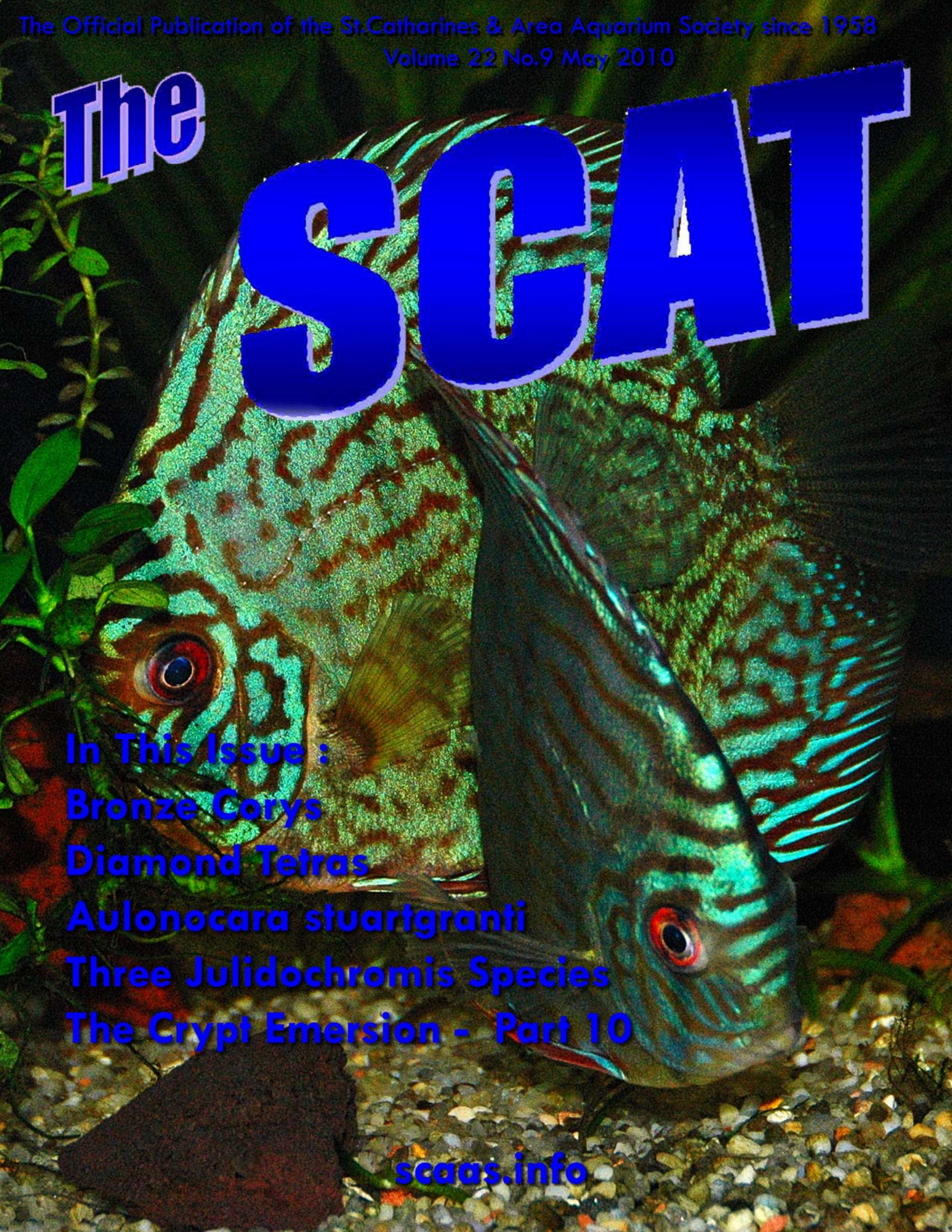
The Official Publication of the St.Catharines & Area Aquarium Society since 1958
Volume 22 No.9 May 2010

The SCAT



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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 May 03 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 by Zenin Skomorowski on Loaches

