

Finformation

Volume 62, Issue 11

www.gpasi.org

November 2008



INSIDE:

Nannacara taeniaPage 2
 Cryptopheros nanoluteusPage 3
 Corydoras similis.....Page 5
 BAP Standings.....Page 6
 Cover Photo by Eric Bodrock: Altolamprologus compressiceps
 "Fire Fin"

NEXT MEETING:

November 21st

Efren Leonida

Aquarium Health Issues

Efren Leonida will be discussing "Aquarium-related Health Issues and their Prevention"

Efren got back into the hobby after his daughter Mackenna loved the movie "Finding Nemo." She doesn't like the movie anymore but they still love aquariums. Interests include planted tanks, small schooling fish for planted tanks, and in particular an interest in 'nano' and 'pico' tanks. He likes to think that he is starting to breed fish as well, although likely the fish are breeding despite his attempts. He has 'too many tanks' according to his wife, but is in the process of setting up an automated system with the notion that it will be "one big tank".

Nannacara taenia 'Guyana' BAP Report Wally Cox

Nannacara taenia 'Guyana' is a small South American dwarf cichlid. They are relatively shy but very interesting to watch.

I kept 4 pairs in a 10 gallon tank. The tank had a glass lid, an ATI Hydro-sponge sponge filter, some short lengths of PVC, 4- 4" clay pot houses, and some Java fern scattered around for some additional cover. The tank was kept in my ten gallon fish rack with fluorescent lighting for 12 hours a day. The water temperature was 72 degrees Fahrenheit and a pH of 7.0.

The fish were fed live baby brine, live blackworms, and crushed flake. I made a 50% water change about once every 3 weeks.

It was hard to keep track of all of the fish. All of the spawning caves were taken up with residents. The *N. taenia* were fairly active until I approached. If I got too close they would all hide and just poke their heads out of the caves openings to check to see if the coast was clear. So when they finally did spawn it was a complete mystery as to which pair it was.

I noticed small 1/4" fry swimming around the bottom corner of the tank. They generally stayed to themselves in the one corner of the tank.

I did not change the diet of the tank. The fry had survived this long so why change what seemed to be working. A feeding schedule consisted of crushed flake once daily, live baby brine and live blackworms on occasion.

After 2 months I noticed that they grew to about 1/2". It would seem they were growing slowly and were small for their age. However, they are one of the smallest recorded cichlids in the world and only top out at about 1 1/4" in length.

Looking for articles and photos from members, historical information on the club or anything that would make for interesting reading for the newsletter. Please send to Steve Okabayashi sokabaya@us.ibm.com

Cryptoheros nanoluteus (Yellow Convict Cichlid)

Stan Chechak

Introduction

My daughter and son-in-law are the real cichlid enthusiasts in our family with about 75% of the fish in their tanks being New World or Old World cichlids. After gathering information from my daughter and other cichlid lovers, I figured I'd give this unique family of fish a try.

Since Convict Cichlids are supposedly easy to care for and very easy to spawn, I set up a 10 gallon tank with a divider for a pair of Yellow Convict Cichlids. These fish from the Cichlidae Family are substrate spawners native to Central American rivers. The male Yellow Convict is a multi-colored fish and the female's body colors are more brilliant than the "standard" Convict Cichlid. It would be very difficult to describe all the colors and hues on the male, especially when he is in spawning mode. The predominantly yellow female is even brighter and her stripes darker when she starts "flirting" with the lucky guy. The male is approximately 4-1/2 inches long and the female is approximately 3-1/2 inches.

Tank & Equipment

- Spawning Tank Size: 10 gallon (20" x 10" x 12") with a tank divider
- Spawning Tank Water:
pH = 7.0, Ammonia = 0 ppm, Nitrites = 0 ppm, Nitrates = 5 ppm, General Hardness = 10 dGH,
Carbonate Hardness = 4 dKH, Temperature = 78 - 80°F.
- Spawning Tank Accessories:
One Sponge Filter plus Air Pump and Tubing
One 50W Heater (to maintain the water temperature between 78 - 80°F) plus a thermometer
Plants - Java Ferns attached to a rock
Full Hood Tank Cover with 2- 15W fluorescent light bulbs
Approximately 1/2 inch of gravel covering bottom of tank
One upside-down 4 oz clay flower pot (later)

NOTE: The other half of the divided 10 gallon tank was set-up for spawning a pair of Bristle-nose Plecostomus, but that is another story.

