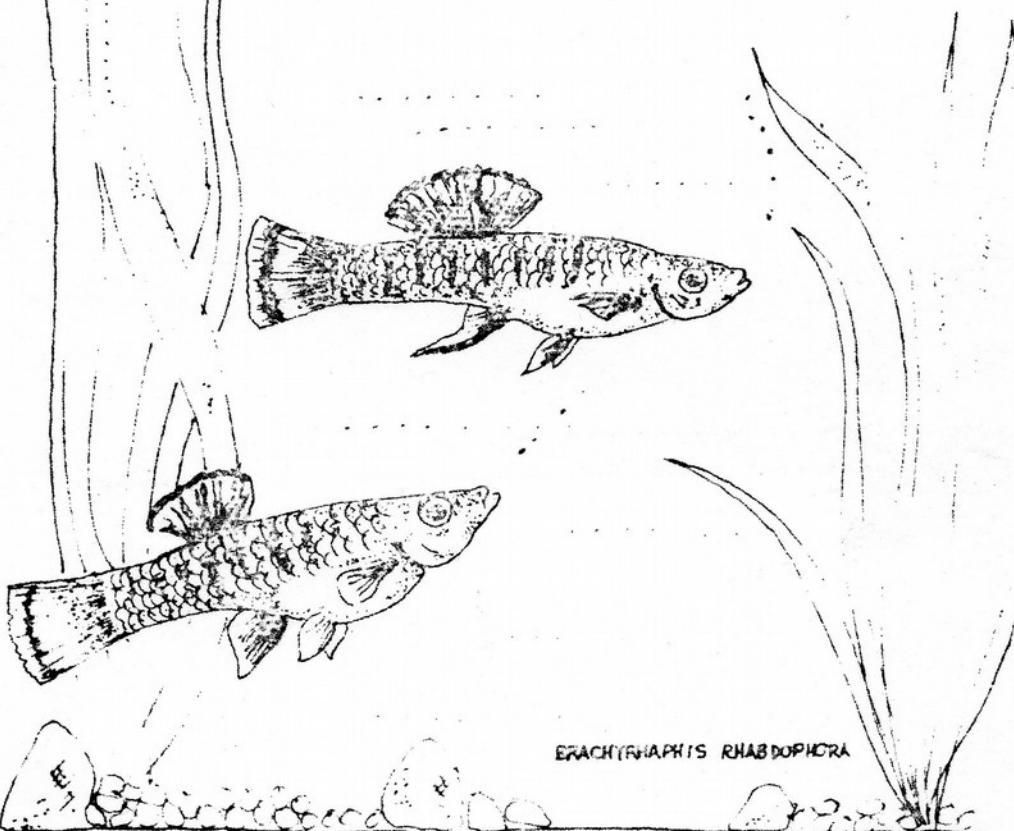


"BRACHY BULLETIN"



BRACHYRHAPIS RABDOPHORA

S.L.A.C.
JOURNAL NO. 9

STAFF - 1981 - DESIGN - F. H. SLADE

SOUTHERN LIVEBEARERS AQUATIC. GROUP

JOURNAL – No. 9,

February¹, 19M.

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(3)	VICE-CHAIRMAN BARRY BANKS, 27, THE FAIRWAY, MOORENDS, DONCASTER, YORKS.	
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(5)	TREASURER - COLIN HOWE, 11, CHANDOS ROAD, NEWBURY, BERKS.	" 5
(6)	SPECIES CONTROL - MERYNN STRANGE, 10, LODDON COURT, NEVILLE CLOSE, BASINGSTOKE, HANTS.	• 1
(7)	P.R.OI (U.K.) - DENNIS BARRETT, 55, OLDFIELD ROAD, THORNE, NR. DONCASTER, YORKS.	' 81
(8)	P.R.O. (O'SEAS) - IVAN DIBBLE, 11, STRODE ROAD, CLEVEDON, AVON.	" 4
(9)	TECHNICAL EDITVR - DON KENWOOD, 28, BRIDGE HOUSE, CHANNEL VIEW CRESCENT, PORTISHEAD, AVON	M 14
(101 & (11) COMMITTEE MEMBERS -		
	TERRY WALLER, 32, HAMILTON ROAD, ROMFORD, ESSEX	" 26
	NAIZBY NOBLE, 58, WOODVILLE ROAD, BOSTON, LINCS	* 120
(12) <u>EDITOR</u> > BERARD MEECH, 338, COGESHALL ROAD, BRAINTREE, ESSEX.		" 58

NON-COMMITTEE POSTS

(a)	F.B.A.S. DELEGATE - PHILIP MARTYN 16, STUKELEY ROAD, BASINGSTOKE, HANTS.	» 30
(b)	P.R.o. London and Home Counties Working under P.R.O., Stan Furssedom, 79, Hoppers Road, WINCHMORE HILL, London, N.21	' M 33

SUBSCRIPTIONS

Please make Colin happy and send him your Subs, if not already paid. Annual amount is £5 Adults, £2.50 Juniors aged 16 or under and Senior Citizens.

