

SOUTHEND, LEIGH
AND
DISTRICT
AQUARIST
SOCIETY

MONTHLY



BULLETIN

HON. SECRETARY G. HEDGER
67 SOUTH AVE
SOUTHEND

SOUTHEND, LEIGH & DISTRICT AQUARIST SOCIETY

MONTHLY BULLETIN

MEETINGS HELD AT 8 p.m. ON THE FIRST AND THIRD
TUESDAY OF EACH MONTH AT

LIBERAL HALL CLARENCE ROAD SOUTHEND-ON-SEA

No. 1

1961

EDITORIAL

In these days of falling club membership many clubs are finding it increasingly difficult to carry on, indeed many have had to wind up, a number of reasons have been put forward to account for this, television being the chief scapegoat, and once this is accepted and a negative attitude taken, then you can be sure that a club is on the down grade.

We feel that clubs should look much nearer home for the cause of declining membership, namely the interest of club meetings; arranging the programme is one of the hardest tasks of any committee, but we feel that the programme arranged for this year will, with your support prove to be both entertaining and instructive.

Although we would like to see more new members, it was gratifying to receive so much support for the first two meetings, and to welcome three new members, and as a gesture of the committee's appreciation of your support we have decided that what was to be a news letter, will now be a monthly Bulletin, and it is my privilege and pleasure to introduce the first issue to you, we hope you will find it both amusing and instructive.

G.Hedger.
(Editor)

CLUB NEWS

The first meeting of the Year was a slide show in colour entitled "Meet the Members", during which members saw various set-ups in fish houses and homes of other members. Perhaps the most unique was the small set-up of Mr. Mayhew. Also members were impressed with the new fish house set up by Messrs. L. and M. Willis. This is really worth seeing as it is a very good example of a planned fish house. I feel sure that Messrs. Willis will be only too pleased to show visitors their establishment, (but please make an appointment first).

The subject of the second meeting was devoted to a discussion on Aeration and Filtration. During this meeting several points of view were put forward on the merits of sub-gravel filters, a general view appeared to be that such filters were excellent for keeping a tank crystal clear, but were detrimental to plant growth, and one must decide which is the most important consideration.

Editors Note It has now come to our notice that sub-gravel filters are inclined to increase the acidity of the water, could this be why some plants thrive and others succumb, your letters on this subject will be welcome.

We were pleased to welcome the following new members during the month of January:-

Messrs Barnard, Cheswright and Porter.

We wish them every success.

We would like to thank the kind Ladies who look after the inner-men, we assure members that their job is not a piece of cake!

MERITORIOUS BREEDING TROPHY

It is with great pleasure that we announce that Messrs Lern and Michael Willis have been awarded the Meritorious! Breeding Trophy for 1960, it was awarded for their hard work, and great success with the breeding of *Bedotia gayi*.

Our heartiest congratulations to the winners.

HOME FURNISHED AQUARIA COMPETITION

This competition will take place between May 1st. and July 31st. Details as follows:-

Any size tank may be entered.

Members may enter more than one tank.

Entrance fee 1/- for all entries.

Judges will make two visits to inspect entries during the course of the competition.

A cup will be awarded to the winner.

Tanks should be set-up, of course, well in time for the judges first visit, and the layout: remain the same during the whole period of the competition. Layout, upkeep and condition will be the main consideration of the Judges.

We are sure that the scope of this competition will be such that all members should be able to enter.

MEMBER OF THE YEAR TROPHY

We are pleased to announce that the President, (Mr. S. Halsey) has presented to the club a trophy to be awarded annually, to the member, who in the opinion of the committee gives outstanding service to the club. Points to be taken into consideration are:- Attendance of club meetings, excursions etc.. Introducing new members.

Participating in club competitions, Table Shows etc. (No extra points for winning).

Cont....

General assistance given to running the club, helping out at meetings, shows etc. (other than committee member)

The cominitte..have decided that they will present to the winner a £1 gift voucher, to be spent on anything Aquatic.

CLUB EQUIPMENT

Will any member who has in his possession any equipment belonging to the club, please contact Mr. Peter Woods, who is making an inventory of the club's possessions.

FORTHCOMING ATTRACTIONS

Members are requested to ring, asterisk or otherwise specifically annotate the following dates in their diaries and calendars ;-

Feb. 7th

The first Table Show of the year, this will be for livebearers.

(All members who enter this competition will gain points towards the "Member of the Year "Trophy"

Feb. 21st This meeting will be devoted to Breeding Techniques Past and Present.

We feel sure that this meeting will be of interest to all members both old and new.

MEMBERS SMALL ADDS

(The cost per insertion under this heading is 6d per entry).

(Your, favours are solicited)

Wanted by members of the committee :-

One gallon of midnight oil.

Decorative Plants

by C. Marriot

Many of you will ask " What has decorative plants to do with Fish?" Let us consider this point for a moment. In many cases is standing on a plain angle iron stand in our living room. The tank is nicely set-up with various species of plants growing well, clean gravel and crystal clear water the fish are alert and keep well to the front of the tank. It looks a picture doesn't it. Now look at that stand doesn't it offend the eye with it's stark utilitarian outline, and it's lack of grace. If your answer is yes, then read on and we will try to put it right and so enhance the final picture and make it a thing of beauty to be admired by all. Possibly one of the best ways to improve it is not to hide the angle iron frame, although this can be easily done, but to draw the eye away from it. This is best done by using plants as the central attraction, the plants standing on the shelf where the second tank usually goes. Let us consider the two methods.

First of all hiding the verticle supports. Possibly the best two plants to do this are :-

"A" Members of the vine family such as *R. Rhomboides* or

"B" The various *Tradescantia*

With the vine family the leaves are carried upwards on a single stem which needs supporting or it will droop. This stem can be supported by the very angle that we are trying mask, thus achieving our object. The best method of securing the stem to the angle iron is by ordinary fuse wire which is unnoticeable from a foot or even less depending on the thickness of the fuse wire used.

If you do have a second tank on your stand then the average handyman could easily make a bracket large enough to hold a flower pot

cont...

With Tradescantia you do need a bracket which is fastened to the angle iron at the top with just enough room left to get your flower pot off for watering etc. The Tradescantia is left to hang down, which it does in a most effective fashion. The stem can if desired be secured to the angle iron but this is not necessary. The second way of improving the general effect is by the use of bizarre plants such as cacti and succulants these can be best arranged in a metal tray that fits the hollow in the lower frame. The tray ideally should be approx. 1" to 2" deep filled with a suitable potting media. Care should be taken to only include plants with similar requirements. With this method unusual scenic arrangements can be made especially if a fine layer of gravel is placed on top of the potting media.

May I as your Publicity Secretary make this appeal to you on behalf of our club.

Every time an opportunity arises to increase the strength of members, please do your utmost to encourage other Aquarists to join us. Also, if you know of somebody who keeps fish, but do not know them to speak to, let a member of the committee have their address and we will do our best to persuade them to join us.

Such introductions will increase your points towards the "Member of the Year Trophy".

OVERTURE FOR BEGINNERS

by: "Mouthfungus"

Until a month or two ago, *Vallisneria spiralis*, *Eleocharis acicularis*, *Platyopocilus maculatus*, *Rasbora heteramorpha*, etc, etc. were Greek to me. Now, having attended our lectures and discussions, they are still Greek (or perhaps Latin)! it is suprieing the amount of knowledge one has without being aware of the fact.

Still, for a while yet, despite the lectures and learned visitors to our Society, they are still 'Tiddlers' and 'Weeds', You see, I am a beginner; and as the old saying has it - "Guppies rush in where Angels fear to tread" - or words to that effect. Like most beginners, I was attracted to the hobby by seeing a Show Tank in a shop window, all glittering and pictureque. I was at once imagining myself snug down in my largest armchair, reading a good book by the suffused light of my lovely aquariain. No trouble! Just an attractive ornament that my friends would admire, and sigh with envy; and perhaps I would allow them to throw a handful of breadcrumbs, or whatever it is these fishes consider grub. So in this state of delirium I aquired ny first tank, CAME THE DAWN!

People began talking of "egglayers", "livebecrers", bubble nest, tubifex and algae, brown and green, and eventually, blue. That's a laugh! Why, my water is so cloudy I have a job telling the colour of the fish, let alone the algae. When someone said keep your water at a temperture of 70 to 74 degrees. Someone else said 72 to 78. Then a bloke whose Father is a fish fryer said 78 to 88. However I have nothing to worry about there, for my thermostat comes on at 60 and off at 90, This saves a lot of argument, or does it?

