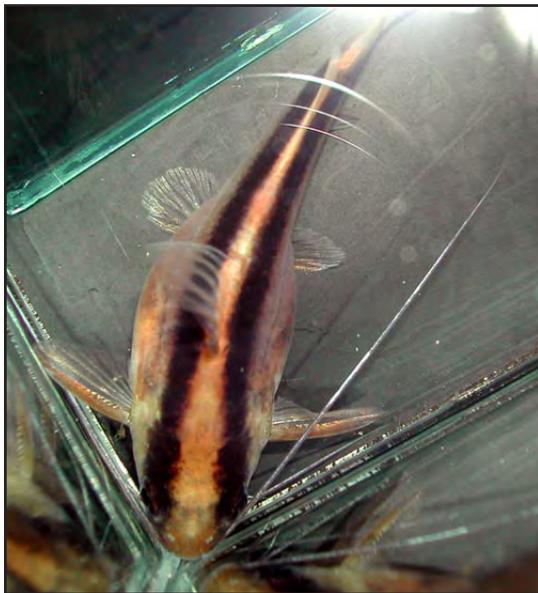
The species has been named after the characin genus *Thayeria* Eigenmann, 1908 (Penguin Tetras) with which it shares a similar dark stripe on the caudal peduncle and also in honour of the philanthropist Nathaniel Thayer Jr.

Slobodian & Bockmann's description also discusses the form of mimicry involved. Their conclusion is that it is Müllerian mimicry: "In Batesian mimicry, the mimic imitates the warning signals of the model but does not have the attributes that make it unprofitable (i.e., only the mimic benefits).



Penguin tetra, of the genus *Thayeria*

In Müllerian mimicry, the mimic also imitates the warning signals of the model, but both have anti-predation attributes, setting a mutual benefit to the interaction (Remington, 1963; Wickler, 1968; Mallet & Joron, 1999).



Dorsal view of *Brachyrhamdia thayeria*

Although only *Corydoras* has body armor, both *Brachyrhamdia* and *Corydoras* are equipped with the defensive tripod. Therefore, the association between those taxa best fits the category of Müllerian mimicry."

Aquarists played a small part in the paper as one of the authors requested assistance from me in obtaining an article from 1980s aquarium literature on the mimicry of this genus. Thanks to Jamie Horne of Sheaf Valley Aquarist Society this was provided.

I understand that Steve McAlear has recently brought some specimens into the UK again so hopefully you will be seeing them exhibited at either the Castleford Catfish Show on 13 July 2014 or the CSGs show on 14 September 2014.

References

- Galvis, G., et al, 2006.
Peces del medio Amazonas – Region de Leticia.
Conservacion Internacional, Colombia. 548 p.
- Grant, S., 2010.
Brachyrhamdia Myers, 1927 (Siluriformes: Heptapteridae).
Cat Chat – The Journal of the Catfish Study Group
Vol. 11 (2), pp. 4-15.
- Slobodian, V. & F. A. Bockmann, 2013.
A new *Brachyrhamdia* (Siluriformes: Heptapteridae) from Rio Japurá basin, Brazil, with comments on its phylogenetic affinities, biogeography and mimicry in the genus.
Zootaxa, 3717(1), pp 1-22.



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Catfish Study Group Annual Open Show and Auction

Mark Walters

Getting up at 5am on a Sunday morning is a rare occasion in my house, but needs must when there are 21 show tanks and over 50 bags of auction fish to prepare. After 3 hours of bagging up, tanking up and mopping up, my son and I packed up the car and headed towards Lancashire, meeting up on route with our Castleford Aquarist Society friends to share car space and petrol costs!



Attendees gathering

The extra early start meant we could squeeze in a visit to Pier Aquatics on the way, which still meant we got to the show venue by 1130am, with time to spare to get our show tanks polished and benched.

This was the largest number of tanks I had benched at a show, but the large number of classes meant I could spread my catfish collection over 19 possible classes. My eldest son George also benched one of his fish, a miniature Doradid, *Physopyxis lyra*.



Benching fish

The legions of club members and friends helping to run the event was pretty amazing with canteen staff, auction team and runners, judges, raffle ticket sellers, cashiers, show team and too many others to mention. The prizes on offer for raffle and show success were impressive and each entrant received a goody bag of fish food.



Prize draw salesman Ray Blackburn



Raffle prizes

The auction kicked off shortly after 1pm and proceeded at a pace, working through over 15 lots. It amazes me that more people don't take advantage of the ridiculously low prices some of the fish go for, considering how willing they are to travel hundreds of miles to get the same fish from shops for 5 times the price.



Auction underway

Some examples at the auction were *Hypancistrus* L004 and L102 for £3.50 each, L260 unsold at £12, Peckoltia L211 unsold at £8 each, L400 unsold at £10, Breeding pairs of whiptails and *Sturisoma* for a tenner, *Corydoras gossei* for £2 each. A full list of fish on offer is given below:

Coydoradinae: *Brochis splendens* *Corydoras boesmani*, *C. carlae*, *C. concolor*, *C. duplicareous*, *C. fowleri*, *C. gossei*, *C. longipinnis*, *C. loretoensis*, *C. paleatus* 'black', *C. panda* 'white', *C. pygmaeus*, *C. similis*, *C. sterbai*, *C. trilineatus*, *C. virginiae*, *C. zygatus*. 'schultzei black', C96, C115, *Aspidoras* sp C125 'gold', *Corydoras* sp'green lazer' CW009, CW010, CW024, CW051, CW052,

Loricariidae: L002, L102, L183, L211, L239, L260, L400, *Ancistrus* sp.3 'albino', 'red', 'calico', *Ancistrus* sp.4,

Loricariinae: *Farlowella gracilis*, *Hemiloricaria eigenmani*, *Rhineloricaria lanceolata*, *Sturisoma panamense*.

Other Catfish: *Amblydoras nauticus*, *Centromochlus perugiae*, *Megalechis thoracatum*, *Microsynodontis polli*, *Trachelyichthys exilis*.

I picked up 4 nice *Trachelyichthys exilis* woodcats and some 'super red' *Ancistrus*, to add to the group of *Ancistrus claro* I swapped for some *Ancistrus* Rio Paraguay with fellow fishkeeper Colin Eveson.



Trachelyichthys exilis – Steve Grant

After the auction, attention turned again to the show, as the results started coming in. I was pleased to win a few classes and just as pleased with a few other placings.



Ann Blundell preparing the show awards

With baited breath we awaited the news of the Best in Show and I was over the moon to hear my male *Leporacanthicus* L240 was awarded the prize. I picked up a pair of the fish from Pier Aquatics 18 months ago and they have their own 100 gallon tank in which to grow and hopefully one day breed. The female is an equally good looking fish but she usually has a few torn fins from the attention of the male!



Leporacanthicus L240 – Steve Grant

After all judging was complete, there was an opportunity to take pictures of the show fish before debenching and the awards of prizes and trophies. We finally left Darwen shortly after 6pm, and after a 2 hour drive and another hour returning fish to their tanks breathed a satisfied sigh after an extremely enjoyable day.