MEMBERSHIP AND SPECIES LISTS WILL BE PREPARED AS SOON AS POSSIBLE AFTER THE 28th FEBRUARY, 1981.

IF YOU HAVE NOT PAID BY THE TIME THESE LISTS ARE PREPARED YOUR NAME WILL NOT Be INCLUDED.

FROM THE EDITOR

Bernard Meech.

It does not appear to be a very auspicious start, for you to wait so long before the first "journal" arrives in your hands, but let me say here and oew that the delay has been caused by your own lack of putting pen to paper. We have now twice postponed the publication while waiting for material. SO PLEASE WRITE. When you have written please send it to me at

338 Coggeshall Road,

Braintree,

Essex CM7 6EH

and mark your contribution "journal". Please do not enclose other material with articles, advertisements (free of charge), letters or pictures. This will help me to sett out one type of paper work from another and thereby, one hopes, to get more done.

You will notice that the new format is that which we started with in 1978. Reasons behind this change are that it is easier to produce A4 than $\frac{1}{2}$ A4. Storage should be more convenient by clipping Articles into a ring binder system. In time I would think that we could produce our own binder. Please let me have your ideas on the change.

The journal in future should, ideally, be divided into two sections one being a newsletter of items of short term interest and the second items which may be of longer term interest and well worth saving. Remember we have information about the fish are keeping which has not been published in books. The only way we will be able to help each other is by telling each ether what

we are doing, right *r wrong. For example, I have kept Limnurgus innominatus in many ways. I have kept them in acid water with coconut fibre in a 12x8x8, in almost clinical conditions in a 12x6x10, in a 'dirty* 24x12x15 bow front tank. (Dirty means much mullm on the bottom with tubifex worms living in it,) but the most successful was out of doors in the garden from June to September when the fish were in the best condition and grew fastest. I will in due time be publishing more on this as information becomes available.

Comments like the one above may be useful to somebody. You may think I am an idiot, if so please say so and, of course, state your reasons. You will almost certainly be able to tell me more than I already know. You may have done something different or the same as me and not "got away with it"!

I mentioned above two types of entry for the journal i) advertisements and ii) pictures. Advertisements for fish you have for sale, plant you have for sale, tanks you have for sale, may help you and other members as well. If you have a surplus of males of one species why not say so; you may discover there is another member with a surplus of females needing a male! Money need not change hands – you could decide to exchange fish for plants, a tank or filter. There may be a time when you have a need of equipment or fish, and little spare money. Please if you do not ask you may not get! Make this publication work for you. You can only gain. It will cost you nothing to advertise.

Pictures are possible to reproduce. They are more costly than type, but if you have something important to show us please try. We may learn something quicker and easier by this method. BLACK & WHITE ONLY,

Do not forget, we love you and more so we love your writing!

P.S. Apologies for letter sent out from the Secretary. Bditor ran it off. Poor printing not due to work of secretary!

From the Chairman - Dave Cheswright

I would like to welcome all new Members and wish them good fishkeeping. For their benefit and for the information of all members a new membership list will be prepared after 28th February 1981, Meeting and this, with Species details, will be posted to all members as soon as printed. Membership now spreads all over the U.K., including a recent member from Cornwall. The membership and species lists are confidential for Members' use only and all Members are encouraged to make contacts from these lists in order to get to know each other and to exchange fishes and thereby increasing the numbers keeping each species or strain. Some members probably do not realise that fishes can be sent by first class post and almost always arrive quickly and in good condition. Nothing is more exciting than opening parcels, especially when they contain fishes. We meet only four times per annum and many members are unable to attend any of the four meetings. Personal contact is therefore essential. Do not hesitate to contact other members to find if they have species you want.

Prices at the AGM, 15th November, 1980, Auction were well down. This seems to indicate that at least those attending meetings are getting the fishes that they want. The committees attitude to prices charged by is that this is solely up to individual members. Running costs are high and if fishes are sent by post you obviously must pay the postage and return the box, if you do not supply one when ordering.

If you have not already done so please send your species/strains lists to species control immediately.

I have been criticized by one or two members for not insisting that any comments made by members are made in writing. In 1980 and again in 1981 I have said that if members telephone me or speak to me I will listen and, if I feel that any comments should be brought to the attention of the committee I will do so. Members all know that I will always listen to them and I will not discourage them from speaking to me as Chairman. On the other hand members will find that it is just as quick and in many cases cheaper, to write to me or our secretary, Ray Townsend, and I assure you that all letters will be answered by us within 14 days. I have found over the years that it is usually the critics who are the ones who very seldom put pen to paper.

