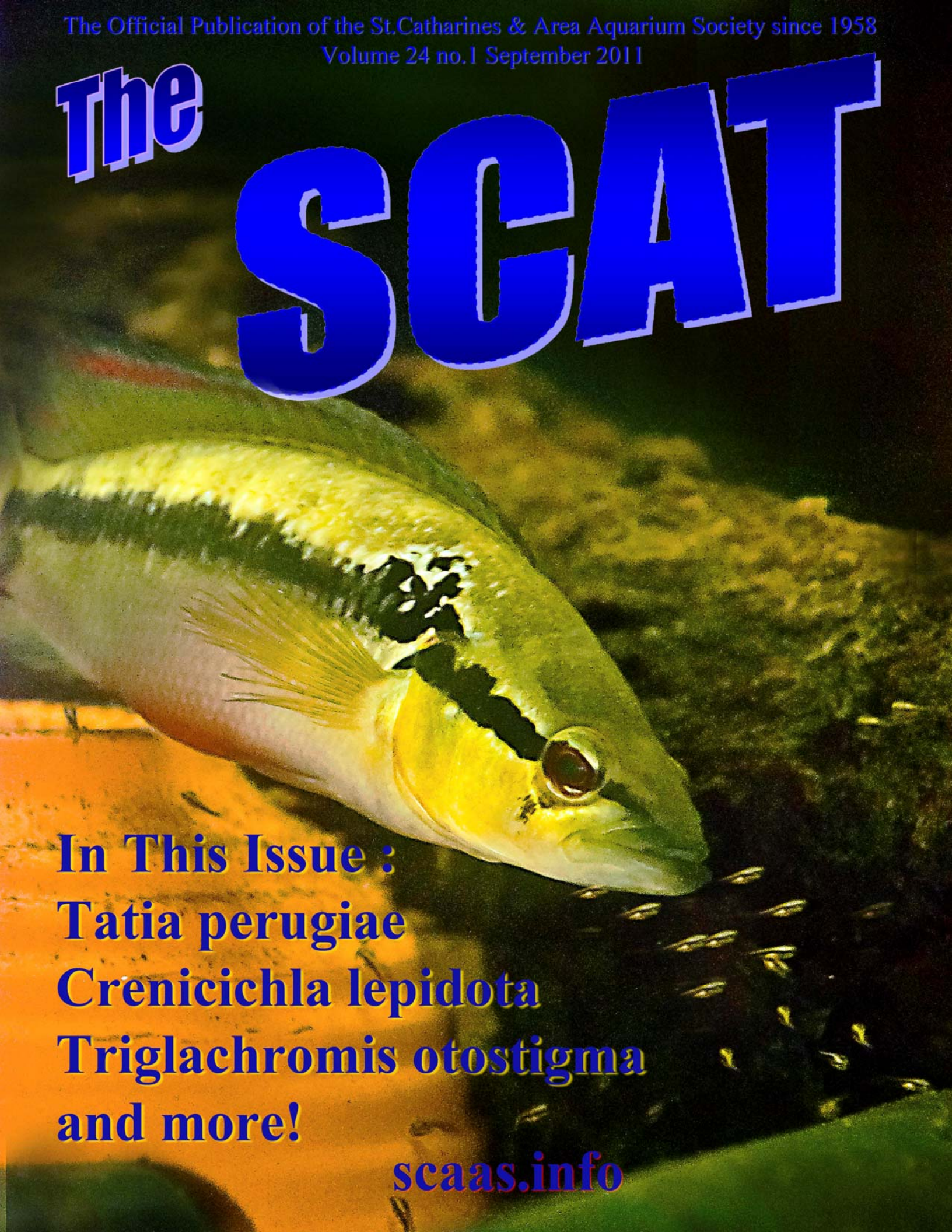


The Official Publication of the St.Catharines & Area Aquarium Society since 1958
Volume 24 no.1 September 2011

The

SCAT



In This Issue :
Tatia perugiae
Crenicichla lepidota
Triglachromis otostigma
and more!

scaas.info



Club Notes



Our Mission Statement: Meetings of the St. Catharines & Area Aquarium Society are held on the first Monday of each month, 7.30p.m., at the Seafarers & Teamsters Union Hall, 70 St. Davids Rd. E. Thorold, and Ont. 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) www.caoac.ca. SCAAS is also a member of the Federation of American Aquarium Societies (FAAS). 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 September 12 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 "Photography for dummies" by Ann Marie Towell presented by Pam Danyluck and "Nutrition" by Pam Danyluck

