

CATCHAT

THE JOURNAL OF THE CATFISH STUDY GROUP



CSG 2012 Open Show Results

CSG Summer Lecture

***Lepthoplosternum* (Reiss 1997)**

What's New?

Preston AS Convention

Catfish Study Group Committee

President – Ian Fuller
 president@catfishstudygroup.org
 conventionmanager@catfishstudygroup.org

Vice-President – Dr. Peter Burgess

Chairman – Bill Hurst
 chairman@catfishstudygroup.org

Treasurer – Danny Blundell
 treasurer@catfishstudygroup.org

Membership Secretary – Bob Barnes
 membershipsecretary@catfishstudygroup.org

Auction Manager – David Barton
 auctionmanager@catfishstudygroup.org

Assistant Auction Manager – Roy Barton
 auctionmanager@catfishstudygroup.org

Secretary – Vacant
 secretary@catfishstudygroup.org

Editor - Mark Walters
 editor@catfishstudygroup.org

BAP Secretary – Brian Walsh
 bapsecretary@catfishstudygroup.org

Show Secretary – Brian Walsh
 showsecretary@catfishstudygroup.org

Assistant Show Secretary – Ann Blundell

Website Manager – Allan James
 webmaster@catfishstudygroup.org

Floor Members – Tony Pickett, Colin Eveson,
 Adrian Taylor.

Diary Dates 2012/13

Date	Meeting	Details
November 18th	Autumn Auction	Derwent Hall. Pre booking - David Barton 01942 248130
December 9th	Christmas Meeting	Highfield Hall
2013		
January 20th	Annual General Meeting	Highfield Hall
February 17th	Spring Auction	Derwent Hall
March 15th/16th/17th	Annual Convention	Kilhey Court Hotel
April 21st	Meeting	Highfield Hall
May 19th	Meeting	Highfield Hall

Monthly meetings are held at the **Highfield Congregational Church Hall, Edmund Street, Darwen, Lancs, BB3 2DL** on the third Sunday of each Month from 1pm.

Auctions, Open Show and Spring and Summer Lectures will be held at the **Derwent Hall, George Street, Darwen, BB3 0DQ**.

The Annual Convention is held at **The Kilhey Court Hotel, Chorley Road, Standish, Wigan, WN1 2XN**.

Contents

Editorial	2
In Memory of Alan Vaissiere - Ian Fuller.....	3
Notices	5
CSG Open Show 2012 – Allan James.....	6
Preston AS Convention 2012 – Danny Blundell.....	13
<i>Lepthoplosternum</i> (Reiss 1997) – Steve Grant.....	17
CSG Summer Lecture 2012 – Mark Walters.....	23
What's New? – Mark Walters	26

Front cover –2012 CSG Open Show Best in Show – Roy Blackburn's *Microglanis iheringi*

Images and articles may not be reproduced without the direct permission of the author

Views expressed within the Journal are those of individual members and not necessarily representative of the Catfish Study Group

**Publication of the Catfish Study Group Journal
is proudly sponsored by Tetra**



Editorial



Roy Blackburn enjoying his success

Another year, another successful CSG show and Auction. Congratulations to Roy Blackburn for his Best in Show exhibit at this years' show, featured on the front cover of the journal. A full report with results and a gallery of images is included in this edition. I was pleased to gain Best Loricariid and a few other awards. Thanks to all those who were involved in organizing, judging, exhibiting, auctioneering and all the other jobs which often go unnoticed.

Danny Blundell has written his account of the Preston Aquarist Society Convention, which took place just after the CSG show. This is fast becoming an essential date in the diary with an impressive line-up of guest speakers and massive auction.

I've also reported on the highly successful Summer lecture with Anton Immink from Stirling University. The lecture was supported by a table-top sale with some great fish at bargain prices. The format is proving successful and will be included at other regular club meetings.

Steve Grant has compiled the most comprehensive account of the genus *Lepthoplosternum*, which includes the 'dwarf hoplo' *L. pectorale*, although as Steve's article informs us, what we think we know as '*pectorale*' might not be that fish! In addition to editing the journal this month, I'm also preparing to give a talk at the October CSG meeting on the challenges of breeding and raising catfish. I'll try and include a summary of the talk in a future edition of Catchat.

Sometimes, the challenge of breeding is pretty straightforward, as I discovered when peering into a

tank which houses a pair of *Ancistrus* sp. 'Rio Paraguay'. I'd only picked up the wild pair a few months ago but was pleased to see lots of youngsters foraging on the tank bottom. I hadn't even noticed the male guarding the eggs, let alone spawning. Sometimes it's best to leave them to get on with it with minimum intervention.



Ancistrus sp Rio Paraguay



Ancistrus sp Rio Paraguay approx. 3 week old

Mark

In Memory of Alan Vaissiere



It is with a very heavy heart that I report the passing of Alan Vaissiere he will be sadly missed by a very large number of aquarist, not only for his like of a tippie or two and his ability to create many a lively debate about his beloved fishes. He will probably be remembered best for his ability to breed fishes, many of which were believed impossible to breed. Impossible to Alan only meant that it he hadn't bred it yet.

To me besides being a good friend, he was the finest fish breeder I have ever met, and with more than a thousand recorded species to his name I would rank him as one of, if not the finest fish breeders in the world. Alan would happily pass on his knowledge to others in the hope that they in turn would perpetuate the breeding of, in many cases very rare fishes. His passion for fishes was with him right to the very end as those who attended the Preston Convention will attest

Alan, I will miss the discussions we have had over the odd pint or several and raise my glass to you.

Rest in peace my friend

Ian
CSG President



Alan Vaissiere receiving his lifetime award from Hans-Georg Evers

At the recent Preston Aquarist Societies annual convention Hans-Georg Evers presented Alan Vassiere with a Lifetime Achievements Award for his unequaled successes in fish breeding. The Award consisted of a carving by Brian Walsh of two Alan's favorite pencil fish, and the assembled delegates were read a list of some of his greatest aquatic achievements.

Alan kept fish for 60 plus years, and has bred a very large number of different species, and was often the first in the country to do so. When the Federation of Northern Aquarist Societies introduced their Breeders Award Scheme Alan was the first to complete it, and when the Scheme was extended to cover many more difficult species he went on to score maximum points.

In recent years Alan had concentrated on Pencil Fishes, both keeping and breeding many species.



Alan proudly showing his lifetime award



www.catfishstudygroup.org

Committee Positions

There are a number of committee positions that are up for re-election at the AGM to be held on 20th January 2013. these positions are:-

President - Position currently held by Ian Fuller who has given notice that he is willing to stand for another term.

Chairman - This position is open and currently has one nominee, Mr Adrian Taylor, proposed Mark Walters, seconded Brian Walsh.

Treasurer - Position currently held by Danny Blundell, who has given notice that he is willing to stand for another term.