Back to fishkeeping; I am seriously considering cutting down the number of species/strains kept so that I have only one for every three tanks that I have. This I feel will lead to better fishkeeping and, I hope, an improvement in the quality of the fishes. Several members have been doing a magnificent job since SLAG started in breeding and distributing vast numbers of fishes but I for one feel the time has come the Colin Howe's action of specialization. This will still produce largish numbers of particular fish kept.

Do you know the plural of fish can be either fish or fishes? It is fish when we are dealing with more than one of the same species. It is fishes when we are dealing with a shoal including more than one species.

Roll on the daphnia season I am fed up with eating only flake, grindal, micro, and brine shrimp, and the occasional scrapping of ox heart.

P.R.O. Work Stan Furssedon will be organising the Publicity/Display stand he built for the 1980 Ali Pali Show on Sunday 28th March 1981 at Croydon S.A. Golden Jubilee Show.

We have been asked to put on a display at Ilford, Essex Closed Show late 1981 - details from Stan later.

AREA GROUPS AND MEETINGS

We are developing a very good network of local meetings, but as yet not all of the U.K. covered by any means. We hear whispers about the North-West.

- 1) Dennis (P.R.O.) and IvaU (Pro. O'Seas) went up to Scotland and helped set up an Area Group, (SLAG SAG). The Officers are as fellows

Chairman - Bob Macintosh
 Vice-Chairman - Sandy White
 Secretary - John Sullivan
 Treasurer - Ken Jenningson
 P.R.O. - George Kane
 Congratulations and welcome.

- 2) Yorkshire Area Group (SLAG YAG) -

Have got off to a very good start. They have about 40 members which is about 45% of the total membership.

The Secretary is now Naizby Noble, Chairman *- Trevor Douglas.
 Vice-chairman-

George Slark. treasurer - Colin Taylor.

Y.A.A. Delegate - Wilf Blundell, Other Committee, D. Barrett,
 B. Banks, D. Thompson, M. Holland, B. Chester, J. Scarl &
 G. Andrews.

- 3) London and Essex Area Meetings have been held at Dave Cheswright's home on 27th November and at Bernard Meech's home on Monday 19th January, where topics discussed included - The classification of live bearing fishes for show. (What do members think about the splitting of "man-made fishes away from wild fish?)

Under F.B.A.S. system we show Poecilia in four classes (0, P, S and T). Wild and man-made appear together in all of these classes. Work on methods of breeding fishes was discussed and further ideas should come forward at the next meeting to be held at Paul Hills' home on Friday, 13th March.

Secretary/Treasurer - Bany Myers.

SLAGYAG. B.B.C. THORNE are holding an Open Show in July. 1981 and our Yorkshire Group are organising the Livebearer Section which will, we understand, be under the name of SLAG. Details will follow, together with Show Rules for the ignorant ones who have not shown way up yonder. This is very excellent for SLAG publicity.

SLIDES. AID INFORMATION on fishes will be coming your
way soon.

The first two will be – *Gambusia marshi* and *xanophorus captivus*

Information is required on the following species :~

Xiphophorus montezumae

Xiphophorus pygmaeus

Poeciliopsis (5 and 10 spot)

Phalloptychus januarius

Poecilia dominicensis

Poesiliopsis viriosa

Poecilia versicolor

Xent

Xenotoca variata

Ilyodon xantusi

This information will help with making out an information sheet. Slides will also be taken of these fishes.

Information for information sheers to –

Mervyn Strange, 'Species Control'

(URGENTLY REQUIRED)

SLAG BADGES

You too can HAVE A SLAG BADGE

£1.30 WITH S.A.E. TO —

COLIN HOWE, TREASURER

11, CHANDOS ROAD,

NEWBURY,

BERKS.

Ba dge DESIGNED BY BARRY BANKS

DATES TO REMEMBER

(ALL THESE DATES ARE SATURDAYS)

S L A G Meetings at Newbury's Sandleford Hospital -

23rd May 1981

22nd August 1981

A.G.M. 21st November 1981

If you can, please bring a list of what you have for the AUCTIONS, so that this can be displayed prior to sale.

SLAG YAG

16th May 1981

12th September 1981

14th November 1981

F. B. A. S. ASSEMBLIES

Conway Hall, Red Lion Square, London, W.C.1

7th March 1981

6th June 1981

5th September 1981

A.G.M. 5th December 1981

9/7

SHOWS at SLAG Meetings

Each meeting at Newbury will be accompanied by a table show.

On 28th February the Show is for single fish Goodeids and pairs of the same. It has been suggested that, in future, SLAG Table Shows should be single fish, pairs and breeders (6 fish, ideally 3 pairs)

Entrance fee - 10p per entry. To be judged to Judge's Home Standards.

