

The SCAT

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St. Catharines & Area Aquarium Society
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About The St. Catharines & Area Aquarium Society

Meetings of the St. Catharines & Area Aquarium Society are held on the first Monday of each month at 7:30 p.m. at the Seafarers & Teamsters Union Hall, 70 St. David's Rd. E. Thorold, Ontario. Meetings are not held on holidays; if the first Monday of the month is a holiday, the meeting will be held on the second Monday of the month. There are no meetings held in July or August.

The Society was established in 1958 and is a non-profit, educational organization that is dedicated to the task of promoting interest in the breeding, raising, maintenance and study of aquatic life, 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). The St. Catharines & Area Aquarium Society is also a member of the Federation of American Aquarium Societies (FAAS - www.faas.info). More news and information about the St. Catharines & Area Aquarium Society can be found at - www.scaas.info.

Our next meeting will be held on Monday, May 6th, 2013 at the Seafarers & Teamsters Union Hall, 70 St. David's Rd. E. Thorold, Ontario. Meetings start at 7:30 but feel free to arrive early to enter items for the auction or to "talk fish". All are welcome! May's meeting will be an auction event - don't forget to bring your items to sell and your cash to spend!

Upcoming Events

May 5th - London Aquaria Society Spring Auction

May 18th - CAOAC General Meeting Held at Convention

May 23rd - CAOAC Meeting & President's Barbeque

2012-2013 Executive

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1 st Vice President	John Verhage	(905) 735-7776	
2 nd Vice President	Joe Krawchuk	(905) 325-5562	drummers_secret@hotmail.com
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In This Issue:

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Cover Photo Of Thorichthys maculipinnis

Courtesy Of Dave Furness

Jar Shows

May
Dwarf Cichlids

June
Goldfish & Koi

BAP Achievement Award

Presented At April's Meeting

Tom Hillier received the CAOAC Basic Merit Award for achievement in fish breeding.

Dave Furness

Astatotilapia latifasciata.....5 pts.
Julidochromis regani.....15 pts.

Congratulations!

Tom Bridges, BAP Chair



Membership Fees

Family - \$25

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Senior (Over 65) - \$10

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Executive's Message

An executive message was not provided this month.

Monthly Meeting Minutes

Meeting minutes were not provided this month.

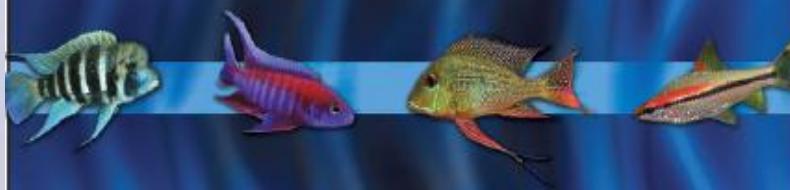
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Thorichthys maculipinnis

By Dave Furness



T. Maculipinnis is from the Papaloapan River and the Rio de Las Mariposas in Mexico. The slowly flowing rivers and lagoons have mostly sandy bottoms and lots of cover, such as driftwood and overhanging vegetation. Thorichthys maculipinnis was once known as T. Ellioti. In fact, they were once thought of as two separate species who lived not far from one another. The maculipinnis do vary in colour patterns within the different locations that they are found in. Specimens from the middle part of the Papaloapan river system have a more pronounced snout.



The PH range for this fish should be between 7.5 and 8.0, while the water temperature should be between 25 and 28 degrees C. The maximum size for them is 15 cm. There are several species of Thorichthys living in Mexico, which are all similar looking. *T. Maculipinnis* is much less aggressive though, than the more popular *Thorichthys meeki*.



In the wild, breeding takes place between February and May in the slow flowing, shallow water, under or close to the overhanging vegetation or driftwood. They are mainly cave spawners, but will spawn on any flat surface. After spawning, the eggs hatch in two days at 28 degrees C. The fry take five days to consume their yolk sack before swimming. The fry should be well fed on brine shrimp, at least until they lose their juvenile form. This fish's natural food are red mosquito larva, but should be fed other foods, such as krill, mysis, brine shrimp and flake foods.

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Coldwater Corner #5

By Dave Easingwood

I wrote last month's article on March 20th. After that we had a spell of warmer weather, in my garden I noticed that the daffodils and crocuses were poking their heads through the ground around the pool, the irises were sprouting and I was looking for other signs of Spring arriving. Gulls were screeching overhead, sparrows were taking bits of dried leaves and twigs up into the conifer trees for nests, fresh primula, daffodil and tulip leaves were showing and the lawn had a hint of fresh green. Buds were showing on my roses, gooseberry and raspberries, but...

As I got into the car to come to our meeting on April 1st, I noticed that biting cold wind was back! We had been APRIL FOOLLED! For the next three days that cold wind persisted, out came the gloves, we had spells of bright sunshine and sun together! Winter had not gone away. I guess I now believe in April Fool's Day!

