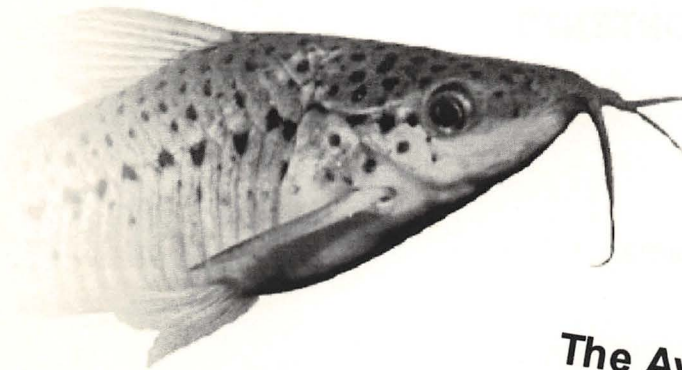


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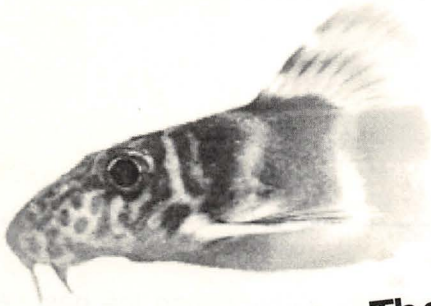
The Journal of the Catfish Study Group (UK)

Six New Corydoras Species Described
Ian Fuller

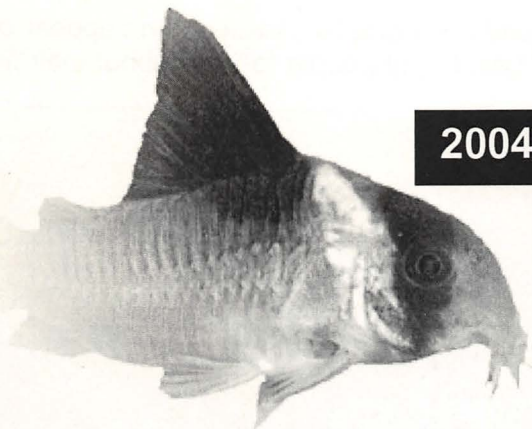


The Redfin Dwarf Otto
Kevin Korotev

**The Availability and Validity of a
member of the family Mochochidae**
Steven Grant



The History of Studying Fish
Adrian Taylor



2004 Open Show Results and Reports

Volume 5 Issue Number 4
December 2004

We Wish All Our Members A Happy Festive Season And A Prosperous New Year

CONTENTS

- 1 Committee
- 3 From The Chair
- 5 The Redfin Dwarf Otto
- 6 US Catfish Convention
- 7 Meet The Members - Mark Soberman
- 8 The History of Studying Fish
- 11 Six New Corydoras Species Described
- 13 The Availability and Validity of a member of the family Mochochidae
- 15 The Open Show Results
- 18 Report on the Open Show
- 19 Rumours, Lies and Altered Images
- 22 The Autumn Auction

From the Editor

We hope that you have found the Journal interesting and informative during the past year. Articles are submitted by you, the member, so without your contributions, there is little to fill the pages and nothing for me to do..

Thanks to all those who have submitted articles and photographs. Articles don't appear out of the blue. Between Ian fuller and I, we do our best to get people to write about their fish keeping experiences and some contributors are not even members! Spelling doesn't matter nor does your written English, as long as you can write what you mean.

To date there have not been any entries for the Cover Competition so we'll stick with the one we've got for the time being.

Please keep the snippets coming. At least you now know where I live →

Bill



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From the Chair



Hi everyone, during the last three months I have been very busy. The open show in September was one of the best we have had in recent years, with more than ninety species of catfish exhibited, most of which were of the highest quality. It was very pleasing to such a display of top quality and professionally presented exhibits. I was delighted to see an increase in show entries, especially when you consider that clubs and societies have been on the decline in recent years, with many disappearing altogether. No small part of the shows success was down to the fantastic support afforded us by our sponsors, which enabled us furnish all twenty seven classes with first, second, third and fourth place prizes as well as have a table full of quality prizes to be won in the days raffle. While the judges myself included, were all doing our stuff making sure all the entries were correctly identified and properly judged. Although I didn't see too much of what went through the auction I believe there were plenty bargains to be had. The real advantage with holding an auction in conjunction with the Open Show, besides the fact that it makes the group a few pennies, it keeps all the exhibitors occupied and hopefully happy while the judging takes place.

Unfortunately I could not attend the October meeting as I had previously been booked to give a talk at the All Catfish Convention in Maryland USA. This was hosted by the Potomac Valley Aquarium Society and was, I believe, the first convention of its kind in the USA. Fellow CSG members from the UK, Clare & Julian Dignall and Steve Pritchard, also took time out to attend the event. In fact there were quite a number of the US CSG contingent there.



The organising and timing of all the events were worked out to perfection, well done guys. Over the three days, there were talks covering catfishes from all parts of the globe. On the first day, Friday, I went on an organised group trip to the Smithsonian Museum and a tour of the fish collection conducted by the curator of more than forty years, Dr Stanley Weitzman, who showed us around the fish collection, his office and library, explaining some of the work currently taking place. From the Smithsonian we went on to visit the Amazonian exhibition at the Washington Zoo Aquarium. The line up of convention speakers was quite impressive, comprising of Dr Stanley Weitzman, Heok He Ng, Ingo Seidel, Lee Finley, Christopher Scharpf, Shane Linder and Ron Nielson. Oh! yes and I did a little piece as well. Heok He started the ball rolling on Friday evening with a talk on collecting fishes in Sumatra and India, followed by Ron Nielson and Ingo Seidel. The last programme of the day was a new venture in convention programming and took the form of a Corydoras forum, hosted by yours truly, UK. Mark Soberman, NYC. Eric Bodrock, Pittsburgh and Don Kinyon from the host society PVAS. There were some good questions and discussion, which carried the forum along for about two hours, making it in my opinion a very good part of the overall program. A further seven talks were scheduled in Saturday's program the climax being the convention banquet, which I may add included Catfish steaks and very nice to. Sunday was probably the busiest of the three days for the organiser as this is traditionally the auction day and what an auction it was. As rough estimate I would say there were in excess of 600 bags of fish that the auctioneers had to get through before the end of the day. However I had to take my leave around midday to return to New York. All in all a great time was had by all.

