



FEDERATION OF BRITISH AQUATIC SOCIETIES

BULLETIN

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Autumn 2009



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BULLETIN

September 2009

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*Opinions expressed in any article remain those of the author
and are not necessarily endorsed by this publication*



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EDITORIAL

I hope that you have some spare time at your disposal, as this issue of the 'Bulletin' has some lengthy pieces for you to enjoy. Mixed in with the travelogues are some serious digressions all of which should give a healthy mix of aquatic hobby interests and conservational concerns.

I hope that all who entered the Star Fisheries competition not only spotted the correct answer but also entered it into their sat-navs so that they could actually visit their premises and see their excellent fishes. It's the least we can do to repay Andy Green's generosity in sponsoring the Competition.

We'll also be looking forward to the Festival of Fishkeeping – now only a month away. I'd like to think that visitors to the Show, whether they're just there for the day, or making a whole weekend of it, will spot me hanging around the Furnished Tanks and come up and say 'Hello.' With any luck, they may even say something nice about our efforts with the magazine or, even better, give me an article!

As we went to Press, we learned that Anthony (Tony) Evans, editor of the old Petfish Monthly magazine and sponsor of the Aquarium Shows at Vincent Square's Horticultural Hall, has passed away. Our condolences go to Lorna as we remember a great supporter of the hobby.

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Buckinghamshire HP6 6ER
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Photo: FBAS

CONSERVING MISS KERALA ***by Reena Mital***

***Pictures, unless otherwise stated, by Dr Ignatius Mulyadi, Indonesia
Reprinted with permission from AQUARAMA Magazine, May 2009***

Puntius denisonii, also known as Miss Kerala in India (it is found only in 6-7 rivers in the state of Kerala), is one of the most popular fishes in India's international aquarium trade. Vibrant colours, compatibility in community tanks and exclusivity have meant high and continuous demand for this fish

High prices attract exporters

Of India's total live ornamental fish exports during 2007-08, *P. denisonii* accounted for almost 60-65%. Exports of ornamental fish from India, during 2006-07, had witnessed a growth of over 200% compared to the previous year. However, in 2007-08, exports recorded a fall of almost 60%.

The Redline Torpedo Fish is one of the few ornamental species that fetches exporters a fairly high price. There are only 13 full-time exporters of *P denisonii* in the country, with some others doing occasional amounts. Industry estimates have put the volume of *P denisonii* exports at around a million specimens in the last year.

Over-fished ... or Not?

In a bid to ensure long-term availability of *P denisonii*, the government is currently in the process of finalising various measures aimed at checking the uncontrolled, unorganised, unscientific nature of fishing and export of this species.

The move also comes after repeated reports by fishermen and hobbyists about the rare occurrence of the fish in rivers where it was once abundant. The department has stated that over-exploitation of the fish for the aquarium trade is the main reason for severe depletion in population. Other factors quoted include habitat deterioration and pollution.

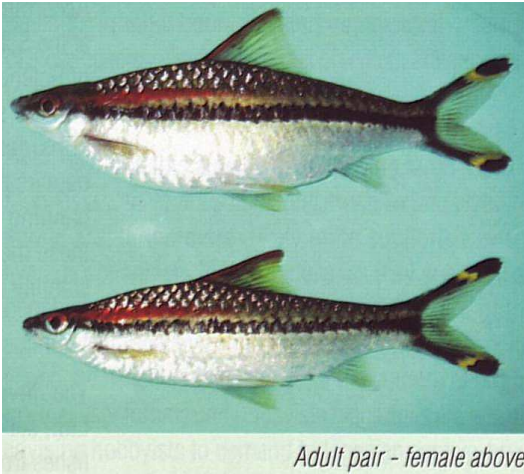
This has led many agencies, including the Fisheries Department, the Cochin Agriculture University and others to take up scientific studies to determine the population of *P denisonii* in the wild, and suggest and implement various measures to conserve the species. However, according to Mr Babu, a leading trader in ornamental fishes in India, "Till date, no scientific, comprehensive research has been conducted to understand the status of *P denisonii*. The trade has recorded higher catches of the fish over the last two to three years, suggesting that the fish is not in short supply. The government's steps towards conservation of a species cannot be based on what a few catchers say, but needs to be supported by sound data."

Dr Rajeev Raghavan, a conservationist with the Conservation Research Group, Kerala, agrees, stating, "There are no estimates whatsoever on current populations of *P denisonii* in Kerala. There have been a few studies - river-wise investigations which have assessed the stock structure and population dynamics of the species - but there is no study on a larger scale covering the entire Kerala State. This also means that we are not yet in a position to determine declines per year. There have been many speculative reports which have said that populations have declined by 60-70% or even 90% (again, in some rivers or areas) - all based on unscientific results. However, there is no denying that conservation efforts will be needed."

Listing and Restrictions

The species is already listed as endangered by the Regional Conservation Assessment Workshop, which is equivalent to a regional red list, even though it is not listed in the IUCN red list. "This is because freshwater fishes of the Western Ghats have never been assessed directly by the IUCN," informs Dr Raghavan.

Various reasons are being cited for the declining populations. Conservationists and exporters, for example, are in agreement that outdated, poorly-thought-out fishing practices need to be changed. It is estimated that survival rates during fishing and handling can - in certain instances - be as low as 15-20%, implying huge depletion in population. To prevent this, the fisheries department has placed a restriction on the use of cast nets and gill nets, which cause the most damage; only seines can now be used to collect this species. The fish collecting agencies will, thus, have to get the necessary permits and certifications from the local fisheries offices.



Restrictions on the size of the specimens are also being finalized.

The Department has stated that fish of a size between 6-10cm can be exported. The trade has, however, been demanding fish of sizes between 1.5-2.5cm, believing that - by so doing - the brooders are, thus, left in the rivers. These small fish are just 2-3 months old, and are easy to catch in bulk as they move in shoals.

International demand for bulk quantities makes this size feasible, but conservation agencies believe that every specimen has to be given at least one natural season for breeding, hence the size restriction. To implement this, the Department officials will need to certify the specimen size, and the customs authorities will also be notified about these restrictions.

Yearly Harvest Quotas

The Department is also in the process of finalising quotas for the various rivers in Kerala, based on their ongoing studies of the *P. denisonii* populations. For instance, for the Periyar tributary, a quota of 90,000 specimens per annum of sizes above 6cm is being contemplated, and for the Bharatapuzha river, a quota of 150,000 a year.

According to Dr B Madhusoodana Kurup, a Professor at the School of Industrial Fisheries, Cochin University of Science and Technology, who has been involved in various studies of the species, "Authorities are also considering the feasibility and effectiveness of demarcating certain river areas as sanctuaries, thus banning fishing of *P. denisonii* in those areas. If all these measures are strictly implemented, we will see stability in *P. denisonii* populations over the next 6-8 years."

The government's Kerala Aqua Venture International Ltd, set up in Cochin to boost exports of ornamental fishes from the state, has an R&D programme aimed at developing/sourcing captive breeding technology on its agenda. The Company has appointed consultants from Scotland, Sri Lanka and India to help in this endeavour. Meanwhile, the Company expects to begin exports from August 2009.

Other Measures

Even as the government is doing its bit, other agencies are also busy working out conservation plans for *P. denisonii*

For example, the Conservation Research Group (CRG Kerala, has been active in various studies on the wild-caught fishes of Kerala.

The organisation now has a grant from Chester Zoo (UK) for studies on the conservation of *P. denisonii*. "We started this project in November 2008 and aim to complete it by December 2009. The project will document the biology/life history, ecology and population of *P. denisonii* from as many as five locations/rivers in Kerala, assess whether trade has resulted in depletion of stocks by comparing fished and non-fished areas and develop management measures based on our results. This study is being carried out in collaboration with the Conservation Biology Laboratory at the University of Kerala (Dr G Prasad) and Durrell Institute of Conservation and Ecology at University of Kent, England (Dr Alison Rosser)," informed Dr Raghavan.