Secretary - This position is currently open and needs to be filled.

Merchandise Officer - This position is open and needs to be filled.

If you would like to nominate any candidates for any of the above positions, please contact the Chairman at chairman@catfishstudygroup.org and submit your proposals.

Notices

Catfish Study Group Autumn Auction

Sunday 18 November 2012

**Derwent Hall, George Street,
DARWEN Lancs BB3 0DQ**

Normal entry rules apply
Any fish other than painted accepted
Name & Tel No on electrical goods
Suitable containers for livestock, etc.
[If unsure of the rules ask when booking in]

CSG Commission 15%

**Booking in:
Auction Manager: Dave 01942 248130
Or from 11.00 on the day - Auction to start 13.00**

CSG Open Show 2012

Report by Allan James

Our Open Show this year on Sunday 16th September was held for the first time in our new venue at the Derwent Hall, Darwen. This hall had plenty of natural light for the judging which again proved a difficult task with the quality of fish and also the upturn in entries which amounted to 145 which was well up from last year.



Judges hard at work and the auction in full flow

The CSG Committee once again would like to thank all exhibitors for turning up on the day to show their fish. Thanks must also go to Show Secretary Brian Walsh, his assistant Ann Blundell and the Judges on the day for all their hard work, and the helpers in the canteen again did a sterling job keeping up the teas, coffees and the food flowing along.



Auction in full flow

The auction also went well and of course thanks must go to the CSG members who helped on the day and also our resident auctioneer Steve Spence for another excellent job. Amongst the usual dry goods, fish food, equipment and plants, the following catfish were offered for sale, most being sold for at least their reserves:



Grabbing a few bargains

Corydoras: panda, weitzmani, trilineatus, paleatus, gossei, aeneus, virginiae, arcuatus, delphax, undulates, concolor, loxozonus, rabauti, nattereri, cruziensis, sterbai, reynoldsi, carlae, aurofrenatus, orcesi, melini, eques, njsseni, longipinnis, hastatus, schwartzi, similis, habrosus, CW: 023, 021, 08 C132; Aspidoras: taurus, spilotos; A sp. C052, A sp. C125 A sp. C35; Scleromystax: barbatus, lacerdai; S. sp. C112.; Brochis splendens

Loricariids: *Sturisoma panamense, Ancistrus sp 3, Ancistrus sp.4, Hemiloricaria eigenmani, Panaque. Sp. L191, Dekeyseria sp. L052*

Other Siluriformes: *Synodontis nigriventris, Microglanis iheringi, Megalechis thoracatum, Synodontis brichardi, Agamyxis pectinifrons*



Plants and equipment were also on offer

Special mention must be made of course to the sponsors of our show, which you can see below each class, which meant we did not have to charge for fish entries. Remember it is only £10 to sponsor a class for next year's show.

CSG Open Show 2012

Results

1	ASPIDORAS		ENTRIES 3	
1	Colin Eveson	CSG	<i>Aspidoras pauciradiatus</i>	82
2	Mike Kirkham	CSG	<i>Aspidoras fuscoguttatus</i>	81
3	John Hetherington	CSG	<i>Aspidoras fuscoguttatus</i>	80
Sponsor: Mike Kirkham - CSG Member				

2	BROCHIS		ENTRIES 4	
1	Mike Kirkham	CSG	<i>Brochis splendens</i>	87
2	D & L Speed	CSG	<i>Brochis splendens</i>	82.5
3	Mike Kirkham	CSG	<i>Brochis splendens</i>	80.5
Sponsor: Mike Kirkham - CSG Member				

3	CORYDORAS "A" up to 55mm SL[F]		ENTRIES 11	
1	D & L Speed	CSG	<i>Corydoras napoensis</i>	89.5
2	Mark Walters	CSG	<i>Corydoras diphyses</i>	89
3	DJAY	DJAY AS	<i>Corydoras kanei</i>	88.5
Sponsor: Ian Fuller – Corydorasworld.com				

4	CORYDORAS "B" over 55mm SL		ENTRIES 10	
1	DJAY	DJAY AS	<i>Corydoras leopardus</i>	88.5
2	Mark Walters	CSG	<i>Corydoras longipinnis</i>	85.5
3	DJAY	DJAY AS	<i>Corydoras gossei</i>	85
Sponsor: Ian Fuller – Corydorasworld.com				

5	CORYDORAS TYPES C & CW Nos/Unid.		ENTRIES 5	
1	DJAY	DJAY AS	CW028	87.5
2	Mark Walters	CSG	CW024	85.5
3	Bernard O'Neill	CSG	CW032	80.5
Sponsor: Ian Fuller – Corydorasworld.com				

6	SCLEROMYSTAX		ENTRIES 5	
1	DJAY	DJAY AS	<i>Scleromystax kronei</i>	89.5
2	Mark Walters	CSG	<i>Scleromystax kronei</i>	86.5
3	Bernard O'Neill	CSG	<i>Scleromystax kronei</i>	79.5
Sponsor: Ian Fuller – Corydorasworld.com				

7	AOV CALLICHTHYIDAE		ENTRIES 3	
1	Steve Grant	Castleford	<i>Lepthoplosternum pectorale</i>	85
2	DJAY	DJAY AS	<i>Callichthys callichthys</i>	81
3	DJAY	DJAY AS	<i>Megalechis picta</i>	76
Sponsor: Mike Kirkham - CSG Member				

8	ASPREDINIDAE		ENTRIES 5	
1	Steve Grant	Castleford	<i>Bunocephalus coracoides</i>	83
2	Steve Grant	Castleford	<i>Bunocephalus amaurus</i>	81
3	Steve Grant	Castleford	<i>Bunocephalus verrucosus</i>	80
Sponsor: Midland Waterlife				

9	AUCHENIPTERIDAE		ENTRIES 6	
1	DJAY	DJAY AS	<i>Trachelypterichthys taeniatus</i>	82
2	DJAY	DJAY AS	<i>Auchenipterichthys coracoideus</i>	81.5
3	John Hetherington	CSG	<i>Tatia perugiae</i>	81
Sponsor: Mike Kirkham – CSG Member				

10	BAGRIDAE		ENTRIES 9	
1	A & C White	Alden	<i>Mystus leucophasis</i>	87
2	A & C White	Alden	<i>Pseudomystus siamensis</i>	85
3	Mark Walters	CSG	<i>Batasio dayi</i>	83
Sponsor: Midland Waterlife				

11	DORADIDAE		ENTRIES 10	
1	A & C White	Alden	<i>Agamyxis pectinifrons</i>	88
2	DJAY	DJAY AS	<i>Physopyxis lyra</i>	86
3	DJAY	DJAY AS	<i>Amblydoras hancocki</i>	85
Sponsor: Brian Walsh – g.b.w@live.co.uk				

