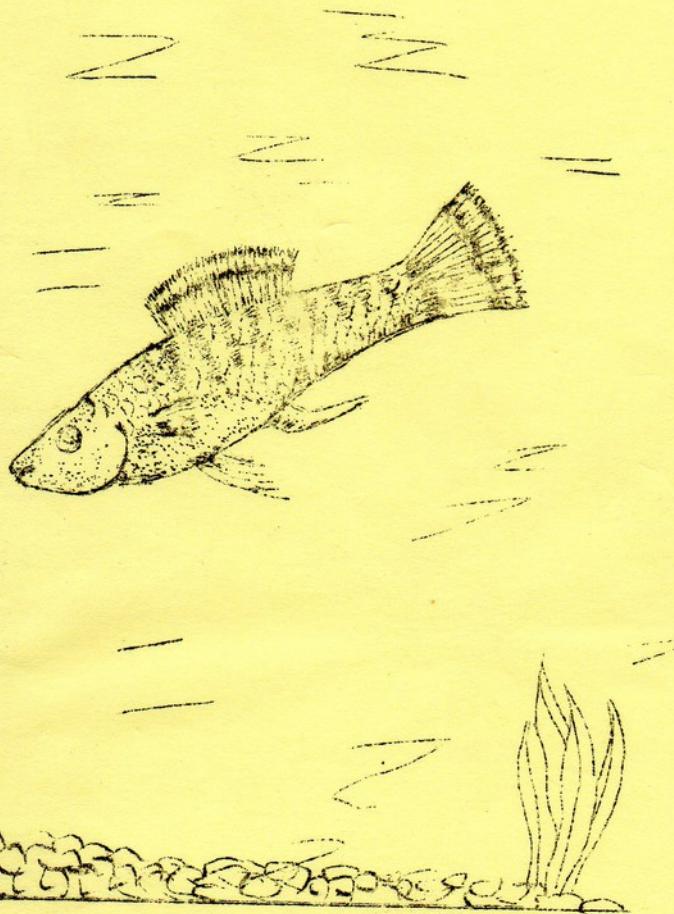
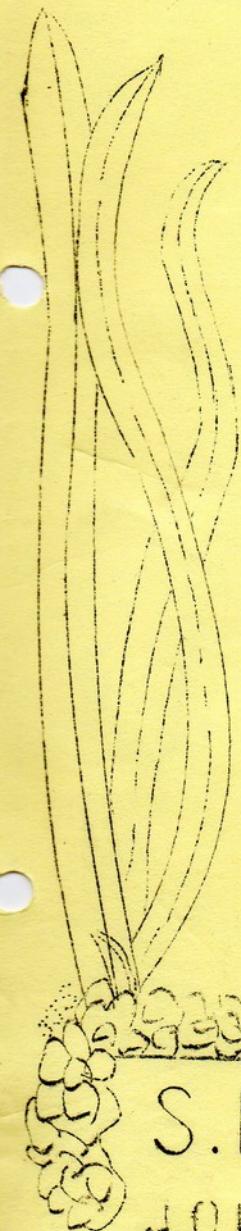


BRACHY BULLETIN



S.L.A.G.
JOURNAL

NO 6

**SOUTHERN LIVEBEARERS' AQUATIC GROUP
QUARTERLY JOURNAL NO 6 MAY. 1980.**

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URGENT

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ALL COPY FOR THE JOURNAL TO JOE SUTCLIFFE 20.

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IN THEIR RESPECTIVE ARTICLES IN THIS JOURNAL

EDITORIAL

I hope you all enjoyed the last Journal
and found at least one thing of interest in it.

I would like to thank the three committee members and one
other. member for the items included in it. As you will all have
noticed, ALL articles were, by these 4 members. Now you
must admit that this is a very sorry state of affairs to be in
and should not be so. However, I cannot print copy by other
people if YOU do not send it in. As of this moment, I have only
one article to start the next Journal off with. So it's up to
you. If you want your Journal out on time, I must have copy well
in advance, so

Come on let me have your points of view and any ideas you may
have, or at least, some idea of what our membership is doing in
the hobby.

