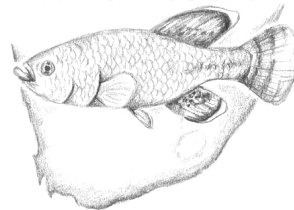


SOUTHERN AFRICAN KILLIFISH SOCIETY *Letters*

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SOUTHERN AFRICAN
KILLIFISH SOCIETY



Gnatholebias hoignei "Palelon populations BBL01-03". Photo by Tony Terceira

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Greetings

Well, winter is here and no doubt those of us keeping *Aphyosemion* species are very grateful for the change in weather. I wish my *Fp. oerseri* had held out this long I may of bred them yet.

Not much has happened in the space of the last two months so there isn't much to say here.

In the articles and letters section you will find the article by Bill Phillips of Australia (formally of NAKA...). This is an article that Bill admits he whipped up in his spare time and was courteous enough to post on the AUNZZA list for all to reach. He wrote a second about *E. chaperi* that I will publish next time. I refuse to believe any of you are incapable of putting something like this together and look forward to receiving your many attempts. You can send your article to tgenade@sun.ac.za.

I hope everyone had a good Easter!

Tyrone

Fish and Egg Trading List

Please submit your list (by the latest one week before the end of the month) of fish/eggs that you have for sale or would like to acquire. The list can be sent to tgenade@sun.ac.za.

Dirk Bellstedt

4 Helderspruit Road, Somerset West, 7130

Tel: 021-8553788

dud@sun.ac.za

Imported German foods and Discus. Brine shrimp eggs, flakes, frozen foods, baby star II & IV (baby brine shrimp substitute), decapsulated brine shrimp eggs, microgranulate etc... Best prices! Excellent quality! Phone/email for a complete list of available products.

Tyrone Genade

Nr.5 Concord, Kerk Straat, Stellenbosch, 7600.

tgenade@sun.ac.za

<http://www.tyronegenade.0catch.com>

Available eggs:

<i>Psedomugil gertrudae</i> "Jones Road, Nth Qld"	R 25/10 eggs
Grindal worm culture starter	R 10
Vinegar eel culture starter (5 ml)	R 10

All eggs are shipped fresh. Non-annual eggs are picked consecutively for 3 or 4 days and shipped off allowing three to four days of travel.

The *Psedomugil gertrudae* are a species of blue-eye a relative of the rainbow fish and is not a killifish. It does have some very nice killifish properties: small size, peaceful, large eggs with long incubation period.

Articles and Letters

Aphyosemion deltaense

Bill Phillips
Australia



Fp. "deltaense" "Warri", more correctly known as *Fp. gularis* "Warri". Photo by Kjell Nilsson

This delightful killifish, after an apparently long absence, has again recently appeared on the Melbourne scene though it has been on the Sydney scene for quite a while. If you are a lover of killifish for the sake of killifish and have a spare tank, I recommend that you purchase it. If you are patient enough to develop your own aquarium strain, please purchase it and commence a long-term (20 generation) project. If you are looking at buying this killifish to breed short-term and distribute within the hobby, for the sake of this fish and the hobby, please purchase another killifish.

I may have kept this killifish on a regular basis over the last 20 years under a variety of names. The wild fish - *Fundulopanchax deltaense* – is found in the Warri area of Nigeria (around the delta of the Niger river) and in the hobby has been named as yellow gularis, deltafish, *Fp. arnoldi*, *Fp. fallax* and let us not venture into *Fp. schwoiseri* and *Fp. kribianum*. The current consensus of opinion (Wildekamp, Seegers) is that the fish is actually the Warri tribe of *Fp. gularis*¹. However, fishbase.org (an international research consortium) considers that *Fp. deltaense* and *Fp. gularis* are separate species. So is there any reader who is willing to travel to

¹ Ed's note: Huber's Killidata 1996 regards *deltaense* as a synonym for *Fp. fallax*. KMI4 states that *deltaense* is a synonym for *gularis*. Some hobbyists who maintain both "*deltaense*" and *gularis* contend the two are very different fish not so much in colour but in behaviour. The Warri strain (most strains) is without doubt synonymous with *Fp. gularis* as explained on Tim Addis' website <http://www.killifish.f9.co.uk/Killifish/Killifish%20Website/Index.htm>.



Fp. fallax CI-98, without question, not the fish in the previous photo. Photo by Bob Morenski

Nigeria, collect wild populations of all these fish and solve the problem using DNA analysis?

So what is the problem with keeping and breeding the fish regardless of what it is called? Unfortunately *gardneri*, *gularis* and *deltaense* all cross-hybridize and the hobby has ended up with a range of "deltaense" — for example, the Aqualog catalogue shows three very different aquarium strains of *deltaense*. The AKA believes that there are several "deltaense-type" fish swimming in our tanks, some of which are probably hybrids. Therefore, the need to select fish that are currently available and commence breeding a stable aquarium strain as a long-term project.

Keeping and breeding the fish

Fp deltaense grows to approximately 10 cm in length and is a fairly undemanding fish. In the past I have found that a 40 litre tank is sufficient (those various authorities suggest a smaller tank of 10 to 20 litres).

The tank is a bare bottom tank that is filtered by a small sponge filter, contains two spawning mops and a small container (500g salad container) of peat. The water is maintained at pH 6.5-6.8, general hardness of around 100 ppm and constant temperature of 24-25 Celsius. The fish prefer live food but can be fairly easily trained to accept flake food. It has been reported that this fish is extremely susceptible to velvet.

When breeding these fish, I maintain a continuous spawning arrangement and find that the spawning mops provide a refuge for the female, as the male is extremely amorous. The fish are reliable breeders with the majority of eggs being located in the peat and only a few eggs being found in the spawning mops. It has been suggested that the parents eat the eggs laid in the spawning mops but the eggs buried in the peat have a better chance of survival.

I have never had any success at water incubation with this fish and have found it necessary to incubate the peat for four months. Other breeders have suggested between three weeks and six months peat incubation is required. Once the fry hatch they are placed in a tank with a sponge filter and Java moss and therefore feed off the infusoria population. The fry seem to grow rapidly, soon feeding off frozen baby brine shrimp. It has been reported that some 90 per cent of the fry are male. I have not found this to be the case but as we know sex ratios in fish are dependent upon many factors such as pH and temperature.

In conclusion if you are after a nicely coloured killifish which provides some challenge in maintaining and breeding, I would recommend that you consider purchasing the killifish that is currently available and known as *Fp deltaense*

Membership Dues

The membership dues are as follows for Southern African members:

Membership (e-based)	R 10
Postal	R 50

The membership packages comprise of a flat membership rate whereby you get the newsletter and SAKS *Letters* each two months for six issues. This is conveyed via e-mail for R 10 or by post for R 50.

Same rates apply to foreign members except in regard to the postal membership. In this case the membership fee is R 100.

Contact Details

Coastal and Overseas Coordinator

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