Chronology

June 20, 2008 – The male and female Yellow Convict Cichlids were placed in the left side of the divided 10 gallon tank with all the accessories identified above except the clay flower pot. The pair was fed an assortment of flake and frozen foods plus live black worms to condition them for spawning. They were fed once a day (usually around 5:00 PM).

July 14, 2008 – During the first three weeks, the female Yellow Convict spent most of her time exploring the tank and the male was usually hiding under the sponge filter except to come out for food. No sign yet of spawning or even pre-spawning behavior. Don Tuttle advised adding a small clay flower pot to provide a possible spawning location. Using a DREMEL® power tool, I cut a front door and a back window in the 4 oz clay pot. The pot was placed upside-down in the tank and the female almost immediately began to check it out.

July 18, 2008 – Over the past few days, the female has spent most of her time inside the clay pot. The male literally flies to the top of the water when I lift the tank cover to drop in some food. He is best described as aggressive/protective. There is no evidence of any eggs inside or outside the clay pot, or anywhere else in the tank. The female has removed each piece of gravel from inside the clay pot and stacked them outside the front door. The glass bottom of the tank can now be seen under the interior of the clay pot.

July 20, 2008 - A batch of light brown colored eggs (~1 mm diameter) covering an area about the size of a poker chip can be seen through the front door of the clay pot. The male continually watches me

through the glass and moves to keep himself between me and the clay pot. When I attempted to rotate the clay pot with a long plastic rod (for a better view of the eggs), the male aggressively attacked/bit at the rod numerous times until I removed it.

July 26, 2008 – Mom is standing guard at the front door of the clay pot and has a mass of fry on the threshold. One (or both?) of the parents has moved all of the gravel from just outside of the pot and the glass bottom of the tank is now visible (i.e., there is an approximately 2 inch diameter clear space all around between the pot and the gravel). Dad continues to watch me, but does not seem as aggressive.

July 27, 2008 – Mom has the fry outside the clay pot for a swim but continuously herds them into a tight formation. When a couple of fry try to check out the sponge filter she quickly sucks them into her mouth and spits them back into the pack. If Dad gets too close, Mom forcefully nudges him away. When Dad is not looking I stick one finger in the water to deposit a “smear” of live microworms for the fry. I barely get my finger out of the water as Dad flies up to attack it.

July 28, 2008 – Mom is spending half her time rounding up the wayward fry and the other half aggressively chasing away Dad. After watching the new family for about a half hour, I decide to remove the parents to another tank. Since there are no other fish in their half of the tank, parental protection is not required. With the “overly-protective” Mom and Dad out of the way, I have an easier time feeding live microworms to the fry, and the fry can now freely explore their half of the tank. They enjoy grazing on the sponge filter and the algae located throughout the tank.

August 3, 2008 – The fry are now approximately 3/8 inch long and are shaped like small puffer fish. They are tan colored with brown patches of camouflage. The fry enjoy three meals a day of microworms, decapsulated brine shrimp eggs, or First Bites (powdered fry food). With Mom and Dad “out of the way”, I have a chance to remove most of the algae that has overtaken the tank in the past 6 weeks. A few patches are left for the fry to graze upon. I drop in a handful of Ramshorn Snails to help with the algae problem and to clean up uneaten food left by the fry.

August 26, 2008 – The fry, now about 1 month old, are approximately 1/2” to 3/4” long. They are now shaped more like cichlids than puffer fish and have vertical stripes on their sides. I continue to feed them three times a day, mainly microworms, decapsulated brine shrimp eggs, and **Hikari® Multi-Vitamin Enriched Daphnia** (a type of freeze-dried powdered food). I removed the tank divider and the cichlid fry are now free to mingle with the Bristle-nose Plecostomus fry from the other half of the 10 gallon tank. The convict fry like to nibble on the zucchini slices I provide for the baby plecostomus.