I would like to take this opportunity & welcome the
SOUTHERN LIVEBEARERS AQUATIC GROUP 'Yorkshire Section' to the
fold. Knowing many of them as I do, I know they are vary
knowledgeable aquarists & include in their number several

Y,A.A.S. judges. I feel that their joining us can lead to nothing but good for S.L.A.G. As a whole.

As I tour round the open shows it makes me happy to see the increasing numbers of A.O.V.livebearers that are appearing on the show-benches. Not all are of good quality I know but it is a step in the right direction, and I feel sure that if our membership take advantage of the S.L.A.G. maintained species scheme and the

pedigree scheme, then the outcome will be an improvement in the standard, and the quality of the fish we keep and show.

The first Journal I sent out was 2 months late. This one over a month late. I hope, with your help, to have the Journal out on time in the future.

That's about enough from me, let's get on with the Journal.

Joe Sutcliffe.

'FROM THE CHAIRMAN' -3-

A most successful meeting was held on 8th.March 1980, and membership is now creeping up to somewhere near last years total. Transferring of fishes has again restarted as far as I am concerned, A casual remark by member No 62 on his visit to me a

couple of weeks ago resulted in his sending me about 8 *Cnesterodon earnegeiei*, at a time when both myself and Mervyn Strange were down to females only. This species appears to be down to almost nil in my area. & I am pleased that many fry were born on 28/3/80. The purpose of this members visit was to bring some *Belenosox belizanus* fry, about 2 weeks old. This species I have taken only because I have had them before and know the problems of feeding them. Live fry, and later, larger and larger fishes are needed to feed them; their appetites are tremendous especially whilst growing. Also the need to have several members keeping each species spurred me on to accepting them.

I refer to Mervyns remarks in Journal No 5 p. 23. concerning parasitic worms. These are likely to be a *Camallanus* species or a *Capillaria* species. The apparent cure for these is the use of 'MASOTEN'. The Veterinary Record, 27th. August 1977. contains a long article of fish diseases and treatments. Also I obtained details from the U.K. branch of Bayer (Bayer U.K. Ltd.), the manufacturers of Masoten. From these two sources the following very brief information may be of use; -

1. Masoten is not marketed in the U.K.
2. It can be obtained apparently in agricultural products:- "Diptrex" by Bayer amongst others. The active ingredient is called Trichlorphon . Diptrex is an 80% preparation.

3. Great care is required in its use. Rubber gloves and protective clothing are recommended when using this treatment. Do not smoke, eat or drink whilst using it and avoid all contact with hands, mouth and eyes. Utensils & your hands must be well washed after use. Keep it under lock and key, away from children and animals. The surplus solution can be detoxicated to some extent by the addition of caustic soda, leaving for 6 hours before disposal. On NO ACCOUNT should this medicine be discarded down the drain.
4. Treatment dosage. The EXACT quantity of water in the container to be treated must be worked out. Using Diptrex as an example:-

1.25g. of the 80% commercial product is mixed with 10ml. water. This gives a stock solution. The size and tolerance of species varies and the dosage is said to be 0.25 & 0.5 ml of the stock solution per 100 Liters, repeating the treatment in five to six days and then again 5 to 6 days later.

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5. Treatment dosage. The EXACT quantity of water in the container to be treated must be worked out. Using Diptrex as an example:- 1.25g. of the 80% commercial product is mixed with 10ml. water. This gives a stock solution. The size and tolerance of species varies and the dosage to use is said to be between „25ml & , 5ml of the stock solution per 100 liters, repeating the treatment in five to six days and then again five to six days later.

This may be of use to members:- I have not personally had any attacks from these worms and my feelings are that any fishes with it should be destroyed, The danger from use of "Trichlorphon" seems to me to put its use outside the average aquarists capabilities. Much emphasis is put on the exact measurements of dosage, and this varies from species to species. The treatment is apparently originally intended for use against external parasites. Its action against internal ones is much slower.

Dave Cheswright.

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'PHALLICHTHYS FAIRWEATHERI'

Family : Poeciliidae

Sub Family: Poeciliinae

Current British stocks come from the Rio Subin on the road Sayache to Penen, Guatemala. And were caught by E. Schlosser in 1977.