CRG has also received a grant from Endangered Species International (ESI) for fieldwork on *P denisonii*. "We started our association with ESI in August 2008 and will work more closely during this year," said Dr Raghavan. Further, CRG is in consultations with the New England Aquarium, Boston, USA, to study the possibility of developing a community-based ornamental fisheries initiative for the sustainable harvest and trade of *P denisonii*. Plans for the project could be finalised during this year.

Scepticism over Conservation Efforts

There is, however considerable scepticism about the success of these steps. According to Mr Babu, "The fishery trade is totally unorganised, and collectors are poor villagers living in small communities in the interior. The Fisheries Department does not have offices in these places and, thus there can be no monitoring. The fishermen are neither aware of, nor have the resources to use, the correct fishing nets and follow correct practices. For the catch size, too, there will need to be strict monitoring, which the Fisheries Department is not equipped to do."

Dr Raghavan agrees "The authorities who have proposed these steps do not have the requisite expertise, skills or knowledge to monitor and implement these measures in the field. If anything, this could now lead to a lot of illegal trade."

The biggest loophole here is that the catch size restrictions are applicable only on exports from airports within Kerala. "Thus, the collections will go on in spite of the ban, and exporters will travel by road with the fish to airports outside Kerala. A lot of exports could take place from Bangalore and Chennai. This is easy, since most of the collections take place in North Kerala, which is not very far from Bangalore," stated Dr Raghavan.

"There has to be a collaborative management plan in place, with the support and participation of collectors, exporters and policy makers. My strong view is that threatened and endemic fish species like *P denisonii* have to be listed in the National Wildlife Protection Act - as these are forest-based fish. Since *P denisonii* occurs in forest streams, enforcement of management measures can only be successfully carried out if both the Wildlife/Forest Departments and the Fisheries Department work together. Wildlife and Forest Departments are in a better position to monitor collection and trade happening under their jurisdiction."



Stripping eggs from a ripe female.



Stripping sperm from a ripe male.



The eggs and sperm are mixed with a feather to prevent damage and enhance the chances of fertilisation.

According to Mr. Babu, "Putting in place policies and bans will not resolve the issue. Collectors have to be trained in right fishing practices, handling, transportation, etc. *P. denisonii* is a very fragile fish, which is the reason for the mortality rate. The concerned persons need to be educated about the traits of these fish."

According to Mathew D'Silva, general manager of Nautilus Aquasystems, "Transportation and packaging are extremely important issues here, and are totally ignored. There is no automation whatsoever during the packaging process. Lack of knowledge and professional skills at the handling and transportation stages leads to the highest losses. These aspects need to be given due importance."

Is Captive-Breeding an Option?

Meanwhile, there have been many attempts at captive breeding of this fish, mostly in Singapore, Indonesia, Malaysia and, to some extent, in Chennai in India. According to Mathew, "While we hear a lot about success stories of captive-bred *P. denisonii*, we have not yet seen these in the markets."



P. denisonii larva one hour after hatching.



At three days, the fry are already free-swimming and actively feeding.



A batch of healthy 42-day-old captive-bred *P. denisonii*. Note the vertical bands on the body. These will disappear as the fish mature and develop adult coloration.

Conservationists believe that captive breeding cannot be the answer to protecting the species. It could still lead to overfishing, as competition from commercially captive-bred fish would increase. Also this would need strict monitoring, which, again, would not be easy, at least, in India. Quoting renowned aquarium consultant, Svein Fossa, Dr Raghavan says, " Svein, in a communication to me, has voiced his concerns that much of the trade volume in the commercially most interesting species of the Western Ghats can already be lost to the Indian industry as breeders in other countries start commercial breeding of these species - and likely focus on colour-enhancement in new strains.

"It is clear that this already is happening large scale in Indonesia with *Puntius denisonii*. Such *ex situ* breeding efforts are, furthermore, likely to be supported by the average consumers in the markets, as they see them as beneficial to conservation efforts, not thinking of the economical incentives for conservation (nor the socio-economic benefits) that are lost for the country of origin. Internet user forums and hobbyists magazines are already advising hobbyists to demand Indonesian captive-bred, rather than Indian, presumed wild-caught, fish."

Editorial Note: Although exact figures are not available, it is estimated that up to 10,000 or so captive-bred

P. denisonii are being produced monthly in Indonesia, with this figure expected to increase during the current year.

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ASK US

Nano, Nano!



What's all this Nano business about?

To the more elderly-fishkeepers, some modern words are either totally inexplicable or may evoke dim memories from their past. A slight mis-reading of the above phrase could make it 'Nanu, Nanu!' which, as most oldies recall, was the greeting uttered by actor Robin Williams in his role as an alien in the tv series 'Mork and Mindy.'

In technical language, nano is the word for an incredibly small amount of anything, being a thousandth of millionth of any unit that has 'nano' stuck on the front of its name, ie, a nanometre is a millionth of a millimetre!

These days, 'nano' has come to be applied to anything to suggest super-miniaturisation – ipods, phones, cars, nano-technology in medicinal surgery and, in our context, aquariums.



Such miniature aquariums (freshwater or marines) have to be handled with care from many aspects. Everything has to be considered 'in scale' from furnishing to fish sizes.

A favourite livestock at the moment are tiny bright-red Shrimps.



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New comers to aquarium keeping usually learn early on that fish should be introduced slowly over a period of weeks rather than days to allow the filter in a newly set up aquarium to mature and be able to cope with the waste the fish will be producing.

This maturing procedure begins when natural bacteria, beneficial to fish, start to coat all of the interior surfaces inside the tank including the filter media, substrate and tank walls. This process known as the Nitrogen Cycle engages various types of beneficial bacteria beginning with a group called heterotrophic bacteria which break down crude organic waste into an inorganic form (ammonium/ammonia). The ammonium/ammonia is then broken down by lithotrophic bacteria (often called nitrosomonas) into nitrite, which is in turn broken down by other lithotrophic bacteria (often called nitrobacter) into nitrate. The waste is transformed from ammonia which is fatal to fish at even trace levels to slightly less toxic nitrite and finally nitrate which whilst dangerous in high concentrations, can be tolerated by even the most sensitive fish groups up to levels of 25 parts per million or more.

A typical period to naturally cycle an aquarium through this process, unaided, would be around 40 days or more with ammonia peaking at around 10 days and nitrite at 30 days. Nitrate would start to appear from around 40 days and increase at a sufficiently slow rate to allow levels to be contained by using regular partial water changes.

A great deal of scientific research has been conducted in an effort to speed up this whole process. The state of the art aquatic research facility at the forefront is the Hagen Aqualab in Canada, which has been highly successful in developing biological water conditioners like Nutrafin Waste Control which contains the highest concentration of viable heterotrophic bacteria currently available using six beneficial bacteria strains.



Waste Control breaks down major aquarium pollutants ranging from organic waste in new aquarium set-ups to pollution caused by overfeeding, normal fish waste and other decaying substances. Particularly useful in heavy-duty applications with heavy feeders such as cichlids and goldfish, Waste Control has many other applications including removing the protein film from the aquarium water surface and preventing green water conditions.



Nutrafin Cycle, another Hagen Aqualab development, is a biological water conditioner that combines heterotrophic and lithotrophic bacteria in the correct ratio to reduce ammonia and nitrite to nitrate. Cycle features very high concentrations of bacteria and contains over 500 billion live bacteria per dose. This means that it is not only very effective at cycling a new aquarium set up, quickly reducing lethal ammonia and nitrite and allowing filter media to become biologically active, but also is excellent at quickly reinstating filters where bacteria have been killed after use of medications.

Cycle's high concentration of beneficial bacteria, if inoculated weekly, also promotes those bacteria as the dominant strains, which will simply out compete other bacteria including pathogens.