Back on the UK side of the pond, the November meeting as is traditional now, took the form of 'The Autumn Auction' In spite of some severe frost in the northern areas, the turn out was exceptional and possibly the best I have seen since taking over as Chairman. There seemed to be a real buzz of anticipation in the hall, which was not unfounded as the quality of the fish, plants and in fact all the auction lots were extremely high. To add to the auction items there

CAT CHAT

were two new items of CSG merchandise on offer. A new CSG brooch/badge in the form of a Corydoras atropersonatus and CSG logo printed Earthenware mugs, both items selling for £2.50. Terry was ably assisted by Robert Boardman in selling raffle ticket, but I am sure I saw them with a few unsold when the raffle was drawn. Steve Spencer our auctioneer as ever did a wonderful job in extracting the most from our buying guests and behind the scenes, Roy and Dave Barton organised the flow of lots so the whole sale went smoothly. On a very wet, cold and generally miserable day outside the canteen staff did an admirable job in keeping everyone fed and watered.

The 16th January is the date of the AGM; yes I know the one meeting you all want to avoid just in case you get lumbered with a job. Well one thing I can assure you is that if you don't want to take an active roll in the day to day running of the group you don't have to and no one will be pushed into a job they don't want to do. So. Having said that what I would like is to see a lot more faces at the AGM so those of us at the sharp end can hear your views and discuss new ideas. Basically it's your group so tell us what you would like to see happening or not as the case may be. Without your feedback you get what we think is best and if you do want to see changes let us know.

As time goes by there will be changes, all to the good I hope, some you are starting to see already, like producing 'Cat Chat' in full colour so that you get to see exactly what the fish in the article really looks like. We have offered a year free membership for the designer of a new front cover for the magazine but so far we have had only one entry, I take it that all except one of you are happy with the cover the way it is.

December 2004 Vol 5 No 4

There are more improvements to come; the first of these is not that far away. Its the Convention, as you will have seen and read in the last issue it is going to be held in a hotel to take full advantage of a modern conference environment, and yes a good heating system. We will also be hosting a convention Dinner the evening before (Saturday 19th) at the same venue and have made arrangements with the hotel for anyone wishing to stay overnight can do so at very competitive rates, which means you can come to the dinner, have a very good time and not have to drive afterwards. Full details can be found within these pages or directly from myself. Another improvement to our service is at the monthly meetings. The 2005 diary will soon be fully completed but the first three are traditionally fixed; January - AGM, February - Convention and March - The Spring auction.

It is very difficult to find independent catfish experts to come and talk at our monthly meetings, which is not surprising as we are supposed to be the experts. So now we have changed the format and select a series of topics of discussion for each of the available meetings and produce a power point presentation based on the given subject. No one person takes the floor, but as each frame is projected the subject matter is discussed with everyone having the opportunity to offer their knowledge or ask questions. The meeting held in this format during the past year have been very successful and it is hoped that they will encourage more people to attend.

That's more than enough of my rambling for this time and it only remains for me to wish you all a very happy Christmas and Successful fishkeeping New Year

Ian Fuller



The Redfin Dwarf Otto

Written by Kevin Korotev for the SPLASH, the official publication of the Milwaukee Aquarium Society, INC.

In 2000, page 512 of the soft cover Baensch Aquarium Atlas vol. 2 describes *Parotocinclus maculicauda* but the hardcover version of the same lists the same fish as *Parotocinclus amazonensis*. This mistake is a good indication of the mis-information available. It may also explain why retailers don't see it on "The List" very often.

It was mere co-incidence that I was standing by as "Peruvian suckers" were hoisted from a wholesaler's box at Gary's "Pets 'n' Things" in Cudahy, Wisconsin. Call it fate...destiny...great timing...luck. These "Peruvian suckers" were actually "Red Fin Dwarf Ottos" and I knew it. I took the bag from Gary's hand and walked to the checkout. He knew what was up...and smiled.

P. maculicauda is another of the "algae eaters" that eat algae only when they have to. My 5 were given a varied diet of live baby brine, frozen bloodworms and simple flake. Grazers by design, I made sure they weren't dashing for food at first sight; a sure sign of underfeeding. Suckermouths or "Lories" as the new nickname indicates, get that kind of treatment as a matter of course as bottom dwelling Loricarid.



Water values are secondary to water quality. It is not recommended to keep these fish at high temperatures, but if spawning is a sign of good health; these fish spawned in temperatures as high as 80 degrees. Once they began to spawn (at an age I'd guess to be a year or more) they did so regularly through minor pH and hardness swings. Neutral to slightly acid and soft seemed best. Spawns of 11 to 18 eggs were found every 10 to 14 days in the exact same place - on the tank's thermometer.

Rarely have I had more than 3 fry from any one spawn survive a month. My best luck seems to come in rearing tanks loaded with algae. The fry also seem to do a little better if they can graze on a sponge filter coated with uneaten food. Still, the fry grow excruciatingly slow. Those that I submitted for the MAS-BAP program were well under an inch at between 45 and 60 days. It took two spawns to get the 5 required fish. I do not know if this is a typical example of fry mortality or some true bungling on my part...again' there is little reference material.

The *Parotocinclus maculicauda* in my tank seem to have two distinctly different color patterns. One is like



the photo in the Atlas. The other is...not so. I have sent pictures of both to "experts" and no one claims to know if this is sexual dimorphism, possible regional color differences or a simple living example of why TW claims, "Color means nothing".

If the atlases we use for reference aren't always right and the experts don't always know, then this article may be the most unscientific detail you'll ever see written about *Parotocinclus maculicauda*; the Redfin Dwarf Otto.

Giant catfish claims latest victim - a dog

BERLIN, 30 August 2004

A giant catfish is suspected of having eaten a dog in a German lake near the Polish border.

The estimated 1.5 metre catfish has been making waves in the small lake near Gueldendorf for several years, the Berliner Kurier newspaper reported.

Catfish are generally scavengers that feed on plants and animals on the beds of lakes and rivers. They can on rare occasions grow up to 4.5 metres and weigh up to 300 kilos.

But the giant fish has developed other tastes and is emptying the lake of all the other fish. Now a small dachshund dog is believed to have been pulled under and eaten, said the report.

Lutz Affedlt, head of the Gueldendorfer Fisherman's Club, says the fish was probably planted in the lake by someone.

Several club members say they have had the phantom fish on their lines but that it has always broken off.