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

Inside This Issue

Cover photo of a pair of Discus (Symphysodon aequifasciata) Photo © by DAve Unruh

Editors Note

I had meant to publish the second part of *"Keeping Anubias" but due to space limitations it will be in next months newsletter*
DAve

Presidents Message May 2010

Wow spring is here and the pond is running nice and clear. The CAOAC convention is fast approaching. It will be at Sheridan College May 21-23. This is an excellent opportunity to see top quality fish and take in seminars by speakers who we may not get another easy opportunity to see. Many of the club members are already going so you won't be alone and perhaps there are opportunities to car pool.

Pam put on a slide show and commentary about the mysterious snail world. This was probably one of the most unique presentations all year because it is on a topic the few people understand and have the knowledge to speak about. Thanks Pam.

This month we have Zenin and his traveling Loach show. Many clubs have had Zenin speak this year and I hear it gets better all the time. Not unlike Pam's knowledge of the snail world this is a presentation that few hobbyists have such in depth knowledge of these fantastic fish. I am sure it will be a lot of fun and I for one am eagerly awaiting this presentation.

SCAAS Fall Show news: I am excited about our show. We have a final list of classes so we can now move forward on finalizing the prize schedule and seeking sponsorships for individual classes. Several sponsors have already committed so if you or someone you know wants to sponsor a particular class don't wait too long. Prizes are going to be a certificate including sponsors name and cash! Tom will update us at the May meeting.

May is also a good time to submit nominations for the upcoming elections. If you want to nominate someone, or even nominate yourself for any of the elected positions please see Tom Bridges. I will be stepping down as president. It's been a good run but I know there is an eager candidate who will work hard and keep the club moving in the right direction. I will then be able to fill in other support roles as they arise.

See you May 3rd

Ken

JULIDOCHROMIS DICKFELDI, MARLIERI AND TRANSCRIPTUS

by John Verhage

WATER TEMP. - 78 F - PH -7.8

I set up 3 separate 20 gallon long aquariums with washed horticultural sand substrate and many scattered small caves made of broken flower pots, rock and slate structures and scallop style sea shells. These fish prefer small tight quarters for breeding. I throw in some java moss to provide extra cover.

Julidochromis marlieri "Gombi" ***Photo © by DAve Unruh***

I used a group of 6 unsexed fish in each tank and allowed them to grow and sort the pairings out for themselves. They were fed a variety of foods including flake, frozen brine shrimp, frozen blood worms and live white worms. The fish spawned in the caves and fiercely protected their territory.

The fish that were getting beaten up were removed to another tank. It is hard to determine when spawning has taken place. The first indication is usually young fish swimming near the cave under the watchfull eyes of both parents. The young will stay near the caves and you will often see numerous spawns swimming together. The young are fed newly hatched brine shrimp and crushed flake foods are introduced after a week or two. I throw in some snails to help clean up the leftover food. The water was kept clean with sponge filters and regular water changes. The young are removed to other tanks for growing out as required to prevent overcrowding.

SCANNING THE EXCHANGES & etc.

with Pat and Tom
May, 2010

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

➤ **. . . in the Toronto Willowdale Aquarium Society's newsletter - April, 2010**

✱Loaches – Those Underrated Bottom Dwellers
by Elaine and Randy Rude, Calgary
www.torontoaquarium.org

➤ **. . . in the Kitchener Waterloo Aquarium Society's newsletter 'Fins & Tales' – April, 2010**

✱TheMinimalist Aquarist
by Rein and Chair Breitmaier

✱Adventures in DIY – River Tank by Ryan Barton

Except for exchange clubs that allow access to their newsletters on their websites, the exchange newsletters will be at the club library

UPCOMING EVENTS to June 2010

May 21st – 23rd, 2010
Canadian Association of Aquarium Clubs
51st ANNUAL CONVENTION
At Sheridan College Oakville
More details at www.caoac.ca
and click on 2010 convention

June 26, 2010 Sarnia Aquarium Society
Dinner & guest speaker Gary Lange on Rainbowfish – more info. at www.sarniaaquariumsociety.com/GaryLange.html

June 27, 2010
10:30 a.m. CAOAC executive meeting in Waterdown, ON
12:00 noon **PRESIDENT'S BBQ &** CAOAC general meeting in Waterdown, ON

Members!

