FOTAS

Fish Tales

Volume 10 Issue 2

April - June 2020

CARES Special Issue

Pundamilia nyererei

How do I Join CARES?

Ameca splendens

Chapalichthys pardalis

Betta simplex

Mbipia lutea "Spotbar"

A Brief History of Lake Victoria

In this issue:

Volume 10 Issue 2

The FOTAS Fish Tales is a quarterly publication of the Federation of Texas Aquarium Societies, a non-profit organization. The views and opinions contained within are not necessarily those of the editors and/or the officers and members of the Federation of Texas Aquarium Societies.

FOTAS Fish Tales Editor:
Gerald Griffin herpchat@yahoo.com

Fish Tales Submission Guidelines

Articles and Art Submissions:
Please submit all articles, photos and art in electronic form. We can accept most popular software formats and fonts. Email to herpchat@yahoo.com. Photos and graphics are encouraged with your articles! Please remember to include the photo/graphic credits. Graphics and photo files may be submitted in any format, however uncompressed TIFF, JPEG or vector format is preferred, at the highest resolution/file size possible. If you need help with graphics files or your file is too large to email, please contact me for alternative submission info.

Next deadline……
August 31st 2020

President's Message

Clay Trachtman
FOTAS President

Hello all:

This issue of FOTAS Fish Tales is dedicated to the CARES program. A little history about CARES. CARES was founded in 2004 and stands for Conservation, Awareness, Recognition and Responsibility, Encouragement and Education, and Support and Sharing. Basically, what CARES does is encourage hobbyists worldwide to devote tank space to one or more species at risk and distribute offspring to fellow qualified hobbyists.

Mainly through the efforts of previous FOTAS president Greg Steeves, FOTAS and CARES have somewhat become intertwined. Greg has gone all around the country (and even out of the country) to talk about Lake Victoria and the CARES program. Greg was also key in creating the FOTAS CARES Award. This award is presented to the best CARES fish in a fish show. Much like the American Cichlid Association's Best Cichlid Award, the FOTAS CARES Award is freely available to any fish club that is hosting a fish show. All the club has to do is ask us for a medal.

As for my personal experience with CARES….I really don't have much. I have bred *Aulonocara* sp. 'lwanda' in the past (and honestly that is probably my favorite peacock), but that is about it. As I have stated in the past, I am more of a pleco guy. Perhaps I will try L255: the Spotted Medusa Ancistrus.

Clay

Ameca splendens

Article and Photo by Catherine Salmon

This live bearer has been considered extinct for years but has been found in the Valley of Sayula, in central-western Mexico. Originally it was thought to be only found in the Río Ameca drainage basin in Jalisco state, of central- western Mexico. The *Ameca splendens* is still on the C.A.R.E.S. list as an endangered species, however.

Ameca splendens is a unique live bearer that likes hard water and is a great addition to your aquarium. They are silver in colour with black specks on the body. The mature male has a distinct yellow strip on its tail with its other fins being yellow in colour. Therefore, they are sometimes referred to as the Butterfly Goodeid. The male possesses an andropodium which is a modified anal fin for reproduction. The female is much bigger than the mature male and can reach three inches in length. Being omnivores, they will thrive on a diet with lots of plants material although they do enjoy live worms, brine shrimp and daphnia. They are considered one of the few fish that will eat hair algae.

Unlike other livebearers, the female is unable to store sperm and must mate each time with the male. The eggs/fry will mature in 6 -10 weeks. Like other goodeids, the female nurtures the fry via an umbilical cord resulting in the fry being a good size when born. The fry when born can be as large as ¾ of an inch in length.

I have had A*meca splendens* before but thought I would give them another try last year. I picked up a trio and placed them into a 10 gallon tank with a few plants and a sponge filter. They were still young and needed to do some growing out before they matured enough to spawn. They thrived on a variety of foods I feed them from freshly hatched brine shrimp, North fin pellets and mixed tropical flake food. I tried to remember to throw in an algae wafer every once in a while.

Before long I would see a new addition to the tank but at first only a few fry at a time. If you where at the CAOAC convention you will have seen them in the Family class of the show. The funny thing was that I had added only 10 fry to the tank plus the parents, as required by the rules but when I went to bag them up after the show there was a good 18 fry. Once a mature female starts to deliver her babies, she will release them over several days and you will have a nice number of them before long.

Ameca splendens is a great addition to any general Tropical fish tank. Just remember to not put them in with slow moving fish such as mollies for they can become nippy at times. They do not require any special requirements. Good food that includes algae, fresh water that is slightly on the hard side (our water in Hamilton is just right), moderate temperature between 70-80° F and space to swim. Consider adding them to your tank and help this fish survive and thrive.

My Experience Keeping *Chapalichthys pardalis*

Aricle and Photos by Jody McManus

I learned a few years back that if you have time while you are travelling, it is well worth checking around on who has a fishroom in that area, and seeing if they are open to visitors. Going to convention, I try to make sure to try to get all of our Ottawa contingent into a few places. I have made a number of great contacts that way, and have found some amazing fish, including the *C. pardalis.*

Chapalichthys pardalis are small livebearers, reaching about 6 cm in length, slightly smaller for females. Males tend to be slightly higher bodied, with longer dorsal fins and the characteristic splitfin on the anal fin.

They were collected originally in Manantial de Tocumbo in Michoacan, Mexico and are found in a small area around it. Found in shallow water, less than 2 m, over silt, rocks and boulders, with dense aquatic vegetation in some areas. With water temperatures of 20-24 degrees, they do well at room temperatures, where they are found eating algae, aufwuchs and insects. Sadly, the location at Tocumbo spring has been turned into a concrete swimming pool, and no *Chapalichthys* were found there in 2017. They expect this is due to cleaning processes, habitat modification and the influx of other Goodeid and Poeciliid species, which are now found there.

Just over two years ago, I reached out to Brian G. in the Toronto area, when a group of us were going down to the CAOAC (Canadian Association of Aquarium Clubs) annual convention, and he welcomed us to his fishroom. Brian has a nice set up, with tanks, tubs and containers filling every surface of the room, full of livebearers of all kinds. For me, it was like being a kid in a candy store, and I had to check out every tank closely. In one small tank, full of plants, he had this different looking little goodeidae, silvery with polkadots. We talked a bit about them , and he mentioned they were a C.A.R.E.S fish, so I figured I was willing to give them a try. He picked out two pairs, and soon they were off to Ottawa.

Being a cichlid and livebearer guy, I always have a few tanks ready for some new arrivals, and since I had cleared out some fish before heading to the convention. Sadly one of the females did not survive the trip home. The three remaining pardalis went into a 20 gallon tank, with one of my homemade filters and a bunch of artificial plants. They settled in nicely, and were ravenously eating the next day.

For the next few weeks they were fine, then the larger male decided that he had enough of the other one and I found him dead one evening. So that left me with a precious pair only. A short time later I noticed that the female was showing signs of pregnancy, so prepared to put her in a birthing tank in a few days. Well, note #1 When she is showing signs, she is about to give

birth within days. The day I went to move her, I noticed a nearly 1 cm fry in the plants, so quickly scooped it out and pulled the plants to search for more. Note #2 The pardalis are very predatory towards their fry, and will eat them pretty much instantly. All that I found was a couple of half eaten fry.