Joint Table Show Secretaries :

Terry Waller and Naizby Noble.

FOR SALE

Fish Tanks

£1.50 - 2ft tanks

£2.00 - 3ft tanks

Terry Waller (SLAG 26) Telephone: (02042) 59982

We could do with more like this!

(Ed.)

THE SLAG Committee 1980 -81

There are members of Society who have never met the Committee. There are members who have not met each other; so we will be introducing you to each other.

The Committee have written some details about themselves. Perhaps you would like to tell us about some of the things you are getting up to. We are sure you are doing, have done, or will do some interesting things with fish, food or fish houses. You may find a particular plant is useful or grows where you cannot grow other plants. The information you have in your head may well be useful to others. They will not know if you do not tell them!

Here are your Committee's own personal write-ups.

JOHN DAWES - President.

Born in Gibraltar 35 years ago.

Job - Training Post graduate Science Teacher at Bath University.

I have been keeping fishes for 28 years (started with Gambusia affinis holbrooki).

I have belonged to various societies including BASS where I have held the positions of Chairman of the research committee and research director. I am involved in the educational uses of aquatic organism (mainly fish). I am particularly interested in Labyrinth fishes and Goodeids and publish regularly in educational journals and popular aquatic press.

I have other hobbies which include cooking and song writing (won an award in the 1980 American Song Festival Lyric competition)

DAVE CHESWRIGHT - Chairman.

Started keeping Tropicals 33 years ago. Before then Tadpoles Sticklebacks and the odd Goldfish. Joined East London A & P.A. Society in 1948. Main interest then Anabantids, particularly Betta splendens, and Xiphophorus maculatus, apart from Guppies and various "community fishes". Stopped fish-keeping from about 1955/59 due to exams, national service and courting. Re-started in Wickford, Essex, 1959, and joined Southend, Leigh & District A.S. that year. Served on Committee there without a break since then, 12 years as Treasurer, 2 as Chairman, 5 as Secretary and then Chairman again. Specialised for varying periods in Barbs, Characins, Killiefishes, Angels, Dwarf Cichlids, but always had Livebearers.

H. Preston's trips to Mexico in 1970's created more interest in Livebearers and resulted in distribution in large numbers over the past 10 years. Invited to be Chairman of SLAG on formation in 1978. Believes that after 2½ years SLAG still in its infancy. Member of British Aquarists Study Society, Newcastle Guppy & Livebearers Society. Although going to several Shows each year and keen winner, regards Shows as more of a Meet other Aquarists events than competitions, realizes that no-one whether exhibitors or judges, is perfect, but only do THEIR best. Currently keeps Livebearers plus large pond in garden, Koi, Goldfish, etc. interested in anything that lives in water.

F.B.A.S. Speaker.

RAY TOWNSEND - Secretary.

I became interested in Livebearing fish after seeing some of Tony Noronha's fish on the bench at Newbury Show, a few years back. I asked if he could sell any. I came away with a small pair of Xenotoca eiseni. He invited Colin Howe and myself to visit his home where we bought some more.

I have been a member of SLAG from its formation.

COLIN HOWE - Treasurer

Company Director.

I have been keeping fish 33 years. I have a fish house holding 60 Tanks. I specialize in keeping Gambusia and Goodeid species.

My three sons are all interested in keeping and breeding fish.

I am a member of B.A.S.S.

MEKVYN STRANGE - Species Control Officer.

Chairman Basingstok and D.A.S. (the Society which held the 1970 Livebearer Show where SLAG was formed).

I have kept fish for 13 years. My interests have been varied, breeding and showing many species, with an interest in A.O.V. livebearers developing as varieties were distributed via Howard Preston and others.

Through fish displays put on by Basingstoke & D.A.S. At British Aquarist Festival in Manchester since 1971, the Scottish Aquarist Festival since 1977, and connections in the North East of England, I have come into contact with Aquarists from many parts of the U.K. and am keen on developing these friendships.

IVAN DIBBLE - P.R.O. (Overseas)

I have been in fish keeping since 1959 and specializing in livebearers since 1975. By 1976 I realized that there were not many AOV livebearers in the U.K. so made contacts around the WORLD. I joined D.G.L.Z. just before SLAG was formed. Since then I have made contact with seven international organizations, for livebearers. To date I have imported and distributed 140 species or races of fish.

At present I am running nearly 100 tanks for livebearers and personally maintain 110 species, any of which I am prepared to distribute to any member provided I have sufficient stocks.

NAIZBI NOBLE - Committee Member.

Police officer. Age 36.