Then we moved into the second week of April. We had our first warm wind of the year, the American robins were back looking for worms on the lawn, the air temperature was 60F at noon, was this the beginning of SPRING?

No, it went cold again! You have to be patient in Canada for Spring to come, the air is still cold, although there are daffodils flowering and irises poking through, I'm still waiting.

As I write this, it is now April 15th and we have our first warm day of the year! I hope this is it. Dollarama are selling a neat little pond product, a white plastic solar dragonfly on a red and green plastic lily pad. It sells for \$2 and needs switching on and some sun to activate, but it works well and adds some green to the pond surface at this time of year. It is only available as a red lily. It looks neat at night.

Postscript #1 - We had spells of **flurries** and sun at the same time!

Postscript #2 - Now it is the 19th, the Dollarama lily pad sank! I found it at the bottom of the pond this morning. My Forsythia bushes are in bloom, their yellow leaves are the best indication that spring is here. It is nice to have that colour around my ponds.

A hot wind blew in yesterday; it raised the air temp from 55F to 75F in twelve hours. The water warmed up to 65F and the male shubunkins were showing signs of chasing, then 24 hours later the temperature dropped back to 55F, and a cold, biting wind took over. It's still early in the season, I guess, I need more patience.

Postscript #3 – It is the 20th of April, slight flurries during the day, air temperature at 5pm was 37F, I give up on Spring.

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Breeding Ilyodon Xantusi

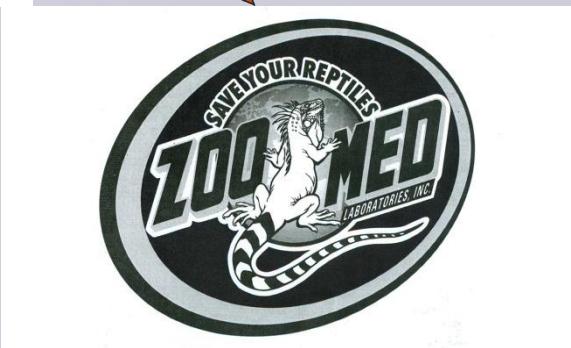
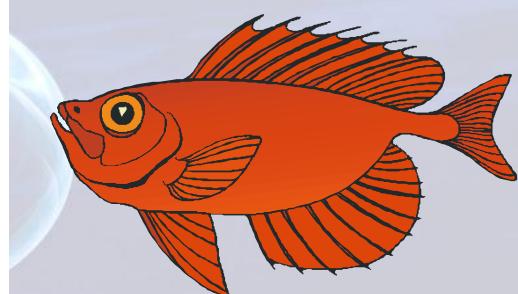
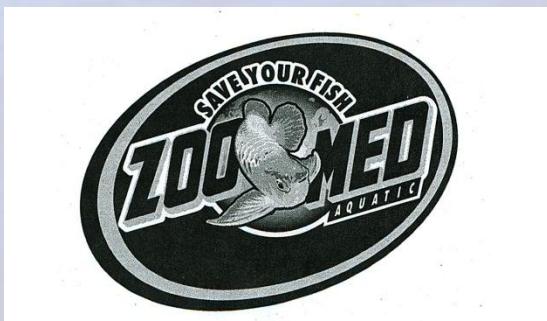
By Dave Furness



The Ilyodon xantusi is from Central America, and is endemic to the Armeria - Coahuayana river basin. The male of this species grows to 6 cm, while the female can grow to 7 cm. This species has a stocky body with an olive-coloured background and a yellowish-white belly. All fins are yellowish, and they have dark spots on the body.

Vegetable matter is an important part of their diet, but they will take a varied diet. I was able to obtain a trio some time ago; two females and one male. They were placed in a five gallon aquarium with a box filter, some floating plants, and a couple of ornaments. The tank was heated to 74 degrees, while the PH was around 7.4. Their PH range should be between 6.0 and 8.0.

The first spawning only produced seven large fry, and thirty days later, they produced fourteen more fry. The fry are large enough, that they do not have to be separated from their parents. The fry and adults were fed, flake foods, newly hatched brine shrimp and crushed peas.



The Great Betta Breed-Off – The End Is Near

By Heather Krawchuk

At press time, Joe hadn't turned in his article, so I'm not sure about the progress that he's making with his bettas. You'll have to wait and see what he has going on at May's meeting!

As for myself, I've really enjoyed this experience and plan to breed bettas again as soon as I have the tank space available. As I mentioned in a previous article, my male betta wasn't very successful in the actual act of breeding. Very few eggs ended up being fertilized, but I am thrilled to announce that of the four original babies that actually hatched, all four are still alive and thriving!

About one month ago, I decided to experiment and removed one of the four from the five gallon tank that I've had them in since their birth. I placed him in a large vase with plants on top, but without a filter or heater. If you can believe it, he colored up within a couple of days and has exceeded the growth of his siblings. Not wanting to tempt fate, as I still believe this was a fluke, I've left the other three in the aquarium to grow at their own pace.