Cont.....

On feeding I have all sorts of advice. The most popular seems to be a pint of Bemax - or was it only a pinch? Anyway, I'm using a pint, Here's nothing like being on the safe side; and the Atom Bomb like effect when the fish go to the bottom to feed has to be seen to be believed. It may be of interest to members to know that many of my fish are beautifully white-spotted and look as if they are swimming through a snow storm. This is a truly wonderful effect, quite surrealistic. I have already named them "Picasso Riddlie"; as a special treat to our Club Members, I intend to sell just a few at the next meeting. But I warn you they will be very expensive, especially the one that keeps rolling over and over and the three which dash along the tank and then dive along the shingle on their sides.

However, as a beginner I have quickly come to realise that the meat of our hobby is breeding, so you will be pleased to hear I have applied myself with great and enthusiastic concentration to this. So far, I have had really outstanding success with Guppies. Is this unusual, or a record of any sort?

The only drawback to my great success is that my local Grocer tells me I have had his last gross of jam jars and will I oblige by kindly dealing with someone else. My wife has also issued an ultimatum, that either she, or the Guppies must go, there just is not room in the house for both.

Well, perhaps she's right! I'm going to try Neons (I think that's what the chap called 'em), maybe they are not quite so prolific.

Of course, the thing that really upset her was when I dropped the box full of peat and whiteworms on the Baby's head. Or was it when the heater crocked the bottom of the tank?

Cont.....

Anyway there wasn't more than 15 gallons in it. What a fuss! You would have thought, it was a great flood; and then to cheer her up, I said "Well, take off my socks and call me Noah," - Oh! what language.

To think, all I wanted was a light to read a good book by.. One important, question I must ask our next lecturer is "Who started this perishing tank business?".

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The Southend and Leigh Aquarists
Have a "Bulletin" at last,
And though we've got it published
It's not yet in full blast.

So I'm asking every member
To do his level best
And bring to our next meeting
Another friend as quest.

So thus increase our members
And our financial state
Then at our every meeting
Better fare upon the plate

So members all, do please be keen!
Let's work and have some fun!
When we've a thousand members
We'll relax and say "Well done"!

AYE-AYE

by One Eye

To the west of Sutton Road'o,
where the daphina used to grow.
Is a little one-eyed monster,
by the name of cyclop joe.

You can catch him by the hundred,
and sometimes many more.
You can catch him in the winter,
when the ice begins to thaw.

If you see this little monster,
don't jump about with glee.
For he only reminds you, .
where the daphinia used to be

Now the moral of this story,
is plain for all to see.
If you know of any daphinia,
please pass it on to me.

We have heard of one-eyed cyclops,
and cross-eyed brine shrimp much.
And now dear friends, it, seems to me,
I've got the Nelson touch,

---000---

Tail-Rot

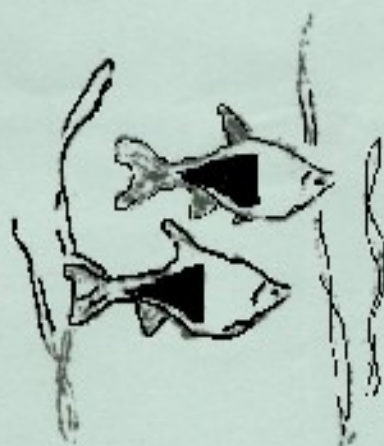
The committee refuse to name the well known member, who is so keen, he rejects anything but.
aerated water in his whisky.

Tubfex cannot see or hear. We of course can vouch for the fact, it can smell !

A leaky tank gathers much animosity.

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No 2

March 1961

EDITORIAL

It has been most pleasing to receive so many words of appreciation following the publication of the first issue of this "Bulletin". It is our intention to give the members the very best possible at all times and in every field, and your appreciation does much to encourage us in our ambitions.

We would ask all members to let us have all the "copy" you can; if you breed any kind of fish or have any unusual experience, please put pen to paper and let all members share in your knowledge, who knows it is possible that in a few years time you may once again try to spawn a particular fish and find it will not oblige - how helpful it would be to simply look up a back issue of the "Bulletin" and see just how you achieved it. I would remind you of the old Chinese proverb "The weakest ink is greater than the longest memory".

We would like to thank Messrs. Len and Michael Willis, who have started the ball rolling with an article on *Bedotia gayi*, as you know Len and Michael have spent many months of patient study of *Bedotias*, and were awarded the Meritorious Breeding Trophy for their achievement, it is very much to their credit that after so much hard work they are prepared to pass on their findings for all to share.

G.Hedger. (Editor)

CLUB NEWS

The meeting on the 7th of February was a Livebearers Table Show, with a Talk on Line Breeding given by Mr. G.Hedger. The winners of the Table Show were:-

- 1st, Mr. G.Hedger. (Molly.)
- 2nd, Mr. G.Pryor. (Guppy.)
- 3rd. Mr. Cheswright.(Platy.)
- 4th. Mr. J.Wylie. (Platy.)
- 5th. Mr. J.Wylie. (Platy.)

During the Talk Mr. G.Hedger briefly outlined some of the more interesting aspects of line breeding.

The meeting on the 21st of February was devoted to "Breeding Techniques Past and Present". This was given by Mr.L.Willis. Briefly the difference between the past and the present method is that in the past quite large tanks were used, generally 24" x 12" x 12" with about 6" of water in them also plants as a spawning medium, today it seems the fashion to use small tanks with nylon yarn or coconut fibre as the spawning medium. When spawning Charcins or other fish that require special water to breed in, it would appear to be an advantage to use small tanks as they do not need such a large amount of water.

We were pleased to welcome the following new members during the month of February:-

Miss. M.Holt, Messrs. I.Bex, M.Box and H.Dimmock,

We wish them every success.

STOP PRESS

We are pleased to announce that Mr. F.Austen has successfully spawned his Leopard Cats. More details next issue.

CLUB TROPHIES

As the club is not holding a show this year; the committee has decided that the club's trophies will be awarded as follows:-

Abbot Cup	Highest Aggregate points at Table shows and Town Show
Barnes Oak Cup	Winner of Breeders Table Show (egg layers)
Coronation Cup	Winner of Breeders table show (livebearers)
Jones Cup	Winner of the Best Fish of the year table show
DuBoisson Cup	Winner of the Characin table show
Saunders Cup	Winner of Coldwater table show
Flamborough Cup	Runner Up coldwater table show
Brooks Shield I	Best Furnished Aquarium at Town Show
Brooks Shield II	2 nd Best Furnished Aquarium at Town Show
Giles Cup	Winner of Home Furnished Aquaria competition
Southchurch Cup	Highest Aggregate points in Table Shows during the year.

FORTHCOMING ATTRACTIONS

March 7th.	This meeting will be devoted to a talk on Foods and Feeding, there will be plenty of exhibits, I feel sure that we are all interested in this subject.
March 21st.	This will be a discussion on the Killer Aquarist. (X Certificate) also a talk on the merits, or otherwise; of Snails and Catfish as aquaria scavengers

FASCINATING *BEDOTIA GAYI*

by M. WILLIS

Colourful, peaceful but active, intelligent; all these qualities the *Bedotia gayi* possess. Having had some interesting experiences with this fish, I would like to mention some of them and it may well be these will supply food for thought.

As far as one can trace there has been very little written on this subject, one article in the American journal "Tropical Pish Hobbyist" June 1960, and a reference in "The Aquarist" in February 1954, so the information my father and myself have built up although helpful may prove later to need slight amplification.

The *Bedotia gayi* is of the Australian Rainbow fish family "Atherinidae". The *Bedotia gnyi* is found in Madagascar (off Africa) living in swamps and rivers in temperatures ranging from 44° to 76°. It is a long slim fish, beautifully coloured with an overall dark bronze green sheen with black, gold and red markings. As for sexing, the body shape is similar and no useful guide as in other families.

From continual observation of our fish, the more active one (and in our view probably the male) has black in the Caudal fin and the female red. Continental Breeders say the more active fish is the male. Some fish carry a heavier black marking in the second Dorsal Fin.

Why Bedotias are not more popular and better known I think is because they are a new fish not having been in this country very long and the fact they are a slow growing fish and do not show much colour before 9 to 12 months. We bought our six fish just under a year ago. They showed very little colour at the time and would be about 6 to 9 months old. Average price from 3/6 to 5 shillings not expensive but being new and not having much colour when young have yet to gain popularity.