Fish bags (10x20, 8x10 & 8x15) are available for sale at meetings in packages of 25

BAP ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS presented at the April meeting

Tom Hillier
Ameca splendens……10 pts.
Heterandria formosa……... 5
Amatitlania nigrofasciata --
Convict cichlid……. 5
'First in' CAOAC awards –
Brian & Sue Glazier
Xiphophorus mayae
Skiffia lermae
('First in' awards are presented to hobbyists who are **the first** in a CAOAC club to have bred a species of fish.)
Congratulations!
Tom Bridges BAP Chair

CORRECTIONS: In April's SCAT, **Dave Furness** should have been awarded 5 pts. for Girardinus falcatus.
&
Tom Hillier's awards were omitted. They were:
Ancistrus sp. (albino pleco)…...…..10 pts.
Girardinus falcatus
(Goldbelly topminnow)……. 5
Poecilia reticulata…….. 5

My apologies!
Tom B. Bap Chair

JAR SHOW RULES AND REGULATIONS

will be on display at the jar show at each meeting

Diamond Tetra

(Moenkhausia pittieri)
By Dave Furness

This is a pretty little fish with silvery scales. When they get older, and the light is right, you also see green, gold, and violet colours. This fish likes a well planted and dimly lit aquarium. The Diamond tetra is from the waters of Lake Valencia, the Rio Bue, and the Rio Tiquiriti rivers in South America.
This two and a half inch fish will eat most foods, such as flake, brine shrimp, and frozen or dried specialty foods. Blood worms should only be given as a treat.

Male & female (foreground) Diamond Tetras
photo by Dave Furness

The male Diamond tetra or Pittieri's Tetra's dorsal fin is long and flowing and the body remains slender compared to the female.

When I decided to try and spawn this fish, I purchased the five fish offered at the store. Three males and two females. It is probably best to have two or three females to one male. The tank that I had put them in was furnished with a box filter, some water sprite on top and Java moss on the bottom. The tank was well lit, but the water sprite offered them some dimly lit areas. The PH was around 6.9 or 7.0. Their PH range is 5.5 to 7.5. The temperature was around 76 degree F. The temperature range was 72-82 degrees F. I could see the male and female go into the Java moss and spawn. This happened

Diamond Tetra group ***Photo © by DAve Unruh***

many times. The eggs hatch in two or three days, and they start to feed after the fourth day. I did not remove the parents from the tank because I was not interested in great numbers. I continued to feed the adults flake foods most of the time and once in awhile some blood worms. After a couple of weeks, I started to add some micro worms.

They fed on the bacteria in the tank until they surviving fry could handle the micro worms. There seemed to be several generations in the tank, for there were several groups of fry ranging in three to four different sizes.

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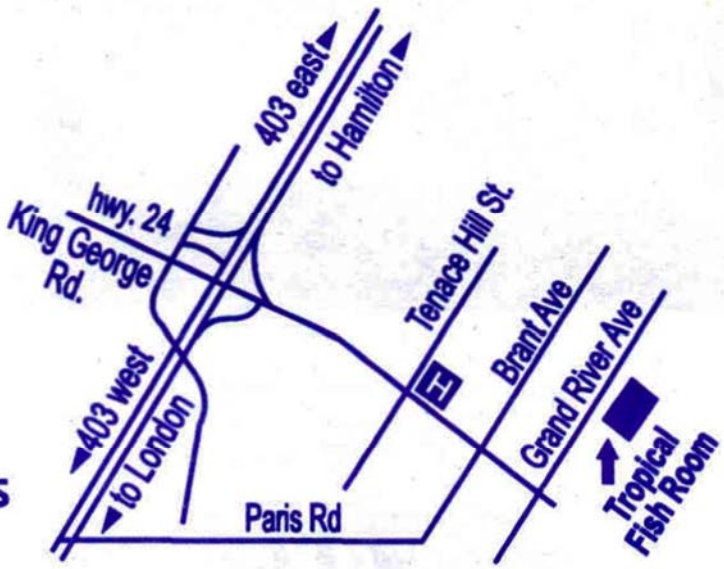

