

the cichlid monthly



Volume 33, #11
November 2004

\$1.10
INCL GST



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THE NEXT MEETING of the Society will be held on the first Wednesday of the month at 8 pm sharp (the Trading Table opens earlier) in the Mitcham Scout Hall, Brunswick Road, Mitcham. Visitors are encouraged to come along.

MINI TALK: Quiz and Auction Report.

MAIN TALK: 'Long Toms' - Geoff Wills.

DOOR PRIZES: Aqualife.

DRAW PRIZES:

1. Test Kits - courtesy of Aquasonic and ABS Technologies.
2. Cichlid Book - courtesy of Masterpet.
3. Plant..
4. Bristlenose - courtesy of Geoff Wills.

TABLE SHOWS: Details see page 18.

MEMBERSHIP FEES 2004

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(new memberships add \$8 joining fee)

COVER PICTURE:

Orange Blob -- Daryl Hutchins..

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Cichlid Scene	1
Rowemin' 'round -- G Rowe	3
Angelfish -- C Hawley	4-9
Apistogramma steindachneri -- J Wakabayashi	10-11
What's In a Name? -- L Peach & D Hutchins	14-18
OSI Table Show Calendar	18
Minutes of Previous Meeting	19
The Last Word -- D Hutchins	20

Aims of the Society:

The Victorian Cichlid Society was formed by cichlidophiles in March 1972 thus becoming the first specialist aquarist group in Victoria. Its main aims are:

1. To promote the keeping of cichlids;
2. To gain and disseminate knowledge of cichlids, their habits and attributes through the use of slides, films, books, lectures, practical demonstrations, local and overseas magazines, articles by members and discussions with fellow members or experts in the field;
3. To assist, in any way possible, the establishment and/or maintenance of approved public aquaria;
4. To be involved in the education of the general public with regard to the benefits of fishkeeping (particularly cichlids), and the potentially harmful effects of animal mismanagement;
5. To promote fellowship between members;
6. To further the conservation of species and their natural habitats;
7. To further the identification, distribution, breeding, maintenance and enjoyment of species in the Family Cichlidae.

Disclaimer: Opinions expressed herein are those of the authors, and are not necessarily those of the Editor of TCM or the committee of the Victorian Cichlid Society Inc. You are encouraged to write to, or e-mail the Editor on any subject raised herein.

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Rowemin' 'round

Welcome aboard our first flight for a few months. What with football finals, school holidays, auctions, Bathurst, elections and the motor bike Grand Prix, nobody would have had time to read this column and take a flight, so we've had a wee recess.

Our first stop is the Land of the Long White Cloud in answer to the invitation the August issue of 'New Zealand Aquarium World'. Peter Phipps asks "Who are you Calling a Phag" as

he recounts the spawning of his *Geophagus brasiliensis*.

Our next stop is Eastern Districts Aquarium Society in answer to the invitation in the September issue of 'Fishtales'. "Max" reveals in part 4 of Max's Monthly Musings that he has a hankering for Apistogrammas and he and The Mate decided to breed *Apistogramma caetei* with success.

We have a lot of Must-Read In-Flight Literature to browse through:

Revue Française des Cichlidophiles	June	Association France Cichlid
Revue Française des Cichlidophiles	October	Association France Cichlid
All Cichlids	May	Michigan Cichlid Association
All Cichlids	June	Michigan Cichlid Association
All Cichlids	July	Michigan Cichlid Association
Cichlid Evening Post	August	Great Lakes Cichlid Society
Cichlid Evening Post	September	Great Lakes Cichlid Society
Cichlid Chatter	September	Greater Chicago Cichlid Association
Cichlidae Communiqué	May/June	Pacific Coast Cichlid Association
Cichlidae Communiqué	July/August	Pacific Coast Cichlid Association
Cichlid Blues	July	Pacific Coast Cichlid Association
Cichlid Blues	September	Pacific Coast Cichlid Association
Cichlid Circular	September	New South Wales Cichlid Society
Superfish	Jul/Aug/Sep	Queensland Cichlid Group
DISCUSsions	April/May	Australian Discus Association

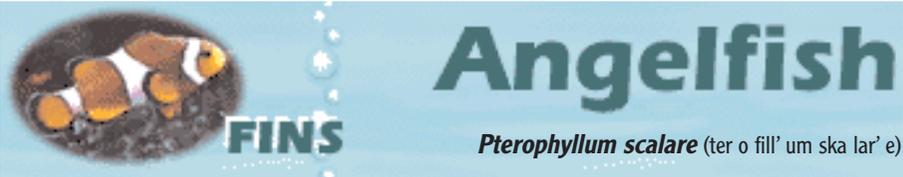
That just leaves our non-cichlid invitations:

Finchat	July	Aquarium Society of Victoria
Finchat	August	Aquarium Society of Victoria.
Finchat	September	Aquarium Society of Victoria
Fishtales	August	Eastern Districts Aquarium Society
Sunfish	July	Sunshine Coast Aquarium Society
Sunfish	August	Sunshine Coast Aquarium Society
Sunfish	September	Sunshine Coast Aquarium Society
Sunfish	October	Sunshine Coast Aquarium Society

Well that's it until I get inspired again.