Cont.....

Our largest fish have now grown to five inches and still appear to be growing. However, in spite of what size they may grow to, the *Bedotia* I feel could be considered as one of the ideal fish to be recommended for the newer Aquarist. By no means boisterous and inspite of the large mouth it can easily be kept in a largish commiunity tank. Vith care and attention I feel they can be bred without undue difficulty.

After many trials and failures, with one or two minor suceses, I think we have found the answer to breeding in good numbers. *Bedotia* spawn from about six to nine months, but the larger the fish, the larger the eggs and when they hatch the bigger the fry with a better chance oi survival. The eggs are amongst the largest of tropical fish being completely colourless when spawned. Having a hard shell they like small marbles and being like this, snails and the parent fish did not appear to relish eatiing them.

After a day or two the eggs turn amber and three days later the eyes can clearly be seen. The body gradually develops and the young fry hatch ten days to a fortnight after spawning, depending on temperature,

The normal fish room is kept at around 75° , this is quite suitable. On hatching the fish are large and can be feed freshly hatched Brine Shrimp and Micro Worm.

As a precaution if infusoria or such like is handy it should be added for the first day or two. From then on depending on growth, of course, the normal stages of feeding chopped grindal, Daphnia, dried food etc. It should be remembered that very rapid progress cannot be expected, the bigger the space the quicker the fry grow.

We started spawning by placing our six *Bedotia*, two recognizable as a pair in a 36 gallon tank, well planted with Vallis and Najas trailing from top to bottom with one or two clumps of giant Hygrophila.

We have never seen the fish spawn but they scatter eggs as well as placing them neatly on the large leafed plants.

~

cont.....

They do not seem to have much preference and I think one could use most plants; blanket weed and Cabomba also attracted eggs. This is because the eggs have a very long sticky thread and it is hard at times to remove the eggs from your fingers being so sticky. At first I picked off the eggs one by one and placed them in a shallow plastic tray and immediately on hatching transferring the fry to a small tank. This however was only 30% successful. The fry would not live long in the plastic tray and a number unfortunately died, others soon developing swim -bladder trouble. I then tried transferring the plants with the eggs into an other tank with old water. This was far better and the youngsters hatched well and made quick growth with plenty of food and space. No swim bladder trouble developed and I can only suppose this was due before to chilling in the shallow trays.. A third method, which has been used although not by us was to let the fish spawn in a 24" x12x12 tank and not removing the parents (as with White Cloud Mountain Minnows). In this set up we saw the fry were swimming around quite happily with the large fish, but in this case the parents could not have been more than six months old. All the fry that hatched in our tank with the parents quickly disappeared, You could if you wished spawn *Bedotia* in the usual way, removing the parents after spawning.

The method I prefer and therefore recommend is to let the fish spawn in a large a tank as possible and remove the plants to another one. In this way the fish are disturbed very little and continue to spawn every few days and two, spawnings can be removed at one time.

We have not used Methylene Blue, not thinking it necessary. *Bedotia* are reputed to prefer soft water but ours have always been kept and spawned in matured tap water. We have tried hatching the eggs in semi-soft water but found it made no noticable difference.

Before ending I should mention that it has been suggested that there are two kinds of *Bedotia*, "Gayi" and "Tricolor". It may be that we have both but as this point is clouded in mystery I will not confuse the issue.

MEMBERS CORRESPONDANCE

Dear Editor

I have had a rather unusual experience with a perma-black molly, and thought that I would ask other members; through the Bulletin, whether they can offer an explanation, or perhaps tell me is this thing usual with mollies.

I noticed that the female molly in my community tank was very heavy, and not wanting to lose the young I set up another tank, this tank was a 24x12x12 it was not planted, but there was nylon wool floating on the top for the young mollies to hide in, the tempature was 80° F. I let this tank stand for several days, and then put the gravid molly in. After four days as I went to feed it in the morning, I saw that there were about ten young mollies in the wool. I then took the parent out and returned her to the community tank. When I returned home from work that evening my wife; who is also very keen on fishkceping, said to me; I am sure that the molly has not yet'had all of her young, I had to admit that she (the molly of course) looked fat, but I still would not admit that this was due to the fact that the molly had not yet had all of her brood, but after much persuasion by my wife, I set up yet another tank, and placed the molly into it that night, next morning much to my suprise, there were another dozen or so young mollies. The time between the first and second batch must have been at least 14 hours.

I would like to add that both lots are comming on very well, and that the parent has shown no after effects.

J.G.Porter.
14 Warwick Drive,
Rochford,

AUTOBIOGRAPHY OF A CARDINAL TETRA

T'was in the jungle of Peru,
my life began -I'll tell to you.
A quiet stream, the water still,
the light just glimmering o'er the hill.

We were a family - a hundred score,
who ate and swam, and ate some more.
Food was plentiful you see,
the insects fell from off a tree.

Life was peaceful, nothing mattered,
until one day the dream was shattered.
A net descended from above,
and mother shouted "run my love".

But being only half -awake,
to catch me was a piece of cake.
I struggled mad, but no avail,
I ended up, tipped in a pail.

I thought my-god, its gone too far,
but next he had me in a jar.
A pair of beady eyes did peer,
into the jar, I then knew fear.

They looked, and looked again, oh my
what chance had I, a tiny fry.
Then at once he shouted loud and clear,
"come help me mates, we've a new one here".

They gathered round, and jumped with joy,
and then, as one, "well done my boy!".
The leader said "work till you tire,
we'll have enough then to retire".

Into a can, with many more,
I landed feeling hurt and sore.
And after many sleepless nights,
of bumpy roads, and endless flights.

Cont.....

I was ptt into a tank so bare,
my only friend the bubbling air.
And then a voice said "well well etc.,
we'll name this one Cardinal Tetra",

And then into a bag, and canned,
I was shipped off to another land.
I arrived at the shop all sad and dejected,
but cheered up no end, when to the best tank elected.

Into the shop came, with a jar at the ready,
an aquarist? I think, though he was'nt too steady.
He took one look at me, and said., "thats what I need,
a fish that has colour, and easy to breed".

He said "I've already bred Neons, so what do you think",
I thought before I a» finished I'll drive you to drink.
This time in a tank all planted and clean,
I'd nothing to do, but to feed and to preen.

No expense was spared, only had the best,
but time was nearing .for the test.
One day into the breeding tank I went,
He looked every hour to-see was I spent.

He tried and he tried, and tried again,
he looked at the glass, and waited for rain.
After many months of mad dispare,
he started tearing out his hair.

I thought for fun, I'd spawn just once,
to prove he was'nt just a dunce.
And then I promptly ate the lot,
he had a gun, I feared a shot.

In blind dispare he cried "defeat",
I thought at last revenge is sweet.
If those who caught me, had, and should,
have left me living in the wood.

And then dear friends, you would, I'm sure,
have an aquarist? who, is sane once more.

C. Ardinal.

JUMBLEGRAM

Untangle the letters and have a look, and you will be as bright as the bloke who wrote the book.

WORD

OSHENBEFTYEOSCSRO
YCAHDXIPNXA
HSBAMRHPTORREAOAREO
CCCRRTTXAMAALUOOHHAA
XZYUUHROTNSAMGCBAINBO
PLEACM ARACPTATIONLA

CLUE

IT COMES EARLY (CHARACIN)
NIGHT INYERTED (TOOTH CARP)
PARTY DRESS (RASBORA)
CHIP OF THE OLD BLOCK (CHARACIN)
A REAL STINGER (GOBY)
BIG HEAD (CICHLID)

SERVICE

Members wishing to obtain advice or assistance on any matter relating to their fishkeeping are asked to contact any member of the committee who will then arrange for the member most able to give advice to visit that member. It is hoped that any member in difficulty will take advantage of this offer.

TAIL-ROT

We are inclined to treat with reserve the statement of a cold-water fan that his fish were so partial to crushed puppy biscuit that they had begun to yelp at his approach.

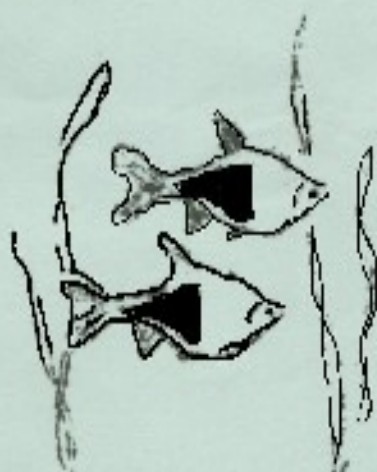
After last months eclipse of the sun, a party has been formed to view the "infusoria borealis" .

