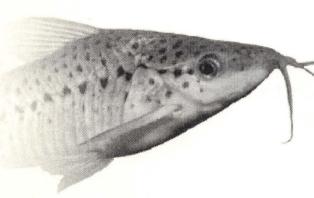
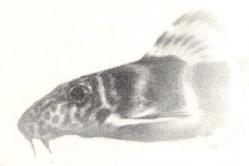
# GAT GHAT

The Journal of the Catfish Study Group (UK)



### In this issue

Exotarium at Zurich Zoo
by David Marshal



### Breeding the 'Stardust Plec' (L136a)

By Ian Fuller



#### Corydoras similis

by Eric Schiller

Open Show 2002 Results

Volume 3 Issue Number 4
December 2002

#### CONTENTS

| 1 | Comm    | itt  | ee |
|---|---------|------|----|
|   | CUIIIII | 1166 |    |

#### 3 From the Chair

#### 4 Catfish and Other Exhibits at the Zurich Exotarium

by

David Marshal

#### 7 Corydoras similis

Ву

Eric Schiller

#### 8 Catfish Updates

#### 9 Breeding the 'Stardust Plec' L136a

by

Ian Fuller

#### 13 Open Show Results 2002

Dear Members

I would like to thank all the people who have submitted articles to Cat Chat during our third successful year.

It has been a difficult task to find articles for this issue. Not even a 'Meet the Member' entry.

It's your journal, why not try to support it by giving me something to print. You only require a pen and paper and a tale of what you are doing - I'll do the little of the state of the st

I'd also like to hear from some of our overseas members. I'm sure that the availability of fish that some of you keep will be different. Do you need heaters in your home aquariums? Do you live in a warm place? What's the water like? Is it easy to breed certain fish? Or send me a photo and a bit for 'Meet the Members'.

We had some very welcome visitors from Israel to our Open Show who were sufficiently impressed enough to join.

as mor

A suggestion has been put forward that we should do what we are - a 'Catfish Study Group' and study catfish. The idea is that a fish is suggested and people write and tell us how they keep theirs. I think that it is a good idea because we all seem to have different problems and successes. It also gives others an insight of what they may not be doing right. Hopefully there will be more information on this subject in the next issue and I look forward to any suggestions

I'd like to wish all our members and other readers, a very Merry Xmas and a Successful Fish keeping New Year.

Ed

Articles and pictures can be sent by e-mail direct to <br/>
bill@catfish.co.uk> or by post to

Bill Hurst 18 Three Pools Crossens SOUTHPORT PR9 8RA (England)

**ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS** 

Front Cover:

Original Design by Kathy Jinkins.

### HONORARY COMMITTEE FOR THE

## GATFISH STUDY GROUP (UK)

2002

PRESIDENT

Trevor (JT) Morris

**VICE PRESIDENT** 

Dr Peter Burgess PJBurgess@compuserve.com

**CHAIRMAN** 

Ian Fuller ian@corycats.com

**VICE CHAIRMAN** 

Danny Blundell

SECRETARY

Ann Blundell

**TREASURER** 

Temporarily: Danny Blundell

**MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY** 

Dave Speed dspeed@cast88.freeserve.co.uk

**SHOW SECRETARY** 

Brian Walsh g.b.w@brianwalsh1.freeserve.co.uk

ASSISTANT SHOW SECRETARY

Ann Blundell

LIBRARIAN and AUCTION ORGANISERS

Roy & Dave Barton

**FUNCTIONS MANAGER** 

Trevor Morris

**SOCIAL SECRETARY** 

Terry Ward

**WEB SITE MANAGERS** 

Julian Dignal Allan James jools@planetcatfish.com allan@scotcat.com

**COMMITTEE MEMBERS** 

Peter Liptrot

bolnathist@gn.apc.org

**SOUTHERN REP** 

Steve Pritchard S.Pritchard@btinternet.com

**CATERING DEPARTMENT** 

Mr & Mrs Morris and Mr & Mrs Ward

**CAT CHAT EDITOR** 

Bill Hurst bhurst@catfish.co.uk

**DISTRIBUTION** 

Ann & Danny Blundell

SCIENTIFIC ADVISER

Isaäc Isbrücker

ıns anı

t some of

GAT CHAT

The Committee of the CSG (UK) would like to thank the following advertisers for their support in the production of this journal networks.

BARLOW'S AQUATIC TRADING ACCRINGTON

> PIER AQUATICS WIGAN

GBW JOINERY DARWEN BRITAIN'S AQUATIC SUPERSTORE LTD

ery welcome

MERMAD FISH IMPORTS

BROMSGROVE

PRESTWOOD PETZONE

## BARLOWS AQUATIC TRADING

20 Scaitcliffe Street, Accrington, Lancashire, BB5 0RF Tel/Fax 01254 388815

## FROZEN FISH FOOD BY RUTO

PRICES FOR MAIL ORDER

BLOODWORM CHOC-BLOCK 100g - 30 to a box (3kg)

 $\begin{array}{ccc}
1 \text{ box} & £27.15 \\
2 \text{ boxes} & £46.00
\end{array}\right\} \quad \text{DELIVERED}$ 

PRICES FOR COLLECTION FROM SHOP = £19.50

#### **OTHER VARIETIES**

100g BLISTER PACK - 25 OF YOUR CHOICE TO A BOX

**MAIL ORDER PRICES** 

1 box £

£35.00

2 boxes

£65.00

PRICES FOR COLLECTION FROM SHOP = £30.00 PER BOX

#### **CHOOSE FROM:**

DAPHNIA CYCLOPS BRINESHRIMP
CHOPPED MUSSEL DISCUS MIX TUBIFEX
MALAWI MIX QUINTET VEG DIET
CHOPPED COCKLES MARINE MIX
LANCEFISH KRILL MYSIS.

