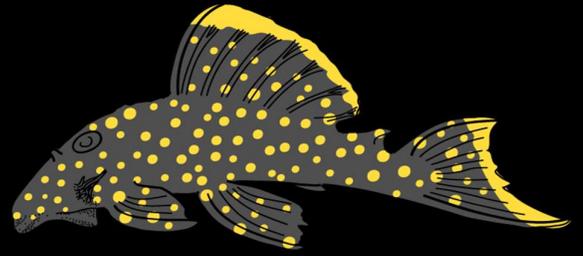


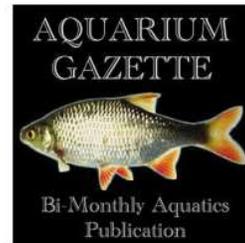
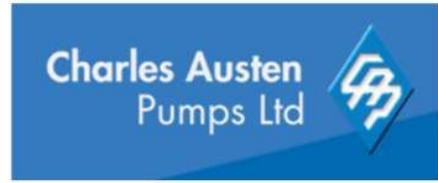
# Journal of the Catfish Study Group



March 2019

Volume 20, Issue 1





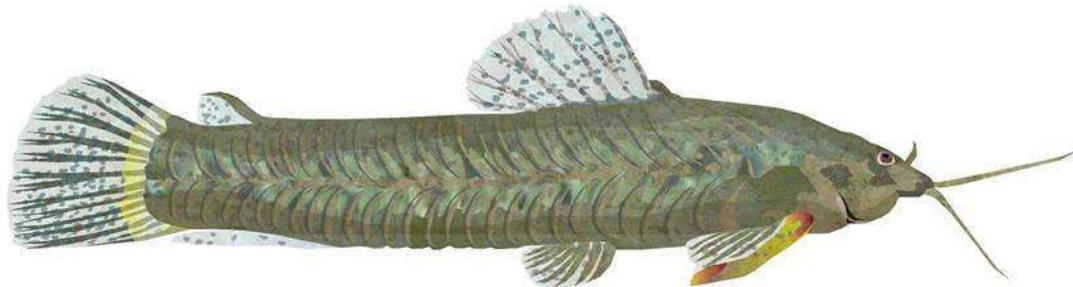
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**Cover image: Convention 2019 Speakers. Photo: Mark Walters**

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**Convention 2019 logo - original artwork by Mitsuhiro Iwamoto**



Callichthys callichthys





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## Chairman's Report



**CSG Committee 2019**

The committee were sad to say goodbye to Julian Dignall, after he stood down from his posts just before Christmas 2018. Jools has been involved in the running of the CSG in various roles for over 20 years and a CSG member for even longer than that. His input to the club has been immense, helping to embed the 2015 Constitution and move the club forward into an Internationally respected organisation. We hope Jools continues to keep his catfish passion alive with the immense work he does with Planet Catfish and can return to the CSG in the future to contribute again.

Following the AGM, we had three CSG members offering their support to the running of the club. Pictured alongside myself, Danny and Brian are Jamie Horne, Steven Grant and Ben Nicholls, who have offered to provide assistance to existing Committee members in Convention Management, Auction Management and IT Management. Massive thanks to them for their support. If any other members would like to provide ongoing assistance, or take up vacant Committee roles please let me know.

The three Yorkshire guys input was particularly welcome at the Convention a few weeks ago, lessening the burden on the regular Committee members. There is a write up of the event in the Journal and I continue to receive messages of congratulation for the best Convention yet.

Prior to the Convention, we held another hugely successful Spring Auction, helping to fund our record number of speakers at the Convention. In January we delivered the 2019 AGM which saw existing Committee members assume vacant posts and a number of proposals accepted. The summary of the AGM is below, a full transcript of the proceedings is available on request.

The committee are taking a well earned break from delivering CSG events, with the next planned activity a day trip to Pier Aquatics in Wigan in June. I hope to see plenty of our members there.