Pity the sweet young blonde Aquarist, who thought that a "Zebra" crossing was a hybrid Branchdanio!

Press Report.— "Fish have been found living contentedly in a sulphur-lake in Cyrenaica" We have known them to exist in much worse conditions !

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No 3

April 1961

EDITORIAL

When one looks around at the membership of any Aquarist Society, the first thing that one notices is that by far the greatest number of the members are comparatively new members that is of three years or less standing, added to this there is an influx of new members each year, and regrettably, a number of old standing members leaving the hobby.

When one asks the older standing members why are no longer interested in the club or hobby, most frequent reply is "too much time is spent every year at club meetings going over the things I did years ago, and not enough time spent discussing the things I would like to do in the future, but when one thinks of this who really is to blame for this state of affairs? It is all very well if the newcomer to the hobby wishes to breed an easy fish such as Zebras, any text book will tell him how, but will it? one can also say that any good text book will tell the advanced hobbyist how to breed Cardinals, but once again will it?

Cont.

Editorial (Cont.)

A text book is all very well as a general reference, but what is needed is correct and precise data, on all subjects under **LOCAL** conditions, when we have this, then we can spend more time looking to the future. In this respect I think: the older standing aquarist has failed, when he leaves the hobby his knowledge goes with him, and we must once more spend yet another meeting devoted to the new-comer, how much better if he had kept notes of all his findings which could be passed on to our new members.

To our new members I would say start off right by keeping notes, and calling plants and fish by their correct name, those who talk of "weeds" should remember that daisies and dandelions are often called by that term, but they are not bought for 6d and 1/- per plant!, also the new-comer should bear in mind that one day he will wish to try his hand at something new, and only by smarting right with a note book can he be sure that too much time in the future will not be spent discussing such things as he is now attempting.

The future has considerable possibilities, but they must be supported on facts. **The note book is more important than the text book.** It gives facts, which will both interest and instruct, and may even produce a fragment of the foundation of the future.

G. Hedger (Editor)

CLUB NEWS

The meeting on the 7th of March was devoted to a talk on foods and feeding by the President. There were many different varieties of foods on view, both live and dried, which members were able to inspect during the interval, as well as have explained to them the different types of foods and the reasons for using them.

The meeting on the 21st of March was a discussion on Catfish versus Snails. This was with regard to the merits and demerits of Catfish and Snails as Scavengers in the Aquarist's tank, the main use being to clear up uneaten food.

The second half of the meeting was devoted to a talk by the Secretary on the importance of strict control over dosage when introducing medicine in tanks.

We are sorry to report that there were no new members during the past month. We must endeavour to do better this month.

In the past issue we said we were pleased to report that Mr. F.Austen had successfully spawned his Leopard Cats. We are pleased to say that the young are making good progress and the adults have since spawned again no doubt Mr. Austen will be good enough to give us details of his method of spawning at his talk on the 1st of August.

FORTHCOMING ATTRACTIONS

April 4th This meeting will be devoted to Labyrinths Rasboras and White Cloud Mountain Minnows Table Shows. Remember if you enter, you are gaining points towards the "Member of the Year Trophy". Also if you are a lucky winner you gain points towards the Southchurch Trophy, which is awarded for the highest aggregate of points in Table Shows during the Year. Also at this meeting there is a talk "The Challenge of the Rasbora"

A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

BRING AND BUY

Dear Members

On. April the 18th we have our Bring and Buy Sale, and I would like you to turn up in full force for this particular Evening, also if you can bring all your friends. We hope on this: evening to considerably swell the Club's coffers; which is very important and needed, anything which: you may have and no longer need, or you can spare: may be of some use to other Aquarists, anything however small or large will be welcome. I sincerely ask you to give us as much support to this evening as you possibly can, we do need money to run our club, and to make it one of the best clubs, with money we can improve .the club and you will all benefit in various ways.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you all for the support you are giving please keep up the good work and try to swell our membership so that we can further our great hobby.

Yours sincerely

Stan Halsey
President.

BREEDING THE DWARF GOURAMI

by N SELLERS,

The Dwarf is principally found, in Northern India and is the smallest known member of the genus *Colisa*, reaching approximately 2 inches in length and having a life span of about three years.

This charming, peaceful, interesting and rather timid little fish is not easy to breed and is perhaps the most difficult of the usual run of labyrinth fishes but success certainly does not go unrewarded. It is not a very suitable occupant for a community tank as it is so timid and non-combatant that it soon becomes the chief subject of interest to the aggressive types, in the tank often literally starving to death.

However, with fish of a similar temperament, or on their own; they are quite happy, colourful, conspicuous and ready to share the food offered to them.

In common with all Labyrinth fishes it has an air chamber situated above the gills which is repeatedly filled by the fish taking in mouthfuls of air at the water surface, the oxygen in the air being absorbed into the tiny blood vessels lining the chamber, the spent air passing out through the gills. Labyrinth fish also breathe the oxygen in the water as do other fishes, but it is the surface breathing that we are in this article most concerned as therein lies the peril - an additional source of entry for infection and chilling to which these fishes are particularly susceptible, emphasising the need for keeping the surface temperature high by keeping the tank in a warm draught free place with reasonably close fitting covers (there must remain an adequate circulation of air to prevent stagnant air remaining at the surface). This precaution is especially needed when breeding and lifting the cover glass and chilling the young fry with cold air is perhaps one of the frequent causes of failure

Cont.....

It is essential to success to have a first class healthy and mature breeding pair to help prevent any inherited tendency to deformities, failure the labyrinth to develop properly and dropsy,

A good male can readily be differentiated from a female by its bright blue and red vertical stripes, the female having much less colouration, a general silver sheen and fullness of the abdomen, one year old fish seem to give the best results.

A tank 18x10x10 is a most useful size and this should be carefully cleaned and filled with tapwater to a depth of 8 inches to which is added a quart of old tank water to ensure the presence of infusorians

Clean and scalded gravel is placed in the tank together with a bunch or two of Cabomba , a few Vallisneria and a clump of hair grass, Riccia is floated on the surface. The temperature range 74-78° F, is maintained by the usual tubular tank heater controlled by a thermostat, aeration should not be used nor artificial lighting until the fry are free swimming.

After three days place the female in the tank and on the fourth day the male, the male and often female will begin to busy themselves building a nest on the water surface to accommodate the eggs, this being composed of a thick mat of riccia and hair grass held together with bubbles of saliva.

When the nest is complete courtship begins the male displaying his most vivid colours gently leads his partner below the nest eventually curling himself round her expresses her eggs, and at the same time fertilizes them.. After a time the male changes his tactics and chases the female away from the nest returning to pick up the eggs which he seals in a bubble of saliva and blows into the nest.

The female should now be removed otherwise she may be injured by the male's hostility, and she would almost certainly eat the eggs if she got the opportunity..

cont.....

The male will look after the eggs, and the newly hatched fry until they are free-swimming. Hatching takes 2-4 days and the fry are swimming in about a further 2-3 days. The male should then be removed lest he be tempted to sample one or two of the young.

As the fry become free swimming provision must be made for feeding with infusoria, and this can be done quite simply by crushing a lettuce leaf and rolling it in an overripe banana skin which is tied loosely with string and suspended about an inch below the surface of the water. The fry will be seen to crowd around the banana and lettuce feeding on the infusoria produced from it. There is no need to give any other source of infusoria, and the culture media may be left to disintegrate - it does not pollute the water. After approx. 10 days the fry will be large enough to take newly hatched brine-shrimp, and this can be complimented when they are four weeks old with finely powdered dried food in very small quantities; feeding 2-3 times a day, and the fry grow fairly rapidly being about ½ inch long after three months, and by then taking daphnia.

Pairs can be bred every 6-12 weeks, approx 100-500 eggs are laid and by using the above method it has been found possible to rear about 50-60 fry successfully from each batch.

WANTED

Two adult female neon tetras

Reply to:
Hon. Sec,
61, South Avenue,
Southend.

BREEDING THE DWARF CICHLID

by S.HALSEY.

APISTOGRAMMA KEITZIGI

I think most of the club members and many Aquarists tend to think of Cichlids as fish that are of a predaceous species and impossible to keep in a community aquarium, in some cases of the larger cichlids this is so, but one tends to overlook the Dwarf Cichlid variety for fear that they may be the same as the larger cichlids, having had some experience with both types I can definitely state that nearly all Dwarfs are a very good community fish and some of the most beautiful, and I hope by this short article it will encourage other Aquarists to "have a try".