The most current development regarding Cycle is its recently released new formulation. This greatly improved formula allows Cycle to rapidly establish a safe biological aquarium environment for fresh or saltwater use, with powerful responsive ammonia and nitrite elimination. Perhaps the most radical improvement is the ability the new formulation allows to immediately introduce fish into a newly set up aquarium. New aquariums are very vulnerable to a condition known as 'New Tank Syndrome' where levels of ammonia suddenly peak and the developing populations of bacteria are not established enough to control it. These unstable conditions can be very harmful to fish but new Cycle prevents this occurring, helping to make new aquariums safe and preventing fish losses.



Both Nutrafin Waste Control and Cycle have recommended dose levels for new aquarium set-ups and ongoing weekly maintenance doses.

Remember though that these are live bacteria and should not be used where they would be introduced into unconditioned tap water.



Tap water should be dosed with Nutrafin AquaPlus before use to eliminate any chlorine and chloramines in the water supply, which otherwise would kill the bacteria. It's also wise to dose the aquarium with these two products in a specific order when applying weekly maintenance doses. Waste Control should be used first followed, after an interval, by Cycle. This allows the heterotrophic bacteria in Waste Control to accelerate the initial breakdown of organic waste and permits the lithotrophic bacteria in Cycle to more efficiently reduce ammonia and nitrite levels.

The recent improvements to Cycle are due to the development of new strains of nitrifying bacteria, which have evolved, to deal with fluctuating and harsh environments as would be found in marine and freshwater estuaries that are also exposed to semi-aquatic conditions. These new strains are more adaptive and can deal with a wider range of aquatic environments and conditions.

Consequently they are able to instantly metabolise ammonia and nitrite from point of introduction. New aquarium owners who have followed the basic recommended procedures for settling up an aquarium can feel confident that following the dosing instruction applied with new formulation Cycle ammonia and nitrite levels will be either non-existent or very negligible for a very brief period. The most likely result, however, for reasonably stocked brand new fresh water aquariums will be no test kit measurable ammonia or nitrite from the beginning.

For more information on the Nutrafin range of foods, treatments and test kits from Hagen visit www.hagen.com.

Star Fisheries Competition

The lucky winner of £250.00 worth of Fancy Goldfish, drawn from all the correct answers received, is:

Mr Eric Franklin, from the Isle of Wight

The prize to be collected from Star Fisheries by prior arrangement

The correct answer? Lingfield

Our thanks to all who entered and to Star Fisheries for their generosity

Festival of Fishkeeping & Water Gardening Weekend

October 9-11, 2009 at Mill Rythe Holiday Village, Hayling Island, Hampshire



This year's events:

- Festival Aquarist Society Masters' Open Show (on Sunday) - sponsored by Hagen
- The Tetra Southern Koi Festival jointly sponsored by Tetra and RO-MAN
- Goldfish Society of Great (sponsored by Star Fisheries)
- British Open Rina (on Saturday) - sponsored by Tetra
- The FBAS Supreme Championship Final (on Sunday) - sponsored by Tetra
- Carish display Saturday
- Minchu Koi - UK Fanchu Spectacular Goldfish sponsored by Star Fisheries
- UK Discus Show (jointly sponsored by Tetra and RO-MAN)
- Society-furnished aquaria (sponsored by Tetra)
- Hagen Eco Tetra reptiles
- Speakers from the aquatic and water gardening worlds.
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2009 TETRA SOCIETY FURNISHED AQUARIUM COMPETITION

This competition is very popular with visitors to the Festival and quite a number of people returned and wanted to judge again.



In 2009 the judging rules are exactly the same, visitors will be given a ticket and asked to choose "Which aquarium set-up would you like in your home?"

The set-up with the highest number of votes will be the daily winner, and the one with the highest total over the two days will be overall winner and will be presented with the Wally Ryder Perpetual Memorial Trophy, for one year.

This competition is open to any Society or Internet Group resident at the Festival of Fishkeeping weekend, 9th-11th October 2009.

A maximum of two entries per Society, one tropical and/or one coldwater is available. A Tetra AquaArt 60 Litre aquarium with hood, light, filter and heater will be provided. Gravel, plants, any ornaments and fish must be supplied by the competing Society.

SPECIAL NOTE

Artificial plants will be available, also a limited range of bunched plants can be purchased prior to the competition, but these will only be available for the furnished aquarium competition and will be on a first come, first served basis. Societies are free to supply their own plants as well.

Sadly there will not be an aquarium plant sales area at this year's Festival. I would like to thank Anglo Aquarium Plant Company for their support to the Festival in past years. Unfortunately they are no longer involved in growing aquarium plants. They still supply their excellent range of pond plants.

If you wish to enter the competition or require more information, I can be contacted by:

Email: peter154anderson@btinternet.com **by 'phone:** 01753 882873
via the 'CONTACT US' button on the FBAS website – www.fbas.co.uk
or by writing to me at:

4 Copthall Close, Chalfont St Peter, Buckinghamshire SL9 0DH

I hope to hear from you soon and I look forward to seeing everyone at the Festival. Many thanks,

Peter Anderson

The 'NOT TOO DIFFICULT' QUIZ

No prizes, this time, just use your imagination to guess what these two characters are doing during their visit to Singapore's Aquarama.



All (?) will be revealed later in this magazine!

EVER WONDERED WHAT THE FESTIVAL OF FISHKEEPING IS ALL ABOUT?

You've seen the photographic 'Highlights' of the 2008 Festival on the FBAS website, but to get a flavour of the real thing, why not get hold of this



DOUBLE PROGRAMME DVD

FBAS VIDEO No V.59

and see what actually went on - from build up to prizegivings – at the 2005 and 2006 Festivals?

If you're a member of an FBAS Society you can hire it for FREE, or you can buy your own copy for £6.00 to enjoy at home.

Societies can book a free hired copy from:

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FESTIVAL OF FISHKEEPING 2009

HOME BRED AND SURPLUS STOCK FISH SALES

Following the success of last year's home-bred and surplus stock fish sales Stand, we are staging it again this year.

As last year, only residents staying at the Festival will be eligible to sell their fish from these tanks, but one change from last year is that due to the cost of providing this new set-up we are having to levy a small hire charge of **£5 per tank** as this Stand is not sponsored.

Due to demand, we are limiting the maximum number of tanks to three per person. All tanks are 300mm x 200mm in size, they will be filled with treated fish safe water, heated, and mechanically filtered (air powered using zeolite and carbon media) and all tanks have cover glasses.

We shall be looking for some of the owners of the fish for sale to help man the Stand on a rota basis over the weekend. Clive Walker of the Mid-Sussex Society has kindly offered to organize this.

For entry forms and conditions of entry please contact :

**Paul Corbett, The Orchard, Rectory Lane,
Gatcombe, Isle of Wight PO30 3EF**

Tel. 01983 721246

CONDITIONS OF ENTRY

Festival organizers will not be responsible for the loss of any fish for whatever reason, owner of the fish to be responsible for their well being at all times.

Maximum of three tanks per owner unless space permits otherwise.

Tank hire is **£5 per tank** payable by cheque at time of entry, cheques payable to FBAS. No commission will be charged.

**Owners of fish for sale must be staying
as weekend Festival residents**

Tanks will be supplied with heating, mechanical filtration and filled with treated fish-safe water. Heated fish-safe replacement water available.

Owners must bring their own water for fish needing specific conditions.

**Only home-bred and surplus stock can be sold.
Fish only, no dry goods/plant etc to be sold.**

Tanks will be available to receive fish **from 0900 on Friday 9th October.**
All fish must be tanked **by 0900 Saturday 10th October.**

Tanks must be labelled with owner's name, species name, and price.

Owners must supply their own fish net, this net to be left on the cover glass at all times.

BOOKING FORM BELOW MUST BE RECEIVED BY NO LATER THAN TUESDAY 29TH SEPTEMBER 2009, earlier if possible please!!!

Name:.....
Address:.....
.....
.....Post Code
Tel no:.....

