

THE JOURNAL OF THE CATFISH STUDY GROUP

Furthering the study of catfish



Notes on *Corydoras melanistius*

Convention 2014 Lecture notes

Spawning *Ancistrus* sp. L183

Spawning *Pseudacanthicus* L114

***Hopliancistrus* – Haakon Haagensen**

National Catfish Championship

Notes on *Corydoras kanei* and *C. crimmeni*

What's New?

Catfish by Post

Rhinelepis strigosa

Catfish Study Group Committee

President – Ian Fuller
 president@catfishstudygroup.org
 conventionmanager@catfishstudygroup.org

Vice-President – Dr. Peter Burgess

Chairman – Bob Barnes
 chairman@catfishstudygroup.org

Treasurer – Danny Blundell
 treasurer@catfishstudygroup.org

Membership Secretary – Mike O’Sullivan
 membershipsecretary@catfishstudygroup.org

Auction Manager – David Barton
 auctionmanager@catfishstudygroup.org

Assistant Auction Manager – Roy Barton
 auctionmanager@catfishstudygroup.org

Secretary – Ian Fuller
 secretary@catfishstudygroup.org

Editor – Mark Walters
 editor@catfishstudygroup.org

BAP Secretary – Brian Walsh
 bapsecretary@catfishstudygroup.org

Show Secretary – Brian Walsh
 showsecretary@catfishstudygroup.org

Assistant Show Secretary – Ann Blundell

Website Manager – Allan James
 webmaster@catfishstudygroup.org

Floor Member – Bill Hurst

Scientific Advisor – Dr. Michael Hardman

Diary Dates - 2014

| Date | Meeting | Venue |
|----------------------------|------------------------------|--------------|
| September 21 st | Annual Open Show and Auction | Derwent Hall |
| October 19 th | Discussion on ‘L’ numbers | Derwent Hall |
| November 16 th | Autumn auction | Derwent Hall |
| December 14 th | Christmas meeting | Derwent Hall |

Monthly meetings are held on the third Sunday of each month except, where stated.
 Meetings start at 1.00 pm:

Auctions, Open Show and Spring and Summer Lectures

All Meeting are held at:

Derwent Hall, George Street, Darwen, BB3 0DQ.

The Annual Convention is held at

The Kilhey Court Hotel, Chorley Road, Standish, Wigan, WN1 2XN.

Contents

| | |
|---|-----------|
| Editorial | 2 |
| From the Chair | 3 |
| Notes on <i>Corydoras melanistius</i> – Luiz Tencat | 4 |
| Convention 2014 Lecture notes – Mark Walters | 5 |
| Spawning <i>Ancistrus</i> sp. L183 – Andy Moore | 7 |
| Spawning <i>Pseudacanthicus</i> L114 – Mark Walters | 10 |
| <i>Hopliancistrus</i> – Haakon Haagensen | 15 |
| National Catfish Championship – Mark Walters | 17 |
| Notes on <i>Corydoras kanei</i> and <i>C. crimmeni</i> – Steve Grant | 20 |
| What’s New? – Mark Walters | 23 |
| Catfish by Post – Mark Walters | 28 |
| <i>Rhinelepis strigosa</i> – Mark Walters | 30 |
| CW numbers – Ian Fuller | 32 |

Front cover – *Rhinelepis strigosa* – The pineapple plec, image by Mark Walters

Images and articles may not be reproduced without the direct permission of the author

Views expressed within the Journal are those of individual members and not necessarily representative of the Catfish Study Group

**Publication of the Catfish Study Group Journal is
proudly sponsored by Tetra**



Editorial

Welcome to the latest Catfish Study Group Journal - the Summer edition, a little later than planned. I'm not sure if members appreciate the amount of work that is required to draft each edition but with competing priorities at home, work and in the fish house, the task seems to become more difficult with each copy. The task would be helped enormously if more members contributed to the effort, with articles, reports or other useful information. I'm sure people get fed up with so many accounts of my experiences!

This edition sees a write up of my experiences to date with the cactus plecs of the genus *Pseudacanthicus*. I have also included a few images of the closely related genus *Leporacanthicus*, of which I have kept a few different species.

My interest in these catfish is only muted by the tank space I have available to house them. If I had more larger tanks I would surely delve deeper into keeping more groups – maybe a future project in the fish house.

In the meantime I have a couple of pairs from these genus' in my tanks, and have had varying degrees of breeding success. My leopard cactus plecs (L114) have now bred on 4 occasions and I have distributed about 20 3" youngsters through auctions and CSG sales. I hope this helps more fish keepers to try these fascinating catfish, which appear to becoming less common in wild imports.

Fellow Yorkshire aquarist Andy Moore has shared his experiences breeding one of the starlight bristlenose catfish *Ancistrus* L183. Andy displayed some of his spectacular youngsters at the Summer lecture earlier in the year.

I've written up a few more detailed notes from a couple of the lectures I attended at the convention. One of the convention lecturers has also contributed to this edition of the Journal. Haakon Haagenen presents his experience with a rarely encountered group of Loricariidae – the *Hopliancistrus* of the Rio Xingu. Hopefully Haakon is successful in breeding these catfish – a feat not yet accomplished in captivity.

Regular contributor, Steve Grant has presented an update to his description of two *Corydoras* species in the 1990's. This helps clear up the confusion with other similar looking fish in the hobby.

I've included lots of new descriptions and articles on ordering catfish by post and the prehistoric-looking plec *Rhinelepis strigosa*.

You can also read about the latest National Catfish Championship, run by Castleford Aquarist Society in July. The show provides good practice for the CSG show, which I'm looking forward to.



Top quality show fish

And finally, welcome to a new contributor Luiz Tencatt, an active PhD student working with some of the top ichthyologists in the world in better understanding the corydoradinae group of catfish. I hope we can encourage Luiz to present more of his work through the journal in coming years. Thanks to Ian for securing his time to present this article uncovering the identity of one of our aquarium staples.

Enjoy the latest version of the Journal, have a think about drafting your own articles and and I hope to see you at forthcoming CSG events.

Mark



From the Chair



From the Chair

It is with sincere regret that I must begin on a rather sombre note. Earlier this week, I was saddened to learn of the passing of Mr Phillip Morris. He died peacefully in hospital following a short illness. He had been a long-standing family member of the Catfish Group, beginning initially with the NACG, through to the CSG. Most of the time he was one of the unsung heroes, a stalwart member of the kitchen team who seemed effortlessly to produce an unending supply of much-needed refreshments. Our thoughts, prayers and condolences go to his family at this sad time.

Club News

It is pleasing to note that the Show and Auction is once more upon us! It would be wonderful to see as many of you as possible showing fish. This year, all who do will receive a 'goody bag' well worth having, so please bring along your show entries.

Time certainly does fly, as the next event looming large is of course, the AGM. If members have any proposals for consideration, please have them ready for the next 'Cat Chat'. Your committee is still looking to fill a variety of posts, vacant from the last AGM. If you wish to help, please see any committee member or myself for further details of how you could assist.

With my very best wishes to you all,

Bob Barnes,
Chairman

Something wrong with my nose: The true identity of *Corydoras melanistius* Regan, 1912

Luiz Fernando Caserta Tencatt

When I started my master's degree in 2011, I had to choose a theme for my dissertation and my supervisor, the renowned ichthyologist, Carla Pavanelli proposed me to work with *Corydoras* in partnership with one of the great experts in Corydoradinae, my mentor and friend, Marcelo Britto.

I initially felt quite intimidated with the group since the fame of these little catfish in presenting taxonomic problems is notorious. We started performing the long awaited taxonomic revision of *C. paleatus* (Jenyns, 1842), which we hope to publish soon, and when I realized I was completely obsessed by the whole genus.

At that time, I began to read about and examine the largest possible number of species of *Corydoras* trying to find as many taxonomic problems as I could. In the same period, we published the description of *C. lymnades* Tencatt, Vera-Alcaraz, Britto & Pavanelli, 2013, and, thanks to that, I had the pleasure to make my first contact with Ian Fuller, with whom I started exchanging e-mails on numerous issues involving the species of *Corydoras*, and who kindly invited me to write this short article. Shortly afterwards, I also had the great pleasure of meeting Hans Evers, another *Corydoras* enthusiast, who became a dear friend.

I believe it is a consensus that the "masked" species group can be considered one of the nicest of the genus. My relationship with them began with an invitation from a friend, Ricardo Britzke, to examine the specimens of a possible undescribed species captured in the Tapajós River basin, known in the hobby as C-142 (Fig. 1). Ricardo sent me several specimens and I was very excited to find out if it really was a new species.

When we suspect a possible new species, we begin to compare with all congeners, especially the most similar, trying to falsify the hypothesis that it is a new species. When all attempts to falsify this hypothesis are exhausted, we finally consider this species as new (we're still in the middle of this process with the C-142). Since C-142 is a short-snouted species, I gave priority to the species with short and rounded snout, and obviously similar color pattern. But before we continue our conversation about the C-142 snout, it is important to say that the *Corydoras* species havenot only the classical short or long snout pattern but also an intermediate condition which we call "straight snout".



Figure 1. Live specimen of C-142 from the rio Tapajós basin. Photo by Ricardo Britzke

In a simplified way, the long- and straight-snouted species can be distinguished from the short-snouted ones by the presence of a long mesethmoid, with anterior tip well developed (Britto, 2003: 126, fig. 1A) (vs. short, with poorly developed anterior tip Britto, 2003: 126, fig. 1B); and presence of retrorse serrations (toward the origin of the spine) on posterior margin of pectoral spine (vs. perpendicularly inserted, or extrorse (toward the tip of the spine)).

The straight-snouted species can be distinguished from the long-snouted species mainly by the presence of laminar serrations on posterior margin of pectoral spine (vs. conical) and upper tooth plate with two rows of teeth (vs. three). The lateral profile of the snout is also useful to diagnose the two kinds of pointed snouts, being concave in the long-snouted species (vs. nearly straight). Despite the higher similarity between the two pointed snout patterns, the straight-snouted species are most commonly mistaken for the short-snouted ones. And it is precisely the case of our little masked friend *Corydoras melanistius*!

On one occasion, Marcelo showed me the pictures (only in lateral view) of all the material he examined during his stay in the British Museum of Natural History in London. One of the specimens is the lectotype of *Corydoras melanistius*, under voucher BMNH 1864.1.21.86.

