

CAT CHAT

The Journal of the Catfish Study Group (UK)

Convention 2005 - an 'outsiders' view
Mary Bailey

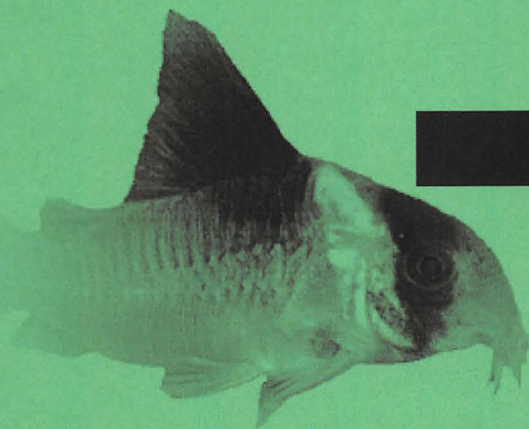


Bubblenest Building Catfish
Kevin Korotev

Catfish haven't hurt native fish as feared
Neil Santaniello



Dr Francis Day - a small insight
Adrian Taylor



Convention 2005 Reports

Volume 6 Issue Number 1
March 2005

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From the Editor

A sad beginning to the year with the demise of three of my fishkeeping friends, Tom Ward from the CSG, Brian Wilson, whom I have known since the early eighties, and Ray Clift, one time treasurer of the FBAS and also of my local club (the Sandgrounders).

What a great Convention we had! A good effort by Ian Fuller and the Committee for the hard work they put into it's organisation. Of course, without the speakers and the hotel, it wouldn't have been a Convention so well done everyone concerned. It was a new venture for the CSG to use a hotel and it looks as though it was the right decision. However, we don't stand still and Ian already has the 2006 Convention well in his sights.

Far be it for me to beg but will someone please put pen to paper. At this moment in time, I only have a front cover for the next journal due out in June.

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2005**

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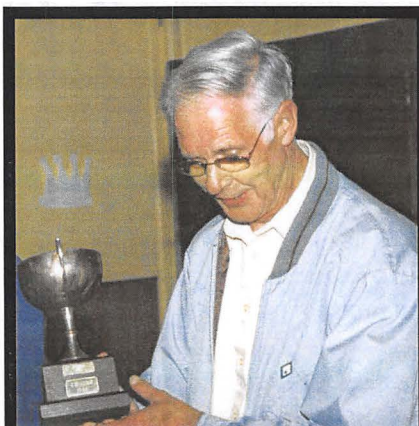
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From the Chair



It is with great sadness that I have to report the loss of not one but two of our friends, who passed away within a week of each other in February. Brian Wilson a former group treasurer and FNAS judge, regularly attended CSG open shows, either in his judging capacity or as an exhibitor taking the coveted best in show title more than once. Three days later Tom Ward passed away. Tom was a popular member and was part of our much appreciated canteen staff. He always made sure Bill and myself were never short of a brew during our stints at the money table during the auctions. Both will be sorely missed and on behalf of the Catfish Study Group I would like to offer both families our sincere condolences.



Brian Wilson

December: The meeting was, as everyone now knows as the 'Hot-Pot' meeting, where the members attending have a free 'Hot-Pot' lunch. This was followed by a PowerPoint presentation and general discussion on Corydoradinae Catfishes, which involved discussions on identification problems and ways to narrow the possibilities to achieve reasonable accuracy.

January: The New Year started with the AGM, which went quite smoothly as far as AGM's go. All committee positions were successfully filled and with no major issues to resolve the meeting was concluded in reasonable time. The full committee list appears on page one.

February is the highlight of our year and the time when we hold our annual convention. This year we changed our approach and held the event at a hotel using their catering and conference facilities. The convention dinner on the Saturday evening was well attended and enjoyed by all. Many of us booked in to stay the night and spend several hours supporting the UK's brewing

industry, putting the world to rights and of course there were many discussions on our favourite subject, Catfishes. On Sunday morning there were a few tender heads but it did not affect what turned out to be a very enjoyable day. Between them, Shane and Jools gave three superb talks, which were greatly received by all. The final touch were the speaker presentations, I always enjoy the moment when the speakers are 'Gob smacked' by what they are being presented with, which many of you will know are usually hand crafted fish carvings by Brian Walsh. This year's pieces were for Shane a *Pseudomystus mahakamensis* and for Jools a *Lamontichthys filamentosus*. To finish things off Brian gave a short program describing how the carvings were produced, with the aid of a short program which were put together during the lunch break from pictures Brian had taken of the carvings at various stages of their production.



Tom Ward

By way of advance notice for our 2006 convention, we are planning it to be a two-day convention. That is to say there will be two days of talks from at least five eminent aquarists, one of these is no other than Dr Stanley Weitzman from the Smithsonian Museum Washington, and also from the USA Lee Finley, who many will know from his many articles and publications, others speakers will be announced as they are confirmed.

By the time you read this we will have had the first of auction of the year, which unfortunately I shall miss as I will be in the USA at the

North East Council's 30th anniversary convention to talk on my favourite subject Corys.

Until next time happy (Cat)fishkeeping

My Fish House – Steve Pritchard

Well I opened my mouth, passed my fingers over the keyboard to be more accurate, in an email to the Chairman. I suggested an idea and gave myself a job.



Firstly I must confess that not all the fish in the shed are Catfish, as my interests include Cichlids and Killifish

The majority of my fish are kept in a fish house, at the bottom of the garden, completed in 1999 the 'shed' is 'L' shaped and currently staged out with 48 tanks the largest tank being 76 by 24 by 24 going down to 16 by 8 by 8 tanks.