Number of tanks required.....
Cheque enclosed for £..... (£5 per tank) payable to FBAS

Species in this tank	Price
Tank 1.
Tank 2.....
Tank 3.....

Send this portion to:

**PAUL CORBETT, THE ORCHARD, RECTORY LANE
GATCOMBE, ISLE OF WIGHT PO30 3EF**

TO BE RECEIVED BY NO LATER THAN TUESDAY 29TH SEPTEMBER 2009



Fish, Fish and . . . more Fish!

Like it says on the tin, if you go to something called the Festival of Fishkeeping don't be too surprised if you see fish. This year's event, staged by the Federation of British Aquatic Societies at Mill Rythe Holiday Village on Hayling Island - 9th - 11th October 2009 – will not only justify the description but will have even more fish than before.

Setting aside the big competitive categories for the moment, all fishkeepers are exceedingly proud of fish that they have bred themselves and the Festival offers visitors the chance to see just what can be achieved in the home aquarium.

There will be a display of home-bred surplus fish, but you'll have to be quick to see it because these fish are for sale and are snapped up very quickly each day. However, a more leisurely approach can be achieved by viewing a new attraction, the Shanghai Class – where a single fish, a pair of fish and four youngsters all from the same species are exhibited.

The real, high-quality fish can be seen over the whole Festival weekend within each day's competitive Specialist Societies' Shows – Catfish, Discus, Goldfish, Killifish, Koi - plus the Federation's own Shows, the British Open Championship (Best in Show fishes from 2008), the Festival Hagen Masters Open Show and, the culmination of the fishkeeper's year the Supreme Championship where all the winners of the Federation's Championship Classes from 2008 battle it out for the highest single fish honour.

You want more fish? Then how about the Championship Pairs and Breeders Finals? All these fish will have won their respective Classes and again represent all that's best in Fishkeeping.



Don't forget either that there is also the Society Furnished Aquarium Competition too, held over both days. Each day, visitors are asked to nominate their favourite aquarium set-up, based on the question

"Which of these aquariums would you choose for your own home?"

The aquarium that gathers the highest number of votes totalled over both days will win the Trophy.

The Holiday Village will be awash with fishkeeping knowledge, and everywhere you turn will feature a different aspect of the hobby but with a common ingredient - advice - from the many display stands ranging from well-known manufacturers, distributors and Guest Speakers right down to Specialist Societies themselves. A certain centre of attraction will be Star Fisheries' display of stunning Fancy Goldfish. Just walking around talking to such people will get you more practical information than browsing for a whole evening on the Internet!

A new area for 2009 (how do the Festival Organisers keep on coming up with annual innovations?) is the Craft Marquee. This will certainly be a safe haven for the ladies away from all that 'fish talk' and a wide range of activities is promised.

Apart from the extra social facilities of the Holiday Village enjoyed by those lucky enough to be resident for the whole weekend, the real good news is that everyone is a winner at this popular event, as admission to day visitors (Saturday and Sunday) is absolutely **FREE!**

COME AND CATCH THE BEST FISH SHOW OF THE YEAR!

For more information about the Festival of Fishkeeping go to www.fbas.co.uk or www.festivaloffishkeeping.co.uk where you can download a Booking Form for residential stay or contact Grace Nethersell on 020 8847 3586.

KNOW YOUR FISH



Erythrinus erythrinus

Family: Erythrinidae

Scientific Name: *Erythrinus erythrinus*

Comon Name: Orange Belly Wolf Tetra, High Fin Wolf Tetra

Description: This is a puzzling fish on several fronts.

Whilst classified within the broader group Characiniiformes, it has no adipose fin. It can survive in water with low oxygen levels due to some anatomical modification of its swim bladder which serves as a respiratory appendage.

It lives in creeks and marshy zones of the Amazon and Orinoco River basins and coastal rivers of the Guianas where it can It stays on the bottom as well as at the surface among floating vegetation.

Depending on size, adults (can reach 25cm!) and juveniles feed on small fishes and insects or crustaceans respectively so this ambushing predator is obviously not a candidate for the community aquarium!

Its culture is reputedly difficult and its reproduction in captivity has not been reported to date. Apparently it is a good 'escape artist' and, as it can obviously survive out of water for some time, the tank should have a tightly-fitting lid – or at least a house-brick on it.



Kenneth J A Pye

1920-2009



To those who knew Ken Pye in his capacity as General Secretary of the FBAS, routinely accepted the fact that he was, by occupation, an Estate Agent and Surveyor who not only had an interest in fish, was willing to get involved with the Federation but, as he possessed a suitably large house in Steeles Road, Hampstead, made an obvious choice of 'host' for the Council's monthly meetings!

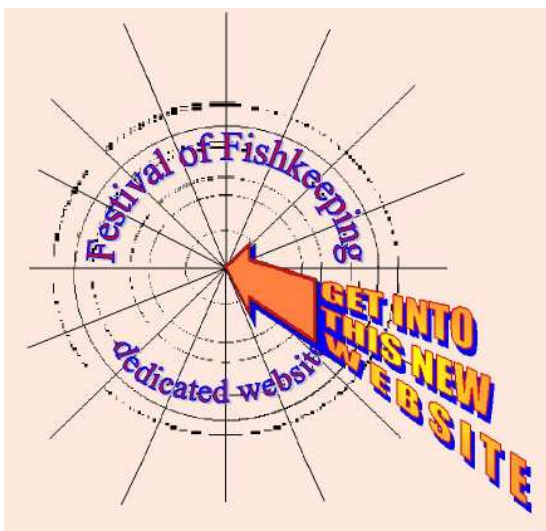
As might be surmised from the above photograph, Ken had an exciting wartime history. He was a member of No 422 Squadron of the Royal Canadian Air Force, flying Catalina and Sunderland flying boats mainly to and from the far northern territories of Russia. According to the Squadron's website, Ken put in 928 hours on Sunderlands alone. In peacetime, Ken kept up his association with the Squadron and attended most of their reunions; he is seen above with Winnie at one such occasion.

Ken was a member of Hampstead A.S. and was a meticulous General Secretary to the Federation from 1962 to 1972.

In his later years, Ken moved to Vancouver in British Columbia thus reuniting his acquaintance with his Canadian wartime colleagues. Ken regularly kept in touch with us, he received the Bulletin from us and was always dropping fishy articles in the post to us for publication.

All of the Council members who knew Ken are agreed on one thing, his family was more than a little accident-prone. Several times, members of his family would answer the door with bandages and/or plastered limbs much in evidence. On one famous occasion, Bob Esson remembers seeing lightning strike somewhere in North London and surmised that it probably had hit Ken's house such was his luck. We arrived at the Council meeting to see melted scaffolding work fixed to Ken's house where the lightning had indeed struck!

We send our condolences to Ken's family and remember with gratitude his friendship and work for the Federation. If only we'd known about his history, Council meetings would have been that much more interesting.



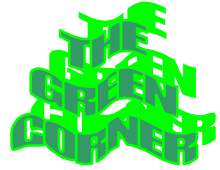
FESTIVAL OF FISHKEEPING GETS OWN WEBSITE

It wasn't until someone 'Googled' 'Festival of Fishkeeping' and found an absolute mass of information, that we realised that it might be a good idea for 'The Festival' to have its own dedicated website. where can be stored and accessed.

Peter Furze bravely offered to take on the task and will be looking after the new website's contents – either generated by the Festival organisational team or from views and news gathered from elsewhere.

To keep up to date with anything and everything to do with the event simply go to www.festivaloffishkeeping.co.uk There are direct reciprocal links to and from the main FBAS website too.

The area for aquatic plant-lovers



HOW DO THEY DO THAT?

When it comes to aquascaping, it seems there is no end to the inventiveness of the 'furnisher.'

You want a different effect? OK, just get stitching! From the photos it looks as if *Riccia* has been 'sewn' into a mesh netting in order to create the surround-plant effect. On the other hand, a piece of net could simply be dropped over the surface-growing plants which would then grow back up through the net, and thus avoid all that 'sewing!'



