

SUMMARY OF RECENT SCIENTIFIC ARTICLES ON DARTERS

Submitted by Robert E. Schmidt, Newton, NJ, NANFA Darter Study Group

O'Neil, P.E. 1981. Life history of Etheostoma coosae (Pisces: Percidae) in Barbaree Creek, Alabama, Tulane Studies in Zoology and Botany 23(1): 75-83

Etheostoma coosae is a poorly known darter found only in the Coosa River system of Alabama, Georgia, and Tennessee. This paper describes several aspects of the biology of the Coosa Darter relevant to aquarium culture. The Coosa Darter prefers cobble or gravel bottoms and spawns on the surface of rocks. Peak spawning activity was observed in mid-April. In nature, they feed on the larvae of midges, blackflies, and mayflies as well as copepods and cladocera ("water fleas"). The age, growth, and spawning behavior are also described. Water quality parameters from their natural habitat are briefly presented.

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Lindquist, D.G., J.R. Shute, and P.W. Shute, 1981. Spawning and nesting behavior of the Waccamaw Darter, Etheostoma perlongum. Environmental Biology of Fishes 6(2): 177-191.

This paper describes spawning and nesting behavior of this endangered darter. The Waccamaw Darter is virtually restricted to Lake Waccamaw, North Carolina. Information on accessory reproductive topics such as nuptial color, morphological differences in the sexes, and general ecology is also given. Because of its endangered status, it is unlikely that this species will be available to aquarium culturists, but the paper is a good model for writing descriptions of observations in the lab and the field. Color photographs of the darters spawning in the field and several black-and-white pictures of nests and eggs are included.

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Anonymous, 1982. Recovery News--Director signs five plans. Maryland Darter. Endangered Species Technical Bulletin 7(3): 8-9.

A recovery plan for this rare and endangered darter (Etheostoma sellare) has been drafted by the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service. This small darter is now known only from Deer Creek, Harford County, Maryland. The plan includes a refuge, analysis of water-level requirements, and water-quality improvement, and suggests raising the darters in controlled environments in natural streams and/or hatchery (aquarium!) systems.