When the fish house was planned I had catfish, Cichlids and killifish in mind to be housed in there with the intention of breeding as many species as possible, I instigated a Breeders Award Programme in my local club (Dunstable & District Aquarist Society).

The shed is made from thermalite blocks with insulation on the interior and in the angler of the roof space, keeping the room 'tropical'.

Natural light comes in through the glass panels in the door (insulated of course) this is supplemented by the strip lights in the ceiling and over tank lights. Heating is via a thermostatically controlled fan heater. Air is supplied via a blower that feeds into a ring around the ceiling that has separate airlines into all the tanks. Most of the tanks have sponge filters but there are a

number of external filters on the large tanks, and power heads to add that extra flow into tanks if I need them.

I use mainly rain water, collected from the shed roof, which is held in a series of water butts along the rear wall of the shed, with the weather we have experienced this year the butts have remained full throughout even with major water changes and clean ups, although I think I will have to invest in a R.O. unit before to long.

The first fish went into the fish house on 12 December 1999 into the largest tank, two pairs of Rosy Barbs, these fish settled straight way and were the ancestors of many, many generations of Rosy's all bred and raised in the tank, which when you consider the other occupants was amazing. The other occupants where dwarf cichlids large silver dollars, large danio's some L numbers, all living together. These fish have now moved on and the tank is now home to a large pair of discus.

As for the rest of the shed the most productive have been a rack of 14 24 by 12 by 15 tanks that have produced a number of Cory breeding successes and some splashing tetras, these were from adults collected in the wild in 2000. My collection includes a number of species that I have caught myself and I hope will do so for many years to come, yes I'm planning to go back to Peru in 2006.

I would like to extend the invitation that the chairman offered me, please put a few words on to paper let us know a bit about where you keep your fish, I'm sure the editor would be most grateful.



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MEET THE MEMBERS

Bård Farstad

I'm now 27 years old and I have been keeping fish on and off since I was around 10. I got started when my father bought me a tank since some of his friends were in our aquarium society and I was really keen on getting my own tank.

During the early years I kept normal fish like livebearers and of course piranhas and oscars. I was into breeding the fish pretty early and started with guppy, platy and swordfish since they do all the work for you.

Once I started my studies I didn't keep any fish and it was about 4 years ago that I re-started keeping fish. I now have about 30 tanks from 19L to 660L. And for the last three years I have been breeding any fish I

could get my hands on. I have bred several livebearers, danios, tetras, cichlids, catfish and labyrinths. Lately I have mainly been breeding Discus and Corydoras. I don't know why I have got interested in Corys and catfish in general but I guess it's because I have had some success in breeding these and there is always room for some catfish in any tank.

My next project is to get my hands on a few more Cory species for breeding and to breed some Sturisomas.

Except for keeping fish I am also very interested in keeping plants and creating a balanced aquarium. I am trying out Diana Walstad's technique for keeping aquarium plants with normal garden soil with great success. Bård

Cat Plays Ball

By Peter Standing

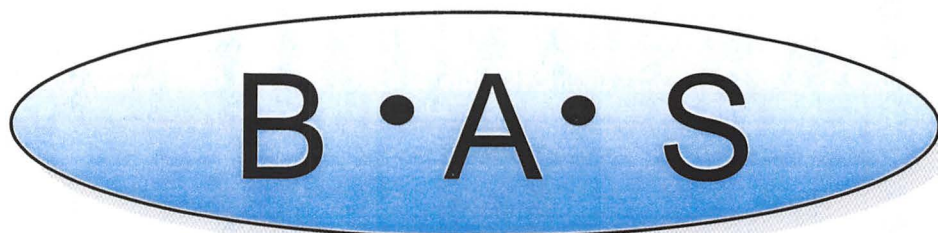
I read your recent leader about catfish and thought I would send you this story and pictures I received from my friend in the USA.

"This was a pretty interesting story from The Sunday Wichita Eagle Newspaper a couple of weeks ago. It took place in a housing development around 119 Street South and Maple. Anyhow, a resident in the area saw a ball bouncing around kind of strange-like in the development's pond and when he went to investigate, it was a flathead catfish who had obviously tried to swallow a child's basketball which became stuck in its mouth.

The fish was totally exhausted from trying to dive but unable to because the ball would always bring him back up to the surface. The resident tried numerous times to get the ball out but was unsuccessful.

He finally had his wife cut the ball in order to deflate it and release the catfish."





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Catfish species hasn't hurt native fish as feared

By Neil Santaniello
Staff Writer

The walking catfish sent unsettling ripples through Florida after surfacing on a north Broward County angler's hook in 1967.

The discovery of that exotic fish, capable of undulating briefly over land with its stiffened pectoral fins and a body-rocking motion, spurred projections that the species would dominate, and perhaps seriously harm, native Florida fish populations.

Thirty-seven years later, that "Frankenfish" fear has yet to pan out, said Paul Shafland, director of the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission's Non-Native Fish Research Lab in Boca Raton.

"It's certainly not had any of the catastrophic effects originally associated with its find in Florida," he said. "However we still consider it problematic. We wish it weren't here."



Photo: Ian Baird (USGS, 1999)

The walking catfish, *Clarias batrachus*, breathes air, and can make short migrations across land, which it sometimes does after rains leave standing water and soggy landscapes. While other exotic fish live subsurface lives, the walking catfish's land locomotion brought it headlines.

"People saw a fish out of water and it just had a lot of sensationalism attached to it," Shafland said.