Attempts to net the giant catfish and to use electroshocks to stun it have so far failed.

US Catfish Convention

By Mark Sobermann

When my friend and champion of the aquarium hobby Ray "Kingfish" Lucas informed me of the Potomac Valley Aquarium Society's intention of putting on a catfish convention I was ecstatic. I have been keeping fish for 35 years and have been involved in the organized hobby for 20 plus years. This was the first time in the United States when catfish would be the sole focus of a convention. I have attended many national fish conventions over the years and this would be the first time my main interest takes center stage. I contacted Andrew Blumhagen the Convention Chair and President of the PVAS about a year ago and offered to help in any way I could. I wanted to be part of this major event. Lee Finley came up with the idea of a Corydoras Forum and Andrew asked me to handle the logistics. I spoke to Andrew many times over the past year both checking on the convention's progress and with bits of advice, probably more than he wanted. Finally the event was approaching.

On Thursday October 14th my friend Warren Feuer and myself were off to Newark Airport to pick up Ian Fuller. Ian's flight was right on time and we were off to Maryland. We arrived at the Convention hotel just in time for dinner and a drink at the hotel bar, our first of many. The convention was not officially starting until Friday but there were a good many early arrivals on Thursday. We hung out at the bar the whole evening with Ian Fuller, Andrew Blumhagen, Steve Pritchard, Lee Finley, Ryan McAndrews and the rest of the crew from Planet Catfish Dinyar, Rusty, Shane, Jools, Dave, Heok Hee. We just talked catfish, drank and closed the bar down. The only negative was they ran out of Maryland crab cakes. I have to say I had a hard time keeping up with my mates from your side of the pond.

After only a few hours sleep we awoke early for pre-selected field trips. Some including myself visited the Smithsonian laboratories for a behind the scene tour

hosted by Dr. Stanley Weitzman and his wife Marilyn. Dr. Weitzman and Marilyn were gracious hosts who escorted us through the bowels of the Smithsonian. The highlight for me was being able to photograph a preserved coelacanth. Our group then went on to visit the Amazonian exhibit at the National Zoo. Another group collected catfishes in Unicorn Pond and the Chester River in Queens Anne County, Maryland. My friends Dinyar and his son Rusty collected some nice Madtoms.

The presentations which started Friday afternoon were kicked off by Heok Hee Ng were great. Heok Hee's program was "not another @#%&*! Loach: My (Mis) Adventures Wading the Hillstreams of Sumatra and India. Ron Nielson, "The Catfish of Africa", followed his program. It was then time for a dinner break. A group of us including Ian went out for a traditional Maryland dinner. Again I didn't have crab cakes. I was told we would be having them at the banquet the following evening. We barely made it back in time for the next presentation. Well known German aquarist and author of the Mergus Catfish Atlas I was next on "Mouthbrooding Catfishes of Loricariid Subfamily Loricariinae. Ingo was charming and his program most informative.

The Corydoras Forum was the last program of the evening. The Forum panel consisted of Ian Fuller, Don Kenyon, Eric Bodrock and myself. I kicked it off with a PowerPoint introduction and then we opened it up for discussion. I was thrilled that the program went on for almost 2 hours, late into the evening. I must say we were the only program to have beer on the podium! It was a great honor for me to be included with such a distinguished panel of Corydoras breeders.

Christopher Scharpf of the North American Native Fishes Association was the first speaker on Saturday with: "Spawning Madtoms: It can be done, and I've Got the Video to Prove it!" HeokHee Ng was next with "In Waters Fast: All you ever wanted to know about Asian Hillstream Catfishes." Dr. Stan Weitzman spoke on "Hearing in Catfishes: The Remarkable Ear Horn of Otocinclus." My good friend Lee Finley's program "Catfishes as Aquarium Inhabitants: A Preliminary History" was next. Unfortunately Ian and myself and



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some of the others were judging the fish show entries and were forced to miss the program. Everyone told me it was great. Ingo Seidel followed with his second program "The Loricarid Catfishes of Subfamily Ancistrinae: Ecology, Care and Breeding in Captivity."

With the afternoon session completed, we all proceeded to the banquet hall for the award presentations and a wonderful buffet dinner featuring various meats and Channel catfish. Again no Maryland crab cakes! At the conclusion of the dinner and awards ceremony we were treated to a program from Shane Linder "Collecting Catfishes in Venezuela and Colombia." Shane showed us what its really like collecting fish. A lot of blood sweat and tears but also greatly rewarding. Lee Finley gave a special late night impromptu program on the merits (or lack of) of keeping large catfish. After the banquet the hard cores drank and talked fish till the wee hours of the morning.

I managed to pull myself out of bed for the giant fish and dry goods auction, which started Sunday morning. Ray Lucas the first auctioneer got the auction

going with a bang. Ray had been busy all weekend in the vendor room representing the products of many fine manufacturers. There was a great selection of rare catfish and other aquarium fish and plants. We hand a long trip back to Long Island so we left shortly after lunch with the auction still going strong.

Looking back I would have to say the weekend was fabulous. Although the programs were both informative and entertaining, for me seeing old friends and making new friends was the best part of the weekend. I got to meet many of my fellow Planet Catfish and CSG friends in person and build closer friendships. I hope this was the first of many All Aquarium Catfish Conventions. Finally I can't say enough of the effort of Andrew Blumhagen and the whole Potomac Valley Aquarium Society. Everyone was warm and gracious and the whole weekend went off without a hitch. It took me a good couple of days after the convention to decompress and get back to work.



MEET THE MEMBERS

Mark Soberman

Member from the USA

I have been keeping fish for more than thirty years and have been a member of the Greater City Aquarium Society for over 18 years, serving on its board of directors for the last 15 of the, I am currently the Vice-President of the club. I was enrolled in the Greater City's Roll of Honor in 1998 and am one of the club's top lifetime breeders. I am also an active member of the Long Island Killifish Association (LIKA), and have just completed my term as president. I am also a member of the American Killifish Association (AKA), the American Cichlid Association (ACA), and the Catfish Study Group (UK).

I have been involved with the formation of the North

American Catfish Society as well as many other catfish organizations and have written many articles for Modern Aquarium, Greater City's award winning publication, in addition to other catfish journals. More recently I was invited to be a moderator on the Planet Catfish forums and take a very active part there.

