

The Official Publication of the St.Catharines & Area Aquarium Society since 1958
Volume 22 No.10 June 2010

The

SCAT



In This Issue;
Fish Time
Bagging Positively
Upside Down Clowns
Keeping Anubias Part 2

scaas.info

Club Notes

Our Mission Statement: Meetings of the St. Catharines & Area Aquarium Society are held on the first Monday of each month, 7.30 p.m., at the Seafarers & Teamsters Union Hall, 70 St. Davids Rd. E. Thorold, ON. No meetings are held on Mondays that are holidays. Those meetings are held on the second Monday. There are no meetings during the months of July and August. *The Society, established in 1958, is a non-profit, educational organization dedicated to the task of promoting interest in the breeding, raising, maintenance and study of tropical fish, both at the beginner and advanced levels.* The St. Catharines & Area Aquarium Society is a charter member of the Canadian Association of Aquarium Clubs Inc.(CAOAC) <http://www.caoac.ca> .SCAAS is also a member of the Federation of American Aquarium Societies (FAAS) <http://www.faas.info/> .More news and information about St. Catharines & Area Aquarium Society can be found at <http://www.scaas.info>

Our next meeting will be held on June 07 at the Seafarers & Teamsters Union hall, 70 St. Davids Rd. E. Thorold. Start time is 7.30 pm ALL ARE WELCOME

This month's program will be a Question & Answer night!

We will have a panel of experienced aquarium hobbyists to answer questions. This is a chance for members to bring forward any questions, troubles etc they have. So for the next months think about things you would like to know and jot them down for our panel to answer. There is no such thing as a dumb question!!

Please note that our next meeting will be on September 13, as the first Monday of Sept. is Labour Day

2009 – 2010 Executive

President – Ken Brady - - - (905) 935-4716 kbrady2@cogeco.ca
1st Vice President – John Verhage – (905) 735-7776 jverhage@on.aibn.com
2nd Vice President – Bruce Hallett - (905) 934-7138
Secretary – Claudia Carthew - (905) 684-0394 crarthew@yahoo.com
Treasurer – Wally Ebert - (905) 687-6907 lebert@cogeco.ca
Past President & Editor DAVE Unruh (905) 684-9860 dunruh@cogeco.ca

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Aquatic Horticulture Awards DAVE Unruh (905)684-9860
Archives Tom & Pat Bridges - - (905) 735-3352 tp.bridges@sympatico.ca
Auction Coordinator – Tom Bridges
Auctioneer – open
Breeder Awards – Tom Bridges
CAOAC Representative – Tom Bridges
Jar Show – Pat Shriner – - - (905) 354-1367 gpshriner@sympatico.ca
Library – Gary Phelps - - - (905) 563-6523
Library - Jeff Phelps - - - (905) 892-0248 jphelps@vaxxine.com
Membership & Exchanges – Pat Bridges (905) 735-3352
Programs – Pam Danyluck - danyluck@sympatico.ca &
- Tom Hillier - tom.hillier@hotmail.com
Press/publicity – Ken Brady - - (905) 935-4716 - kbrady2@cogeco.ca
Raffle & Draws – Priscilla Heus - (905) 988-9741
Refreshments –
Web Master - Ken Brady

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Membership Dues:

Family :\$ 25.00
Single - \$ 20.00
Junior - \$ 10.00 (under 16)
Seniors - \$ 10.00 (over 65)

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Cover photo of a young Hypancistrus zebra (Zebra Pleco)
Photo © by DAVE Unruh

Editors Note

For any contributors to the Sept. newsletter please try and get your articles or photos to me by July 9. If you get it to me later I may not use it till October.

Thanks!
DAve

Presidents Message June 2010

Thanks to Zenin for a very well organized and complete presentation on Loaches. I am sure his enthusiasm will result in a few more loaches kept in our members tanks. His pictures were as amazing as the common sense knowledge on keeping these fish.

For June we have elections and the often requested question and answer panel. Our more experienced members will in the hot seat and ready to astound us with good answers to everything fishy. If you have a bit of stage fright then send your questions to me and we will answer them anonymously.