Images by Mark Walters unless indicated

OPEN SHOW RESULTS

1	ASPIDORAS		ENTRIES 4	
1	John Hetherington	CSG	<i>Aspidoras taurus</i>	83
2	Colin Eveson	CSG	<i>Aspidoras pauciradiatus</i>	81
3	D-Jay	CSG	<i>Aspidoras depinnai</i>	80
Sponsor: Mike Kirkham - CSG Member				

2	BROCHIS		ENTRIES 3	
1	D-Jay	CSG	<i>Brochis multiradiatus</i>	82.5
2	Mike Kirkham	CSG	<i>Brochis splendens</i>	82
3	Mike Kirkham	CSG	<i>Brochis splendens</i>	81.5
Sponsor: Mike Kirkham - CSG Member				

3	CORYDORAS "A" up to 55mm SL[F]		ENTRIES 6	
1	D & L Speed	CSG	<i>Corydoras napoensis</i>	87.5
2	Mark Walters	CSG	<i>Corydoras gracilis</i>	84.5
3	Bernard O'Neill	CSG	<i>Corydoras diphyses</i>	81.5
Sponsor: Ian Fuller – Corydorasworld.com				

4	CORYDORAS "B" over 55mm SL		ENTRIES 6	
1	D-Jay	Djay AS	<i>Corydoras leopardus</i>	88.5
2	Mike Kirkham	CSG	<i>Corydoras geryi</i>	88
3	Mark Walters	CSG	<i>Corydoras longipinnis</i>	86
Sponsor: Ian Fuller – Corydorasworld.com				

5	CORYDORAS TYPES C & CW Nos/Unid.		ENTRIES 8	
1	D-Jay	Djay AS	C113	90
2	Mark Walters	CSG	CW024	86
3	D-Jay	Djay AS	CW010	85.5
Sponsor: Ian Fuller – Corydorasworld.com				

6	SCLEROMYSTAX		ENTRIES 2	
1	John Hetherington	CSG	<i>Scleromystax lacerdai</i>	84.5
2	Mark Walters	CSG	<i>Scleromystax lacerdai</i>	82.5
Sponsor: Ian Fuller – Corydorasworld.com				

7	AOV CALLICHTHYIDAE		ENTRIES 2	
1	Steve Grant	CSG	<i>Lepthoplosternum pectorale</i>	85
2	Mike Kirkham	CSG	<i>Lepthoplosternum pectorale</i>	83
Sponsor: Mike Kirkham - CSG Member				

8	ASPREDINIDAE		ENTRIES 2	
1	Steve Grant	CSG	<i>Bunocephalus amaurus</i>	85
2	Steve Grant	CSG	<i>Bunocephalus verrucosus</i>	81.5
Sponsor: Midland Waterlife				

9	AUCHENIPTERIDAE		ENTRIES 4	
1	Mark Walters	CSG	<i>Centromochlus perugiae</i>	84.5
2	Roy Blackburn	Castleford	<i>Auchenipterichthys coracoides</i>	79
3	Bernard O'Neill	CSG	<i>Species not recorded</i>	78.5
Sponsor: Mike Kirkham – CSG Member				

10	BAGRIDAE		ENTRIES 5	
1	Mike Kirkham	CSG	<i>Pseudomystus poecilopterus</i>	87.5
2	Mike Kirkham	CSG	<i>Pseudomystus siamensis</i>	86.5
3	Danny Blundell	CSG	<i>Mystus pulcher</i>	86
Sponsor: Midland Waterlife				

11	DORADIDAE		ENTRIES 4	
1	Roy Blackburn	Castleford	<i>Agamyxis pectinifrons</i>	88
2	Steve Grant	CSG	<i>Nemadoras humeralis</i>	86
3	Steve Grant	CSG	<i>Hypodoras forficulatus</i>	85
Sponsor: Brian Walsh – g.b.w@live.co.uk				

12	LORICARIIDAE up to 130mm		ENTRIES 3	
1	Mark Walters	CSG	<i>Peckoltia braueri</i>	86
2	D & L Speed	CSG	<i>Peckoltia oligospila</i>	85
3	Mark Walters	CSG	<i>Oxyropsis acutirosta</i>	84.5
Sponsor: Julian Dignall – PlanetCatfish.com				

13	LORICARIIDAE over 130mm		ENTRIES 3	
1	D & L Speed	CSG	<i>Pseudacanthicus spinosus</i>	87
2	D & L Speed	CSG	<i>Hemiancistrus sabaj</i>	85
3	Mike Kirkham	CSG	<i>Farlowella sp.</i>	83
Sponsor: Julian Dignall – PlanetCatfish.com				

14	LORICARIIDAE L&LDA Nos up to 130mm		ENTRIES 2	
1	Mark Walters	CSG	<i>Peckoltia sp. L202</i>	85
2	D & L Speed	CSG	<i>Peckoltia sp. L163</i>	82
Sponsor: Julian Dignall – PlanetCatfish.com				

15	LORICARIIDAE L&LDA Nos over 130mm		ENTRIES 2	
1	Mark Walters	CSG	<i>Leporacanthicus sp. L240</i>	88
2	Bernard O'Neill	CSG	<i>Ancistrus sp.</i>	81
Sponsor: Julian Dignall – PlanetCatfish.com				

16	MOCHOKIDAE up to 130mm		ENTRIES 5	
1	Mike Kirkham	CSG	<i>Mochokiella paynei</i>	89
2	Danny Blundell	CSG	<i>Microsynodontis sp.</i>	87
3	D-Jay	Djay AS	<i>Microsynodontis polli</i>	86
Sponsor: Allan James – scotcat.com				

17	MOCHOKIDAE over 130mm		ENTRIES 0	
Sponsor: Allan James – scotcat.com				

18	PIMELODIDAE up to 100mm		ENTRIES 4	
1	Roy Blackburn	Castleford	<i>Microglanis iheringi</i>	92
2	Colin Eveson	CSG	<i>Brachyrhamdia imitator</i>	91
3	Roy Blackburn	Castleford	<i>Microglanis iheringi</i>	90
Sponsor: Roy Barton – CSG Auction Manager				

19	PIMELODIDAE over 100mm		ENTRIES 3	
1	Bradley Nortcliffe	SVAS	<i>Batrochoglanis raninus</i>	82
2	Alan Nortcliffe	SVAS	<i>Batrochoglanis raninus</i>	79
3	Mike Kirkham	CSG	<i>Batrochoglanis sp.</i>	76
Sponsor: Dave Barton – CSG Auction Manager				

20	COLDWATER CATFISH		ENTRIES 1	
1	Mike Kirkham	CSG	<i>Noturus insignis</i>	79
Sponsor: Jamie Horne – CSG Member				

21	AOV CATFISH – S AMERICAN		ENTRIES 1	
1	Roy Blackburn	Castleford	<i>Ituglanis amazonicus</i>	82
Sponsor: The Aquarium Gazette				

22	AOV CATFISH – AFRICAN		ENTRIES 2	
1	Mike Kirkham	CSG	<i>Phyllonemus typus</i>	81
2	Mike Kirkham	CSG	<i>Kryptopterus vitreolus</i>	74
Sponsor: Jamie Horne – CSG Member				

23	AOV CATFISH – ASIAN		ENTRIES 2	
1	Roy Blackburn	Castleford	<i>Akysis prashadi</i>	83
2	Bradley Nortcliffe	SVAS	<i>Hara jerdoni</i>	82
Sponsor: Adrian Taylor – Asiancatfish.com				