One wonders what a normally surface-floating species thinks about being given the submerged feeling. This method of green-carpet construction could be applied to any manner of small plants.

You have to admit, that this tank (seen at Singapore's Aquarama this year) certainly presents something different.

RIVER · REEF

AQUARIUM



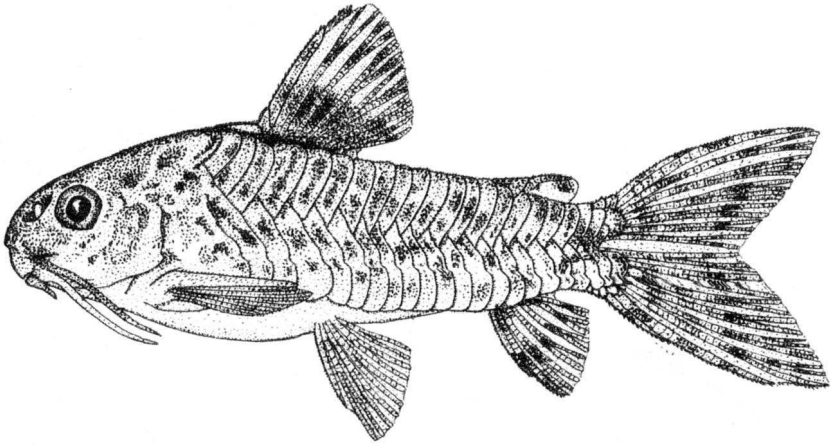
- Beautiful design with curved glass
- Looks elegant in the home and gives panoramic views of the underwater world
- Available in 2 sizes in black and silver: 40cm/48 litres and 50cm/94 litres
- High output T5 PC Daylight Plus lighting: 40cm/48W and 50cm/72W
- LED lighting gives a beautiful night mood
- Independent light switches
- Come with built-in cooling fans
- Comprehensive 3 stage filtration system
- Cabinets are also available in black and silver
- Plant and marine kits are available separately



WHITE PAPER

by

S. H. Weitzman and H. Nijssen



Aspidoras pauciradiatus

First described as *Corydoras* and at that time, one of four species and one subspecies described from a series of miscellaneous publications from the Zoological Museum of the University of Amsterdam in 1970.

Both Weitzman and Nijssen know the classification of *Corydoras/Aspidoras* can be exceedingly difficult. Most of all the 100 or so species are based primarily on colour pattern and proportional differences in body measurements. Meristic characters usually being the same or nearly the same.

If both genera *Corydoras* and *Aspidoras* are ever to be fully understood, extensive analysis of population samples from adjacent stream drainages need to be recorded: today with ecological conditions changing may well isolate populations in the same tributaries and river systems.

To identify *Aspidoras* from *Corydoras*, size and head shape are in general terms the key. In fact *Aspidoras* differs from *Corydoras* in having a short supraoccipital process, so that two pairs of dorso-lateral body scutes meet each other across the dorsal midline anterior to the predorsal scute.

Aspidoras pauciradiatus being collected in the Rio Araguaia, Brazil. An article on collecting these fish was published by Herbert R. Axelrod who collected *Aspidoras pauciradiatus* back in 1961 near Aruana, Rio Araguaia, Brazil. This species has a ground colour of pale tan. No mask present but melanophores dense between eyes and supraoccipital bone, producing a dark brown colour on posterior dorsum of the head that is covered with 7 to 8 moderate sized brown spots. Axelrod 1962, colour photograph of the paratype shows these the brown spots to be black and much more distinctly defined than in the preserved specimens. Also the ground colour of the body and head appears to be a pale yellow with a white belly from between the coracoids all the way back to the anterior origin of the anal fin.

Being small in size 30mm, can be mistaken for *Corydoras cochui* Myers and Weitzman 1954 and *Corydoras raimundi* Steindachner 1907. However, neither of these species has a strongly serrated pectoral spine nor six dorsal fin rays as does *Aspidoras pauciradiatus*. Life colour pattern in *C. cochui* has predominantly brown markings and *A. pauciradiatus* has predominantly black markings, so being different in both pattern and colour.

Ref: Beaufortia, Zoological Museum of the University of Amsterdam No.233 Volume 18. Division of Fishes, U.S. National Museum, Washington D.C. Axelrod 1961 Collecting aquarium fishes -TFH. New Jersey US. David Sands, Catfish of the World, Callichthyidae 1983.

Note: The above White Paper is shortened and edited by Malcolm L. Goss from work by Weitzman and Nijssen of The University of Amsterdam. The full and original work can found at Natural History Museum, Cromwell Road, London.



The Royal Botanical Gardens, Kew - Celebrating 250 Years

There has never been a more appropriate time to visit Kew Gardens



As you go through the main gate, impressively catching your eye are huge sculptures of seeds woven in willow by artist Tom Hare.

The dramatic "Seed Walk" was designed to illustrate the amazing diversity of seed form. These sculptures certainly have the "Wow" factor reaching up to four meters in height and five meters wide being set against tropical display beds planted specially for Kew's 250th anniversary.



For those of us that are not only interested in tropical fish, but aquatic plants also, a visit to the Water-lily House is a must but, I must warn you, this is the most hottest (and most humid) of Kew's glasshouses. It's also one of the smallest, but holds great surprises for those who are just amazed by the sheer beauty of Water Lilies.



Inside you will find a host of tropical ornamental aquatic plants, including the Nymphaea and the giant *Victoria cruziana*.

Outside again, after being so hot and humid, you may well find the need for some liquid refreshment and there are plenty of quiet spots with seats around the lake, if you have taken your own lunch, or visit the many cafes and restaurants on site.

This may now well be a good idea, after you have charged your batteries to take on the 18 metre high Treetop Walkway, a 200 metre long walkway that takes you high above the trees. It offers aerial views of Kew and the London skyline through a canopy of Sweet Chestnuts, Limes and deciduous Oaks, with birds and other wildlife close up. You may wish to keep your feet nearer to the ground by taking the Kew Explorer, a land train, a comfortable all-weather vehicle that takes you round the gardens, with live commentary on all aspects of the gardens.



A 'must see' is the Palm House, Kew's most famous building, that contains some of the most important plants in Kew's collection. Built between 1844 and 1848, it covers an area of 2,174 sq. metres. As you walk in and out of these giant plants it's like a walk in the rainforest. The oldest plant in the world is here, *Encephalartos altensteinii*, collected in South Africa in 1775, it has

lived through Kew's entire history.

It was some years ago now that I first entered the basement of the Palm House, then there was a mixture of both Marine and freshwater exhibits, today there are just marine aquaria.



For me, the most inspiring building at Kew is the Princess of Wales Conservatory, opened by Diana, Princess of Wales on the 28th July 1987. My good friend Ron Forder, of Uxbridge Aquatic Society, was the only hobbyist to be invited by Kew on this prestigious day.

Ron had been following the construction on the Conservatory from start to finish, and also donated Water Lilies from his own collection and, of course for those who knew Ron, plenty of advice on how to look after them!



This glasshouse differs from all the others at Kew with its clean sharp symmetrical lines of the modern era. Divided into 10 climatic zones, the conditions are continuously monitored by computer, that automatically adjusts the heating, misting, ventilation and lighting systems.

You will be amazed by the diversity of plants and flowers in this massive glasshouse which includes Cacti, Orchids, Ferns, Water Lilies and carnivorous plants.

The Giant Amazonian Water Lily (*Victoria amazonica*) with leaves up to two metres in diameter is still a star attraction, today a hybrid grown from seed each year.



The aquatic area has freshwater stingrays and many other tropical fish including, Pufferfish, what seemed to be millions of Guppies plus some nice Silver Sharks. There are adjacent aquaria with Water Dragons, Poison Arrow Frogs and Rainbow Crabs.