12	LORICARIIDAE up to 130mm		ENTRIES 7	
1	Mark Walters	CSG	<i>Peckoltia braueri</i>	86
2	D & L Speed	CSG	<i>Peckoltia oligospila</i>	85
3	D & L Speed	CSG	<i>Peckoltia vermiculata</i>	83
Sponsor: Julian Dignall – planetcatfish.com				

13	LORICARIIDAE over 130mm		ENTRIES 6	
1	DJAY	DJAY AS	<i>Ancistrus cirrhosus</i>	85
2	A & C White	Alden	<i>Farlowella acus</i>	84
3	A & C White	Alden	<i>Ancistrus margrosas</i>	83
Sponsor: Julian Dignall – planetcatfish.com				

14	LORICARIIDAE L&LDA Nos up to 130mm		ENTRIES 5	
1	Mark Walters	CSG	<i>L202</i>	88
2	Roy Blackburn	Castleford	<i>L288</i>	87
3	A & C White	Alden	<i>L038</i>	86
Sponsor: Julian Dignall – planetcatfish.com				

15	LORICARIIDAE L&LDA Nos over 130mm		ENTRIES 4	
1	A & C White	Alden	<i>L128</i>	91
2	Bernard O'Neill	CSG	<i>L144 Ancistrus sp</i>	86
3	A & C White	Alden	<i>L75</i>	83
Sponsor: Julian Dignall – planetcatfish.com				

16	MOCHOKIDAE up to 130mm		ENTRIES 5	
1	Mike Kirkham	CSG	<i>Mochokiella paynei</i>	91
2	A & C White	Alden	<i>Synodontis aterrima</i>	86
3	D & L Speed	CSG	<i>Mochokiella paynei</i>	82
Sponsor: Allan James – scotcat.com				

17	MOCHOKIDAE over 130mm		ENTRIES 2	
1	Mike Kirkham	CSG	<i>Synodontis angelicus</i>	86
2	A & C White	Alden	<i>Synodontis irsacae</i>	81
Sponsor: Allan James – scotcat.com				

18	PIMELODIDAE up to 100mm		ENTRIES 7	
1	Roy Blackburn	Castleford	<i>Microglanis iheringi</i>	88
2	D & L Speed	CSG	<i>Microglanis iheringi</i>	86
3	Mark Walters	CSG	<i>Imparfinis minutis</i>	86
Sponsor: Roy Barton – CSG Auction Manager				

19	PIMELODIDAE over 100mm		ENTRIES 3	
1	Roy Blackburn	Castleford	<i>Pimelodus tetyzamoros</i>	83
2	Mike Kirkham	CSG	<i>Pimelodus sp</i>	82
3	Mike Kirkham	CSG	<i>Batrochoglanis acanthoroides</i>	78
Sponsor: Dave Barton – CSG Auction Manager				

20	COLDWATER CATFISH		ENTRIES 0	
Sponsor: Dave Barton – CSG Auction Manager				

21	AOV CATFISH – S AMERICAN		ENTRIES 1	
1	Roy Blackburn	Castleford	<i>Ituglanis metae</i>	77

22	AOV CATFISH – AFRICAN		ENTRIES 2	
1	Mike Kirkham	CSG	<i>Lophiobagrus cylurus</i>	89
2	DJAY	DJAY AS	<i>A. macrostoma</i>	80
Sponsor: In memory of Terry Ward				

23	AOV CATFISH – ASIAN		ENTRIES 5	
1	D & L Speed	CSG	<i>Akysis prashadi</i>	89
2	Roy Blackburn	Castleford	<i>Erethistodes pusillus</i>	87
3	Roy Blackburn	Castleford	<i>Akysis prashadi</i>	86
Sponsor: Adrian Taylor – Asiancatfish.com				

24	PAIRS – CORYDORADINAE		ENTRIES 5	
1	Mike Kirkham	CSG	<i>Corydoras pulcher</i>	85
2	Steve Grant	Castleford	<i>C140</i>	79
3	John Hetherington	CSG	<i>Corydoras seussi</i>	78.5
Sponsor: Midland Waterlife				

25	PAIRS – LORICARIIDAE inc L&LDA Nos		ENTRIES 2	
1	Roy Blackburn	Castleford	<i>Peckoltia brevis</i>	80.5
2	Mark Walters	CSG	<i>Peckoltia sp. L038</i>	78.5
Sponsor: Midland Waterlife				

26	PAIRS – AOV S AMERICAN		ENTRIES 3	
1	Steve Grant	Castleford	<i>Bunocephalus amaurus</i>	85
2	Mike Kirkham	CSG	<i>Imparfinis minutis</i>	84.5
3	Mark Walters	CSG	<i>Centromochlus perugiae</i>	81
Sponsor: Bob Barnes – CSG Membership Secretary				

27	PAIRS – AOV AFRICAN		ENTRIES 3	
1	Roy Blackburn	Castleford	<i>Mochokiella paynei</i>	79
2	Mark Walters	CSG	<i>Microsynodontis sp.</i>	78
3	DJAY	DJAY AS	<i>Synodontis batesii</i>	77
Sponsor: Bob Barnes – CSG Membership Secretary				

28	PAIRS – AOV ASIAN		ENTRIES 2	
1	Roy Blackburn	Castleford	<i>Akysis prashadi</i>	83.5
2	A & C White	Alden	<i>Erethistoides infuscatus</i>	79
Sponsor:				

29	BREEDERS–CORYDORADINAE		ENTRIES 6	
1	Colin Eveson	CSG	<i>Corydoras panda 'white'</i>	92
2	Mark Walters	CSG	<i>Corydoras ehrhardti</i>	91
3	Adrian Taylor	CSG	<i>CW021</i>	87
Sponsor: Danny Blundell CSG Treasurer				

30	BREEDERS–LORICARIIDAE Inc L&LDA		ENTRIES 4	
1	A & C White	Alden	<i>Loricaria simillima</i>	90
2	Mark Walters	CSG	<i>Panaqolus sp. LDA01</i>	89
3	A & C White	Alden	<i>Loricaria simillima</i>	87
Sponsor: Mark Walters – CSG CatChat Editor				