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The Crypt Emersion –

Part Ten (of Ten)

Derek P.S. Tustin

Week Fifty-Two

Just over a year ago I came up with the idea to follow the progress of a single tank over an entire year and record the changes that occurred on a weekly basis. My intention was to get one or more *Cryptocoryne* species to actually grow emersed and hopefully flower. But I failed…

But in every failure, some success can be found. I realize in retrospect that instead of focusing on growing crypts emersed, I should have been focusing on seeing what species I could grow emersed, because in that endeavor, I *was* successful!

The Set-Up

In the May 2008 edition of ***Tank Talk*** (ten editions ago) I detailed the technical specifications that I was going to use in this tank. One of the items I overlooked in my initial parameters was the humidity that I would require above the tank so that the emersed leaves would not wilt and die. A fellow DRAS member cautioned me about at the outset of my project, but I proceeded with my initial set-up, intending to see if I could overcome this flaw. One solution I tried was to design and build a rainmaker. As detailed previously, I basically took some rigid tubing, drilled some holes in it, and hooked it up to a pair of submersed pumps. While it worked in the short-term, over a longer period of time it failed. But with the exception of this failed project, the actual set-up of the tank worked quite well. I did experience a high level of water evaporation, but no more so than in my other open-topped aquariums, and nothing that could not be addressed with regular top-ups and water changes.

The Inhabitants

At the outset, I put a lot of thought into the actual inhabitants that I wanted to stock my tank with. I wanted to keep celestial pearl danios (aka galaxy rasboras) (*Celestichthys margaritatus*), but ended up settling on neon tetras (*Paracheirodon innesi*) due to the scarcity of locally available celestial pearl danios at that time. Luckily, I was later able to acquire nine celestial pearl danios from a fellow DRAS member, and they are currently thriving alongside the neon tetras. (I originally had thirteen neon tetras and as of last count I still have ten. All nine of the celestial pearl danios are still thriving). The other tank inhabitants that I stocked at the beginning were six dwarf Cajun crawfish (*Cambarellus shufeldtii*) and three marbled whiptail catfish (*Loricaria simillima*). I know for sure that at least two of the marbled whiptail catfish perished. However, one of the problems with the successful growth of plants in this tank is that it is very, very hard to see more than the first inch of substrate past the glass. As such, I have no idea if the other marbled whiptail catfish is still alive, and of the six dwarf Cajun crawfish that I originally stocked the tank with, I only know for sure that one is still alive.

Celestial pearl danio – Celestichthys margaritatus

Dwarf Cajun crawfish – Cambarellus shufeldtii

Sagittaria sagittifolia – Week 12

The Plants

Of course, the reason for this entire project was to experiment with growing plants, specifically *Cryptocoryne* species, emersed. Overall, the plants did extremely well.

Pond Plants: *Mimulus luteus* & *Sagittaria sagittifolia*

One of the sub-experiments I tried was to purchase actual pond plants and grow them in this set-up. I had extreme difficulty in growing *Mimulus luteus* (monkey-flower) indoors. I believe that I don't have enough light for it to truly flourish. However, the other pond plant that I did purchase, *Sagittaria sagittifolia*, actually did surprisingly well. While it tended to be rather stunted in growth when compared to the same plant grown in a pond, it did continue to grow throughout the year. There are also three interesting things of note about *S. sagittifolia*. The first is that I purchased it as *Sagittaria lorata*, but later learned that the true name is in fact *S. sagittifolia*. Both *S. lorata* and *S. sagittifolia* are sold as arrowhead swords, and are in fact the same plant, with the correct scientific name being *S. sagittifolia*. Second, after throwing several leaves past the level of the lights in the first couple of months, all subsequent newly grown leaves remained below the lights. Finally, I actually placed two *S. sagittifolia* in the tank. Both were purchased at the same time, but one reverted to a submersed form, while the other remained emersed.