Although these days I tend to specialise in breeding Corydoras Catfish, over the years I have bred many Cichlids, Killies, Characins and livebearer species. I am currently involved in a variety of projects, attempting to breed some of the riverine Synodontis species. I maintain a total of 35 tanks in my basement. I am very interested in the history of the aquarium hobby and have an extensive collection of antiquarian aquarium literature and ephemera.

In addition to my aquariums, I share my home in Plainview, Long Island with my wife of 20 years, Robin, and two daughters, Ilyssa and Danielle. When I am not busy with my fish I spend my days selling dental supplies and equipment. Mark Soberman



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THE HISTORY OF STUDYING FISH

BY ADRIAN W TAYLOR

Have you ever wondered how it began? Man has always been associated with fish, primarily as food. So when did man start to look at fish other than as a way of obtaining nourishment. To ancient man every living thing was categorised as either, bad to eat or good to eat, harmful or harmless; as man became more and more civilised he tended to put more labels on things as a way of looking at things in an orderly fashion.

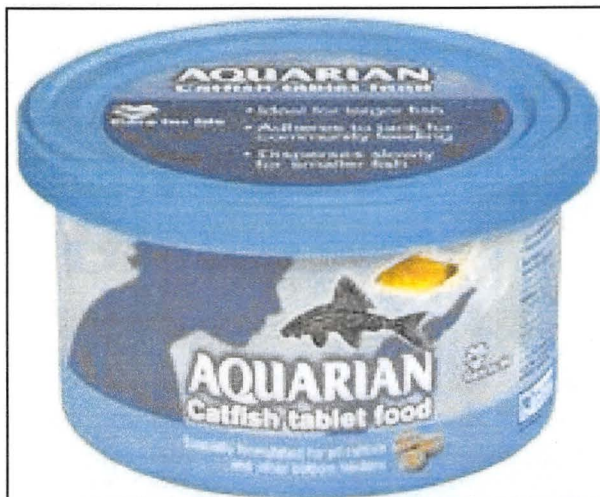
During the 4th century BC, Aristotle produced a classification of animals that was based on similarities that he found in them; and some of his findings are still valid today.

For many years in Western Europe, religion was a real obstacle in the scientific study of the world around us, any scholar that produced anything that seemed to contradict the religious beliefs in these times, was often given severe punishments including death by the religious hierarchy of the time. Because of this little scientific advances were achieved in the centuries that followed. It was around the 16th century that more religious tolerance towards scientific research was accepted, which meant that man again could start to examine the world he lived in; enabling him to describe the flora and fauna around him in simple terms in relation to their appearance and structure.

With the development of more sophisticated scientific tools and apparatus, research grew accordingly, and through the observations and works of people like Charles Darwin, more understanding of the world around us was made possible, and there findings are still valid today; although it must be said that some of their work was not accepted by the religious leaders of the day. How many of you are aware that Charles Darwin on his famous voyage of discovery collected and noted *Corydoras paleatus*!

Since then more and more research into fishes have taken place from the places that they inhabit, their method of reproduction, what they eat; etc.

A lot of the people, who were scientific trailblazers, so to say, are only known to us today as names in brackets which are given beside the fish in documentation. Most of these people, dedicated the better part of their lives to studying fishes; and over forthcoming issues of this journal I hope to introduce some of these people to you; beginning in the next issue: Dr Francis Day.



Hi Bill

Just a few lines to say what a great Open Show the Group had. The prizes were excellent but the Auction cost me a fortune. I can't resist a bargain!

I must tell you that I've been feeding my fish on Aquarian food for years and was sorry to see the variety disappear a couple of years ago. I am very happy now that the Catfish tablets have been reinvented and extra happy that I won some. I hope that the Fry Food that Aquarian used to do will also be produced in the near future. My little fish grew very quickly on that stuff.

Thanks for the new mag. The colour pictures are great.

Dave M

CONVENTION

2005

Shane Linder (USA)

"Four years of chasing fish in South America."

Two talks recounting highlights of catfish collecting in Venezuela, Colombia, Brazil, Ecuador and Peru. Exploring and explaining different environments and biotopes and discussing catfish species encountered throughout the Orinoco, Magdalena, and Amazon basins.

and

Julian Dignall (UK)

"Knee Deep in the Catfishes of North Eastern India"

One talk surrounding a recent collecting trip to the region, exploring the habitats of temperate and tropical catfish we see imported from time to time and a few that most will never have seen before. A little on the collection methods, flavours of the country, a few of it's other fishes and the local tropical fish industry will also be covered.

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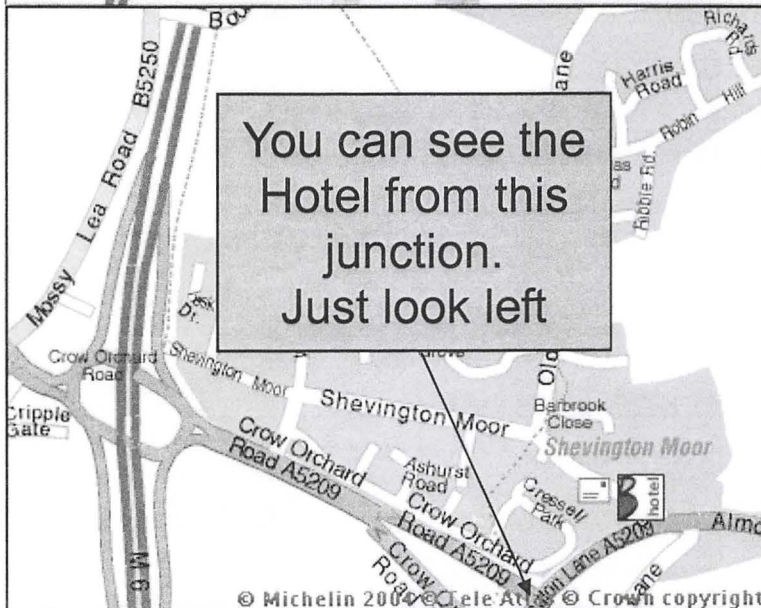
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Neither is too far away and you can stay the night at the hotel!



You can see the Hotel from this junction. Just look left

Six New Corydoras Species Described

by Ian Fuller

Six new Corydoras species have been described by Joachim Knaack. Ref. Zoologische Abhandlungen, ISSN 0375-5231 Dresden 08-11-2004.

All six species come from the Eastern Bolivian Departamento of Santa Cruz .

C133 are the ones I am currently breeding that we knew as *C. cf potaroensis*.