The crawling catfish covered a lot of ground rather quickly once it got a foothold outdoors. It has spread, via interconnecting canals and other means, from the first catch west of Deerfield Beach north to Walt Disney's Magic Kingdom, where a worker recently snagged one, said Walt Courtenay, fisheries research biologist for the U.S. Geological Survey.

One of 34 exotic fish existing in Florida, the walking catfish remains widespread and "locally abundant," Shafland said. It fanned out across 20 counties in just

10 years, according to the Florida Museum of Natural History.

But scientists said its numbers appear to have declined in the 1980s and 1990s after an initial population boom.

"We've seen that with a lot of introduced fishes," said Bill Loftus, a Geological Survey research ecologist based at Everglades National Park. Predators eventually start to key in on them, food dwindles and their proliferation is curbed, he said.

"They don't really crash -- they come to a kind of balance with the environment," Loftus said.

The lack of a visibly serious impact from walking catfish does suggest that "the aquatic ecosystem is far more resilient to disturbances than what is commonly perceived by environmentalists," Shafland said.

A 1970 Smithsonian Contributions to Zoology article described the walking catfish's foray into Florida as possibly "the most harmful introduction to any North American area so far witnessed," Shafland noted. A state exotic fish research leader in 1968 called the walking catfish "a monster."

Shafland thinks the thus far innocuous fate of the walking catfish should temper fear generated by more recent exotic fish finds in South Florida -- the discovery of the Asian swamp eel on the Broward-Miami-Dade County line in 1998, and the bullseye snakehead in Sunrise in 2000. The latter is a relative of the toothy northern snakehead from China, which can survive out of water for days and was dubbed the fish "from Hell" in news reports after being hoisted from a Maryland pond a few years ago.

Still, in aquatic environs, "Once an exotic species becomes established, it's impossible to eliminate," Shafland said.

Shafland said he rarely nets any walking catfish while electrofishing -- a process that passes electric currents into water to stun fish for population counts. He said they appear to be generally absent from open waters and box-cut drainage canals.

Occasionally, people report catfish road crossings. A fish farmer from Venus, Fla., said he once encountered this while driving in Boca Raton. At first he thought the road ahead was moving, he wrote in an Internet article, but "moments later I was driving over thousands of these fish. The feeling was like driving over an oil slick."

Beyond suburbia, the walking catfish does dominate isolated pools of water in marshes and culverts and certain types of ditches, scientists said. It lives and reproduces in the Everglades.

Loftus, who has seen them wriggling across a road in Everglades National Park, said large concentrations occur in some places, including the Big Cypress National Preserve.

"Whether they are causing any ecological harm is a question that remains to be answered," Loftus said. "Gauging by the low populations we see normally, it's unlikely they're having much of an effect."

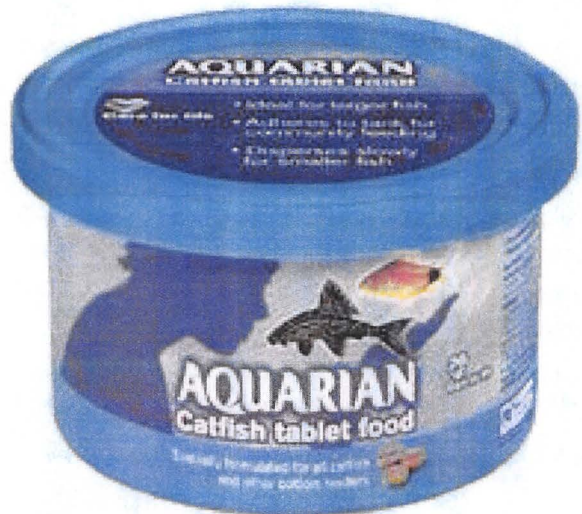
While not notably detrimental in nature, the walking catfish has meddled seriously with the business that accidentally introduced it to wild Florida: aquaculture.

The species has made raids on the ponds of fish farmers, where "they'll eat all their crops," Shafland said.

Fish farm owners have responded by building levees and fences to keep them out.

"The single biggest problem is with them crawling into aquaculture ponds," Shafland said.

Neil Santaniello can be reached at nsantaniello@sun-sentinel.com or 561-243-6625.



MEET THE MEMBERS

Kaare Thode

Member from Norway

My name is Kaare Thode but go by the nickname MalleMalle (CatfishCatfish in Norwegian) due to my interest in this species. I have been preaching about catfishes in Norwegian Internet forums for about seven years.

The interest for aquariums started around 1984-85, a friend of mine had one and I felt that this was interesting.

I got my first aquarium in 1985 but the hobby lasted just for a few years - my father didn't like 300 litres of water on the floor after an external filter cracked.

When I moved to my own apartment in 1997 I bought a used 325 litre tank and started up again. My interests in the hobby were mostly community tanks but I thinking more and more about breeding and I feel that I have the space to combine both now.

When it comes to catfish I can say right away that plecocs are those that I have the biggest interest in. I also have some different banjos but it seems quite hard to get different species of these in Norway.

I still have the first fish I bought in 97' *Microglanis iheringi*

A STUDY INTO THE QUALITIES OF AQUARIAN CATFISH TABLETS.

BY: - Adrian W Taylor.

When Aquarian kindly provided the members of CSG (UK) with samples of their catfish tablet product, the chairman asked for feedback from the members with a view to publishing them in the society's journal. I got to thinking! That maybe the views might just be in comments; like: - 'great; every Cory loved them' or 'my zebra plec just couldn't get enough', etc; so I thought why not do a in-depth study, to see what effect if any the tablets had on, growth; and what if any they had on water chemistry.

So I gave this some thought, and decided that if I was going to undertake such a study, and that a laboratory was not available to me; I would have to try and get the controlling factors as equal as possible in order that the study could be seen as a valid study and therefore the results could be accepted.