I became interested in fishkeeping after a visit to the hairdressers (see 'Aquarist' May 1980 "Meet the Aquarist" page 62)

With my wife, Pauline, I have been keeping fish for two years but my interest expanded rapidly and solidified on livebearers, particularly after a chance contact with Dave Cheswright and an introduction to SLAG.

I now have about 31 varieties and 45 tanks varying from 1 foot to 4 feet, interested in showing and have gained some success in my first year, including 3rd Best in Show at the D.G.L.S. Show at Friedburg (1980).

I am now the secretary of the SLAG, Yorkshire Area Group.

9/10

DON KENWOOD

Technical Editor

Started keeping tropical fish in 1957, although keeping cold-water fish for some years before that. Started showing fish in 1961, in fact taking 3rd place in breeders live bearers with a team of Heterandria formosa.

Showing continued on a casual basis since then until 1972 when a stronger interest was taken. Qualified as Severnside Aquarists Association Class A judge in 1974. Now occupying position as Secretary to Judges & Standards Committee for S.A.A.

Interest in unusual livebearers started in 1959 at which time I was keeping

Heterandria formosa	Phallichthys amates amates
Poecilia melanogaster	Gambusia affinis affinis
" vittata	
" nigrofasciata	

Home Club is Nailsea & District Aquatic Society, for whom I act as programme secretary and committee member. Now appointed as Secretary to the newly formed Society for the International Conservation of livebearing fishes.

TERRY WALLER

Committee member.

F.B.A.S. Judge and Speaker, Secretary of London judges and speakers panel. Member of East London Aquarist & Pondkeepers Association.

I have kept fish for 12 years and am particularly interested in keeping Xiphophorus and Poecilia species. My fish house could be described as early dilapidated and consists of too many tanks. I also have an over zealous son who insists we keep changing water and entering Shows.

If you have any queries feel free to ask. I can't guarantee an answer, but I'll be trying!

BERNARD MEECH

Editor.

Teacher/Psychologist. Age - 40 (just)

I have been keeping fish sine# 1969 when I bred gold fish, purchased at "Ally Pally" Show, in a school class-room.

Chairman of Witham and Braintree Aquarist and Pond Society, and member of B.A.S.S. and an F.B.A.S. speaker, I keep fish in my house at present but will move them into their fish house in the - very(?) near future. I also keep catfish and cold water fish in conjunction with my son Andrew.

I hope Barry and Dennis will let me have their write-ups for the next issue
- Ed.

COPY FOR THE JOURNAL 10 to 338, COGESHALL RD< BRAINTREE BY 31st MARCH 31, PLEASE

9/11.

FEDERATION OF BRITISH AQUARISTS SOCIETIES AGM.

The F.B.A.S. held their Annual General meeting on the 6th December, 1980. The treasurer Mr. K. Dove announced that the London Show had suffered a financial loss and therefore the Federation would not be holding the sponsors to their agreement of receiving 10 p per head of the public who went there. He also announced that the affiliation fee for 1981 will be £8 and that clubs should send their subscription by January. All cheques that are sent should have stated on the back of them the reason for sending.

The other general committee members also gave their reports but I won't bore you with the details,

Mr. R. Esson who is the current chairman within the federation has come to the end of his term in office. There were two nominations for this position, Mr. G. Brown of Riverside, and Mr. A. Blake of Basingstoke. Mr. C. Brown was elected by 68 votes to 32.

Other positions within the general committee that were elected are as follows

Mr R.A.Dove	Treasurer
Mr J. Stillwell	Minute Secretary
Mr W. Hastings	Open Show Stand Officer.
Mr B. Nethersell	Tape & Slide Officer
Mr S. Finnis	Trophy & Broach Officer

There were many resolutions put forward by various clubs, one in particular which passed now allows single fish to be shown in divided tanks (even multi divided tanks) on Tableaux only.

The position of Vice-Chairman is now vacant and it was decided to hold over filling this position until the March Assembly meeting to allow the delegates to get their clubs' feeling as to who they wish to vote for.

Nominations so far for this position are Mervyn Strange and Ken Saxby.

STOP PRESS. Ivan informs us that the 1981 German Show will be in Dusseldorf, November 1981. The D.G.L.Z. part of this Show will be held for the full 2½ weeks of the whole Show we are informed.

A trip is intended with, perhaps, a Coach going from London area as well. A Sub-Committee, consisting of Ivan Dibble, Naizby Noble and, we hope, a London Member, will have the thankless task of organisation. Members interested in finding out more about this should write to a member of the Sub-committee. Please put forward any suggestions you have about Itinerary, duration of trip, what you would like to do in the way of entering fishes in the Show and exchanging fishes whilst there. (AND anything else you can think of).