I want to say a bit about my last 3 years as president. Firstly I am not going away. I am however going to pass the reins to the next great mover and shaker of the aquarium world. Being a part of such a great group is really rewarding. You get to know the people of the club and the executive so much better. I have a great feeling of deeper insight into why people come to the club and what we need to strive for to keep interest growing and fresh. It's also a great personal learning experience. Learning the challenges of how to get a group moving in the right direction while promoting and embracing individual ideas and abilities has been a super experience.

Thanks for a lot of fantastic support and let's all make sure we continue to support our wonderful executive.

We are planning the annual club picnic. The dates right now are for a Saturday or Sunday on either the weekends of July 10 or 24th. Please let us know no later than the June meeting your preference. We are planning to host it at Dave Unruh's again as he has graciously offered his home. Dave has a pool and a great pet Husky named Rudy who really looks forward to this day. Bring your own chairs and pot luck favorite. We have burgers, hotdogs, buns and even drinks!

Ken

Editors Notes

Thanks to those members who faithfully wrote monthly articles for the newsletter. Every month I greatly appreciated knowing that there would be a couple of articles ready for the newsletter. Thanks to those who wrote articles - I would find it quite sad if no one in the club wrote about their breeding successes or other aquatic experiences.

That being said, I am expecting many club members are already planning to write about their summer exploits with their fish, plants & ponds. Remember to take plenty of photos of those happenings. It always helps to have a photo of that pond plant flowering, new baby fish taking their first swim or a pair of fish laying eggs! I am always happy to get photos for the newsletter.

Dave



BAGGING POSITIVELY

In the interest of maintaining the health of your fish through the auction process ...

POSITIVELY -- do use the right kind of bag –
no 'baggies' or zip lock bags

POSITIVELY -- do use a safe method of securing the bag (elastics or knots)

NO TWIST TIES!

POSITIVELY -- do use a bag that's big enough for the quantity/size of fish that is/are going in it

POSITIVELY -- do use the correct ratio of water/air – **1/3 water 2/3 air** (except for 'breathable' bags)

POSITIVELY – do make sure the water is clean. If necessary, pour the water through a net first



Improperly bagged, definitely unhappy fish, often described in the hobby as 'belly up'!! Also the words 'dead' or 'floating' are used from time to time!

Properly bagged and reasonably happy fish! You might hear the words 'clear water', good department', just to name a few, being used in this instance.



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SCANNING THE EXCHANGES

& etc.

with Pat and Tom
June, 2010



GOOD READING IN THE S.C.A.A.S. LIBRARY ...

▶ ... in the Cambridge & District Aquarium Society's newsletter 'Aquatic Views' -

April 2010

*An Excellent Tropheus compagnon, Simochromis Babaulti (Pellegric 1927) by Klaus Steinhaus, reprinted from the February, 2009 issue of the Buntbarsche Bulletin, journal of the American Cichlid Association

*Robert Little Public School by Carl McCleary

▶ ... in the Tropical Fish Club of Erie County's newsletter 'Some Things Fishy'

May 2010

*Cichlids (crossword puzzle)

*Neolamprologus brevis breeding report author unknown

▶ ... in the Youngstown Area Tropical Fish Society's newsletter 'The Youngstown Aquarist' -

March/April 2010

*BAP report Paracyprichromis nigripinnis by Roberto Prati



BAP ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS presented at the May meeting

Dave Furness (awarded but not presented)

Moenkhausia pittieri

(Diamond tetra).....15 pts.

Tom Hillier Corydoras aeneus)....15

Congratulations!

Tom Bridges

BAP Chair



JAR SHOW RULES AND REGULATIONS

will be on display at the jar show table at each meeting



Members!

Fish bags (10x20, 8x16 and 8x10) are available for sale at the membership desk in packages of 25



UPCOMING EVENTS in 2010

June 25 Sarnia Aquarium Society Dinner & Guest Speaker Gary Lange on Rainbowfish

June 27, Executive & General meetings of CAOAC, and President's bbq to be held in London. Contact Bob Wright .