Incredibly, the first thing that intrigued me was not the obvious rounded snout displayed by the specimen but its infraorbital 2, which is very slender and contacting only sphenotic (Fig. 2). Despite some short-snouted species presents infraorbital 2 thickened and contacting sphenotic and compound pterotic, none of the known straight- and long-snouted species present infraorbital 2 slender, only touching sphenotic.

This was the first clue to demystify that *C. melanistius* had straight snout. As I only had the photo in lateral view at my disposal, I consulted the image database available at the All Catfish Species Inventory (ACSI) website (<http://acsi.acnatsci.org/base/>). To my luck, there was a high quality (as always) photograph showing the lectotype of *C. melanistius* in dorsal, lateral and ventral views (see <http://acsi.acnatsci.org/base/getthumbnail.php?mode=full&target=132955>), and by zooming the dorsal view photo it was possible to note that the pectoral serrations are extrorse.



Figure 2. Lectotype of *Corydoras melanistius*, BMNH 1864.1.21.86, 35.0 mm SL. sph= sphenotic, cpt= compound pterotic and io2= infraorbital 2. Photo by Marcelo Britto.

At that moment, I myself was shocked because I (and I think everyone else) always believed that *Corydoras melanistius* was a straight-snouted species. This discovery brought me more questions about the true identity of *C. melanistius*, as: “To which species belong the specimens attributed to *C. melanistius*?”; “*Corydoras melanistius* could be synonymous with a widely known by researchers and hobby enthusiasts?”; or “*Corydoras melanistius* could be a C-number?”. Unfortunately I still do not have concrete answers to these questions, but, as we say here in Brazil, I embraced the problem!

Currently, one of the subprojects of my PhD thesis is to perform the taxonomic review of *C. melanistius* and its related species (like *C. brevirostris* Fraser-Brunner, 1947),

together with a review of *C. agassizii* Steindachner, 1876 and also their related species (like *C. delphax* Nijssen & Isbrücker, 1983), combined with molecular data, along with our friends and partners Claudio Oliveira and Ricardo Britzke.

To give a taste of what lies ahead, I can say to you that we have already prepared the redescription of *C. agassizii*, *C. brevirostris* and *C. delphax*. Additionally, we already conducted a molecular phylogenetic analysis in which the relationships between the species with the same color pattern as *C. melanistius* was provided. Some parts are missing in this puzzle, as *C. ambiacus* Cope, 1872, *C. bicolor* Nijssen & Isbrücker, 1967, *C. ehippifer* Nijssen, 1972 and obviously *C. melanistius* itself.

It's funny to think that all this work came after an unpretentious analysis of C-142 specimens. I hope this little beam of light that we put on the darkness of lack of knowledge about this very complex group serve to guide us out of this maze.

Acknowledgements

I want to thank my mentors, Carla S. Pavanelli, Marcelo R. Britto and Flávio C. T. de Lima, by the teachings and confidence; Ricardo Britzke and Claudio Oliveira for joining us in the “odyssey of the masked”. Ian Fuller for the invitation to write this brief article; Ian Fuller and Hans Evers for the cordiality and friendship, always helping me with information and photos. Finally, the Conselho Nacional de Desenvolvimento Científico e Tecnológico (CNPq) which provides fellowships to me.

Literature Cited

Britto, M. R. 2003. Phylogeny of the subfamily Corydoradinae Hoedeman, 1952 (Siluriformes: Callichthyidae), with a definition of its genera. *Proceedings of the Academy of Natural Sciences of Philadelphia*, 153: 119-154



- * Over 350 Tanks of Tropical, Marine and Coldwater Fish
- * Rift Lake Cichlids
- * South and Central American Cichlids
- * Large number of Plecs and other Catfish
- * *Corydoras*
- * Discus
- * Koi Carp and full range of Pond Fish
- * All Fish Quarantined
- * Full range of Accessories and Plants
- * Large selection of Aquariums and Dry Goods
- * Pond Liners & Equipment

Tel Crewe: 01270 820073

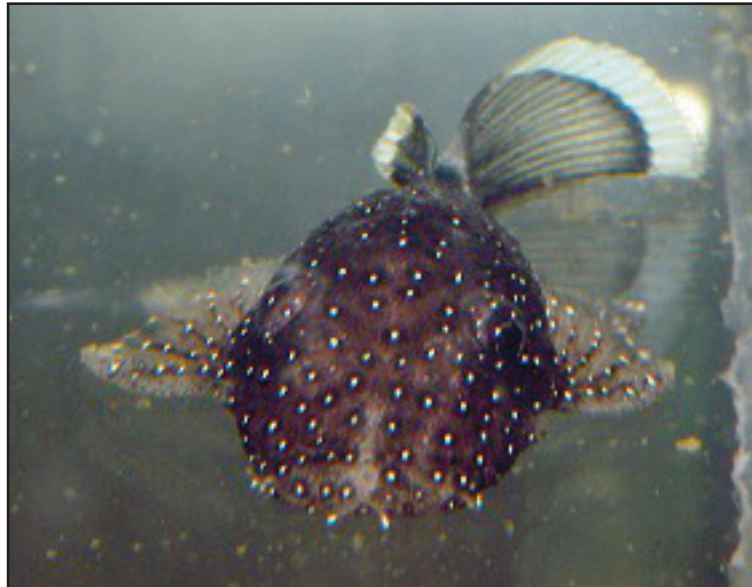
Email: info@a-zaquatics.com Web: www.a-zaquatics.com

The Garden Centre,
Balterley Green Road (B5500),
Balterley,
Nr. Crewe, CW2 5QF (Nr Wychwood Park)
10 Minutes From Junction 16 –

Black and White Bristlenose - L 183

Andy Moore

Bristlenose.... A word many catfish enthusiasts are fed up of hearing, but stick with me, as you can see from the pictures, these fish are a little different!



Headshot of adult L183

L183 are described as *Ancistrus dolichopterus* (Kner, 1854), however this name has become synonymous with many undescribed bristlenose variants over time. True L183 are a slate grey-black bodied *Ancistrus* with a brilliant white starlight pattern across the body and fins. Dorsal and caudal fins both show a consistent white seam across their edge even in adult specimens.

A sure-fire way to identify this species is to count the dorsal rays, L183 have 1 hard and 8-10 soft rays, while most other *Ancistrus* only have 7-8 soft rays in the dorsal. True L183 also have a blue tinge to the white seams which is not usually present in other *Ancistrus*.

I acquired my pair privately in 2012 from a fellow hobbyist, however they were first sourced as wild caught fish from Pier Aquatics in 2009. The fish initially spawned in my tank soon after being transferred in June 2012 but the eggs were either eaten by the male or evicted from the cave and perished in the tank. I have kept them in the same tank since then (24inx15inx18in) but have witnessed no spawning activity from either fish. Both fish have always been well rounded and healthy but despite numerous attempts to force a spawn (waterchanges/temperature drops etc.) the fish have never obliged. Very rarely has the male even bothered to occupy his cave for any length of time.



Adult L183

The tank has a play sand base with additional bogwood and terracotta caves and slate overhangs. The fish have always been fed on various vegetables and algae based tablets as well as occasional offerings of tetra prima, discus granule, and ZM foods. I have noticed these fish seem to prefer a more protein rich diet than the other *Ancistrus* I have bred (L100, L182). Tank parameters are around PH 6.5, TDS 80-100, Temp 27-28°C. Normal routine for this tank is a 10-20% water change every 2-3 days. On the 4th Oct 2013 I left for a weekend away knowing on my return i would be due in hospital for a small operation so carried out a 50% change and fed with Discus granules. My hospital stay and following recovery meant I didn't visit the fish house until the 13th Oct (9days absent). The fish had been fed a protein granule twice in this time by a relative.

On looking at the L183 tank I thought the female had sadly died as she was hanging upside down under a piece of bog wood and was a white/cream colour, similar to that of a decaying fish. I put my hand in to remove the fish and was startled as she displayed normal flight response and fled to another hiding place!



Stress clouration

At this point i was shocked to observe a very healthy L183 displaying an almost complete lack of colour. I checked the males hideout and he was also displaying the same lack of colour. My fish had suddenly become leucistic (A condition where by pigmentation cells fail to develop meaning the fish has no colour).

Patches of colour (black) remained on the fish however around 90% of both fish were completely lacking in colour, interestingly the white 'starlight' pattern could still be clearly seen on both fish (See pictures). I examined both fish closely and observed clear eyes, no breaks in skin, and both fish appeared to be normally active and healthy. Due to this I decided not to treat with anything other than a 10% water change (all i could manage in my post operative state). Over the next 2 weeks i struggled with health but managed to carry out small (10-20%) water changes every other day using a RO/Tap mix with a TDS around 80ppm. During this time, although staying mainly out of sight the fish began to regain their usual colouration.

The male then began to occupy a spawning cave, his renewed jet black colour contrasting well against the terracotta cave. 12 days later the male was found to be guarding a clutch of eggs numbering around 25, His inexperience led him to accidentally evict around half of them, some of which were empty shells (Pictured). I placed the evicted eggs into a rearing tank with good flow where they hatched with few problems. I removed the remaining fry from the fathers cave once they became wrigglers and added them to the same rearing tank as the artificially hatched fry.



L183 egg mass

Once the yolk sacks looked like they had been substantially depleted i made sure ample food was available for the fry to graze on as they became ready to feed. This was mainly in the form of courgette and sweet potato, taking care to remove it before it fouled the water. I noticed the fry used up their yolk sacks and started to feed at varying rates, this was possibly due to the difference in the hatching methods, with around half the batch being paternally cared for in the cave and the rest being cared for by myself with the aid of an air stone.