Over the next couple of months, there was no extra activity from them, the male was a bit nippy towards the female, but mostly just chased her away from his spot in the tank. Great eaters, and not picky with the water condition, they are pretty hardy fish to keep. Finally, after about six months I was able to catch the female and get her into a birthing tub, a large dish washing tub, filled with plants and an air stone. Within 24 hours there were about a dozen little ones swimming around, so the female went back into her tank, and I finally had some fry.

A few days later, they went into a 10 gallon tank and were eating like their parents. Because of their large size, they were able to eat a small growth food along with some daphnia and baby brine shrimp.
I don't find them particularly fast growers, so found that even after a month or so they hadn't put on significant size. But they were doing great, and that is the most important thing.

A month later, I went on holidays for two weeks, put an automatic feeder on the tank to make sure they were getting enough of the right food, had someone check in on the fish room, and gave them a good water change before going. Out of 70 or so tanks, I had a problem with one during the time I was away, can you guess which one? Yep, when I got back, it was cloudy and there were no survivors.

Back to square one, and one pair. I missed a couple more batches of fry, and was starting to get frustrated with these fish, but kept trying.

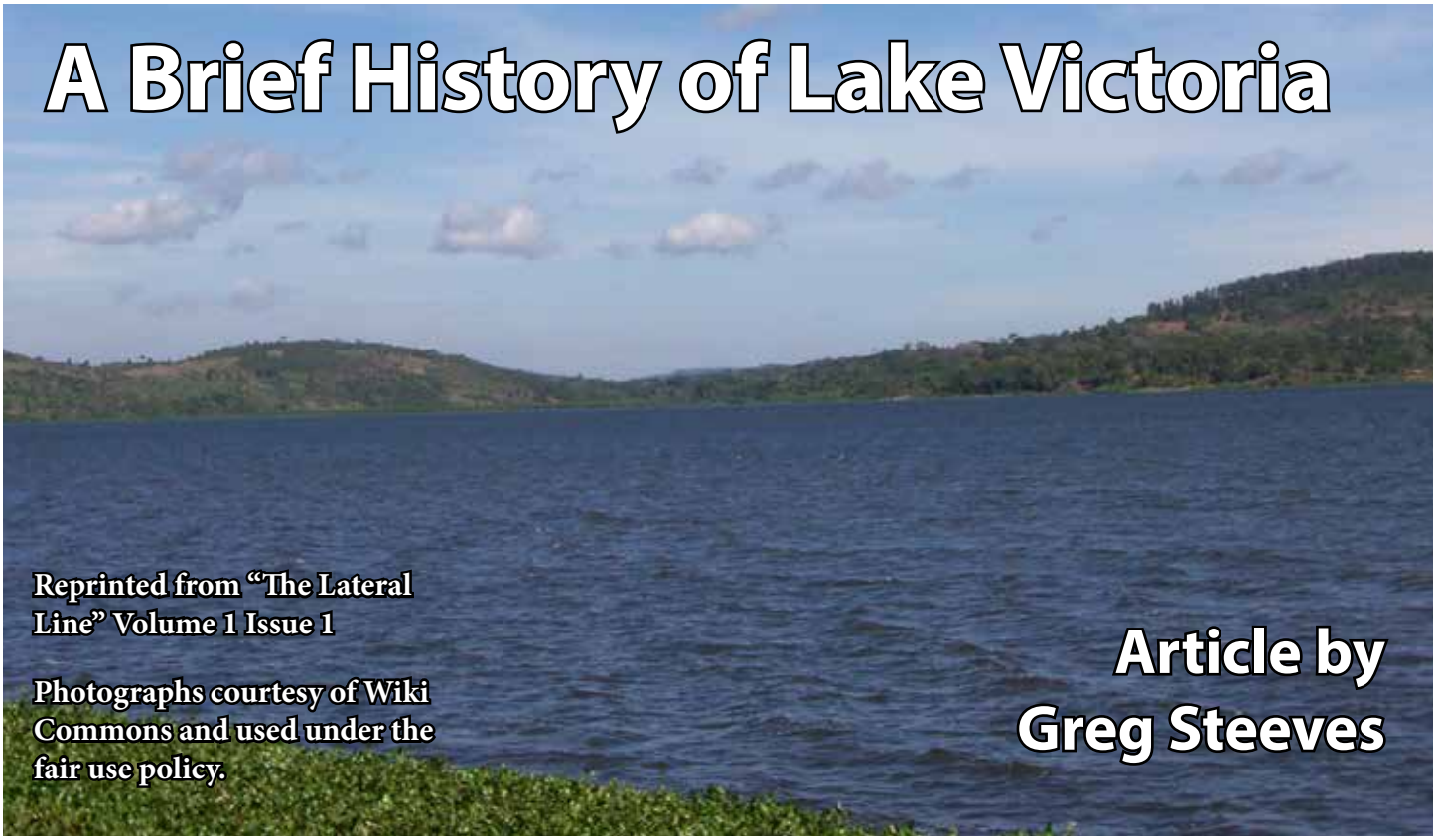
Finally, after a year and a half, I was able to get a couple of batches of fry. One batch she dropped only a few fry or more likely, ate a bunch of them. The second batch was over 25 fry.

These ones started out for a few months in a 5.5 gallon, and have since been moved to a 20 gallon.
About half went to Montreal for their auction to help spread out the species, and I am hoping that the people who bought them are having success with them, and can continue to share them there.

In the next few months, I plan to move them into a 30 gallon aquarium and hopefully get a good colony of them going. Despite set backs, I still think that this is an interesting little fish and worth a tank in any fish-room.

Ref: The Goodeid Working Group http://www.goodeidworkinggroup.com/chapalichthys-pardalis

A Brief History of Lake Victoria



Reprinted from "The Lateral Line" Volume 1 Issue 1

Article by Greg Steeves

Much has been written on the dilapidated condition of the once pristine Lake Victoria region. Man's influence has horribly altered the flora and fauna in the region. John Speke first laid eyes on Lake Victoria in 1858 while on his quest for the source of the Nile. This grand freshwater lake, with the second largest surface area on the planet, was named after Queen Victoria. The clear blue waters that abound with life have under gone drastic changes in last 150 years.

The first event leading to Lake Victoria's demise began in the late 1800's. European led industry began harvesting the great trees that stood in massive stands along the lake. Erosion, brought about by seasonal rains, caused a massive addition of silt to the lake. This has turned much of the water, especially along the shoreline, a murky brown. This problem with water clarity plays a huge role in cichlid diversity where the hobbyist is concerned.

I will come back to this further on. Railway construction in the 1920's began opening the region making Lake Victoria much more accessible to people. Somewhere around 1950, settlers to the region began stepping up agricultural operations. Areas adjacent to Lake Victoria were developed to produce crops such as tea, sugar and tobacco. Chemical run off from these industries leached directly into swamps, feeder streams and rivers, and eventually into the lake itself.

Dramatic population growth in the region brought with it heavy industry. One only has to walk along the shores of the St. Lawrence River to see how detrimental this can be to an aquatic ecosystem. Raw sewage, industrial effluent, and heavy silt-laden runoff has (and still is) caused huge algae blooms. The recent invasion of water hyacinth to Lake Victoria has covered the surface of large areas exacerbating an already epidemic problem; oxygen depletion.