24	PAIRS – CORYDORADINAE		ENTRIES 7	
1	D & L Speed	CSG	<i>Corydoras napoensis</i>	87
2	Colin Eveson	CSG	<i>Corydoras boesmani</i>	84
3	Mark Walters	CSG	<i>Corydoras longipinnis</i>	83.5
Sponsor: Tropical Waters				

25	PAIRS – LORICARIIDAE inc L&LDA Nos		ENTRIES 3	
1	Mark Walters	CSG	<i>Hypancistrus</i> sp. L400	83
2	Roy Blackburn	Castleford	<i>Peckoltia brevis</i>	82
3	Colin Eveson	CSG	<i>Ancistrus claro</i>	81
Sponsor: Tropical Waters				

26	PAIRS – AOV S AMERICAN		ENTRIES 2	
1	Steve Grant	CSG	<i>Bunocephalus amaurus</i>	84
2	Mark Walters	CSG	<i>Centromochlus perugiae</i>	79
Sponsor: Brian Walsh – g.b.w@live.co.uk				

27	PAIRS – AOV AFRICAN		ENTRIES 3	
1	D-Jay	Djay AS	<i>Synodontis batesii</i>	82
2	Roy Blackburn	Castleford	<i>Mochokiella paynei</i>	80
3	Mark Walters	CSG	<i>Microsynodontis</i> sp.	78
Sponsor: Tropical Waters				

28	PAIRS – AOV ASIAN		ENTRIES 2	
1	Roy Blackburn	Castleford	<i>Akysis prashadi</i>	82
2	Mike Kirkham	CSG	<i>Imparfinis minutus</i>	81
Sponsor: Tropical Waters				

29	BREEDERS–CORYDORADINAE		ENTRIES 4	
1	Colin Eveson	CSG	<i>Corydoras boesmani</i>	84
2	Mark Walters	CSG	<i>Corydoras schultzi</i> [black]	83
3	Mark Walters	CSG	<i>Scleromystax kronei</i>	80
Sponsor: Reef & River, Morecambe LA4 5QH				

30	BREEDERS–LORICARIIDAE Inc L&LDA		ENTRIES 7	
1	Colin Eveson	CSG	<i>Peckoltia compta</i>	91
2	Mark Walters	CSG	<i>Hypancistrus</i> sp. L400	90
3	Danny Blundell	CSG	<i>Hypancistrus</i> sp. L260	89.5
Sponsor: Danny Blundell – CSG Treasurer				

31	BREEDERS – AOV S AMERICAN		ENTRIES 2	
1	Mark Walters	CSG	<i>Centromochlus perugiae</i>	87
2	Danny Blundell	CSG	<i>Megalechis thoracatum</i>	85
Sponsor: Mark Walters – Cat Chat Editor				

32	BREEDERS – AOV AFRICAN		ENTRIES 0	
Sponsor: In memory of Terry Ward				

33	BREEDERS – AOV ASIAN		ENTRIES 0	
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34	FAMILY CLASS – Pair & Breeders Team		ENTRIES 3	
1	Mark Walters	CSG	<i>Hypancistrus</i> sp. L400	173
2	Colin Eveson	CSG	<i>Corydoras boesmani</i>	168
3	Mark Walters	CSG	<i>Centromochlus perugiae</i>	166

35	BREEDERS – MASTER CLASS		ENTRIES 4	
1	Danny Blundell	CSG		263.5
2	Mark Walters	CSG		259
3	Colin Eveson	CSG		253
Ted Derrick Memorial Trophy				

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.

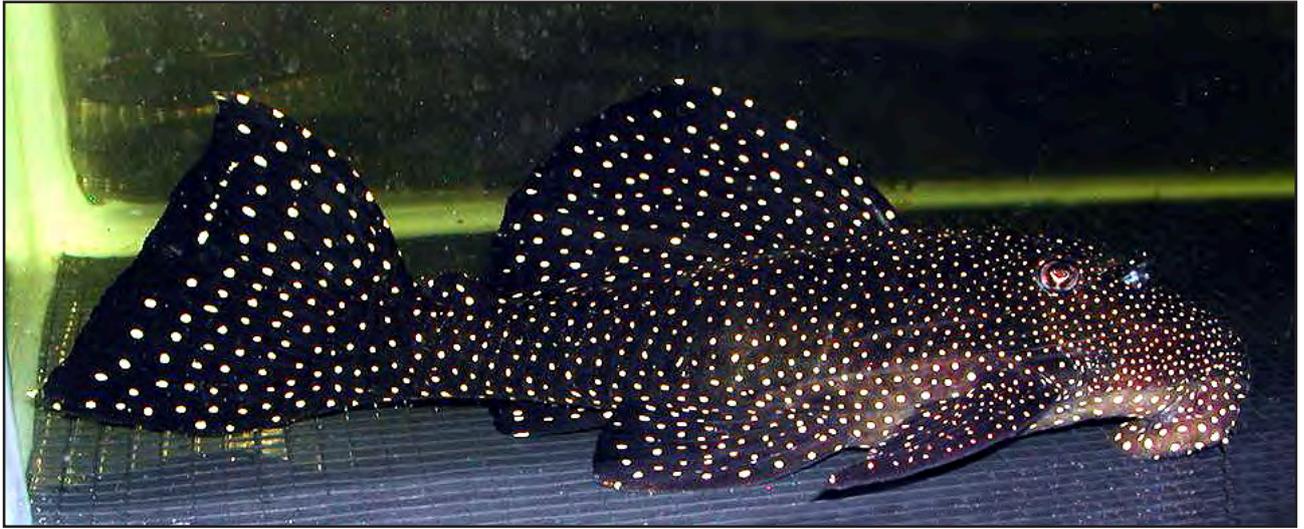
Sharing information will raise your profile in the catfish community and encourage more people to share their experiences and help you further with your efforts. In addition, you can use the material to support a Breeders Award Programme submission and enter into the annual award for the best breeding 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.

CSG Show - Gallery of Show Fish

Images by Steve Grant (unless indicated)



Best fish in Show – *Leporacanthicus* L240



Batrochoglanis raninus



Corydoras C116



Oxyropsis acutirosta



Corydoras C115



Microsynodontis polli



Hypancistrus L400



Phyllonemus typus



Brachyrhamdia imitator



Peckoltia compta (top breeders team)



Noturus insignis



Agamyxis pectinifrons



Lepthoplosternum amazonicum



Ancistrus claro



Bagroides malapterus



Scleromystax lacerdai female



Hypancistrus L400



Pseudacanthicus L160



Hypancistrus contradens



Mystus pulcher



Corydoras C090



Aspidoras C125 male



Megalechis species



Aspidoras C125 female



Corydoras sychri



Panaqolus LDA01- Mark Walters



Peckoltia L211 – Mark Walters



Corydoras longipinnis



CSG Show Special Winners 2013

Awards Presented by President Ian Fuller

Best Fish in Show – Sam Trophy



Mark Walters – Best Loricariidae and Best in Show *Leporacanthicus* L240

Best Corydoradinae Yvonne Cank Memorial Trophy



Jamie Horne – Best Corydoradinae
Scleromystax sp. C113

Best Pimelodidae S & P S Cup



Bradley Nortcliffe – Best Pimelodidae
Batrochoglanis *raninus*

Best Synodontis – L.M.B. Aquatics Shield



Mike Kirkham – Best Synodontis *Mochokiella* *paynei*

Best Pair – Clint Cup



Dave Speed – Best Pair *Corydoras* *napoensis*

Best from Classes 7-11
Masterstaff Cup and
Best AOV Catfish – A.O.V. Catfish Cup



Roy Blackburn – Best from Classes 7-11 *Agamyxis pectinifrons*. Best AOV *Akysis prashadi*