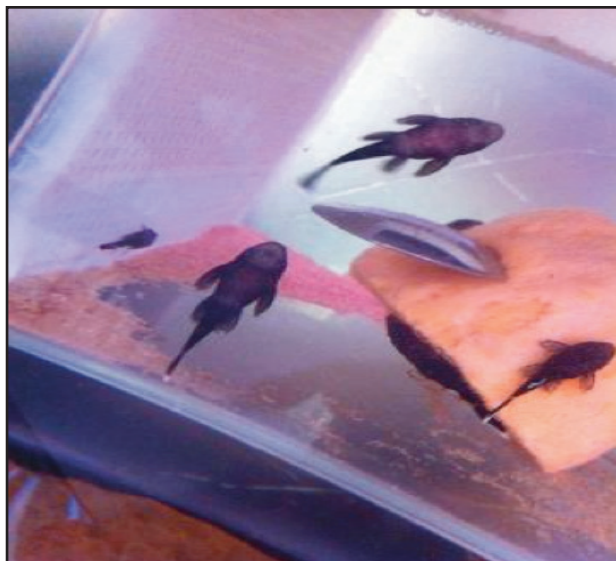
10% daily water changes were carried out on the rearing tank and the fry grew fairly rapidly on a diet of courgette and sweet potato with the occasional supplement of a protein rich feed which was usually brineshrimp, micro worm, or crushed discus granule. 3 weeks later they were perfect miniatures of the adults, exhibiting the black body and white edge to the unpaired fins.

The adults spawned again when the fry were approximately seven weeks old, this time only the female showed any sign of colour loss before spawning and as expected for a second spawn the egg clutch was slightly larger and the male played a better role of caring for the eggs.

During fry development however i did notice something a little strange with the colour of the fry, 95% of the young developed normally however a small number of individuals developed with what appears to be a lack of colour, some of them even appear almost see-through. (See pictures) They appear to feed and develop at the same rate as the normal fry however I will keep hold of these individuals to see how they develop further.

Regarding the colour loss, i recently read an article in Amazonas magazine which summarized the colour loss in various fish at different times by different keepers. One suggested theory in that article was that a diet high in protein was a common factor between several of the occurrences. My experience seems to fit in with this as during my initial absence before the colour change the fish were fed a high protein discus granule, as well as being fed high protein treats on a fairly regular basis. The fry are mainly fed a vegetable based diet.

However the parent fish were also subjected to poor water quality in the form of slightly higher nitrates and lower PH during my hospital stay so maybe one or all of these things played a part in the fish losing pigment. It has been suggested previously that some fish have a “close to death”

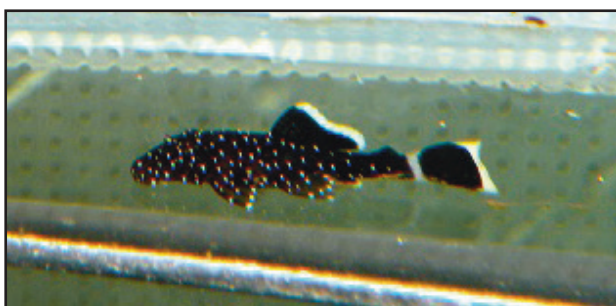


Juvenile L183

spawning trigger, (i.e we won't live much longer, we should breed to further our species) Although on inspection the fish looked and seemed very healthy, it's possible that decreased water quality caused the colour change and however strange or unexplainable the circumstances, i'm very happy with the result, after nearly 2 years, they finally bred!!

UPDATE**

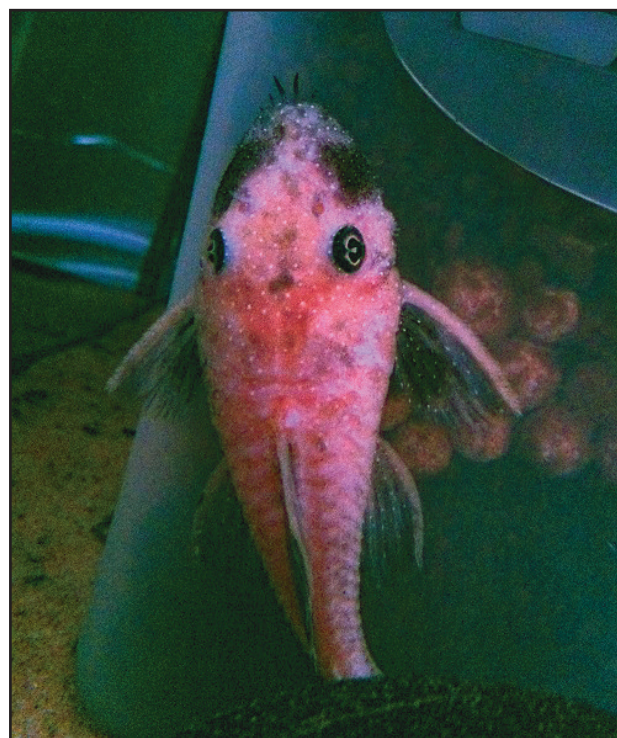
The fish have continued to breed on roughly a 3 month cycle. Every time the female has shown quite dramatic colour change before spawning but the male has stayed mainly black during these encounters. The female continues to return to her original black colour within 5-7 days after a spawn.



Ancistrus L183 juvenile

I have observed over this time that water quality has remained at its usual good standard; this leads me to believe the colour change is either protein dependent as I try to condition the female and feed richer foods, or hormone led as she becomes ready to breed.

I have also observed some of the fry that initially developed with a lack of colour (possibly the females?) have also intermittently lost and regained their colour at around the same time as the adult female (see pictures). The fry return to usual colour within a similar time period of 5-7 days. The fry have been mainly on a vegetable based diet so I now question whether this is anything to do with protein in the diet, and possibly hormone led or down to water conditions. I will keep back a few of the fry to see how they progress as adults



Colourless L183



Breeding the cactus plec - *Pseudacanthicus cf leopardus* 'L114'

Mark Walters



Pseudacanthicus L114 9 month old specimen – Image by Steve Grant

I have generally maintained smaller species of Loricariids over the years and had looked on in awe at fishkeepers who established 100 gallon plus tanks to house a couple of blue eyed panaques or giant *Hypostomus* species.



Hypostomus margaritifer

The fish I really envied were the spectacular cactus plecs of the genus *Pseudacanthicus*, including the leopard plec, scarlet thresher plec and typhoon plec



Pseudacanthicus L160

I contented myself with maintaining the next best thing, their smaller cousins of the *Leporocanthicus* genus, including the 3-beacon plecs *T. triactis*, *L. heterodon*, sultan plec *L. joseliamanus* and larger vampire plec L240.



Pseudacanthicus L025 – The Scarlet Thresher Plec



Pseudacanthicus L097



Leporocanthicus joseliamanus

I have had relative success with all these fish but no spawning success, despite numerous trappings.

When I was fitting out my latest fish house in 2011, I made sure I had room for a good sized aquarium

and included a 120 gallon tank with the intention of getting something a bit special. The previous tank owner also sold me a pair of suitable inhabitants, two spectacular *Pseudacanthicus*. Although these were thought to be the same species, it is likely they constituted one true *P. leopardus* and a closely related species *P. sp. L114*.



Pseudacanthicus leopardus

After only 4 weeks in my care, in a temporary 40 gallon tank, these tank busters did what they do best and broke the tank, causing all the water to flood out and leaving the fish flopping in the remaining puddle. Unfortunately they didn't survive the ordeal and I was particularly upset for the guy who trusted me with his 'babies'.

The big tank became home to a pair of *Leporacanthicus* L240, which despite growing into fantastic specimens have yet to spawn for me.



Leporacanthicus sp. L240

Keeping those original two *Pseudacanthicus* sparked a desire to keep them again at some point and at the 2012 CSG Convention I was pleased to hear a talk by Ingo Seidel on the genus, recounting some of his breeding experiences.

Ingo also brought some young *Pseudacanthicus* 'L065' to sell and I picked up a group of 5. L065 are one of the smallest of the genus, which was attractive to me, considering I could readily keep them in a 30 gallon tank I had available. As youngsters they have a particularly attractive spotted pattern, which they grow out of as they get bigger, turning into a much darker adult fish.



Pseudacanthicus sp. L065

I found them to be quite aggressive amongst themselves and the males set up territories which they fiercely defended. Even the females had a hard time from the males and I decided to pass them onto another aquarist who could provide better accommodation for them.

I was *Pseudacanthicus*-free for another 6 months until another CSG event, the Spring Auction in February 2013. I was surprised when the auctioneer held up a large bag with a good sized cactus plec 'L114'. At a reserve of £40 I didn't have the time to think about if I could accommodate the fish and left it to go unsold.

After some deliberation, I approached the seller and he agreed to sell it to me. Back home, I made some space in an established 30gallon tank as part of a 300 gallon centralised system. Food-wise, I gave the new inhabitant the same food I gave to all my catfish, a combination of new Era pellets, Tetra Prima and catfish wafers, I also threw in the occasional earthworm and frozen bloodworm treat, conscious of their carnivorous habits. I didn't know what the sex of the fish was, although a friend had suggested it looked like a female, it measured around 14cm SL.

I didn't actively look for a mate, although made a few tentative enquiries on web sites, as people offered their L114 for sale. In October 2013, a fellow Facebook forum regular offered a couple of L114 for sale and I arranged to meet at a local service station one Sunday morning.

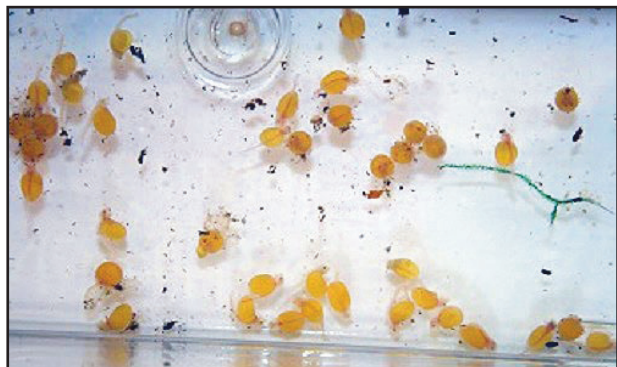
On return to my fish house, I acclimatised the 10cm SL specimen in another tank as part of the same centralised system and left it alone for a few weeks. I then decided to tempt fate and see how the two fish would get on with each other. After introducing the new fish to the larger specimen I observed them for a while and left them to it.

Over the next few days I was relieved they weren't tearing chunks out of each other, suggesting they weren't two males, at least. I actually thought they were two females and was quite content to leave them to settle and grow on. I was surprised, therefore, after two more weeks to see them displaying courtship behaviour and eventually trapping in a large cave in the tank.

The trapping continued on and off for a week, convincing me I did have a pair, and leaving me hopeful of more success. However, I was mindful of the small size of the female and didn't expect any further activity.