There are 4 new 'C' numbers taking the total to 136.

C112 and C113 are of the *C. scleromystax* group (or commonly 'barbatus').

There are no pictures available at this time of *Corydoras negro*, *Corydoras noelkempffi* (58) (similar to *C. haraldschultzi*) and *Corydoras paragua* (similar to *C. cruziensis*)



C113



C133



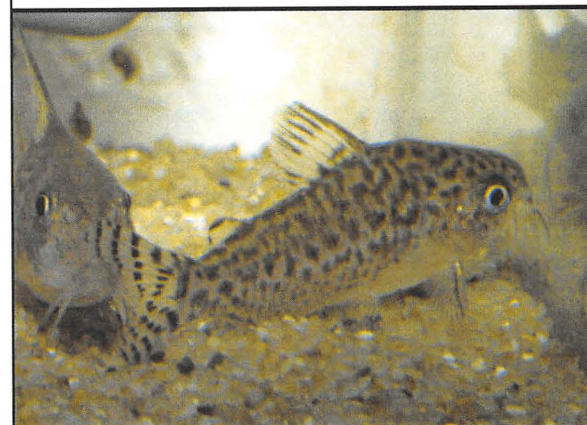
C112 'Bainino II'



Corydoras abolineatus (C56) formerly known in the trade as *C. xinguensis*.



Corydoras isbrückeri (C50) formerly known in the trade as 'Brazilian sharp nose'



Corydoras paucerna similar to *C. mamore* but without the dark dorsal blotch.



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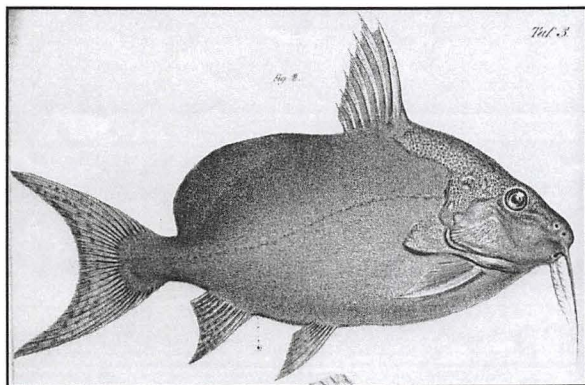
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The availability and validity of a member of the family Mochokidae (Siluriformes)

By Steven Grant

Whilst browsing the Catalog of Fishes website I came across the entry "*Synodontes ruppelli* Swainson, 1838".



This was a species hitherto unheard of to me, and I could find no reference of it any of the major works covering *Synodontis*, such as Boulenger (1911), Poll (1971), and Paugy in Lévêque *et al* (1992).

Thanks to Dr Eschmeyer I have obtained a copy of the original description in Swainson (1838). The description is very brief. Swainson mentions the genus "*Synodontes*", and then goes on to say that "*Syn. Ruppelli*" represents this well. There is a drawing (fig. 82) that shows the species.

According to Eschmeyer *et al* (2004), *Synodontes* was used by Minding (1832) and appears to be an incorrect spelling or unjustified emendation of *Synodontis* Cuvier, 1816.

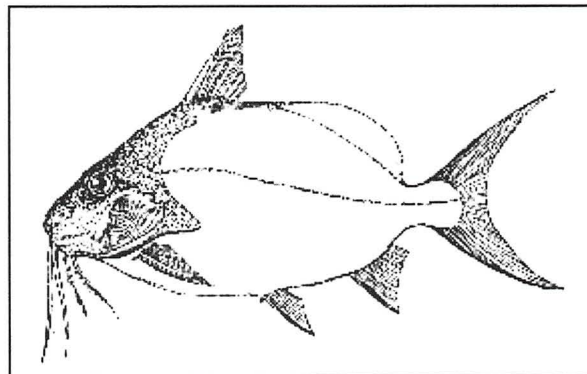
Because Swainson gave the species a binominal latinized name, and a drawing of the species was provided, thus meeting Articles 11 and 12 of the ICZN, the name is available and validly described. The fact that *Synodontes*, or *Syn* may not be valid genus names does not invalidate the availability of the species name.

We now need to discuss the correct spelling of the species name. As mentioned previously the name was originally spelled *ruppelli*. No etymology for the name was provided. It is obvious to me (for reasons which will become clearer) that the species is named after Wilhelm Peter Eduard Simon Rüppell (1794-1884), a German naturalist. If this were stated in the description then the name would have to be emended to *ruepelli*. But it was not, so the name should be left as *ruppelli*.

Because a drawing was provided it is easy to compare *ruppelli* to other mochokids (see reproduction). The species looked instantly familiar to me to another

described mochokid: *Brachysynodontis batensoda* (Rüppell, 1832). The fact that *batensoda* was described by Rüppell just confirmed this suspicion.

If you compare the original drawing of *batensoda* (reproduced here) with that of *ruppelli*, you will see that they are virtually identical.



I therefore propose that *Synodontes ruppelli* Swainson, 1838, is a junior synonym of *Brachysynodontis batensoda* (Rüppell, 1832).

Acknowledgements

Thank you to Dr. William Eschmeyer and his team, California Academy of Sciences, USA for their advice and assistance.

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CATFISH STUDY GROUP

(UK)

Sunday 20 MARCH 2005

SPRING Auction

Starts at 1300 hrs

at

**St Elizabeth Parish Hall
Bolton Road
Aspull
Wigan**

Booking in from 1030 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 clear 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' fish 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.