September 19, 2008 – The Yellow Convict Cichlids are now approximately 3/4” to 1” long and resemble their Mom’s coloring and striping. In addition to the microworms, decapsulated brine shrimp eggs, and **Hikari® Multi-Vitamin Enriched Daphnia**, I also sometimes give them finely ground flakes. Even though I sold most of the Bristle-nose Plecostomus fry at the August GPASI auction, there are still 6 pleco fry in the tank with the cichlid fry. Everybody continues to get along “swimmingly”.

Conclusion

My initial journey into the world of cichlids was very rewarding. Getting to see the parental care and protection of the eggs and fry was fascinating. It’s hard to say whether the addition of the clay pot was the final ingredient to trigger spawning or the clay pot was placed in the tank just as they were ready to spawn anyway. The female’s reaction when I placed the pot in the tank makes me lean toward “the final ingredient to trigger spawning” theory. Seeing the Dad’s fearless determination to defend his family was somewhat surprising and truly inspirational. I look forward to my next encounter with a member of the Cichlidae Family. Maybe it will be a mouthbreeder species.

Corydoras similis: BAP article

Regina Spotti

07-24-2008

Several photographs of this fish can be found on the internet and in text books.

Corydoras similis is a small fish, just about 2 inches in length. The fish have blue/violet spots over most of the body with a bluish violet spot on the caudal peduncle. The base color is a pale gold. *Cory similis* is a short nosed (or round nosed) version of another *Cory*, *Corydoras ourastigma*. The two fish are quite similar, hence the naming of the "smudge spot" *Cory*, *Corydoras similis*.

My group of three males and two females was and still is set up in a five gallon tank. Play sand, a small sprig of Java moss, a sunken dark green acrylic mop and a sponge filter are the only other items in the tank beside the fish. The pH in the tank at the time of setup was 7.2 and the temperature was 74-76 degrees Fahrenheit. Live black worms, frozen bloodworms, white worms and flake were offered several times daily. Usually I just toss in a ball of black worms about the size of a shooter marble and let the fish eat whenever and whatever they want. The worms seldom last more than two days so I don't worry about any worms dying and polluting the tank.

Apparently I had not learned from earlier experiences with other *Corydoras* species, and I was using treated tap for my water changes. The water that I used was 5-7 degrees cooler than that in the tank. The fish would spawn, depositing quite a few eggs in the mop and on the sides of the tank. And here's the "but": Nearly all of the 2 mm eggs would appear to be infertile. The eggs would start off clear and quickly develop a milky look and fungus despite my adding alder cones and keeping light from entering the tank.

Some research using Ian Fuller's book and asking Eric Bodrock questions and it was quite clear: the water needed to be more soft and acidic. So I began to use rain water. If the water felt like it was too cold, I would let it sit and reach about 72 degrees Fahrenheit before I used it. That seemed to be the real trick. The rain water pH is 6.4 and nothing was added to it as far as water treatment. The fish responded immediately, laying eggs in the mop and a few on the glass. Most of the eggs were in the bottom of the mop and these were fertile. I pulled the mop and placed it into a two and a half gallon tank with water from the parent's tank. I added an alder cone and an air stone with a moderate bubble. Within two days the fry hatched out. They measured 4-5 mm. After two or three days the egg sac was used up and they were fed APR and micro worms. Any eggs left in the parents tank would also hatch, but the fry would not be seen after wards. I believe the parents must eat the fry.

These fry grow quickly and within two months they were a little over half of an inch in length. They eat just about anything and are not particular about water parameters, as long as the temperature is not over 78 degrees Fahrenheit; they seem to be uncomfortable at high temps. RLS 07/24/08