Have your Credit Card ready when you ring 01254 388815

# From the Chair



Once again we are coming to the end of another year and as far as the Catfish Study Group is concerned, a very successful one. Membership reached one hundred and five, although there were thirty one that failed to renew. Why? A good question and one that I would really like to know the answer to. I know I am repeating myself but if there are any of you that are unhappy in any way with what you are getting from the group, or things you would like to see happen, be it at a meeting or in 'Cat Chat' please take a few minutes to tell us, it's the only way we can improve on what we are doing, or the way we do it.

September: Open Show and Auction. The show entries were a little lower than last year but the quality was equally as high. For the past three years I have judged and after the show this year I decided next year I will reverse rolls and exhibit. This will give all you show folks a chance to give me a whopping on the show bench. If you can! The Auction was also very successful, Steve, Roy and Dave were as usual in full control, with Bill keeping the finances in order.

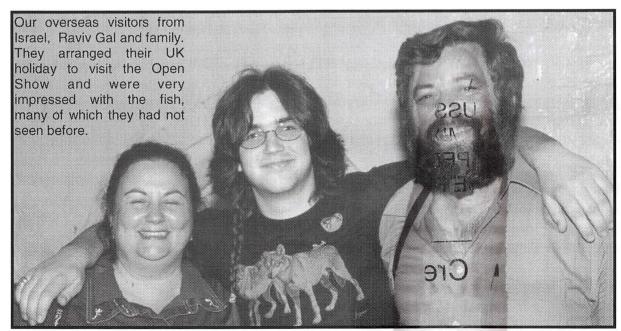
**October:** This meeting was scheduled as a Breeders Meeting as a joint effort between ourselves and the Federation of Northern Aquatic Societies (FNAS). The

speaker for the day was Pete Liptrot giving an excellent presentation on all aspects of filtration. The only down side to the meeting was the fact that there were no members from the FNAS present, which was disappointing and their loss. Those of us that were there had a very enjoyable meeting and I for one came away with a little more knowledge about filters.

**November:** Our traditional Autumn Auction. The lots were fewer but the quality of the articles and fish on offer seemed to be better than ever. There's not much else to say really except to thank everyone for playing their part on the day.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank Mr & Mrs. Morris and Mr & Mrs. Ward for manning the canteen and their continued support in providing us all with a seemingly endless supply of hot pies and tea throughout the year. Without their contribution in the canteen our meetings would just not be so welcoming. Also to the committee for all their good work and hope that we can maintain or even improve on the standard we have reached so far.

It only remains for me to wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a Happy and successful Catfish keeping New Year,



December 2002 Vol 3 No 4

# CATFISH AND OTHERS EXHIBITS IN THE EXOTARIUM AT ZURICH ZOO

By David Marshall

Towards the end of July 2002 Sue and I spent several enjoyable days in and around Zurich, where we found much of aquatic interest that included two excellent aquatic retail outlets (which were 'paradise' for those who love Botia and Loach species and specialise in Corydoras and 'L' numbered Loricarins) and a public park with fantastic goldfish ponds.

As I felt that our visit to the Zurich Zoological Gardens would make interesting reading I have put together this small report. Tram number 6, which you catch close to the Hauptbanhof (Main Railway Station) takes you on the 20-minute ride towards the Zoo, with an easy gradient 10 minute walk in lovely surroundings, from the stop to the entrance gate.

Not as large as many of its fellow Zoological Gardens on the European Mainland but what is lacked in quantity is certainly made up for in the quality of exhibits. Some of the naturally landscaped mammal enclosures were so well presented that even a straining of the eyes could not reveal the creatures they contained and young mammals were to be found around every corner.

Although Goldfish can be found in many of the moats surrounding the mammal enclosures, the real aquatic section (which I am told forms the second largest Public Aquarium in Switzerland) is housed on the ground floor of the Exotarium. 22 tanks, of various sizes and dimensions, are split between tropical freshwater (14), brackish (1), Goldfish (1) and tropical marine exhibits (6). What you will find here are no gimmicks or walk through tunnels, just a 'basic' collection of biotope and pautifully aquascaped exhibits with fish of excellent quality that are well fed and cared for.

The largest number of catfish, in the form of a shoal of young Pangassius sutchi, were to be found in the Asian biotope. Their companions in the exhibit were a shoal of young Tinfoil Barb, a couple of Black Sharks and a number of mature Clown Loach (the largest of their kind I have seen in any a year) with various combinations of body markings. Main decor was a

network of Mopani wood and it was interesting to watch the Black Sharks chew at leaves, which had entered the water surface from a mass of plants above the waterline.

The South American biotope was home to an extremely large Red-Tailed Catfish (Phractocephalus hemiolopterus) and a fish labelled as 'Dusky Doradid' (which appeared to be from the Platydoras group) who was really 'holding his ground' in the company of several Red Devil Cichlids and a huge shoal of variously sized Cichlosoma bifasciatum.

A straining of the eyes could not reveal the Synodontis nigriventris, well hidden among tangles of bogwood and Java Fern, that inhabited a beautiful Congo Tetra display that made good use of natural light to show off the colours of these stunning characins to full effect.

The most watched tropical tank was immaculately planted and was home to a huge shoal of Cardinal Tetra, a few Penguin Tetras, Silver Hatchetfish and the largest Sturisoma rostratum 1 have ever so en that would have 'swept the board' at many an open show. It was amusing to see fellow visitors from countries where English is a main language, obviously fuelled by Hollywood and TV documentaries, taking much time over the Piranha exhibit whereas those who speak a different tongue hardly gave them a second glance.