With everything the endemic cichlid populations had working against them, introduction of the predatory Nile perch (*Lates niloticus*), although initially uneventful when first planted in the 1950's, eventually became the dominant aquatic species by the 1980's. This huge creature is believed to have thus far been responsible for the extinction of at least half of the cichlid population of Lake Victoria. The perch effectively patrols the lake pushing remnants of the once plentiful cichlid population close to shore where they can seek refuge amongst papyrus roots and any other available shelter. This environment in many cases is eutrophic. One can only imagine the massive numbers of fish that must suffocate here everyday.

Lake Victoria is a baby. Core samples taken from the

Local Fishermen and thier boats on the shore of Lake Victoria

lake indicate that the entire area was dry land terrestrial as recently as 13,000 years ago. If this is indeed the case, the endemic lake Victorian species flock has evolved in a remarkably short period of time. We have caught the Haplochromines in the process of radiating and diversifying, finding what works and what doesn't, in their initial developmental stages. These fish are readily adaptable, seizing any opportunity they are presented with. In at least some species, dentition, coloration, and actual anatomical structuring can be altered in a matter of a generation or two in order to take advantage of their changing environment. Rapid specialization is what has made the whole cichlid family such a success world wide, but Victorian cichlids have taken it one step further. For this reason cichlids from this region make wonderful aquarium specimens. Usually not too large, able to withstand a wide range of water conditions, willing to eat anything presented to them resembling food, a willingness to breed profusely, and colors that rival some salt water fish, Cichlids from the Lake Victoria region are a welcomed addition in our aquaria.

The first reference I was able to find concerning Cichlids from Lake Victoria occurred in the late 1880's when G. Fischer sent a collection of new cichlids to Dr. Franz Hilgendorf at the Berlin Museum. In 1888, Hilgendorf erected the genus *Haplochromis* based on Fischer's specimens. In the early 1900's, George Boulenger and Jacques Pellegrin examined cichlids from the region and published papers of their discoveries. Others have made contributions throughout the century as well but it seems that when the scope of destruction to the lake and its inhabitants was beginning to be fully realized, an urgency to salvage what was left of the cichlid population arose. Dr. Les Kaufman of Boston University was among the initial group to erect the Lake Victoria Species Survival Plan (LVSSP). In addition to cataloguing, the LVSSP acquired wild colonies, which were distributed to zoos and aquariums worldwide. Many of the species collected have since disappeared from original collecting areas and may well be extinct. Many of these institutions have been successful in propagating captive populations of Victorian cichlids and have since exchanged and distributed stock to others involved in the LVSSP. Each year, a few cichlids from these colonies seep their way into the hands of aquarists.

Victorian Haplochromines for the most art are quite genetically similar. Most will interbreed freely if kept together and will produce fertile fry. Herein lies a problem. Due to the rarity of most of these fish, it is the hobbyist that must realize his or her responsibility in merely having these beautiful, brightly colored gems in their aquaria.

We must do all we can to keep colonies of our fish species (or variants) as pure as we can. That said, it has been shown that at least some Victorian cichlids use visual cues in mate recognition. A female knows what male to spawn with through sight. If another fish swims near it is difficult to distinguish among color variants. As fish density is low due to predation by Lates, any closely-related mate may be chosen. Spawning under these conditions produce hybrid fry of unknown lineage. This is compounded generation after generation until the parent color morphs are so genetically blended with each other that they go extinct as genetically distinct species. Victorian Haplochromines that have been in the hobby for over twenty years still retain the original strains through careful husbandry. In my opinion, there is a unique situation occurring here. We have fish species in our tanks that are more genetically "pure", than the source populations.

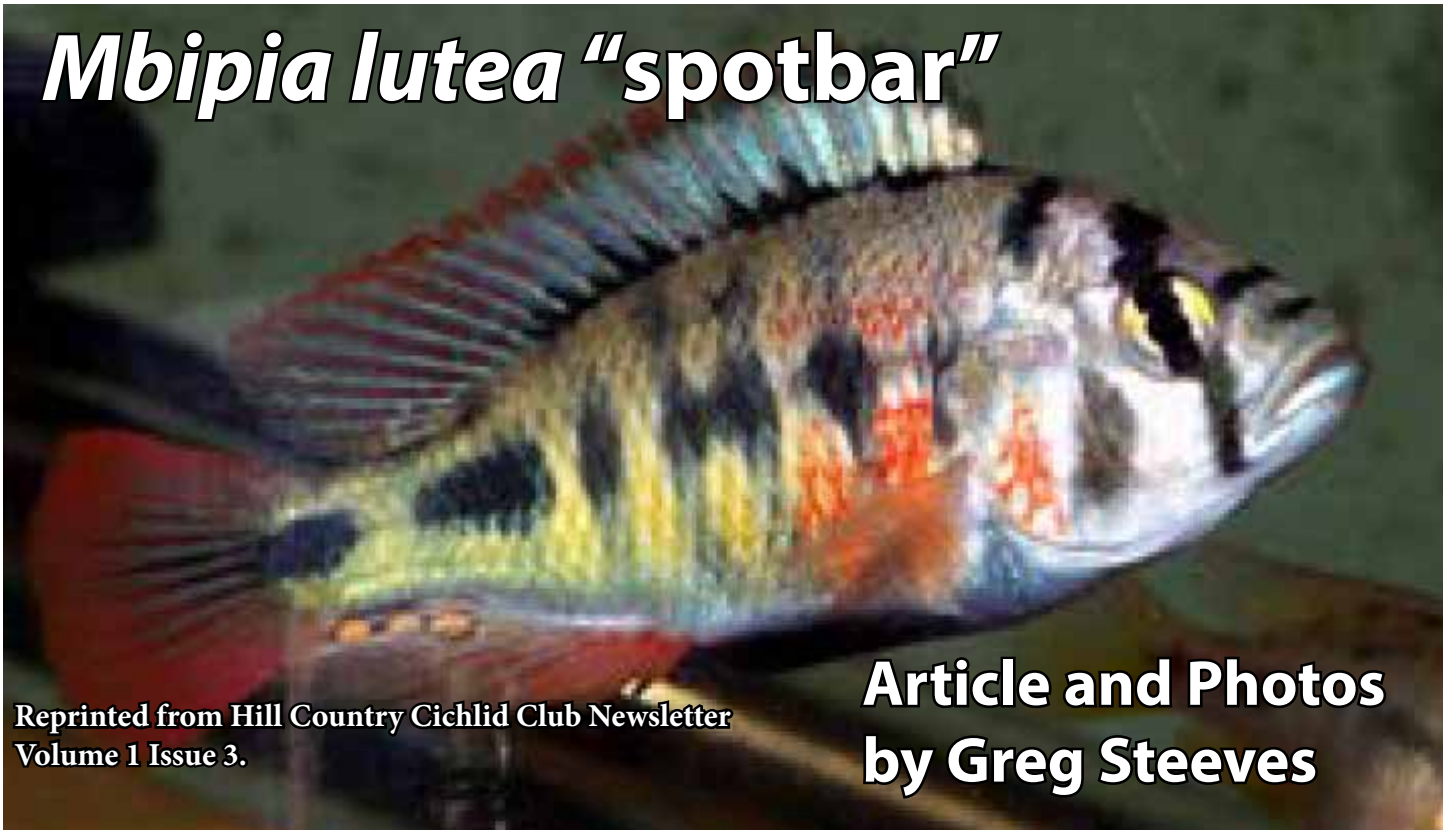
Lake Victoria is huge. The area houses countless unique ecosystems. It is easy to imagine how parts of the lake could be polluted to the point where any form of life but viral or bacterial would perish. One would expect to find these pockets in densely populated areas and near industry. There are near pristine areas of Lake Victoria. The situation here is that as stressors are left unchecked, these areas are sliding into extinction as quickly as the cichlids. However it is probably too late to save many of the affected areas of Lake Victoria. At least 200 cichlid species are thought to have recently gone extinct.