Imported into England October 1978 by I. Dibble

This is another fish vaguely similar body form to the Merry Widow, with a silvery blue metallic sheen as a ground colour with highlights of a bluey / green when seen in natural

daylight, closer examination will reveal five or six rows of orangey bronze spots running laterally along the scales of the fish in both sexes, these colours b in slightly more pronounced in the male. For the size of the fish it has one of the largest gonopodiums of any livebearer, extending 2/3rds. the length of its body terminating about the caudal peduncle. both sexes have a black border around the dorsal fin edged with a distinct white rim. Once again the colours being more dominant in the male. Colours seem to come and go according to the condition of the fish. They also have a tendency to show two or three feint bars on the body in the area just to the back of the last dorsal ray. The males at almost all times once sexed and mature show one or two black spots on each side of the underside of the fish in the same position. These seem to increase in intensity according to the sexual activity of the fish, they are quite distinct from the black blotches which frequently show in the female, when she is in good breeding condition. I have not yet been able to determine if, in the case of the female, these blotches are a definite.....

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characteristic of condition, or are affected in some way by diet, as they are nearly always present. In the case of my fish, it has always given me an indication they are in good breeding condition and are carrying young.

At the moment this fish is not in vary great supply throughout Europe and indeed, has proven to our European friends to be a problem fish to breed. I received my first specimens of this fish in October 197B, these being two young adult pairs. To all intents and purposes there should have been no problem in breeding them. However, despite taking the utmost care in the condition of these fish, the females of the species after an initial period in which they grew, soon started to waste away, and no amount of care & attention could halt the deterioration.

The males, really flourished and grew into very fine specimens, I must confess that at the time, I was at a loss as to the cause of the problem, but later I developed a pet theory of my own that this was one of the species of Livermore in which the male seemed to dominate the female to a point where she went off her food and became very timid until they wasted away. I am not absolutely sure if this is fact, but my later results would bare this out. I have talked this problem over with our German friends, one of which still has stocks of this fish and he did agree that it was a possibility. Then when I went to Germany again in August 1979, I was able to get another 12 fry from him of this same species. I also learned that he had discovered that his fish would not breed unless they were fed on a diet substantially consisting of live food, a major part of which, he said must be mosquito larvae. From the first.....

-7-

these fish were fed on micro worm and fine daphnia, then as they grew, almost totally on daphnia, mosquito larvae and the occasional dry food .

They eventually turned out to be 4 females and six males, but even though they appeared to be old enough and large enough to be having young, none were produced, until the day I remembered my previous theory about the over aggressive males. So, I removed all but one small male from the females and continued feeding the same way. Within two weeks I had a batch of fry from each of two females, one of which produced 41 young and the other 49. I now occasionally return the better males to the females tank for a

while, and remove them when a female shows signs of being due. I have continued to have success so that I am now in a position to be able to start distributing the species to members of S.L.A.G.-

Ivan Dibble

'NEW POPULATION OF SWORDTAILS'
(*XIPHOPHORUS HELLERI*)

At the November 1979 Newbury S.L.A.G. meeting a pair of swordtails were auctioned, being described as from "Km. 148" on Highway Mex. 85, with fuller details to be published in the S.L.A.G. Journal. In an attempt to enlarge on these brief details, some further information follows .The collection was made in April 1979, by Erich Hnilick of Puebla, Mexico, and Howard Preston (S.L.A.G.) and the location was a small river, very probably a tributary of the Rio Coatzacoalcos (according to my tourist road map which was lacking in detail] which, as previously.....

indicated, was at or near Kilometer post 184 on the road from Salina Cruz to Coatzacoalcos. To be more precise, this would, from memory, be between Natias Romero and Acayucan, and not a great distance from Jesus Carranza. Very probably our German members could give us this information more concisely, as I remember that Erich had with him some notes in German) from a previous collecting trip suggesting that this location was worth investigating: very probably someone in the D.G.L.Z. will understand exactly the notes I mean. The road just described is the main artery (apart from the parallel rail-road) across the narrow isthmus of Tehuantepec separating the ports of Salina Cruz on the

Pacific coast and Coatzacoalcos (Peurto Mexico)

on the Gulf of Mexico coast. A canal was planned but never built (the Panama site being chosen instead).