In this article I am going to refer to the *reitzigi* as it is «-dwarf of which I have had more experience. The maximum size of this fish- is 2½" the female being up to an inch shorter it is the shape of a *ramerizi*, with a large dorsal and sweeping anal fin in the male, females being much shorter in finnage. Colour being Copper and Yellow on the underside and a beautiful Metallic Blue about the head and body-.

I first obtained four young fish locally and grew up to be one male and three females.. I did not have any luck at breeding these, but the male did take several awards in shows.

Cont.....

On our fairly recent visit to Messr Whitwells I purchased two young pairs of *retzigi* and after a few weeks I noticed one of these females was colouring up a golden colour which was to me an indication that she would possibly breed. I placed her in an all glass tank of 8 gallons capacity filled with matured tap water temperature 80°F. and then put in my oldest. male(the approx. age of the fish were female 6 months, male 2 years) after two days I noticed they were locking .jaws, which is typical of cichlids and four days after, the first batch of eggs were laid on the side of the glass, these hatched in four days and female took over completely, although both parents were present, the young were very tiny and at the end of ten days they were large enough to take brine shrimp, previous to this they were fed by the female, at ten days they were swimming around with their parents. I kept them together for 5 weeks then I separated them from their parents placing the young in a tank and then separated the parents. After two weeks I placed the parents together again and now have a second batch of young(about 100). Both lots although slow growing are doing well.

You can see by this article that what I have achieved can easily be done by all of you, and will repay not only financially but with endless hours of satisfaction and pleasure so- -why not have a go..

JUMBLEGRAM

Untangle the letters and, have a look, and you will be as bright as the bloke who wrote the book.

WORD

CLUE

TTYAPNHTHOCDIJOANRS	BLIND AS A BAT	(CHARACIN)
OBYGNSRMCMOUYNITRETZE	MOURNING	(CHARACIN)
TU1&ISHOMUSIDSOOREAGHMR	ON THE BOOZE	(CHARACIN)
TTTTIIAANERRSSUULGP	NUTS AND BOLTS	(BARB)
PHTALUICAAHNHTOHSKXUM	CHINESE BOY	(LOACH)
SMRUSUNNIGGUAILLIATDUSACU	RAIN IN JAPAN	(LOACH)

STATISTICS

by M.C.Mash

Statistics are sets of figures or data which very few people really understand and fewer of the understanding have the pluck to challenge.

We hope that amongst the many (or few) aquarists wh read this the challengers will be conspicuous by th silence:—

Anglers, on average, catch three colds to every fish.

Subtracting algae from a 24x12x12 tank makes one headache.

The material used for twelve 6" nylon nets wou! make one pair of nylon stockings.

The mulm taken (we hope) from a tank per annum would cultivate two rows of cauliflowers, with out the aid of soil.

SOUTHEND, LEIGH
AND
DISTRICT
AQUARIST
SOCIETY

MONTHLY



BULLETIN

HON. SECRETARY

G. HEDGER

67 SOUTH AVE
SOUTHEND

SOUTHEND, LEIGH & DISTRICT AQUARIST SOCIETY

MONTHLY BULLETIN

MEETINGS HELD AT 8 p.m. ON THE FIRST AND THIRD
TUESDAY OF EACH MONTH AT

LIBERAL HALL CLARENCE ROAD SOUTHEND-ON-SEA

No 4

May 1961

EDITORIAL

How that Spring is upon us and a young man`s fancy turns to thoughts of breeding fish (or does it), it has "been a noticeable fact that at recent club meetings very few questions have been asked with regards to fish breeding, this is especially so with our newer members. Is this because they are not interested in that aspect' of our hobby, or is it that they have tried and failed?.

Most failures are caused by incorrect feeding, that is too much starchy food, dried food, and especially White worms and Grindal worms. How that we have light evenings and warm weekends (sometimes), why not sally forth in search of the elusive daphnia. Most of our fishes are easy to breed; provided they are given the right conditions, and if their food consist of 50% daphnia; then your chances of success will be increased tenfold.

If you have never tried it, why not try your hand at fish breeding, the feeling of having achieved some thing is well worth the effort, and to those members who have tried and succeeded with some of the easier fishes, do not just rest on your laurels, but progress to something more difficult, we may then become a club of aquarists, and not just fishkeepers,

G. Hedger
(Editor)

CLUB NEWS

The meeting April 4th. was a Labyrinth, Rasbora and White Cloud Mountain Minnow Table Show. This was judged by the Hon, Sec., the placings were as follows:-

Joint

1st, Mr J. Wylie
2nd. Mr. J. Wylie
Joint(3rd. Mr. J. Wylie
joint(3rd. Mr. N. Sellers
4th. Mr. D. Cheswright

Mr. Hedger stated that the Fighter that won first place was an exceptionally good fish, and should do well in open shows, it had very good finnage, not too heavy in the body, and the colour was excellent.

Also at this meeting a tape recording by Mr. L. Willis, on the subject of "The Challenge of the Rasbora". Mr. Willis described the conditions in which Rasbora are found in their native habitat and suggested various methods by which spawnings might, be successfully achieved. The main points were the use of nylon mops placed in very soft clear brown peaty water. The suggested set up was a small glass tank, depth of water 4"; pH of 6 or lower and a hardness less than 28 ppm.

The meeting on the 18th of April was a "Bring & Buy Sale" to raise club funds. This proved successful & the sum of £5 was contributed by members.

THE CULTURE OF WHITE WORMS (*Enchytraeus albidus*)

by N. Sellers

White worms are a very very valuable addition to a fishes diet, and and after a time breed profusely. They will multiply equally well at all times of the year and hence. they are particularly useful as a source of live food in the winter when daphnia, is in short supply. They are relished by the vast majority of fishes and it is rare to find any worms left in the tank to cause pollution. The worms are very slender growing to about an inch in length and 1/32" in diameter and for smaller fish can easily be cut to a small size with a razor blade, the worms facilitate this procedure by forming into a ball if left exposed to the air on the cover glass for a minute or two.

The worms are best cultured on a compost freed from harmful bacteria by steam sterilization and the best material I have found for this purpose is John Innes Seed Compost which, is cheap and readily obtainable from any large seed merchant.

The container should be about 1½-2" deep and have a surface area of about 30-100 square inches.

A porcelain oven dish is: ideal and will last for many years. A sheet of smooth clear glass large enough to cover, the dish and a piece of plywood or cardboard to cover this to shade out nearly all the light are also required.

The compost is put in the dish to almost touch the cover glass when lightly firmed leaving a depression- in the centre of the compost for insertion of the worms and worm food. The compost must now be thoroughly moistened but not saturated- no water should lay in the bottom of the dish.

A portion of mature worm culture, rich in worms, should now be spread over the depression and a 1" square of bread (not more than ¼" thick) soaked in milk is then laid in the depression- do not allow the bread to touch the cover glass.

Cont.....

Now put on the cover glass and the cardboard for shading and keep the culture in a temperature of 50-65°F.

A new culture is slow in maturing and may be ; 6-8 weeks before it can be used.

The worms make their way out of the compost the onto the cover glass from which they may be scraped with a knife for feeding to the fishes. Placing the worms on a floating plant insures that they do not immediately fall to the bottom of the tank in one lump.

The only food necessary for white worms is white bread thinly sliced and soaked in milk. The amount should not, exceed that which the worms clear in a week i.e. feed weekly.

Raise the cover glass daily for a few seconds to allow air to the compost.

The culture should be virtually odourless and will last for many weeks before being renewed, renew if the culture has a sour odour or the worms are not thriving. Use worm saturated part of old culture to make a new one.

FORTHCOMING ATTRACTIONS

May 2nd This meeting will be devoted to a talk by Mr. F. Austen, on some aspects of commercial fishkeeping, it is hoped that all members will make an extra effort to attend this meeting.

May 16th This meeting is a table show for Barbs and Characins. As these two popular fish have been amalgamated into one table show it hoped that all members will participate. Remember if you enter, you are gaining points towards the "Member of the Year Trophy". Also if you are a lucky winner you gain points towards the "Southchurch Trophy", which is awarded for the highest aggregate of points in Table Shows during the year.

THE AQUARIST'S GLOSSARY.

By M.C.Mash

AERATION (Called Areation by the Aristocracy . Blowing bubbles.