Back on Facebook, CSG Journal regular Michael Hardman was posting about some of his *Pseudacanthicus* breeding experiences and not to be outdone, I posted about my recent events. Although I didn't want to tempt fate, over the next few days I kept a log of events on Facebook, resulting in the female being evicted from the cave, leaving the male on his own.

After an opportunity when the male popped out, I peered into the cave to see a large clump of eggs. The female played no further part in brooding, in common with other Loricariid species.



L114 Eggs and newly hatched fry

From the experiences of other fishkeepers, I estimated that the eggs would start to hatch after 5 or 6 days and true-enough, on the fifth day (November 21st 2013) the male kicked out a wriggling fry attached to a large yolk sac. He obviously didn't quite have the hang of brood-care and over the next 48 hours ejected the whole spawn, totalling over 60 wrigglers and unhatched eggs.



L114 1 day old

I separated them off into hatching tubs with unhatched eggs, damaged fry and obviously healthy fry. Over the next couple of days a large number of the damaged fry died off and eventually I was left with 15 healthy fry. I wasn't disheartened by the die-off of fry and was pleased to see at least a quarter of

the young make it past the critical stage of egg sac absorption.



L114 5 days old

The fry raising tub was the same type used by other catfish breeders with an uplift providing fresh flow through the tank. I added a couple of small pieces of bogwood and a thin covering of sand.

After 10 days, they had fully absorbed their yolk sacs and I offered small amounts of newly hatched Artemia and ZM100 fry food. I posted my success on various websites and an American breeder of *Pseudacanthicus* suggested I feed them on Thera granulated food by Spectrum. This became a staple diet, supplemented with small amounts of Artemia and other proprietary fish foods as they grew.



L114 9 days old

I kept a photo journal of their development and shared my experiences with other aquarists through Facebook and Planet Catfish.

As I write, the male has returned from his previous experience and is brooding a second clutch of hatched fry, although he still kicked out over 30 of his brood.

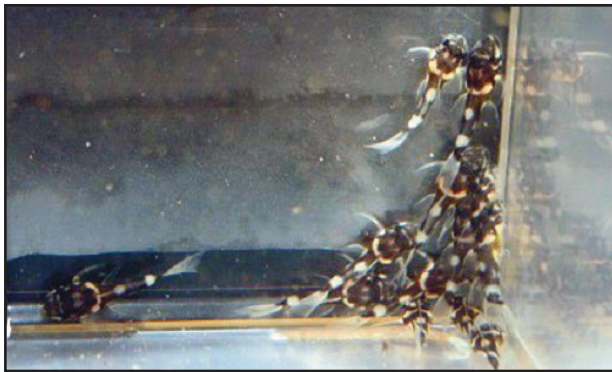
I suspect as they become more experienced, the parental care will improve. For the record, the pair took another two months to spawn after the first event. I didn't do anything obvious to trigger either spawn, although the temperature did rise from 26C to 28C, shortly before the second spawning. I don't change significant amounts of water on the

centralised system, probably only top up 10 gallons a week using cold rain water.

At 10 weeks, the fry measured 25mm SL or 33mm TL. After 13 weeks, the youngsters had reached 30mm SL.



L114 18 days

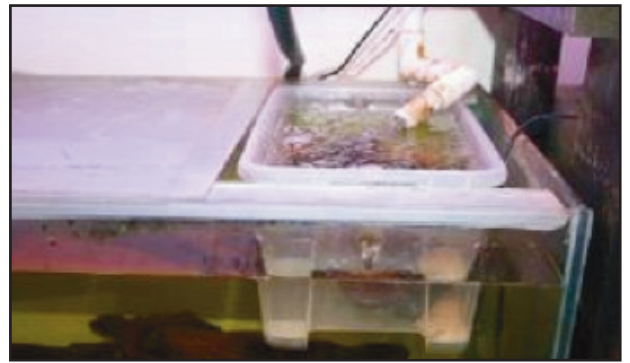


L114 11 days

I registered the spawning with the CSG Breeders Award Scheme, the success marking the 12th genus of catfish spawned since I entered the scheme in 2007. This also constitutes my 13th Loricariidae or Loricariinae species.



L114 19 days



After 6 weeks, the fry were moved to a larger raising tub



L114 at 7 weeks



L114 at 10 weeks.



Group of 4-6 month-old L114

L114 images by the author. All other images by Steve Grant.

Convention Sponsors

The Catfish Study Group would like to thank the following sponsors for their continued and most valued support.




www.scotcat.com Your internet guide to all things Catfish.



PlanetCatfish.com



Corydorasworld.com



AsianCatfish.com



South American Fish



New Era



PIER AQUATICS



New Life SPECTRUM
Premium Fish Food for colour and vitality



REPASHY SUPERFOODS SPECIALTY FISH DIETS



Arcadia



EHEIM EHEIM mp JAGER



Tetra



AQUALIFE
www.aqualifeonline.co.uk
Tel/Fax: 01772 601777
Aqualife, Wyevale Garden Centre, 338 Southport Road, Lines Wotton, Leyland, PR26 8LQ
Everything you need when it comes to Aquatics



Wood Art .me.uk



MIDLAND WATERLIFE



Aqua One®



A-Z Aquatics Ltd



SuperFish



Tropical Waters AQUATICS



Practical Fishkeeping
Amazing fish and how to keep them pfmag.com



WHARF AQUATICS



AQUARIAN API® 50 YEARS OF FISH EXPERIENCE



Tri-Mar aquaria



Ahead through research JBL

Hopliancistrus

Haakon Haagenesen



The Rio Xingu in Brazil is home to some of the most iconic Plecos in our hobby, and is one of the most explored areas by fishermen supplying the ornamental trade. Not all the Plecos found in this river are allowed for export from Brazil, but those which are have become quite regular encounters in the trade. Still, some of them stay remarkably overlooked by fishkeepers. Among these we find *Hopliancistrus* sp., a genus of rather anonymous-looking small sized Plecos that only few enthusiasts seem to embrace.

There are in fact quite a few species or forms of *Hopliancistrus* out there. The most common one, at least on stocklists, is L17. This species is allowed for export from Brazil, and is collected in the rapids of Rio Xingu. This doesn't mean it's particularly widespread in the trade though.

Most L17 usually shows up as by-catch to another very similar looking species; *Pseudancistrus* sp.L67. It takes a well trained eye to tell them apart, which explains this scenario. L67 is a much more common fish in the river, and is collected in larger numbers.

Only few L17 and LDA15 enters the mix, making it a challenge for the fishkeepers around the world to get a hold of enough specimens for a breeding group. Then there's the fact that L17 looks very much like so many other, more readily available Plecos, such as for example the very popular Golden Nuggets.

The majority of fishkeepers out there choose something different than L17 if given the opportunity.

I however, have set my eyes on these nice little Plecos! So far there's no breeding report available anywhere, which of course is intriguing. Then there's the fact that these fish are endangered in their natural habitat due to the damming of the Xingu. Also, they are simply very nice to look at and have a nice habit of being very visible even during the day, like so many herbivore Plecos.

During my planning for how to make my *Hopliancistrus* dream a reality, I realized that there's very little information out there. The Mergus Wels Atlas 2 by Seidel & Evers is the best source by far. So far these *Hopliancistrus* types are known:

Hopliancistrus tricornis (Isbrücker & Nijssen, 1989), Rio Tapajos
*H. sp.*L17, Rio Xingu
*H. sp.*L171, Rio Iri
*H. sp.*L361, Rio Jamanxim
*H. sp.*LDA15, Rio Xingu
H. sp."Iri", Rio Iri
H. sp."Xingu", Rio Xingu

These types can be divided into two groups, which may in fact turn out to be variations of two species: The *Hopliancistrus tricornis* group (*H. tricornis*, L171, L361) and the *H. sp.*"Xingu" group (L17, LDA15, *H. sp.*"Iri", *H. sp.*"Xingu"). Those in the *H. tricornis* group show a brown/grey body covered in pale grey/yellow spots. These types are far less contrast rich than those in the *H. sp.*"Xingu" group, which have a mostly dark grey/black body covered in light yellow/white spots.

Most of the *Hopliancistrus* types are extremely rare in the hobby. The exception is L17 and LDA15, both from Rio Xingu. I ordered some L17 for my project, and these turned out to be a mix of L17 and LDA15. The main difference between these two types is

the yellow seam on the caudal fin in LDA15, which surely makes it even more attractive than L17 which only have yellow tips.

This yellow caudal seam is also found in H.sp. "Xingu", where the seam is broader and even the upper and lower ray in the caudal fin are yellow. According to Seidel & Evers, the only known individual of this form came in as by-catch to *Baryancistrus xanthellus* (L81) in 2003. Too bad!

The genus as a whole can be recognized by the distinctive hooks below the eyes; a few (2-3) thick, strong odontodes that may remind you a bit of those found in *Ancistrus*, but *Ancistrus* have more of them.

In many ways, *Hopliancistrus* are much like *Ancistrus*. They crawl around in their surroundings on a continuous search for food, as typical aufwuchs grazers. They reach a maximum size of about 15 cm TL, and although they certainly have some disputes among themselves during feeding, they are mostly peaceful and calm.

They should be fed a varied diet consisting of different vegetables, wafers, tablets and other dry foods containing some vegetable matter like i.e. Spirulina. In addition, some meaty foods like Mosquito larvae, Brine Shrimp, Mysis and such should be offered occasionally. To me, they appear to be pretty decent algae eaters too.

As far as other demands are concerned, it's the typical list for southern affluents of the Amazon: Clear, warm water full of oxygen and low in excess nutrients with a good current.



Hopliancistrus sp. LDA015

The set up should consist of stones, roots and various shaded places for them to hide.

Plants don't seem to be harmed, but don't take my word for it. They seem to be hardy, active Plecos that even less experienced fishkeepers could successfully keep.

The gender differences are not very prominent, but then again it's rare to see adults on offer. Still, it's to be expected that ripe females are broader in the belly area, whereas males will develop slightly more odontodal growth in the head area. Still, when considering *Hopliancistrus* as a breeding project, a group of at least 5-6 individuals should be purchased to increase the chances of having both genders represented. So far, no breeding reports exist for *Hopliancistrus* in captivity.

Considering the bleak future that awaits the Xingu types in their natural habitat, and the fact that they are available in the hobby, I think *Hopliancistrus* deserves more attention. Next time you wonder what L-number you should try, why don't you think of these? Someone must be the first to breed them.