## **CSG Annual General Meeting – 20/01/2019**

### **Proposals to Changes to the Constitution**

The following proposals were approved by the membership:

#### **Proposal 1**

Propose a new Code of Conduct item: 'In raising any issue or complaint with the CSG, its members and its organisation, members must provide reasonable evidence'.

Reason – The onus is currently on the CSG Committee to prove that complainants have a case, without any tangible evidence being presented, wasting significant time and effort on the part of the Committee.

#### **Proposal 2**

Make necessary amendments in the constitution with reference to the CSG Journal, removing the word 'quarterly' where appropriate and referring to the last Journal of the year, instead of the fourth Journal of the year.

Reason – The CSG is currently constrained by the production of four Journals a year. The

Constitution does not provide flexibility for more or fewer Journal issues.

#### **Proposal 3**

Propose a new Code of Conduct item: 'Distribution of any type of recording by any media of more than 5% of content from any CSG events or related IPR will not be permitted'

Reason – The public broadcasting ("sharing", live or after the event) of typically unsolicited recording of events and may be deleterious to the CSG, its members and particularly invited speakers. It is also rude.

#### **Proposal 4**

Addition to 4.d.xi: 'Committee members who do not attend more than half of scheduled committee meetings in a year (without good reason) will rescind their voting privilege in Committee matters'

Reason – lack of input to Committee meetings by Committee members reduces its ability to deliver its outputs; without enough interaction with the committee, absentees will not be up-to-speed.

### **Committee Roles**

The following full committee positions were filled:

**Chairman – Mark Walters seconded by Michael Hardman for 4 years**

**Treasurer – Danny Blundell seconded by Michael Hardman for 4 years**

**Secretary – Unfilled, currently carried out by Mark Walters**

**Show Secretary – Brian Walsh seconded by Michael Hardman for 4 years**

**Press Secretary – Michael Hardman seconded by Julian Dignall for 4 years**

**Editor – Mark Walters for a term of four years, starting 1<sup>st</sup> February 2019**

**IT Secretary – Unfilled, currently carried out by Mark Walters**

**Auction Manager – Mark Walters seconded by Julian Dignall for 4 years**

**Assistant Editor – Michael Hardman  
seconded by Mark Walters**

**Catering Manager – Brian Walsh  
seconded by Michael Hardman for 4  
years**

**Convention Manager – Mark Walters  
seconded by Michael Hardman for 4  
years**

**Sales Secretary, BAP Secretary - vacant**

### **Committee Member Opportunities**

Posts can be filled between AGM's in the event of vacancies or if committee members resign or

otherwise leave their posts. Several posts remain unfilled which would suit a new Committee member, with support and guidance from the rest of the Committee.

Other posts exist which are currently filled by existing Committee members which could suit new Committee members. In addition, any position can appoint an assistant with the support of three other committee members and who can be ratified as full committee members at the following AGM.

**For full details on the AGM process and committee positions have a talk to any of our existing Committee and refer to the CSG Constitution.**

## **Upcoming CSG Diary Dates 2019**

<b>Date</b>	<b>Event</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Details</b>
<b>June 23<sup>rd</sup></b>	CSG meeting at Pier Aquatics	Pier Aquatics, Wigan, England	Details will be announced on the CSG Facebook page
<b>July TBC</b>	Castleford Aquarist Society annual Catfish and Loach Show and Auction	Castleford, Yorkshire, England	Details will be announced on the CSG Facebook page
<b>September 13<sup>th</sup> – 15<sup>th</sup></b>	CSG at Catfish Cataclysm	Wisconsin, USA	Details will be announced on the CSG Facebook page
<b>September 15<sup>th</sup></b>	CSG Annual Open Show and Auction	Derwent Hall, Darwen, Lancashire, England	Lots can be booked 2 months prior to the event, contact <a href="mailto:auctionmanager@catfishstudygroup.org">auctionmanager@catfishstudygroup.org</a>
<b>October 11-13<sup>th</sup></b>	L-Welse	Hannover, Germany	Details are included in this Journal
<b>November 17<sup>th</sup></b>	Autumn Auction	Derwent Hall, Darwen, Lancashire, England	Lots can be booked 2 months prior to the event, contact <a href="mailto:auctionmanager@catfishstudygroup.org">auctionmanager@catfishstudygroup.org</a>
<b>December 8<sup>th</sup></b>	Xmas meeting	Derwent Hall, Darwen, Lancashire, England	Details will be announced on the CSG Facebook page

## ***Corydoras* CW004** **Steve Grant**



CW004 – Oliver Lucanus

*Corydoras* CW004 or the ‘Ancestor’ Cory was coded by Ian Fuller, based on photographs by Oliver Lucanus of specimens from the upper Rio Tapajos drainage.