BAP STANDINGS 2008

MEMBER/STATUS	POINTS	(as of 10/24/08)															tgt.	20pt	
		CLASSES																	
		COMPLETED																	
		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15			
GRAND MASTER BREEDERS		(>500 points, all classes completed, 5 targets, 9 twenty point fish)																	
Eric	Bodrock	4340	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	11	68
Sallie	Boggs	3320	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	29	55
Ed	Redgate	1250	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	6	14
MASTER BREEDERS		(>500 points, 10 classes completed, 2 targets, 9 twenty point fish)																	
Hank	Marzina	1195	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11		14	15	5	14	
FOUR STAR BREEDERS		(400 points, 7 classes completed, 1 target)																	
Charles	Bialon	2800	1	2	3	4			7	8	9	10	11		14	15	3	6	
Deborah	Foltyn	1035	1	2		4			7	8	9	10	11		14	15	2	5	
Robert	Fullmer	865	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11		14	15	3	4	
Scott	Graner	855	1			4	5	6			9	10	11			15	6	8	
Richard	Wiley	700	1	2	3	4		6	7	8			11	12		14		2	6
Pete	Scaletto	685	1		3	4		6		8	9		11					1	1
Regina	Spotti	685	1	2		4					9	10	11				15	3	8
Mike	Cersosimo	540	1						7	8	9	10	11				15	1	4
THREE STAR BREEDERS		(300 points, + 3 classes completed)																	
Wallace	Cox	760	1	2					7	8			11		14			1	3
Ellen	Bryant	435	1	2		4				8							15	1	3
William	Montgomery	405	1						7	8			11		14			1	2
Joe	Hasenkopf	380	1		3	4			7										
TWO STAR BREEDERS		(200 points, + 2 classes completed)																	
Walter	Roth	405							7						14				2
Susan	Everett	295	1						7										
Mike	Solito	280							7	8									
ONE STAR BREEDERS		(100 points, + 1 class completed)																	
Bill	Sensor	230							7										
Jeff	Walker	175	1										11					2	2
Steve	Okabayashi	165	1										11					1	1
Richard	Reiter	165											11					1	1
Marlene	Scholze	165	1																
Stan	Chechak	155											11					1	
David	Webeck	145	1												14			1	1
William	Wells	130	1																
Nancy+Gilbert	Hoover	110												12					1
NOVICE BREEDERS																			
Gail	Hoover	95																	
Thomas	Due	75																	
Efren	Leonida	75																	
Joe	Doyle	60																	
Leslie	Keefer	60																	
Max	Okabayashi	50											11						
Zac	Cox	30																	
Steve	Kingsley	25																	
Thomas	Drake	20																	
Kate	Picket	20																	
Sam	Darko	15																	
Mike	Wolfe	15																	
John	Tornese	10																	
Gage	Huber	5																	
Tristan	Wyatt	5																	

2008 GPASI Breeder Award Standings as of 10/24/08

<u>Name</u>		<u>Total Spawns</u>	<u>20 Pointers</u>	<u>Targets</u>	<u>1st Time Spawns</u>	<u>Other</u>
Regina	Spotti	26	3	2	7	
Stan	Chechak	14		1		
Ellen	Bryant	11	2		1	
Wallace	Cox	9			4	
Leslie	Keefer	9			1	
Charles	Bialon	8			4	
Eric	Bodrock	7	3		4	
Mike	Cersosimo	7		1		
Thomas	Due	5			1	1
Scott	Graner	5				
Steve	Okabayashi	5		1		
Jeff	Walker	5		1		
Sallie	Boggs	4			1	
Zac	Cox	4				
Joe	Doyle	4				2
Pete	Scaletto	4				
Joe	Hasenkopf	3				
Ed	Redgate	3				
Mike	Wolfe	3				
Deborah	Foltyn	2				1
Steve	Kingsley	2				
Max	Okabayashi	2				
Kate	Pickett	2				
Walter	Roth	2			1	
Gail	Hoover	1				
Nancy+Gilbert	Hoover	1	1			
Efren	Leonida	1			1	1
Richard	Reiter	1				

2008 GPASI Novice Breeder Award Standings as of 10/24/08

<u>Name</u>		<u>Total Spawns</u>	<u>20 Pointers</u>	<u>Targets</u>	<u>1st Time Spawns</u>	<u>Other</u>
Stan	Chechak	14		1		
Leslie	Keefer	9			1	
Thomas	Due	5			1	1
Steve	Okabayashi	5				
Zac	Cox	4				
Joe	Doyle	4				2
Jeff	Walker	3		1		
Mike	Wolfe	3				
Steve	Kingsley	2				
Max	Okabayashi	2				
Kate	Pickett	2				
Gail	Hoover	1				
Nancy+Gilbert	Hoover	1	1			
Efren	Leonida	1			1	1