We fished this river st the point where it flowed under the road and also for just about 100 meters or so both up- and down-stream.

Apart from the *helleri* just mentioned, there were also species of *Priapella* but alas non reached England alive, and a different colour variety (or sub - species) of *Heterandria bimaculata* (?) to that we are familiar with, with broader black banding. Dave Cheswright was given one of these but it was unfortunately lost (literally) in a jumping accident. Perhaps he will remember it well enough to describe it in a little more detail. The other fish of interest here (apart from the usual run of Cichlids, and Characins) was a species of *Rivulus* (possibly *R. agilae*), which I have also encountered near Coatzacoalcos.

Erich was excited to find *Priapella* here as they are an attractive fish and commercially potentially valuable: but they proved to be.....

The "new" swordtails are, quite frankly, poor travellers in this case. He was also very pleased to find the swordtails (for my sake) as they may have been the elusive yellow swordtail X. *clemenciae*. This has not yet been determined, and more than likely they are only of a commoner sub - species, perhaps *guentheri* or *helleri* - I am personally not qualified to comment. We did notice at time of collection, that some of the fish were peppered with tiny black speckles which seemed to form part of the natural colour pattern, but, as the fish reached maturity then these spots disappeared and the colouration became just like the established strains of (wild) green swordtail. The few fry I have saved do not show the black markings either. Is it possible the "patterning" was actually caused by some kind of parasite ?, rather than an actual colour pattern? I noticed a similar effect (though much more obvious) on some *Mollienisia* sp. captured in the Rio Purification at El Barretal: in this case the

"black spots" dropped off in a few days. nowhere near as attractive as my older established strains from Veracruz. But limited numbers

of fry have been produced and although the size is so far disappointing, they are at least a new population. If anyone is genuinely interested I acquiring them for study or research, would they please contact me.

Howard Preston.

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S.L.A.G. IDENTIFICATION RECORD SHEET NO 3

1/1	Brachyraphis rhabdophora	U1 from U.S.A. via N.G.L, S _f
1/2	Goodea atripinnis	M1 from Mexico via Howard Preston.
1/3	Xiphophorus pygmaeus pygmaeus	M1 " "
1/4	Xiphophorus milleri	M1 " "
1/5	Xiphophorus montezumae	M1 " "
1/6	Limnurus innominatus	M1 " "
1/7	Xenotaca eiseni	U1 from U.S.A. via N . G . L . S .
1/8	Priapella corvipressa	M1 from Mexico via Howard Preston
1/9	Phallichthys amates	31 British Aquarium Stock (B.A. <u>S. .</u>)
1/10	Poeciliopsis gracilis (5 spot)	U1 from U.S.A. via U*S.A*F.
1	Heterandria bimaculata	M1 from Mexico via Howard Preston

In Journal No.4 the
species concerned -
were

2/2	Alfaro cultratus	U1 from U.S.A. A.L.A. Via N.G.A.S
-----	---------------------	---

2/13	Alfaro cultratus	Now considered same blood-line as U1
2/14	Cnestedrodon carnegiei	B1 B.A.S.
2/15	Girardinus falcatus	61 German Aquarium Stock. (G.A.S.)
?/16	Jenynsia lineata	BR1 from Brazil via D.G.L.Z.
2/17	Heterandria bimaculata	M2 from Mexico via D.G.L.Z.
2/18	Heteraridria bimaculata	<u>fvi3</u> from Mexico via D.G.L.Z.
2/19	Priapella intermedia	W2 from Mexico via D.G.L.Z.
2/23	Xiphophorus pygmaeus pygmaeus	M2 from Mexico via D.G.L.Z.
2/21	Xiphophorus maculata	M1 from Mexico via Howard Preston,
2/2?	Neoheterandria (?) U1 umbratilis	U.S.A. aquarium st> ck via D.G.L.Z.
2/23	Poecilia vivipara	BR1 from Brazil via D.G.L.Z.
2/24	Xenophorus captivus	U1 U.S.A. aquarium stock vir D.G.L.Z.
2/25	Phalloceros caudomaculata retriculata	G1 G.A.S.
2/26	Phallophthus januarius	BR1 from Brazil via D.G.L.Z.