Sagittaria sagittifolia – Week 52

The *Anubias* Species

At the outset, I added two *Anubias* species; *Anubias barteri "nana"* and *Anubias hastifolia*. My logic was that as lower light plants that were ideally suited to growing emersed, I would have some luck. Well, over the year I added at least three *A. barteri*, and not a single one grew emersed. The two that I positioned emersed rotted and died, and the one that was planted submersed never really flourished. Throughout the year I also added two *Anubias barteri "coffeefolia"*. The one that was planted emersed quickly rotted like the *A. barteri "nana"*, and the one planted submersed also never flourished.

I also tried planting *Anubias frazeri* at two different times. The first time the plant completely rotted, and the second time it marginally held on. In both cases the leaves were large enough to start

emersed, but quickly receded to a submerged state of growth.

So you would think that with these failures I would be totally disillusioned with *Anubias* species in this tank, but one thing stops that from being true. The one plant that showed the greatest growth in this tank was an *Anubias hastifolia* that I added in the initial stages of tank set-up. This plant started to grow immediately, and as can be seen in the earliest picture and the latest, thrived in this set-up.

Anubias hastifolia – Week 1

Anubias hastifolia – Week 52

The "Other" Plants

As I fiddled throughout the year I added various plants on a casual basis. Some worked, others didn't… While at the 2008 DRAS Annual Show and Auction, I obtained a plant that was incorrectly identified as a *Lobelia cardinalis*. A month later when I was at the 2008 CAOAC Annual Convention in Edmonton, I spoke with one of Canada's foremost aquatic plant experts who provided me with a true *Lobelia cardinalis*. Both plants grew in my tank, but the one purchased from the DRAS Auction didn't thrive as well as the one obtained in Edmonton. But even the one from in Edmonton did not show extravagant growth, although it did grow emersed. Overall, I was not particularly happy with either of these plants, although I will give them a try in my pond this summer.

I also had three "miscellaneous plants" that made their way into my aquarium, and which grew in ways in which I either did not anticipate, or find overly attractive. These were *Vesicularia dubyana* (java moss), *Utricularia graminifolia*, and *Lemna minor* (duck weed).

The java moss was an intentional addition. I used an Aquaclear 20 for circulation of the water, but one of the problems that I encountered in my test set-up was that due to the relatively shallow depth of the tank, the water from the Aquaclear output was strong enough (even at the lowest setting) disturb the gravel directly below the spot where it entered the tank. To prevent this, I created a channel from a piece of driftwood to allow the water to flow into the tank at a shallower angle, thereby decreasing the turbulence and associated disruption of the substrate. On this piece of driftwood I attached some java moss for aesthetic purposes only. Over the course of the year, the java moss not only covered the wood, but it also started to grow up the surface of the Aquaclear 20.

Java moss (Vesicularia dubyana) growing on Aquaclear 20

Also of note is that somehow a piece attached to the rear edge of the tank and captured several pieces of duck weed. The java moss retains enough moisture for the duck weed to actually grow in the java moss, completely suspended above the water's surface.

Since I mentioned it, the duck weed is a major pain in the posterior. Somehow (and I think it was attached to a plant that I did not rinse thoroughly enough) I got several pieces introduced into the tank and was never able to totally eradicate it. Simply put, do not put duckweed in a small tank. It is a pain.

Duck weed (*Lemna minor*) growing on Java moss (*Vesicularia dubyana*)

Finally, while in Edmonton, I obtained a sample of a small bladderwort, *Utricularia graminifolia*. Initially I had a lot of problems getting it to establish and stay rooted. One day I noticed that several pieces had floated down the length of the tank and become tangled in the java moss by the filter. The java moss provided an excellent growth medium, and the *U. graminifolia* thrived there ever since.