To visit Kew Gardens is a real pleasure with plenty to take in and interest every one from all ages and interests, what ever the time of year, and even more so during their 250th anniversary celebrations.

Malcolm Goss

Kew information line: 020 8332 5655

Website: www.kew.org

If you are fortunate enough to get to Singapore at the appropriate time (every two years, around the end of May) you can enjoy, along with several thousand other fish-minded people, Asia's biggest aquarium-related Show. Primarily, it is a trade exhibition but the public are admitted on Saturday afternoon and all day Sunday. Whilst the accent is strictly aquatic business, there is a large 'Fish Show' too.

With entries in the Siamese Fighter, Guppy and Goldfish Classes each having more entries than the average Society Open Show, you can imagine there's a lot to see!



The entries in each Class are different too. Take the Guppies, for instance. There were nine 'Double' Classes and an entry in each Class could be a trio of fish or a group (six fish).

Once each Class has been judged, each Judge's scores are entered into the master computer for the Class result to be evaluated, after which the Grand Champion in each Class or Category is democratically argued over by each group of Judges – and not all the Judges share a common language, such is the international diversity of Judges chosen!

One Class, apart from the Dragon Fish and marine exhibits, that attracted attention was the 'New Species' area.



Here the amazingly small *Danionella dracula* fascinated most visitors with its diminutive size (maximum 1 cm) but frustrated all those photographers who were hoping to catch a decent picture of it.



Fortunately, the smart-looking Sumo Loach, *Schistura balteata*, posed willingly, as did the Blue Ramirez and *Garra flavatra*.



Fishes in the *Corydoras* Class were accommodated in tanks having a raised, sloping perforated perspex sheet above the base, which allowed the fish to be presented higher up for easy viewing.

The Furnished Aquarium display this year was a great improvement on the previous event, as a lot more thought had gone into the design and layout of the furnishings.



The Marine tanks again were stunning and how Julian Sprung & Co arrived at their final decision could only be guessed at!



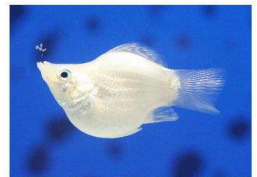
The Cichlid Class included not only a fantastically-coloured 'Severum' but also several equally-colourful, obviously cross-bred Flower Horns.



Of course, the Discus had a separate Class and the Grand Champion was a very pleasant Lemon Yellow.



Livebearers were there too in all their 'interbred' colours and shapes. Some of the Swordtails and Platies were extremely pleasant but opinion was very divided about the bubble-blowing Balloon Mollies!





Plecos also had a section to themselves . but if 'big is better,' then you needed to look no further



than the Goldfish section, where the Grand Champion was a very large female Ryukin (but purists noticed it lacked the double caudal!).



Plenty of impressive looking fish on display.

The biggest Class was the *Betta* Class with again well over 500 entries.



Turning to the Exhibition proper, each Stand was vying for attention –



usually featuring well-furnished aquariums, a Dragon Fish or some high-tech looking equipment to attract attention.



One stand that caught everybody's eye featured a tank containing marine fish, Goldfish and tropical fish all in together thanks to some clever additive.

Another featured a live food, the 'mini-larvae' of the insect *Hermetia illucens* that, as it grows, became ideal food size for a whole size range of fishes. Not only that, it also contributes by maintaining an environmentally-correct service as a remover/consumer of agro-industrial wastes, in this instance, by converting palm kernel meal into live food for fish.

The same Company also has research programmes into encouraging breeding, by hormonal treatment, of the Clown Loach, *Chromobotia macracanthus*.

With far more to see than can possibly be described here, our only advice is – go and see for yourselves!

Next Aquarama: 26-29th May 2011, Suntec City Conference Centre, Singapore. See www.aquarama.com.sg

CREDIT CRUNCH ESCAPE ROUTE - HOW TO MAKE A MILLION ?

1. Get 4 pairs of adult Koi plus two extra males as some male Koi are gay.
2. One unused swimming pool or a very large pond.
3. A pair of Koi can spawn with over 250,000 eggs at any one time.
4. When all the fish have spawned, sell all the adult fish and feed the young fish over the summer months.
5. Next spring they will have reached a size to sell at £1.00 each - now you've made a million!

Were you right?

Well, we did say it wasn't too difficult . .



Dick was judging the Guppies and Bob was videoing Fancy Goldfish.

Now be honest, was else did you think he was doing?





UNDERSTANDING BIOFILTRATION: MATURING A NEW FILTER

**Dave Hulse,
Tetra Information Centre**

When starting out in any new hobby the first step is to overcome the jargon, get used to the technical principles central to that pastime. Fishkeeping is no different and has probably more than its fair share of long words, complicated scientific concepts and baffling technology.

Ask any new fishkeeper which area of their new-found diversion they are struggling with and I'm sure most would pertain to biofiltration. In fact they probably would not 'say' biofiltration, they would talk about 'fish wee and friendly bacteria.'

The filtration system is the life support system for the fish in an aquarium or pond. Understanding how the filter works is vital to maintaining healthy fish. We will be concentrating on the most confusing aspect of the filtration system – the biological stage.

Filter Basics

All living organisms produce waste material and unfortunately fish are no exception. They release carbon dioxide as a waste product of respiration, and produce faeces as a waste product of their digestive system. Urine is produced as a waste product of the kidneys. The urine contains a small proportion of ammonia; a waste product of protein digestion, however the fish's gills are used to release the majority of waste ammonia.

This ammonia is extremely toxic to the fish and must be expelled from the body as soon as possible. So it is released into the water mainly from the gills but also from the urine. So fish excrete their waste matter into the water.

As time progresses the level of waste matter in the water will rise and rise. In the case of ammonia the concentration will rise to such a level that it becomes very toxic to the fish and can soon kill them. How much ammonia is toxic to fish?

Different species have different tolerances; toxicity data for Carp refers to around 2.2 mg of ammonia per litre of water. A similar expression could be 2.2 parts of ammonia per million parts of water! (96-hour LC 50 *C. carpio*).

Ammonia toxicity problems can occur at low concentrations for long periods of time (chronic exposure). Rainbow Trout showed gill damage when exposed to an ammonia concentration of 0.021 mg/L for 6 months. (It should be stressed that different environmental variables affect the chemical behaviour of ammonia in the water, altering its toxicity. Also ammonia poisoning is usually associated with other water-borne problems such as a low dissolved oxygen level or nitrite poisoning).

Thus toxic waste ammonia will accumulate in the water. The amount of fish kept and the amount of food fed (remember ammonia is a waste product of protein digestion), will all affect the speed at which ammonia will reach toxic levels in the water.

So it is vital to have a mechanism in place to deal with the constant ammonia release from the fish. This mechanism makes up a vital stage of the filtration process called biological filtration.

Biological filtration

Filtration systems for aquaria are becoming more and more elaborate, but we can split the process into 3 main stages. The first stage is **mechanical filtration**. This stage aims to remove all the suspended solid material in the water that makes the water appear cloudy and murky. This suspended material is made up mainly of fish faeces and debris stirred up from the bottom of the tank. The mechanical stage of the filter removes this material from the body of water thus keeping the water clear. Another vital function of the mechanical filter is to remove this matter to prevent subsequent stages of the filter becoming clogged up.

So water with a greatly reduced suspended solid load passes to the next stage of the filtration system, the all-important **biological filter** and finally to the last stage the **chemical filter**, an optional stage which involves using special media that can selectively remove a specific chemical from the water, for example a phosphate removing mineral.

Biological filtration is so-named because it relies on the activities of living bacteria. These bacteria break down the toxic waste ammonia into a relatively harmless but still troublesome nitrate. The bacteria can be split into two groups based on the chemical reaction they perform for us.

The first group of bacteria gain energy by converting the toxic waste ammonia, (Chemical symbol = NH_4^+ – one nitrogen atom with 4 hydrogen atoms attached), into nitrite, (Chemical symbol = NO_2^- - one nitrogen atom with an oxygen molecule attached). There are a select handful of aquatic bacteria that can perform this reaction but those most commonly found in our biofilters belong to the bacterial genus *Nitrosomonas*.