2010 – 20011 Executive

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- 1st Vice President – John Verhage – (905) 735-7776 - jverhage@on.aibn.com
- 2nd V President – Joe Krawchuck (905-325-5562) drummers_secret@hotmail.com
- Secretary – Pam Danyluck - - - - (905)562-3290 - danyluck@sympatico.ca
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- Past President - Ken Brady - - - - (905) 935-4716 - kbrady2@cogeco.ca

2010 – 2011 Committees

- Aquatic Horticulture Awards - Joe Krawchuck drummers_secret@hotmail.com
- Archives - Tom & Pat Bridges - - (905) 735-3352 - tp.bridges@sympatico.ca
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 Opinions or endorsements expressed in any article do not necessarily reflect the views of the SCAAS.

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 female *Crenicichla lepidota* & fry
 Photo © by Dave Unruh

Jar Show
The fish of the month for September are:
Corys & Catfish
October : Barbs & Tetras

Presidents Message

Summer has come to an end, now down to the business of fish. I hope everyone had a great summer! We will be busy now for the next couple of months getting ready for our Show and Auction. The BBQ was a great success; we had a really great turn out. Thanks to everyone who donated and helped out.

Lots of Show and Auctions coming up from other clubs, I hope we can have some of our members attend them. Pam, Bob and Heather are looking forward to getting involved with the CARES program. Pass your forms into them and get recognized for your part in the program.

The jar show is a great part of our meetings to see what our members are raising in their tanks. So please get involved in it.

Our meeting in September is on the 12th due to labour day, hope to see everyone there. Our dues are due in September as well.

Thank you,

Tom Hillier, President

Xiphophorus Nezhualcoyotl

by Tom Hillier

Common names: *Nezzie Swordtail* or *Mountain Swordtail*.

These swords are from San Luis Potosi Mexico. They have been around for a while but they are still not commonly seen in the hobby.

They appreciate some current as they are from fast flowing mountain streams and creeks in Mexico. This small swordtail is a real stunner. The dorsal fin is somewhat high and rounded, yellow and black finnage and beautiful pastel shades of blue, green and mauve on the body.

They are a close relative to the more famous "Monty" "Swordtail. They are livebearers; males are 6-10cm females 12cm. They are peaceful and quite easy to raise and will live 4 to 5 years. The aquarium should be heavily planted as to protect the fry.

The fish is named after a famous philosopher King of the Texcocan people of Mexico, Nezhualcoyotl (1403-1473) whose name means "hungry fox"

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SCAAS Membership Meeting Minutes

June 06 2011

Our June meeting began with a BBQ and potluck at 6:30. After everyone was fed the meeting was called to order at 8:00 by Tom Hillier.

Welcome and Announcements

Thanked Manfred for his donation of sausage to the BBQ,

Selling current black and white printer and will be buying a colour laser printer and a PA system sometime in the next year.

Thanked Shirley, Shawn and Ken for their efforts preparing the BBQ.

Bob Hayslip gave us the financial report:

Float \$146.47 + Bank \$948.39 = Grand total of 1094.86

BAP's were presented by Tom Bridges to: Tom Hillier, who received four certificates.

The Bernie Blondin award, which is presented every June was awarded to Dave Furness. This award is in honour of one of the founding members and is awarded to the member of the club who has bred the most fish for the current year.

The Wally Ebert award was not awarded at this meeting but will be awarded in the Fall of 2011.

HAP's were presented by Joe Krawchuk to: Tom Hillier, who received 9 certificates.

Annual Elections

Steering Committee Chairperson Tom Bridges opened the floor up for nominations.

The following will remain in their positions for the 2011 - 2012 season as there were no nominations made and the current members had agreed to remain. *Tom Hillier* - President, *John Verhage* - Vice-President, *Pam Danyluck* - Secretary, *Bob Hayslip* - Treasurer, *Ken Brady* - Past President, *Joe Krawchuk* - 2nd Vice President. This position was available due to Bruce Hallett's resignation due to family obligations. At a previous meeting Joe Krawchuk was nominated to fill that position and at the June meeting there were no other volunteers or nominations made.

Door Prize Draw and Nightly Raffle were held.

Jar Show awards were presented by Pat Shriner to: Tom Hillier and Dave Easingwood.

Tom Hillier also received the Show Champion Award for 2010 - 2011.

Meeting concluded at 9:25 pm.