With the tropical marine exhibits the emphasis was on a practical rather than a bold display and this not only gave the various fish species room to move around but also allowed them to display to full effect. Chief concern is the captive propagation of the living rock and coral contained in the various displays and a good rate of success has been achieved. During our visit, one of the Zoo's aquarists' was presenting a visual display of the methods used to make this possible and although I was only partially able to understand the commentary, spoken very quickly in both the German and French languages, I found this presentation most interesting.

If you are planning a visit to Zurich then don't miss a visit to the Exotarium, as you will not be disappointed.

# GONVENTION

# 2005

**SUNDAY 16 FEBRUARY 2003** 

at

STANDISH HIGH SCHOOL KENYON ROAD STANDISH WIGAN

Doors Open At 1000 hrs

WE WELCOME THE RETURN OF

# **Hans Georg-Evers**

and

## Ingo Siedel

Co Authors of the new Catfish Atlas by Mergus They will be talking about Whiptails and Corydoras

**Entrance Fee** 

יטנו WI. ה tur

), a

Members £5.00

Non-Members £6.00

Also:

Bring and Buy All-Day Canteen serving Hot and Cold Food and Drink

CATFISH STUDY GROUP (UK)

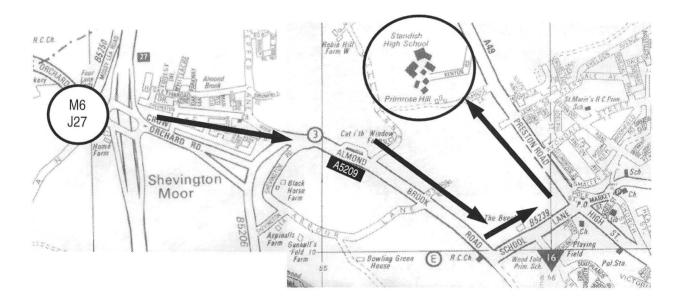
Formerly the Northern Area Catfish Group



## 2005

# How to get there

Keep this in your car for easy reference



Leave the M6 Motorway at Junction 27.

Follow signs for Standish - Orchard Road then left onto Almond Brook Road (A5209).

Turn left into School Lane (B5239) then left onto the A49 (Preston Road).

Standish High School is at the end of Kenyon Road on the left.

### Corydoras similis

#### A 'tail spot' tank catfish

By Erik Schiller

Corydoras similis was described by Hieronimus in 1991. Before its description this catfish was already available in the trade and it became known as Corydoras spec. described "violet". As only Hieronimus named this Corydoras in the magazine for fish news (Jg.1; No.1 described) it got the name Corydoras similis. Hieronimus states the holotype location as being from Brazil, from an influx to the Rio Madeira, near the city of Arigumes. Hieronimus also that *Corydoras similis* and states Corydoras ourastigma are from the Rio Branco catchments in the Brazilian federal state Roraima. The Federal State Rondonia reaches to the border with Bolivia and the Federal State Roraima borders on Venezuela and Guyana, approximately 900km between the two locations! Since the location of the Holotypes is decisive, this second location detail is doubtful.

The name *similis* is Latin and means "similar". In turn, this refers to the colouring which is very similar to *Corydoras ourastigma*. The difference between the two catfishes which are both striking are clearly visible, the shape of the head of *Corydoras similis* has a round, short, muzzle and *Corydoras ourastigma* belongs to the group with a long muzzle. *Corydoras imitator* and *Corydoras adolfoi* are another well known couple that share the same colour characteristics and the same differences.

In *Corydoras similis* the tail root spot is very conspicuous, ranging from deep blue through violet to purple depending on the incidence of light. There are many small spots covering the whole body making it a very attractive *Corydoras*. The fins are transparent, only the first hard rays have sand-coloured to bright brown dots. It is often being described as a 'tail spot' tank catfish (Hieronimus 1990)

There are also other species belonging to this tail root spot group.

- Corydoras caudimaculatus, different from Corydoras similis by a black tail root spot delimiting clearly
- Corydoras guapore, an egg shaped tank catfish which swims more in the middle water layers
- Corydoras ourastigma, with a long muzzle.
- C 66 (Evers, 1999; This Corydoras doesn't lie DATZ 52/1) in the shape for any saddle nose like C. ourastigma between C. ourastigma and C. similis, (longer than C. similis)

My eight *Corydoras similis*, three females and five males, were already in good condition when purchased. They were put into a tank measuring 60 cm x 30cm x 30cm, in water the same as they were used to, which was in perfect condition. Two small *Anubia*, sticks and two big smooth stones were added to the tank furnishings and offered the tank catfishes hiding-place possibilities and also resting places. The aquarium receives indirect ambient light.

Two weeks after arriving they started to perform in the *Corydoras* way and produced eggs. The first measuring results yielded a pH value of 6.8 and a complete hardness of 8° dH at a water temperature of 25° Celsius.

All 19 eggs were deposited in the flow area of the filter. They were larger in comparison to the white eggs of *Corydoras aeneus*. 16 fry hatched out after four days, their yolk sac was used up after a further three days and they coped with fresh Artemia-Naupli without problems after I had moved the fry into a separate rearing bowl. I then moved the small *Corydoras* into a 15 litre aquarium. A further change is then carried out when they reach a size of 1 cm.

Many small spots cover the whole body of the catfish; the primary body colour at this time is now a bright yellow. As the growth increases the colour of the young already starts to resemble that of their parents. When they are 2cm they are *Corydoras similis* completely.