Master Breeder – Ted Derrick Award



Danny Blundell – Best Breeder award

Best Breeders Team
Kings Carpets Trophy



Colin Eveson – Best Breeders Team *Peckoltia compta*

Best Junior – B.A.S. Cup



George Walters – Best Junior *Physopyxis lyra*

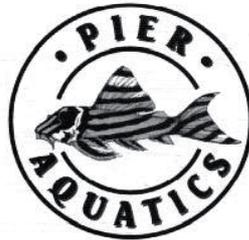
Show winning images by Mark Walters



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



CSG Summer Lecture & Sales Meet

Ian Fuller



The audience assembles

The CSG's August meeting was the second of its kind to be held by the group. Originally the format was to invite a top name speaker and hold a conventional auction. However, although this format works, the attendances were never really that high and financially the group would often just break even. So we decided to try a completely new idea in the form of a combined lecture and sales meeting.

Those members in the USA will know these events as 'Swap meets'. We decided to put our own twist on the idea and this year invited two top speakers, **Dr Michael Hardman** (Finland) talking on Corydoradinae reproductive biology and **Stephen Bishop** (UK) holding an open discussion on water quality/chemistry. The full format and conditions for this and future events are shown below.

Seller conditions

1. *Table rental = £15.00 (receives 1 draw ticket for seller draw (3 none aquatic items)).*
2. *Up to 2 people may rent a table and both must register when booking.*
3. *Anyone found to be selling goods on behalf of someone else that is in attendance, will be asked to leave.*
4. *Goods being offered for sale must be aquarium related.*
5. *All transactions are between buyer & seller only.*
6. *The CSG will not be responsible for any sales disputes.*

Buyers

1. *Door entry – £2.00 (receives 2 raffle tickets). (Vendors may also purchase a Door prize ticket if they wish).*
2. *Door prize – (3 Main prizes).*
3. *Main Raffle prize – (12 items)*
4. *Full Canteen facilities.*

Lectures

Lectures take place at - 1.30 & 3.30. To keep the expenditure at an affordable level the CSG will try to secure 1 UK based speaker and a second who may be invited from within the EU.

With ten vendors booking tables the day looked to be starting very well, unfortunately there were two that failed to show, which from the organisers point of view was a little disappointing.



Danny Blundell – sales table



HMF Filter demonstration by Ian Fuller



David and Carol Page – sales table

We also realised that August is right in the middle of the school holiday period and that this would undoubtedly have an effect on the general attendance numbers, which it did, however those that did attend, buyer and vendor alike reported having a very good day.

The big advantage we found with this type of meeting over a conventional auction meeting is that potential vendors have plenty of time to go on the CSG web site forum and CSG facebook page, (in addition to the many other aquatic social media sites) and advertise their wares; they also have several hours on the day to sell their goods.

Buyers also have the opportunity to negotiate and barter with the sellers to get the best deals.

The first of the day's speakers was Stephen Bishop, an expert on water quality who for many years worked for the Yorkshire Water Authority.

Rather than give a formal talk Stephen held a proactive session, taking question from the members and discussing many aspects of water quality and requirements to maintain healthy aquaria. This was an interesting format and proved very enlightening for a subject that can be very chemically orientated.

Following a short refreshment and sales break, our second speaker was Dr Michael Hardman.



Steve Bishop



Michael Hardman

Michael born in near-by Preston, but now residing in Finland, came over especially to give us a very interesting and in depth talk on the 'Reproductive Biology of Corydoradinae Catfish'.

In his talk Michael discussed many aspects of these popular aquarium fishes mating processes, including a very in depth discussion on their egg fertilization. In particular the following paper was discussed, which was published a few years ago:

'Sperm drinking by female catfishes: a novel mode of insemination. Masanori Kohda, Masayo Tanimura, Miyako Kikue-Nakamura & Satoshi Yamagishi of Animal Sociology, Department of Biology, Faculty of Science, Osaka City University, Osaka 558, Japan'

Michael then looked into the probabilities of sperm being able to survive being swallowed by the female, passing through the gut and then being released into the ventral fin pouch, showing us the three main possible methods in which the male's sperm could possibly successfully pass through a female's gut, i.e. a. Swimming, b. Squeezed (peristalsis), c. Pumped.



Spawning *Corydorassp.* C142

Michael showed us plausibility studies made for each possible method, with a & b being rejected as implausible and c. being inconclusive, but highly unlikely. After some very interesting discussion it was concluded that the sperm drinking theory was floored.

One or two members offered their own theories on how fertilization takes place, but it became obvious that there would need to be a more detailed study, perhaps a future PhD project, to find out what the actual fertilization process in *Corydoradinae* catfish is.

All in all the day proved to be a very successful and one that the group will certainly repeat in the future, but a little more research on the ideal date will be needed, so that we can maximise the attendance and that everyone taking part will get the maximum benefit.

All images by Ian Fuller

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Preston A.S Convention 2013

Danny Blundell



The Preston A.S. Convention Delegates

On Sunday 22 September approximately ninety five delegates attended Preston's Second Convention.

The first talk was on Rainbow Fishes given by Alex Carslaw and covered the many species from New Guinea and Australia.

Low light levels and,
Frequent water changes.

Rainbow Fishes are omnivorous, and thrive on Flake food, spinach, mussels, bloodworm, whiteworm and earthworms. For more information Alex has a website: www.rainbowfish.com.



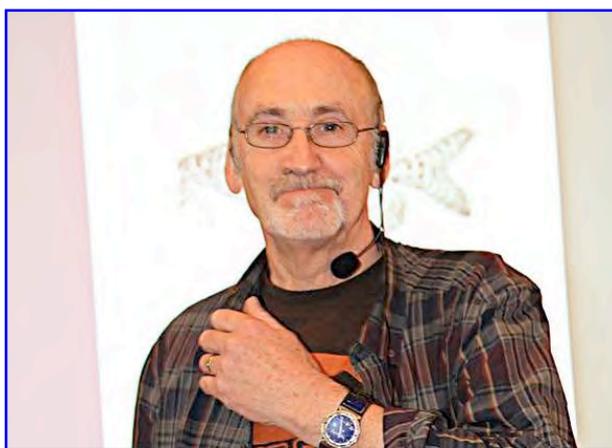
Alex Carslaw

His photographs illustrated the full range of these wonderfully coloured fishes which vary in size from 4cm to 15cm.

To get the best out of his Rainbow fishes, Alex provides them with:-

Dark background & substrate,

The morning session concluded with a talk on the 'Synodontis Catfishes of Africa' by Allan James of www.scotcat.com



Allan James

This vast family of 'Squeaker Cats' exceed 120 species, which vary in size from approximately 4 to 70cm.