Year of the Rainbowfish



A monthly column about Rainbowfish by Derek Tustin
Reprinted from the June 2011 issue of “Tank Talk”,
the newsletter of the Durham Region Aquarium Society

The Other Sahul Species

In the last three editions of this column, I have had the convenience of writing on one genus of fish each time. Each one had more than 9 species in it, and most people are relatively familiar with the general appearance of the different genera.

However, this month, I will be trying to address 22 species over seven different genera under two families. (Remember, Sahul refers to this historical continent that contained both present day Australia and present day New Guinea.)

With the exception of the *Pseudomugil* genus, the *Iriatherina* genus and possibly the *Rhadinocentrus* genus, most people will not be familiar with any of these genera. With the exception of some *Pseudomugil* species and *Iriatherina wernerii* (the sole species in the genus), they are not locally available, and many are not available in the hobby at all.

Members of the Melanotaeniidae family

Cairnsichthys

(1 species – *Cairnsichthys rhombosomoides*)

Literally “Cairns’ Fish” (Cairns = Cairns + ichthys = Latin “Fish”), this beautiful species is only found in several streams and rivers in the mountain ranges east of Cairns in northern Queensland, Australia. It is believed that the current distribution of the species is the remains of a much wider distribution that has been reduced over time due to environmental changes.

Due to the limited geographic distribution, this species has a restricted conservation status in Australia (“a species which is not presently in danger, but which occurs in restricted areas”) and is considered Vulnerable (“a species facing a high risk of extinction in the wild in the medium term future”) by C.A.R.E.S. This species is not available in North America, and as such no members of DRAS are keeping this species.



Iriatherina

(1 species – *Iriatherina wernerii*)

These beautiful fish are very often available locally, and are probably the most popular Rainbowfish in the aquarium hobby outside of *Melanotaenia*, *Chilatherina* and *Glossolepis*. First discovered in 1973, they are undoubtedly the most delicate appearing of all Rainbowfish.

They originate from both Australia (northern Queensland) and in New Guinea, but there are subtle differences between specimens originating in different locations. (Interestingly, Rainbowfish hobbyists usually insist on identifying the same species from different locations by adding the locality name after the species name, e.g. *Melanotaenia misoolensis* ‘Gam River’. This does not seem to be the case with *Iriatherina wernerii* even though there are differences between populations originating in different locations.)



While they are relatively easy to breed, raising the resulting fry can be difficult given their small and reticent nature. The main difficulty seems to be in the days immediately following hatching when it is difficult to get the fry sufficient live food. There are various suggestions on the internet, with one of the most recommended being green water.

They are not listed on the C.A.R.E.S. Conservation Priority Species at Risk List, many DRAS members have kept this species over the years, and they are often available both at monthly auctions and in local fish stores. For further information on this species, you may want to check out the dedicated website, www.iriatherina-werner.com, written and designed by Bernd Jung, a hobbyist dedicated to this wonderful little fish.

Pelangia
(1 species – *Pelangia mbutaensis*)

Found only in Lake Mbuta (which is actually a swampy basin), this fish is the sole species of the most recently discovered and described genus of Rainbowfish. *Pelangia*, the genus name, is actually an Indonesian word for “rainbow”.

Pelangia share various common characteristics with the *Glossolepis* genus, but have enough differences to be considered a separate genus. No live specimens have ever been gathered for the aquarium hobby and not much is known about their status in the wild.



Rhadinocentrus
(1 species – *Rhadinocentrus ornatus*)

Ever find a picture of a fish that you would love to keep, but despair that you will never get the opportunity too? Well, I sometimes feel that way (even though I have had some success in getting *Melanotaenia oktediensis* – more on that in November), so to add to that, I present to you a truly gorgeous fish that we will probably never see outside of photographs.

While abundant in Australia and kept by many, many Australia aquarists in the southern Queensland and northern New South Wales areas, they are extremely rare in North America.

While only a single species, there are a wide variety of colour variations. Should you ever be lucky enough to find any at an auction, I would highly recommend you pick them up.



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Member of the *Pseudomugilidae* family

Kiunga

(2 species – *Kiunga ballochi* and *Kiunga bleheri*)

The *Kiunga* genus contains only two species which are very similar, differing only slightly in scale and fin ray count. While only *K. ballochi* appears on the C.A.R.E.S. Conservation Priority Species at Risk List as Critically Endangered (“a species facing an extremely high risk of extinction in the wild in the immediate future”) it is likely that *K. bleheri* is also at risk. Interestingly, *K. ballochi* was lost to science for a period of time with 37 sites being sampled and no specimens being found. In 1994, while searching for *K. ballochi*, Charles Nishihira discovered *K. bleheri*. (*K. ballochi* has since been found once again.)