Until then

Graham



By Cindy Hawley

The scientific name for the freshwater Angelfish is quite descriptive. *Pterophyllum* is derived from the Greek word for “winged leaf” and *scalare* means “like a flight of stairs” in reference to the dorsal fin. It is a Latin word that can also mean “ladder”. Angelfish are laterally compressed or look like a disc on edge with long fins coming out of the top and bottom and have two “feelers” in front of the anal or bottom fin. The tail is vertically oriented and may be from scoop shovel shape to long and relatively narrow depending on the variety.

Origin: Amazon region of South America.

Size: Up to 15cm in length, the top and bottom fins spanning a greater distance in the Veil varieties.

Ideal Water Quality: Soft (0.6 to 1.2 dH), slightly acid (pH 6.5 to 6.9), successful breedings have occurred in pH 6.8.

Live Plants should be included in all freshwater tanks. Water quality is monitored by live plants as they will look sickly before the fish die, they aid in keeping water clear, hinder growth of algae and add oxygen to the water.

Broadleaf aquatic plants are favorites of Angelfish for laying their eggs on. Amazon Sword plants (*Echinodorus*) are in a genus that embraces more than 50 relatively hardy and adaptable species, most of which are native to the flood plains of South America. They prefer water that is neutral or slightly acid and not too hard, making them perfect plants for your Angelfish tank.

Vesicularia dubyana (Java Moss), *Ceratopteris* (Water Sprite) and *Microsorium*

Angelfish

Pterophyllum scalare (ter o fill' um ska lar' e)

From fins.actwin.com (reproduced with permission).

(*Polypodium pteropus* or Java Fern) are all compatible live aquatic plants.

Diet: Angelfish can survive on flake food alone, but they will thrive and be much more apt to breed on a greatly varied diet. Live foods such as adult brineshrimp, black worms, mosquito larvae, finely chopped earthworms and guppy fry are accepted with enthusiasm and should be included regularly. If live food is not available, frozen packages of blood worms (Midge Fly larvae), brineshrimp and others are available from your favourite pet supply store and are acceptable substitutions for the live food. There are many dried foods available that will suffice too.

Raw beefheart, finely ground, mixed with unflavoured gelatin and frozen immediately in small one-serving size pieces is a good and economical addition to your Angelfish diet. Be absolutely sure there is no fat in the meat.

Fry Diet: Angelfish fry have been successfully raised on a diet of newly hatched brineshrimp (nauplii) for the first four weeks of their lives and fed two to four times daily. After that, they were gradually introduced to a mixture of finely powdered Angelfish flakes and powdered dried blood worms with an occasional (twice a week) feeding of baby brineshrimp.

When their bodies are about the size of a quarter, they may be fed guppy fry. An easy way to provide this very nutritious food is to keep pregnant guppies in the same tank as the young Angels and the rest is up to nature. Of course, feedings of other varied foods are needed to round out the diet.

The author conducted an experiment and got six quarter-sized Angelfish from a large tank of like-sized Angels and put them in a 37-litre tank with a sponge filter and watersprite. They were fed guppy fry and twice a day received any combination of Angelfish flakes, frozen bloodworms, frozen brineshrimp and dried bloodworms for four weeks. At the end of the experiment, the six who received a varied diet twice a day were almost the size of a half-dollar, while the size of the other Angelfish barely had any noticeable growth at all. You can see that the correct diet for your Angels is essential to potential and current breeder fish.

Tank Size: The minimum size tank for a breeding pair of Angelfish is 56 litres, but should be 95 litres or larger if you plan on leaving the fry with the parents. As you can imagine, a fully grown pair of Angels with 200-300 fry to herd around would be pretty cramped in anything smaller. Another plus to having a larger tank is that there is a better feeling of security in a larger tank and the parents are not as apt to eat their eggs or young.

Choosing Breeder Angelfish: The best way of assuring yourself at least one young pair is to choose six perfect specimens from a large tankful of young Angels. This method is less expensive than buying proven breeders that may be near the end of their breeding careers anyway.

When preparing to buy six Angelfish, take your time to study the fish and select only those with straight top and bottom fins and perfect “feelers” without any bowing or bends in them. They should be strong, robust and active. Angelfish that are active feeders mean they will grow quickly, and have a high rate of egg production in the females.

Do not buy fish from a tank with either dead fish in it, with fungus or parasite infestations. Resist the urge to “come to the rescue of the little ugly duckling” because it will only grow

up to be a big ugly duckling and will be totally unsuitable for breeding purposes. Be extremely picky with your breeder selection and you will be rewarded with beautiful fry.

Once you have carefully selected your six potential breeders, they can be set up in a 75-litre tank minimum to grow up in and to finally pair off. If they are fed well with a good selection of live foods, they will grow quickly and reach breeder size rapidly.

One sure way to acquire a true breeding pair of Angelfish is to purchase a proven pair from a breeder. When you purchase a pair this way there is always the possibility that they are at the end of their breeding career.