To do this, the priority was that I needed two tanks of equal size, the filters had to be of the same type, the initial water used would have to be from the same source, the temperature would have to be constantly equal, and the fish would have to be the same type, quantity and size. Due to my fish house being rather full and I was conducting an on-going study into a group of Asian cats, my first problem became; I needed two tanks of equal size, I had a few tanks that fitted the bill, however; they were placed in different areas in the fish house and, I needed them to be side by side in order that the temperature was equal, as my fish house was space heated, and therefore, if the two tanks were in differing positions in the fish house this may effect the temperature and as I didn't want to use separate heaters the controlling factors required during this study would be compromised.

I therefore had to come up with an alternative as I did not want to move fish and tanks around as this would effect my other studies. Then one day whilst

I was watching some Corydoras Sterbai in a tank that was positioned length ways on its stands, I solved my dilemma; I could move the Sterbai into a dump tank that contained other Corys, and then partition that tank length ways, so I moved the Sterbai, emptied and cleaned the tank; and went looking for a piece of glass that I could cut to fit.

I have to confess at not being very good at cutting glass, and here good fortune smiled upon me, I found a piece of old cover glass that exactly met the

required measurements, and siliconed it down the exact centre of the tank, making sure that I covered the joints properly, and then I left the tank for 24 hours to allow the silicone to set.

The next day I had to make sure that the partition was completely sealed, as if it wasn't the water could move from one side to the other therefore compromising the controlling factors. So with some anxiety I filled one side up with water, there did not seem any leakage of water, but to make sure I left the water in for an hour, and when I looked again there still wasn't any leakage. I then drained out the water, dried off the inside of the tank and placed it back into the fish house.

Each section was then filled with mature water taken from the same source and whilst I filled the sections I measured the quantity being added,

each section held 10.5 Litres. To each section a small air powered sponge filter was added and the air flow adjusted so that as near as possible, air

of the same pressure was coming from the uplifts of the filters. Hopefully this should result in the same amount of water in an hour being filtered

in each section. The tanks were then left for a further 24 hours, in order to bring the temperature in each section to the ambient temperature of the fish house which is 25°C, then water chemistry levels were measured; and four fish of approximately the same size were added.

The initial measurements taken were:-

Temperature	25°C
PH	7
GH	6
Nitrate	0.0mg/ltr
Nitrite	0.0mg/ltr
Ammonia	nil

Into each section I placed 4 young *Aspidoras C125's*, 2 each measuring 13mm TL & 2 each 15mm TL.

The other controlling would be in the amount of feeding and quantity of water changes done.

A water change using water with the same PH & GH values and that had been left standing overnight in order to allow the temperature to equalise with the

fish house temperature; and the feeding regime would be that each section received the same variety of diet with the exception; that when one section received the Aquarian tablet the other section received an amount of pre-soaked flake of a different brand.

The diet would be:-

Tank A	Day 1:-
Morning	¼ of a tablet.
Evening	small quantity of grindle worm.
	Day 2:-
Morning	small quantity of newly hatched brine Shrimp.
Evening	¼ of a tablet.
Tank B	Day 1:-
Morning	small quantity of pre soaked flake.
Evening	small quantity of grindle worm.
	Day 2:-
Morning	small quantity of newly hatched brine Shrimp.
Evening	small quantity of pre soaked flake.

This diet would alternate. i.e.:- day 3, same as day 1, day 4, same as day 2... Etc.

The chemistry of the water would be checked every other day and recorded. I would have preferred that water test could have been taken every day, but; due to limited funds I had to stretch my test kits.

During this study, due to the factors being measured I found it necessary to alter two things; on day 11 the ph on tank B had dropped to a level that the Aspidoras were showing signs of lethargy in

comparison to the Aspidoras in tank A, and the ph was raised to neutral 7, via the water change which on this tank was done at the rate of ½ of a Litre every half hour, with the ph value being increased at the same ratio. The second factor that I altered was the quantity of water that was changed, this factor was increased twofold.

I will let you all make up your own mind as to the effect on water quality from the readings published, saying that; my findings indicate that the effects on water quality are not all that different on the whole.

The size of the fish in each case, increased by 2.5mm in length, and there seemed to be more debris on the bottom of tank A; (uneaten tablet remains) than tank B. So, on the surface these results may show little benefit in using the tablet other than it reaches the fish quicker (by sinking), yet; the GH on tank A was more constant than tank B. The ph was also more constant on tank A, as was the ammonia and, although the size was not increased by using the tablet, there was a noticeably greater body form in the fish from tank A.

So, how would I say they shaped up if I was giving out star ratings using 5 stars as the highest, one could give.

Due to the fact that there was more debris on the tank bottom, and that in a normal aquarium that has substrate, the uneaten matter could have a detrimental effect on water quality; I feel that I can only give it 3 stars.

