



FEDERATION OF BRITISH AQUATIC SOCIETIES

NEWSLETTER

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Editorial

Welcome to this the first edition of a brand new publication from the FBAS, since the demise of the Bulletin we have thought that some sort of publication is needed to complement the website. We hope that the Newsletter fits the bill, it will not be published quarterly as with the Bulletin but as and when needed. We welcome contributions from anyone as long it's aquatic related, please use these pages sensibly, inflammatory remarks or bad language will not be published.

Pete Anderson's Fishy Thoughts

During the many lockdowns and isolations, I like most others, have spent more time in my garden, allotment and fish house. You would have thought all of these would now be immaculate, but afraid not. Admittedly some are better than normal but with shops closed and our clubs stopped, the incentives for doing something new have been limited. On-line shopping is fine for certain things, but I have never bought live fish or even plants off the internet. Also being retired and no work colleagues has meant fewer occasions to display the results of new efforts and ideas. Some positive results have happened though!

As mentioned before, the limiting opportunities to go out buying for my hobbies has led to some different ways to do things. During the 2020 summer I lost my microworm culture. I spent more time out in my allotment and the microworms dried out completely in the fish house. In autumn 2022 I discovered the three old dried pots of culture, dust dry films at the bottom of the culture trays. I believe these worms are *Panagrellus redivivus*, which Wikipedia says breeds through delivering live young. Now, with time on my hands and no club members close by to beg a new starter from, I tried wetting the film of "dust" and adding a little Readybrek. Two days later, signs of life in the porridge! Two more culture trays

were set up, Readybrek with aquarium water made to a paste and a small amount of the first culture added. I now have all the microworms I need. I don't know if the worms really have eggs or they can somehow remain alive dry, but these were really desiccated being two years laying dry on a top shelf in the fish house.

But RESULT! That wouldn't even have been tried normally.

Just before COVID struck, we visited our son and family in Osterode, Germany. Grandson Len is a keen fishkeeper and has a very well kept 4ft aquarium, plus two smaller ones for breeding fish. In his large tank he had a very nice Nymphoides plant with light green single circular leaves that eventually reached the surface.



The plant has fine roots, not tubers, and the surface leaves produced new plantlets on runners. I brought some of these small plants back home and managed to grow them on in the fish house. I put three of these into my own 4ft tank in the living room. They have grown to the surface and are producing their own new plants.

I believe they are *Nymphoides hydrophylla* "Taiwan". I now have a good number of spare plants which I hope to share, when our club re-opens.

Last thoughts, to share. Has anyone bought plants on-line or mail order and how did they get on. I did many years ago, not very good.

I ordered 3 varieties of *Cryptocoryne* but got *Hygrophylla*, *Vallisneria* and *Ambulia*. The small print did say substitutions would be added if required plants were not available. Hopefully on-line would now say unavailable when trying to order. I have bought "small" garden potting plants on-line. Some were OK but others were a joke, less than 1cm in size.

All for now, let me know if you have had any lock-down ideas or new ways to get round problems.

More thoughts next time, or hopefully seeing some of you out at Shows this year.

Peter Anderson HDAS and FBAS

With regard to buying online I use ebay because if you have a relevant complaint you can usually get your money back. I have bought fish, plants, fish eggs, livefood, and equipment online with varying results. My advice is always read the reviews.

Ed

Here's an interesting article we found on the BBC website

Biodiversity: The tale of the 'un-extinct' fish

By Victoria Gill

Science correspondent, BBC News, Published 29 December 2021

Source: [BBC News](#)



"It's just a little fish, not very colourful - there's not much interest in terms of global conservation," explains Gerardo Garcia. The species that the Chester Zoo conservationist is talking about - the Tequila fish - has now been returned to the wild after being declared extinct. "Missing" since 2003, it is back in the rivers of south-west Mexico. The reintroduction is being held up as an example of how freshwater ecosystems and species can be saved.

The Tequila fish grows no bigger than 7cm long

The reintroduction site in Jalisco, south-west Mexico



Freshwater habitats are some of the most threatened on Earth, according to the [International Union for the Conservation of Nature](#) (IUCN), with freshwater-dependent species "going extinct more rapidly than terrestrial or marine wildlife". Threats including polluted rivers and lakes. That continue to put pressure, not only on wildlife, but on clean water and food

supplies that are dependent on Crucially, the local community - people who live close to the Tequila fish release site in Jalisco, Mexico - are playing a key role, monitoring the water quality of the rivers and lakes.

Professor Omar Dominguez, from the Michoacana University of Mexico, whose team took a leading role in the reintroduction said: "We couldn't have done this without the local people - they're the ones doing the long-term conservation.

"And this is the first time an extinct species of fish has ever been successfully reintroduced in Mexico, so it's a real landmark for conservation.



"It's a project which has now set an important precedent for the future conservation of the many fish species in the country that are threatened or even extinct in the wild, but which rarely take our attention. While conservationists initially released 1,500 fish, they say the population is now expanding into the river system.

Scientists initially released 1,500 fish, but the species population is now increasing



It is a project - and a partnership - between conservationists in Mexico and the UK that goes back decades.

In 1998, at the outset of the project, scientists at the Michoacana University of Mexico's Aquatic Biology Unit received five pairs of fish from Chester Zoo, delivered by the English aquarist Ivan Dibble. These 10 fish founded a new colony in the universities' laboratory,

which experts there then maintained and expanded over the next 15 years.

In preparation for the reintroduction, 40 males and 40 females from the colony were released into large, artificial ponds at the university, essentially training the captive-reared fish to a wild setting with fluctuating food resources, potential competitors, parasites, and predators. After four years, this population was estimated to have increased to 10,000 individuals and became the source for the reintroduction to the wild.



It is hoped it could be a model for other freshwater species, including the achoque - a close relative of the axolotl that lives in just one lake in the north of Mexico, and which faces very similar threats.

This unique amphibian - which is believed in local culture to have healing properties - has been saved from extinction, in part, by a local group of nuns, who run a captive breeding facility for the animals.

Damselflies and dragonflies are dependent on wetland habitats, which are disappearing around the world

"This just goes to show," says Gerardo Garcia, "that animals can re-adapt to the wild when reintroduced at the right time and in the right environments".

Follow Victoria [on Twitter](#)

June Assembly

Due to the Queen's Platinum Jubilee Holiday the General Assembly scheduled for Saturday 4th June has been postponed until July 2nd.

The number of people that attend General Assemblies who are not Council members/Officers/Delegates has in recent years been declining with General Assembly meetings becoming untenable and unless attendances improve they will be replaced by regular Council meetings which will be held midweek

Dates for your Diary

06 April Hounslow AS to resume Meetings

22 May A of A Auction

11 June Bracknell AS Open Show.

If your Society has any events planned, or come across interesting snippets of aquatic interest then please send them to this NEWSLETTER for everyone's benefit.

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