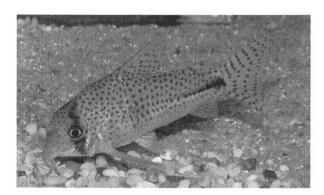
At this size the *Corydoras similis* are moved into a 60 litre aquarium, in which they remain till a size is reached where one can sell them on. At approximately 2 cm one can clearly see the beautiful characteristics of the adult's ice blue spot at the tail root. These catfishes grow very speedily with good, varied feeding and partial water changes. The breeding and rearing of this *Corydoras* was good to gain experience and when trying other tank catfishes should reduce any problems.

The final piece of information I have about this catfish is, when two females have provided eggs, usually one or the other would spawn on average, once per week. The numbers of eggs aid were between 40-60 eggs per female, with one or two eggs always in the female ventral fin bag and after turning the lights off, spawning wasn't interrupted.

# Catfish Up-dates

#### Corydoras sp 'Huallaga'

Oliver Lucanus collected this new species of Corydoras in Peru. For commercial reasons he put a name to them, initially calling them *Corydoras* species 'Heiko' after the son of the village chief who was a good friend. Oliver later changed the name to Corydoras species 'Huallaga' because he didn't want the name to be confused with that of another German fish collector.



This is a striking fish and will be sought after by many a Cory nut. The fish come from small clear water rainforest streams with slightly acidic pH and the typical beds of Cabomba and Aguahe Palms and a sandy bottom. They were collected where the forestry-logging road crossed the streams.

#### Corydoras cruziensis

Formerly recognized, as 'C12', was discovered in Bolivia. It is closely related to Corydoras punctatus (Bloch, 1794), from Surinam, Corydoras Julii 1906- from Steindachner. Brazil, Corydoras trilineatus Cope, 1872 from Peru and Corydoras copei Nijssen & Isbrücker, 1986 also from Peru. When comparing colour patterns Corydoras cruziensis is very much like Corydoras punctatus.

#### Corydoras bilineatus

This is one of those species coming from the so-called 'Elegans' group. It is probably closest in colour pattern to *Corydoras napoensis* Nijssen & Isbrücker, 1967. It also went under the trade name of 'San Juan'. *Corydoras bilineatus* also belongs to a small (unrelated) group that show severe colour dimorphism, so much so that you could be excused for thinking that there were two separate species, instead of males and females.

# Forthcoming Events 2003

19 Jan AGM16 Feb Convention16 Mar Spring Auction

All meetings are to be held on the third Sunday of each month with the exception of the December Meeting which is held on the second Sunday.

We Meet at
St Elizabeth's Parish Hall,
Bolton Road,
Aspull,

Nr Wigan.

The Convention is to be held at Standish High School, Standish, Wigan - (see map on page 6)

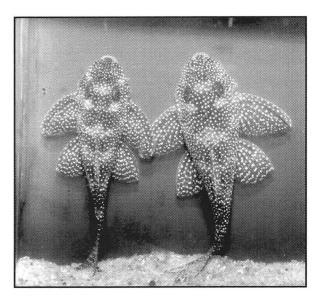
## Breeding the 'Stardust Plec'. Hypancistrus Sp. L136a.

By Ian Fuller

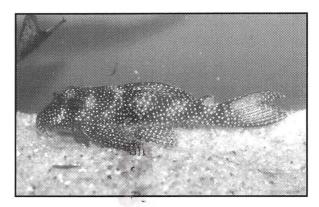
Some time ago, in fact I think it was in the early part of last year, I decided to diversify a little with my fish breeding programme. At that time my catfish efforts were concentrated purely on Corydoras. There was a lot of talk around the hobby about the brilliant *Hypancistrus zebra*, or 'Zebra plec' as it was commonly called. I decided then that they were a must to try and breed, especially as the price of them seemed to be ever on the increase, making them a good investment.. I set out to buy some potential breeding stock and my first port of call was to friend Neil Woodward's establishment in Wigan, where I knew I would find what I was after.

At first I thought my visit was going to be a disappointment, there were only four quite small zebra's left, which I duly bought. A further inspection of the many tanks found two other species of *Hypancistrus*, both of these were as yet undescribed with only the now familiar 'L' number code, or common name to identify them. The first species was marked up as L260 with a common name of 'Queen Arabesque' and were strikingly unusual in their body markings, which consisted of silvery white thin wavy lines over a black body. I decided immediately that I must have some of these and went to great lengths, with Neil's help, to ensure that we selected two pairs. I was sure at this point that I could hear the little plastic card in my wallet groan.

Sexing these fish was not an easy task, especially as they were fairly recently imported and were a little out of condition. The main points of difference to look for are: the shape of the head of the females, when looked at from above, are more pointed. Mature females in good condition are generally plumper and a little broader in the body. The males' pectoral fin spine tends to be thicker and when mature are covered with odontodes (bristles).



While Neil was doing his best to select the pairs of Queen Arabesque, I caught a glimpse of another *Hypancistrus* species in the next tank, they were jockeying for hiding places under a piece of bog wood. I decided to give them a closer look. Removing the bogwood exposed just four specimens. They were jet black with tiny silver spots, at first sight you would have thought they were covered in white spot. I

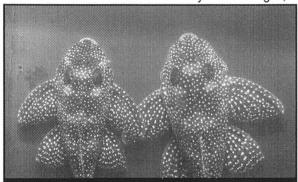


whether or not both sexes were present. Now I definitely knew that there would be some pain when I reached the till. The trick here is to close your eyes when you sign the little slip of paper and not look at it until you reach home.

Pryor to my trip up to Wigan, I thought a little research into what conditions would be best suited for keeping zebra's, so I contacted Ingo Seidel in Germany, who I knew had bred them and many more Ancistrine catfishes. His advice was; warm water,  $80^{\circ}$  Fahrenheit and higher for breeding. The water chemistry is not important but it must be clean, with a good fairly strong current and provide the fish with plenty of small caves.