31	BREEDERS – AOV S AMERICAN		ENTRIES 0	
Sponsor: Allan White – CSG Member				

32	BREEDERS – AOV AFRICAN		ENTRIES 0	
Sponsor: Allan White – CSG Member				

33	BREEDERS – AOV ASIAN		ENTRIES 0	
----	----------------------	--	-----------	--

34	FAMILY CLASS – Pair & Breeders Team		ENTRIES 1	
1	Mark Walters	CSG	<i>Peckoltia L038</i>	164.5

35	BREEDERS – MASTER CLASS		ENTRIES 1	
1	Mark Walters	CSG		266
Ted Derrick Memorial Trophy				

SPECIAL AWARD WINNERS

Best In Show - Committee Cup

Roy Blackburn Castleford *Microglanis iheringi* Class 18

Best Corydoradinae - Yvonne Cank Memorial Trophy

DJAY DJAY AS *Scleromystax kronei* Class 6

Best from Classes 7 to II - Masterstaff Cup

A&C White Alden *Agamyxis pectinifrons* Class 11

Best Loricariidae - Masterstaff Trophy

Mark Walters CSG *Peckoltia braueri* Class 12

Best Synodontis - L.M.B. Aquatics Shield

Mike Kirkham CSG *Mochokiella Paynei* Class 16

Best Pimelodidae - S & PS Cup

Roy Blackburn Castleford *Microglanis iheringi* Class 18

Best AOV Catfish - A.O.V. Catfish Cup

Mike Kirkham CSG *Lophiobagrus cylurus* Class 22

Best Pair - Clint Cup

Steve Grant Castleford *Bunocephalus amaurus* Class 26

Best Breeders Team - Kings Carpets Trophy

Colin Eveson CSG *Corydoras panda* 'White' Clsas 29

Gallery of Show Fish



Synodontis angelicus – Image by Mark Walters



Leporacanthicus sp. L240 – Image by Mark Walters



Peckoltia sp. L202 – Image by Allan James



Scleromystax kronei – Image by Steven Grant



Crossoloricaria cephalaspis – Image by Steven Grant



Aspidoras pauciradiatus – Image by Steven Grant



Corydoras sp. CW024 – Image by Steven Grant



Corydoras haraldschultzei – Image by Steven Grant



Corydoras panda (white) – Image by Allan James



Megalechis picta – Image by Steven Grant



Mochokiella paynei – Image by Allan James



Loricaria simillima – Image by Allan James



Megalechis picta – Image by Steven Grant



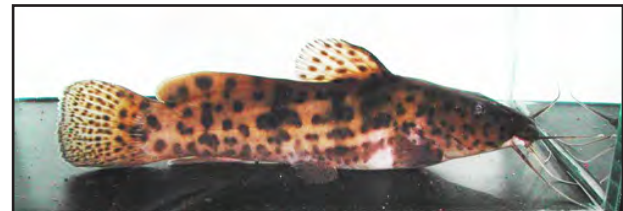
Pimelodus tetramerus – Image by Allan James



Mastiglanis asopos – Image by Steven Grant



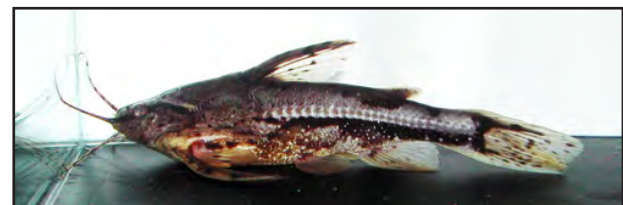
Bagroides melapterus – Image by Steven Grant



Parauchenoglanis ballayi – Image by Steven Grant



Agamyxis pectinifrons – Image by Mark Walters



Amblydoras monitor – Image by Steven Grant

Images may not be used without permission

Preston AS Convention 2012

Danny Blundell

Hot on the heels of the CSG Show, Preston Aquarist Society hosted their annual convention. Danny Blundell reports on another successful event.



On Sunday 23rd September, as a Preston member, I attended the 3rd Convention, whilst representing the CSG with its stand. The programme looked really interesting, with four talks, an auction and a two course lunch included in the £12 ticket.



Colin Dunlop-Anabantoids

Colin is a Consultant Ecologist, at present working on many projects, including the effects of wind turbines on bats and birds, and is passionate on all *Anabantoids*. He is also an active member of the Anabantid Association of Great Britain and the European Anabantid Club.

This is a diverse family of fishes varying in size from the smallest *Parosphromenus sp* at 20mm to *Channa argus* at 1000mm plus, which requires a licence to be kept in the UK.

Anabantoid is Greek 'to travel up' which refers to their 'labyrinth organ' which allows these fish to survive in oxygen deficient water.

Colin mainly keeps the smaller species, one specie per tank with no filtration, and a tight fitting lid specifically for the *Betta* species to prevent the fish

from 'carpet surfing',. It is also important to leave a warm air space above the water or the fish could drown.

When setting up a tank for a particular species it is important to research their requirements as *Anabantoids* range from South East Asia to Africa, with biotopes varying from black water swamp of pH 4, to fast flowing white water of pH 7.8.

Colin showed us photographs of many colourful species, and the spawning sequence for a mouth brooding species, with far more information than I can impart here.

Morten Ask – Collecting in Gabon

Morten is a Norwegian farmer with a passion for travelling the world collecting and photographing biotopes, fishes, animals and the local inhabitants.



Gabon is a small country on the Equator in West Africa with a stable government that protects its rainforest which covers 85% of the country. Travelling around by road is very safe, very hot, but slow, and waders have to be worn when in the rivers as bilharzia is prevalent.

Morten showed us the hotel they used, it was so luxurious that when they left each day their rooms were then re-let to any person wishing to use them for an hour or two.

We were shown the biotopes where they collected many Killifish species in shallow water with deep leaf litter and even deeper muddy substrate.

Some of the most successful collecting areas were where villagers have cleared a laundry area, bounded by copious *Anubius* plant species which house many species of *Barbs* and *Mormoridae*.

Following Morten's talk we had a two course lunch.



After lunch it was back to the main hall for part three of the Convention.

Filipe Cantera – Fishes of Uruguay



Filipe lives in Salinos, Uruguay and runs Agra Terra Eco Travel, the country has a population of 4 million, with 1.7 million living in the capital Montevideo. Uruguay has a vast number of rivers, with the majority of the country savannah, and with the only trees growing to 5 metres they form a dense ribbon alongside the rivers.

There are many area types that Filipe takes his clients to on collecting trips, and he showed slides of the following biotopes:- muddy ponds; sandbanks; rocky rivers; planted areas and beneath bridges. Each type of biotope requires different fishing techniques, such as seining, rod and line, hand nets, cast nets, and fish traps.

We were shown slides of some of the fish collected, including stunningly colourful large Cichlids, Tetras, *Loricaridae*, *Corydoras*, and Killies.

During these collecting trips there are opportunities to observe and photograph animals, birds, snakes, spiders and fish.

Lifetime Achievements Award

At this point in the proceedings Preston Aquarist Society presented Alan Vassiere with their Lifetime Achievements Award. The Award consisted of a carving by Brian Walsh of two Pencil fish, and the assembled delegates were read a list of his aquatic achievements.

Alan has kept fish for 60 plus years, and has bred a very large number of different species, and was often the first in the Country to do so.

When the Federation of Northern Aquarist Societies introduced their Breeders Award Scheme Alan was the first to complete it, and when the Scheme was extended to cover many more difficult species he went on to score maximum points.

Recently Alan has concentrated on the family of Pencil Fishes, both keeping and breeding many species.