Spawning: In mature fish, breeding can be stimulated by a partial water change and a rise in temperature to between 26 and 27 degrees Celsius.

One sure sign that spawning is about to occur is the appearance of the pair’s genital papillae. These are little nipple-like projections and are called ovipositors (oh vi poz’ uh turs), a word that literally means “egg-placer(s)”. The female’s ovipositor is larger and more blunt than the male’s, which is slender and more pointed. These protuberances, which appear at the vent are used respectively for depositing eggs and fertilising them. The obvious differences in the genital papillae are the first completely reliable indication of sex determination.

The pair will select a spawning site and thoroughly clean it about two or three days before actual spawning takes place. When the cleanliness of the spawning site finally meets the approval of the parent fish, the female will make a few test runs. She will pull her ventral fins or feelers close to the lower sides of her abdomen and her anal fin will be situated so that her entire lower line is relatively straight. Her ovipositor will then be able to make full contact with the slate, leaf or whatever, that

was chosen for a spawning site. The male will then make a few practice runs too before the actual spawning takes place.

When spawning actually takes place, the female will pass over the site and eggs are deposited which adhere to the surface. The male then moves in and scoots along over the string of eggs just laid and fertilises them, his fins taking the same position as the female's so he can press closely to insure a higher fertilisation rate.

The male and female Angelfish will take turns making passes over the spawning site until several hundred or more eggs have been laid, depending on the size and condition of the female prior to spawning. The parents will hover closely over the spawn and fan continuously with their pectoral fins to create a circulation of water over and around the eggs. Some unfertilised eggs will turn white in a matter of hours and will be removed by the parents.

Hatching Eggs Away from Parents:

Should you decide to remove the eggs after spawning to raise away from the parents, a bare 56 to 75-litre tank with sponge filter and a piece of slate leaned up against a side wall would be ideal as the Angelfish will use the

piece of slate to lay their eggs on, making it easy for you to remove the entire spawn.

A restaurant-sized pickle or mayonnaise jar submerged into the tank and the slate with the spawn gently transferred into it is the best way to handle the delicate eggs which should be facing upward. An airstone should be placed in the jar in such a way that the somewhat vigorous stream of air bubbles does not hit the eggs directly. The jar should be floated in the tank so the temperature remains constant and water changes can come from the parent's tank.

Successful breeders have used this "formula" for the water in which to raise the fry: Dechlorinated tap water measuring about 75-100 ppm hardness or about 5 DH and a pH of about 7.4 and kept at 26-27°C. A 3-litre pickle jar was used and tilted, filled 3/4 full and three drops of 10% Methylene Blue was added. The aeration was vigorous and each day after hatching, one-half the water was replaced with aged tap water of the same temperature. Aeration was slowed after the fry were free-swimming.

Hatching should occur in about 36 to 48 hours depending on the temperature. If you should see some eggs fall off the slate, you may elect to either pick them up with an

eyedropper or turkey baster and squirt them back on the slate or leave them to hatch where they are.

There will be a period after hatching and before free-swimming when the fry will stick together. At this time increase the aeration so *all* the fry will have access to sufficient oxygen.

Do not put food in the jar until they fry are free-swimming. This will only serve to foul the water and they won't eat while they still have a yolk-sac to live on. After about 3-5 days when they are free-swimming, you may introduce newly hatched brineshrimp into the jar for the fry to eat.

Leaving Fry with Parents: If the parents are to be left with the eggs, it is best to provide as much peace and quiet for them as possible. You may want to set up their tank in your bedroom or a spare room where they will not be unnecessarily disturbed. Other than that, they should be treated as you normally do.

Some aquarists cover the tank with paper or black plastic and use peep holes to observe the fish. This can cause more disturbance than without the cover because there is no warning for the fish when the lid is going to be opened for feeding or for any other reason.

The best system for filtering a fry tank is a seeded corner sponge filter. Start your new rotifer (roe' tu fur) bacteria colony by putting the new sponge filter with aeration into an established tank. This should be done long before you have to use it so that all you have to do is pop it into the fry tank when the time comes. The sponge will begin to discolor when you have the start of your colony.

The circulation of water is gentle, the fry won't be sucked into the sponge and even baby brineshrimp are safe with a sponge filter. Clean the sponge in a bucket of siphoned-off aquarium water to protect the rotifers from dying. Wring it out a couple of times and it's ready to go back to work even in a completely bare aquarium.

Undergravel filters also work biologically, but are not as convenient to use in this instance. A scrupulously clean aquarium is essential for proper growth and health of your Angelfish fry, but with an undergravel filter, this is almost impossible to do. The water can look crystal clear while the space under the filter can be filthy with uneaten food and fish waste. This in turn causes ammonia build-up, which is dangerous or even fatal to fish.

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It is obviously very difficult if not impossible to keep a fry tank with an undergravel filter in it perfectly clean.

Angelfish Varieties:

While most mutations are lost in nature because they are different, the aquarist can provide added protection for the creature and possibly breed it selectively to establish the new strain.