I had set up one tank in readiness for the arrival of the zebra's, which was on the top of the staging in the warmest part of the fish house. Because the normal temperature setting at that level in the fish house is only 74° F. I needed to put an additional heater into the tank, which was adjusted to maintain a temperature of 82° F. A 10 mm layer of smooth grained sand was put on the bottom and the back wall lined with shortish pieces of cut down ceramic water pipe. A small internal power filter was put in the front left hand corner to provide the necessary water flow, with a box filter in the back left hand corner to help maintain good clean water conditions.

Once I had arrived home with my new charges, I



suddenly realised that I needed another two tanks set up the same. So for the first few days of their stay, all three species would have to be kept together, my hope being that they would get on together. Fortunately there were more than enough hiding places amongst the pieces of cut down pipe for them all to find a place to hide.

In the shop, all three species had been kept in tanks which were on the same centralised filter system, so when I got them home I decided to settle them into the new water conditions together. I opened the bags and gently tipped them into a large bucket. Using a piece of airline, I started siphoning water from the tank they

were to be housed in. Once the bucket was almost full, the siphon was stopped and an air stone put in to keep the water aerated and moving while I topped the tank back up and allowed the temperature to return to its previous 82° F. After about an hour, the fish were carefully netted and put into their new home, albeit temporary for two of the species.

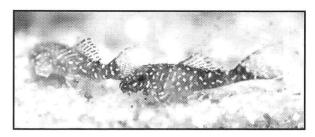
My next move was to make ready two more tanks with the same conditions as the first. Having moved the inhabitants from the two adjacent tanks, everything was made identical to the first with the addition of pieces of bogwood, with Java fern attached for all three. After allowing the tanks to settle for three days, it was time to separate the three species. This resulted in all the contents of the tank, except for the sand, being removed. This is the problem with this type of set up; to get one fish out - everything has to come out. With the fish all moved and settled it just remained to condition them up, except for the zebra's, they needed to be grown on for a while. I estimated it would be at least six months or more before they would reach a suitable size to breed. I was told that I would need plenty of patience as these fish are somewhat stubborn when it comes to enticing them to breed.

The regime that I put into place to get them into tip-top condition, was twice weekly 25% water changes, twice weekly feeds of frozen bloodworm, live when I can get it. Additional feeds of chopped earthworm, which they loose all inhibitions for and seem afraid of nothing whenever any is put into the tanks. All other feeding is usually twice a day with Tetra Tabimin, pre-soaked flake or the JMC catfish pellets. A tip here is to not get mixed up between the catfish pellets and the high protein pellets. The can high protein pellets can cause serious problems because the fish tend to swallow them whole as soon as the pellets enter the water, then they swell up in the gut causing problems with the fishes digestive system which very often ends with the death of the fish. The catfish pellets on the other hand, tend to dissolve with very little swelling and are far less likely to cause any problems.

Over the last couple of months, I have fitted outside power filters to the three tanks; this has had a dramatic effect on the water flow, which is directed at an angle across the cave walls. In the tank containing the L136a's or 'Stardust plecs' as I have named them, I

put a 220 mm long by 32 mm diameter, terracotta tube that is closed at one end. These tubes are produced as watering devices for large pot plants, where they are inserted into the compost in the butt and filled with water. These tubes make ideal spawning sites, especially for the Whiptail catfish. I thought it would be worth trying. Within ten minutes of putting the tube in the tank, one of the L136a's went in and made it his/her home. After a time I decided it was a him, going by the bristles on the pectoral fins.

In early May we had a sudden spell of summer, with lots of sunshine and some reasonably high temperatures, all resulting in the fish house air temperature rising to well over 90° F. In most of the tanks on the top level staging, the temperature rose to 88° F. which seemed to make all three species of *Hypancistrus* become far more active than usual. I decided that it would be a good idea to make more frequent water changes, from twice weekly to daily, because with the higher temperature the fish were eating more and producing more waste and I wanted to maintain the water quality. There was one fish however that seemed totally unmoved by all the activity and that was the 'Stardust' male. He remained



in the tube and would not venture out, even for some chopped earthworm. I thought no more of it, thinking that he was just not hungry at that time and that he would come out and feed when there weren't any distractions (Me). Because of the angle of the tube it was virtually impossible to see inside so I left him alone to do his own thing.

It wasn't until nearly two weeks later, that I noticed six little fry scurrying around under the bogwood. So now I knew why the male would not venture out side of his tube, he was guarding a batch of eggs.

My next move will be to slightly rearrange the piece of bogwood and tube, so that I can get a better look at what's happening inside. Now I know that there is at least one pair breeding, I will keep a close watch on them and make notes of what they are doing.

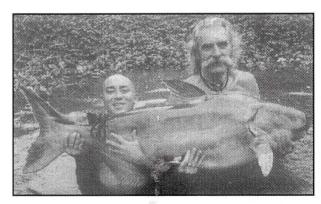
## **Best In Show?**

THE Mekong catfish world record has been broken twice in a prolific spell at thai lake Bungsam Lan.

The first record, as regulated by the International Game Fishing Association (IGFA), was a fish of 95 lb 14 oz taken by UK angler Paul Carbis.

It was bagged on a day-trip to the venue with guide Jean- Francois Helias, head of Fishing Adventures Thailand and IGFA representative for Thailand. The fish broke the previous record of 88 lb 6 oz, set in May 2001 by Frenchman Gerard Paruitte.

The cat was five feet long and had a girth of over three feet. The new record was broken again by a 104 lb 1 1



oz specimen landed by Japanese angler Norihiro Murakarni at the same water.