It is very important that nitrite is not allowed to accumulate in the water, as it is also very toxic to the fish, although not to the extent of ammonia.

The second group of bacteria obtain energy by converting nitrite (NO_2^-) into nitrate (NO_3^-). These bacteria belong mainly to the bacterial genus *Nitrospira*. Nitrate is not toxic to fish until it reaches extremely high levels although some specialists believe it may hinder the immune system and generally reduce vigour at levels above 150 ppm in some species. Nitrate can encourage the growth of troublesome algae.

By looking at the chemical symbols for ammonia, nitrite and nitrate we can see the bacteria add oxygen atoms to the nitrogen atom thereby converting into a form that is progressively less toxic. This oxygen comes from the water so we must ensure that the biofilter water is always well oxygenated. What other factors do the biofilter bacteria require to work?

- Obviously they need a food source – so a steady supply of ammonia (and hence nitrite) is essential. However our biofilter bacteria are still sensitive to high levels of these chemicals, their activity is inhibited if their food source becomes too concentrated.
- Darkness: filter bacteria activity is reduced by sunlight, thus biofilters should always be covered over and made of a dark material.
- A surface on which to grow. The contents of a biofilter should provide a massive surface area on which the bacteria can grow, the greater the surface area the more bacteria. However, if the surface area gets too high, then the filter media simply clogs and bacteria cannot grow. There are many types of so called 'biomedia' available – most filters come with biomedia already.

Maturing the biofilter

When we buy a new filter for an aquarium the biomedia has none of the biofilter bacteria, and we need to populate that media with bacteria as soon as possible – this process is called 'maturation'.

Firstly we need to 'inoculate' the biofilter or add some bacteria to start the population.

We could simply leave the biofilter running and rely on natural colonisation, these bacteria are found in the natural water bodies after all, and would slowly start to colonise the new tank naturally.



However this process would take too long, so we can speed the population growth up by either adding some filter media from an established (i.e. 'matured') tank or using one a commercial filter bacteria starter such as Tetra SafeStart.

Once we have established a few pioneer bacteria to start our biofilter population, we must ensure we have everything in place for these bacteria to grow.

There should be a food source – i.e. a few small fish producing a tiny quantity of ammonia on which the pioneer bacteria can get to work. Too many fish or too much food will result in an excess of ammonia produced and subsequent inhibition of the bacterial activity and growth.



During the maturation period it is vital to test the water for ammonia and nitrite using suitable test kits. If all goes well the ammonia level should have tailed off after 10 – 14 days, as it is converted to nitrite.

When you start recording nitrite in the water this is a sign that the *Nitrosomonas* bacteria are beginning to multiply. After 30 days or more the nitrite concentration should have dropped off to near zero as a healthy population of *Nitrospira* are now established.



Throughout the maturation process a steady rise in nitrate levels will be recorded. This will accumulate over time if algae or higher plants in the tank do not use it up. Nitrate levels can be reduced by performing a water change or by dosing with a commercial nitrate reducing solution such as Tetra NitrateMinus. This works by promoting bacterial denitrification in the gravel layer of the aquarium.



Visit Tetra at www.tetra-fish.com

DUPLICATE CHAMPIONSHIP CLASS TROPHY AWARD CLARIFICATION



Background: Over many years, in order that Societies got a fair share of 'popular' Championship Class Trophies at Open Shows, some Trophies have been duplicated but with a wide geographic separation.

This practice worked fine, especially where there were more Shows than Trophy Classes.

The recent problem occurred for two reasons - the number of Open Shows are diminishing, lessening the need for duplicates plus, conversely, the willingness of exhibitors to travel to all the Shows.

This year, 2009, saw two Championship Class Trophies duplicated. Class G (at Washington and Strood, and Class B (at Corby and STAMPS).

Rule 14 of the Federation Trophy Rules (Constitution, Section 9) says:

Where a Trophy is duplicated in any Show year, no Exhibitor or Relative may win both Trophies.

The outcome:

The Championship Class Trophy Allocation is published early each year on the FBAS website and Show Secretaries should therefore be aware of any Trophy duplication.

Where 'Duplicated Trophy' Shows follow each other closely, the Trophy & Brooch Officer may not have had the results from the first Show in time to warn the second event of any possible problem. However, Show results are posted on the website – see Champ Tables - as soon as possible after each Show for the benefit of exhibitors.

In accordance with the Trophy Rules, the Trophy & Brooch Officer has asked that any Duplicate Championship Class Trophies awarded in contravention of the Federation Trophy Rules be returned.

Eligibility for entry into the Supreme Championship Final at Hayling Island for the two Classes affected will be re-allocated as necessary.

Fish & Tips

Haynes

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Jeremy Gay

ILLUSTRATION BY STEVE WILKINSON, PHOTOGRAPHY BY DAVID BAKER



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See Haynes See How





Hounslow & District Aquarists Society, have an extra 'Special Class' attraction at their Open Show this year. It's loosely-inspired on the Darts game of 'Shanghai!' where you get three darts in all three beds (Single, Double and Triple score) of a single figure on the dartboard.

An entry in this Class will consist of

a Single fish, a Pair and a Team of four young

all from a **single species** of fish, ie, any Barb, Characin, Danio, Rasbora, Guppy, Platy etc. Hounslow are actually trying it out as two Special Classes – one for Guppies and one for Livebearers.

Fishes can be benched in three separate tanks or, a tank divided into three. Where so desired, in order to keep livebearer sexes segregated, up to 5 separate tanks (or a single tank divided into 5 compartments) may be used.

Tank sizes must conform to the FBAS minimum sizes or above

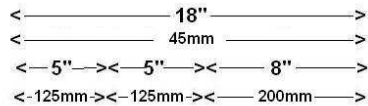
minimum smallest tank size = 100mm x 100mm x 100mm.

These guidelines must also be followed when a divided tank is used.

A suggested 'divided tank' arrangement would be:

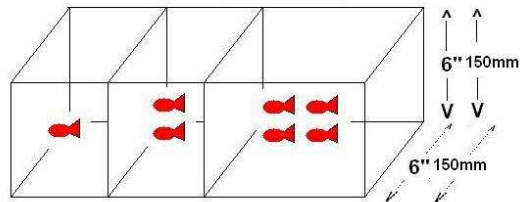
18" x 6" x 6" divided into:

(5" x 6" x 6"), (5" x 6" x 6") and (8" x 6" x 6")



These Special Classes have been sponsored by Spa Glass

Brian Chittenden has generously donated two 'Shanghai Tanks' to be awarded – one to the winner of each Class.



NOTE: ALL DIVISIONS MUST BE CLEAR

Download a Hounslow Schedule from the FBAS website



BRITISH KILLIFISH ASSOCIATION CONVENTION 2009



Markyate, Hertfordshire, England
11th-13th September



Some of the superb killifish exhibited at the 2008 convention



For full information, go to:

<http://www.bka.org.uk/announcing2009conv.php>



Dish it Up Again!

You are cordially invited to join
Officers and Council Members of the
FBAS for a Festive Dinner

Such was the popularity of the Federation's 70th Anniversary Dinner last year, that it has been decided to do it again this year – no celebratory reason, just because we want to.

As before, the venue will be Hudson's Bar at Mill Rythe Holiday Village, Hayling Island and the date, Saturday 12th December 2009.

Very special terms are available:

Dinner only: £15.00 per person.

Dinner, accommodation and breakfast: £25.00 per person.

Additional extra nights' accommodation, ie, Friday or and/or Sunday, including the following morning's breakfast can be reserved (subject to availability) at a cost of £25.00 per person per night.