September 18 Sarnia Aquarium Society Show & Auction

September 19, CAOAC meetings as above
September 26, London Aquaria Society Show & Auction

October 3, Hamilton & District Aquarium Society Show & Auction

October 17, CAOAC meetings as above

October 24, Kitchener/Waterloo Aquarium Society Show & Auction

October 31, St. Catharines & Area Aquarium Society Show & Auction

November 7, Peel Regional Aquarium Society, Auction only

November 21, CAOAC meetings as above

December 12, CAOAC meetings as above with a Christmas pot luck lunch following the executive meeting. Membership and insurance applications are due, as well as Author and Advanced Author applications.

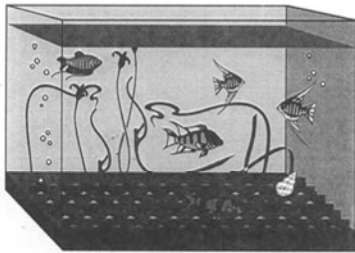
The Exchange newsletters will be in the club library at the meeting.

Fish People Should Take Fish Time

by Mike Daniels

I would like to start by saying that most people have work time, rest time, play time, relaxing time, exercise time, eating time or some other type of time in their daily lives. If you are a fish keeper, you should have fish time added to the many other times.

I would like to suggest a few minutes a day for those of you who haven't allowed for fish time. A good time is feeding time. Instead of just throwing in food, take a few minutes to see



what's going on in your

aquarium. As you get used to adding a little more fish time, you will see that aquarium keeping becomes more enjoyable. Not only do you learn more about fish and different behaviours, but you can also detect a problem before it becomes a disaster. As the old seamstress said, "A stitch in time saves nine".

Once you adapt to fish time, now you can do a water change without being reminded that you were filling the tank when you hear water splashing on the floor because you were also on the phone or into the tv or whatever. When you take fish time, you can take your time and do whatever you intend to do or whatever time allows,



then you can start on some of your other times.

If you practice fish time, it can help you not to forget to close a lid and lose a special pet; helps you to see problems before they get out of hand; helps to see who is eating and who is not; eliminate overfeeding and contamination and it can also mean the difference between life and death for an ailing or picked-on fish.

Fish time is very important for your fish. If you exercise fish time, your aquarium, I guarantee, will be much more enjoyable.



Graphics provided by Michael Daniels



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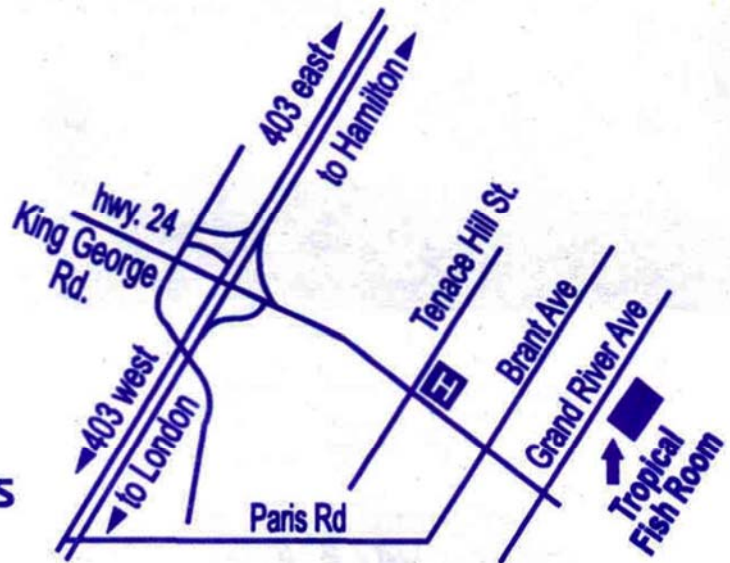
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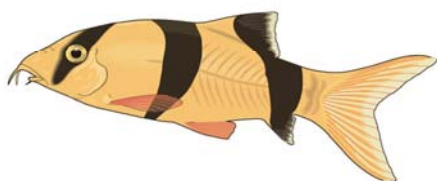
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UPSIDE DOWN CLOWNS

UPSIDE DOWN CLOWNS

by Michael D. Daniels

Through the years as an aquarium hobbyist, I have had many good and some bad experiences. Though many of the great aquarists may not admit it, I'm sure some of them



have many untold tales. As a beginner or even experienced hobbyist, as you go through the learning and advanced stages, keep your head on and keep getting better.