According to Jean-Francois, the lake holds Mekong catfish of up to 330 1b in weight.

# Catfish Study Group (UK)

Sunday 16 March 2003

# **Spring Auction**

Starts at 1300 hrs

at

St Elizabeth Parish Hall Bolton Road Aspull Wigan

Booking in from 1100 hrs on the day Pre-book by telephone on 01942 248130

### **Canteen**

Tea, coffee, cold drinks, hot food sandwiches, cakes.

#### **Rules:**

Items for the fishkeeping hobby only.

All Electrical Goods must have a Name and Telephone number on them, together with the condition of the item i.e. Spares, Working Order, Faulty etc..

All plants and fish to be auctioned should be in <u>clear</u> plastic bags, or jars large enough for them. Large fish may be offered in plastic containers/buckets. Fish should be identified (Common or Latin names). 'Painted' fiish will not be auctioned.

There is a 15% commission to the Catfish Study Group on all sales. Payments to vendors will be made at the interval or at the end of the Auction.

The CSG is in no position to accept responsibility for the condition of any item sold at the auction or to exchange any item purchased. If in doubt, bid for an item 'as seen'. The vendor's name will be available to the purchaser, in the event of a problem, on the day only.



VISA

All of the usual species and some rarer examples too

The Midlands top aquatic centre!

fropica

- Pumps Filters
- Accessories
  - Tanks
  - Food
    - Lighting Plants

With 20 years experience, we can not only provide you with everything you need, we can give help and advice on most aspects of keeping fish

Over 200 tanks, well stocked with top quality freshwater tropical varieties.

Wolverhampton Road (A449), Prestwood, Stourbridge, West Midlands DY7 5AF

Visit our website for further details: www.pet-zone.co.uk

Tel: (01384) 877150 & 877757 Fax: (01384) 877101

Opening Times: Mon - Fri 9am - 6pm, Sat, Sun & Bank Holidays 10am - 5pm

# B·A·S

One of the Worlds Largest Aquatic & Pet Centres

# Always A Huge Selection Of Fish From All Over The World!

We are keen to supply the fish that people want. We try to stock as much variety as possible and we constantly investigate new suppliers and sources for rare and unusual fish.

And just to make your visit worthwhile, you will also find

\* Vast Dry Goods \* Aquarium Furniture

\* our own OATA engroyed Ded See Aquariums

\* our own OATA approved Red Sea Aquariums

\* Pond and Water Garden Products \* Coldwater Fish

\* Marine Fish \* Aquarium Plants \* House Plants

\* Large Pet Department \* Gift Shop \* In Store Café

\* Vending Machines \* Large Free Car Park

## **BAS Angling**

one of the North West's Premier Angling Centres.

# BRITAINS AQUATIC SUPERSTORE LTD 225 FOLDS ROAD BOLTON

BL1 2TW

Tel: (01204) 534343 \* Fax: (01204) 364174

Email: Info@britains-aquatic.co.uk

Web site: www.britains-aquatic.co.uk

# **OPEN SHOW RESULTS 2002**

| 1 | ASPIDORAS                 | ENTRIES 0 |                         | Pts  |
|---|---------------------------|-----------|-------------------------|------|
|   |                           |           |                         |      |
| 2 | BROCHIS                   | ENTRIES 1 |                         | Pts  |
| 1 | D & L SPEED               | C.S.G.    | B splendens             | 78   |
|   |                           |           |                         |      |
| 3 | CORYDORAS: "A" up to 57mm | ENTRIES 4 |                         | Pts  |
| 1 | D & L SPEED               | C.S.G.    | C melini                | 89   |
| 2 | D & L SPEED               | C.S.G.    | C elegans               | 84   |
| 3 | F TAYLOR <b>Jnr</b>       | C.S.G.    | C napoensis             | 83   |
| 4 | K & J LAWN                | C.S.G.    | C trilineatus           | 73   |
|   |                           |           |                         |      |
| 4 | CORYDORAS: "B" over 57mm  | ENTRIES 2 |                         | Pts  |
| 1 | D & L SPEED               | C.S.G.    | C gossei                | 79   |
| 2 | D & L SPEED               | C.S.G.    | C leopardus             | 77   |
|   |                           |           |                         |      |
| 5 | CORYDORAS: TYPES          | ENTRIES 0 |                         | Pts  |
|   |                           |           |                         |      |
| 6 | AOV: CALLICHTHYIDAE       | ENTRIES 4 |                         | Pts  |
| 1 | D & L SPEED               | C.S.G.    | Dianema urostriatum     | 70   |
| 2 | A TAYLOR                  | C.S.G.    | Dianema urostriatum     | 68   |
| 3 | J CAIN                    | C.S.G.    | Hoplosternum thoracatum | 67   |
| 4 | J T MORRIS                | C.S.G.    | Hoplosternum littorale  | 62.5 |
|   |                           |           |                         |      |
| 7 | ASPREDINIDAE              | ENTRIES 0 |                         | Pts  |
|   |                           |           |                         |      |
| 8 | AUCHENIPTERIDAE           | ENTRIES 1 |                         | Pts  |
| 1 | D & L SPEED               | C.S.G.    | Trachelyichthys exilis  | 79   |
|   |                           |           |                         |      |
| 7 | ASPREDINIDAE              | ENTRIES 0 |                         | Pts  |

| 8 | AUCHENIPTERIDAE |        | ENTRIES 1              | Pts |
|---|-----------------|--------|------------------------|-----|
| 1 | D & L SPEED     | C.S.G. | Trachelyichthys exilis | 79  |