With such a large number of species Allan could only describe a few and divided their habitat into five areas, which were :-

- River Nile
- East, Senegal etc.
- Central, Congo Basin

East, Lake species,
Chad and Nigeria.

To illustrate the different species he showed photographs of the whole fish, fins, barbels and humeral process, which help in identification.

To date only a few species have been spawned in captivity and those are the smaller more valuable ones that are commercially bred with the aid of hormone treatment. For the aquarist, some of the smaller Lake species will breed in the home aquarium, these include:-

S. multipunctatus
S. polli
S. petacola
S. lucipinnis.

We then had a two course lunch, which was included in the ticket price and played two games of Head & Tails for a Nano tank and Power filter.

The afternoon started with a talk on 'Danios & Devarios' given by Pete Cottle.



Peter Cottle

This large family of fishes spread over much of Asia, including India, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Myanmar, China, Thailand and Vietnam.

This family of fishes are happiest in small shoals, in a planted aquaria with plenty of swimming space. They tolerate a wide range of water conditions, but prefer clean clear flowing water with frequent water changes, with a temperature range of 20-22degC. The fish are omnivorous and will eat most foods.

Pete illustrated his talk with images of both stunning fish and biotopes.

For more information Pete has a website, www.danios.info

To conclude the talks Michael Niesar travelled from Norway to illustrate how to 'Plant Nano Tanks for Shrimps'.



Michael Niesar

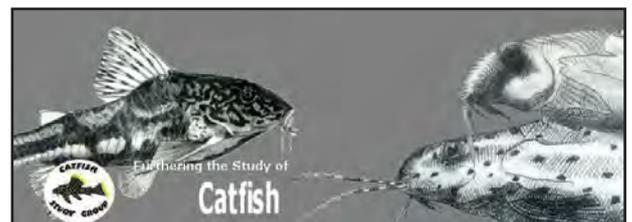
Michael said that keeping a planted 'Nano Tank' is easy, all you need is to provide and maintain the following conditions:-

Lighting	0.5watts per litre
Wavelength	6000-6500 degK
Temp	20-24degC
KH	3-10
GH	5-12
pH	6.5-7.0
Nitrate [Min]	5-10mg/l
Nitrate [Max]	30mg/l
Phosphate [Min]	0.1-0.5mg/l
Phosphate [Max]	1.0mg/l
Potassium	5-15mg/l
Carbon Dioxide	20mg/l
Trace Elements	Fe/Ca/Mg/Cu.

Michael went into great detail on tank maintenance, and how to overcome problem algae, and recommended some plant species he uses and their aquaculture. He concluded with photographs of his favourite shrimps, some of which retail at 3000 Euros, if you have deep enough pockets.

As in previous years, this part of the Convention concluded with the Raffle and Auction. This was a superb day and I really enjoyed the talks, the banter with old friends, and look forward to next year.

All images by Danny Blundell



What's New?

Mark Walters



Pseudolaguvia shawi - Steve Grant

I haven't paid too many shop visits recently to check out the latest catfish imports, although the Facebook forums have been as active as always with news of uncommon and desirable species.

In the last few months I've seen the following species available: *Brochis multiradiatus*, *Corydoras cf. armatus*, *Bagarius bagarius*, *Hemiodontichthys acipencerinus*, *Spatuloricaria* sp. 'Caqueta', *Chaca chaca*, *Callichthys callichthys*, *Sperator aor*, *Megalodoras uranoscopus*, *Lepthoplosternum* sp 'Peru', *Pseudolaguvia shawi* (pictured above)

Scientific Descriptions

New *Parotocinclus*

A new species of the Hypoptopomatine loricariid genus *Parotocinclus* is described based on material from the headwaters of the Rio Jequitinhonha, Minas Gerais State, eastern Brazil.

The new species has been named *Parotocinclus jequi* and is distinguished from all congeners, except *P. prata* and *P. robustus*, by the absence of abdominal plates between the pectoral girdle and the anus. It differs from *P. prata* and *P. robustus* by having a smaller cleithral width (16.7–20.7 vs. 20.8–27.6% SL in *P. prata* and 25.9–28.8% SL in *P. robustus*) in addition to other morphological features.

Full Reference: Lehmann A,P, BK Braun, EHL Pereira & RE Reis, 2013. A new species of the Hypoptopomatinae catfish *Parotocinclus* (Siluriformes: Loricariidae), from the headwaters of the Rio Jequitinhonha, Brazil. *Copeia* 2013: 435–440.

New *Tatia*

Analysis of samples of the Auchenipterid catfish genus *Tatia* collected during a recent ichthyological survey in the Cuyuni River basin in Guyana revealed them to be an undescribed species.

The species have been named *T. carolae* and *T. marthae*. Comparative studies associated with the evaluation of that new species demonstrated that a sample of the genus from a right bank tributary of the Río Orinoco in Venezuela, also on the Guiana Shield, represents a second species unknown to science.

T. marthae is believed to be the same as *Tatia* sp.1. In addition, the placement of *Tatia musaica*, previously considered in the Centromochlinae, is evaluated and the species is reassigned to *Tatia*.

Full reference: Vari, RP & CJ Ferraris, 2013. Two new species of the catfish genus *Tatia* (Siluriformes: Auchenipteridae) from the Guiana Shield and a re-evaluation of the limits of the genus. *Copeia* 2013: 396–402.

New Heptapteridae

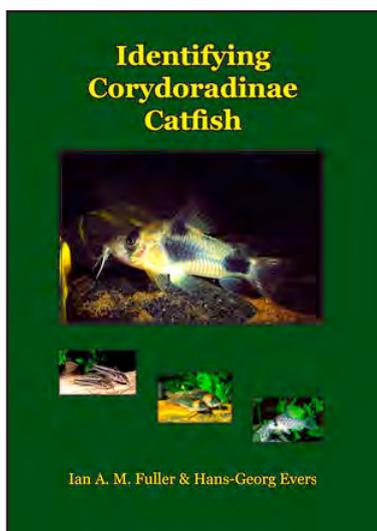
Following the recent description of *Brachyrhamdia thayeria* Slobodian & Bockmann 2013, featured in Steve Grant's article on page 4. A small shipment of seven were imported by Steve MacAlear of Tropical Waters, Acocks Green, Birmingham. These fish were collected by Steve MacAlear at Quebrada near to Tanimboca, Colombia.



Brachyrhamdia thayeria – Ian Fuller

New Corydoradinae

Mark Walters



A new addition to the What's New feature is the presentation of new CW numbers, issued by Ian Fuller on his website Corydoras World.

Previously assigned Corydoradinae were published in Supplement 1 of his hugely popular identification book 'Identifying Corydoradinae Catfish', co-authored by Hans-Georg Evers.

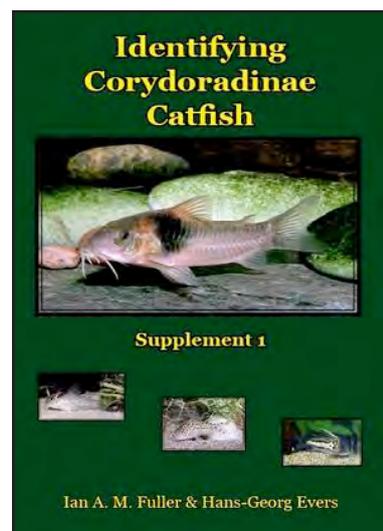
The supplement included new C numbers and CW numbers up to CW060. In future Catchat publications we will try to play catch-up with the latest issue of CW Numbers (currently at CW081) with presentation of up to 6 descriptions of new Corydoradinae, including images and some basic husbandry information.