One night as I was awakened from sleep with a terrible migraine, I went downstairs to get a drink to take my medication. I decided to peep in on the fishroom. As I opened

the door, "Oh my gosh!!!" I have a migraine and now almost a heart attack! I gazed in disbelief at what I was seeing. Frozen In my tracks, I rubbed my eyes to see if I was seeing what I thought I was seeing.



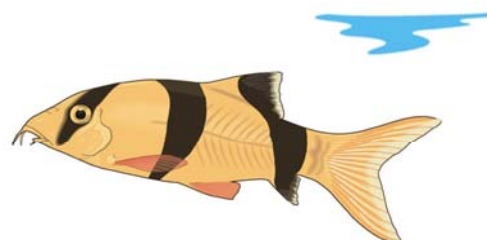
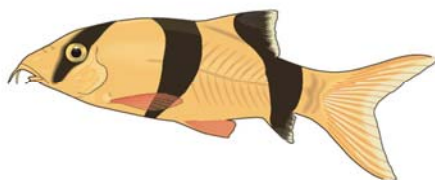
Both of my prize clown loaches on the bottom of the tank, belly up. By this time I sat down to keep from falling down!!!

Now, I sat thinking what could have gone wrong. I've kept up on the water changes, the temperature is okay, there is no feeding change . . . wow, I don't understand. Now I got the nerve to take a closer look and just as I touched the tank, up they came, synchronized in motion,

now sitting right side up. As I stared in amazement and they sat staring at me, I wondered if they were saying to each other, "Haha, the joke's on him!!!" Well, this experience turned out to be a happy ending but one to be remembered.

Now, I will begin a study to see if this is normal sleeping behaviour for clown loaches. In all my years of fish keeping this is a first for me. I've noticed and seen catfish and loaches in some odd and weird positions, but never two in the same place and position.

Well, I'll keep on studying and observing and maybe soon I can come up with some answers or ideas to this scenario.



Aequidens sp. Red Edged Acara
photo © by DAve Unruh



Moray eel
photo © by DAve Unruh



Anubias sp. frazeri
photo © by DAve Unruh



Xiphophorus alvarezii
photo © by DAve Unruh



Four Photos

Keeping Anubias Part 2

by Dave Unruh

an updated version of the original article published in Fins & Tales, KVAS Dec. '95

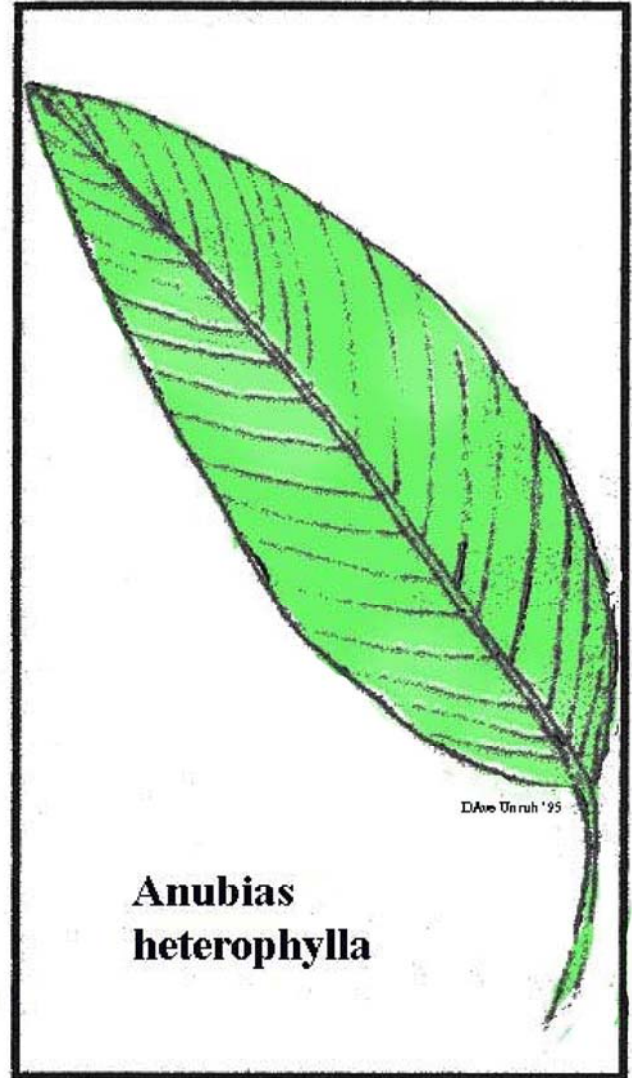
Part 2 will deal primarily with descriptions of *Anubias* sp. as well as how to tell some of the similar ones apart. This group of *Anubias* all look very similar: they all have a long leaf-blade. They include *A.afzelii*, *heterophylla*, *congensis*, *lanceolata* and *nanga*. *Anubias afzellii* and *congensis* are the most commonly available plants in this group. Many aquarists will never have seen such plants labeled as *Anubias heterophylla* or *Anubias nanga*. *Anubias lanceolata* is occasionally available (at least in our area of the country).