Ivan Dibble on 1979 / 80

Here we are again at the end of another year, and it has been the busiest one yet with regards to Overseas Contacts, as not only have I spent a considerable amount of time expanding and deepening our relationship with our European Aquarist friends I have also made many more contacts with friends in the USA. and we have already started helping by supplying stocks and information in a number of studies carried me by these people, many of which. it will be some time before we get the final result, and this is mainly why I have not been able to write a lot of material on the subject for the Journal this year, and for this I do apologise.

On one of these experiments I have just received an interim report from Carl Haskins in the U.S.A.. who earlier this year I sent Poecilia Vivipara and Poecilia Nigrofasciata in order for him to be able to carry out his studies to see if these species and others were capable of stimulating the production of fry in Poecilia Formosa females. As you are probably already aware Poecilia Formosa is the member of the Poecilia family that only reproduces females of its type and therefore needs males of other Poecilia races to fertilise them, and Carl was trying to find out what range of other Poecilia species could be used in the cross fertilisation of the Formosa.

So far he has tried with Poecilia Vivipara from Georgetown Guiana and these have stimulated the genetic production of over 30 young females from Poecilia Formosa stocks which are morphologically of the type of Formosa and are presently being reared to maturity to make sure that all are females. He also has attempted in separate experiments to attempt crosses with Formosa using males of Poecilia Nigrofasciata and Poecilia Melonagaster. However the results from these attempted crosses were entirely negative. This is most interesting and he intends to repeat the tests next year with the same males in order to try and get final confirmation.

I have also sent stocks of Jenynsia Lineata to Craig Busack in America, who is attempting to produce a paper on a study of the one-sidedness in these species, but as yet I have had no report back on his project.

It is also possible that we shall shortly set up a study of the four known Micropoecilia species once our American friends let us know the programme they want to follow in the study of these species, which they intend to supply us with.

As many of you already know once again our friend and member from Frankfurt, Manfred Meyer has been on a collection trip to Mexico this year and has already given us nearly all the species that he brought back from his travels. He has also written and published a paper on Xiphophorus Andersi which as many of you will now know is a New Species of Xiphophorus and he promises his continued support in the future along with a number of his other West German and Austrian colleagues.

In my travels this year I have visited West Germany twice as well as Austria and made many new friends in the livebearer world and, as a result of these new contacts in Europe and America, have been fortunate in being able to acquire yet another 40 new species of livebearers for us, in the past year, many of which have already been passed on to other members.

I think you will agree with me when I say that it has been yet another successful year and I should like to take this opportunity to thank all those who have helped me to make this possible.

9/13

BOGEYES' GALORE (Well nearly)

Colin Howe.

On the 11th October IT Finally Happened!

As usual at lunchtime I went into my fish house to feed, and lo behold there they were, Anableps Fry!

Panic not I cried reaching for the toilet paper. For all my well laid plans were completely forgotten. Where was that carefully prepared fry tank I had promised myself that I would have ready in plenty of time?

A frantic ten minutes produced a 2' tank complete with gravel bank, and some 2" - 5" of the original waters Now to set about catching the fry. It wasn't until then that I really "took in" how many fry were about. The result was not really encouraging; out of six fry born three were obviously 'dead on arrival'. These three were 'split' underneath, and I assumed that perhaps the birth itself had caused them to 'SPLIT'. That was until I showed these dead fry to our President, John Dawes, who explained that in fact the young were not properly formed at the time of birth, and the skin had in fact not 'joined' up. totally the reverse to what I was thinking.

(30 odd years in this hobby, and how little I know).

Meanwhile the remaining three fry were settling into their new home but one was not swimming in the typical "cork-like" Anableps manner and obviously had a swim bladder defect. Next morning it was dead. This specimen I photographed and measured, the fry being 60 mm including caudal.

"And then there were Two".

The remaining two fry proved easy to feed and maintain, accepting any food offered, provided of course it stayed within their limited downward travelling distance. For about the first two weeks I found that they seemed unable to reach the deeper (3") part of the tank, but by about 4 weeks this proved to be no problem. One has to be constantly alert to fouling of the aquarium at these early stages. Because they are gross feeders, there tends to be a large amount of excreta, and waste food. All this in the confines of a limited depth of water.

Sifted Daphnia, Brine Shrimp, are not the food for these babies. Chopped earthworm, glass worm, flake food, these are on the menu twice daily and are accepted greedily. Feeding presents no problems in that respect; why should it when you are feeding 60 mm. fry!!

By the time they were six weeks old and some 70 mm overall, it was time again to decide on their next home, as pollution was becoming a major factor.

I eventually decided to reintroduce them to the parents, based on my experience of observing the parents' attitude towards fish of other species sharing their tank. They have now been together for 2-3 weeks, and no signs of any serious bullying have occurred. At meal times the young may be pushed aside gently, but that's about all, and the young always seem to end up with bulging stomachs.