Corydoras CW061



CW061 – Ian Fuller

Locality: Colombia, exact location unknown
 Size: males 60 mm SL. females 65mm SL.
 Temperature: 24°C - 28°C
 pH: 6.0 – 7.8
 GH: 8
 Conductivity: 260ppm
 Substrate: Fine smooth sand



This species is entering the trade under several names, *C. agassizii*, *C. reticulatus* and even double hyphenated name are being used such as *C. agassizii-sodalis*. If anything this species is closest to *C. sodalis*, which has a very similar body pattern, but lacks the black pigment in the upper area of the dorsal fin.

Corydoras CW062



CW062 – Ian Fuller

Locality: Bolivia from the vicinity of Pando
 Size: 45.0 mm SL males, 50.00 mm SL females

Corydoras CW063



CW063 – Mark Roesner

Locality: Peru (exact locality not known)
 Size: males 50mm SL. females 55mm SL

Corydoras CW064

CW064 – Ian Fuller

Locality: Rio Marañon, Swamp lake 1/4 mile inland from sand bank inlet. 4°-26.65" S x 73° 29.22" W.

Common name: Black top elegans

Size: Collected fish measured 42.0 mm SL male, 45.0 mm SL female.

Temperature: 30.5C

pH: 6

KH: .05

Conductivity: 262 µS - 125 ppm

Substrate: Deep leaf litter over mud

Habitat details: After investigating a sand bank inlet on the right bank of the Rio Marañon, further inland, about a quarter of a mile, these fish were collected from a swamp pool.

Belonging to the so-called *Corydoras elegans* group, this species differs in having the upper two thirds of the dorsal fin black.

Corydoras CW065

CW065 – Ian Fuller

Locality: Brazil, near the town of Labrea, Rio Purus

Size: males 70mm SL. females 75mm SL.

pH: 6.0 - 7.8

GH: 2 - 8

Conductivity: 200 ppm

Substrate: Fine smooth grained sand.

Several specimens showing this colour pattern were imported along with specimens of the similarly patterned *C. pulcher* and CW028 (White spine).

Because of differences in body and head shape, as well as the varying colour pattern this species is thought to be a species in its own right and is therefore given the code number CW065.

However, it may after future scientific examination be proven to be a colour variant of *C. pulcher*. Specimens were provided by Pier Aquatics, Wigan, UK.

Corydoras CW066

CW066 - Janne Ekström

Locality: Rio Jamanxim - Pará, Brazil

Size: males 65mm SL. females 70mm SL.

Temperature: 28°C to 32°C depending on season

pH: 6.0 - 6.5

Conductivity: 20 - 60µS/cm

Substrate: Sandy and stony bottom with leaf litter at shores and clear water

This very distinctive species was collected at the same time and location together with *C. ornatus* and C133.

References

Fuller I. A. M., & Evers H.G., 2011 *Identifying Corydoradinae Catfishes*, Supplement 1. 104-117 (Ian Fuller Enterprises), Kidderminster, England.

Fuller I. A. M – Corydoras World website

Markos A. Alexandrou & Martin Taylor 'Evolution, Ecology and Taxonomy of the Corydoradinae Revisited' in Fuller I. A. M., & Evers H.G., 2011 *Identifying Corydoradinae Catfishes*, Supplement 1. 104-117 (Ian Fuller Enterprises), Kidderminster, England.



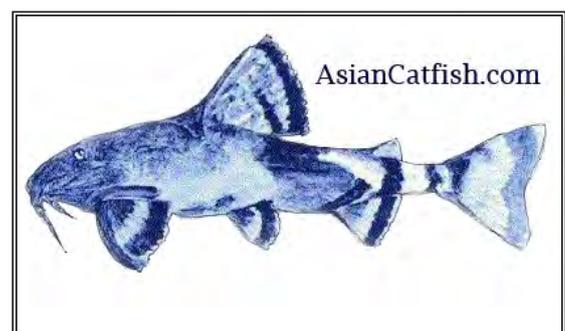


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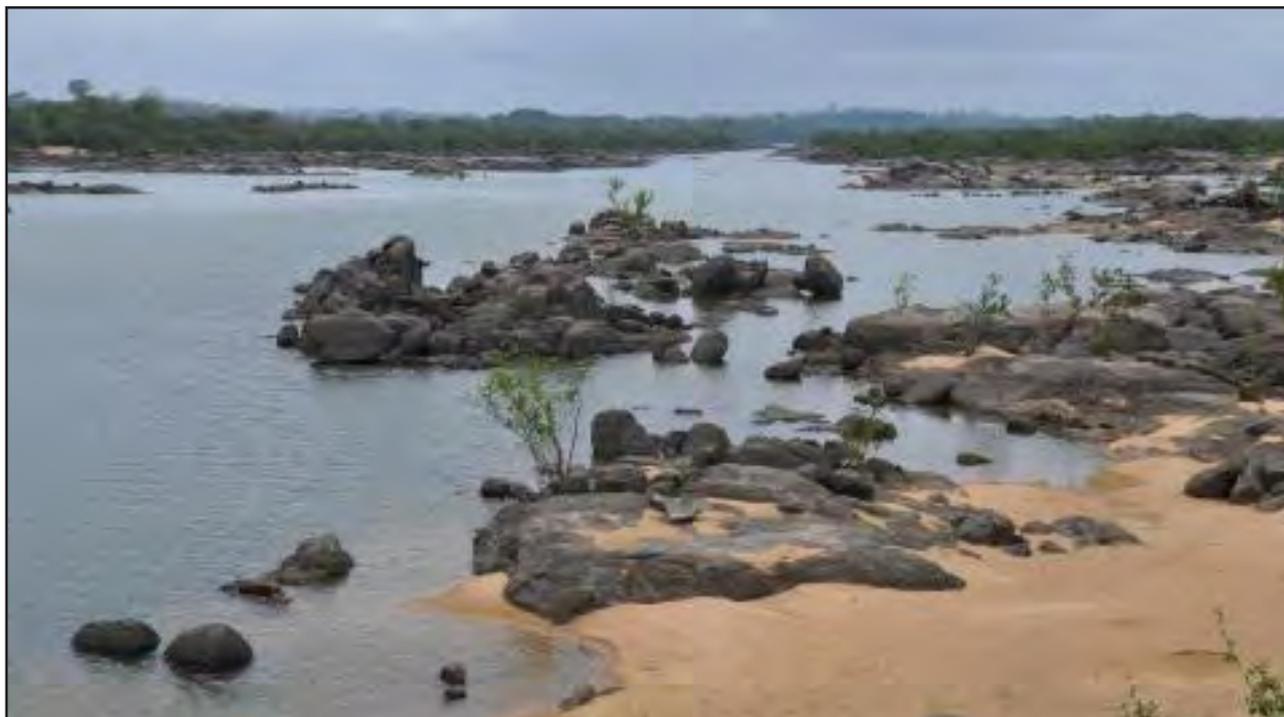
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PlanetXingu

Julian Dignall



PlanetXingu is an initiative to boost financial support to the scientific research being carried out into the fish fauna of Brazil's Rio Xingu. Crowdfunding – the ability for an online community to raise a large sum of money through many small voluntary donations – is something that I believe has a big future. In the case of PlanetXingu, I hope the global fishkeeping community can better furnish researchers with equipment that facilitates research and recording of data more relevant to the interests of the community. In short, fishkeepers get a closer view into research as-it-happens and an ability to interact and share information that may seem trivial to those in the field, but is really very useful for the aquarist. PlanetXingu is a first step.