OPEN SHOW RESULTS 2004

1	ASPIDORAS		ENTRIES 1	
1	J Hetherington	C.S.G.	A menezesi	74
2	BROCHIS		ENTRIES 1	
1	Phil Aspinall	C.S.G.	B multiradiatus	76
3	CORYDORAS "A" up to 57mm		ENTRIES 7	
1	A Taylor	C.S.G.	C pygmeus	81.5
2	A Taylor	C.S.G.	C kanei	79.5
3	J Hetherington	C.S.G.	C erhardtte	75
4	J Hetherington	C.S.G.	C xingienous	72.5
4	CORYDORAS "B" over 57mm		ENTRIES 7	
1	S Brown	C.S.G.	C sterbai	75.5
2	Bernard O'Neill	C.S.G.	C zygatus	75
3	S Brown	C.S.G.	C gossei	74.5
4	S Brown	C.S.G.	C imitator	73
5	CORYDORAS TYPES		ENTRIES 7	
1	Adrian Taylor	C.S.G.	Corydoras sp. C37	76
2	F Taylor J	C.S.G.	Corydoras sp. C110	75
3	Adrian Taylor	C.S.G.	Corydoras sp. C3 Decker	74
4	S Brown	C.S.G.	Corydoras sp.	73
6	A.O.V. CALLICHTHYIDAE		ENTRIES 1	
1	Phil Aspinall	C.S.G.	Dianema urostriatum	78
7	ASPREDINIDAE		ENTRIES 4	
1	Trevor Morris	C.S.G.	Dysichthys coracoides amaurus	84
2	Trevor Morris	C.S.G.	Bunocephalichthys hypsiura	81
3	Trevor Morris	C.S.G.	Dysichthys coracoids	76
4	Phil Aspinall	C.S.G.	Platystacus cotylephorus	72
8	AUCHENIPTERIDAE		ENTRIES 4	
1	I Mogford	Sutton	Liosomadoras oncinus	77
2	Brian Wilson	Club 2000	Auchenipterus thoractus	75
3	Phil Aspinall	C.S.G.	Trachelyichthys exilis	70
4	Phil Aspinall	C.S.G.	Tatia galaxies	66

9	BAGRIDAE		ENTRIES 5	
1	I Mogford	Sutton	Pseudomystus siamensis	84.5
2	Brian Wilson	Club 2000	Chandramara chandramara	83.5
3	Phil Aspinall	C.S.G.	Hemibagrus nemurus	83
4	Phil Aspinall	C.S.G.	Hyalobagrus favus	80

10	DORADIDAE		ENTRIES 5	
1	Brian Wilson	Club 2000	Amblydoras hancocki	86
2	Phil Aspinall	C.S.G.	Platydoras costatus	83
3	Phil Aspinall	C.S.G.	Agamyxis pectinifrons	81
4	Roy Blackburn	Castleford	Ancanthodoras spinosissimus	75

11	LORICARIIDAE up to 130mm		ENTRIES 5	
1	Phil Aspinall	C.S.G.	Hypancistrus zebra	85
2	Phil Aspinall	C.S.G.	Pekoltia oligospila	84
3	Adrian Taylor	C.S.G.	Sophiancistrus ucayacensis	79
4	I Mogford	Sutton	Panaquolons albamaculatus	73

12	LORICARIIDAE over 130mm		ENTRIES 5	
1	Phil Aspinall	C.S.G.	Hypostomus regain	87
2	Phil Aspinall	C.S.G.	Panaque nigrolineatus	85
3	I Mogford	Sutton	Pseudorhinelepis pellegrini	82
4	I Mogford	Sutton	Pseudocanthicus leopardus	73

13	LORICARIIDAE L&LDA Nos up to 130mm		ENTRIES 5	
1	I Mogford	Sutton	L128	87
2	Phil Aspinall	C.S.G.	L260	85
3	Phil Aspinall	C.S.G.	L049	81
4	Phil Aspinall	C.S.G.	L121	78

14	LORICARIIDAE L&LDA Nos over 130mm		ENTRIES 2	
1	Phil Aspinall	C.S.G.	L075	77
2	Phil Aspinall	C.S.G.	L333	74

15	MOCHOKIDAE up to 130mm		ENTRIES 1	
1	Ray Blackburn	Castleford	Microsynodontis emarginatus	72

16	MOCHOKIDAE over 130mm		ENTRIES 4	
1	Phil Aspinall	C.S.G.	Synodontis acanthomias	84
2	Brian Wilson	Club 2000	Synodontis alberti	83
3	R Blackburn	Castleford	Synodontis greshoffi	74
4	Phil Aspinall	C.S.G.	Synodontis angelicus	71

17	PIMELODIDAE up to 100mm		ENTRIES 1	
1	Roy Blackburn	Castleford	Microglanis parahybae	85.5
18	PIMELODIDAE over 100mm		ENTRIES 2	
1	Phil Aspinall	C.S.G.	Pimelodus pictus	81
2	Phil Aspinall	C.S.G.	Aguarunichthys tocantinsensis	76
19	COLDWATER CATFISH		ENTRIES 0	
20	SPECIAL – UNIDENTIFIED		ENTRIES 1	
1	Roy Blackburn	Castleford	Synodontis sp	73.5
21	A.O.V. CATFISH		ENTRIES 9	
1	Roy Blackburn	Castleford	Hara filamentosa	86.5
2	Roy Blackburn	Castleford	Hara horai	83.5
3	Roy Blackburn	Castleford	Chaca bankanensis	81.5
4	Phil Aspinall	C.S.G.	Hara horai	78.5
22	PAIRS - ASPIDORAS/BROCHIS/CORYDORAS		ENTRIES 4	
1	Brian Wilson	Club 2000	C elegans	78
2	Adrian Taylor	C.S.G.	C metae	74.5
3	J Hetherington	C.S.G.	C sensui	74
4	S Brown	C.S.G.	C gossei	71
23	PAIRS – AOV CATFISH		ENTRIES 3	
1	Trevor Morris	C.S.G.	Agmus sp.	76
2	Phil Aspinall	C.S.G.	Megalechis thoracatum	68
24	BREEDERS - ASP/BROCHIS/CORYS		ENTRIES 6	
1	D & L Speed	C.S.G.	A depinnai	87
2	S Brown	C.S.G.	Scleromystus barbatus	84
3	S Brown	C.S.G.	C similis	83
4	Adrian Taylor	C.S.G.	C metae	81
25	BREEDERS - A.O.V. CATFISH		ENTRIES 1	
1	D & L Speed	C.S.G.	Sturisomatichthys foerschi	80
26	FAMILY CLASS – Pair & Breeders Team		ENTRIES 2	
1	Adrian Taylor	C.S.G.	Corydoras metae	155.5
2	S Brown	C.S.G.	Corydoras gossei	151
27	BREEDERS – MASTER CLASS		ENTRIES 1	
1	S Brown	C.S.G.	Corydoras species x 3	242

OPEN SHOW WINNERS 2004

Best Fish in the Show

The TetraMin Award

Phil Aspinall, C.S.G. for his *Hypostomus regani* (Class 12)
 1st reserve R Blackburn of Castleford for his *Hara filamentosa* (Class 21)
 2nd reserve I Mogford of Sutton for his *Liosomadoras oncinus* (Class 8)