BLANKET-WEED. Called by lots of other funny names

DAPHNIA Caught at the same time as double pneumonia

GLAZING A most interesting job for those interested in that sort of job.

LINE-BREEDING Passing "the buclk" .

MULM.Recognised as dirt by non-aquarists

POND. A piece of water surronddod by land, containing various kinds of fish-cans.

RUNTS Often met with but reluctantly consorted with.

SIPHON A different kind of "sucker"

SNAIL The beginners greatest success—at breeding therof .

TABLE In which everyone wants to enter fish, but is afraid to.

THERMOMETER. .Shows how cold your water ought not to be..

THERMOSTAT ... A murderous weapon.

TUBIFEX A writhing mass ofpusilanimous.putridness.

TOPPING-UP . .Celebrating with aqua pura,

24 x 12 x 12. How ones head feels on winning your first cup.

VALLIS. TORTA. Curling round, like a spirsal staircase

WHITE SPOT. . .A sort of black plague but paler.

WORM-SHREDDER . Something to make a worm squirm.

FANCY GOLDFISH

For the benefit of newcomers to the club and the possible partial conversion of the tropical minded members, it will be well to give through the medium of the club bulletin some idea of the joys and pitfalls of the coldwater hobbyist,

All fancy goldfish originated from the carp. The Chinese and Japanese first noticed carp of unusual colouring and by selective breeding produced the goldfish, from freak specimens the twintail goldfish was developed,(fantail and veiltail). Further experiments produced the fish with protruding eyes (telescopic-eyed) also fish with strange berry like growths over their heads (oranda and lionhead) these fancy varieties do not breed entirely to type and even the best stock throws back to the common goldfish, singletail fish appear in spawnings of highly developed veiltails etc. It is much easier to down grade than to up grade ones stock therefore it follows that it is imperative to breed from only the very best fish produced in a spawning, which incidently may run into several hundred fish from a single pair. All goldfish whether shubunkins veiltails, fantails etc. come into a class according to pigmentation and are one of the followingj-

Metallic (Scaled) as with common goldfish.

Nacreous (Calico) mother of pearl; mottled.

Matt (Transparent) usually all white.

Metallic x Metallic produces all metallic fish, taking anything from 3 months to several years to change from bronze to red.

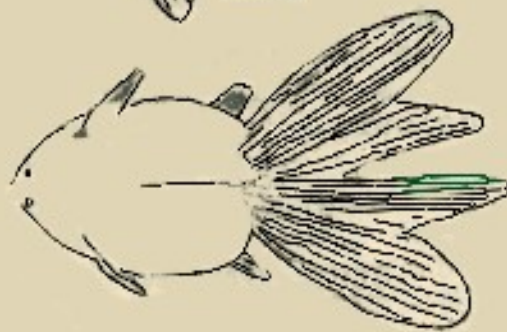
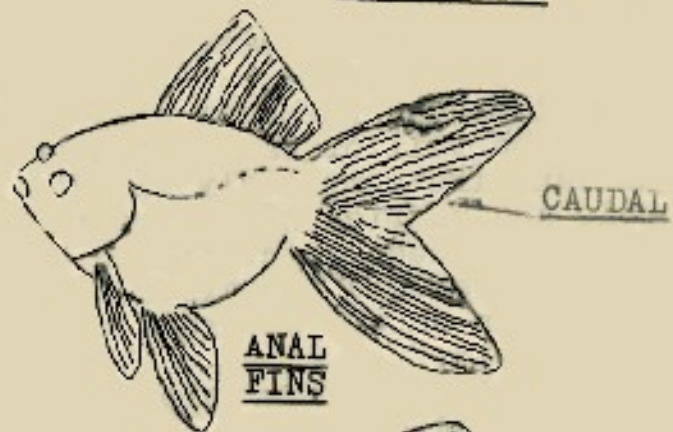
Calico x Calico produces a mixed batch of fish Metallic, Matt and Calico.

Matt x Matt results in all matt fish.

Continued.....

THE FANTAIL

DORSAL FIN



The Fantail is suitable for either aquaria or pond being sufficiently hardy to winter out in a reasonably deep pond, 2'-6" - 3' or more.

As an aquaria fish the fantail makes an admirable subject, its movement being slow and regal enough to make a medium sized tank appear ample space for it, the bright colours and well spread fins offering contrast to a background of green plants. When kept in an aquaria however, aeration should be provided and sediment removed each week if the fish are to remain healthy and content..

The fantail should possess a body as near egg shape as possible, the tail or caudal fin should be well spread and fan like completely divided right up to the peduncle and carried high, the tip of the upper lobe above the highest point of the back.

The anal fins should be paired and well divided.

The dorsal fin should be erect with strong front rays to support it.

Calico fantails for show purposes should have as much blue ground colour as possible and be mottled all over with any of the deeper colours and possess soft gill plates. Metallic fantails should have a rich red body colour.

To be continued.

CLUB OUTING

We are pleased to announce that an excursion has been arranged for Sunday, the 9th of July, the place to be visited is McLynns Aquarium, at Ewhurst in Surrey. The cost will be approx. 10/-, and we hope all members will participate, and remember any friends you may care to bring along will be more than welcome.

WATER HARDNESS and pH

by G. Hedger

This is one subject that worries the beginner to fishbreeding, he reads in various text books and hears speakers at meetings talk of such and such a pH, and so many degrees of hardness, and wonders will I ever know what they are talking about. In this series of articles I hope to give the beginner a little understanding of the subject, and to the more advanced aquarist "food for thought",

If the reader finds that there are some points he does not quite understand, or would like a bit more information on, if he would drop me a line I will endeavour to answer them in latter issues of the "Bulletin", I do not profess to know all the answers, but any questions I do not know the answer to, I will do my best to blind you with science !.

Terms used to express hardness

J.

There are several ways of expressing hardness and unfortunately as far as the beginner is concerned each writer and speaker has his own favorite way.

Through out these articles I shall use the term p.p.m. (Parts per million), which is universal, and to my mind the best and simplest way of expressing hardness. To give an example of its meaning -100 p.p.m, of hardness is simply that in a million measure of water (pints, gallons, buckets, tank fulls, or any measure you can visualise) 999,900 will be pure water and the other 100 will consist of hardness salts, or for those who do not like big numbers -100 p.p.m. is equivalent to 2ozs, of hardness salts in 125 gallons of pure water.

As there are many text books on fishbreeding which express hardness in various ways, and no doubt some members will keep to their own way of expressing hardness, the following Conversion Table should be of help.

Cont...,

CONVERSION TABLE FOR HARDNESS

Parts per million as CaCO ₄	1.0	0.07	0.10	0.056	0.0001
Grains per gallondegrees Clark as CaCO ₄	14.3	1.0	1.43	0.80	0.00143
Parts per 1000,000 as CaCO ₄	10.0	0.70	1.00	0.56	0.0010
German degrees parts per 100,000 as CaO (lime)	17.8	1.24	1.78	1.00	0.00178

Hardness - what it is

Hardness is any soluble compound in water which resists the formation of a soap lather. In natural water the only "hardness compounds" commonly found are those of Calcium and Magnesium

Hardness is divided into two groups : -Alkaline hardness (Temporary hardness) and non-alkaline hardness (Permanent Hardness),

Alkaline hardness (Temporary Hardness)

This is represented by the carbonates of Calcium and Magnesium which are in solution as Bicarbonates, in other words Calcium bicarbonate and Magnesium bicarbonate. They may be removed by boiling the water, the reaction is that by boiling the water the CO₂ (Carbon dioxide) that holds them in solution as bicarbonates is driven off, and they form insoluble carbonates.

The reaction is as follows:-

Cont.....



Calcium or Magnesium Bicarbonate \rightleftharpoons Carbon dioxide + Calcium carbonate + Water
+ Magnesium carbonate

The calcium (Magnesium) carbonate is precipitated and the carbon dioxide given off as a gas.

Non-Alkaline Hardness(Permanent hardness)

This is all the other salts of Calcium and Magnesium that are not removed by boiling and consist mainly of sulphates and chlorides in other words, Calcium Sulphate, Magnesium Sulphate, Calcium Chloride and Magnesium Chloride,

To be continued,

BEGINNERS PAGE

I wonder how many would be aquarists leave the hobby after a short space of time, because of a temporary setback, such as disease, loss of fish etc., there are most probably a considerable number of beginners who decide that fishkeeping is too much trouble, as they have to change the water in their tanks far too frequently. Those failures need not have happened if they had someone who could have advised them how to rectify the fault. A few words of advice when required would, I am sure have kept many of these "would-be-aquarists" in our hobby.