Although the problems in Lake Victoria have been going on for some time, only within the last twenty years that we have seen so many species (some described and some we will never know even existed) perish. If nothing drastic and miraculous is done immediately, and there is really no reason to believe anything will. The next 20 years is likely to have just as many extinctions. With that will come of the death of a colossus; Lake Victoria.

The Nile perch was introduced to Lake Victoria for fishing, and can reach up to 2 m (6.6 ft) and 200 kg (440 lb).

References
Chege, N. 1995. Lake Victoria - A sick Giant. People and the Planet.
Goldschmidt, T. 1996. Darwin's Dream pond - Drama in Lake Victoria.
Harrison, B. 2000. Lake Victoria and Satellite Lakes
Loiselle, P. V. The Natural History and Aquarium Husbandry of the Mbiru (Oreochromis variabilis) (Boulenger 1906). Aquarium Frontiers.
McKaye, K. R. 1998. Cichlid Fishes of the African Great Lakes. Zoogooer.

Mbipia lutea "spotbar"



Reprinted from Hill Country Cichlid Club Newsletter Volume 1 Issue 3.

Article and Photos by Greg Steeves

Mbipia lutea "spotbar" is most definately one of the most beautiful fish I have ever seen from the Lake Victoria region. I do not have a lot of information on this fish but can tell you they are a distinct species and not a mix of two different furu species. Spotbars (as I am calling them) breed true. The second generation fry have retained the coloration and barring patterns of their grandparents. I am convinced this is a true species of cichlid. It is the name I have applied that I am not so sure about. How did I arrive at this name? Here's the tale:

While on a visit to New England in 1998, I met with Alan Wagonblott and toured his fishroom. Al had been one of the first hobbyists in New England to concentrate most of his fish keeping efforts on Victorian rock cichlids. The fish in his tanks were foreign to me. I had never heard their names, never seen any pictures of them, and knew nothing about keeping them. Suddenly I had to have some!

He directed me to a tank of about 55 gallons. In it was a group of these beautiful critters. They looked as if they had been painted. Knowing full well he would never part with his breeders, I asked if he had gotten any spawning from them. In a 10 gallon tank were a couple of dozen small fry huddled together in a corner. Al had told me that he had acquired these fish from a member of the Michigan Aquarium society, who in turn had gotten them from a wild caught shipment the club had arranged. These came from a region known as Yala Swamp. The contact in Michigan had called them *Haplochromis* sp. "crossbar".

I parted with a half dozen F1 fry. As the fry began to grow in my tank, they developed the color I had been waiting for quite early. I had no photographs at the time to pass around for identification so I did the best I could explaining the fish to Dr. Les Kaufman at Boston University. Dr. Kaufman is the authority on the Victorian species flock as far as I'm concerned, and I pestered him for information on this fish.

I explained that the dominant male had a lime green body dotted with six black spots along the lateral line. The tail, anal, and dorsal fins are lined with bright red. The fin rays emerging from the dorsal and tail fins are radiant with bright blue. The region of the head from the gill plate up, is a dull blue with a prominent eye barring that extends around the snout, through the eyes, and tapers out towards the lower jaw.

Kaufman explained to me that the name "crossbar" was nothing that he was familiar with, but the fish did sound a lot like one he had dubbed *Haplochromis* sp.

"spotbar" that was indeed from the Yala Swamp region. I conferred with Al about this information and asked him if he thought there was anyway that the name could have gotten mixed up as the fish was passed to him. Of course it was possible.

Since that time, I had done quite a bit of digging for information on these beauties, and finally concluded that they had been described in 1996 as *Mbipia lutea*. There are several 'locale variants' of this species from the Yala Swamp, including the "spotbar" and "porthole", a very similar fish that lacks the barring and spots when fully colored.

We were fortunate enough to also acquire a group of the "portholes", and managed to get quite a few photographs of them before they met a most untimely demise (have you ever noticed that the only tanks that break are the ones with irreplaceable fish in them?).

These fish are very undemanding. They will subsist fine on basic flake food and eat anything else offered as well. Mbipi lutea have a medium temperament when it comes to aggression as compared to most other Victorians. They seem to sit somewhere in between *Paralabidochromis* sp. "rock krib" and *Haplochromis* sp. "44", both which they will coexist nicely with. The lutea is extremely prolific and large spawns from small females are normal. I have had a female lutea under two inches release 40 fully developed fry.

Fry are easily raised on crushed flake and grow rapidly. Maximum size for Mbipi lutea seems to be near three inches. It's a shame these colorful little fish are so rare in the hobby because they make ideal aquatic residents.

Betta simplex

Article by Gerald Griffin
Photos by Kasper Wawryniuk

When I first heard of *Betta simplex* my thoughts were "Oh boy another Betta species!" Then as I was investigating it I found it was in the Picta complex and thought well that will be an easy breed. So, it wasn't long before I had them in my hands and they went right to work making babies. Upon further research I found there were a few populations all from the Krabi province of the southern peninsular of Thailand. People had classified them into simplex type 1 and simplex type 2. Then there was a population around Lake Ao that grew much larger than the other two types. So, upon obtaining both types side by side the big difference was the amount of iridescence on the body. However, when I bred type 2 to type 2, I ended up with about 50% type 1 and 50% type 2. I repeated this for type 1 and got the same results. This led me to believe they were exactly the same. The Lake Ao population still intrigued me, but I was not able to obtain them.

A couple years later I did a consult at the Monterrey Bay Aquarium and supplied them with specimens of *Betta simplex* and *Betta albimarginata* for a display to go with the fauna found with the small clawed otter. A couple years later and I happened to be giving a talk in that part of California so I took the time to get a behind the scenes tour of the Monterrey Bay Aquarium and saw the *simplex* I had provided got really huge. Could this explain the Lake Ao population in that they were same but had access to more water and more food? Maybe something in the environment was capping the growth of the other locations. Unfortunately, we may never know the answer to this as *simplex* has moved from vulnerable to critically endangered.

When it comes to keeping wild Betta species *simplex* is as the name describes, really simple. They are one of the most undemanding species of Wild Betta and will fair in almost any conditions. *Betta simplex* in the wild come from alkaline waters (unlike most wild Betta species) however the pH still is not that high capping out at about 7.4. They are typically found in limestone sinkholes near the surface of the water. This water can be blue-green color from the dissolved calcite. Like the vast majority of Wild Betta species, they are opportunistic feeders and primarily feed on small crustaceans and insect larva. They share their environment with *Trigonostigma espei* and *Barbodes lateristriga*. In captivity they do well on almost any prepared foods however live foods should be included from time to time.