Java moss (Vesicularia dubyana) and Utricularia graminifolia growing on drift wood

The Crypts

And so I come full circle to where I started. The entire purpose of this endeavour was to get crypts to grow emersed and flower. As mentioned, I failed at this. At the outset, I planted five different crypts in the tank. They were *Cryptocoryne cordata*, *Cryptocoryne nurii*, *Cryptocoryne parva*, *Cryptocoryne walkeri* and *Cryptocoryne wendtii*. The *C. cordata* and *C. nurii* grew throughout the year, but never really flourished. On the other hand, the *C. parva*, *C. walkeri*, and *C. wendtii* all flourished submersed, but never grew emersed. Looking back at the entire year, even though the water was only about 13 centimeters (5 inches) deep, I suspect that it was too deep for the later three species to grow emersed. While it was shallow enough for both the *C. cordata* and the *C. nurii* to grow emersed, I did not have enough humidity above the water for leaves to flourish in that form.

Conclusions

Overall, I had a lot of fun following this tank over the year. I was disappointed in the lack of flowering in the *Cryptocoryne* species, but ecstatic over how well the *Anubias hastifolia* grew. If I were to repeat the entire project, I would consider getting a custom built tank that was twice as tall and covered, but still only keep the water at the same level. Hopefully that would result in a higher level of humidity and maybe allow the crypts to grow emersed and the various forms of *Anubias* to flourish. But then I would never have gotten to see how well the *A. hastifolia* did.

Tank – Week 1 How the tank looked at the start

Many of us look only at a tank as a short-term project. Don't get me wrong, we keep it going, but our focus shifts from time to time, and we truly don't appreciate how the tank can change and grow over a longer period of time. I would encourage everyone who hasn't done so, to plan something over a longer period of time, and keep track of it, either in writing or pictures, or preferably both. At the end of a pre-determined period, look back and see how what you started has not only changed at the end, but also how it developed over time to result in that change.

Tank – Week 26 – Half way through the year

Tank – Week 52 At the end

Editors note – This concludes the Crypt Emersion story. Derek Tustin did a great job of noting the changes that took place in this tank over a year. I hope you have enjoyed this year long journey.

This series was previously published in Tank Talk, a publication of the Durham Region Aquarium Society.

AULONOCARA STUARTGRANTI

by John Verhage

WATER TEMP. - 78 F - PH - 7.8

The fish were kept in a 35 gallon aquarium with 1 male and 3 females. There were also Labidochromis caeruleus and Pseudotropheus acei present in the tank as well. The substrate was washed horticultural sand along with many rock, PVC pipe and flower pot caves for cover. I threw in some clumps of java moss in front of some of the caves for extra cover for the females. The fish were fed standard flake food, spirulina flakes, frozen brine shrimp and bloodworms, and slices of zuchini.

The spawning happened during the day while I was at work. When I checked the tanks in the evening I noticed two of the females were holding eggs in their mouth.

Male Aulonocara stuartgranti *photo © by DAve Unruh*

The females were carefully removed after about two weeks and placed in separate 15 gallon aquariums with a number of caves and a pile of various size rocks to provide cover for the fry. After about 3 to 4 weeks from the spawning the fry were released. The females continued to look after them for a few days until I removed them to a separate aquarium for rest and conditioning. The 20 or so fry in each batch readily ate brine shrimp, frozen baby brine shrimp and crushed standard and spirulina flake foods. The water in the tanks was kept clean with sponge filters and regular water changes.