Both fish are from the Kiunga region of Papua New Guinea and are relatively small (about 3 centimetres in size). While both are available in the hobby, they are not available in North America.

Pseudomugil – The Blue-Eyed Rainbowfish

(15 species – see attached chart for details)

Of all the species of commonly kept Rainbowfish, the Blue-Eyes are the ones I am least qualified to present. Although they have the second highest number of species of all the Rainbowfish genera, I have never kept them, although several members of DRAS (George Banavage being one) have.



There are fifteen known species inhabiting a variety of habitats in both Australia and New Guinea.



They are found in freshwater as well as brackish conditions, and some are known to inhabit blackwater. Their native habitats tend to be defined by slow moving or still water. The name “Blue-Eye” derives from the distinctive colouration of the eye itself. They tend to be rather small with streamlined bodies, small mouths and (for the most part) colourful finnage. Unfortunately, their life span is short, averaging 3 years although some specimens have been known to live for 5 years. Therefore, if you do acquire them, you should initiate breeding attempts as soon as possible.

One species, *Pseudomugil mellis*, is

listed by C.A.R.E.S as endangered (a “species facing a high risk of extinction in the wild in the near future”). Unfortunately this species is not available in North America. Actually, very few species of *Pseudomugil* are to be found in Canada or the United States, although you may be able to find *Pseudomugil furcatus*, *P. gertrudae* or *P. signifier*.



They are a wonderful group of fish that are underappreciated in the hobby. If you do have the chance to keep them (and do your homework first) they are apparently a wonderful addition to any hobbyists collection.

Scaturiginichthys
(1 species – *Scaturiginichthys vermeilipinnis*)

While listed as Critically Endangered by C.A.R.E.S. (“a species facing an extremely high risk of extinction in the wild in the immediate future”) and not available in the hobby globally, this last species of fish is perhaps the most interesting of them all.

It is only found in a small number of artesian springs near a sheep and cattle property (Edgbaston Station) located in central Queensland. There are about 30 artesian springs located at Edgbaston Springs that have permanent water, with water depth ranging from 3 cm to 50 cm. These springs have created a wetland in the middle of an inhospitable area, but cover only about 8 square kilometers. In these small bodies of natural water, there are several species of endemic fish and invertebrates. One of these is *Scaturiginichthys vermeilipinnis*.



They were first discovered in 1990, and are Australia’s smallest freshwater fish (reaching a maximum size of 2.8 centimetres). Unfortunately, they are also Australia’s most endangered freshwater fish. Water has been harvested from the Great Artesian Basin, which is the source of water for the Edgbaston Springs. With the reduction in the water available from the basin, several springs have dried up and others are in danger as well. However, there are programs in place to restore the water in the basin by capping wells to ensure that artesian water pressure remains high, maintaining the springs.

Put then again... *Gambusia holbrooki*, or the mosquitofish, has been introduced in that area as well as other areas of Australia. For those of you not familiar, *G. holbrooki* is a small fish native to the southeastern United States. Somewhere in Australia’s past it was decided to import and release this fish in an ill-conceived notion to control mosquito populations. Unfortunately, they also became an invasive species resulting in the endangerment of various species of native Australian Rainbowfish. So even if they manage to stabilize and ensure the existence of *S. vermeilipinnis* native habitat, they still have to address *G. holbrooki*.

That’s All...

So that covers all the other fish of Sahul that are considered to be Rainbowfish. With the exception of the threadfin Rainbowfish (*Iriatherina wernerii*), *Rhadinocentrus ornatus*, and some species of *Pseudomugil*, they aren’t available to us as Canadian or North American aquatic hobbyists, but they are still beautiful little creatures, and knowledge of them helps round out knowledge of Rainbowfish in general.

Next Month...

In addition to the true Rainbowfish discussed so far, there are two additional species of fish that some also classify as Rainbowfish. These are the *Telmatherinidae* family of fish (native to Sulawesi) and the *Bedotia* genus of fish. Even though there is some division in opinion regarding their legitimacy of them being Rainbowfish, many in the hobby consider (or at least refer to them) as such, so they are worth a look.

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Crenicichla lepidota

by DAVE UNRUH

I came across this fish at an auction last year, possibly at the Hamilton club's auction in the spring. There were two fish in the bag simply labeled as "Pike Cichlids". They were about 6.5 cm long and when viewed in the bag there were no discernable differences. There were a couple of other people interested in them but I guess I was the one who wanted them the most as I took them home.