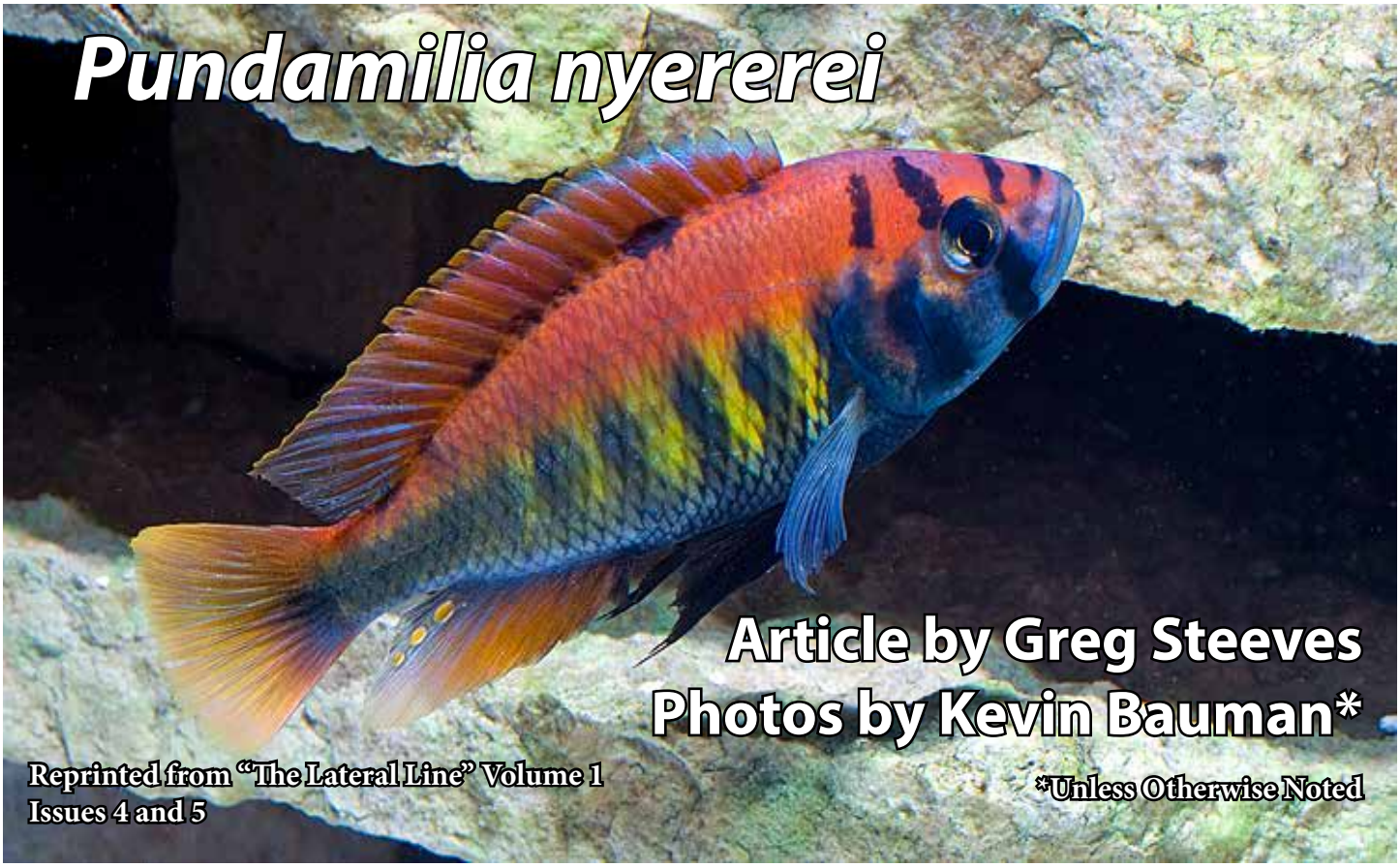
As to keeping simplex in captivity, they are an easy species. The first rule in keeping wild Bettas is that they jump! Also the size of hole they can escape out of is indirectly proportional to the cost of the fish! So tight covers are a must. To that end I prefer sponge filters as you can drill a hole about the size of the airline and slide it in where there are no gaps. For a pair

I prefer something like a 20 gallon long as it gives them plenty of room to grow and raise a family. I have also used a lot of regular 20 gallon tanks. If I am just spawning them to make babies then a 10 gallon tank works out fine. As mentioned previously the water conditions are not critical however clean water is most desirable.

Although they can be kept with various tank mates if you are going to try to reproduce them for maintenance then they should only be kept in pairs as the tank mates would snack on the babies. Or worse the female might kill off the tankmates while defending her territory. *Betta simplex* is sexually dimorphic with the Male having a wider head and a large anal stripe which is primarily characteristic of the Picta Complex with the exception of edithae which has a less pronounced anal stripe.

Betta simplex is a paternal mouthbrooder, so the female typically initiates spawning by nipping at the male's caudal fin. Just a note: Females replenish their eggs in about seven days however the Male holds for about 10 days. This can create a problem as a female will initiate new spawning forcing the male to either swallow the brood or release them early. Personally, I have noticed the Male's mouth reduce in size, then swell back up again and when he finally released there were two sizes of fry. As it turned out some of the first brood got released early and hid in the gravel and then joined the newcomers when it was feeding time. The act of spawning is just like the majority of Wild Betta species in which the pair will circle each other and then embrace. The eggs are caught in the Male's anal fin and the female pics them up in her mouth. She then spits the eggs in front of the Male for him to grab. However, the Female is also trying to scoop them into her mouth, so it looks like tease. When he finally has all of the eggs, she will then initiate another spawning embrace. Then the process will repeat over and over again until she is depleted of eggs. When the fry are released, they are large enough for brine shrimp nauplii and grow pretty quickly.

So, if you are into really unique fish and love Anabantoids then Betta simplex might be the perfect addition to your collection.