On to the third batch of species

3/27	Carlhubbsia stuarti	Gu1
	Rio Dulce, Nr. Laguns Ysabal, Guatamala, Caught by E. Schlosser of Austria in Oct.1977 - Recieved from G Entlinger of West-Germany (D.G.L.Z.) in October 1978.	
3/28	Gambusia affinis holbrooki	B1
	B. A. S. via North London importer,	

purchased in a North London aquatic shop by K, Dryden (3)
1973.

- 3/29 *Heterandria Jonesi* M 4
Rio Coy, Nr. Col Valles, Mexico, about 30Km, south of the town, Caught by Dr. Redda & E. Hnilicka - received from M. Meyer of West Germany in August 1979.
- 3/30 *Ilyodon whitei* ui 1
Cuautla Morelos, Mexico. caught by Weil, Hinz and Daul (D.G.L.Z.) - received from M. Moyer of West Germany in August 1979.
- 3/31 *Poecilia dominicensis* H 2.
Port au Prince, Haiti, caught by Bimuller in 1977 - received from G. Entlinger of West Germany in August 1979
- 3/32 *Poecilia versicolor* DO 1
West of Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic- caught by J. H. Preston (21) in 1975, this species is considered to be *P. perugiae* by the West German authorities, and definite confirmation will be published.
- 3/33 *Phallichthys fairweatheri* GU 3
Rio Subin, on the road from Sayayche to Panen, Guatemala. Caught by E. Schlossor of Austria in 1977 - received from G. Entlinger of West Germany in August 1979.
- 3/34 *Phallichthys amates* amates

Germsn Aquarium Stock. Received from the D.G.L.Z 1978 .

3/35 Poeciliopsis fasciata M 3

Playa Ventosa, Santa Cruz, Mexico. Caught

E. **Hnillcka** in February 1979 - received from M. Meyer and
G. Entlinger of West Germany in 1979.

3/36 Poeciliopsis vimosa i7> 2

Rio Clevdor, Nayrit, Mexico. Caught by Schriber 1976.

Recieved from G. Entlingcr October 1978.

Members will choose how they use the I. R. S.....

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information, a certain member is extracting it on to an index card. Of-course, at the present time with only one or two bloodlines to a species it is easy to cope with, but as we progress and bloodlines multiply it will get more complicated. Some members may not wish to keep the bloodlines separate, but I feel we should all do so until breeding has provided sufficient quantity to ensure continuation of a bloodline for the benefit of all those who wish to make a serious effort in keeping species bloodlines "clean".

I must as usual appeal for as much detail of transfers, sources, breeding and any other details. When passing on or recieving fish try to establish source identification. The progress so far is encouraging, so if you have not already done so, spare a little time and send your records in to benefit us all.

Mervyn Strange Species C.Q.

"PEDIGREE FORMS"

The forms we are using to validate the "pedigree" of the fish are beginning to come into use, I intend to circulate relevant species forms to those members who inform me what fish species they are keeping and I have started this practice. Those members will find I have fairly comprehensive information on some species and very sparse information on others. I will update the master copies as and when information comes to hand, but will need members to use the forms to fill in details, confirm records, fill in breeding, keeping and other details then return the forms with the information.....

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to me. I would suggest return well before the next A. G. M. so that I can collate and re-issue an up-dated form soon after.

S.L.A.G, was formed at a convenient time so that we can trace the strains of most of the fishes we have, if all members sent information and complete details of where they received fish and who received fish from them, the task would be easy. {?.. 4&5} give a mass of information. With some I have to be a detective! I will not guess at details, or the whole exercise would be pointless.
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Some species we **have**. had for a **period** of time are nothing more than a puzzle. Take Ameca splendens, can any members help to solve this.

MILLER U.S.A.

B.A.S.S.

2		21		53	38	M.S.				
3	14	38	40	2	67	53	14	4	8	10
5				11	48		4			

Dr.R 5

Where do these other members fit in ? - 13, 28.

14

50, 70, 84, 85.