I had a 40 gallon tank with a couple of old Bristlenose plecos and a fair amount of plants. The pikes ignored the plecos and the plants but there was one thing they were focused on and that was food. They ate all kinds of food that I gave them but they favored meaty types of food such as krill or bloodworms. I also gave them some surplus small livebearers which they eagerly devoured.



This was not a surprise to me as I knew that pikes were very efficient predators. I had a lot of Endlers Livebearers which appeared to be highly palatable to the pikes. They grew quickly and after a few months I had to separate them as one was being roughed up a bit. At this point the fish began to take on some color. Previously they were just a silver torpedo shaped fish with a horizontal black stripe running from the mouth back to the tip of the tail. There was also a black spot just behind the pectoral fin and a second spot at the base of the caudal fin, just above the black stripe. Both fish began to show a narrow black stripe along the top of the dorsal fin. Just under that stripe was a faint red stripe. The area under the mouth started to turn

bright yellow. One of the fish started to show a fair amount of red in the belly and this was the first indication that this was a female pike. At this point the female was the dominant fish and she roughed up the other fish pretty good. I left the female in the tank while I caught the other one and it went into a thirty gallon tank.



I continued to feed them heavily on meaty foods along with my seemingly endless supply of Endlers. But I did not want to be stuck feeding these stomachs on fins those foods forever so I began to try different foods. They ignored Tetra Color Bits as well as various types of flake foods. By mistake one day when I was feeding some pellets to the tropheus I got carried away and dropped some pellets in the pike tank. To my surprise the pike quickly hit them. I waited for the pellets to be spat out but he just looked for more. I gave him a few more pellets and those were gobbled up as well. I tried a few on the female in the other tank and she ate them as well. THIS was a real surprise since the pellets were made for vegetarian fish. They were "Veggie Delux" made by Dainichi. This food has become their favorite and is all they get, apart from a few Endlers every couple of days.

This went on for a number of months until the fish had reached about 18cm (7"). The female's belly was quite red and fat. Both fish showed bright colors. There is a dark line that runs down the length of the body from the mouth all the way down the body to the end of the caudal fin. Above the line is a series of speckled splotches on a light olive-green to yellow background and below the line the body is a silver or light brown color. They have a black spot in the area just behind their gills and a second spot at the base of the tail fin. The

eyes are red. I have read that there are several different color morphs depending on where the location where they are collected. My male had a red stripe in the dorsal fin and the female had the same stripe with the addition of a blue stripe below the red stripe. They can have accents of blue and red in the fins and in the speckles above the black body stripe.



Female *C. lepidota* with ten-day old fry
photo © by DAve Unruh

I set up a 160 L (35 gallon) tank for them. I placed several 2" diameter pvc pipes about 10" long and covered them with some large pieces of ironwood to keep the pipes in place and to make more hiding places for the female to escape the males attention. One of the pieces of ironwood had a large hole that the female found to get away from the male. I also placed a ceramic flower pot with a small opening in the side. After a few days the females fins were looking very tattered and torn.

The male sported some fin damage as well, but not like the female. She was hiding for quite a number of days and I thought she might just be hiding from the male. But then she appeared with a large swarm of young fish. I immediately fed them with some newly hatched baby brine shrimp that I had ready in case there were fry. They ate until they looked like they would burst. The female was very attentive to the fry, even allowing them to pick at her like discus are known to do. The male kept to the rear of the tank but after a few days he was up front with the female and the fry. He also allowed the fry to pick at him, although he was not as patient as the female. When he had enough he would sort of shake his body and the fry would leave him.

I kept the fry with the parents until three weeks had passed and then I removed the fry to their own

tank. They grew well on the live baby brine shrimp but after a few weeks I was able to get them to eat crushed Tetra Color Bits and later whole Tetra Bits. They also liked the Dainichi pellets. The spawn was fairly large, the young pikes numbered over 150. After a few months I noticed that there were a few casualties, the fish were beginning to pick on each other. I decided to sell off the whole bunch to a wholesale fish business. I thought I could always breed more.

These pike cichlids are also called the Two Spot Pike Cichlid. They can be found in the Amazon River basin in the Guarapore river drainage in Bolivia and Brazil as well as other locations in South America. I did not do anything special to the water, using just straight tap water with a dechlorinator. The pH was 7.2 and the temperature was about 24 ° C. The water had taken on the color of tea from the ironwood.