Silver

This is the normal coloring of wild Angels. The body is white with four dark vertical bars running through it. The first passes through the eye, the second usually is in front of the top and bottom fin, the third is usually through the top and bottom fin and the fourth is at the start of the tail fin. There may or may not be faint dark bars running parallel between the darker ones. Some specimens have black speckles over the top half of the body.

Zebra

These are much like the Silvers, but they have more vertical stripes, which continue on right through the tail.

Black Lace

Black Lace are the steppingstones to the solid black variety. The main difference between Black Lace and Silvers is the intensity of color especially on the fins where you will see a lace like effect. In mating two Black Lace, you can expect to produce 25% Black, 50% Black Lace and 25% Silver. The Black fry are especially fragile and a lot of times do not survive to free-swimming and if they do, should be separated from their more vigorous littermates.

Black

These fish are a solid, velvety black. In mating a Black to a Black Lace you can expect 50% Black and 50% Black Lace and if you

mate Black to Black you can expect 100% Black.

Half Black

Half Blacks are just that. Their bodies are white in the front and the black cuts right through the top and bottom fins right through the tail.

Veiltail

Veiltail Angels have very elongated fins and come in all color varieties. If a Veil Angel and a Silver are bred, you can expect 50% Veil and 50% Silver. Breed two Veils and you can expect 25% ordinary Angels, 50% Veil and 25% Long-Tailed Veil which will have even longer fins and tails than the Veil. Breeding two Long-Tailed Veils will produce 100% Long Tailed Veils, but they are not as hearty nor are the spawns as large. Some Veils have such long fins that they become bent or at worst broken.

Marble

Instead of having the ordinary black bars, these fish have a broken pattern of black and silver that is best described as Marble. In the head and back region there may be undertones of golden while the fins have rays of black and white. A breeding of a Marble with a Black Lace will produce some fry which are Black Lace Marble, having characteristics of both parents.

Golden

Goldens may range from a solid silvery white to a golden color with no other markings. Over the head and back area is usually a mantle of gold.

Blushing

Blushing Angels have a red cheek area and no pattern on a white body and are reported to be the most delicate.

Pearl Scale

Pearl Scale Angels have bumpy almost rough looking scales and come in many color varieties.

Diseases:

Angelfish are apparently not as apt to contract the common diseases that other tropical fish are. However, I will list some common ailments for your reference.

Ichthyophthirius or Ich

Otherwise known as "white spot disease" because of the appearance of the encysted adult parasite on infected fish, Ich is caused by the protozoan parasite *Ichthyophthirius multifiliis*. Angelfish are less susceptible than many other tropicals, but occasionally contract this disease.

Ich goes through three definite stages: First, the adult parasite lives in the skin of the host fish, feeding on the tissue and body fluids of the fish and appears as a white spot; second, the mature parasite leaves the host and falls to the bottom where it divides; third, as many as 2000 free-swimming youngsters all seek a host fish that they can attach to. This is the stage where most treatments are affective.

Higher temperatures will cause the cycle to complete faster so it is suggested that you raise the temperature to around 26°C as part of the treatment. This gives the free-swimming parasites less time to find a host before they die.

Your favorite pet supply store will have Ich medication on hand.

Exophthalmia or Pop-Eye

This is one of the more often encountered diseases of Angelfish although not common. Pop-eye is a symptom, not a disease and it can have a number of causes. Some are incurable, some can be cured.

Some of the causes of this condition are: Not making partial water changes often enough resulting in a build-up of dissolved waste products, infection by a parasitic fungus called *Ichthyosporidium*. Other symptoms of this dis-

ease, also known as *Ichthyophonus*, are usually present when it is the cause of Pop-eye. The symptoms are body sores, bloody spots, staggering, black spots, tumors that have erupted, emaciation or scale protrusion, loss of fins. Usually this is introduced with other fish and is considered incurable. Some success has been reported using 1% phenoxetol at about 50cc per four litres of water.

Bacterial infections can also cause Pop-eye and may be treated with 50 mg per four litres of Tetracycline or Terramycin added every other day or mixing with the food 200 mg antibiotic to 120 g of food, and feeding this for 10 days.

Another cause of Pop-eye is otherwise known as "worm cataract disease". The eyes bulge and the cornea becomes cloudy because of the invasion of types of flatworms. These must live through a stage in which snails are the intermediary host and if they do not find a fish within a short period, will die. Once a fish is infected, there is no effective cure.

This parasite is introduced with snails, so wild snails should be avoided. Aquarium snails pose no problem as they are not exposed to water birds that serve as another intermediary host and from which the snails become infected.

Hunger Strike

Loss of appetite and eventual refusal to eat should not be a problem in a well-maintained tank. As long as regular partial water changes are made and the general guidelines for cleanliness are followed, this should never happen to you.

In case you notice your Angelfish going "off their feed", bribe them with live brineshrimp, live guppy fry or any other clean live food. In no time they will be eating again.



Apistogramma steindachneri

By John Wakabayashi, Ph.D., R.G.



© Reproduced with permission, from John and Judy Wakabayashi's web site -- www.tdl.com/~wako

The site includes more cichlid material, information about John's work as a geologist and pages about the couple's other interests -- fishing, bulbs and beer.