Anubias afzelii has a fairly long leaf-blade, up to 35 cm long and about 13cm wide (at the widest point). It may be described as elongate-lanceolate, or that the top end is spear-shaped and so is the bottom. This gives the leaf-blade a ratio (width/length) of 2.7 times as long as wide. I believe that this ratio is important in the identification of some *Anubias* as the leaf may not be mature, or a cultivated specimen may not grow to the same size as a wild specimen (or an offshoot of a wild specimen). The leaf-blade is glabrous on both sides and has a noticeable downwards curved tip.

Wild plants (mature) will be as tall as 65cm. The rhizome may be as thick as 4 cm. In cultivated plants the height rarely seems to exceed 40cm, and rhizomes are usually only about 2 cm thick. The inflorescence is white and may be up to 6cm. long. (The inflorescence is sometimes called a “flower spike”). This is a very durable plant, although a bit slow growing when compared with *Anubias nana* or *barteri*.

Anubias heterophylla has a rather thin rhizome, from 5 – 17mm thick. The leaf-blade is variable, from 10 – 38cm long and 3 – 13cm wide and is considered to have a ratio of 2 – 6 times as long as wide. The leaf-blade has been described as elliptic-ovate or even elongate-lanceolate. This shows that there is a certain amount of variation in the leaf-

blade shape and this has led to great confusion. *Anubias congensis*, *affinis*, *engleri*, *bequaerti* and *undulate* are all considered to be synonyms of *A.heterophylla*. On some specimens the leaf shape was different enough to appear to be a different species, but when flowered, these specimens were proven to be the same plants (Crusio'79). As one

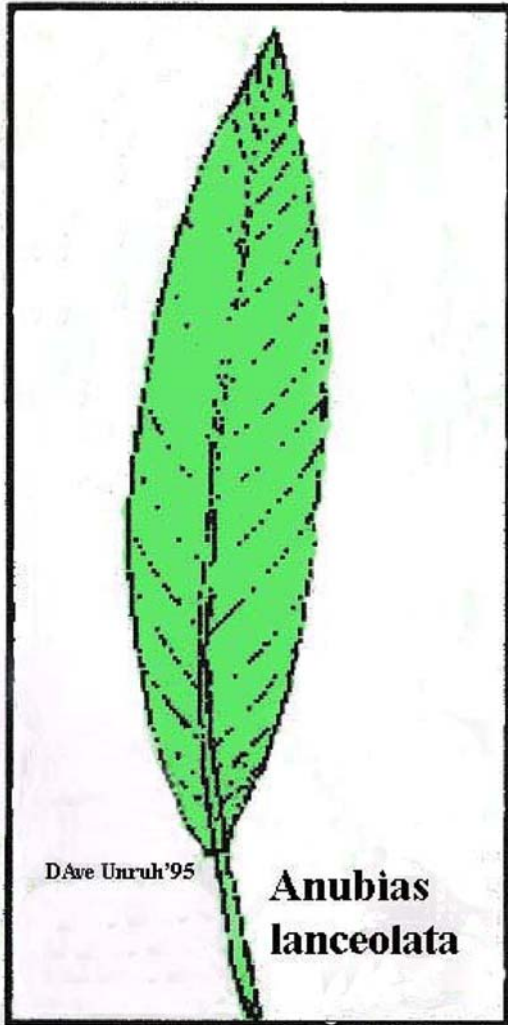


might expect, there is still much debate regarding these species and also disagreements about conclusions arrived at by the researchers.