Dr. R = Dr. Radda of Austria.

M.S. = Mike Shadrack of Ilford A, S.

The question is:- are all our Ameca from
the same strain, or have there been other imports ?.

Is the above a true record ?.

Mervyn Strange Species C. 0.

With regard to the above, I know some specimens came into the country via the Fisheries Establishment at Lowestoft,

Ed.

METHODS OF MAINTAINING AND BREEDING LIVEBEARERS

I am at present keeping over 50 species of livebearer plus about 10 bloodlines, a total of 54 species at February 1980. In addition, my son, being active member of the British Killifish Association, has some twelve species of killifish. We have at present an outside fish-shed , size 12`x8`x8' , space heated with an electric fan heater which incorporates its own thermostat. As a consequence we have a wide temperature range, in the winter anything from 65°, to 80°F. can be found somewhere in the shed. In the Summer we can still find 65°F if required and of-course,

much higher. Indeed in the Summer we leave the door open to keep the temperature down. We find that the high shelves, which can be used from September to June, have to be vacated in hot weather. You can assume we ignore filtration; we have adequate aeration but do not use it at full power, except on any

-15-

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species which must have it, such as *Priapella* & *Xiphophorus*, *X. pygmaeus* in particular. We prefer to have only a reasonable number of fishes in each container and I will not in any way get into the situation of depending on aeration to cover excessive overcrowding. We have a very good plant growth and do not worry about algae on the glass, so long as the front glass is kept clear. Such species as *Goodea atripinnis* are kept in tanks with good plant cover on the bottom, such as *Cryptocorynes*. Algae is no problem with Goodeas as they eat it and this dispenses with the need for green foods such as spinach, peas and lettuce.

Cleaning out of the larger tanks (18" up) is done in situ and

then very seldom. Water is changed in this size of tank upwards at the rate of 20% once a month, more often if the species needs it. Water changing is a job of work as far as I am concerned, and in my opinion, is over emphasise by magazines and many Aquarists A little changed often is far better than a lot changed every now and again. Between monthly changes, small amounts are changed very often using pint jug. Any smaller tanks than above get special treatment. If females are in small contasiners to obtain fry, or fry are in small jars for a time, then almost every day a small amount of water is changed. The advantage with apace heated shed is that fishes are in more natural conditions, with regard to lighting and temperature changes. This produces a much more natural atmosphere in which to keep any species.

The shed is completely double glazed in 6mm plate glass and has two inches of polystyrene on the walls, covered in hardboard. Natural daylight to me is a must, I do not like artificial light, heating costs are considerable.....

but can be covered by disposals of fishes bred. We as humans would not like to be shut-up all day indoors, neither do fishes or any other living creature.

Feeding is by flake food (the well known German product). Live food is provided to all when available , garden worms, ox-heart, daphnia etc. A large amount of brine shrimp is used and endless amounts of micro-worm, these last two are for fry only,

All fishes and plants coming into the shed are quarantined from whatever source. Fishes from Mexico and other Countries are treated as suspect for at least one year and are not put with any earlier stock during that period. Any other acquisitions are quarantined for one month regardless of the source. This I think is the only answer to avoiding trouble. I would emphasise that we have experienced no troubles apart from the odd wasting away (unexplained) , & deaths of fishes from abroad.

We have about 70 aquaria from 14" long up to 5 foot. In

addition, small tanks, buckets & plastic boxes are used for pregnant females, fry and quarantine. Also difficult fishes to breed, we find, are best kept in smaller containers so that an eye can be kept on the females easily, and special attention given to feeding and water changing. At any given time, we could have up to 20 plus of such small containers.

I used to specialise in breeding Cichlids, barbs, labyrinths and characins at various periods but livebearers and killifish have taken over in the last five years. The shed is run temperature wise etc. to suit these. The present shed has been in use for 14 years and was old when we moved to Cedar Avenue. I am now converting our garage and will be moving into.....

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this in March 1980. Details of this new building and the contents, plus more about livebearers will follow.

Dave Cheswright.