The main trouble appears to be that many of us do not like to show our ignorance in front of the more knowledgeable members of the hobby. But remember » we all started as beginners, and slowly progressed forward, with this thought in mind I would like to start a page for beginners, you see I am a beginner myself, especially at breeding fish, so please contact me with your problems,

cont.....

As many questions as possible will be answered in the beginners page every month. No names will be mentioned, no questions too stupid.

J.G.Porter,
14, Warwick Drive,
Rochford. . .

---0---

JUMBLEGRAMS

Untangle the letters and have a look, and you will be as bright as the bloke who wrote the book.

WORD

CLUE

YESPNAIOMH JOETETSDIS

GAME BIRD (TOOTH CARP)

DANROELALS DAFEORIL

STARS & STRIPES " »

BROLECISAYN IOTLBETOI

PRECIOUS STONE " »

YESPNAIOMH EARTUSLA

MUSICAL " "

ZASRIOY TAPESIL

EASTERN DIET " "

SULVIRU DRANLCEYISUC

ROUND " "

WANTED

ADULT NEON TETRAS

Reply:-

Hon. Secretary,
67, South Avenue,
Southend.

SOUTHEND, LEIGH
AND
DISTRICT
AQUARIST
SOCIETY

MONTHLY



BULLETIN

HON: SECRETARY G. HEDGER

67 SOUTH AVE
SOUTHEND

SOUTHEND, LEIGH & DISTRICT AQUARIST SOCIETY

MONTHLY BULLETIN

MEETINGS HELD AT 8 p.n. ON THE FIRST AND THIRD

TUESDAY OF EACH MONTH AT

THE LIBERAL HALL, CLARENCE ROAD SOUTHED ON SEA

No 5

June 1961

Looking back over the last six months it is gratifying to see a revival in the club as far as membership is concerned, but to me it has been a great dissapointment to sec a falling off of interest in club activities, such as supporting Table Shows, and especially the Tov/n Show,

Our first Table Show of the year was very well supported, but since then we have had two which were very poor as far as the number of c Exhibits was concerned. As for our proposed exhibit in this years Town Show, not one member present at the last meeting was willing to enter, so far we have only two 2 entries; my own and ttiat of our Vice President, this type of show; directed at adverting our hobby, and attracting new members,needs planning well in advance, and the lack of active interest shown by members, (and by members I include some committee members!) who were full of enthusiasm untill they were asked to help organise it, and then cry "I am already doing enough") Makes one wonder just what do our members expeot from the club if they do no more to support it than occasioly attending meetings,

REMEMBER ONE ONLY GETS FROM A CLUB WHAT ONE IS PREPARED TO PUT IN.

G-.Hedger
(Editor)

CLUB NEWS

The meeting on the 2nd March was a very interesting and instructive talk on commercial Fishkeeping given by Mr.F-Austen, who outlined some of the pitfalls open to professional Aquarists.

The meeting on the 16th May was a table show devoted to Barbs & Characins. The support for this table show was very poor, only 9 fish were exhibited by 3 people, The placings were as follows:-

	1. S.Halsey	(Bleding Heart Tetra)
	2. S.Halsey	(Silver Shark)
Joint	3. S.Halsey	(Aruilus Barb)
	3. J.Wylie	(Black Widow)
	4.J.Wylie .	(Penguin)

The Judge was Mr.G.Hedger.

Also at this meeting was a Fishy Forum. This was intended to be a form of Question Time, But as so few questions were asked, it was changed: to a general discussion of an Aquatic nature

FORTHCOMING ATTRACTIONS

June 6th, This will be an exhibition of Unusual Fish: It is hoped that all members will attend.

June 20th. This meeting will be devoted to a Plant Table Show , also a talk on Plant Propagating.

CLUB OUTING

There is still a few seats left on the Club Outing to McInerny's on the 9th of June, so hurry up and book your scats at the next meeting..

CHOOSING AN AQUARIUM.

by N.SELLERS.

The choice of a tank is quite often not only one of style or size (a large one naturally holds more fish and enables the Aquarist to display to a better advantage his artistic abilities in furnishing) but one of cost, and as most of us know, this can be quite a burden on one's pocket money.

In the choice of a tank, particularly one for use in the house (in contrast to one intended for a fish house where appearances and a drop or two here and there do not matter) one should look for reliability and attractiveness in preference to size where limited finances are concerned, for many of us have had the painful experiences of watching the slow dripping of a leaky tank over the polished sideboard or Axminster carpet.

Tanks can be obtained with bow or flat fronts and with or without plain or ornamental iron stands, the ornamental type having intricate ornamental scrollwork and glass paneling serving as a bookcase, plant stand or glassware display cabinet. Tanks can be made in all plastic or all glass in sizes up to about 18"x10"x10, or as is most usual, in sheet glass fitted into frames, with putty in almost every size.

The all glass tanks are easy to clean but unless specially ground give a more distorted view than the sheet glass ones and if cracked they cannot be satisfactorily repaired.

Tank frames can be made from wood, cement, thin sheet angle, ½" angle iron or stainless steel. Stainless Steel is by far the best material being resistant to corrosion and it does not require painting but the cost is prohibitive to most Aquarists.

Wood is liable to warp in use and I would hesitate to move one containing water. Cement is rather heavy and cumbersome and special moulds have to be made.

Thin sheet angle is satisfactory for small tanks say up to 18"x10"x10" but the tops of the frames tend to rust away rapidly unless frequently painted.

Cont.....

The most generally used and the most satisfactory for ordinary purposes is the 1/8" angle iron framed tank which is extremely strong and rigid and with reasonable care will last for many years. It is obtainable in many sizes from 18 x 10 x 10 " upwards, ready for use and fitted with 1/4 plate or window glass, 1/4 plate glass is best for tanks of 24 x12"x12" upwards but the cost is much higher.

The tanks can be covered with specially designed top light canopies usually made of aluminium alloy sheeting to fit specific sizes of tank. If this form of cover is used it should of course be purchased at the same time as the tank unless this is of a standar size. Provision is made for insertion of bulb holder for lighting. An alternative cover can from a sheet of glass the size cf the top of the tank, this having a triangle cut out of one corner to allow passage of heater wiring etc., and raised slightly if desired by tap washers stuck to the top of the tank frame. The latter method has the advantage over the canopy in letting more natural light into the tank and making straighter plant growth as well as saving electricty.

For evening display a strip light may be purchased or a converted baking tin lid may be used.

TANK MAINTAINENCE AND REPAIR. PURCHASE OF USED TANKS-

By N.SELLERS.

One can often obtain a second hand angle iron tank quite cheaply and although most of them leak. a .little, especially if left empty for some time,this fault is normally easily remedid provided.the glass is not cracked

In preference, purchase one glazed with 1/4" plate glas as if reglazing of the tank is necessary plate glass is more easily removed than ordinary window glass.

Assuming that the tank is in reasonable good condition and the glass sound, it should be thoroughly cleaned out and all rust removed with the aid of sandpaper and an old knife, particular attention being paid to the top of the frame both inside and outside.

Cont.....

When the frame is perfectly dry it should be given two coats of a good aluminium paint which can serve as the sole application or an undercoat and final coat of any colour can be applied thereon.

When dry the tank should be tested by placing it on a flat surface eg. a kitchen table and filling it with water, leaving it filled for 2-3 days. If no leaks are seen after this time one can be reasonably safe in moving it to its permanent position.

Should there be a very slight weep, it can often be stopped without emptying the tank by placing a narrow strip of newspaper along the line of the weep, in close contact with the glass and putty- on the outside of the tank of course.

If there is quite a drip the tank should be emptied and the putty carefully removed from between the frame and the glass along the extent of the leak. An old knife and a small screwdriver are ideal tools for this operation but on no account should any pressure be put on the glass. After drying the area, aquarium putty of the variety used for glazing metal windows (such as Ferrasmastic) should be worked in and smoothed off. It is not advisable to use ordinary white putty. Now refill the tank with water and retest for 2-3 days. If the tank leaks in several places it can be repaired in two ways:-

1. By applying a special aquarium sealer obtainable in tubes, along the inside seams of the tank. Black Bostic sealer can also be used. Although these preparations sometimes cause the water to smell a little or leave an oily film on the surface, this does not appear to harm the fish and plants, but as a precaution after treatment the tank should be refilled after the sealer has dried and left for a week or two, then emptied and washed out thoroughly before being put into use.

To be continued....