Fortunately, these problems should not prevent us from enjoying the many forms of *A.heterophylla*. In wild specimens that I have received the leaf-blade was slightly ribbed, and had a much “tougher” feeling than *A.afzelii*. I was able to flower this plant and the inflorescence was white with a slight yellow cast and was only 4.5cm long.

Anubias lanceolata has a very long leaf-blade but is quite narrow. It grows up to 45cm long and only

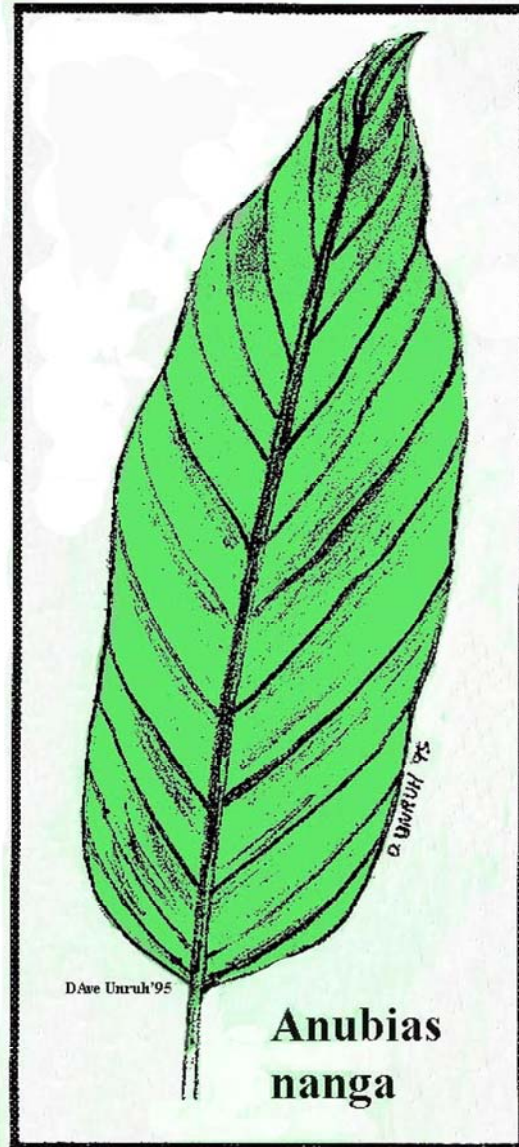
15cm wide (in the wild specimens). This gives it a ratio of 3 times as long as wide. The leaf-blade is very smooth and glabrous on both sides. It is very lanceolate with the leaf-blade rarely bending backwards if at all. In my experience the length of



stalk is roughly equal to the length of the leaf-blade so no one can expect a wild mature plant to have a total height more than 90cm; although I think it would be rare to find such mature specimens. Some wild plants I have received were about 60cm tall and very impressive plants! Cultivated plants will normally grow to only 40cm tall.

Anubias nanga is another giant Anubias, with plants as tall as 95cm. The leaf-blade is up to 22cm long and 11cm wide, with the widest part at the bottom of the leaf. The tip is pointed and somewhat recurved. There are very noticeable ribs and a very prominent mid-rib, particularly in older

leaves. The leaf-blade may also be undulate. The rhizome is thick, up to 3cm. The length of the stalk is double the length of the leaf-blade. The inflorescence is quite long, up to 8cm, white with a strong yellow cast. Offshoots from the wild plants grow almost as tall, although the average height of new mature leaves is about 50 cm.



I plan to work on part three over the next few months. In this new third part I will express some thoughts on problems with keeping Anubias including the worst problem - algae on the leaves.

Glossary *Glabrous* ; smooth, without hairs
Midrib ; central raised vein of a leaf
Undulate ; of a leaf, when the edges or whole area are not flat, but bent, wavy, or curled up & down
 for other terms see the March issue of The SCAT

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