Upcoming Events for 2008

Ohio Cichlid Association 2008 Extravaganza

21, 22, & 23 November 2008

The OCA is celebrating over 20 years of promoting our beloved cichlid hobby! This is why the Ohio Cichlid Association is very proud to offer the 14th annual Ohio Cichlid EXTRAVAGANZA in 2008. The event will again take place at the Strongsville Holiday Inn Select, which is conveniently located at the I-71, Route 82 exit just minutes from the Ohio Turnpike and Cleveland Hopkins International Airport.

<http://www.ohiocichlid.com/extrava.html>

For questions contact Marc at: madbigfoot@aol.com

GPASI Marketplace

Vince Buszko is looking for 40-50 gal breeder tanks and 55 & 75 tanks for sale. Contact Vince at 412-848-5948.

Barb Jurich has for sale: 38G High w/ glass canopy and extras \$75; 44G corner petagon complete setup \$100; 55 G complete setup \$100; other goodies, everything must go!!! Call Barb Jurich 412 287 2078

Walter Roth has plastic bags to sell in 100 count packages. Sizes are 6 x 12", 8 x 15", 10 x 20". He also has a large selection of pond plants. Water Hyacinths, Water Lettuce, Lilies, Water Canna, Iris, Tara, and more. Also pond Fish & Supplies available. Call Walt at 724-449-9651

Sharon Serbin designs and creates fish-related art: stained glass mosaic tables and wall hangings; tile mosaic floors; and hand-painted T-shirts and other clothes items. E-mail sjserbin@pgh.net or page her at (412) 949-3106.

Tom Connor's Wife has for sale two CO 2 Canisters with valves (identical to the one on Elmer's 54 Corner Planted Tank). If anyone is interested in purchasing them from her, please have them contact Anne, at Elmer's Aquarium, and Anne will deliver them to Elmer's for pick up.

To let other members know about aquarium-related items you'd like to buy, sell, or trade, contact Steve Okabayashi at sokabaya@us.ibm.com. **Please let me know when you want to delete your ad.**

GPASI Holiday Party!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

Mark your calendars:

January 10th 12noon-3pm

Phipps Garden Center
More details to follow...

Greater Pittsburgh Aquarium Society Inc.



Monthly Meetings: General meetings are held at the **Phipps Garden Center** in Mellon Park at the corner of **5th and Shady** Avenues. DOORS OPEN AT 7PM

2008 Meeting Dates: Jan 25, Feb 29, Mar 28, Apr 25, May 30, June 27, July 25, Aug 29, Sept 26, Oct 24, Nov 21

Board of Directors meetings are held at 7pm at Elmer's Aquarium in Monroeville. All members and suggestions are welcome. Contact a board member for meeting confirmation.

Dates: Jan 14, Feb 11, Mar 10, Apr 14, May 12, June 9, July 14, Aug 11, Sept 8, Oct 6, Nov 3, Dec 8

Executive

President:	Bill Sensor	724-845-7171
Vice-President:	Don Tuttle	724-327-5163
Treasurer:	Sue Solito	412-571-2418
Recording Secretary:	Marlene Scholze	412-682-2711
Membership Secretary:	Steve Gibbs	412-531-2785

Board of Directors

Terms Expiring: Jan 2010

Steve Kingsley	412-882-8458
Bill Shenefelt	724-864-0582
Thomas Due	412 251 1467
Jeff Walker	724 845 4612

Terms Expiring: Jan 2009

Max Okabayashi	Junior Board Member
Jim Davidson	412-781-3938
Stacy Gatto	412-798-3520
Armand Sichi	724-243-3313
Stan Chechak	412-882-0979
Steve Okabayashi	412-362-7018