Adrian

Readings of water quality taken:-

TANK A											
PH	7.00	7.50	7.00	6.80	6.40	6.80	6.50	6.50	7.00	7.00	7.00
GH	6.00	6.00	6.00	6.00	6.00	5.50	6.00	6.00	6.00	6.00	6.00
NITRATE mg/ltr	0.00	12.50	0.00	12.50	12.50	12.50	12.50	12.50	12.50	12.50	12.50
NITRITE mg/ltr	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.05	0.10	0.00	0.10	0.00	0.00
AMMONIA mg/ltr	0.00	0.00	0.05	0.00	0.00	0.05	0.00	0.40	0.00	0.00	0.00
TANK B											
PH	7.00	7.00	6.80	6.40	6.40	6.00	7.00	7.20	7.20	7.20	7.20
GH	6.00	6.00	6.00	5.00	6.00	5.50	5.50	6.00	6.00	6.00	6.00
NITRATE mg/ltr	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	12.50	12.50	12.50	12.50	12.50	12.50
NITRITE mg/ltr	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.05	0.00	0.00	0.05	0.05	0.00
AMMONIA mg/ltr	0.00	0.40	0.05	0.05	0.10	0.05	0.05	0.40	0.00	0.10	0.00
	DAY 1	DAY3	DAY5	DAY7	DAY9	DAY11*	DAY13**	DAY15	DAY17	DAY19	DAY21
*action taken to raise PH						**water changes increased from 1Ltr to 2 Ltr's					

The 'Cat-Abantoid' A Bubble-nest Building Catfish.

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

I could not have been in the hobby a year when Gary Greenwood of Pets 'n' Things in Cudahy first told me of Hoplosternum: The catfish that builds a bubble-nest. Half cat, half Gouramie. At the time, ALL fish were new to me so I nodded politely and bought some (Corydoras).

Over the next few years, Gary and I watched for the "Hoplo Cat" to show up on his lists. They did but, unfortunately, should have stayed there. I bought and killed many. They were, in Gary's words, "Touchy little buggers". Sad. Neither of us knew just why they would turn-over, but they certainly did again and again.

In the spring of 2002 I began a short but furious buying spree on www.Aquabid.com. One of the auctions I won was for a "Leopard Spotted Hoplo Cat". As it turned out, these fish appeared to be a different species of the fish I couldn't keep alive. I was cautiously excited to mark the days...and then weeks that the fish lived, grew and ...dare I say; thrived?

Today, I'm pretty confident I have Megalechis thoracata (MEG ah LEK iss Tho rah KAHT ah). The Aqualog posters and books have a similarly marked fish listed as Hoplosternum sp.

The fish hails from Northern S. America, East of the Andes. I cannot definitively claim these as different from the fish I killed regularly, but BELIEVE they are not. My memory sees those fish marked differently than these "Leopard Spots". They may have been one of the two true Hoplosternum species.

Megalechis thoracata is well documented at www.planetcatfish.com I lean towards agreement with all the information listed there. Additionally, they are not (in adulthood) light shy. They are easy to care for, non-predatory and tend to prefer a softer, cooler water (neutral pH to slightly acidic, keep it under 78). Although this catfish takes oxygen at the surface like his (Corydoras) cousin, I have REPEATEDLY seen this fish suffer from low-oxygen content. An adequately pumped airstone is called for if you see labored breathing.

These fish grow and mature at very individual rates. I noticed it with my first juveniles as they matured...and am now noticing it with their fry. Eric Bodrock of Pittsburgh, PA (the guy whose name always seems to sneak into my catfish articles) notes the same uneven

growth rate. So, at their individual rates, with one of the 5 still smallish, it took about 12 to 14 months for my 2.5" fish to mature to spawning size. In males, this is just under 6 inches with females settling in just under 5". The males also develop markedly longer, thicker, reddish pectoral fin spines. If you want a better explanation, Ask Gary to stick out his elbows and "Do the Hoplo". No...on second thought...you'd better not.

The Cat-Abantoid (my pet name) male will claim territory, but will not build a nest (or didn't for me) until you give him something to build in UNDER. Eric suggested the colored 6" and 7" plastic lids that prepared foods come in. He even suggested that one of his males had a color choice and would only use that colored lid!

When gravid, one of the females moves into his territory to "tickle" him in the famous "T-Bar" (Corydoras) fashion. On and off during this courtship both fish will build up the nest...but other than the bubble nest, the Megalechis courting and spawning behavior is nearly identical to the Cory. In my set-up, I used that hot-pink plastic cover from the cat litter that comes in square pails. The cover is wedged securely at the water level by a suction cups. Most eggs end up on the underside. If the female is real full, eggs will end up everywhere. Some will stick to the glass, the furniture and even the fish! The egg catcher is removed (but not till they're done, or you'll get whacked!) and immediately replaced with another of identical size, color and shape. It probably doesn't have to be, but it makes a better story.

The egg catcher is put in another tank of similar water conditions and floats in the current with the egg side down. A little current helps keep the eggs "washed" for about 4 days. You'll see eyes after 2 days. A little anti-fungal medication in the water doesn't hurt if you're bothered by the bloom on the unfertilized eggs. During the 4th day, the wigglers will hatch and head for the darkest spot on the bottom, which I filled with wood and other cover. They will be nearly invisible for 4 or more weeks or until they reach about ¾" to 1". Some will never (or seemingly) mature and whether or not you cull them is a personal matter. Feed them ground dry food or BBS at night, before the lights go out. Until they're older, they'll only feed at night.

Really...don't ask Gary to "Do the Hoplo".

CATFISH STUDY GROUP (UK)

Sunday 20 November 2005

Autumn Auction

Starts at 1300 hrs

at

**St Elizabeth Parish Hall
Bolton Road
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Booking in from 1030 hrs on the day
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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.

On The Catfishes of Rainboth's "Fishes of the Cambodian Mekong"

by Lee Finley

In 1996 the FAO (Food And Agricultural Organization Of The United Nations) published Walter J. Rainboth's book "Fishes Of The Cambodian Mekong". The book is in the "FAO Species Identification Field Guide For Fisheries Purposes" series of publications, and should be of interest to any aquarists concerned in Southeast Asian mainland catfishes. Cambodia is not exactly an aquarium fishes export hot spot, but increased shipments of fishes from the general area, especially from Vietnam, do hold the potential for increasing availability of at least some Mekong basin catfishes. Much of the Mekong fauna has a wider distribution, so those interested in the catfishes of Thailand and Myanmar (Burma) may also benefit from this book.