Best Corydoras

The Yvonne Cank Memorial Trophy

Adrian Taylor, C.S.G. for his *Corydoras pygmaeus*

Best Breeders

The Linnaeus Award presented by TetraMin
 D & L Speed, C.S.G. for their team of *Aspidoras depinnai*

Best Overall Synodontis Species

presented by LMB Aquatics

Phil Aspinall, C.S.G. for his *Synodontis acanthomias*

Best Catfish Over 300mm

J T Morris Trophy

Phil Aspinall, C.S.G. for his *Hemibagrus nemurus*

Highest Pointed Exhibit (Not a single fish)

Clint Cup

D & I Speed, C.S.G. for his Breeders team of *Aspidoras depinnai*

Junior Trophy

Amanda Junior Cup

F Taylor, C.S.G. for his *Corydoras* type C110

SPECIAL CHOICES 2004

President's Choice

Masterstaff Trophy

I Mogford of Sutton for his *Pseudoansistrus siamensis* (Class 9)

Secretary's Choice

donated by A & D Hodges

Phil Aspinall, C.S.G. for his *Aguarunichthys tocantinsensis* (Class 18)

Show Secretary's Choice

presented by B Baldwin

I Mogford of Sutton for *Panaquolens albomaculatus* (Class 11)

Social Secretary's Choice

presented by J & J Mead

R Blackburn of Castleford for his *Chaca bankanensis* (Class 21)

Chairman's Choice

presented by George Waterhouse

I Mogford of Sutton for his L128 (Class 13)

Editor's Choice

presented by A M Taylor

R Blackburn of Sutton for his *Hara filamentosa* (Class 21)

Zoukai Choice

presented by A & L Morris

B Aspinall (Jnr), C.S.G. for his *Megalancistrus paramanus* L114 (Class 12)

REPORT ON THE 2004 OPEN SHOW

Written by Adrian W Taylor

As usual the day started with the first priority, getting the oven warm for the pies and the making of tea. Brian Walsh arrived with the tank stands and we all assisted to assemble the show staging and trestles. This year the we had a green coloured back drop and it was noted that this was a more beneficial colour to enhance the fish (for those of you who have never had the opportunity to attend the Open Show, the backdrop had previously been black). During the course of the day, Ann Blundell assembled the latest issue of Cat Chat and distributed it to those members present, while Roy & Dave Barton organised the auction lots ready for the auctioneer.

A big thank you must go to Ian Fuller for his efforts in getting sponsorship in the way of goods to donate to the Class winners. There were sufficient prizes to cover down to fourth place. We only had one hitch with the prizes and that was because we ran out of carrier bags. Bob Barnes resolved the problem by shooting off to the nearest ASDA and returning with a slack hand full. A big thanks to ASDA who came to the rescue and supplied them free of charge. No one dare ask what Bob had told (or threatened) the manager.

Terry Ward, our pet hitman, was intimidating anyone and everyone who came near the building to buy Raffle tickets and between him and the prizes, we did very well. Joan Davison, our new regular auctioneer, did extremely well despite the hard start to the auction (sometimes you wonder what people want especially if they don't want fish). Among the fish up for auction were; *Corydoras aeneus*, *paleatus*, *elegans*, *sterbai*,



Aspidoras, *C125's*, good size *Bristlenose*, *Leiocassis siamensis* and a variety of other fish including some nice 'L' numbers.

The judges this year were:- Ian Fuller, Steve Grant, Dave Page, Brian Walsh, Bob Street and Barry Booker. Thanks to all of them. They had their work cut out because the fish were of a very high standard. The Best in Show went to Phil Aspinall's *Hypostomus regani* and Runner-up was Roy Blackburn's *Hara filamentosus*. Oh yes! My son Francis has asked me to mention that he won the junior trophy again, so well done Francis.

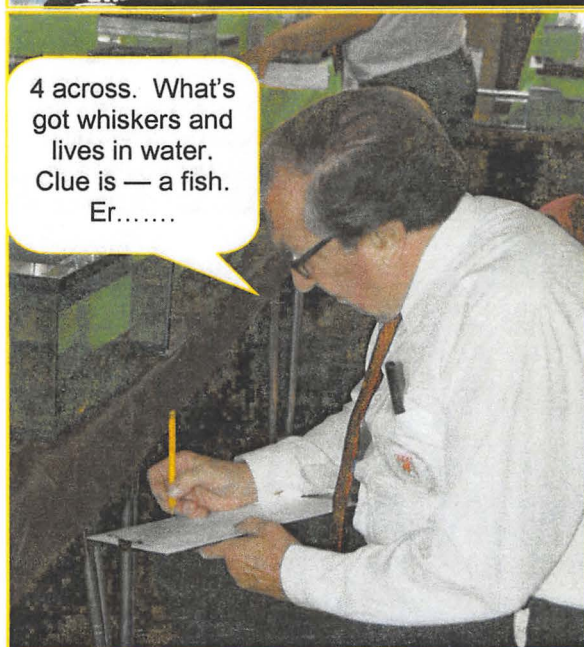
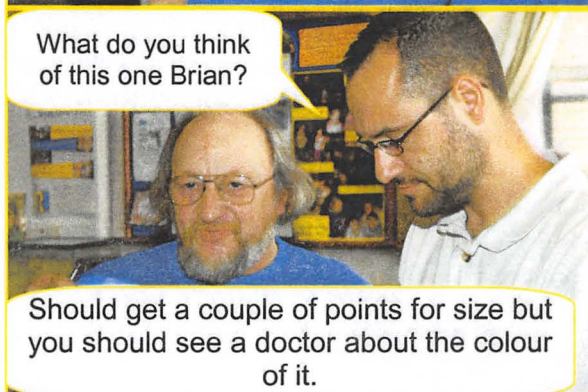
On a more personal note I have to mention that it gave me great pleasure to win the Yvonne Cank Memorial Cup for the best *Corydoras*. Yvonne was a good friend of mine along with her husband and two children and I believe that Yvonne and her husband were the first, certainly in the north, to spawn and raise successfully, *Corydoras Gossei*.