I kept the parents together, hoping they would spawn again. That turned out to be a mistake. Eight weeks after they spawned I came down to the Fishroom to discover that the male had killed the female and that is the end of this story except that now I have a really nice pike cichlid to sell.



Male *Crenicichla lepidota*
photo © by DAve Unruh



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with Pat and Tom
September, 2011



GOOD READING...

▶ ... in the The Greater Cincinnati Aquarium Society's newsletter 'Fincinnati' -

*Lamprologus brevis (M'loto)
by Roberti Proti

▶ ... in the The Greater Pittsburgh Aquarium Society's newsletter 'Finformation' -

*Haplo sp. Fireball by Steve Smith

▶ ... in the The Potomac Valley Aquarium Society's newsletter 'Delta Tale'-

*5 gallon Guppy Habitat by Matt Owens

Most clubs' newsletters are on their web sites. If they are not available to you, let me know and I'll print you a hard copy of the article you want to read.
Pat



MEMBERSHIPS ARE DUE FOR RENEWAL!

See page 2 for membership dues

See you at the meeting!!

Pat B.

JAR SHOW RULES AND REGULATIONS will be on display at the jar show table at each meeting



BAP ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS presented at the June meeting

Tom Hillier

Heros appendiculatus (Red Headed Severum)..... 10 pts.

Xiphophorus helleri (Blue Swordtails).....5

Corydoras paleatus (Pepper cory).....10

Aspidoras albater (False macropterus).....20

Julidochromis transcriptus (Masked Julie).....15

Congratulations! Tom Bridges, BAP chair



UPCOMING EVENTS TO November 2011

September 17, 2011

Sarnia Aquarium Society
AUCTION ONLY

September 18, 2011

CAOAC meetings 11 a.m. and 12 noon
Waterdown, Ontario

September 25, 2011

London Aquaria Society
Show and Auction

October 2, 2011

Hamilton & District Aquarium Society
Show and Auction

October 16, 2011

CAOAC meetings, Waterdown

October 23, 2011

St. Catharines & Area Aquarium Society
Show and Auction

October 23, 2011

Aquarium Club of Edmonton
AUCTION ONLY

October 30, 2011

Kitchener Waterloo Aquarium Society
Show and Auction

November 13, 2011

Tropical Fish Club of Erie County
AUCTION ONLY

November 13, 2011

Peel Regional Aquarium Club

Corydoras paleatus

Text & photo by Tom Hillier

These corys are from the Callichthyidae. Sub family Corydoradinae family. They are from southern Brazil, Uruguay, Paraguay and Argentina. Their habitat includes rivers, standing water including pools and small lakes. They grow to about 2.5 in.

My first pepper Corys I got from Charlie Drew and they were fairly easy to breed. I feed them live and frozen food. They like a sandy bottom with the water temp between 72-78 degrees. They are very peaceful and are always looking for food in the sand. The females are larger than the males.



When breeding feed lots of bloodworm and white worm and do very large water change. When refilling drop the water temp by about 5 degrees and then just watch there will be lots of eggs. You can either remove the eggs or leave them. My tank has so many hiding places and plants I just leave them.



Julidochromis transcriptus

Text & photo by Tom Hillier

Common name Masked Julie. This fish is very easy to feed they will accept quality flakes, pellets, brine shrimp, red worms cut up and daphnia. They will grow to about 6 to 7 cm. Rock work and caves must be provided as they are cave spawners. Temperature should be between 22 and 25 ° Celsius. They will have a life span of about 8 years. The female is larger and plumper the male genital papilla is pointed. Breeding same as other Julies only about 30 to 40 eggs are laid. They are the smallest member of the genus Julidochromis.



The body coloring is yellow white to golden yellow. Three brown black lateral stripes run the course of the body. The uppermost runs through the bottom part of the anal fin, while the lower most extends from the snout through the eye and the caudal fin. Often these stripes are broken or dashed. Six to eight transverse brown black stripes extend down from the back to the lower lateral stripe. These stripes are usually incomplete and broken and often missing. The anal, caudal and dorsal fins have a black and white edge. The pelvic fins are yellow. Several colour and pattern variations are known.

Triglachromis otostigma - A BAP Report by Benjamin L> Smith

reprinted from *The Lateral Line*, the newsletter of the Hill Country Cichlid Club., Texas USA



***Triglachromis Otostigma* male in the authors aquarium.**

I first acquired this species nearly three years ago. I purchased a group of five from a special order list that Dave's Rare Aquarium Fish was running. I had seen pictures by Angel Fotor and decided that I absolutely had to have and spawn this fish.