The catfish section encompasses 30 pages (139-169) and covers 94 species. The species are illustrated with generally good quality technical drawings and a wide variety of information is provided in a brief format. In addition, 38 of the species are illustrated with color photos in a separate section of the book.

Many taxonomic changes have taken place since the publication of the Rainboth book. An amazing amount of this work has been done by Heok Hee Ng (working alone and with various collaborators). In this article I would like to make note the results of this work by presenting the changes for the names of many of the covered catfishes. It is important to note that the name changes for the most part only relate to the catfishes from mainland Southeast Asia. It is also important to note that most of the "old" names are still valid, but relate to species living elsewhere. Many of these catfishes were originally described from the Malay Peninsula and Indonesia. It has long been assumed that many had a wider distribution and were also found on the mainland. While it may be true in some cases research, for the most part, has shown that many of the mainland species are in fact similar, but different, species. **So, in the strict sense what follows relates only to the names in Rainboth's book and to fully look into the distribution of the various species, both old and new, one should consult the original references.**

So, with the above in place, let's move on to some name changes. The names used by Rainboth are in the left hand column.

Page 139

Bagrichthys micracanthus is *Bagrichthys majusculus*
Bagrichthys macropterus is *Bagrichthys obscurus*

Page 140

Heterobagrus bocourti is *Mystus bocourti*
Leiocassis siamensis is *Pseudomystus siamensis*
Leiocassis stenomus is *Pseudomystus stenomus*

Page 141

Mystus filamentus is *agrus filamentus*

Page 143

Mystus nemurus is *Hemibagrus spilopterus*

Page 144

Mystus wycki is *Hemibagrus wyckii*
Mystus wyckioides is *Hemibagrus wyckioides*

Page 145

Belodontichthys dinema is *Belodontichthys truncatus*

Page 146

Kryptopterus kryptopterus is *Kryptopterus geminus*

Page 147

Kryptopterus limpok is *Kryptopterus dissitus*
Kryptopterus schilbeides is *Kryptopterus paraschilbeides*

Page 148

In that most of what is presented in this article is based on the work of Heok Hee Ng, I will note here that in some recent work he does consider the three species on this page (*Micronema apogon*, *M. bleekeri* and *M. micronema*) as nominal *Kryptopterus* species.

Page 149

Ompok hypophthalmus is *Ompok urbaini*
Ompok sp. cf. *eugeneiatus* is *Ompok pinnatus*

Page 150

Silurichthys hasselti
Silurichthys phaiosoma

Note: These two species, which are valid, do not

appear to have been recorded from Cambodia. In their revision of *Silurichthys*, Ng and Ng only list *S. schneideri* as coming from that country.

Silurus bokorensis is *Pterocryptis bokorensis*

Page 151

Silurus torrentis is *Pterocryptis berdmorei*

Wallago leeri is *Wallago micropogon*

Page 152

Laides hexanema is *Laides longibarbus*

Laides sinensis is *Clupisoma sinensis*

Helicophagus waandersi is *Helicophagus leptorhynchus*

Page 153

Pangasianodon gigas

Note: Some authors place this species in *Pangasius*, treating *Pangasianodon* as a subgenus.

Pangasianodon hypophthalmus

Note: Some authors place this species in *Pangasius*, treating *Pangasianodon* as a subgenus.

Page 154

Pangasius bocourti

Note: It has been suggested that two species (one undescribed) are involved under this name. Possibly, the fish considered as *P. djambal* by Rainboth might be the undescribed species.

Page 155

Pangasius krempfi

Note: As Rainboth notes two species (one undescribed) may be involved.

Page 156

Pangasius pangasius is Possibly *Pangasius mekongensis*.

Page 157

Pangasius polyuranodon is *Pangasius elongatus*

Pangasius siamensis-

Note: FishBase lists the name as a synonym of *P. macronema*. See Rainboth's discussion under this species.



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Page 158

Amblyceps mangois is *Amblyceps serratum*

Acrochordonichthys sp. cf. *rugosus* is *Akysis varius*

Page 159

Akysis sp. cf. *macronema* is *Akysis similis*

Akysis variegates is *Akysis ephippifer*

Page 160

Bagarius bagarius

Note: Ng, writing on Planet Catfish, notes that this is an undescribed species.

Bagarius yarrelli

Note: Ng, writing on Planet Catfish, notes that this fish seems different from the Indian species of the same name. Although his comments were not a formal proposal, he notes that the name *Bagarius lica* is available.

Page 161

Glyptothorax fuscus According to Ng (personal communication) "the *G. fuscus* of Rainboth (1996) is something else".

Page 162

Glyptothorax major *G. major* is endemic to Borneo (Ng, personal communication). This species would be best designated as *G. sp. cf. major* or *Glyptothorax sp.* Either of those designations should carry reference to Rainboth.

Oreoglanis siamensis This species does not occur in the area covered and should not be considered.

Page 163

Clarias nieuhofii

Note: The species name should be spelled *nieuhofii*. It is noted to be a probable, but not a definite in the Mekong of Cambodia. *C. cataractae* is also mentioned and the species name should be spelled *cataractus*. This latter species, also unconfirmed in the Mekong, is considered a synonym of *C. leiacanthus*.

Page 164

(Note: The taxonomy of the catfish family Ariidae has been an on-going problem area for a long time. As this article was being prepared a major paper examining the phylogeny of the family was published by Patricia Kailola, who has worked with these fishes for over 25 years. What follows on the Ariidae is based on this new work).