FANCY GOLDFISHES (Continued)

by G..Pryor

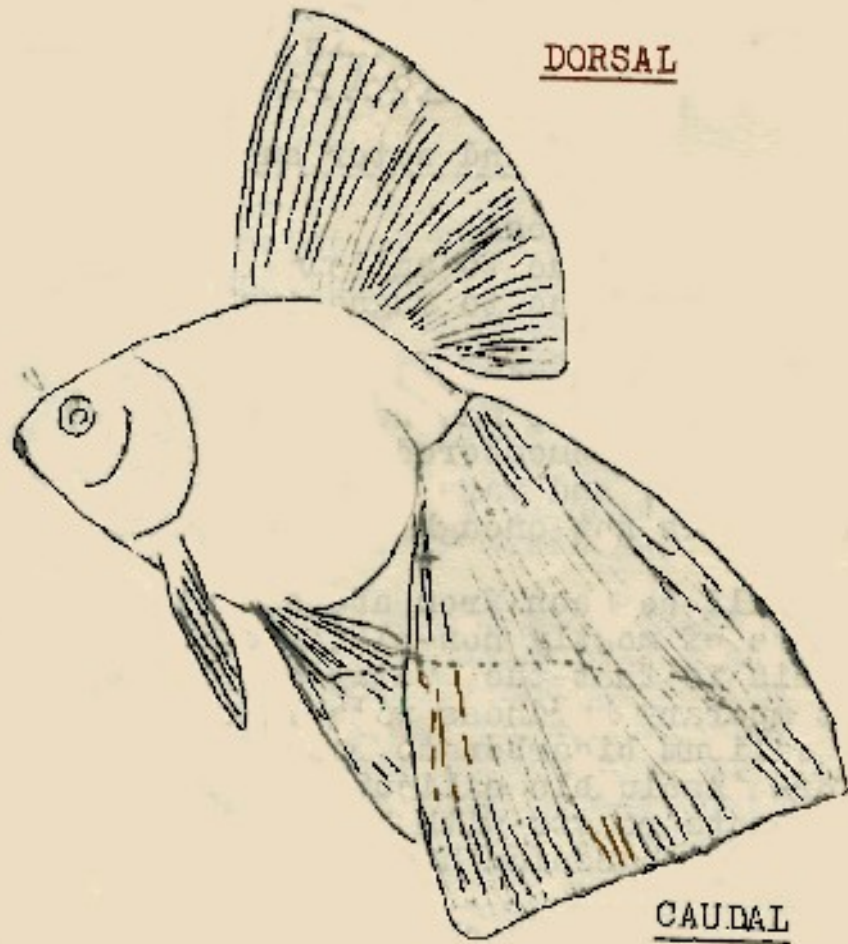
THE VEILTAIL

The veiltail is basically an aquarium fish, being slow of movement due to its rounded shape and elongated finnage plus the fact that most veiltails are highly bred and too delicate to winter out in the pond.

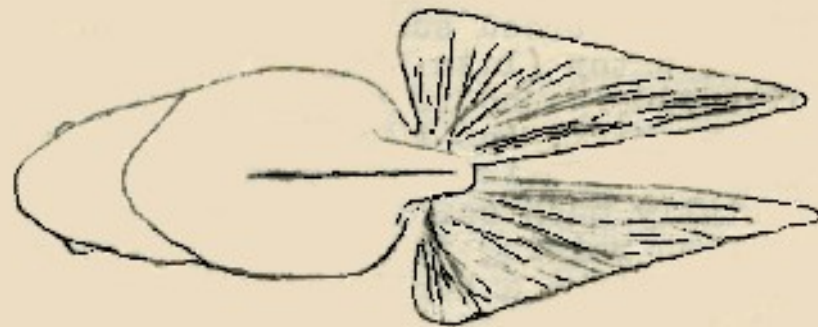
Some aquarists put their veiltails in ponds during the summer months to grow, but personally I prefer to keep my veiltails in 3ft. long tanks, I have tried mixing them in the pond during the summer but they invariably suffer in some way, either they get caught up in plants and the inevitable blanket weed, or the shubunkins and fantails chase the females relentlessly around until as happened only last year the veiltails died of exhaustion, being unable to escape the spawning drive of the faster fish, also the body shape suffers in the pond, under strict control in the tanks plenty of dried food and less exercise a nice round shape can be produced. It is essential to keep veiltails in clean water preferably with a little methylene blue added otherwise the finnage suffers and red streaks soon appear in the tail. Good veiltails are extremely difficult to produce only a very small proportion of a spawning even from high grade fish are worth growing on, and then having survived the risk of fin congestion, swim bladder trouble, flukes and many other hazards that beset them, what is left usually lose their early promise as they develop and finnage, colour etc. becomes more obvious. Why then, you may ask, go to so much trouble? To the true fancy goldfish man the veiltail reigns supreme, the queen of the cold-water fancy.

THE VEILTAIL

DORSAL



CAUDAL



WATER HARDNESS and pH .(continued)

by G HEDGES

It is hoped that by now we all have an idea of what is meant by hardness, I think it would now; be a good idea to have a look at the water which we draw from our taps, for this is the water that our fishes live in, and indeed most of them breed in.

Southend Water Supply

Total Hardness 138 p.p.m.

Hardness due to Calcium 118 p.p.m

Hardness due to Magnesium 20 p.p.m.

Alkaline hardness (Temporary) 15 p.p.m.

Non-Alkaline hardness (Permanent) 123 p.p.m.

(It must be remembered that those figures are not constant, and vary from day to day. but variation is not enough to worry about)

It will be seen from above that our water supply consists of mostly non-alkaline hardness, the reason for this is that the water company remove most of the temporary hardness with lime. The reaction is that calcium bicarbonate reacts with hydrated lime to form insoluble calcium carbonate, and. Magnesium bicarbonate reacts with hydrated lime to form insoluble magnesium hydroxide and calcium carbonate,

It should now be clear that if we wish to use soft water for breeding we must find some other way to soften it other than boiling. For the aquarist who wishes to breed such fish that do not require very soft water (less than 20 p. p.m.) the answer is quite simply use rain water, but I would add a word of warning, let it rain for some time before you start collecting it, it will be much purer, and incidentally much softer, I have found that unless it has been raining for some time the water tends to have a slight amber tint, although this seems to have no ill effect on the fish I prefer to wait it is colourless,

Cont. . .

the hardness of rain water collected in this way varies from 20-35 p. p.m. Another way if only a small quantity of soft water is required, is to buy distilled water from a chemist, hardness 0-5 p. p.m., this will cost 6d per pint, so it is obvious that if large quantities are required other means of softening must be used. Let us now look at the other ways of softening water.

There are a number of ways of softening water but from the aquarist point of view only two are of any value, the first and the most commonly used, is the Base Exchange Method, let us consider this method.

The principle is that the water passes over a bed of Zeolite or Zeocarb, which retains the calcium and magnesium ions, and replaces them with an equivalent amount of sodium ions which are similarly basic, but as sodium is not a hardness salt the water will be virtually zero hardness,

To put it simply water containing calcium sulphate, magnesium sulphate, calcium chloride, magnesium chloride, calcium bicarbonate and magnesium bicarbonate (all our hardness compounds) passes through the Zeolite, which changes the calcium and magnesium for sodium, and the water coming out contains sodium sulphate, sodium chloride and sodium bicarbonate. When hardness starts to show in the softened water, the Zeolite must be regenerated by passing through it a 10% solution of sodium chloride (common salt), after the excess salt is washed away it is once again ready for use.

Although I have been told of successful spawnings in water softened in this manner, I have never had any fish spawn in this that will not spawn in ordinary Southend tap water, with the possible exception of some Tooth Carps, my theory of why Tooth Carps will spawn in this water, is that all chlorides are converted to sodium chloride (common salt) which most writers consider an advantage to add to the water in the breeding tank,

Cont. ...

therefore I think that the sodium chloride is the breeding simulant, and not the soft water. If any member has any other theory, on this I will be onltoo pleased to print them.

The Base Exchange is the method used in all domestic water softeners, small ones can be bought to fit over a tap for about 30/- or the aquarist can quite easily make one himself, if any member wishes to make one of these I will willingly give him the details,

Next month we will discuss the other method of softening, and ways of testing wator for hardness

To be continued.

AN EPITAPH

Por little neon –shes outwardly bound,
She`ll join all the fish in "the far hunting ground"
Her inards are tangled, her outers are sound,
In doing her duty she finished ---- egg bound!