Figure 1 above, is our pair of *Apistogramma steindachneri* guarding fry (that are too small to show up well on the photo). Male, "Fred", above, female "Annie", below. This was their second successful fry rearing session. Annie did the lion's share of the work guarding the fry. Fred was usually off somewhere else.

This is an unusually small pair for this species. We have had them a bit over a year (as of April 11, 2002) and the male is only about 5.5 cm in length (they are supposed to get to 9-10 cm). This is just as well. At full size they might feel cramped in their present quarters, a 75-litre high tank.

Figure 2 shows one of the two young adult males ("Snoop") from the first brood (in a different tank; 38-litre) taken a few days after their first birthday. Snoop is about 4.5 cm in length in the photo.

The first breeding of the steindachneri was accomplished in a planted 38-litre tank; the second in a 75-litre high. Both tanks have bogwood as well as plants and man-made decorations with caves. Water was soft (but not measured; municipal water supply is soft Sierra Nevada runoff), with a pH ranging from 6.0 to 7.2 (pH lowered a bit by filtration over peat). Water temperature



was (is) 27.5-28.5°C (81-83°F).

Filtration on the 38-litre is an Aquaclear Mini (four from the first brood now live there). Filtration on the 75-litre high is an Aquaclear 200. Lighting for the 38-litre is 15W of fluorescent light with 40W for the 75-litre high. No supplemental CO₂ is used.

Dither during the first breeding was provided by four Cardinal Tetras. During the second breeding the dither consisted of four sub-adult Diamond Tetras. The Diamonds are too fast and aggressive dither for this species; whereas the Cardinals work quite well. As the Diamonds grew, the Apistos had difficulty competing for food. These Apistos seem relatively mild as far as aggression goes. Prior to the first breeding Fred's attacks on Annie were severe enough to tear her caudal and pectoral fins, but he has since become quite gentle (more cover really helps here; the more jungle-like the better). Annie was quite gentle with Fred during breeding (when she became boss), gently nipping him, but never really blasting him with any ferocity.

Figure 3 depicts the "happy family". The two



juveniles (centre and left) from the second brood raised by the parents are six months old in this photo. For the first five months, there was little aggression between these four. This ended when Fred and Annie tried to spawn (unsuccessfully).



Below left (Fig 4) is a photo of Spike, Snoop's one-year-old male rival. He has a very high dorsal fin (not quite fully extended in the photo), higher than both Fred's and Snoop's although he does not have as long caudal fin extensions as Snoop. This photo captures him in the middle of a lateral display contest with Snoop. Both of these young males are dramatic in appearance during these displays.

Below right (Fig 5) is a portrait of Fred, the patriarch of the clan. Note that for a male steindachneri, Fred has almost no extensions on his caudal fin. He once had them, they went away, and he has recently grown them again (Sept '02). Contrast this with Snoop (see



first photo of Snoop and the one below), who has the classic lyreate caudal fin typical of male steindachneri.



This (Fig 6) is Annie in breeding colours during one of four consecutive unsuccessful parenting attempts (she guarded three fry for about five days) that occurred about seven months after her last successful effort.

These guys are a lot more peaceful than our rambunctious *Laetacara dorsigera*, but they do smack each other a bit. Snoop was the most aggressive of the steindachneri clan, after Fred has mellowed, but upon reaching an age just short of 18 months, Spike outgrew him and took over the tank.



Above (Fig 7) is Snoop attacking one of his tankmates.





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The original of this piece by VCS member **Les Peach** was published in 'The Cichlid Monthly' in June 1977. In June 1989 it was expanded upon by **Daryl Hutchins** and republished.

What's In a Name?

Linnean Classification (named for Carl von Linne, who made the first real attempts to classify living things) is known as the binomial (two-name) system whereby all things must have, naturally, two names. The first name is the **generic** name (closely related groups); the second is the **specific** name, which distinguishes a species from all others.

Sometimes a third name is added (someone always has a better way) to distinguish sub-species from one another.

To be absolutely correct a generic name should be a noun, and it should always begin with a capital letter. The species name should be an adjective, though all too often it too is a noun – regardless, it should always be written entirely in lowercase, even though it is the proper name of a place or person. Ideally, it should be printed in italics, and be followed by the name (not italicised) of the person who first described the organism, and the year it was named.

The ideal name:

Herotilapia multispinosa Gunther, 1869.

These names, commonly referred to as "Latin" names, are just as often Greek in origin. Sometimes they are even "Latinised" Greek or whatever; a mixture of Latin and Greek in the one word; occasionally native words and sometimes, it appears, just the first thing that occurred to the describer – right or wrong.

Obviously they should be called "scientific names". Some would even have it that they should be termed "Linnaean names", but there is enough name-dropping in this business as it is.

The best names, I feel, give one an idea of what a previously unseen fish (or whatever) should look like. If someone sent me a fish called *Megasoma multifasciata* and it was a little fish whose only

marking was a big round spot, I would want to have words with them fairly shortly.