Catfish Study Group

November Aquatic Auction

Sunday 16 November 2014

VENUE

Derwent Hall, George Street
Darwen, Lancashire BB3 0DQ

CSG Commission 15%

Booking in:

Auction Manager: Dave 01942 248130
Or from 11.00 on the day
Auction to start 13.00

CANTEEN

Hot & Cold Food & Drinks



National Catfish Championship and Open Show

Mark Walters



National Catfish Champion, Stuart Brown's stunning L128 – Image by Steve Grant

The third annual National Catfish Championship was held in conjunction with the annual Castleford and Aquarist Catfish and Loach open show, on July 13th. The club also held a massive auction, selling only catfish and loach related items, including fish, foods and breeding equipment. There were over 140 entries in the open show and 8 entrants to the National Championship competition, where any catfish which have received best in shows or special awards in the previous 12 months are eligible to enter.

This years competition was won by Stuart Brown with his magnificent blue phantom Loricariid, L128. Last years' winning fish, a *Leporacanthicus* L240, was this years' runner-up by half a point. Highest pointed catfish in the open show was awarded to Roy Blackburn with his *Microglanis iheringi*.



Highest Pointed Catfish, Roy Blackburn's *Microglanis iheringi*

Castleford Aquarist Society Catfish and Loach Show Results - 2014

| Position | Name | Club | Points |
|----------------------------------|----------------|----------|--------|
| National Catfish Champion | | | |
| 1 | S&S Brown | AAGB | 86.5 |
| 2 | Mark Walters | CAS | 86 |
| Aspidoras | | | |
| 1 | Mike Kirkham | AAGB | 84 |
| 2 | Colin Eveson | CSG | 83.5 |
| 3 | Mike Kirkham | AAGB | 83 |
| Corydoras up to 5.5cm | | | |
| 1 | S&S Brown | AAGB | 84.5 |
| 2 | Ian Wallbridge | Bradford | 84 |
| 3 | J Horne | DJAY | 83.5 |
| Corydoras over 5.5cm | | | |
| 1 | S&S Brown | AAGB | 83.5 |
| 2 | Mark Walters | CAS | 83 |
| 3 | Colin Eveson | CSG | 81.5 |
| AOV Callichthyidae | | | |
| 1 | Mike Kirkham | AAGB | 83 |
| 2 | Mike Kirkham | AAGB | 82 |
| 3 | J Horne | DJAY | 78 |
| Loricariids up to 15cm | | | |
| 1 | D&L Speed | CSG | 84 |
| 2 | Mike Kirkham | AAGB | 83.5 |
| 3 | S&S Brown | AAGB | 83 |
| Loricariids over 15cm | | | |
| 1 | J Horne | DJAY | 85 |
| 2 | D&L Speed | CSG | 81 |
| Bagrids | | | |
| 1 | J Horne | DJAY | 84 |
| 2 | S&S Brown | AAGB | 83 |
| 3 | Mike Kirkham | AAGB | 82 |
| Pimelodids | | | |
| 1 | Roy Blackburn | CAS | 86 |
| 2 | Roy Blackburn | CAS | 83 |
| 3 | J Horne | DJAY | 82 |
| Aspredinids | | | |
| 1 | J Horne | DJAY | 83 |
| 2 | Steve Grant | CAS | 82 |
| 3 | Steve Grant | CAS | 81 |
| Mochokids | | | |
| 1 | Ian Wallbridge | Bradford | 84 |
| 2 | S&S Brown | AAGB | 83 |
| 3 | Ian Wallbridge | Bradford | 82.5 |
| Dorads | | | |
| 1 | Roy Blackburn | CAS | 85.5 |
| 2 | Richard Smith | CSG | 85 |
| 3 | Mike Kirkham | AAGB | 84.5 |
| Auchenipterids | | | |
| 1 | Steve Grant | CAS | 85.5 |
| 2 | Roy Blackburn | CAS | 85 |
| 3 | Ian Wallbridge | Bradford | 84.5 |
| AOV Catfish | | | |
| 1 | Roy Blackburn | CAS | 85 |
| 2 | Mike Kirkham | AAGB | 83.5 |
| 3 | | | |
| Breeders Corydoradinae | | | |
| 1 | Colin Eveson | CSG | 84 |
| 2 | Colin Eveson | CSG | 83 |
| 3 | S&S Brown | AAGB | 82 |
| Breeders other catfish | | | |
| 1 | Mark Walters | CAS | 85 |
| 2 | Phil Blackburn | SVAS | 84.5 |
| 3 | Mark Walters | CAS | 83 |
| Pairs | | | |
| 1 | S&S Brown | AAGB | 85.5 |
| 2 | S&S Brown | AAGB | 84 |
| 3 | Mark Walters | CAS | 83.5 |

Additional Show-Fish Images by Steve Grant



Hoplosternum littorale



Synodontis lucipinnis



Megalechis picta



Scleromystax CW038



Pseudancanthicus L025



Bunocephalus verrucosus



Corydoras eques



Peckoltia L211

Notes on *Corydoras kanei* and *Corydoras crimmeni* (Siluriformes: Callichthyidae)

Steven Grant

Some years ago I described two species of *Corydoras* Lacepède, 1803 in The Aquarist and Pondkeeper magazine. The description contained poor images of the species in life and the type specimens now have no colour left. Because of this and the fact that it has now been 16 years since their description I thought it would be helpful to provide the images again. I have also included some very basic unpublished drawings I made of the type specimens when they were alive. I also discuss the identity of one of the species in relation to specimens we see in the aquarium hobby.

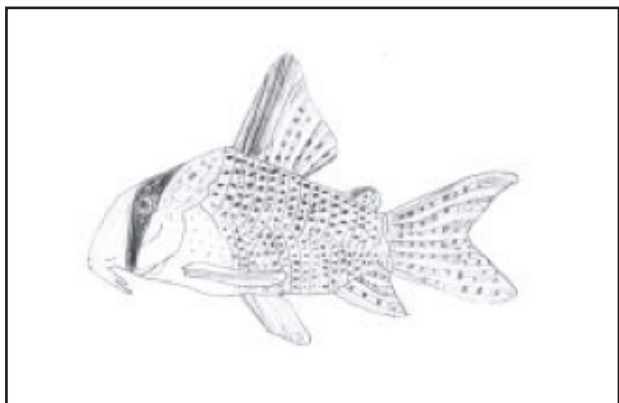
Firstly, the issue of the date of publication needs discussing. In Eschmeyer (2014) it is listed as 1998. The description appeared in the January 1998 edition of the magazine, but I know from personal experience that the edition was circulated and available in December 1997. I have considered article 21 of the International Code of Zoological Nomenclature and particularly Article 21.4. I am not certain what evidence is required to demonstrate the publication in December 1997 but I consider that the descriptions were published in 1997.

Corydoras kanei Grant, 1997

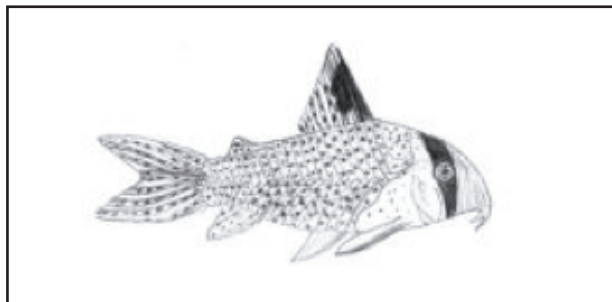


Corydoras kanei - holotype

Whilst this species is currently placed in *Corydoras*, in view of the information in Aelxandrou et al (2011) and Alexandrou & Taylor (2011) this will probably end up in the genus *Hoplosoma* (Agassiz, 1846), once a review of the Corydoradinae is published

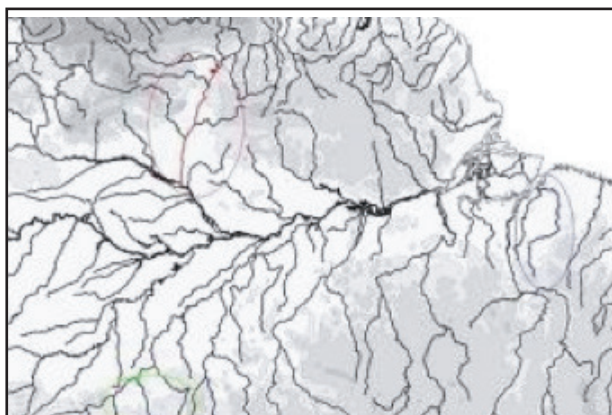


Line drawing of female *C. kanei*



Drawing of male *C. kanei*

The type specimens were aquarium specimens that were reportedly from near to Boa Vista, Roraima, Brazil. This means they were likely to have come from the Rio Branco – colour coded red on fig. 1.



There are three C numbers that are usually assigned this name or misidentified as this species.

The code number C026 was based on specimens from Rondonia, Brazil, photographed by Hans Georg Evers and published in DATZ 1/95. C026 has been identified as *C. kanei* but in my opinion this is incorrect.

As well as the disjunct locations of the respective species (colour coded green on fig 1), C026 usually has a lighter base colour; larger and fewer spots on the body; and spots on the pectoral fins.

The original description of *C. kanei* said there were no spots on the snout or the pectoral fin rays. However, I have re-examined the various photographs I took

at the time and some very faint irregular markings can be seen on the snout.



C026



Corydoras kanei – paratype

C046 was assigned to specimens that were pictured in DATZ 3/96 that were reportedly from the Rio Branco, Brazil. Glaser et al (1996) listed them as being from Peru but when Evers (1996) introduced C046 they were listed as being from Brazil. C046 is an exact match for *C. kanei*.

Similar specimens, also from the Rio Branco, were pictured in Glaser et al (1996:61) as “*Corydoras* sp. aff. C014 ‘Rio Branco’”, but when compared to C046 / *C. kanei* these specimens appear to have more distinct spots on the snout and the presence of spots on the pectoral fin spine and rays (particularly in males).



Corydoras ‘Rio Branco’ male

Despite these possible differences I consider that *C.* sp ‘Rio Branco’ are probably *C. kanei*

I understand that specimens that match *C. kanei* have also been found in the Rio Takutu, a tributary of the Rio Branco.



Corydoras Rio Branco’ female

C048 were reportedly from Rio Guama, Pará, Brazil (colour coded blue on fig. 1). This undescribed species is similar to *C. kanei*. However, the spots on the body appear to be rounder than in *C. kanei*. The locality is also somewhat removed from that of *C. kanei* (see fig. 1).