That's the headline, what about the background? Aquarists keep fish and most who become increasingly skilled at keeping fish want to breed them. Keeping fish that are collected from the wild motivates many aquarists to learn about where their fish came from. Indeed, the path to breeding a species is often where an aquarist first comes into contact with the daunting world of scientific classification. Some of that science is centuries old and, despite being fascinating in terms of understanding the wider exploits of explorer / adventurer scientists, it may yield little to help the aquarist, beyond ensuring they have a male and female of the same species. Increasingly, scientific classification of species includes the kind of data useful to aquarists. Things like habitat descriptions or photographs, information on what a species eats, when or how it spawns and even photographs of what it looks like in life.

I'd been online for most of the 1990s and when I started PlanetCatfish.com in 1997 there was still very little in terms of scientific literature available online. Around that time I started to interact online with aquarists that I would class as good friends and have met in the real world – a common theme was a desire to better interact with those in the realm of ichthyology. At this time, the internet was very new and still most heavily populated by people who were, or had been, involved in universities in some way. While many scientists working in the field of fish taxonomy were not quite at the forefront of this new wave, some were. Fantastic access to expertise was available and questions could be asked and answered in days rather than weeks or months. I'm going to sound like a grumpy old man now, but questions were asked with an understanding that the response might take quite a lot of time to write and that receiving such information was a privilege. However, even this boon was a bit sporadic at times.

Here we are now in 2013 and the internet is part of everyday life for many of us. Today asking a question that requires someone else to expend a fair bit of effort to answer is something I, and many other people on the planet, can do anywhere at any time – and it's a heck of a lot simpler than learning how to read scientific journals. Those with expertise in whatever arena are now streetwise to the amount of time needed to service everyone with a question. Progress has, of course, such downsides. One of those is that many experts shy away (or simply just aren't able to cover) the questions asked of them. The same is true for experienced aquarists and

dedicated scientists alike. The solution is to reduce one-to-one communications and to engage deeply with experts to publish, share and interact as a group. Most of us have the same questions. Much of this is wrapped up in my long-held view that aquarists and scientists who really are in it to expand the human race's collective knowledge could, and should, work more closely together.

Harnessing aquarists and the internet to quickly and globally support, disseminate and indeed test scientific research in the field of tropical fish ichthyology is something I thought I'd like have a crack at bringing about. It seemed to me that the loricariid catfish of Brazil's Rio Xingu would make a good starting point, for a variety of reasons. They are very popular, there is a lot going on in the Xingu from socio-economic and conservation perspectives and knowing what's going on would also be of interest to many. Furthermore, aquarists have identified many forms of catfish from the river that are not described by scientists and there are many, many questions keepers and breeders alike would like to know about new species, populations and so on. Brazil's positive list that defines which species may legally be collected for export is another consideration.



L174 is a new species of *Hypancistrus* that will be described to science as part of the output of current fieldwork

Money, as always, is a factor: many of these fishes are desirable and, so, worth a lot of money – the interaction between the supply and demand is important if we are to consider such things as sustainable exports and responsible fishkeeping.

With likely habitat loss imminent, we may soon be in a last chance data capture and mitigation phase - the data captured during the project will help inform those intent on mitigating the "disaster". To do that we need to understand species concepts and, as a higher goal, demonstrate the global uniqueness of the Xingu. Finally, there is an element of time as well; it is very likely parts of the Xingu will be changed by man's activities, and in the near future too. It appears some species live in relatively small areas and so are at high risk of impact by such activity. It is my hope that we can find out more about the fishes and how they live in the river. Perhaps we will find bad news too, but I think it is important to have facts.



Not a pleco, but how do large migratory fish navigate dams - *Hemisorubim platyrhynchos* ANSP193032 II

In reaching out to the scientific community, real positivity happened. What if these ideas become a model for other scientists to reach out to interested amateurs, be it aquarists, herpers, or birders, for complementary funding and to directly pass on knowledge in the process? Would research funding agencies look favourably on this as a Broader Impact? Surprisingly akin to the world of business, this is one of the primary criteria that funding agencies use to evaluate the success of projects they finance. It might help get the tick in the box for a major investment decision. It is my own personal view that the best scientists are those who can effortlessly transition from the language of research into that more in line with your local pub of an evening – without losing meaning or passion. That's a skill in itself, and isn't it a great idea that periodic updates that drill into the details of the scientific components of a project can explain them to a general audience.



Oligancistrus punctatissimus (longsnout) 78.4mm SL

The starting point on this journey is to provide some background to some of the individuals working on this project and their aims. That will be featured in the next few articles, and then we will provide periodic research updates. Meantime, please support PlanetXingu – I dearly hope it is the first of many such initiatives that brings aquarist and scientist in increasingly closer contact, to the benefit of all.

Frequently Asked Questions

Q1: Who is collecting the money?

All donations are made via a FundRazr page set-up for the project. Payments can be made globally and this route handles all the social media and interaction with donors as well as providing PayPal and credit

card facilities. All donations are in US dollars. At the point of donation, the money (less a small handling fee) is automatically send from FundRazr into a PayPal account administered by PlanetCatfish.



L082 - opal spot pleco - a loricariid like no other - it's closest is *Scobinancistrus* but there are several differences in shape. It's undescribed and may be a new genus.

Q2: Who is received the money?

When the fundraising ends, I will make one transfer of the money to Mark Sabaj Perez who will be responsible for distributing amongst the research team.

Q3: What will the money be used for?

In 2013, we are aiming to raise US \$11,000 (our fundraising goes up to 11)! The principal item is a laboratory grade water flow measuring device to record the rate of flow of the river at different points or depths. This will cost around \$7,000. The remainder of the cash is to pay for additional travel, subsistence and communication costs to support the research team in informal interaction with the online aquarist communities via PlanetCatfish.com. Or, in short, to fund for outreach activities connecting the riverside team to the desktops and mobiles of the catfish aquarist community. Additionally, many photos and information gathered will be formally shared with the community well ahead of formal publication.

Q4: Why are you / PlanetCatfish.com doing this, what do you want to achieve?

There are really two aims I would highlight. The first is to support ichthyological research into a threatened habitat that contains fishes of significant interest to aquarists by providing financial support in return for informal access to the day-to-day activities of the research team. Hopefully this can bring the ichthyologists and aquarists closer together by giving both parties a better understanding of what makes the other tick. New species are as exciting to ichthyologists as they are to aquarists, but often for different reasons. The second aim is to more broadly test if crowdfunding (ichthyological) research projects like this can work – so it has the potential to be repeated again to further bring

bring the research to a wider set of consumers (in this case aquarists).