If I am lucky enough to be presented with further broods, I don't think I shall attempt to remove any healthy fry, but leave them with their parents. I estimate the gestation period to be 12-14 weeks at temperature of 78°F. If I am right, then I should be in luck again in 1981.

Please keep us posted - Ed.

Distribution and Brood Numbers - Dave Cheswright.

I have had a look through my records since July, 1978 and before, and extracted details of the above, I do not have distribution records in full before that date but do have brood numbers since 1974. On brood numbers, often, they are lower than might be expected, having been caught from tanks containing more than just the one female; therefore, I have ignored these. Anyway, below I list several species where the information appears to be of some use.

The rest of the species I have I would not regard my Brood numbers as being particularly high but I have the details if anyone wants them. Total number distributed since July, 1978, over 3,600, this up to A.G.M. on 15/11/1980. Some brood numbers higher if dead fry counted.

	Distributions since July, 1978	Highest Brood number since 1974. - LIVE
1) Belenosox belizanus	-	80
2) Gambusia affinis holbrooki	151	52
3) Jenynsia lineata	280	62
4) Limnurgus innominatus	295	21
5) Phallocerous caudimaculatus reticulatus	180	40
6) " " (Auratus)	18	20
7) Poecilia vivipara	126	69
8) " zonata	71	35
9) " parae	5	9
10) " versicolor	63	50
11) Priapella compressa	351	22
12) Xenatoca eiseni	34	45
13) " variata	13	8
14) Xenophorus captivus	95	32
15) Ilyodon whitei	-	8
16) Xiphophorus helleri (Albino)	199	90
17) " maculatus (Red)	24	40
18) " " (Blue)	-	80
19) " 1979 Rio Tonala	35	25
20) " montezumae	174	33
21) " Pygmaeus	44	12
22) " xiphidium	71	27
23) Heterandria bimaculata	21	50

I am sure Members would be interested in hearing of brood numbers in excess of the above and news of high numbers in species not in the above list. I mention that No. (15) was my first brood from young female, the 8 fry being easily as large as, say, Goodea atripinnis fry.

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German trip - 26th to 29th. September 19870.

Dave Cheswright.

About 30 went on this trip, including a few who were not members of SLAG but who I believe have joined us since. Doug Renton, Chairman, N.G.L.S. and one or two other N.G.L.S. members were also with us. The trip was organised by Ivan Dibble and thanks are due to him for his time beforehand.

The coach started from Clevedon and travelled via Newbury to Dover. Some had to travel from as far away as Scotland to meet the coach and their journeys started the day before. Mention has been made that London might be a second starting point as travel direct to there is quicker.

I picked up the coach at Dartford Tunnel, Kent, and had the shortest journey, which is unusual as far as SLAG Meetings go! We arrived at Dover and sailed during the night, arriving at Ostend (as far as I can remember!!!) at about 4.30 a.m. I travelled with my back to the Driver in the coach and this did me no good at all. We stopped at Wuppertal for an excellent breakfast and a brief walk-about and we then picked up Herr. Dieter who accompanied us to Frieberg where the D.G.L.Z. Show was already set-up in a large modern Hotel. The journey from Ostend to Frieberg took some 12 hours and everyone was thankful to get into the Hotel at which we stayed; this was within walking distance of the Show. The rear seats of the coach had been taken out to accommodate our fish boxes and these were deposited at the Show.

The Bed and Breakfast accommodation for the two nights was good, most members took their dinners in the Show hotel restaurant, which was excellent.

Later that evening we benched our entries which were in Pairs in two classes, Cultivated and Wild Species. There was also a class for Guppies which I understand were in shoals. All tanks were the same size, with air-stones and with willow moss and mainly without covers. (I had one Heterandria bimaculatus which twice appeared two tanks up the line). The judging system was 5 judges to each class, each judge filling in a slip for each entry independently. The 5 pointings are then added and divided by 5. Results were displayed on cards attached to the tanks the next morning. We had been invited to supply some judges but it ended up with 5 of us judging the Wild class and I think 2 plus 3 German judges dealing with the Cultivated class. The judging took until very late and you can imagine that we were well ready for bed at about midnight. I had a feeling that we had "taken over" the judging and I think it would have been much better if we had made up only 2 or 3 out of the 5 on each class, the others being D.G.L.Z. Members. Saturday morning found us all wide awake. Most of us had a quick look at the results - I would mention that the name of the species and that of the exhibitor were on the top of each tank during judging and it was very difficult to check the species name without seeing whose entry it was. Also the willow moss had to be moved to see the fishes and this disturbed them 5 times. Some tanks had more than one pair in them and the 5 judges had to hope that they had all judged the same pair. The International prize-winners were Barry Banks, 1st and 2nd, Joint 3rd prize was taken by Naizby Noble and I must apologise for not having the other name. The main D.G.L. Winner was Peter Weil and prizes were also taken by Tetra Organisation. I believe the total of entries was about 300. In addition to the competition there was a large display of Livebearers put on jointly by Tetra and D.G.L.Z. Members, all the equipment having been supplied by Tetra. In the Foyer there was a.....