CW004 – Oliver Lucanus

This undescribed species is banned from export from Brazil, but unfortunately specimens still make it out of the country, despite them also being at risk of over fishing.

Thankfully, some people in the hobby are trying to give back in some way by donating money to a Research Assistance Programme fund run (and partly funded) by Ian Fuller’s *Corydoras* World website. The funds will be donated to Dr Luiz Tencatt to assist in the collection of specimens to describe and study them. It is hoped that this will assist in stabilising and protecting the species.

Donations can be made at <https://www.corydorasworld.com/knowledgebase/?p=923>

Whilst it is a controversial subject, some hobbyists are breeding the species from specimens that have already appeared in the hobby, to try and take demand away for wild specimens.

In view of their unusual colour pattern and the focus on protecting the species, the author considers it useful to highlight the possible existence of cryptic topotypical species, or at the least, different snout morphotypes.

### **Original CW004**

The code number was issued by Ian based on primarily one photograph (Fuller & Evers, 2005) but also another by Oliver Lucanus (Fuller & Evers, 2011; Fuller, 2019). Thanks to Oliver the images are reproduced here.

Alexandrou & Taylor (2011) listed CW004 as a lineage 9 species (round snouted), but Fuller (2019) lists it as a lineage 8 (straight snouted). As can be seen from the original specimens, the main specimen’s snout appears somewhat rounded (albeit not very blunt) and the smaller specimen somewhat straighter.

This may have led to the difference of opinion between Alexandrou & Taylor and Fuller on what lineage the species belongs to.

The original specimens also have a black patch under the dorsal fin, which sometimes extends into the fin. This black patch is not always present.

It may be that the original CW004 was a lineage 9 and the secondary specimen a lineage 8. If this is true there is potentially an uncoded lineage 8 cryptic species.

The author leaves the reader to draw their own conclusions from the photographs whether there are two lineages involved.



CW004 Ancestor I - Wei-Chieh Tseng



CW004 Ancestor I – Wei-Chieh Tseng

For the purposes of this article the original (rounder snouted) morphotype is captioned as *Corydoras* sp. 'CW004 Ancestor I', and the secondary (straighter snouted) morphotype as *Corydoras* sp. 'CW004 Ancestor II'.



CW004 Ancestor II – Steve Grant



CW004 Ancestor II – Steve Grant

Type II snout has a slight concavity to it when viewed laterally, which is missing in type I.



CW004 Ancestor III – Hopesun Shen

## **Another cryptic species?**

The author noticed another possibly different snout morphotype in the only specimens that came into the UK.



CW004 Ancestor III – Steve Grant

This morphotype has a straight snout like *Corydoras* sp. 'CW004 Ancestor II', but the snout is very broad and wide, and without the concavity. This morph is captioned here as *Corydoras* sp. 'CW004 Ancestor III'. It is unclear if this is a sexual difference or just a natural variation.



CW004 Ancestor III – Hopesun Shen

## **Acknowledgements**

Thank you to Oliver Lucanus of Belowwater.com, Hopesun Shen, and Wei-Chieh Tseng for use of their photographs.

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Identifying Corydoradinae catfish. Supplement 1. Ian Fuller Enterprises Worcestershire, 141p.