Triglachromis otostigma is a mud dweller from Lake Tanganyika. Mud is literally this fish's life. The adults dig tunnels into the mud that are around 5 cm in diameter and 1 meter long. The tunnel is used for protection from predators as well as a place for spawning. In the wild, there are usually several tunnels near each other spread about 50 cm apart¹. Above ground, this fish uses its pectoral fins to "walk"

backwards as it senses the mud. When it feels that it has found something edible, it will take a mouthful of the mud over which it has just passed and swallow it whole.

The waters of Tanganyika in where it lives are alkaline and hard with a temperature range in the upper 70o Fahrenheit range and these water parameters were mimicked in my aquarium thanks to San Antonio's tap water. My initial group of five were initially kept in a community tank in an attempt to let a pair form naturally. Unfortunately, the fish all looked identical to me, and while a pair of fish had taken to defending a section of the tank, when I would open the lid, they had no qualms about hiding together in the

same spot, thus making it impossible for me to pick out the original pair. The adults are mostly a silvery tank, but there are silver cross hashes that catch the light as it turns. There is also a purple iridescence reflected from the body at times. If the ventral fins are left along, they grow long and making the adult specimen appear very elegant.

These fish were quite shy and would hide for 10 to 15 minutes whenever someone passed by their aquarium. Ultimately, I netted out all of the fish and tried to vent them.

I gave them 18 months in this setup with no luck until one of them developed a tumor in its mouth and I changed the tank out for a new species. Several months passed by and this past December, 2010 I stopped by Dave's Rare Aquarium Fish and asked what was new and Dave showed a new group of Trigs to me. They were all 2.5-3 inches in length and were wild caught, of course. At this point, I had learned to sex the fish without venting them. On one sex, the female, the first dorsal ray is black, and on the other, it is not. The only problem with this method



The breeding setup was rather simplistic and consisted of PVC pipe on a sand substrate.

I was able to do so, but more so by luck than skill. It turned out that I had 1 female and 5 males. I moved my one female and the largest male to a 55 gallon aquarium with a lot of sand and a PCV tunnel with turn in it such that one end opened vertically and the other, longer end, opened horizontally. Sand was piled sloped up against the one side of the tank thus burying most of the tunnel but leaving both ends open, as Angel Fotor had done with a successful spawn². By the next morning, all the sand was pushed against the front of the tank.

is that I have read that all juveniles have the black spike, so it is a matter of losing the color and so a small fish at 2.5 inches may still have the spike but not be that sex. In a tank full of fish, I made Dave chase around two fish that I had determined were a boy and a girl.

I had a 29 gallon tank at my office in a room I had mostly stopped using and placed the fish in there with 1.5 inch tunnels of PVC but only a smattering of sand. I had one long tunnel that ran the length of the tank and an-

another that was a third the length of the tank. My plan was to add a bit more sand to satisfy this fishes need to move sand around. I had read in Koning's book that he felt another tunnel digging mud dweller, a *Limnochromis* species, liked to move the sand to the front of the tank in an attempt to block your view of them¹. To accomplish this without too much sand in the tank, I intended to wrap the tank in paper and place a web cam to see if anything exciting was happening inside.



Triglachromis Otostigma fry.

Work got busy. I neglected my fish tanks. Water changes were down to once per month rather than every two weeks. I rarely went in the room except to feed the fish their mixed DRAF flakes twice daily excepting weekends. Three months passed and I was at the office on a Saturday to tend some work in the office. I noted that my *Enantiopus* sp. Kilesa had spawned again and was rather excited about that and then knelt to toss some flake into the lower *Triglachromis* tank and began shaking with excitement upon noticing my presumed female with a distended buccal cavity. She refused the flake, though the other took it readily. I

came back the next day and the male was holding the eggs and the female at readily.

As biparental mouthbrooders, this fish exchanges the eggs every few hours so that both adults might forage. After seven days, there were a number of free swimming fry in the tank. By my best estimate, there were about 40 fry. The larger broods in the wild can be up to 100 eggs laid at a spawn.

I fed the fry, which were tiny, Hikari First Bites. They quickly moved onto crushed flake and now, just under 60 days of age, they are over 1 inch long and eating regular flake. At this size, they have a lot of yellow in their fins and are quite pretty. In the wild, fish as long as two inches can still be found sharing tunnels with their parents.