Around the world- Hans Georg-Evers

Hans started this pictorial adventure in his basement fish room, Hamburg, Germany where he keeps and breeds many species of *Loricaridae*, *Corydoras*, *Barbs*, *Tetras* and Rainbows. He still has one *Corydoras* that he has kept for 27 years, but is past breeding age.



We travelled firstly to Mumbai, India where we met a lady fish breeder who has successfully continued the family business and still uses 60 year old metal framed tanks. Amongst the many spectacular fish was a stunning *Channa barca* snakehead which had a trade price of £1200.

We then visited Thailand and Indonesia where we were shown Mayu Aquarium, Jakarta, where the majority of the fish for Europe are bred. At present one of their largest exports are shrimps, producing 120,000 per month for the Japanese and German markets.

Next it was off to Hong Kong where we visited Tung Choi Street, which is a 500 metre long street of hundreds of aquarist shops, including plant only stores, with stunningly planted aqua-scapes. On the level above was a 'Shrimp Studio' where we saw many colourful varieties, some costing £1200 each. We also visited Wayne's Discus, where you can visit the showroom, look at the available adult fish, select the Discus you would like, order them, and they would be bred to order.

Our final visit in Hong Kong was to 'Tommy's' breeding facility where he breeds 5000 Piranha and 3000 Silver Dollars per month. The last visits were to New York City, Argentina, and Brazil.

A 'Question and Answer' session took place later in the evening, but unfortunately I was not there to report on it.

Grand Auction

The afternoon session was completed with the huge Raffle and the Auction run by Steve Spoencer.



In conclusion the Convention committee can be proud of this event, as it ran smoothly, with four superb speakers, a good lunch and all for £12.

All images by Danny Blundell

Catfish Study Group 33rd Annual Convention

The Venue

The Kilhey Court Hotel
Chorley Road,
Standish, Wigan,
Lanc's WN1 2XN.
United Kingdom



CATFISH
STUDY GROUP

The Speakers

Dr Mark Sabaj Pérez
Dr Martin Taylor
Ingo Seidel
Julian Dignall
Mark Duffill
Neil Woodward

15th-16th-17th March 2013

Contact conventionmanager@catfishstudygroup.org for full details

CSG Convention 2013

What will it cost

The basic Convention ticket is £25.00 for the two days if booked before the 31st January, after this date the price will be £35.00.

Day tickets are available at £15.00 for each of the two days, again if booked before the 31st January, after this date the price will be £20.00 per day. The ticket price also covers light refreshments (tea, coffee, caudial) during the morning and afternoon breaks.

Hotel rooms have been negotiated especially for the event and will cost £65.00 per person per night, this includes a buffet breakfast and a three course evening dinner.

Booking forms can be downloaded from our website at http://www.catfishstudygroup.org/core/convention_2013.htm or for further details contact [convention manager@catfishstudygroup.org](mailto:conventionmanager@catfishstudygroup.org)

Convention Sponsors

The Catfish Study Group would like to thank the following sponsors for their continued and most valued support.



***Lepthoplosternum* Reis, 1997 (Siluriformes: Callichthyidae)**

Steven Grant



Lepthoplosternum pectorale

You would be forgiven for thinking that all the *Lepthoplosternum* we see in the UK hobby are *Lepthoplosternum pectorale* (Boulenger 1895), based on what is said at auctions and in most publications. However, based on what I can see, *L. pectorale* isn't commonly found in the UK.

This article briefly discusses the 4 species I found recently, and reproduces the key for identifying them from Reis and Kaefer (2005), because all the species are visually very similar.

Genus identification

First of all, what differentiates *Lepthoplosternum* from the similar *Hoplosternum* and *Megalechis* Reis, 1997? The following are only found in *Lepthoplosternum*: lower lip with deep medial notch and small, additional lateral notch, forming fleshy projections on each side (Figs. 1A, B) and a single unbranched ray preceding the branched ones on the anal fin (Reis, 1997).

***Lepthoplosternum ucamara* Reis & Kaefer, 2005**



L. ucamara

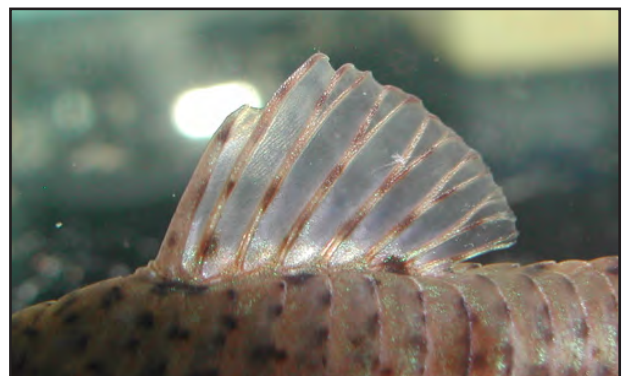
This species was described from a tributary of the Rio Pacaya, Rio Ucayali drainage, Loreto, Peru, but was found in the Japurá River mouth, Brazil.

Based on my limited recent checks it looks like this is the species most readily available in the hobby,

and I suppose the fact that this species is within easy reach of Iquitos may be the reason for this.



L. ucamara ventral view



L. ucamara dorsal view

***Lepthoplosternum pectorale* (Boulenger 1895)**

Originally described from Monte Sociedad, Chaco Dept., Paraguay; distributed in the Paraguay River basin in Paraguay, Argentina and Brazil.

Because of the distribution listed above, I think this is less likely to be seen on a regular basis than *L. ucamara*, despite the claims that almost every *Lepthoplosternum* we see is this species.



L. cf. pectorale



L. pectorale ventral view



L. cf. pectorale ventral view

Having said that, it does sometimes find its way into the hobby and in 2012 Aquarium Glaser GmbH imported some from Paraguay.

Thanks to the kindness of Jan Wessel I was able to obtain 2 large specimens.



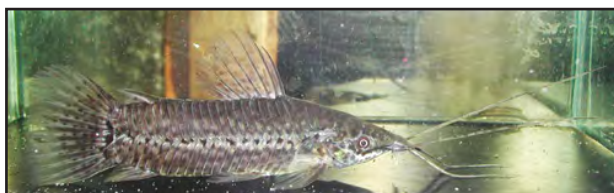
L. pectorale dorsal view

One appears to key out to *L. pectorale*, the other I'm not sure as it seems to have two unbranched dorsal rays.



L. cf. pectorale Dorsal fin

***Lepthoplosternum altamazonicum*
Reis, 1997**



L. altamazonicum

Described from Río Ucayali, Pucallpa, Peru, but distributed Upper Amazon River basin, Brazil and Peru.

Despite being from an area collected in for the aquarium trade, this species only appears to make it into the hobby on a few occasions.



L. altamazonicum ventral view

Neil Woodward of Pier Aquatics, Wigan got a single specimen sent as a by-catch and thanks to Neil I now have it. Obviously the key should be used to identify these very similar species but one tip for quickly identifying *L. altamazonicum* is the large/high dorsal fin.