Arius caelatus is *Nemapteryx nenga*

Page 165

Arius sagor is *Hexanematichthys sagor*

CAT CHAT

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Arius sona is *Hemiarius sona*

Arius stormi is *Hemiarius verrucosus*

Arius thalassinus is *Netuma thalassinus*

Page 166

Arius truncatus is *Cryptarius truncatus*

Page 167

Hemipimelodus bicolor is *Arius maculatus*

Hemipimelodus borneensis is *Cephalocassis borneensis*

Hemipimelodus daugeti is *Cryptarius daugeti*

Hemipimelodus intermedius is a possible synonym of *Cephalocassis borneensis*.

Page 168

Cnidoglanis nudiceps is *Euristhmus nudiceps*

References

Note: To save considerable space, and to keep from

driving the Editor to distraction, I am foregoing the numerous references for this presentation. As noted, the great amount of the work in this piece is based on the papers of Heok Hee Ng working alone or with various co-authors. There is good access to Ng's work through his website:

<http://www-personal.umich.edu/~heokheen/publications.htm> and practically all of his papers are available as downloadable pdf files. Should you have concerns, or questions, regarding any other references please contact me at <lfinley58@att.net> and I will be happy to provide the information for you.



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Dr FRANCIS DAY 1829-1889

A small insight by A W Taylor

Dr Francis Day was, by profession, a doctor of medicine who served in the Army in India as a Surgeon Major with the Army Medical Corps. His commission with the Army began on the 26th February 1852 until the 27th February 1872.



Day started his army career as the Principal Medical Storekeeper, however after much hard work he became the Professor of Materia Medica in the Medical College, Madras and on the 9th of August 1871 he was appointed the Inspector General of Fisheries in British India.

It was during this time that Day collected and described many of the fishes from that region that we know today and find quite regularly in our local fish stores and some of his descriptive work is still relevant today. It was Day who first described *Mystus Armatus* in 1865, *Mystus Bleekeri* in 1878 and *Hara Jerdoni* in 1870.

In all Day named and described 343 species of marine and freshwater fish. When Day finally decided to retire, it was expected that he would sell his collection to Dr Albert Gunther of the British Museum of Natural History but; because Gunther on numerous occasions had criticised Day's work, Day refused. Instead he offered his work to the Australian Museum of Natural History and Dr Edward Ramsey, who was the Director of the Australian Natural History Museum at the time, paid Day the sum of £200 for the collection and works, which can still be seen today at the Museum.

Image (copyright) by courtesy of the Australian Natural History Museum.

Ref: http://www.amonline.net.au/collections/images/ichthyology/francis_day.jpg

British Cichlid Association 2005 Spring Convention

Sunday 17th April 2005

at

**Henley-in-Arden High School
Henley-in-Arden
Wark's**

The school is situated on the main A3400 just south of the town centre. Signs will be posted on the day.

Speaker

Jos Snoeks

Jos is an internationally known authority on African cichlids from the Africa Museum, Tervuren, Belgium.

Details have not yet been finalised but there should be two illustrated talks, one on Rift Valley cichlids and one on the cichlids of the Congo.

Start: 10 00 am.

Admission

Members £4.00

non-members £5.00

Children under 14 free if accompanied by a paying adult

Aquarian will also be providing everyone with a gift valued at more than the admission fee, making it not only an enjoyable day out but also FREE !!

A Raffle and Refreshments will be available and there is ample free parking on site.

The BCA Sales Stand will be present, offering a range of quality cichlid books, including Jos's new book on Lake Malawi (which we expect he will be happy to autograph for you), cichlid posters, videos, CDs and a selection of catfish titles.

Auction

Up to 250 lots may be submitted by BCA members only. Bookings by post to Trevor Greenfield, 1c Fieldfare Road, Stourbridge, West Midlands, DY9 7ES. Tel: 01384 891610 or 07977 130379 or <britishcichlid@aol.com>, from now until the 31st March, or until all lots are filled whichever is the sooner.

BCA Auction rules apply and are available from the Secretary.

Further details of the Convention by post (SAE please) from Craig Wade, 20 Ash Grove, Shotton, North Wales, CH5 1AG, or from the BCA website <www.britishcichlid.com>

Catfish Study Group (UK) Convention 2005 An 'outsiders' view

By Mary Bailey of the British Cichlid Association



Mary Bailey

As we announced in the last BCA Newsletter, the 2005 Catfish Study Group (UK) Convention was held on Sunday 20th February 2005 at the Britannia Hotel, Wigan.

Now, I know very little about catfishes but our Chairman had suggested I attend the meeting as an 'observer' with a view to perhaps getting some ideas for improving our own BCA conventions. In the event I also attended as Acting Sales Officer as we had arranged to put on a sales display as part of our new co-operation with the CSG.

Holding the Convention in a hotel meant that not only could those attending stay overnight "on site" at a special Convention B & B rate but there was also an excellent dinner the night before. This was very enjoyable and allowed people to get to know each other in a relaxed atmosphere (= bar), rather than being thrown head-first into the hurly-burly of the Convention itself. Next morning it was also very pleasant to have a nice breakfast at a civilised hour and then unload Sales from the car well before "doors open", rather than having to load up the car at an unearthly hour, drive somewhere, and then set-up in a mad rush 10 minutes before the start of the meeting. I think it may well be worth investigating the possibility of organising similar events for the BCA, as it would make life much easier for members living a long way away and give us all more opportunity to get acquainted.