All in all I think we all must agree that this year's show and auction was brilliant,

A lot of people were involved in making this Show a great event but we must also remember the catering staff, Mr & Mrs Morris (and their grandchildren Kim and Nathan), Mr & Mrs Ward and Mrs Page 'cause without their endeavours in the catering department nobody would have enjoyed the day without something to eat and drink. ■



The Open Show Rumours, Lies and Altered Images



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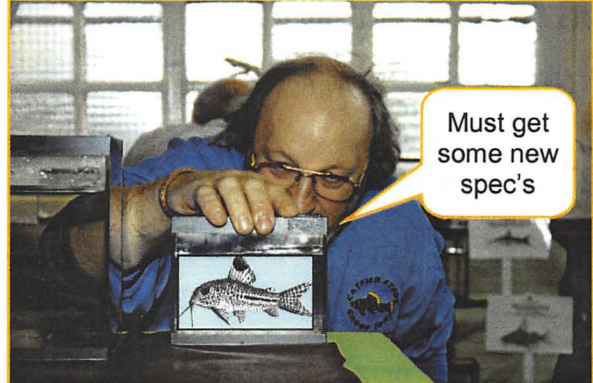


Hurry up Dad, I want to wear it tonight.

Terry injured his arm after his foot got caught in his pants at a local Strip joint.



I'm sure it was bigger than this when I left home!



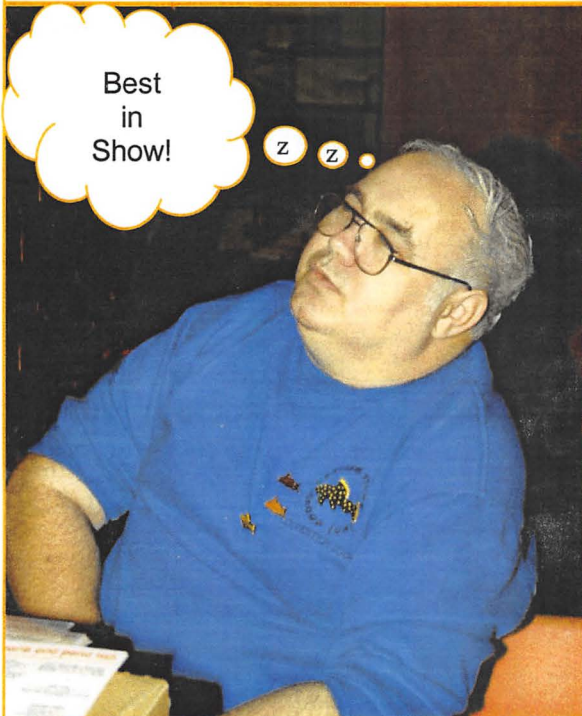
Must get some new spec's



Mr & Mrs Morris having a well earned break while son Trevor (below) is hard at it

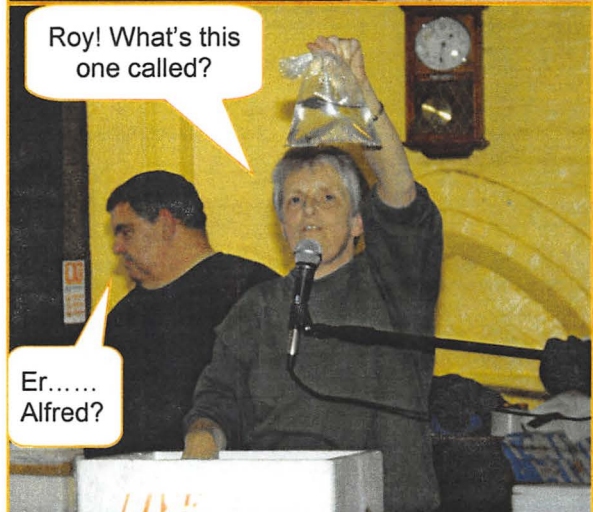


It must be hiding



Best in Show!

Trevor Morris stationed himself by the door and had the enviable task of registering the Show Entries.



Roy! What's this one called?

Er..... Alfred?

Auctioneer Joan Davidson with Roy Barton

The Catfish Study Group Autumn Auction, November 2004

By Sid Adam

On the day of the Catfish Study Auction in Aspull, Wigan we met up at the service station on the M74 Brian Smith, Jools of Planet catfish, Allan James of Scotcat.com and Pat from Oban. We left at 9am from a sunny cold Scotland. What a journey with freezing fog, and black ice, it made the driving conditions quite hazardous as some people had found out. There were quite a few accidents on the way down.

After 3hrs travelling, we arrived at our first stop, BAS in Bolton, just for a wee look. I was really impressed with the different assortment of catfish for sale but being a Scotsman, I managed to keep my money in my pocket for the auction.

We set off again to Aspull where the auction was being held and arrived just on 1 o'clock. It didn't look that busy from the outside but when we got inside, it was jam packed and the only seat in the house was behind the Christmas tree at the back of the hall.



The Auction Hall with Auctioneer, Steve Spencer, at the front, unfortunately with his back to us.

The auction started, fish for sale by the bag load, banjo cats, gulper cats, a few 'L' Numbers and of course plenty of Corydoras, such as barbatus, hastatus, sterbai, pygmaeus, C118, C125, just to name a few. There were also quite a few other types of fish, like dwarf cichlids, barbs and livebearers but I was there for the catfish. Box after box came out, some with fish and some with dry goods. There was a good selection of stuff up for grabs at very reasonable prices. A couple of hours had passed and I hadn't won anything then my friend Brian said, "this looks like the last box". I hoped it contained fish and it did. Out came the first

bag of 6 *Corydoras pygmaeus*, I put my hand up and bid and I got them for £9, which I thought was great value. So up came the runner with my new fishes, now you all must have heard the old saying "oh the fish at the auction were so good, they were spawning in the bag" right? Well on closer inspection of the bag, the fish were actually doing just that, so I gave Allan a tap on the shoulder and said, "Hey look at this Allan" and he couldn't believe his eyes, then he promptly said, "You cichlid people have all the luck"



It didn't look that busy from the outside but when we got inside, it was jam packed

There were 12 eggs in the bag, so the jokes started, I kept saying that I kept all my fish in bags at home and they spawn quite easily and stuff like that, or Mr pot noodle, just add water for results, that kind of thing. Out of the dozen eggs 3 were fertile and hatched out.

Since the auction the parents have produced around 200 fry, which I am really pleased about, not bad for fish bought at an auction for nine quid eh? These fish in my eyes are top quality and a credit to the breeder, and I must say, being a discus man. I am gradually getting pulled further and further into the catfish world. It was my first catfish auction, and I sure I won't forget it for a lot of years to come, good company, good fish and I'm sure, it won't be my last auction as I can't wait until the next one.



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