C048

C014 from the Rio Caroní, Venezuela and C033 from Amapá, Brazil are also similar to *C. kanei* but are not usually seen in the hobby.

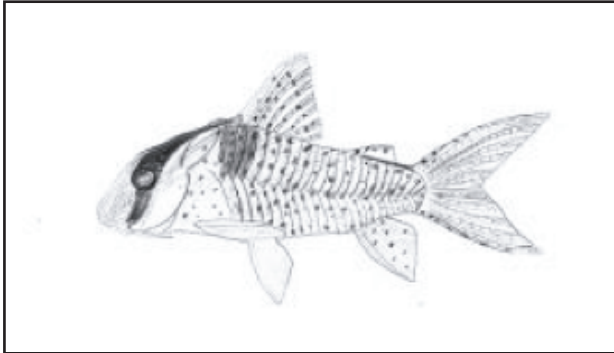
***Corydoras crimmeni* Grant, 1997**



Corydoras crimmeni – type specimen

Whilst this species is currently placed in *Corydoras*, in view of the information in Aelxandrou et al (2011) and Alexandrou & Taylor (2011) this will probably end up in a new genus

C. crimmeni was imported with the type specimens of *C. kanei* and although not directly related they share a similar colour and pattern



Drawing of *C. crimmeni*

The dark markings on the body under the dorsal fin do not always show up, depending on lighting and mood.



Corydoras crimmeni

I have only seen this species once since I saw the original type specimens. A single specimen was found mixed in with some *C. kanei* (albeit the 'Rio Branco' variant that has spots on the pectoral fins) and images of both are reproduced in this article. If you see any *C. kanei* for sale, try and look out for the elusive *C. crimmeni*, as some could be mixed in.

Acknowledgements

Thanks to Hans Georg Evers and Erwin Schraml for the use of their images. Thanks to Hans-Georg Evers for information on C026 and C046.

References

- Alexandrou, M. A. et al, 2011. Competition and phylogeny determine community structure in Müllerian co-mimics. *Nature*, vol. 469, p 84-89, Supplementary Information 1-27.
- Alexandrou, M. A. & M. I. Taylor, 2011. Evolution, Ecology and Taxonomy of the Corydoradinae Revisited. Pp. 104-117. In: Fuller, I. A. M. & H. G. Evers. 2011. Identifying Corydoradinae catfish. Supplement 1. Ian Fuller Enterprises Worcestershire, 141p.
- Evers, H. G., 1996. Panzerwelse aus Brasilien. *D. Aqu. U. Terr. Z. (DATZ)* 48 (3): 172-173.
- Eschmeyer, W. N. (ed). CATALOG OF FISHES: GENERA, SPECIES, REFERENCES (<http://research.calacademy.org/research/ichthyology/catalog/fishcatmain.asp>). Electronic version accessed 30 Mar 2014.
- Fuller, I. A. M. & H. G. Evers. 2005. Identifying Corydoradinae catfish. *Aspidoras-Brochis-Corydoras-Scleromystax & C numbers*. Ian Fuller Enterprises/A.C.S. GmbH (Aqualog), Worcestershire/Rodgau, 384p.
- Fuller, I. A. M. & H. G. Evers. 2011. Identifying Corydoradinae catfish. Supplement 1. Ian Fuller Enterprises Worcestershire, 141p.
- Glaser, U, F. Schäfer & W. Glaser, 1996. *Aqualog - all Corydoras*. A.C.S, Germany. 142 pp.
- Grant, S., 1997. Descriptions of two new species of *Corydoras*, Lacepede, 1803 (Pisces, Siluriformes, Callichthyidae). *The Aquarist and Pondkeeper* v. 62 (no. 10) 1998: 41-45.



What's New

Mark Walters



Hypostomus cf khimaera – Image by Steve Grant

New *Hypostomus*

Luiz F. C. Tencatt , Cláudio H. Zawadzki , Otávio Froehlich. Two new species of the *Hypostomus cochliodon* group (Siluriformes: Loricariidae) from the rio Paraguay basin, with a redescription of *Hypostomus cochliodon* Kner, 1854. *Neotropical Ichthyology* 12.

Hypostomus cochliodon group is a monophyletic clade of 20 valid species of Neotropical armored catfishes that is widely distributed throughout South America. Recently, specimens identified as *H. cochliodon* from the type locality and nearby localities were examined, and found to include representatives of more than one species.

A redescription of *H. cochliodon* is provided, with a description of two new species, one from the Bodoquena Plateau and another from several localities of the rio Paraguay basin.

A lectotype for *H. cochliodon* is designated herein, since the previous designation is invalid. *Hypostomus cochliodon* is diagnosed from all other species of the *H. cochliodon* group by having the opercle almost completely covered laterally by thick layer of skin, the absence of buccal papilla, weak to moderately developed keels on the lateral plates of the body and by the color pattern of its body and fins.

Hypostomus basilisko, new species, is distinguished from the remaining species of the *H. cochliodon* group by the absence of spots on the body, highly developed keels and spoon-shaped teeth. *Hypostomus khimaera*, new species, is distinguished from the other species of the *H. cochliodon* group by

having a dark tan stripe along the midline of the flank, black spots on the body and/or fins and teeth with mesial cusp and not spoon-shaped.

New *Spatuloricaria* – First since 1945!

Ilana Fichberg, Osvaldo Takeshi Oyakawa, and Mário de Pinna (2014) The End of an Almost 70-Year Wait: A New Species of *Spatuloricaria* (Siluriformes: Loricariidae) from the Rio Xingu and Rio Tapajós Basins. *Copeia*: June 2014, Vol. 2014, No. 2, pp. 317-324.

The genus *Spatuloricaria* is diagnosed by a number of conspicuous characteristics that set it apart from other genera in the subfamily Loricariinae. The genus has a broad geographical distribution extending from Argentina to Panama. Despite the flood of new loricariid taxa described in the past decades, no new species of *Spatuloricaria* have been newly reported since 1945.

This paper reports on a distinctive new species of the genus from the Rio Xingu and Rio Tapajós in the Amazon basin. The new species is distinguished from congeners by the lack of abdominal and preanal plates, in combination with the presence of five transversal dark-brown bands on the dorsum. It apparently is the only species in *Spatuloricaria* where males are smaller than females, a situation opposite of that in other species of the genus.

The name of the new species is *Spatuloricaria taira*. The etymology of the species name "...honors a Brazilian Indian woman from Mebengokre/Kaiapo ethnicity who became a symbol of the resistance

against construction of hydroelectric dams on the Rio Xingu.”

New *Aspidoras*

Wolmar Benjamin Wosiacki, Thamiris das Graças Pereira, and Roberto E. Reis (2014) Description of a New Species of *Aspidoras* (Siluriformes, Callichthyidae) from the Serra dos Carajás, Lower Tocantins River Basin, Brazil. Copeia: June 2014, Vol. 2014, No. 2, pp. 309-316.

A new species of *Aspidoras* (Corydoradinae) is described from the Serra dos Carajás, lower Tocantins River basin, representing the northernmost record of the genus at the edge of the Brazilian Shield into the Amazon basin.

Aspidoras gabrieli is easily distinguished from all congeners by having the rays and interradiated membranes of the dorsal and pectoral fins entirely and densely pigmented, the inner bony margin of the pectoral spine expanded as a narrow laminar shelf with edge smooth or scarcely serrated; lateral-line canal posterior to the two anterior lateral-line ossicles absent (also in *A. taurus*), naked predorsal region (also in *A. velites* and *A. psammaticides*), large brown oval spots on the flank and caudal peduncle that sometimes merge to form irregular patches (also in *A. maculosus*, *A. albater*, *A. lakoi*, and *A. depinnai*), and several additional morphometric distinguishing features. Comments on generic allocation and interspecific relationships are presented.



Aspidoras gabrieli paratype Wolmar Wosiacki

New dwarf Hypoptopomatinae

Beatriz G. Lippert, Bárbara B. Calegari, and Roberto E. Reis (2014) A New Species of *Otothyropsis* (Siluriformes: Hypoptopomatinae) from Eastern Brazil. Copeia: June 2014, Vol. 2014, No. 2, pp. 238-244.

Otothyropsis alicula is described from the Rio Santo Antônio, Rio Grande basin, upper Rio Paraná drainage, Brazil. The new species is distinguished from its congeners by having a unique color pattern in the caudal fin, rectangular dorsal-fin spinelet short pectoral-fin spine and first pelvic-fin ray, suture

between contiguous bifid neural spines two-thirds the distance from the vertebral centrum to their distal tips, absence of an odontode crest on the posterior portion of the parieto-supraoccipital, and other morphometric and meristic features. An updated identification key to the species of *Otothyropsis* is provided.

Sinha, B & L Tamang, 2014. *Creteuchiloglanis arunachalensis*, a new species of *Glyptosternine* catfish (Teleostei: Sisoridae) from Arunachal Pradesh, northeastern India. Ichthyological Research doi: 10.1007/s10228-014-0425-8.

New Glyptosternine Catfish

Xiu, L-H, J Yang & H-F Zheng, 2014. An extraordinary new blind catfish, *Xiurenbagrus dorsalis* (Teleostei: Siluriformes: Amblycipitidae), from Guangxi, China. Zootaxa 3835: 376–380.

A new Glyptosternine catfish, *Creteuchiloglanis arunachalensis* is described on the basis of a single specimen collected from the upper Brahmaputra River drainage, northeastern India.

The new species is distinguished from its congeners by the following characters: shorter adipose-fin base (25.9 vs. 26.2–37.3 % standard length; SL) except *C. longipectoralis*; shorter maxillary barbel (71.2 vs. 75.2–99.8 % head length) except *C. macropterus*; and longer prepelvic (45.4 vs. 36.4–44.9 % SL) except *C. brachypterus*.

It can be further differentiated by a combination of the following characters: pectoral fin not reaching pelvic-fin origin; pelvic fin not reaching at vertical through adipose-fin origin; pale patches on body except occipital region; absence of milky-white patch on the base of posterior end of maxillary barbel; longer post adipose distance (10.1 % SL); tip of rectal lobe obtusely rounded; caudal-fin lobes equal; posterior margin of caudal fin slightly convex; adipose-fin separate from caudal fin; and caudal fin with broad bean-shaped medial band.