L. altamazonicum dorsal fin

***Leptoplosternum tordilho*
Reis, 1997**



L. tordilho

This species can be found in the Jacui River drainage, southern Brazil. Because of where it originates it is rarely found in the hobby.



L. tordilho ventral view

A tip for quickly identifying *L. tordilho* is the relatively high posterior portion of the body, around the adipose fin area.

Identifying the species

Reproduced below is the key to identify species of this genus. The first thing to look at is the shape of the fleshy projections on the lower lip, then follow the key from there. Another important identifying factor is how many unbranched rays are in the dorsal fin.

**KEY TO THE SPECIES OF *Leptoplosternum*
(adapted from Reis & Kaefer, 2005)**

1a. Lower lip with pointed, crenulate, triangular fleshy projections, lateral to the medial notch (Fig. 1A) _____ 2

1b. Lower lip with rounded fleshy projections lateral to the medial notch (Fig. 1B) _____ 3

2a. Caudal peduncle comparatively shallow (15.7–18.9% SL); body and fins light, covered with many small, dark brown dots _____ ***L. stellatum***
(Middle Rio Amazonas in Tefe' area)

2b. Caudal peduncle comparatively deep (19.3–23.8% SL); body and fins dark, with darker dots especially on fins _____ ***L. altamazonicum***
(Upper and middle Rio Amazonas)

3a. Dorsal fin with one unbranched and seven branched rays; skin of belly and ventral portion of head with dark brown dots _____ 4

3b. Dorsal fin with two unbranched and six branched rays (rarely i+7 or ii+7 in *L. tordilho*); skin of belly and ventral portion of head with or without dots _____ 5



(Fig 1A) *L. altamazonicum* lower lip morphology

4a. Body comparatively wide (cleithral width (28.3–30.3% SL); maxillary barbel reaching lower series lateral plate 8–15; dorsal lateral series of plates 24–25 _____ ***L. beni***
(Upper Rio Madeira basin)

4b. Body comparatively narrow (cleithral width 25.9–28.0% SL); maxillary barbel reaching lower series lateral plate 16–17; dorsal lateral series of plates 25–26 _____ ***L. pectorale***
(Rio Paraguay basin)



(Fig 1B) *L. pectorale* lower lip morphology



L. cf. pectorale lower lip morphology

5a. Caudal peduncle comparatively shallow (15.2–17.7% SL); ventral lateral series of plates 22–23; skin of belly and ventral portion of head with dark brown dots _____ ***L. ucumara*** (Upper and middle Rio Amazonas)



L. ucumara lower lip morphology

5b. Caudal peduncle comparatively deep (20.2–24.5% SL); ventral lateral series of plates 20–21; skin of belly and ventral portion of head with scattered chromatophores, not forming dots _____ ***L. tordilho*** (Laguna dos Patos system, S. Brazil)



L. tordilho lower lip morphology

Acknowledgements

Thanks to Roberto Reis for clarifying some issues for me. Neil Woodward, Jan Wessel, Andy and Vicky Littlewood for assistance in procuring fish. Mark Walters for allowing me to photograph his fish.

References

Aquarium Glazer GmbH, 2012.
 Dward Armoured catfish from Paraguay arrived!
http://www.aquariumglaser.de/en/archiv.php?news_id=447

Ferraris, C.J. Jr., in Reis, R. E., S. O. Kullander, and C. J. Ferraris, Jr., 2003.
 Check list of the freshwater fishes of South and Central America. CLOFFSCA. 2003: i-xi + 1-729.

Reis, R. E., 1997. Revision of the neotropical catfish genus *Hoplosternum* (Ostariophysi: Siluriformes: Callichthyidae), with the description of two new genera and three new species. *Ichthyological Exploration of Freshwaters* v. 7 (no. 4): 299-326.

Reis, R. E. and C. C. Kaefer, 2005.
 Two new species of the Neotropical catfish genus *Lepthoplosternum* (Ostariophysi: Siluriformes: Callichthyidae). *Copeia* 2005 (no. 4): 724-731.

The Dark One – Steve Grant’s Photo Gallery at ScotCat
<http://www.scotcat.com/thedarkone/thedarkone.htm>

All photos by Steven Grant, not to be used without permission



**CSG Convention will take place on
 15th - 16th - 17th March 2013**

at

**The Kilhey Court Hotel, Clorley Road,
 Standish, Wigan, Lanc’s WN1 2XN**

For further details contact
conventionmanager@catfishstudygroup.org

Advertisement



- * Over 350 Tanks of Tropical, Marine and Coldwater Fish
- * Rift Lake Cichlids
- * South and Central American Cichlids
- * Large number of Plecs and other Catfish
- * Corydoras
- * Discus
- * Koi Carp and full range of Pond Fish
- * All Fish Quarantined
- * Full range of Accessories and Plants
- * Large selection of Aquariums and Dry Goods
- * Pond Liners & Equipment

Tel Crewe: 01270 820073

Email: info@a-zaquatics.com Web: www.a-zaquatics.com

The Garden Centre,
Balterley Green Road (B5500),
Balterley,
Nr. Crewe, CW2 5QF (Nr Wychwood Park)
10 Minutes From Junction 16 –

AQUALIFE

Leyland Garden Centre, 338 Southport Road, Ulnes Walton, Leyland PR26 8LQ
Tel/Fax: 01772 601777



Always an excellent selection of Catfish



Visit us online at www.northtrop.co.uk

Send in your Articles!

If you've ever thought you had something to say about your fishkeeping experiences, or an achievement you were proud of, or some research you've done on a fish-shop find, share it with the rest of the Catfish Study Group through the pages of CatChat.

Any information or experience you have could be of real value to another aquarist looking for the correct food, spawning trigger or conditions to suit a certain species. It doesn't matter if you don't have good images to share; we have an extensive catalogue of photos at our disposal to illustrate an article.

Breeding reports are especially interesting and can be supported by photos of mating behaviour, egg deposition, egg development, fry growth – in addition to the wealth of information you could share on maintaining the breeding fish, spawning triggers, feeding regimes and the tricky stages of egg hatching and raising youngsters. Sharing information will raise your profile in the catfish community and encourage more people to share their experiences and help you further with your efforts. In addition, you can use the material to support a Breeders Award Programme submission and enter into the annual award for the best breeding report published in the journal.

You will see from the range of articles routinely published there is a wide breadth of subjects to base an article around including: Breeding reports; Meet the member articles; New discoveries; Product reviews; Book reviews; Equipment articles, Fish house construction; Show reports; Fish-shop finds; Expedition write-ups; or for that matter, anything relating to furthering the study of catfish.

Send your submissions to the editor@catfishstudygroup.org and enjoy the reward of seeing your efforts featured in future editions.