Pundamilia nyererei

Article by Greg Steeves
Photos by Kevin Bauman*

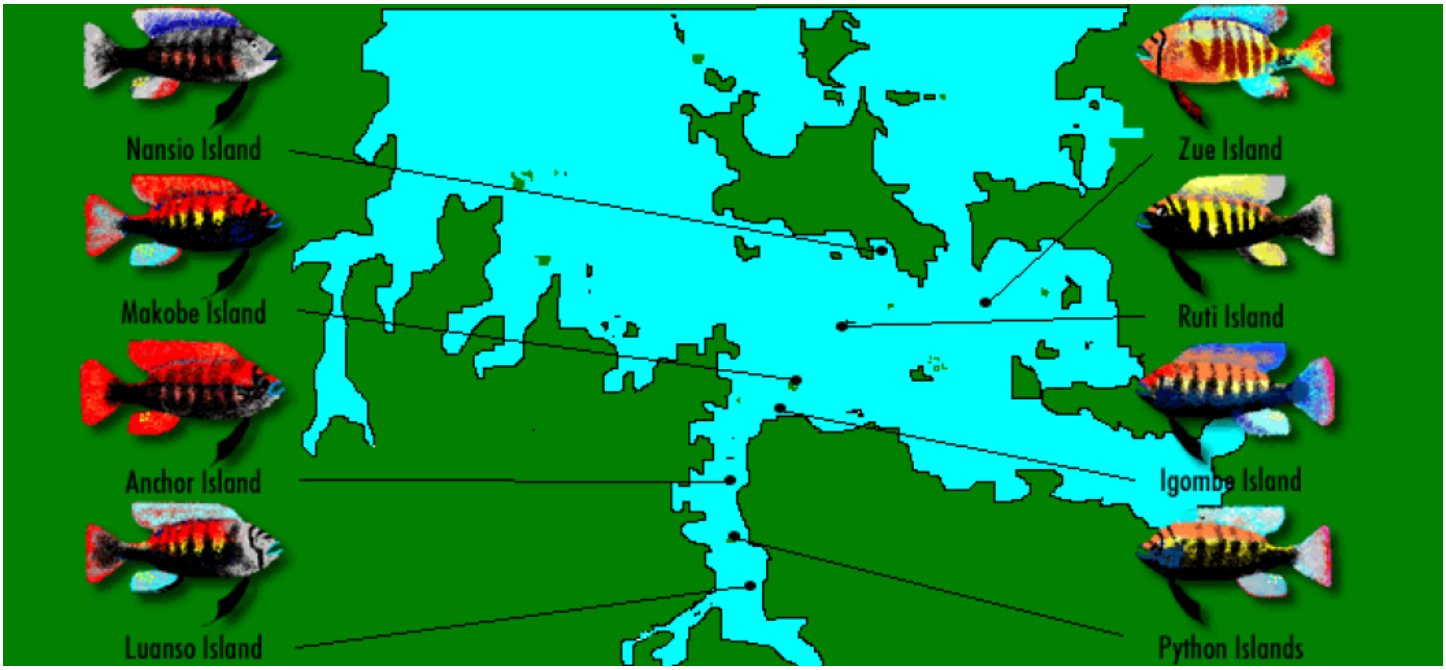
Reprinted from "The Lateral Line" Volume 1 Issues 4 and 5

***Unless Otherwise Noted**

The *Pundamilia* complex of animals contains some of the most beautiful brightly colored organisms found in Lake Victoria. This genus is in constant revision and most individuals of this grouping are recognized by where they are found rather than an adopted name. I feel as work progresses with *Pundamilia*, we will see an entire revision of this genus with species, sub-species, and locale variants. Identifying an individual *nyererei* is important to the hobbyist because all fish in this grouping will interbreed. We must do everything we can to ensure our strains are as pure as possible. Some *Pundamilia nyererei* may be extinct in the wild and most are certainly threatened to some extent. There may be no going back to the wild to collect these fish so it is our responsibility to do everything we can to propagate true lines. Never mix variants of *Pundamilia*.

Pundamilia nyererei are not large fish. Maximum length is around three inches with the females usually being a bit smaller. Nearly all the female *Pundamilia nyererei*, regardless of locale, look similar. Basic coloration consists of a tan brown body with straight vertical striping. Fins are translucent and colorless for the most part with slight tingeing of blue in the dorsal fin. It is the males of this species which we concentrate on because color and body patterning is unique enough to be able to pin down what variant we are dealing with. *Pundamilia* have a nearly straight slope to the forehead. The mouth contains three to five rows of randomly spaced bicuspid and unicuspid teeth. Along the lateral line *nyererei* have small, deeply embedded scales. This is very evident when comparing these fish along side any of the *Paralabidochromis* species. All males of this complex are brightly colored, with red being predominant in most cases. Throughout the southern portion of Lake Victoria, *Pundamilia nyererei* are restricted to small pockets where it would appear that they have evolved as an isolated group. The most obvious barrier that keeps differing *nyererei* locales from interacting is open water. These fish frequent the shallows where they feed mostly on the small creatures associated with algal growths. There are local populations far removed from each other that are similarly colored, but it is unlikely that these fish came from a common ancestor. More likely, this is a case of parallel evolution.

One species of fish formerly known as *Pundamilia* "zebra" *nyererei* has been reclassified as *Pundamilia pundamilia*. This closely related species also has a number of locale variants and is subject to revision as



well. I only mention this fish because I will not be including it or mentioning it further. If you are trying to identify your nyererei, and it is a black fish with vertical barring, blue dorsal trimmed in red, anal and tail fin red as well, you are probably dealing with a *Pundamilia pundamilia*, not *Pundamilia nyererei.*

Keep in mind when reading the following species descriptions that these observations were mostly made on dominant males in full breeding dress. Differentiation is much more obvious this way. *Pundamilia nyererei* show individual color fluctuations depending on mood as well as some variation between individuals. This guide should be used as an outline and if your nyererei varies slightly, this is perfectly understandable within this genus.

Locale variants of *Pundamilia nyererei:*

Igombe Island

Head coloration: The head fashions a bright red forehead that fades to orange as it recedes into the back portion of the body. A bright blue band rims the top lip. A black bar extends from the bottom of the jaw and ends at the top of the eyeball. A single thin black bar curves the forehead between the eyes.

Body coloration: Seven wide black bars located from behind the gill plate to the caudal peduncle. Barring fades 3/4 of the way to the dorsal. The underside is solid black. Mid sections of the body are bright yellow. Back portion is orange and fades to yellow towards the tail. Caudal peduncle is dark, almost black.

Fin coloration: The dorsal begins at the first body bar just behind the gills. The bottom portion is colored orange 2/3rds of the way back. A blue line begins at the first dorsal ray and turns blue-green as it progresses towards the tail. The tail portion of the dorsal fin is totally blue with no orange left at all. The anal fin is bright blue with 3-5 egg spots. Pelvic fins are jet black. The tail fin is translucent tinted blue with a dull red

trim on the end. Top portion of the dorsal is lighter than the rest of the fin and a yellow color.

Python Island

Head coloration: Orange forehead. Jaw region is dark blue. A thick black bar runs from the bottom of the jaw, through the eye on a slant and around the forehead. A dominant black bar runs across the forehead between the eyes. Gill plates are blotched black.

Body coloration: Four dominant black bars mark the body. A black bar is also found behind the gill plate but blotched in a manner that it is not as evident as the more defined bars on the body. There is a bar on the caudal peduncle as well but again, not as defined as the four that adorn the body. The thick barring fades to a thin line 3/4 up the body towards the dorsal. Back portions of the body are a dull orange. Yellow body portions are evident between the thick black bars but are also blotched black along the lateral line. Underside of the fish is jet black. The orange of the back extends through the caudal peduncle and ends where the dorsal fin begins.

Fin Coloration: The dorsal fin is light blue almost white with tinges of orange at the front half. Dorsal fades to almost translucent towards the tail. Anal fin is brightly colored a vibrant blue that fades to red away from the body. Four to seven egg spots adorn the back portion. Tail fin has bright blue fin rays that fade into red as they reach the end. Tail fin is blue 2/3 and red 1/3. Pelvic fins are the same black coloration as the belly portion of the body.


Igombe Island Photo
by Greg Steeves


Python Island Photo
by Greg Steeves


Makobe Island Photo
by Robert De Leone

Makobe Island

Head coloration: Top and bottom lips are rimmed bright blue. From the top of the lip, through the eye, and to beyond the gill plate is black. Forehead is brightly colored deep red. Thin black bar runs between the eyes. Thick black bar runs around the forehead fading towards the back portion of the eye. A third black bar runs around the back portion of the head where the dorsal slope begins.