A new cave dwelling catfish from China

Xiurenbagrus dorsalis, a new cave-dwelling amblycipitid catfish species, is described based on one specimen collected from the Pearl River drainage in Guangxi, China. The new species can be distinguished from congeners in having a unique combination of features, including the absence of eyes, long barbels, dorsal-fin origin posterior to vertical line at tip of pectoral fins and an adipose fin confluent with caudal fin. This is the first record of a blind catfish in China.

New catfish from Australia

Welsh et al. (2014). A New Species of Freshwater Eel-tailed Catfish of the Genus *Tandanus* (Teleostei:Plotosidae) from the Wet Tropics Region of Eastern Australia. Copeia.

Tandanus tropicanus, new species, is described based on specimens from streams in the wet tropics region of northeast Queensland.

Previously, two species were recognized in the genus *Tandanus*: *T. tandanus* of eastern Australia and *T. bostocki* of Western Australia. A combination of meristic and morphometric characters distinguishes the new species from all congeners. Further, taxonomic distinctness based on morphologic differences between the new species and all congeners is corroborated by genetic analyses.

Advance Notice

Preston & District AS Convention 2014

Sunday 28th September
Wellington Park Convention Centre
Leyland
PR25 3AB

Ian Fuller-*Corydoras*
Felipe Cantera-*Gymnogeophagus*
Anton Lanboj-Livebearers

£12 per Ticket Including 2 Course lunch

See Facebook for more Information



Convention 2015

YOUR CHANCE TO WIN

2 Day Convention Ticket
2 Nights in a 4 Star Hotel
Breakfast & Evening Meals
For One Delegate
Or
A Full Refund if you have already booked
Worth £165, for £5 per Chance
20th, 21st & 22nd March 2015

To Be Held at
Kilhey Court Hotel, Chorley Road,
Standish, Wigan
Lanc's, WN1 2XN

www.catfishstudygroup.org



Convention 2015

20th, 21st & 22nd March 2015

Venue

Kilhey Court Hotel
Chorley Road
Standish, Wigan
Lanc's, WN1 2XN

Provisional Speakers

| | | |
|----------------------|---|---------------------|
| Leandro De Sousa | : | Brazil |
| Nathan Lujan | : | Canada |
| Steve Grant | : | Catfish Study Group |
| Alex Carslaw | : | Rainbow Fishes |
| Ingo Seidel | : | Germany |
| I. Fuller & B. Walsh | : | Catfish Study Group |

Trade Stands, Specialist Societies & Sales Tanks
For more information go to:-

www.catfishstudygroup.org

Convention 2014 – A Few Lecture Notes

Mark Walters



Brochis sp. CW035, youngster - Image by Hans Georg-Evers

The 2014 Convention brought some of the best Aquarist in the world to the U.K shores. The wealth of experience that can be gleaned is immense and every serious fishkeeper should make the effort to experience the occasion. As editor of the CSG Journal, I don't wish to transcribe the entire detail of presentations, reducing the need for delegates to attend and witness the information first-hand.

I have, however, taken a few notes from two of the presenters, although they only represent a few of the nuggets from the goldmine of information divulged to the delegates.

Hans Georg-Evers

Hans presented a number of subjects to the audience accompanied by some fantastic images. Hans always fills his travelling accounts with information on the geography, topography and geology of his locations, helping aquarists to provide the correct conditions for their charges.

We were introduced to species from the Rio's Xingu, Tapajos, Tocantins and Araguaia and numerous tributaries of the Amazon basin. From the Rio Itacuaiensis came *Pseudacanthicus* sp. L24, *Parancistrus aurentiacus*, *Leporacanthicus galaxias* and *Panaque armbrusteri*

From the Rio Tapajos (at Pimental), we were introduced to images of *Hypancistrus* L260 and

L262, where distinct habitat preferences were evident for the host species.



Peckoltia compta

Hans also informed us of Rio Xingu species and habitats which are rapidly degrading as a consequence of soya plantations and the construction of hydro-electric dams at Belo Monte. From a scientific perspective, Hans told us that Leandro Sousa is currently working to describe two enigmatic *Hypancistrus* species from the Xingu – L066 and L174.

Hans delivered a second presentation which was loosely centred on *Brochis*, and Doradid catfish. No obvious connection between these groups, other than their robust nature.

Although *Brochis splendens* has been spawned on numerous accessions, few other species have been

bred successfully in the aquarium. Hans has had some excellent success and presented his experience breeding one of the unidentified species – CW035.



CW035 – Image by Hans Georg-Evers

Hans used his experience from breeding the Panatanal species *Corydoras geryi* and subjected his Brochis to a prolonged cold 'winter' period between 15-20C before raising the temperature to over 30C with copious amounts of live daphnia.

The result was the first recorded spawning of this 'giant' Corydoradinae and plenty of fantastically coloured youngsters with the most amazing sailfins. Buy a back-copy of Amazonas to see the full story.

Mark Duffill

The Convention was made all the more interesting by this years' non-catfish speaker. Mark is regarded as the U.K.'s authority on loaches and has successfully bred numerous species.

He has also travelled widely, to experience their Asian habitats first-hand. Breeding successes include: *Balitorid*, *Botia*, *Pangio*, *Yasuhikotakia splendid*, *Cobitis*, *Petruichthys brevis*, *Sewellia*, and *Gastromyzon* species.

Probably the most commonly recognised loach species – the clown loach *Chromobotia macracanthus* has not been spawned in captivity, other than following hormonal injections. Mark and others have had near misses with spawning this species.

Mark introduced 'giant' species such as *Leptobotia elongate* (growing to 60cm) and *Trypophys* growing up to 90cm. We were also shown images of the most catfish-like loach species *Lefua echigonia* – similar to species.

Mark's presentation also introduced us to habitats in Asia where catfish and loach species were found together.

AQUALIFE

www.aqualifeonline.co.uk
Tel/Fax: 01772 601777



Aqualife,
Wyevale Garden Centre,
338 Southport Road,
Ulnes Walton.
Leyland,
PR26 8LQ

Everything you need when it comes to Aquatics

Catfish by Post

Mark Walters

Whilst browsing the fish forums on Facebook recently, I came across some fish I had been after for a while. Rare Aquatics in Crewe, NW England, had imported a number of nice fish including a *Peckoltia* species I had not seen available before.

The shop also had a few other fish which caught my eye, including true *Hypancistrus inspector*, but I had to hold myself back – not being one to over burden myself with too many new fish at one time.



Peckoltia L099 Female

The next question was did they have a pair of the *Peckoltia* left and how could I get over to Crewe anytime soon.



Peckoltia L099 male

After a few emails, I had established there was one pair remaining and a phone call to the shop secured the fish, to be couriered within 24 hours, saving me a 160 mile round trip, well worth the extra £20. The shop had only imported 5 of the fish, identified as *Peckoltia* species 'L099', and the other 3 had been quickly snapped up by another aquarist.

I hadn't ordered fish via post before but considering the warm September evenings thought it would be a safe proposition. After placing my order I spent some time in the fish house freeing up dedicated tank space, ensuring the fish could be held in isolation for

a few weeks to allow for adequate quarantine. The fish would have the luxury of a 200 gallon system to themselves.

The order was placed at 2pm and I was informed the fish would be dispatched later in the day. The next day, I was pleased to hear a knock on the door where a delivery man stood holding a big box marked 'live fish'.



I'm sure he was a bit surprised by the order! I decided to take a few photos of the unpacking, to demonstrate the lengths that the proprietors of rare Aquatics had gone to to ensure the best conditions for the two fish.

The large polystyrene insulated box was nestled in a cardboard box, with polythene between the two. The outer carton was clearly marked to ensure the postal workers handled it carefully, and in a warm environment.



Inside, the two fish were double bagged separately, cushioned between other inflated bags and beneath layers of the Indonesian Times!

To ensure the bags remained warm, two heat packs were in the bottom of the box. I measured the temperature of the water in the fish bags at a steady 24C, probably only losing a degree or two during the

course of the transportation. Needless to say, the fish were in fine condition and the water in the bags was fresh.



I proceeded to acclimatise the fish slowly to their new tank water, at around 28C, over a period of 2 hours.

After this time I introduced them to their new tank. The shop had informed me they had been 'wormed' in the last week,



so I didn't need to do anything else other than give them some peace and quiet as they settled in.

My only regret with the whole process was not securing the *Hypancistrus inspector* at the same time!

Thanks to the staff at Rare Aquatics for a first class service.

Send in your Articles!

If you've ever thought you had something to say about your fishkeeping experiences, or an achievement you were proud of, or some research you've done on a fish-shop find, share it with the rest of the Catfish Study Group through the pages of Catchat.

Any information or experience you have could be of real value to another aquarist looking for the correct food, spawning trigger or conditions to suit a certain species. It doesn't matter if you don't have good images to share; we have an extensive catalogue of photos at our disposal to illustrate an article.

Breeding reports are especially interesting and can be supported by photos of mating behaviour, egg deposition, egg development, fry growth – in addition to the wealth of information you could share on maintaining the breeding fish, spawning triggers, feeding regimes and the tricky stages of egg hatching and raising youngsters.

Sharing information will raise your profile in the catfish community and encourage more people to share their experiences and help you further with your efforts. In addition, you can use the material to support a Breeders Award Programme submission and enter into the annual award for the best breeding report published in the journal.

You will see from the range of articles routinely published there is a wide breadth of subjects to base an article around including: Breeding reports; Meet the member articles; New discoveries; Product reviews; Book reviews; Equipment articles, Fish house construction; Show reports; Fish-shop finds; Expedition write-ups; or for that matter, anything relating to furthering the study of catfish. Send your submissions to the editor@catfishstudygroup.org and enjoy the reward of seeing your efforts featured in future editions.

Rhinelepis strigosa 'The Pinecone Plec'

Mark Walters



Rhinelepis strigosa – Image by Steve Grant

Pier Aquatics had a large import of a particular Loricarid I had had my eye on for a few years. I first encountered this prehistoric looking catfish at Ferrybridge Aquatics but relented considering the likely adult size and specialist requirements



Rhinelepis strigosa at Pier Aquatics – Image by Kev Crompton

I don't often succumb to fish I don't think are un-breedable, and these fish fall into that category, but sometimes the allure of something so unusual is too great a temptation. I've included a few images of the fish I finally purchased, plus a couple of extra images by Kevin Crompton and Steven Grant, of the fish at Pier.