CSG Summer Lecture and 'Bring and Buy'

Mark Walters



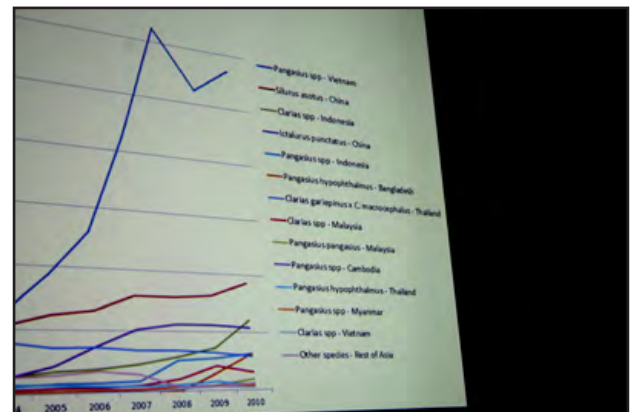
Anton Immink – African Catfish Farming, West to East and Going Dutch

On 19th August, the CSG welcomed Anton Immink to Darwen from Stirling University's Department of Aquaculture (Scotland, U.K.). Anton is involved in the development and promotion of freshwater-fish farming throughout the world, chiefly in African countries where the demand for food fish is great. The University has a long track-record of research and development of freshwater tropical fish culture with breeding stocks of *Tilapia* and other species.

Of the countries involved in catfish production, Vietnam was the largest by weight with the farming of *Pangasius* species providing the greatest contribution. Other Asian countries also farm huge numbers of *Pangasius* as well as other species, including hybrid *Clarius*.



Anton mingling with CSG members



Worldwide catfish production

Some quite remarkable statistics were presented, indicating that aquaculture was close to producing as much food by weight as wild fishery efforts. A closer examination of these figures shows that production of macro-algae is now a major contribution (used in food, animal feed and ingredients).



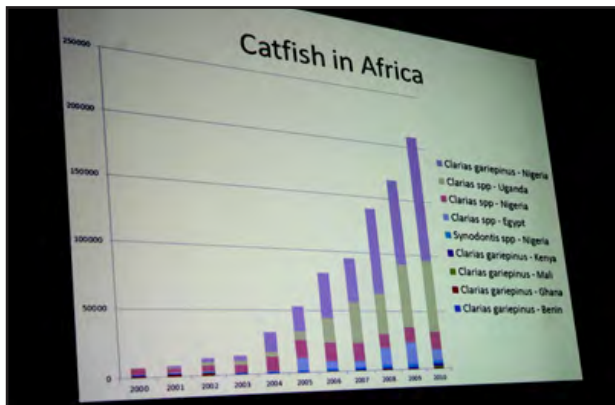
Pangasius stock ponds – feeding time!

Of course, the biggest producers were the fastest developing nations with China streets ahead of the rest of the world. Their greatest production comes from farming cyprinids (carps, barbel and others).

It was the production of *Clarius* catfish that Anton was most involved with, especially in developing fisheries in African nations especially Uganda. Here, the production of food fish has really taken off in recent years, providing a significant contribution to the protein intake of local populations.

Much of Africa's natural marine fish resources are harvested by Northern Hemisphere nations and don't reach the table of local people. The reliance has always been on subsistence fishing from rapidly depleting lakes and rivers. The managed production of food fish has the potential to plug the gap as wild stocks diminish. What was surprising was the strong protection afforded endemic species, with strict regulation on the species of fish which can and can't be farmed. This means only locally available species can be artificially produced, reducing the chance of introduction of non-native species.

whilst the female is stripped of her eggs but will recover to act as further brood stock. Eggs and milt are mixed together, before the addition of water which encourages the eggs to form a protective seal which would prevent them fertilising.

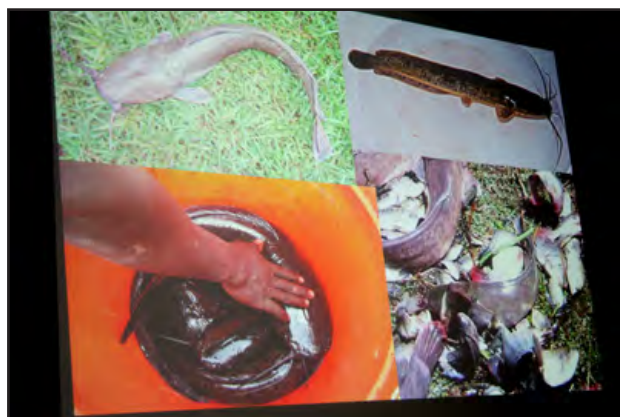


Catfish species farmed in Africa

Clarius species are widespread throughout Africa and provide a good subject for aquaculture. As an air-breathing species, they can tolerate relatively poor water quality at high stocking densities, they grow rapidly to a good size and have palatable flesh.

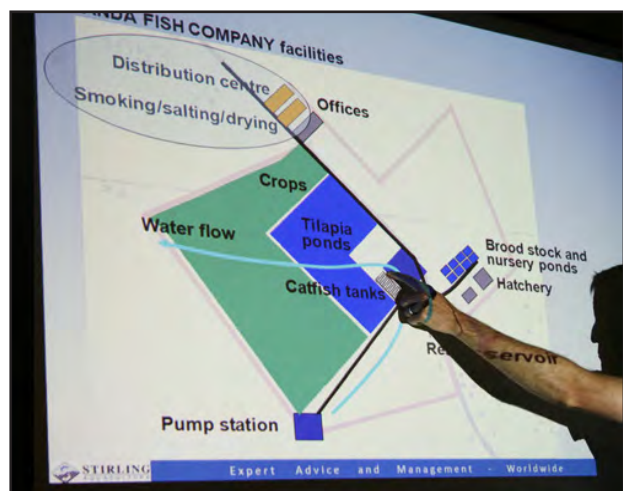
After hatching, the fry grow quickly and soon reach a marketable size of a kilo, fed largely on a vegetarian diet of locally made pellets. In the region of Uganda where Anton's development has centred, there are existing fish production plants on the banks of the Lake Victoria, which have historically processed a Nile perch (*Lates niloticus*) fishery. As stocks of Nile perch have diminished, there is capacity to take on processing and distribution of *Clarius*.

Stirling University have gone further and in partnership with various other organisations (including the Dutch connection!) have embarked on the construction and development of a fish farm utilising many of the farming practices developed at the University. The farm is recruiting local expertise and will produce hundreds of tonnes of catfish each year.