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<https://www.corydorasworld.com/>

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Hanover, 11<sup>th</sup> - 13<sup>th</sup> Oct. 2019

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Leandro Sousa

Andreas Tanke

Donald Taphorn



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Registration and agenda: [www.l-number-days.eu](http://www.l-number-days.eu)

## ***Pinirampus argentina* (MacDonagh, 1938) The Black Finned Pim** **Steve Grant**



*P. argentina*

Pier Aquatics (Wigan, UK) recently imported a beautiful pimelodid from the Rio Paraná in Argentina, as “*Megalonema argentinum*”. It is possibly the first time the species has been imported into the UK. The import of the specimen led to a query on the correct name and identity of the species.

The generic placement and spelling of the specific name has varied over the years and from when it was originally described as *Perugia argentina* MacDonagh, 1938. Over the years it has been known as *Luciopimelodus argentinus*, *Pinirampus argentinus*, *Megalonema argentina*, and *Megalonema argentinum* (Fricke et al, 2018).

### Generic placement

The original description didn't include any drawing or image but thankfully it referred to an earlier paper by the same author which did (MacDonagh, 1934). In addition, Mark Sabaj Perez photographed the holotype (MLP 1650), which came from Río Paraná, at Posadas, Misiones, Argentina and is 27.1cm SL. According to Fricke et al (2018) there are no paratypes but MacDonagh clearly states on page 159 that are five paratypes, from the Rio de La Plata system, in the Rio Santiago, near La Plata, Argentina, the largest being 135mm, which are juveniles.

The image on Plate 1 in MacDonagh (1934) appears to be a drawing of one of the paratypes, based on the statement in MacDonagh (1938:159) and that the holotype (an adult) clearly has an

extension to the leading ray of the dorsal fin, which is absent in the drawing.

The original description and the earlier published image (which appears to be what later became one of the paratypes, making it a juvenile) show that the dorsal, pectoral, ventral fins are mainly black, with the anal fin adipose fins having a black edge. The holotype has extensions to the second and third dorsal fin rays.

The adipose fin is very long, with the gap between the last ray of the dorsal fin and the origin of the adipose fin being less than the base of the dorsal fin. The maxillary barbels are long (reaching the posterior end of the adipose i.e. almost to the caudal fin) and all the barbels are flat with a membrane on the posterior edge.

These characters would normally denote a member of the genus *Pinirampus* (Bleeker, 1858) (see Rocha, 2017). The black fins and barbels in juveniles are known in *Pinirampus* (see the description of *P. agassizii* Steindachner, 1876).

They can be seen in a juvenile *P. pinirampu* from the Amazon River at Iquitos, near the mouth of the Rio Itaya, photographed by Max Bernt. They can also be seen in a live specimen of juvenile *P. argentina* from a stream near the Paraná River, north west of Tigre, Buenos Aires, photographed by Nicolas Tizio.

The differences between *Pinirampus*, *Calophysus* Müller, 1843 and *Megalonema* Eigenmann, 1912 are only slight, so using external characters only is difficult (see image by Steve Chester of a *Pinirampus pinirampu* and *Calophysus*

*macropterus* side by side both caught at the confluence of the Rio Branco with the Rio Negro). These specimens match the river system of *Pimelodus insignis* Jardine, 1841 which is currently classed as a junior synonym of *P. pinirampu*.

The written account does not mention any body spots apart from in the common name ascribed to it, and the description of the colour pattern in the body of the text would indicate *P. pinirampus*, as would the teeth being “all fine” as *Calophysus* have one row of incisiform teeth on the premaxilla.

However, the drawing of the holotype on which the description is based (see first image) clearly shows a spotted specimen, with markings along the middle caudal fin rays, which matches *C. macropterus*.

It is possible that Schomburgk saw both *P. pinirampus* and *C. macropterus* (Jardine wrote the descriptions from Schomburgk’s notes and drawings, and it isn’t clear if the description is just based on the fish in the drawing or of multiple specimens) as the image by Steve Chester clearly shows they are caught together.

On that basis, and in view of article 72.5.6 of the ICZN which may mean that the specimen in the drawing is the holotype, *P. insignis* may be a junior synonym of *C. macropterus*. Rocha (2017) states that in *Pinirampus* the premaxillary tooth patch has a median indentation whereas *Megalonema* does not, and *Calophysus* differs from them both by having one row of incisiform teeth on the premaxillary.