I have also copied the following extract from a Facebook forum, with some observations by renowned aquarists Daniel Kon-Vetterlein, Michael Hardman, Steve Grant and Pete Liptrop:

Mark W: I got two *Rhinelepis strigosa* from Pier Aquatics last week. Keeping them around 22C. Seem to like courgette best. Need plenty of space but not bothered about strong flow.

Daniel K-V: Mine are far more active and seem healthier to me at higher temperatures. Keeping them at 27 °C currently and they are doing very well. The big rivers down in SA don't get as cold as we often

Michael H: Maybe there are other things that influence the distribution of this species (e.g., lack of advanced competitors, reproductive cycle tied to a particular cue, distribution of a particular food or pathogen, etc.), and it might survive in a cooler climate but thrive in a warmer one. There are lots of ancient catfish clades in southern South America, and I wonder if they are there because the modern clades in the Parana-Amazonas-Orinoco have replaced them in the north. Could be not true, but it explains some of the observations posted above, and this fella is on a very old branch in the suckermouth family tree.

Pete L: They are fantastic, like a fossil *Cephalaspis* come to life. The ones at Pier are plump and healthy-looking, they look breedable to me. What do we know of their habitat?

Steve G: The armored fish, *Rhinelepis strigosa*, a facultative air-breather, found in the Mogi-Guaçu River basin, Brazil, is a stenothermal, detritivore-herbivore sedentary fish with moderate economic importance. The habitat temperature in the Mogi-Guaçu River varies from 20 to 30C during the year. Low temperatures occur only within a short period (June and July) and high temperatures in the middle of summer (January and February).

Steve G: This might be interesting too. The reproductive biology of the *Rhinelepis aspera agassiz* 1829 teleostei loricariidae in the paranapanema river brazil ii. structure of the ovary and stages of maturation.

Michael H: *R. aspera* is reportedly a broadcast spawner in the Parana (Suzuki et al. 2000)".

Pete L: So, is that considered a primitive or derived trait?

Michael: Not an easy question to answer... reproductive biology and behaviour is plastic and rapidly evolving, but also under strong selective pressure. If you look at the current ideas about loricariid phylogeny, *Rhinelepis* and pals form a basal clade sister to all the hypostomines+ancistrins, outside of these comes *Corymbophanes* - a small primitive pleco from the Potaro above Kaitour Falls in Guyana. *Corymbophanes* has little or no secondary sexual dimorphism and that's consistent with the absence of parental care. Sister to all this lot are the loricariines - whiptails and their ilk - and they have sexual dimorphism, parental care, etc., so you could say that the primitive condition for all loricariids is sexual dimorphism, laying eggs on a fixed surface and the male protecting the eggs. As I said - reproduction is a dynamic aspect of organismal evolution - and I'm not sure the simple explanation fits in this case - within Loricariinae there is lots of variation (lipbrooding, cavity spawning, plant leaves, etc.) that suggests lots has been going on, and not all genera are dimorphic,



My two specimens in their new tank

so it's not a simple story there and it's tough to say what their common ancestor did. If we look outside of all this for clues, astroblepids appear to be internal inseminators, *Scoloplax* has sperm morphology consistent with internal insemination but we don't know what they do yet, callichthyids are bubble-nesters and sperm-drinking broadcasters, and trichomycterids (I think) are standard broadcasters with some interesting spawning colour changes. All this lot form the Loricarioidei - the basal clade to all other catfishes (if you believe the DNA) - there are several broadcasting catfishes (e.g., pims, heptapterids) and other ostariophysans such as carps and tetras all broadcast too. In my gut, I think broadcasting might be a primitive trait for plecos and that sexual dimorphism and parental care has evolved independently in loricariines and hypostomines. All the other weird things that loricarioids do with their sperm and eggs is independently derived in each lineage.



Rhinelepis strigosa clearly showing large scutes



CW number update

Ian Fuller



CW073 Image by Ian Fuller

Locality: Peru, Rio Tapiche.

Size: Males 90.0 mm SL. females 100.0 mm SL.

Notes: This species is similar to *C. semiaquilus* and *C. fowleri*, but seems placed in-between the two.



CW076 Image by Julian Böhm

Locality: Brazil, Para. Rio Moju near the town of Gurupa.

Size: Males 60.0 mm SL. females 65.0 mm SL

Notes: Similar in pattern to *C. brevirostris*, but from a different location and lacks the gold shoulder flash.



CW074 Image by Hans-Georg Evers

Locality: Peru, upper Rio Napo, close to Ecuador border.

Size: Males 65.0 mm SL, females 70.0 mm SL.

Note: A very desirable but rare species in the hobby, most specimens found are shipped to the far east.



CW077 Image by Alvin Chen

Locality: Exported from Colombia, The exact catching location unknown.

Size: Males 30.0 mm SL. females 35.0 mm SL.

Notes: This species is very similar to C144., which lacks the black dorsal blotch.



CW075 Image by Ian Fuller

Locality: Brazil, State of Amazonas, upper Rio Negro, Rio Poranga system.

Size: Males 60.0 mm SL. females 65.0 mm SL.

Notes: This fish was collected in very small numbers along with *Corydoras serratus* and may eventually be proven to be a colour form of that species. However it is felt that the colour pattern is distinct enough to warrant it own code number.

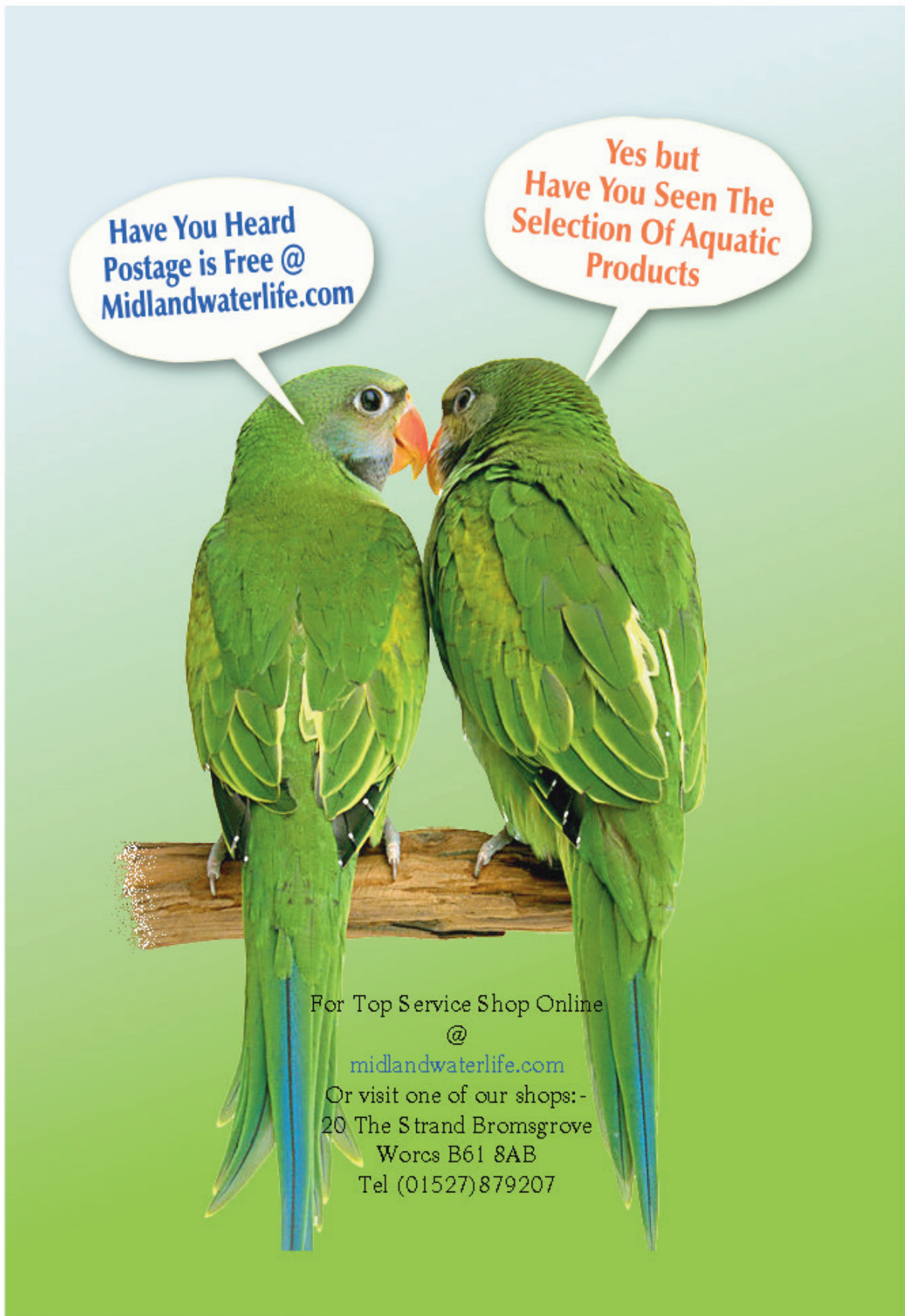


CW078 Image by Teruo Nobuchi.

Locality: Peru, small tributary to the upper Rio Nanay..

Size: Males 60.0 mm SL. females 65.0 mm SL.

Notes: A most desirable species, as yet not established in the hobby.



Have You Heard
Postage is Free @
Midlandwaterlife.com

Yes but
Have You Seen The
Selection Of Aquatic
Products

For Top Service Shop Online
@
midlandwaterlife.com
Or visit one of our shops:-
20 The Strand Bromsgrove
Worcs B61 8AB
Tel (01527)879207

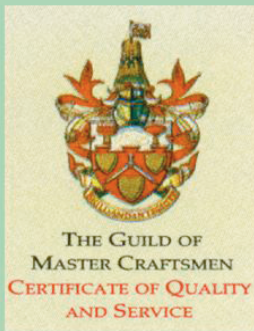
MIDLAND
WATERLIFE

Caring for your fish



G.B.W

Products & Services



**High Class Joinery
Furniture
Wood Carvings
Commissions Undertaken**

Contact
Brian Walsh
Tel: (01254) 776567
Mob: 07977 428 788
Email: g.b.w@live.co.uk