'HINTS ON THE TREATMENT OF FISHES''

If the aquarist sets up his aquarium obeying all the normal precautions, cleans his tank regularly and does not overfeed the fishes, the following gruesome troubles and complaints are only likely to occur in a very small degree. Fish deaths will always occur but if only one or two die in a community, for apparently no reason whatsoever, there is no need for immediate alarm. If several die, there is usually always a reason for it and it is generally a radical trouble mused by neglect or ignorance of some sort or other.

Disease is present in all aquaria and all fishes are just as prone to disease as other living organisms, whether caused by poisoning, malnutrition, by virus or bacterial infections or by microscopic or macroscopic parasites.

Fishes living in the confined area of an aquarium become immune to the disease present, and when the balance of the water is upset trouble can be expected. Some possible causes are:-

- a) Feeding the fish with tubifex, these are

small worms that live on the bottom of polluted waters.

(despite the risk of introducing infection, tubifex can be used to provide some variety in diet.

b) Feeding fish with daphnia from an unknown source.

Adding new plants to an aquarium without.....

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1. carrying out strict disinfection procedures

a) The most common reason for an outbreak of disease, is the introduction of new fish. Even fish from a friend or transferring one of your own fish from one tank to another

has to be carried out with care. The hospital tank is a necessary stand-by. This can be a separate tank for those aquarists

who have space, or a container floated in the aquarium, thus enabling newcomers to be segregated, for observation and balancing to the

environment of your aquarium, or for isolating sick fishes for treatment. Keep the hospital tank aerated and change the water with water from the tank you are going to keep your new fish in. Top up your community tank with rain water if available. Before introducing your new fish to the hospital tank, add one tea spoonful of salt (not table salt) to every gallon of water and add sufficient methylene blue or malachite green to just colour the water. The water should be changed every three days for six weeks, The salt content should be reduced by half every water change and the methylene blue or malachite green added for three water changes. If the fish are showing stress under these conditions they must be removed and placed in clean water. A stand-by remedy if all else fails, and it must be used with great care is "Copper Sulphate". Copper is deadly in on aquarium it will kill the fish the plants and the snails, but I have used copper sulphate very successfully as fallows.

Obtain 10 grammes of copper sulphate CuSO₄
from the chemist, 1 (one) gramme of copper sulphate is dissolved
in a quart of distilled water and one millilitre of this
solution is used for every two quarts of water in the hospital
tank.

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If no improvement is noticed in three days, double the dose.. You
are probably going to lose the fish anyway and in every case so
far I have been successful in, the quarantine fish has
been suffering from at least one of the following diseases:-

- a) White spot {Ichthyphthirius)
- b) Fungus (Saprolegnia)
- c) Black Fungus(Mmelamosis)
- d) Oodinium
- e) Finrot
- f) Velvet disease

To date I have found no cure for: -

- a) Dropssy
- b) Wasting
- c) Fish tuberculosis and growths
- d) Bulging eyes

If any other member has carried out any tests successful or not, in combating any of the above diseases I would be interested to hear from them so that any details could be published in the Journal.

Experiments will always be carried out to find cures for diseased fish, as results are obtained I hope to pass the information on to S.L.A.G, members.

DISEASES OF FISHES

To assist in the identification of diseases the following may be used.

White Spot

This is the most common infectious disease seen in the aquarium and will kill fishes if not checked. It is caused by a protozoan parasite.....

Ichthyophthirius multifilis, and attacks are often caused by a drop in the temperature of the aquarium water. The resistance of the fishes becomes reduced and the vitality of the parasite increased. Diagnosis is not easy in the early stages of the disease when only one spot on one fish may be present. However, the parasite appears to cause an itching in infected fishes and in the early stages fishes may attempt to rub or scratch themselves against objects in the aquarium to reduce the irritation. The spots usually spread rapidly over a few days. As the life cycle is known, control is not difficult.

The first step is to raise the temperature to 80°-85°F. This speeds up the development of the cysts to the free living form, the stage at which a White Spot preparation will kill the parasite. Such preparations are commercially prepared and sold at most pet shops. Instructions on the directions must be followed carefully.

If an outbreak of White Spot disease occurs in a community tank, only certain species may become infected, due to several reasons. The parasite prefers certain species as a host, and certain fishes will be in better health than others.