TO BOOK

Please send Grace Nethersell the number of persons attending the Dinner (and requiring overnight accommodation) together with cheque (made payable to 'FBAS') for the appropriate amount to:

FBAS DINNER, 8 Acacia Avenue, Brentford, Middlesex TW8 8NR

NOTE: Reservations are offered on a 'First come, first served basis.'
In order to guarantee your place please make your bookings as soon as possible. You may also contact Grace directly by telephone 020 8847 3586 or email: grace@the-nethersells.fs.net.co.uk



HENDON A.S.



Hendon A.S. closed many years ago, like so many Societies, due to lack of support. In its heyday, Hendon was at the forefront of our hobby - everyone in the hobby looked forward to Hendon's events, they just had style.

Their yearly Dinner and Dance was an occasion in itself, a chance to buy a new outfit for the ladies and the gents to put on an evening suit. Hendon's Congresses were the place to be, with top line speakers often from America or Europe. I can still see Henry White, the Club's Chairman introducing notable aquarist and distinguished guest one by one. The Club too had a line up of speakers within its membership - Henry White, Keith Purbrick, Bernie Mould, David Allison, Derek Lambourne, Malcolm Goss, Tom Glass and Peter Moye – so many, I cannot remember them all.

Bernie Mould with his wife Celia still carry on holding their own 'Club Night' along with David Allison and Henry White; how lucky Gloria and I was to be invited to Bernie's and Celia's house just a couple of weeks ago.



It was so good to know and see Bernie still keeps fish in his part-garage, part-workshop. We talked and talked, mainly about past aquarists, truly good aquarists that we may never see the like of in our hobby again.

I did just manage to keep the wine drinking down to two glasses but I could have stayed so much longer!

I hope by the end of the evening I had persuaded them to come to the Federation's Festival at Hayling Island (See Dairy Dates) and meet not only old friends, but new ones too.



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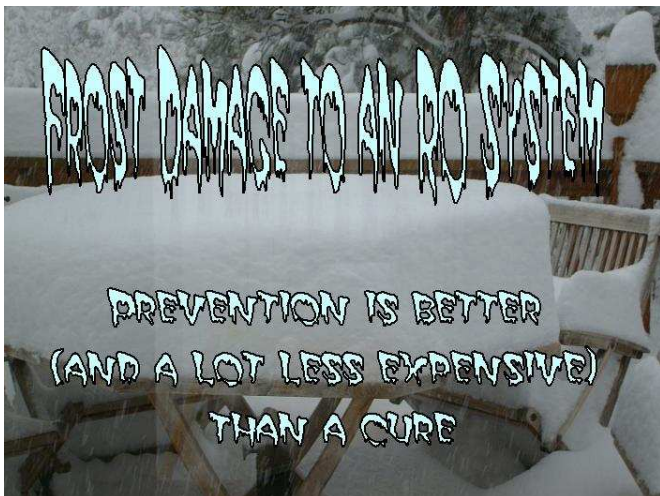


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RO-MAN SAYS:

Every year we sell 100s of replacement housings (and almost always filters and membranes) to people who have systems that have been damaged by the frost.

Water expands when it freezes (as I am sure you know!!). The effect that this has on an RO system is, in general, to write it off.

The best case scenario is that you will end up with a broken filter housing or two. More often than not, if the system has frozen the housings will crack, the prefilters damaged and the membrane will be completely shot. At this point you may as well purchase a complete new system. The good news is that it is fairly simple to prevent it happening to you.

Firstly, what counts as outside? Anywhere that is not in your centrally heated house!! The garage, the shed, under the tap in the garden, the conservatory are all places that count as outside – another place is the loft. In the very cold weather this year we had at least 2 customers who thought they were safe with a system in the loft and found out they were wrong!

The simplest way to prevent frost damage is to bring the system indoors when you are not using it (or only use it indoors during the winter).

Otherwise a fairly good way to prevent damage is to build a simple box from wood and line it with foil-backed polystyrene insulation. In extremely cold weather like we had last winter we would recommend that you consider bringing it indoors as even a well-made insulated box may not be enough. So – grab those tools and get to work making a bedroom for your RO system!

Please visit www.ro-man.com

SOME MORE SEASONAL FISHKEEPING TIPS

for the next few weeks

Community Aquarium

1. Scrape Glass - *removing algae.*
2. Trim plants that have grown across the surface - *cutting type plants.*
3. Lightly turn over gravel with planting stick.
4. Siphon debris from the top of gravel - *till water has dropped by 1/5th.*
5. Clean filter *washing out medium lightly using some aquarium water.*
6. Top up water – *adding de-chlorinator.*

Fish House

1. Siphon water from tanks - *reducing water by 1/5th and re-top up.*
2. Clean filters and partly change media.
3. Clean, or replace, pre-filter sponge or felt in air pump.
4. Re-house newly-bred fish - *check on their development and growth.*
5. Check fitting of doors and windows - *for efficient heat conservation.*

Pond

1. Switch off pump and clean filter – *store pump for winter, or re-start.*
2. Cut back overgrown marginal plants - *those that have already flowered.*
3. Remove dead and overgrown Water-lily leaves – *dead-head Water-lilies.*
4. Remove any newly-bred fish to aquarium - *they may get eaten! - and return next Spring.*
5. Thin out overgrown submerged aquatic plants - *not too much as they keep algae away at this time of the year.*
6. If possible flush through pond with fresh tapwater, use hose for 15 minutes - *fish will be much livelier.*

SHOW & EVENTS DIARY

(full details can be found on FBAS website www.fbas.co.uk)

FBAS GENERAL ASSEMBLY (tel:01424 431016) TW8 8NT	5th September
TTAA THREE RIVERS SHOW SR6 9QU	6 th September
BJA CONVENTION	11-13th September
SHEAF VALLEY A.S. AUCTION 8pm Pre-booked Lots only	13th September
CORBY & D.A.S. 2nd AQUATIC CONVENTION	13th September
HOUNSLOW & D.A.S OPEN SHOW	19th September
NTHN GOLDFISH & P.S OPEN SHOW & AUCTION	19th September
CATFISH STUDY GROUP OPEN SHOW & AUCTION	20th September
GSGB OPEN SHOW & AUCTION	26 th September
FAIR CITY A.S. OPEN SHOW & AUCTION	27th September
KAAS OPEN SHOW & AUCTION (tel: 01634 221291)	27th September
GR MANCHESTER CICHLID SOCIETY AUCTION	4th October
RYEDALE A.S. OPEN MINI-SHOW & AUCTION	4th October
FBAS FESTIVAL OF FISHKEEPING	9-11th October
SCOTTISH AQUARIST FESTIVAL (CHECK DATE)	11th October
SHEAF VALLEY A.S. AUCTION 8pm Pre-booked Lots only	12th October
ILFORD & D.A.P.S 75th ANNIVERSARY DINNER	17th October
HOUNSLOW & D.A.S CLOSED SHOW	18th October
CATFISH STUDY GROUP 'Plants for Catfish Aquarium'	18th October
KIRKALDY A.S. AUCTION	18th October
MERSEYSIDE A.S. AUTUMN AUCTION	18th October
STAMPS AUCTION	18th October
SOUTHEND LEIGH & D.A.S. AUCTION 8.30 p.m.	20th October
ILFORD & D.A & P.S. 75 th Anniversary Dinner	23 rd October
BASINGSTOKE A.S. OPEN SHOW	25th October
BRITISH AQUARISTS FESTIVAL	25th October
BJA West London AUCTION	1st November
N.W.CICHLID GROUP AUCTION	1st November
BRADFORD A.S. OPEN SHOW & AUCTION	8th November
CATFISH STUDY GROUP AUTUMN AUCTION	15th November
CASTLEFORD A.S. AUCTION 8pm (tel 01977 730754)	18th November
GSGB GENERAL MEETING	21 st November
SCCRS AUCTION	22nd November
FBAS GENERAL ASSEMBLY (tel:01424 431016)	5th December
FBAS FESTIVE DINNER, Hayling Island	12th December
CATFISH STUDY GROUP CHRISTMAS MEETING	13th December