Body coloration: Five distinct thick black bars run from the belly 2/3's up the body. Another bar is located behind the gill plate but is obscured by the black cheeks. The barring on the caudal peduncle is not

evident as the portion of the body from the beginning of the anal fin to the tail fin is predominately black.

Bright yellow body markings are evident along the lateral line. The top portion of the back is the same bright red coloration found in the forehead. Faded traces of black run to the dorsal from the body bars. The black under side extends to engulf the full back section of the fish with just a hint of red running along the top of the caudal peduncle.

Fin coloration: The dorsal fin is bright red, the same coloration as the top of the body. The last 5 dorsal spines are colored blue and contrast clearly with the rest of the fin. The tail is a solid red with blue tinges in the rays along the middle of the fin. The anal fin is sky blue with an orange tinge contained in the first 3 fin rays. Three to seven egg spots are found near the back portions of the tail. Pelvic fins are solid black with the first 2 fin rays extending beyond the others.

Ruti Island

Head coloration: Lips are lined blue with the top lip being brighter than the bottom. A thick black bar runs between the eyes. Lower half of the head is black extending underneath the jaw. An undefined thin black bar runs behind the eyes and around the forehead. Top of the forehead is colored orange.

Body coloration: The entire underside of the body from the tip of the jaw, extending well into the gill plate, is black. Seven black bars are super-imposed on a bright yellow body. The yellow coloration extends to the dorsal fin. The black body bars are thick 3/4 way up the body and fade the top 1/4 towards the dorsal. Five bars are dominant on the body with the last two towards the tail not being as clearly defined. Bottom 3/4 of the caudal peduncle is black with an orange hue running along the spine.

Fin coloration: The region of the dorsal fin where it meets the body has a black line running along its length. The front 2/3 portion of the dorsal is bright yellow. The back dorsal section is yellow fading to almost colorless. The anal fin is of the same yellow coloration as the dorsal with the front portion being darker than the end. The back portion of the anal fin is hued red. The brightest, most vibrant yellow, is found in the middle of the anal fin. Three to six egg spots dot the back portion. The tail fin starts out jet black and fades to translucent with a faint hint of red.

Nansio Island "red flank"

Head coloration: The basic head coloration is a dull gray to steel blue color. The throat is shaded lighter to almost white. Bottom lip is lighter colored than upper lip. A bar runs from the corner of the mouth into the eye and thickens as it streaks around the head. A light barely distinguishable bar runs between the eyes halfway up the forehead. An orange spot can adorn the gill plate, This is found in some individuals and not in others.

Body coloration: The underside of the body is a red orange coloration fading lighter to yellow towards the tail. Seven black bars run from the belly right to the dorsal region on the back. A red hue is present throughout the body but much lighter along the belly and darkening towards the dorsal. The region of the caudal peduncle is dark blue black.

Fin coloration: The dorsal fin is turquoise in some individuals and blue in others. Dorsal has a red border running along the top in a thin line. The beginning of each ray is red and fades to the blue color halfway up the fin. The tail fin is black in the region immediately extending from the caudal peduncle and deep red for the remaining portion. The anal fin is the same red coloration as the tail with five to seven yellow egg spots. The pelvic fins are black, fading to red in the upper back section.

Anchor Island

Head coloration: This nyererei is instantly recognizable by it's incurved cranial slope, that is the forehead is somewhat concave compared to other nyererei which have a straight declining slope. Lips are a blue green color. Bottom part of the head is black with the throat region being lighter, nearly white. A clearly defined black line runs between the eyes. The upper 1/3 portion of the head is red and this coloration extends into the body. Another black bar runs between the eyes up into the forehead.

Body coloration: Seven black vertical bars adorn the body. The barring is so wide that this fish has the appearance of having a solid black belly region. Smidges

of purple red speck between the bars and becomes more predominant towards the dorsal. Fin coloration: The dorsal is a solid red and of the same shade and coloration as the upper regions of this fish are. The anal and tail fin is colored solid red as well. Three to five egg spots are located in on the further reaches of the anal fin. Long black pelvic fins flow underneath.

Zue Island "red head"

Head coloration: Bottom lip is lightly colored a white blue. Basic face coloration is pink. Three faded bars run across the forehead. The throat region is deep red and merges into the pink of the face. A faded vertical bar runs across the face and through the eye.

Body coloration: Seven clearly defined vertical bars are clear on the body. The belly region is orange and fades to yellow then pink towards the dorsal. The section of the body above the anal fin is green. A lighter blaze runs across the spine.

Fin coloration: The dorsal fin is bright blue lined and spotted red as it extends. The tail fin is transparent and red colored. The anal fin is a blue green with three to five egg spots. Pelvic fins are black along the first two fin rays and fade to lightly colored red.

Luanso Island

Head coloration: Basic head color is steel gray with a blue sheen. Three well defined lines run across the forehead. The first bar is right above the lips and does


Subdominant Male


Holding Female


Dominant Male

not run completely across the snout. The middle bar runs between the eyes midway down the cranial slope. A thick black vertical bar stretches from the corners of the mouth, through the eye and across the top of the forehead. Lips are light blue. A black patch stretches from the throat and covers the gill plate.

Body coloration: Underside is black. Seven black stripes run vertically up the body and fade out 2/3 the way towards the dorsal. A yellow background is visible between the body bars and fades to red near the dorsal. Caudal peduncle is yellow on top and black on the bottom. Dorsal fin is bright blue specked in red and black where it meets the body. Tail fin is black where it emerges from the caudal region and then turns bright red. Anal fin is blue with red markings along the fin rays. First two fin rays in the anal fins are black. Five to seven egg spots are found near the upper back portion of the fin. Pelvic fins are black.

Pundamilia nyererei is well represented in the southern portion of Lake Victoria. There are well over twenty differing locale variants found in the Mwanza Gulf region alone. I have included the more common varieties that we as hobbyists are likely to see. The eastern coast of Lake Victoria is largely un-surveyed when compared to the south, so it would stand to reason that we may see more amazing variants as exploration continues. These fish instantly become favorites of aquarists. Their small size, vibrant coloration, and non demanding requirements, along with their ease of reproduction are factors that will hopefully keep *Pundamilia nyererei* in our tanks for generations to come.

A young Male already displaying an egg spot

How to join C.A.R.E.S.

Species Identification and Registration

The proper identification of species is critical to maintain CARES as a viable program for both the hobbyist and conservation priority fishes. With your help and the combined knowledge and expertise of the CARES Team we will ensure that your fish are registered with the correct species identification.

Registration by Hobbyist
Species registration is done by the hobbyist through the CARES website www.caresforfish.org contact form titled CARES Species Registration & Photo IDs.

Photo
Each species registered requires at least one side view photo that displays the characteristics of the fish to aid in positive identification. Photos can be taken with your iPhone. Further photos may be requested. Short video clips are also accepted.