L019 is another new species 115.8mmSL probably of *Oligancistrus* or *Spectracanthicus*. There is an undescribed *Baryancistrus* (L020) that shares the same colouration.

Q5: What are the direct benefits to fish keepers if this project becomes fully funded and moves forward?

Specifically, it will help the ichthyologists record precise measurements of water flow in different habitats alongside the species of fishes common to those habitats. Such data will be useful not only to ichthyologists, but to aquarists trying to replicate certain conditions in their tanks. In a broader sense, the project will help provide a snapshot of the aquatic biodiversity, water chemistry and habitat conditions of the Lower Xingu River before it is altered by the completion of the Belo Monte dam complex.

Q6: What happens if donations exceed \$11,000 USD?

At present, the FundRazr donations page is configured to stop taking donations once the total has been reached. If there is a small surplus, it will just increase the total amount donated to the Project. If there is a large surplus, there is an opportunity to further fund another projects (related to I-number plecos) in the headwaters of Venezuela's Rio Orinoco – another pleco hotspot – that is, at least for now, not under such immediate threat.

Q7: Will you (or any other members of the PlanetCatfish team) benefit from the donations?

Not financially, that's to say, for example, should one or more of us decide to join the expeditions / travel to Brazil then we will be paying for that out of our own pockets. Furthermore there are no plans to sell any of the information and material produced by the project for profit. Major funding for the Xingu project comes from the National Science Foundation which is ultimately supported by US tax dollars. Such funding requires that the results of the project be made freely to the public to advance understanding and appreciation of the natural world.

Q8: What is the platform for interaction with the research team?

Ahead of each expedition, there will be one or more topics created in the PlanetCatfish forum and widely publicised to allow donors to form questions. These questions will be discussed, collated and sent to Mark for response during the expedition and shortly afterwards. These can be anything from can you show me a pic of the biggest Hypancistrus you find to what they had for breakfast.

The idea is to find out about the process, the activities as well as the more directly useful aquarist type questions (e.g. where zebra plecos live what is the water temperature at the surface and where they are found). The responses will be published as articles which will remain on the site indefinitely. This is more permanent, easy to find and reference in future than forums or other social media channels.

You can securely donate to the PlanetXingu here – <https://fundrazr.com/campaigns/aT4bd>



CSG Convention 2014

Ian Fuller Convention Manager

Everything is now in place in readiness for the next CSG annual convention, this will be the groups 35 of which the last eight have been full weekend affairs. The 2014 event will take place on the 14th, 15th and 16th of March 2014.

Once again we have a strong international speaker line up that I am sure will keep us all well entertained over the whole event

Hans-Georg Evers - Hamburg, Germany
Barbie Florentino - Spokane, Washington, USA
Brian Perkins - Florida, USA
Allan James - Dunoon, Scotland
Haaken Haagensen - Bergen, Norway
Mark Duffill - Great Ayton, North Yorkshire, England

Our non Catfish speaker will be Mark Duffill talking on keeping and breeding Loaches. Mark was originally scheduled to talk at this years event, but unfortunately had to withdraw through ill health. Mark has now recovered hopefully should be fully fit and raring to go in March.

We will see the return of regular favourite Hans-Georg Evers, who never fails to enthral us with tales from his many collecting trips as well as giving us the benefit of his vast knowledge of all things Catfish.

Allan James from Dunoon in Scotland will be giving the events CSG member talk.

The furthest travelled speaker at the convention will be Barbie Florentino from Spokane, Washington state, USA. Barbie has been keeping and breeding

L-number pleco's for a number of years and will be imparting some of the things she has learned over the years about these fascinating fish.

Not far behind Barbie in terms of travelling distance is Brian Perkins from Florida, USA, is owner of Wild Peru. The company not only collects fish for the aquarium trade, but also organises collecting trips for enthusiastic hobbyists. Brian will be talking about his experiences.

Last but by no means least on the list is Haaken Haagensen from Bergen on the West coast of Norway. Haaken is another Loricariidae enthusiast with a great passion for species conservation.

I will be announcing the full event programme in the next issue including titles for all the presentations as well as everything else we have planned.

For those that are interested in attending there are booking forms down loadable on the CSG web site – http://www.catfishstudygroup.org/core/convention_2014.htm

The Kilhey Court Hotel, Standish is the same superb venue we have used for the last two years, with superb facilities, but we are limited to the number of rooms available. So not to be disappointed book your place as early as possible, it only takes a £50.00 deposit to secure your place.

looking forward to seeing many of you there.

Ian

The Hamburg 'Matten' Filter

Ian Fuller

The 'Hamburg' or 'Matten' filter is in its self a very simple idea and effective way to filter just about any size or shape of aquarium, originally developed by German aquarists in Hamburg in the middle of the last century.

The idea is very basic, a piece of sponge is placed across either the end or rear of the aquarium and a water uplift device is positioned behind the sponge, this draws the water through the sponge and returns it back into the main tank area. Up until about a year ago I had been using this system in 9 of my tanks. Now I have converted the whole of my fish house to 'Matten' filters, the thing that swayed me was a new commercially produce uplift device called a Power lifter[®]. there are produced in Germany, but I purchased mine from a Swiss-Tropicals in the USA. They come in three bore sizes, 1/2", 3/4" and 1" with



the largest size is available in a variety of lengths and outlet extensions.

Where these lifters differ from the ones that I used is in the air dispensing part of the device, my home made devices only had a single air outlet, which although produced enough flow to do a reasonably good job, the design of the new device

with its three rows of perforations around the full circumference of the tube means that when the air passes through the tube wall it creates a tubular column of small air bubbles, which lifts the water very efficiently and creates a very good flow rate.

The one important thing to remember when fitting these filters is to ensure that there is about a 3/4" wide space behind the sponge. This space allows for a relatively even water flow through the sponge.



The lifter tube end with the air slieve removed.

The flow rates for each size of Power lifter[®] are:

1/2" (13 mm) – 3 litres per min.

3/4" (19 mm) – 6 litres per min.

1" (25 mm) – 10 litres per min.



3/4" space behind filter sponge using plastic electrical cable ducting.



Tubular formation of the bubbles efficiently moving the maximum amount of water.

The sponge that I have used for all the tanks in my fish house (52) is rated at 30 ppi (Pore per inch) and is classed as aquarium grade. The sponge was supplied at 1-1/2" (40 mm) thick, for the best fitting it was cut so that it was a 1/4" (6 mm) wider than the tanks it is to fit, this gives a little compression and keeps the sponge firmly in place. The height of the sponge is cut so that it is the same as the tank or to fit neatly under the aquariums strengthening rib. A hole or slot is cut into the sponge so that the centre of the lifter's outlet is at the required water level.

Depending on the size of the filter It can take a month or two to fully mature this type of filter, but once it is you will notice how crystal clear the water is. The time to clean the filter is when the level of the water in the space behind the sponge is lower than the level in the main area of the tank. Cleaning can be a little messy in that when the sponge is taken out of the tank there will be a certain amount of sediment released into the tank, which very quickly clears when the cleaned sponged is returned. One thing to remember when cleaning the sponge is not to try and remove all the sediment because this will also remove good denitrifying bacteria. I just paddle the sponge in a large container of aquarium water to remove the worst of the sediment.

Images – Ian Fuller



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