Thankfully MacDonagh (1938:157) states that the premaxillary tooth patch is slightly divided in the middle and based on the image of the holotype by Mark Sabaj there doesn’t appear to be any incisiform teeth.

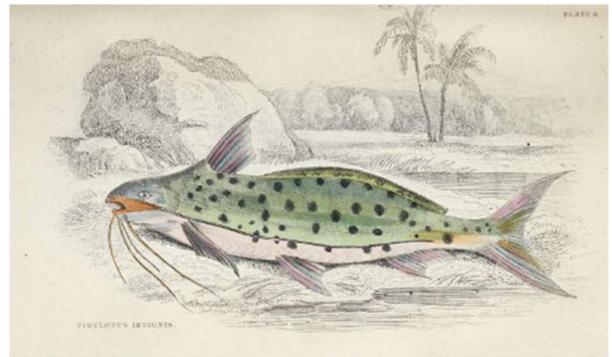
Another factor is the small extension of the dorsal fin rays in the holotype. All these characters would denote *P. argentina* being a *Pinirampus*.



*Pinirampus pinirampu* above, *Calophysus* below – Steven Chester



*Calophysus macropterus* juvenile



*Pimelodus insignis* - Jardine



*Calophysus macropterus* semi adult

### **Correct spelling of the species name**

The ending of the species name has been changed by some authors based on the gender of which genus they placed it in. This is to comply with article 31.2 of the International Code of Zoological

Nomenclature. MacDonagh (1938:157) gave the etymology of the species names as being named after the Republic of Argentina, from where it originates. The etymology of Argentina itself originates from Latin and Greek before that, and the English translation would be silver, or silvery, but Argentina is a noun.

As Argentina is a simple noun, article 31.2.1 means that its ending does not need to be changed to meet the gender of the genus. Therefore, the correct formulation of the name should be *Pinirampus argentina* (MacDonagh, 1938).

### **Validity within *Pinirampus***

*Pinirampus* appears widespread throughout South America, with records from Bolivia, Brazil, Uruguay, Colombia, Ecuador, Guyana, Paraguay, Peru and Venezuela. The holotype of *P. pinirampus* (Spix & Agassiz, 1829) came from “Brazilian rivers”. Pending further study the population from the Paraná and Paraguay river basin (*P. argentina*) is hereby considered a different species to that in the Orinoco and Amazon basins (*P. pinirampu*).



*P. argentina* sitting on ventral fins



*P. argentina* head



*P. pinirampu* – Max Brent

### **Aquarium care**

As with other *Pinirampus* this species needs a large tank and I would suggest medium water flow. It will eat earthworms, prawns, and fish. Pier Aquatics kept their specimen at 24 degrees Centigrade. They have a strange behavioural trait of ‘sitting’ on their ventral fins, which are extended downwards at the time.

The fish can sometimes appear silver (see the author’s image) but can also go very dark on the upper body, as well as the fins as described above (see video at [www.facebook.com/pieraquatics/videos/370721146834319/](http://www.facebook.com/pieraquatics/videos/370721146834319/)).



Dorsal view of *P. argentina* – Nicolas Tizo

## **Acknowledgements**

Thank you to Neil Woodward at Pier Aquatics, Wigan for allowing me to photograph the specimen; Steve Chester, Max Bernt, Nicolas Tizio (Fundación Unidos por Naturaleza) for use of their images. Pablo Burchardt for arranging permission for use of Nicolas' images.



Dorsal view of *P. argentina* – Nicolas Tizio

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**All images by the author unless stated**

## CSG Convention 2019



Rajanta Rahardja speaking to the packed Convention hall

The 2019 Convention has been described as the best yet, by many of the delegates. We had the most attendees I can recall in the 14 events I have attended, and a record number of speakers.

The talks were exceptional, as demonstrated by a packed Convention Hall for each presentation. In the past, some talks have been conspicuous by the number of empty seats – not this time!