Clarius farming

The species most commonly utilised, *C. gariepinus*, is artificially spawned, using pituitary hormone injections. The male is killed (it is not practical to avoid sacrificing the male fish – which is then eaten) and milt extracted,



Fish farming ventures

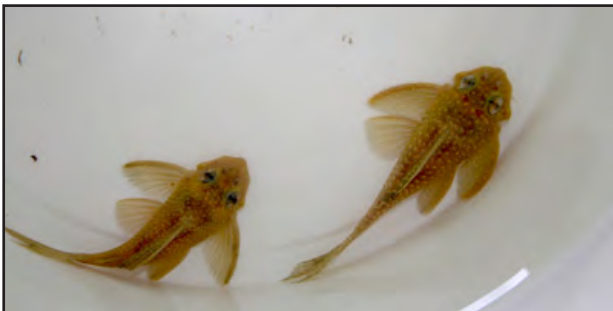
The talk was a fascinating insight into how the catfish we love to keep in an aquarium are much more valuable a commodity in their native lands as an important source of protein.

Bring and Buy

Before the lecture started, members set up their stalls with home grown produce of their own.



Ian Fuller offering home bred *Corydoras*



Breeding pair of *Hypancistrus* sp L136a on offer at £30

Many rare and uncommon species were on offer including: *Corydoras njsenni*, *C. sterbai*, C.sp CW08, CW09, CW010, CW049, *Scleromystax*. sp. C112, *Hemiancistrus subviridis*, *Peckoltia* sp. L038, *Hemiloricaria* sp., *Synodontis nigriventris*, *Hypancistrus inspector*, H.sp. L136a, H.sp. L260, H.sp. L340.

There was also a range of non-catfish species, books and dry goods available.



Bags and bags of catfish!



More sales tables

Everyone who attended agreed it was a great success and thanked Anton for taking the time to attend our meeting. In addition to the great talk, I was pleased to sell most of the fish I had on offer and picked up some *Corydoras* CW010 'gold lazer's' from Ian Fuller and a trio of *Hemiancistrus subviridis* (L200).



Corydoras sterbai, CW010, *Scleromystax* sp. C112

It would of course be great if even more members and other interested catfish keepers could attend future lectures and take advantage of the sales tables which are becoming a regular feature of club meetings.

All images by Mark Walters



What's New?

Mark Walters



Pseudacanthicus sp. L097

Over the summer there have been some great imports of catfish from South America, including the following viewed at Pier Aquatics, Wigan, UK: *Brochis multiradiatus*, *Corydoras adolfoi*, *C. cochui*, *C. serratus*, *C. duplicareous*, *C. imitator*, *C. narcissus*, *Corydoras* sp. CW062, *Corydoras* cf. *evelynae*, *Corydoras nijsseni*, *Pseudacanthicus* sp. L097, *P. spinosus*, *Panaqolus* sp. 'red fin', *Spinipterus acsi*,



Corydoras sp. C133 image Ian Fuller



Corydoras cochui image Ian Fuller



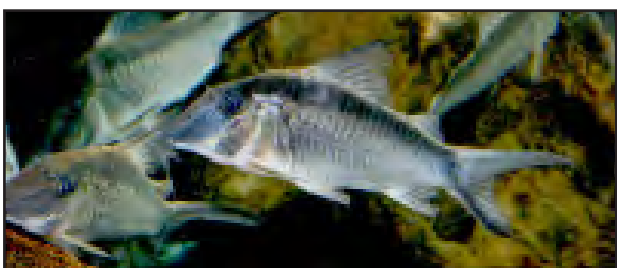
Corydoras nijsseni



Corydoras evelynae



Corydoras sp. CW062



Corydoras narcissus image Ian Fuller



Corydoras serratus image Ian Fuller



Corydoras serratus blotched colour form image Ian Fuller



Brochis multiradiatus image Ian Fuller



Corydoras sp venezuelanus image Ian Fuller



Corydoras imitator image Ian Fuller

Unless indicated otherwise, all images by Steven Grant



BREEDERS AWARD PROGRAMME DISPLAY TANKS AT THE CONVENTION

As in previous Conventions, there will be ten B.A.P. tanks available for B.A.P. registered fish to be displayed along with details of the fish, maintenance and breeding conditions required. These will be set up prior to the Convention, with heated, filtered HMA water, which may be replaced by the exhibitor.

Allocation of tank space is via Brian Walsh, B.A.P. Administrator, prior to 6 March 2012.

SALE OF FISH AT THE CONVENTION

The CSG has purchased two 48x18x15h ins aquariums as per the B.A.P. Design, each divided into four separate tanks of approximately 12x15x12h ins. These will be set up prior to the Convention as the B.A.P. tanks.

Each tank may be hired for the weekend at a cost of £10.00 - priority will be given to residential delegates staying for the duration as there are only eight available. The vendors will be responsible for the selling, catching, and bagging of their fish.

Allocation of tank space is via the BAP Secretary Brian Walsh prior to 6 March 2013.

Three New imported Corydoradinae species

Ian Fuller

The three Corydoradinae species pictured below are believed to be new to the hobby, all three species were recently imported and kindly supplied by Pier Aquatics, Wigan.

The two *Corydoras* species were collected in the Rio Tapichie a tributary of the Rio Ucayali, which is an area of Peru south west of Iquitos. These are very interesting discoveries. Being so close to Iquitos just proves that you don't have to make expeditions into uncharted areas to find new species.

The collection area for the *Brochis* species at this time is unknown, but is believed to be from southeast Colombia. The species is similar looking to *B. multiradiatus*, having a similar number of dorsal rays, but the snout shape differs in being almost straight and the depth of the head is greater.



Corydoras sp1. image Ian Fuller



Corydoras sp2. image Ian Fuller



Brochis sp image Ian Fuller



To be more involved in the groups activities there is the forum on the web site at [Catfishstudygroup.org](http://www.Catfishstudygroup.org) where you can communicate with other members.

Or there is our Face Book page at <http://www.facebook.com/groups/210148032410074/?fref=ts> where you can also communicate with other members to discuss your favourite fish and find out all the latest news.



Two green parrots are perched on a wooden branch, facing each other. The parrot on the left has a speech bubble above it containing text in blue. The parrot on the right has a speech bubble above it containing text in red. The background is a light blue to green gradient.

Have You Heard
Postage is Free @
Midlandwaterlife.com

Yes but
Have You Seen The
Selection Of Aquatic
Products

For Top Service Shop Online
@
midlandwaterlife.com
Or visit one of our shops:-
23 The Strand Bromsgrove
Worce B61 8AB
Tel (01527)879207

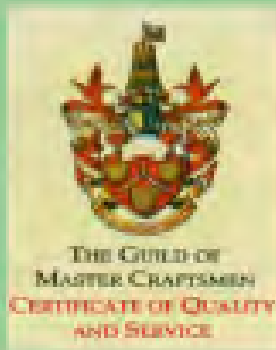
MIDLAND
WATERLIFE

Caring for your fish



G.B.W

Products & Services



**High Class Joinery
Furniture
Wood Carvings
Commissions Undertaken**

Contact

Brian Walsh

Tel: (01254) 776567

Mob: 07977 428 788

Email: g.b.w@live.co.uk