Committee Chairs

AHAP	Tim Gross & Bill Wells	412-771-6364 412-833-2569
BAP	Chuck Bialon	412-487-2378
Auction	Joe Krajcovic	412-680-8240
Junior Program	Marlene Scholze	412-682-2711
FAAS Rep & Newsletter Exchange	Armand Sichi	724-243-3313
Fundraising	Mike Solito	412-571-2418
Library	Efren Leonida	724-834-0497
Newsletter	Steve Okabayashi & Lynn Zombeck	412-362-7018 412-279-2362
Programs	Eric Bodrock	412-655-3994
Raffle	Eric Bodrock	412-655-3994
Refreshments	Judi Kingsley	412-882-8458
Show	Bill Sensor Sr.	724-845-7171
Web	Bill Sensor Jr.	
Zoo	Marlene Scholze	412-682-2711

Contact the Newsletter:

Please send articles or comments to:
GPASI Newsletter PO Box 22452, Pittsburgh PA
15222-0452

Back issues of *Finformation* are available in full color online at:

www.gpasi.org/newsletter.html

GPASI Sponsors

The following national businesses and our local sponsors (listed on the back cover) have given GPASI the fuel it needs to have a great year. Please support all of our sponsors and thanks them for helping to make our club a success.

Aquadine
www.aquadine.com
Aquarium Pharmaceuticals
www.aquariumpharm.com

AQUEON
www.aqueonproducts.com

Boyd Enterprises Inc
Miami FL

Danner Mfg. Inc.

www.dannermfg.com
Doctors Foster & Smith

www.drsofostersmith.com

The Fish Factory

Mike Schadle

Finley Aquatic Books
www.finleyaquaticbooks.com

Florida Aquatic Nurseries
www.floridaaquatic.com

Florida Tropical Fish Farm Assoc
www.4fishstuff.com

Ginger, Inc.

www.gingerinc.com
Rolf C. Hagen (USA)

www.hagen.com

Hawkeye International
www.hawkeyeaquarium.com

Danner Mfg. Inc.
www.dannermfg.com

Hikari Sales

www.hikariusa.com
HBH Enterprises

www.hbhpets.com

K&A Imports
www.kandaglobal.com

Ray "Kingfish" Lucas & Kingfish Services
www.kingfishservices.net

Jungle Laboratories

www.junglelabs.com

Marco Rocks

www.marcorocks.com

Marine Enterprises International Inc
www.meisalt.com

Mark Weiss Companies, Inc.

www.marcweissco.com

Ocean Star International

www.oceanstarinternational.com

OmegaSea Ltd.

www.omegasea.net

Python Products

www.pythonproducts.com

Red Sea

www.redsea.fish.com

San Francisco Bay Brand

www.sfbbr.com

Seachem Laboratories

www.seachem.com

SpectraPure

www.spectrapure.com

Tropical Fish Hobbyist

www.tfhmagazine.com

Wardley's

www.hartz.com

Tropical Fish Hobbyist

www.tfhmagazine.com

United Pet Group, Inc-Aquatic Division,

www.unitedpetgroup.com

Free Club Pet memberships at Petland East Liberty store. Good for 10% off dry goods, 20% off fish. If you're interested in a membership, stop by the store and ask for Klaus



Special Thanks to Our Local Sponsors for Their Support

Jay's Sharpening Service, J.J. Angros	626 Valley Street, Oakmont	(412) 828-0844
A&B Oddball Petss & Aquarium	262 Joseph St, Pittsburgh PA 15227	(412) 884-2333
Bravo Restaurants	4976 McKnight Rd, Pittsburgh, PA 15237	(412) 366-3556
Elmer's Aquarium & Pet Center	4005 William Penn Highway, Monroeville	(412) 372-6535
In Leafy Shadows Jewelry	inleafyshadows@yahoo.com	(412) 263-1638
Petland	Miracle Mile Shopping Ctr., Monroeville	(412) 380-2522
Petland East Liberty	6401 Penn Ave Pittsburgh 15206	(412) 363-7387
Seahorse, Inc.	4906 Route 8, Allison Park, PA 15101	(724) 443-2920
Shene's Killies	sheneskillies.com	(724) 864-0582
Walt's Water World	4151 Grandview Dr., Gibsonia	(724) 449-9651



Greater Pittsburgh Aquarium Society, Inc.
PO Box 22452
Pittsburgh, PA 15222-0452