Because of the great differences in the common names of fishes from country to country, scientific names are the only real method of keeping records constant throughout the world – an international inventory of fish that people can understand regardless of their language. However, this does not always apply, as many people have some difficulty in remembering (and pronouncing) these names.

While some names are rather complicated and even unpronounceable, they are not really as difficult as they may at first appear. Breaking them up into separate parts is the first step to simplification.

Scientific names stem from a number of sources; the most widely chosen ones are usually from the following:

- 1. Geographic origins** – this encompasses the country where the fish is found, a region within the country, a lake, a river, town etc.
- 2. Physical/behavioural characteristics** – including colour, markings, shape, diet, habits, habitat, etc.
- 3. Named after a person** – collector, noted ichthyologist, etc (and these days it seems: friends, family, and people you would like to publish your book – Ed).

For convenience, I shall discuss each category separately –

1. Geographic Origins

South America and Africa seem to have been blessed with a variety of magnificent-sounding names with which to name cichlids. This of course, makes the job of the ichthyologist extremely easy, since all he has to do is take the name of the country and add *ensis* on to the end of it.

We have examples of this from Brazil (*Geophagus brasiliensis*), the Central American country of Nicaragua gives its name to *Cichlasoma nicaraguense*; and *Aequidens paraguayensis* derives its name, of course, from Paraguay.

The city of Managua, situated on the eastern shores of Lake Nicaragua, has lent its name to one of the most imposing of all cichlids – *Cichlasoma managuense*. The Port Cichlid, *Aequidens portalegrensis* was named after Porto Alegre in Brazil. The country of Surinam on the northern border of Brazil and in between French and British Guiana gave us *Geophagus surinamensis*.

Cichla orinocoensis was named after the Orinoco River and *Crenicichla santaremensis* after Santarem, a town on the Amazon. *Apistogramma combrae* is a misspelt interpretation of the town of Corumba on the Paraguay River.

In Africa, *Haplochromis nkatae* was named after Nkata Bay in Lake Malawi. *Telmatochromis tanganyicae* and the genus *Tanganicodus* take their names from Lake Tanganyika. *Haplochromis likomae* and others derive their names from Likoma Island in Lake Malawi. *Tylochromis bangwelensis* was named for Lake Bangwelu; *Lamprologus congolensis* after the Congo River; *Pelvicachromis cameronensis* after Cameroon; *Tilapia rukwaensis* after Lake Rukwa and *Orthochromis malagaraziensis* after the Malagarasi Swamp east of Lake Tanganyika. The list is endless.

2. Physical/Behavioural Characteristics

Spots (maculatus) and stripes (fasciatus) figure quite prominently in this category.

Bimaculatus, which means two spots, is used in naming such fishes as *Nannacara bimaculata* and *Cichlasoma bimaculatum*.

Trimaculatum means three spots, although I have counted many more on *Cichlasoma trimaculatum*.

The cichlid with four spots is *Haplochromis quadrimaculatus*.

Maculicauda means spot on the tail, or, more precisely, on the caudal peduncle.

An ocellus is a spot of a different nature – an eye-spot – and refers to the large spot on fishes like *Astronotus ocellatus* (the Oscar), and *Cichla ocellatus* the big, beautiful South American Pike Cichlid.

As if to confuse the issue, there are other Latin words that also means spot. These are: *guttatum*, *punctatus* and *stigma*. Taking *guttatum* to mean spot and *cyano* to mean blue, we have a blue-spotted cichlid, *Cichlasoma cyanoguttatum* (the Texas Cichlid).

Two of the Latin words that mean "many" are multi and poly. So fate decreed that *Haplochromis polystigma* was not titled *Haplochromis multipunctatus* – which both mean roughly the same thing, "many spots".

As far as stripes go, they are usually termed *fasciatus* or *taeniatus*. This gives us two-striped *bifasciatus*; three-striped *trifasciatus*; six-striped *sexfasciatus*; eight-striped *octofasciatus* and nine-striped *novemfasciatus*.

As if nine stripes were not enough, there is a *Tilapia multifasciata* – "many stripes". There are black stripes – *nigrofasciatus* – and, on the Discus there are equal stripes – *aequifasciata*. The family Cichlidae certainly has an abundance of stripes.

To confuse the issue once again, *vittatus* also means stripes, as those on *Haplochromis vittatus*. A well-known example of *taeniatus* (banding) is *Haplochromis pleurotaenia* which means banded on the side.