The atmosphere was relaxed and friendly with a constant buzz of catfish chatter amongst old friends and new. The mix of nationalities was wide, coming together with a common interest, from America, Europe, Asia and Australasia.

I have been used to constructive criticism in the past, for Conventions and other CSG events, but this year was unique in receiving unanimous praise for the way it was planned, managed and delivered. Some of the comments received after the event included:

Dr. Peter Burgess (UK) – *‘Many thanks to yourself and committee for staging yet another fantastic convention. Ironically, when a convention runs smoothly, as 2019’s certainly did (well, from a delegate’s perspective at any rate!) its easy to underestimate the huge amount of work required to make such an event work so well’*

Daniel Konn-Vetterlein (Germany) – *‘As everybody else who went, I found it an amazing gathering of the nerdiest, friendliest and sometimes cutest catfish geeks around. It’s just amazing to walk into Pier Aquatics, into Kilhey Court, into Kilhey Court’s upstairs-bar, into Kilhey Court’s convention-hall-bar, fishrooms and hotel rooms - and everywhere you meet people you know ‘cause you met them before and memories are coming back. Or people you have not talked to before, but you know that in 2020 you will see them and memories will be coming back to your mind. It’s such an easy, pleasant*

*and friendly convention. You feel at home instantly.'*

Jacqueline Heijman Bennet-Leaver (The Netherlands) – *'I love it, It's the most "home coming" convention for me. Big thank you to you and the CSG team. I had a fantastic weekend, enjoyed every second of it.'*

Dave Ayres (USA) – *'had a super time at the CSG convention - reconnected with old friends and made lots of new ones. Also checked Pier Aquatics off my bucket list.'*

Mark Mackey (UK) – *'There was some very nice fish in the sales tanks over the weekend . People who couldn't make the convention really missed out'*

Neil Woodward (UK) – *'thanks Chairman ... great convention'*

Silke Huppeler Borcharding (Germany) – *'Many thanks to all of you for this great weekend! You're a fantastic group of wonderful people! Looking forward to next year'*

The following Convention images of our speakers were taken by Danish member Benny Hubel-Hansen and UK members Steve Grant and Mark Walters.



Jacqueline Heijman Bennet-Leaver



Ingo Seidel



Rob McLure



Haakon Haagensen



Eric Thomas



Sales tanks



Daniel Konn-Vetterlein

### **Brian Walsh Woodcraft**



Timo Schellenberg, Julien Preuss





*Hypancistrus zebra* presentation to Rajanta Rahardja



*Scleromystax barbatus* presentation to Rob McLure



*Panaqolus 'L397'* presentation to Eric Thomas





*Asterophysuss batrachus* – the ogre catfish!  
Presentation to Daniel Konn-Vetterlein



*Callichthys callichthys* presentations to Jacqueline  
Heijmen Bennet-Leaver, Haakon Haagensen, Julien  
Preuss, Timo Schellenberg, Ingo Seidel