This fish is an amazing community fish. In spite of having a rather large mouth, they have never shown a tendency to eat other bitesized juveniles I

have placed with them. I would strongly recommend keeping this fish regardless of your intent to spawn. It is a pleasure to watch and is a beautiful fish.

References

Konings, Ad. Tanganyika Cichlids in their natural habitat. Cichlid Press. 1998.

The Cichlid Room Companion

<http://www.cichlidae.com/forum/viewtopic.php?f=7&t=2008>

Odessa Barb

by Tom Hillier

Very few fish to compare to the shimmering blues and reds of the Odessa Barb. Prior to 2008 before Suen Kullander and Ralf Brit scientifically named the Odessa Barb as *Puntius padamya*, these tropical fish are sometimes listed as *Puntus titcto*.

They have been traced to Myannar, specifically the region of the Chinduin River. They are also reported to be found in India, Pakistan, Bangladesh and Thailand.



Odessa Barbs are a schooling fish which like to be in schools of six or more. Keep the pH between 6-8 and temperature of 72-78 degrees. Males have definitive red and blue colourations, while females maintain a more dull silver and greenish brown. Adults can reach a length of 4 inches.

They are true omnivores. They enjoy eating vegetable matter such as spirulina, algae wafers, seaweed and zucchini. High quality pellets and flakes are also accepted. They love live foods and frozen foods.

It is best when trying to breed the Odessa Barb to house a number of Odessa barbs in the same aquarium until they pair off. After a pair has developed the female will lay her eggs and the male will follow behind to fertilize. The fry will be free swimming after about 5 days. Feed the fry newly hatches brine shrimp until they are large enough to eat crushed flake food.

Tatia perugiae – Driftwood Cats

Perugia's Wood catfish by Tom Hillier

The “Driftwood Cat” comes from South America. Their native habitat as found in Colombia, Ecuador and Peru. They grow to about 5.0 to 7.5 cm and display a very attractive black spot. They should have a very well decorated aquarium with lots of hiding places. Keep the water temperature around 26 – 28 degrees.



Sometimes if you do a large water change it might induce spawning. The parents should be removed after spawning. Newly hatched fry are very thin, smaller than 1/4” and look similar to wood and like to stay hidden near driftwood. They should be given a very nutritious diet. When the fry hatch they do not need to be fed since they feed off of yolk sac.

In the wild they prefer to search the water surface for food and feed chiefly on ants, beetles and wood flies and this seems to be true for the fry as well and you should therefore give them food that stays near the surface. You can give them crushed flake food, bloodworm or newly hatched brine shrimps.

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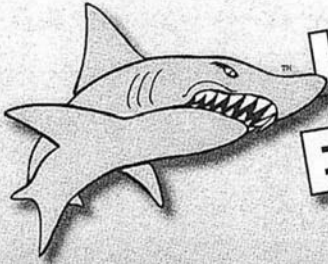
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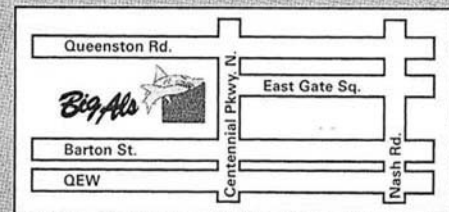
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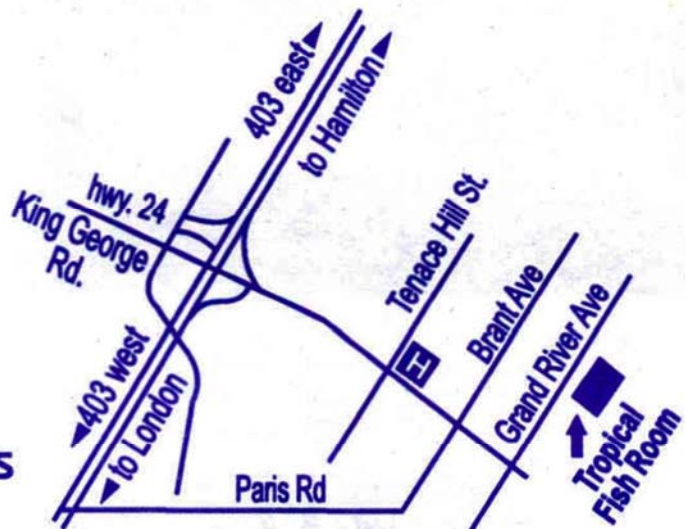
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