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These are a few examples, their English meanings and the fishes to which they refer:

Scientific Name	Meaning	Example/s
Aequidens	Equal teeth	
Apistogramma	Unreliable lateral line	
Astronotus	Star-like design	
brevis	Short	Melanochromis
acuticeps	Pointed head	Geophagus
annectens	Connected	Haplochromis
anomala	Not normal	Nannacara
compressiceps	Compressed head	Haplochromis
crassa	Fat	Cichlasoma
curviceps	Curved head	Aequidens
fenestratum	Window pattern	Haplochromis
Geophagus	Earth-eater	
gymnogenys	Naked gill covers	Geophagus
jurupari	Devil's fish hook (Indian name)	Geophagus
lacustris	Lacustrine	Crenicichla
latifrons	Wide forehead	Aequidens
lepidota	Scaly ears (gill plates)	Crenicichla
lepidura	Scaly tail	Tilapia
longirostris	Long nose	Haplochromis
macrocephalus	Big head	Haplochromis
macrophthalmus	Big eye	Pseudotropheus
microstoma	Small mouth	Pseudotropheus
multispinosa	Many spines	Herotilapia
Nannacara	Small acara (Acara = cichlid)	
nigripinnis	Black fins	Limnochromis
nudiceps	Naked head	Nannochromis
obliquidens	Obliquely crowned teeth	Cyathochromis
ornatipinnis	Ornate fins	Apistogramma
pulcher	Beautiful	Pelvicachromis
spilurum	Spotted tail	Cichlasoma
spinosissimum	Very spiny	Cichlasoma
strigigena	Striped cheeks	Haplochromis
Symphysodon	Refers to the teeth on the linkage of the low branches of the lower jaw (the Symphis)	
tetracanthus	Four spines	Cichlasoma
tetramerus	Divided into four parts	Aequidens

One of the most beautiful names, in my opinion, is *Cichlasoma* – meaning “body of a thrush” – which aptly describes a most magnificent group of cichlids.

Melanochromis labrosus can only be translated (very loosely) as “lubra lips”. This fleshy group would include *Cichlasoma labiatum* (erythraeum etc), *Lobochilotes labiatum* and *Cichlasoma lobochilus*.

When *oides* is appended to a species name, it means “similar to”. This makes *Uaru amphiacanthoides* “similar to” *Amphiacanthus*, a Pacific marine fish which is a plant-eater.

3. Named after a person

Wolfgang Klausewitz	<i>Apistogramma klausewitzii</i>
Charles Tate Regan	<i>Julidochromis regani</i>
Sir Harry Johnston	<i>Haplochromis johnstoni</i>
Captain Rhoades	<i>Chilotilapia rhoadesii</i>
Dr Cuthbert Christy	<i>Aristochromis chrystii</i> , <i>Lamprologus chrystii</i> , <i>Lethrinops chrystii</i>
Dr Ethelwynn Trewavas	<i>Labetropheus trewavassae</i>
Albert Guenther	<i>Chromidotilapia guentheri</i>

Sir John Kirk
E. Roloff
Heckel
Pierre Brichard
Dr Herbert Axelrod
Cappy Sprenger
Harald Schultz
Peter Davies
Dr George S. Myers
Eimeke (German importer)
Franz Steindachner
Jacques Pellegrini
Reitzig (German importer)
Louis Agassiz
Dr Seth Meek
James Pindani (Africa)
David Eccles
O. Salvin
Sparmann (Swedish zoologist)
Thollon (collector)
M.V. Ramirez (Venezuelan collector)

Haplochromis kirkii
Pelvicachromis rolhoffi
Acarichthys heckeli
Chalinochromis, *Lamprologus brichardi*
Symphysodon aequifasciata axelrodi (etc)
Iodotropheus sprengerae
Symphysodon aequifasciata haraldi
Trematocranus peterdaviesi
Petenia, *Cichlasoma myersi*
Pterophyllum eimekei
Geophagus steindachneri
Geophagus pellegrini
Apistogramma reitzigi
Apistogramma agassizi
Cichlasoma meeki
Pseudotropheus pindani
Diplotaxodon ecclesi
Cichlasoma salvini
Tilapia sparmani
Tilapia tholloni
Apistogramma ramirezi

Last (in this list) but not least, there are *Enantiopus boulengeri*, *Xenotilapia boulengeri* and the largest African cichlid, *Boulengerochromis microlepis* – all named for one of the all-time superstars in ichthyology, Georges Albert Boulenger.

The following is a brief list of some of the commonly used “building blocks” and their meanings. Check them against some of your favorite fishes and will see how they (usually) fit them so well.

GREEK

acantho = spiny	hemi = half	osteo = bone
amphi = both sides	hetero = different	penta = five
aplo = single	hexa = six	petro = stone
cara = head	ichthy = fish	phago = eat
cephalo = head	krypto = hidden	phyll = leaf
chilo = lip	lepis = scale	platus = wide or flat
chroma = color	leuco = white	poly = many
cinctus = girdle	leukos = white	pseudo = false



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crypto = hidden
dermo = skin
dontos = tooth
echino = spiny
erythro = red
eu- = typical
gaster = belly
gastro = belly
genys = cheek
geo = earth
gramm = line
gymno = naked
haplo = single

limno = pond
macro = large
mega = large
melas = black
micro = small
mono = single
morph = form or shape
nannos = dwarf
neo = new
noto = back
oligo = few
opsis = appearance, aspect
ophthalm = eye

ptero = fin
soma = body
spilo = spot
spilos = spot
sterno = breast
stoma = mouth
taenia = band
tetra = four
troph = food
uro = tail
xantho = yellow
xeno = strange
zon = girdle