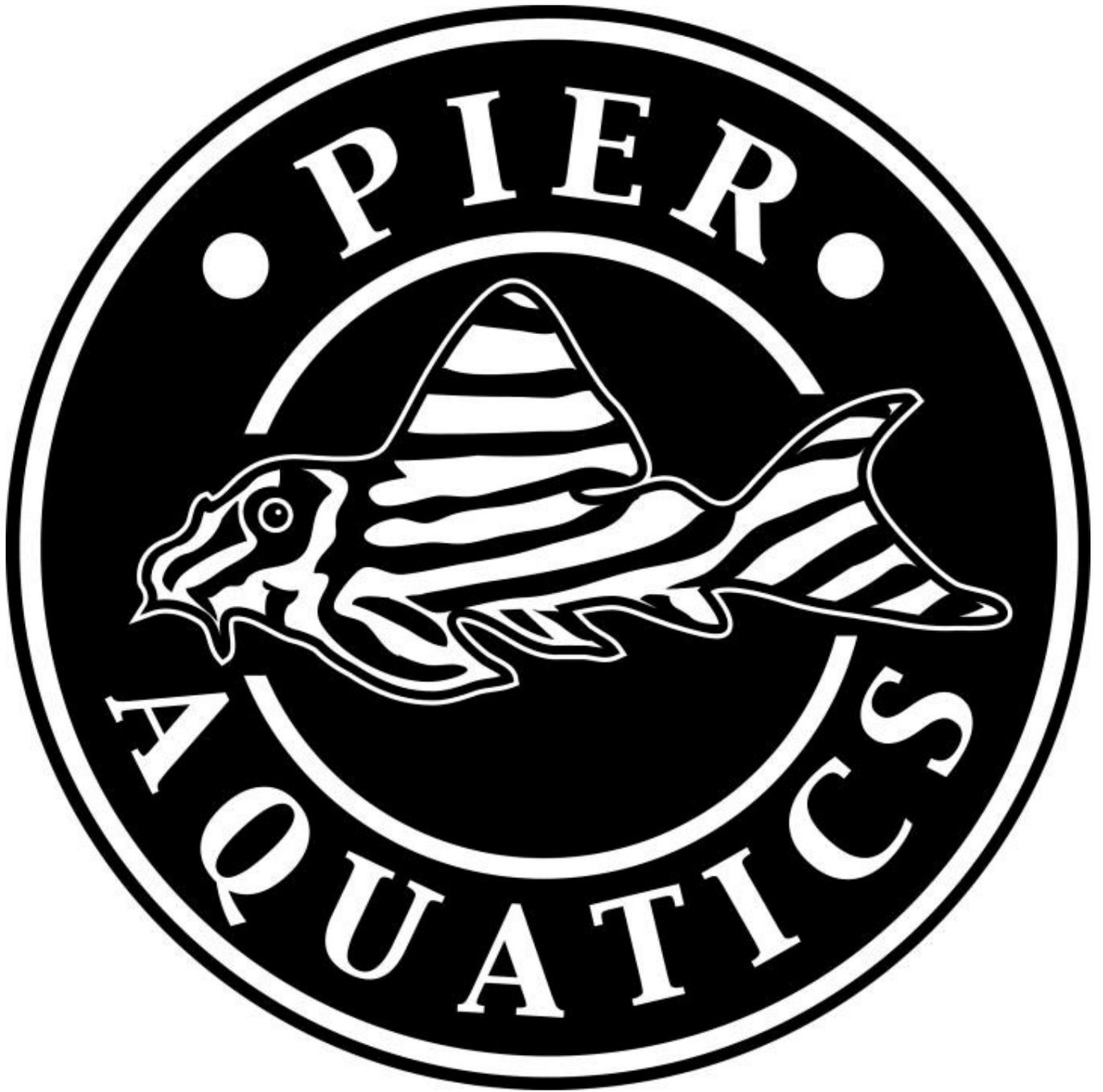


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Thank you to everybody who supported the 40<sup>th</sup> CSG Convention – delegates, speakers, sponsors and our sponsors.

See you again in 2020!



## New imports of *Corydoras* Lacepède, 1803

### Steve Grant

In February and March 2019 Pier Aquatics (Wigan, UK) imported numerous species of *Corydoras* in readiness for the Catfish Study Group Convention 2019. Two of the species appear to be undescribed and/or uncoded. Pending consideration for codes and scientific description they are presented here for readers unlucky enough not to be able to visit the shop. A third, coded species is also mentioned as it may be the first time in the UK.

#### *Corydoras* sp. 'Parallelus II'

These beautiful *Corydoras* come from a tributary running parallel to the Rio Negro system, Brazil. They belong in lineage 9 and almost look like an intergrade of *C. parallelus* Burgess, 1993 and *C. burgessi* Axelrod, 1987.



C. 'Parallelus II'



C. 'Parallelus II'

One of the type specimens of *C. burgessi* has black markings running along the ridge of the back, to at least the adipose fin (Axelrod, 1987:22) which is similar to these new Corys, but the former does not have the horizontal lines on the flanks.



*C. burgessi*

The type specimens of *C. parallelus* did not have the thick black mark along the ridge of the back, having one or two thin black lines instead (Burgess, 1993:154-155), but the two share the long dorsal fin in males.