| 9 | BAGRIDAE   | ENTRIES 1 |                        | Pts |
|---|------------|-----------|------------------------|-----|
| 1 | K & J LAWN | C.S.G.    | Pseudomystus siamensis | 83  |

| 10 | DORADIDAE | ENTRIES 1 |                     | Pts |
|----|-----------|-----------|---------------------|-----|
| 1  | B WILSON  | ST HELENS | Amblydoras hancocki | 84  |

| 11 | LORICARIIDAE up to 130mm | ENTRIES 6 |                       | Pts |
|----|--------------------------|-----------|-----------------------|-----|
| 1  | P ASPINALL               | C.S.G.    | Hypancistrus zebra    | 82  |
| 2  | P ASPINALL               | C.S.G.    | Pekoltia oligospila   | 80  |
| 3  | D & L SPEED              | C.S.G.    | Pekoltia platyrhyncha | 77  |
| 4  | K & J LAWN               | C.S.G.    | L260 Queen arabesque  | 74  |

| 12 | LORICARIIDAE over 130mm | ENTRIES 3 |                           | Pts |
|----|-------------------------|-----------|---------------------------|-----|
| 1  | P ASPINALL              | C.S.G.    | Scobiancistrus auratus    | 83  |
| 2  | P ASPINALL              | C.S.G.    | Scobiancistrus auratus    | 81  |
| 3  | K & J LAWN              | C.S.G.    | Leoporacanthicus galaxias | 67  |

| 13 | LORICARIIDAE L&LDA Nos up to 130mm | ENTRIES 6 |                               | Pts |
|----|------------------------------------|-----------|-------------------------------|-----|
| 1  | P ASPINALL                         | C.S.G.    | L128 Chaetostoma              | 88  |
| 2  | K & J LAWN                         | C.S.G.    | L121 Peckoltia sp 'worm line' | 85  |
| 3  | D & L SPEED                        | C.S.G.    | L102 Peckoltia 'snowball'     | 81  |
| 4  | P ASPINALL                         | C.S.G.    | L147 Peckoltia                | 74  |

| 14 | LORICARIIDAE L & LDA Nos over 130mm | ENTRIES 2 |      | Pts |
|----|-------------------------------------|-----------|------|-----|
| 1  | D & I SPEED                         | C.S.G.    | L200 | 78  |
| 2  | P ASPINALL                          | C.S.G.    | L085 | 75  |

| 15 | MOCHOKIDAE up to 130mm |           | ENTRIES 1            | Pts |
|----|------------------------|-----------|----------------------|-----|
| 1  | B WILSON               | ST HELENS | Synodontis aterrimus | 88  |

| 16 | MOCHOKIDAE over 130mm | ENTRIES 3 |                        | Pts  |
|----|-----------------------|-----------|------------------------|------|
| 1  | B WILSON              | ST HELENS | Synodontis alberti     | 78.5 |
| 2  | K & J LAWN            | C.S.G.    | Synodontis angelicus   | 78   |
| 3  | D & L SPEED           | C.S.G.    | Synodontis schoutedeni | 75   |

| 17 | PIMELODIDAE up to 100mm | ENTRIES 2 |                      | Pts |
|----|-------------------------|-----------|----------------------|-----|
| 1  | D & L SPEED             | C.S.G.    | Microglanis iheringi | 83  |
| 2  | P ASPINALL              | C.S.G.    | Pimelodus pictus     | 77  |

| 18 | PIMELODIDAE over 100mm |        | ENTRIES 1                   | Pts |
|----|------------------------|--------|-----------------------------|-----|
| 1  | D & A BLUNDELL         | C.S.G. | Pseudopim. zungaru bufonias | 86  |

| 19 | COLDWATER CATFISH | ENTRIES 0 | Pts |
|----|-------------------|-----------|-----|
|    |                   |           |     |

| 20 | SPECIAL: UNIDENTIFIED | ENTRIES 3 |                  |    |
|----|-----------------------|-----------|------------------|----|
| 1  | K & J LAWN            | C.S.G.    | Synodontis sp    | 78 |
| 2  | A TAYLOR              | C.S.G.    | L127 Hypostomus? | 70 |
| 3  | A TAYLOR              | C.S.G.    | L127 Hypostomus? | 69 |

| 21 | AOV: CATFISH | ENTRIES 3 |                     |    |
|----|--------------|-----------|---------------------|----|
| 1  | D & L SPEED  | C.S.G.    | Erithistes purillus | 82 |
| 2  | D & L SPEED  | C.S.G.    | Hara hara           | 78 |
| 3  | A TAYLOR     | C.S.G.    | Hara jordoni        | 77 |

| 22 | PAIRS: ASP/BROCHIS/CORYS |           | ENTRIES 6     |      |
|----|--------------------------|-----------|---------------|------|
| 1  | A TAYLOR                 | C.S.G.    | C metae       | 78.5 |
| 2  | B WILSON                 | ST HELENS | C elegans     | 78   |
| 3  | D HALL                   | PRESTON   | C trilineatus | 77.5 |
| 4  | D HALL                   | PRESTON   | C sterbai     | 77   |

| 23 | PAIRS: AOV CATFISH |        | ENTRIES 1     | Pts |
|----|--------------------|--------|---------------|-----|
| 1  | A TAYLOR           | C.S.G. | Hara jordonia | 74  |

| 24 | BREEDERS: ASP/BROCHIS/CORYS | ENTRIES 4 |               | Pts |
|----|-----------------------------|-----------|---------------|-----|
| 1  | A TAYLOR                    | C.S.G.    | C metae       | 78  |
| 2  | D HALL                      | PRESTON   | C trilineatus | 77  |
| 3  | D HALL                      | PRESTON   | C sterbai     | 75  |
| 4  | D HALL                      | PRESTON   | C gossei      | 73  |