Velvet

This is a comparatively new disease among aquarium fishes and effects mostly labyrinth **fishes** and members of the carp family. Fishes with Velvet disease have golden dust-like spots

on their skin as if sprayed with a golden powder. If untreated, the condition of the fish soon deteriorates and a series of raised* circular crusts develops. This condition is caused by the free swimming form of Oodinium limneticum which adheres to the fish and grows psuedopodia.....

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into the skin to obtain nourishment.

All fishes in the tank containing obviously infected fishes must be put in an isolation tank and treated with methylene blue for 10 days, as for White Spot.

Costiasis

Is caused by a protozoan parasite, Costia necatrix which grows in the mucus on the skin of fishes. The fishes become very lethargic with no appetite and respire rapidly. Fishes can be cured by putting them in a two and a half per cent salt water solution for fifteen minutes every day.

Chilodon

Is caused by the protozoan Chilodon cyprini and attaches

itself to both the gills and the skin of the fish. The fish closes its anal and dorsal fins and often spiralling up to the surface to gasp a bubble of air, Methylene blue or acriflavin cures.

Ichthyophonus hoferi

Is widely distributed species of fungi & is probably the cause of many unidentified fish deaths. The fungus grows through the intestinal lining and disseminates through the body.. All infected fishes should be removed and destroyed

Saprolegnia

Is a fungi and is present in all aquarium waters, but only attacks fishes where damage to the skin has occurred. The parasite grows at the skin wound producing a cotton wool like growth but will eventually invade the body tissues. Contaminated fishes should be removed and the wound treated with a 5 % solution of methylene blue.

Columnaris

Is caused by bacterial infection, Chondocus. This usually enters the body through injured areas, generally near the mouth

and a fungus like growth develops.....

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One 250mg. capsule of chloramphenicol per gallon usually affects a cure .

Fin Rot

Is a bacterial infection of the fins. Entry is gained through a damaged fin and inflammation and destruction of tissue takes place. The disease can spread into the body and cause death. A solution of acriflavin or pennicillin (1/60 grain per gallon) will cure.

Pop-eye Exophthalmus

Is commonly seen in Siamese fighting fish in which one eye becomes cloudy, swells and will lose its sight if not treated. The fish should be put in a net and one drop of organic silver eye drops applied 4 times a day.

Flukes

This is an infection and is caused by trematode worms. Of these Gyrodactylus species grow on the body and Dactylogyrus

species grow on the gills. An infected fish becomes pale with wide open gills and torn slimy fins. The fish should be kept in a deep blue solution of methylene blue for three days.

DROPSY

Is a disease in which the cavities of the body accumulate fluids until the scales tend to stick out at right angles. There is evidence that 50mg_t of chloramphenicol per gallon added to the water will usually cure. Normally only a single fish develops this disease and an out-break of Dropsy is unlikely.

Fishes are vulnerable to sudden shock, if tetras for example are transferred from acid to hard alkaline water they will turn over and perhaps die. Fishes placed in water of a different temperature will also show shock symptoms & fishes chased by the net when being caught may.....

roll over and look very ill.

Senile changes occur in fishes as in other animals when they become old. They often lose a lot of their colour and develop deformities, a humpy back and swim-bladder disease are common among old fishes. Swim-bladder disease causes the fish to lose its ability to balance. It is suggested that infection, incorrect feeding, indigestion and low water temperature can cause this trouble.

Duncan McDonald

Visiting the D.G.L.Z. show in Frankfurt this coming September?.

Will all members who wish to go to the D.G.L.Z. show please contact Ivan Dibble in writing by June 14th. at the latest. It will then give Ivan a chance to work out the cost etc. A phone call is NO GOOD as a booking, you must write to him. A deposit will be expected

Anyone in doubt about going to Frankfurt will be sure to enjoy it. I certainly enjoyed the one in Hannover last year and will be going to this one.

AMECA SPLENDENS

John Dawes (53) has confirmed the original
came from an import by the Ministry of Agriculture, Fish and Food,
From Dr. Robert Miller of the U.S.A.

M of Ag .to 53 and B.A.S.S
B.A.S.S. To M.S

Editors Note,

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