LATIN

-alis = relating to
-anus = belongs to (place)
-atus = provided with
-ellus = diminutive suffix
-ensis = belongs to (place)
-icus = belonging to
-ides = relationship
-ites = belonging to
-osus = full of (spots)
-ulus = diminutive suffix
acutus = sharply pointed
aequi = equal
albus = white
ater = black
auris = the ear
auster = the south
caeruleus = dark-blue

caudo = tail
cep = head
dens = tooth
elegans = elegant
flavus = yellow
frons = forehead
fuscus = brown
fuscus = dark-coloured
gutta = spot
labi = lip
latus = side, flank
lobatus = lobed
macula = large
niger = black
ocellus = eye-spot
octo = eight
pictus = painted

pulcher = beautiful
punctum = hole or cut
pusillus = very small
quadri = four
quin = five
ruber = red
rufus = red
semi = half or part
serratus = saw-like
sex = six
stella = star
striatus = striped
tenuis = thin
ums = tail
ventra = belly
vitta = striped



OSI Table Show Calendar 2004

	<u>Kevin Archibald Show</u>	<u>Keith Patford Show</u>
February	Angels, Uarus and Discus	Lake Malawians
March	South Americans	Lake Tanganyikans
April	Central Americans	African Riverine and Lake Victorians
May	South Americans	Lake Malawians
June	Dwarf Americans	Dwarf Africans
July	Central Americans	Lake Tanganyikans
August	Pairs (American)	Pairs (African)
September	South Americans	Lake Malawians
October	Central Americans	African Riverine and Lake Victorians
November	Angels, Uarus and Discus	Lake Tanganyikans
December	American of Your Choice	African of Your Choice

NOTE: Asian and Madascan Cichlids may be entered any time, but must meet the special requirements in June (dwarfs) and August (pairs).

Previously ... at a VCS Meeting

The October 2004 meeting opened at 8.16 pm with the President in the chair. He welcomed all. Members indicated that they had received their magazines. The minutes of the September meeting were taken as read on a motion moved by Jeff Staude and seconded by Phil Russell.

The Treasurer reported a balance of \$3015.93 with outstanding bills of \$197.60 for printing and postage and c\$43.00 for supper. This report was received on a motion moved by Andreas Kiefer and seconded by Daryl Hutchins.

The only correspondence was donations from Masterpet, ABS Technologies and Aquasonic. The correspondence was accepted on a motion moved by David Green and seconded by John McCormick.

Manny Pickard was thanked for the television stand. We then saw a video covering Regency and Malvern Aquariums, the last in a series of videos covering our advertisers. The President then moved a vote of thanks to David Green and John McCormick for their video. This was carried by acclamation.

Members were then reminded that BAA forms should be given to the Secretary, entries for the November Home Show should be given to the Secretary and vote early before the Auction. A short break was then called.

After the break, Phil mentioned the leading members in the Member of the Year competition. He then brought out the Photo Board and David Green and Phil Russell spoke about the fish in their photographs. To get good fish photos on digital it was held that you needed optical zoom.

A brief mini auction was then held. Daryl Hutchins was thanked for his donation.

Geoff Wills then gave a demonstration on bagging fish and how to have a successful auction.

Phil Russell then told a cautionary tale on killing fish. (The fish strikes back?)

All members willing to help at the auction were invited to see the President at the break.

Certificates were presented to the winners in the Elaine Turner Memorial Art & Photo Competition.

The OSI Table Show results were announced. Raffle prizes, donated by ABS Technologies were won by Dave Thorn First and Phil Russell second. John McCormick won the bottle of wine and Daryl Hutchins won the Bristlenose fry donated by Geoff Wills.

Door prizes, courtesy of Nijimi, were won by Scott Bradford, Brendan Clarkson, Ben Pickard, Daryl Hutchins, Jeff Staude and Shannon Loughnan.

Dave Thorn complained that there were no auction forms in the magazine. It was pointed out that they are available at every meeting and on our website.

The President thanked everyone for coming and invited them to stay for a cuppa, some supper and a chat and wished them a safe trip home.

He closed the meeting at 10.21 pm.



The Last Word

Daryl Hutchins..

The auction was very successful once again. I even bought stuff. My Swordtails and Madagascar cichlids have settled in well -- the Swordplant is even still alive, and still green.

One of the cichlids was a disappointment though. I haven't bought fish at auction for so long I forgot that it is a good idea to have a good look at what you have bought before the vendor gets out of the door.

The dorsal fin on this fish has a huge piece missing in the middle. This is a deformity, not damage. It made me wonder what is happening in the hobby today if we are not culling fish with such obvious deformities. It should have been done when the fish was small as it is such an obvious deformity. Is it really that important to wring every last dollar out of the hobby?

Having been involved in scrutinising fish at auctions in the past, I know you can't spot every fault. But it is quite impossible to raise a cichlid to 4-5cm in length without noticing that it has two quite separate dorsal fins. If you are too squeemish to cull deformed fishes, at least have enough class not to present them at auction -- I'll be watching next time.

REMINDER: get your articles in quickly for the Christmas Edition. I would like to get it done early. I know that you have been working hard on your contribution, but we're running out of editions. 

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