I've found the growth and development of these four to be fascinating. First of all, I probably shouldn't, but I'll admit something here. I've never been good at hatching brine shrimp and worm cultures gross me out. Aside from one feeding of fresh brine shrimp that Joe provided, I haven't fed my bettas any live food. When I last checked the size of Joe's babies, mine, at almost a month younger than his, were a fair size bigger. Now, he might have been busy bulking his guys up over the last couple of weeks, but I was shocked by the results.

The three bettas that remained in the tank are growing in a curious way. They are three very distinct sizes and would almost appear to be from different hatches. The largest started to get color around its fins several weeks ago. The second largest just started to color up a bit last week and the third is much smaller than any of the others and has not yet started to show any color.

Regardless of the outcome of the contest, I've had a really wonderful time doing this. I've learned a lot and am really proud of myself for sticking to it. Joe breeds a variety of fish on a regular basis, but this was my first time purposely breeding a fish aside from my livebearers, which obviously don't need my help to breed. I hope you enjoy seeing them at May's meeting!

Let's Have A Little Fun!

April Answers

- 1.) Fungus is diagnosed when you see which of these symptoms? Fluffy white growths on the body or fins.
- 2.) The best way to treat a single fish from a community tank is to treat the whole tank. False. The best way to treat a single fish is to use a hospital tank. This way you do not stress out or harm other fish within the community tank.
- 3.) Which chemical is used to treat hole in the head? Flagyl. Vitamin A and C supplements are also effective in treating this disease.
- 4.) Marine velvet is caused by which of the following? Amyloodinium ocellatum. Symptoms of marine velvet include white or rust colored dust on the body and fin areas, scratching or rubbing on gravel and decorations, increased respiration, pale color, excess slime and flared gills.
- 5.) Why is your fish doing the doggie paddle upside down? Swim Bladder Disease. Swim bladder disease can be caused by a number of things. It is a bacterial infection that may be a result of fighting, breeding, netting, transportation and poor water quality. Treat this ailment with an antibiotic in a clean shallow tank. Frequent water changes will help to speed up the healing process.

May Questions

Questions & Answers Courtesy of www.funtrivia.com

- 1.) You've decided that your community tank is too much of a mish-mash. You're going to make it a purely "Amazonian" tank. So you'll have to find a new home for your:

- Severums (Heros sp.)
- Pencilfish (Nannostomus sp.)
- Black Neon Tetras (Hyphessobrycon sp.)
- Spotted Headstanders (Chilodus sp.)

- 2.) The disease-causing microsporidian Pleistophora hyphessobryconis was discovered in farmed varieties of:

- Zebra Danios
- Oscars
- Angelfish
- Neon Tetras

3.) Your fish didn't come from the store in a plastic bag of water, but as eggs sent in the mail wrapped in damp peat moss in a baggie. They are:

- Ichthyophthirius species, Australian rainfish
- Melanotaenia species, New Guinea rainbowfish
- Aphyosemion species, African killifish.
- Apistogramma species, dwarf cichlids

4.) "Fishless cycling" involves:

- innoculating a new aquarium with dirty gravel.
- dosing a new aquarium with household ammonia.
- clearing parasites by running an empty aquarium.
- innoculating a new aquarium with packaged bacteria.

5.) The first glass domestic aquariums were to be found:

- in "Jazz Age" New York
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- in Victorian England
- in Ming Dynasty China

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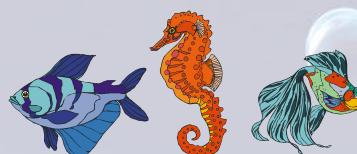
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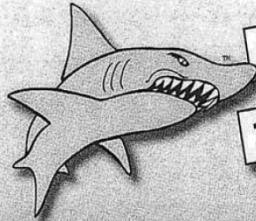
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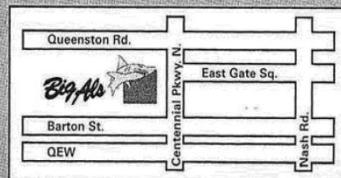
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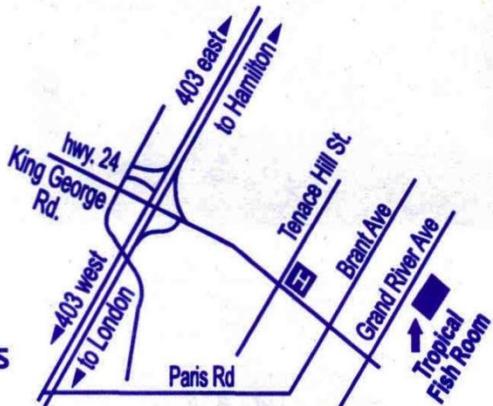
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