The first talk was by Julian Dignall of Planet Catfish, entitled "Knee Deep in the Catfishes of North Eastern India". This was a whole new world to me in terms of

scenery and biotopes and it was interesting to learn that in India, like Africa, the entire local population turns out to watch the crazy Europeans "at work". There were even two cichlids shown, the 'green chromide' *Etroplus suratensis* and *E. canarensis*, thought extinct until a few years ago but now sometimes seen in aquarium shops. Julian got their names the wrong way round and although, as a guest, I politely remained silent. Our Chairman – who is also a member of the CSG and, I guess, entitled to chip in, set the record straight!

After a buffet lunch, the second talk – with a tea-break halfway through – was by Shane Linder from California, entitled "Four years of chasing fish in South America". Shane's job had sent him to South America for a total of four years, giving him a marvellous opportunity to pursue his interest in catfishes in the wild. I've seen quite a few talks on the Amazon system over the years but although Shane covered this area in the second part of his talk, he also showed biotopes in Venezuela and Colombia. Again there were a few cichlids in among the catfishes.

To be honest, I had wondered if I would be bored by two talks on subjects way outside my field but in the event, I found both lectures totally fascinating, learnt a lot of relevance to cichlids and had an incredibly good time overall. I suspect I may be going again next year!

The CSG will be putting on a stand at our forthcoming convention in April and I hope the BCA will make them as welcome as they made me.

Mary Bailey



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or from 1030 hrs on the day

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Brian Walsh

Tel: 01254 776567

Auction Manager:

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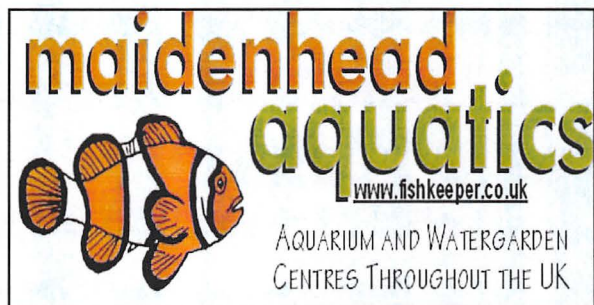
The **CATFISH STUDY GROUP (UK)** would like to thank the following sponsors for their support of the Catfish Convention 2005 which, without their help, would not have been such a huge success.



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Julian Dignall (left) and Shane Linder (right) being presented with their trophies by Brian Walsh, of JBW, who actually carved them. According to Brian, the difficult part is finding out what the speakers' favourite fishes are so that he can start carving.



CONVENTION 2006

As has previously mentioned elsewhere in this journal, next years Convention will hopefully be a two day event covering the weekend of 18 & 19 February 2006.

Although still early days, plans are already underway and provisionally the speakers planned are

Professor Stanley Weitzman

and

Lee Finlay

from the USA,

and possibly three other speakers who have yet to confirm their attendance.

However, as mentioned, these are still early days and although the speakers have been provisionally booked, as has happened in the past, things can change.

More information will become available through these pages in forthcoming issues.

Please be aware that payments may be required up front so start saving your pennies and be sure of a place/food etc.

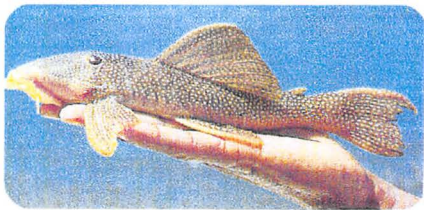
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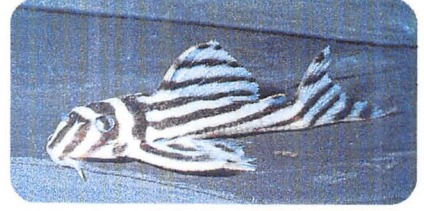
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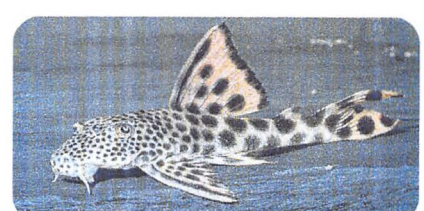
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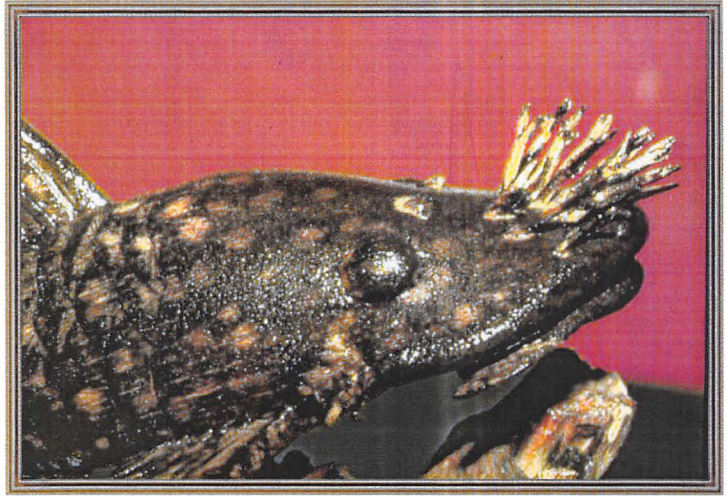
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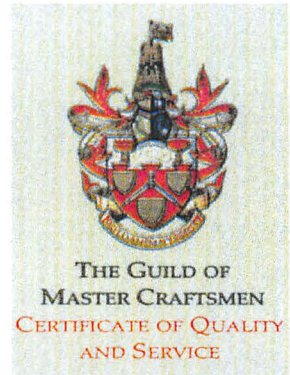
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