*C. parallelus*, young fish

#### *Corydoras* sp. 'Crypticus II'



C. 'Crypticus II'

This uncoded species was imported from Colombia but further details were not provided.

It is a lineage 8 species. It came mixed in with what appears to be C140 and *C. crypticus* Sands, 1995 both of which are known from the upper Rio Negro system in Brazil.

If this new fish was caught in Colombia it may have been in the Guainía River, which is the name for the Negro river in Colombia.



C. 'Crypticus II' (left) and *C. crypticus*

It has a proportionately deeper and shorter body than the species it was imported with, as well as having the black subdorsal mark on the flanks, spread across the dorsolateral body scutes, and in some specimens diffusely on the ventrolateral body scutes. It has a bluish metallic sheen along the midline of the body where the scutes meet. One specimen has a gold ring around the pupil.

### **Corydoras CW127**

This species comes from the Rio Tapajos system in Brazil. There is some slight variation in the conformity of the horizontal lines on the body.



*Corydoras* CW127



*Corydoras* CW127

### **Acknowledgements**

Thank you to Neil Woodward at Pier Aquatics, Wigan for allowing me to photograph the specimens.

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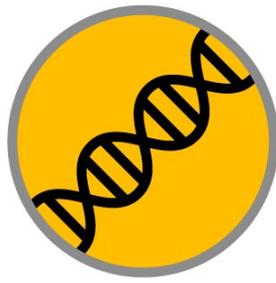
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# CATFISH

## STUDY GROUP

### Research Support Fund

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To enhance the role that the CSG plays in supporting research into catfishes and to foster a closer relationship between scientists and aquarists, the committee is proposing a Research Support Fund (RSF) be established in 2018. The RSF will provide small sums (e.g., £500) to students and other researchers to support fieldwork, museum visits, laboratory work and page charges in peer-reviewed journals. Award recipients will agree to provide two articles for the CSG journal OR present their research at a CSG event via poster or talk. Like any new program, the RSF is a work in progress and we welcome the input of subscribing members. Email us at: [secretary@catfishstudygroup.org](mailto:secretary@catfishstudygroup.org)

#### ***Where does the money come from?***

RSF awards will be drawn from journal subscriptions, advertising revenue, member and corporate contributions, back issue purchases, donated auction lots and other fund-raising activities.

#### ***How often will we make awards?***

We will invite applications on an annual basis in September, with the successful applicant(s) being announced via social media and at our annual convention the following March.

#### ***Who is eligible to apply?***

Initially, we will open this to students and junior researchers. The committee discussed opening the competition to advanced aquarists, and we may try this in the future. But for now, we will invite applications from those enrolled or working with catfishes in a registered school, university, research institute or natural history museum. Applicants must be at least 18 years old at the time the award is made.

#### ***What items, services or expenses should the award be used for?***

Awards will be used to offset travel costs for fieldwork (e.g., specimen collecting, museum visits or environmental measurements), equipment purchases (e.g., nets, meters, cameras, lenses, aquaria, lab consumables, software licenses, etc.), services (e.g., DNA sequencing and genome assembly, page charges in journals) and possibly the purchase of specimens (e.g., for observation, DNA samples, etc.).

#### ***What do we need in an application?***

The application will involve completing an electronic form available from the CSG website. The form will include a brief description of the intended research project or trip, an itemized budget and a brief explanation for how the award will enable or enhance the work.

#### ***How will applications be judged?***

The committee and invited reviewers will independently review applications and assign scores on the basis of their merit, feasibility and appeal to CSG members. Scores will be assigned, and the highest ranked application(s) will be funded in full or to the maximum amount available. None, one, or more than one application may be funded during each cycle. If no applications are received or less than the maximum amount is awarded, the RSF will transfer funds to the next cycle and increase the number or size of awards accordingly. Finally, in order to receive the award, the successful applicant must agree to provide two articles for the CSG journal describing their project, its results, and how the award helped them in their work, or a talk or poster to be presented at a future CSG event.



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