Archocentrus sp.cutteri Photo © by DAve Unruh


Photo © by DAve Unruh

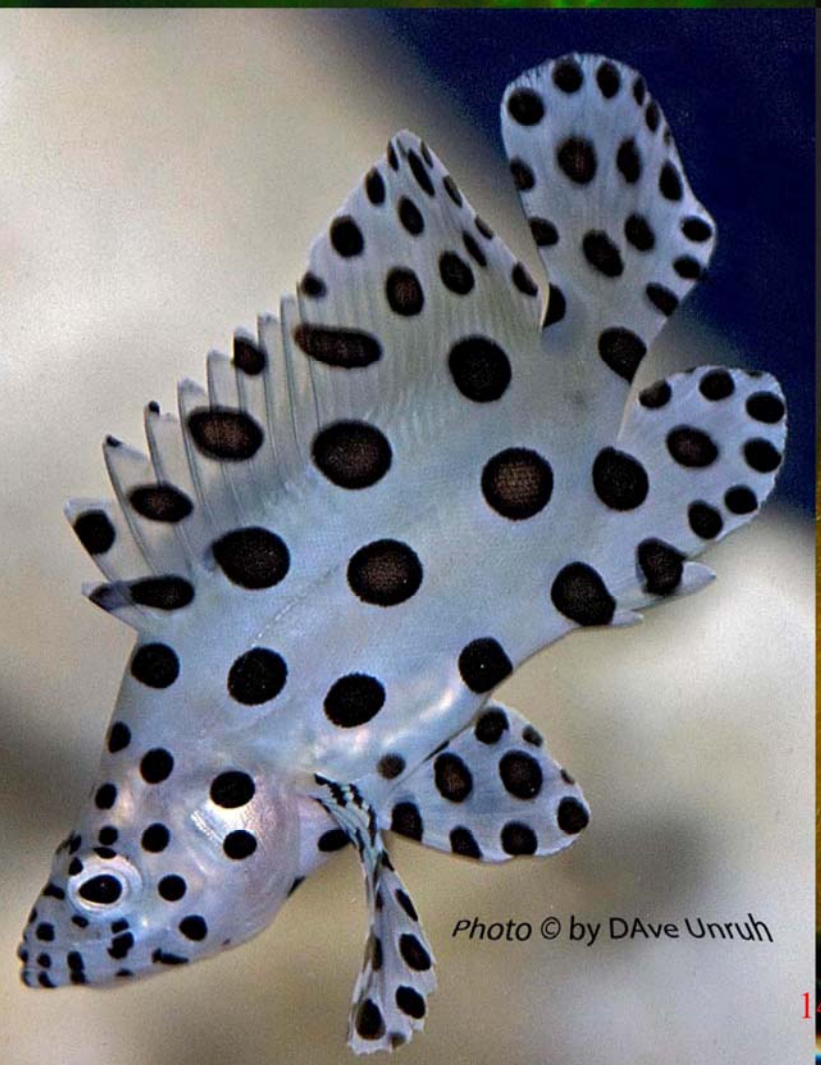
Photo © by DAve Unruh


Red Lizard Catfish Photo © by DAve Unruh

Bronze Cory

By
Tom Hillier

The Bronze Cory is one of oldest (Cordoras aeneus) Cory catfish. Originally imported into the German hobby from the Caribbean island of Trinidad in the early 1900s and then made its way to the US.

Caring for Bronze corys is very easy. They are undemanding to water parameters as long as extremes are avoided. They love live worms white worms red worms flake food frozen food and sinking shrimp pellets. They will wink at you. This is caused when they go to the surface for a gulp of air. They then settle back on the bottom, after several seconds they wink moving their eye is part of the motion of forcing the gulp of air into their gut, where oxygen is extracted.

Bronze Corydoras photo by Tom Hillier

Breeding them is very easy. Just feed them good to get them into breeding condition live on frozen food. The female will put her eggs just about anywhere; on the glass on plants on the heater .I scraped the eggs off with a razor blade and cut the leaves off the plants. I then put them in a two-quart bottle with an air stone and they hatched. I feed them micro worms and baby brine shrimp.

Corys live for a very long time 20 years is not unheard of. I started with two males and one female and now I have about 75.

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