| 25      | BREEDERS: A.O.V. CATFISH | ENTRIES 0 | Pts      |   |
|---------|--------------------------|-----------|----------|---|
| 1000000 |                          |           | (5 5.00) | 1 |

| 26  | FAMILY CLASS: Pair & Breeders Team | ENTRIES 4 |               | Pts   |
|-----|------------------------------------|-----------|---------------|-------|
| 1   | A TAYLOR                           | C.S.G.    | C metae       | 156.5 |
| . 2 | D HALL                             | PRESTON   | C trilineatus | 154.5 |
| 3   | D HALL                             | PRESTON   | C sterbai     | 152   |
| 4   | D HALL                             | PRESTON   | C gossei      | 144   |

|  | 27 | BREEDERS: MASTER CLASS | ENTRIES 0 | Pts |
|--|----|------------------------|-----------|-----|
|--|----|------------------------|-----------|-----|

#### **SPECIAL WINNERS 2002**

#### Best Fish in the Show The TetraMin Award

B Wilson, St Helens: Amblydoras hancockii

# Best Breeders The Linnaeus Award donated by TetraMin A Taylor, CSG: team of Corydoras metae

## Best Overall Synodontis Species donated by LMB Aquatics

B Wilson, St Helens: Synodontis aterrimus

Best Catfish Over 300mm J T Morris Trophy No winner

## Highest Pointed Exhibit (Not a single fish) Clint Cup

A Taylor, CSG: Family Class of Corydoras metae

#### Junior Trophy Amanda Junior Cup

F Taylor, CSG: Corydoras napoensis

#### **SPECIAL CHOICES 2002**

## Secretary's Choice donated by A & D Hodges

K & J Lawn, CSG: L260

## Show Secretary's Choice donated by B Baldwin Trophy

P Aspinall, CSG: Scobiancistrus aureatus

## Social Sec's Choice donated by J & J Mead plaque

D & A Blundell, CSG: Pseudopimelodus zungaro bufonius

## Chairman's Choice donated by George Waterhouse

B Wilson, St Helens: Synodontis alberti

## Editor's Choice donated by A M Taylor

B Wilson, St Helens: Amblydoras hancockii

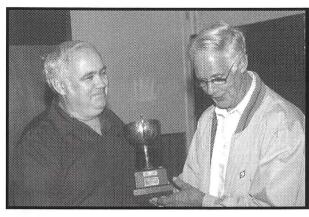
## Zoukai Choice donated by A & L Morris

K & J Lawn, CSG: Synodontis sp

#### President's Choice Masterstaff Trophy

K & J Lawn, CSG: Pseudomystus siamensis

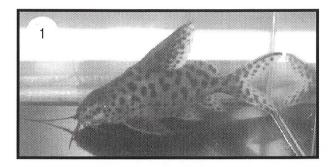
CAT CHAT





December 2002 Vol 3 No 4

Brian Walsh being presented with his trophy for Best Fish in Show by CSG President Trevor Morris. Above: Brian's Amblydoras hancocki



## Other Winners

1. Special Unidentified

Synodontis sp

2. PIMELODIDAE up to 100mm

Microglanis iherengi

3. PAIRS: AOV CATFISH

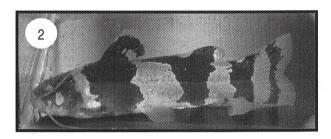
Hara jordonia

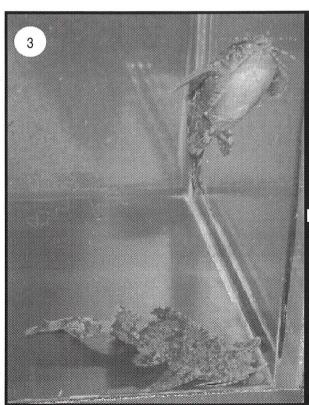
4. CORYDORAS: "A" up to 57mm

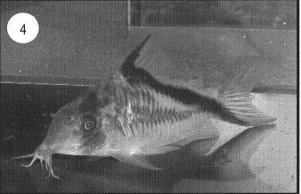
Corydoras melini

5. PIMELODIDAE over 100mm

Pseudopim. zungaru bufonias









December 2002 Vol 3 No 4

\*\*\*

1

(N)

1

80

80

1

14

80

1

80

80

N

80

80

300

(N)

80

**The Committee** would like to take this opportunity to wish all members a very pleasant **Festive Season and** a Happy and **Prosperous** 



# G.B.W Products & Services

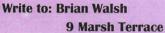


**High class joinery** 

**Cabinets Furniture** 

**Wood carvings** 

**COMMISIONS UNDERTAKEN** 



Darwen
Lancs
BB3 OHF

Phone: (01254)776567 Mobile: 07977 428 788 Email: g.b.w@brianwalsh1.

Freeserve.co.uk



# MIDLAND WATERLIFE

**BROMSGROVE** 

TEL. (01527) 879207 FAX. (01527) 833601

OVER 50 TYPES L NUMBER PLECO'S CURRENTLY

# NOW IN STOCK



FULL RANGE OF TROPICAL FISH STOCKED WITH NEW SHIPMENTS ARRIVING WEEKLY. (CALL BEFORE TRAVELLING TO AVOID DISAPPOINTMENT)

A FULL COMPLIMENT OF DRY GOODS STOCKED. GROUP/CLUB VISITS BY APPOINTMENT PLEASE. GOOD DISCOUNTS FOR CSG(UK) MEMBERS.

PICTURES COURTESY OF AQUALOG

BEST PRICES AND QUALITY GUARANTEED