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very large display tank, set up by a local trader, other smaller display tanks, a large collection of fishy stamps and a D.G.L.Z. information stand, selling various publications and goods. About mid-morning the coach went off with those who wanted to go shopping and a few of us stayed behind to attend the opening ceremony followed by a lecture on our German friends' fish-collecting trip. The Show was opened by the Burgomaster of Frieberg who spoke in English and German. I gave brief thanks for our hosts' hospitality. The lecture, with slides, was given in German - luckily Herr Axel Koster helped Mervyn and I with brief comments in English and I was able to make a few notes. Herr Fritshe gave the lecture and Dr. Radda was also on the trip. I have only vague notes due to the language problems, but they did visit Jamaica, Costa Rica and Panama at least - (28 species were collected??) Amongst these were *Brachyrhaphis episcopi*, *Brachyrhaphis castaliensis*, *Brachyrhaphis terrebensis*, *Poecilia gilli* ?? *Poeciliopsis elongatus* - The slides were excellent.

The afternoon was free and in the evening there was a Social and prize-giving. Some of us went out later to sample the local brew in Frieberg. Sunday saw us in the coach, having got up an hour too early - the clocks had been altered and even some of our German friends were caught out. We went off with Peter Weil to his Club's meeting place, some distance away. They have their own grounds, with Ponds and Aviaries, together with a large Club-house, containing manAquaria. These are leased to members for a small charge and they have to fill and maintain them. The display was very interesting. They also have a restaurant and bar. All these facilities are open to the public. Unfortunately we had only a short time there but were able to have a chat with the Club Secretary who said that they have a written record of events going back well over 50 years.

Sunday afternoon was hectic as this was the day that fishes are exchanged and sold. Some had

exchanged fishes that were in the show and some of us had quantities of fishes with us which we sold to D.G.L.Z. Members, also buying from them. I think most of us would have preferred exchanging rather than selling and perhaps it would be possible on a future trip to make exchange arrangements beforehand.

We left Frieberg at about teatime and had to miss the Auction of the remaining show entries. The journey home took until early Monday morning and I, being the lucky one, got off the coach at Dartford at about 9.30 a.m. I understand that our Scottish friends did not arrive home until late on the Tuesday, having stayed Monday night with Doug Renton.

It is not easy to report on this trip in this short way, and I have left much out. All-in-all I think that everyone benefited from going and made contacts with our German friends. Language was a problem but it is a fact that most Germans can speak some English and I suppose we ought to learn some German.

"SPECIES" Some Members refer to numbers of "species" when, in fact, they are talking about a combination of species, colour varieties, strains and wild locations. As an example, take, say, *Xiphophorus maculatus* (Platys). There are numerous man-made colour varieties, man-made "peculiars" where people have experimented and wild stocks from various locations. **THESE ARE STILL ALL ONLY ONE SPECIES.**

This is a simple example but the same principle applies to any Specie.

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Xiphophorus pygmaeus pygmaeus

Dennis Barrett.

I obtained a pair of the above from Member No4. At first I thought I was going to lose them but, after feeding on Brine shrimp and other live foods, they picked up and grew very well. I fed them in this way for just over a month before fry were born, and there were only 2, I do not know if she actually drooped more than this. These were born on 9th May, 1980 and I noted it in my records. We always keep a record of fishes we obtain and breed.

The female was still very full looking so, at first I thought she still had some more to drop- but, alas, no more were found, it was 5 weeks later she had the next dropping of fry; and what a dropping! -14 fry. You may think that is not a lot but when you see the size of the fry compared to the female, you wonder how she managed to carry that number,

By this time the first 2 fry were growing well and were back in the tank with their parents. Another 5 weeks passed and, hey presto another 13 fry. Now I had 29 fry and my pair, not losing a single fish, By now the first fry had sexed out to pair which were returned to member No 4, along with a dozen fry when we went to Nailsea Show, July '80. I have also passed a Pair to No. 83 and a gravid female to No. 82 to safeguard in case of mishaps in my fish-house.

The Tank size is 15 x 12 x 10 inches with plenty of Plant and cover, most of my tanks are planted and in good daylight, I think you will find that this Specie tend to stay hidden most of the time-a pity as they are such a pretty little fish, No special water was used; the supply comes from a bore hole & we find that most livebearers take to it. We do not even have to put salt in it. Temperature around 23° to 28°C (75/80°F) I do water changes of about 33% per week. By the way, I always take out the male when the female is about ready to drop fry.