File Name
File name format: species name_your name_CARES club_submission date. For instance: Etroplus canarensis_James Fish_FOTAS_8-16-18.jpg
Photos MUST be of Registration Colony
Photos are not expected to be of high quality but MUST be of the fish that you are registering. Photos taken in the past or from the Internet do not identify the fish you are keeping and cannot be accepted for registration. Thank you for your wonderful and much appreciated help with taking photos for the registration process!

Email Photo
Email the species photo via the contact form titled CARES Species Registration & Photo IDs at http://caresforfish.org/?page_id=879 on the CARES website.

Message Box
In the message box please include: a) your name. b) your email address. c) your postal address (optional). d) your telephone number (optional). e) species name. f) where or from whom obtained. g) collection location, if available. h) when obtained (approximate date is fine). i) whether or not the colony has produced fry. j) your CARES affiliate organization.

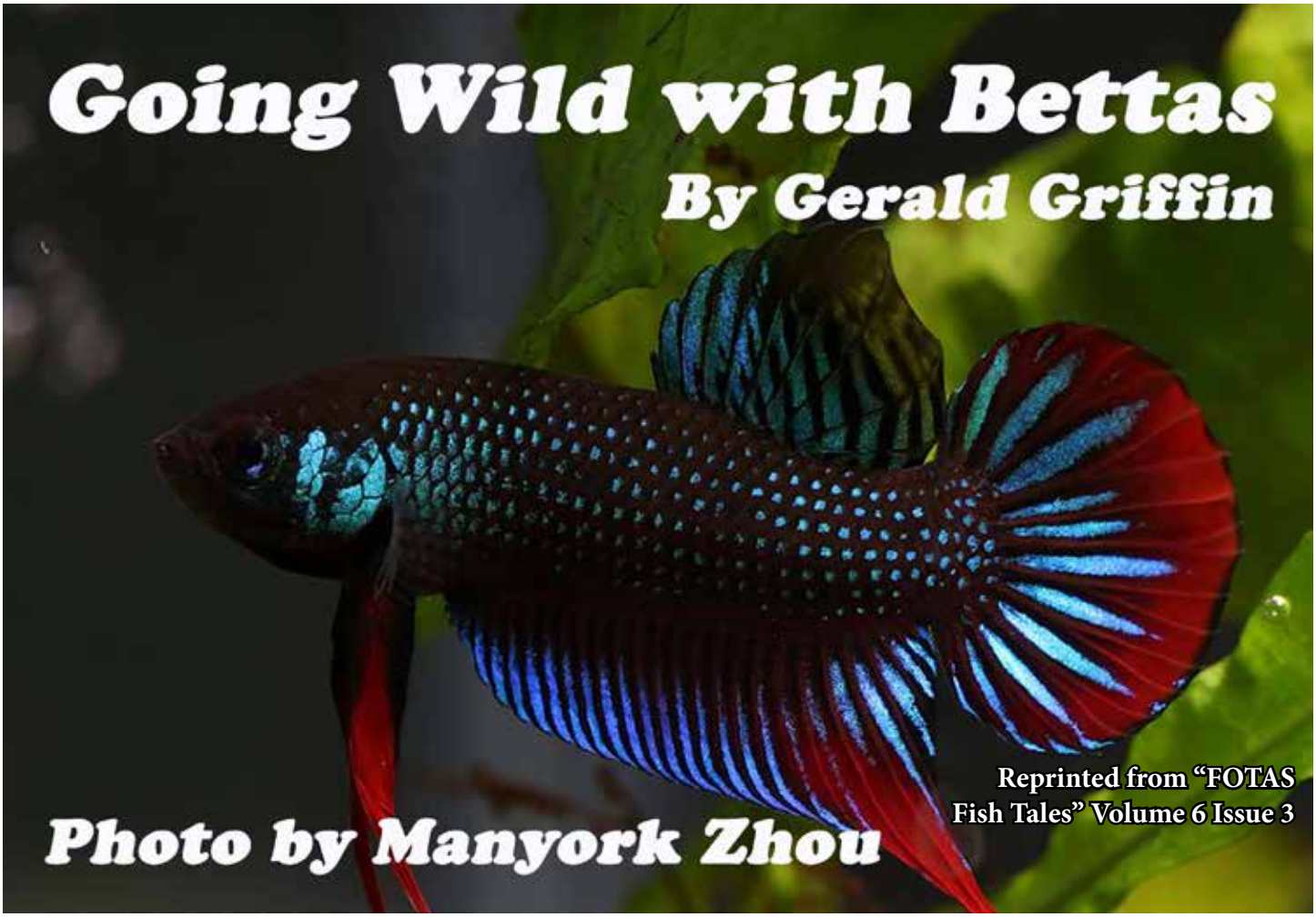
One Registration per Email
Register as many species as you would like, but one registration per email please.

Notification to Hobbyist
You will be notified by CARES when your registration is received and a second time when it is approved (or not) for CARES registration.
Notification to Club CARES will also notify your CARES Club Chair with the approval for registration.
If you have any questions please do not hesitate to let us know through the contact form titled CARES Species Registration & Photo IDs or by emailing Claudia at claudiadickinsoncares@gmail.com or ivyrose@optonline.net. Thank you so much for your help and efforts to ensure that your fish are registered with the correct species identification!
Best Wishes!

Your CARES Team
To the world you are but a single person...but to an entire species you could be the whole world. One person cannot save them all, but we can each save at least one! Together, we can and we are making a difference!

Going Wild with Bettas

By Gerald Griffin



Reprinted from "FOTAS Fish Tales" Volume 6 Issue 3

Photo by Manyork Zhou

So many times I get asked what do I need to do to work with wild betta species? This question is commonly asking about care in captivity especially with several new species becoming available in the pet market. Since this question is asked so often an article about general husbandry would be in order. Remember that many species are found in so many different environments from Salt marshes of Mahachai to the Blackwater Peat Swamps of Selangor to the hard alkaline waters of Krabi. So how important is it that I match those conditions for these wild species? Well in a word it's not. The vast majority of species do fine in neutral water that is clean. I am breaking each complex down and going to cover the general conditions for each complex. There may be some exceptions in each complex but for the most part the general rules will apply. This is not intended to cover all species specifically but offer general patterns of husbandry that should allow one to keep any of the species available now and some that will be available in the future. If you wish further information I would recommend buying The Betta Handbook by Dr. Goldstein, it is well worth the money and is filled with lots of invaluable information.

General Information:

With many wild betta species their wild instincts are intact and captivity can be very stressful. To minimize stress, tanks should be painted or covered in paper so that they will not see movements outside their tank. In a typical painting scheme the bottom and one side and the back is typically painted so that the tank have a visible surface on one end and the front. If all of the tanks are painted in the same manor they can be used on racks without the fish being able to see the fish in the other tank which can cause stress. The bottom should be painted or papered also so the fish realize there is a bottom. All wild bettas are jumpers and their tanks must be totally covered to prevent them from jumping out. Do not underestimate their jumping ability, if there is a gap or a crack they can find it. If using outside hang on back filters I recommend using cross stitch plastic mesh siliconed into any gaps the filter creates with the tank hood. Many species do well with heavily planted tanks with flower pot caves and PVC pipe

sections or elbows. Most people report the male swallowing the brood around day three. It has been surmised that that is when the eggs hatch and turn into the wiggling stage and the slightest disturbance startles the male and causes him to swallow. For best results after spawning pull the female and do not disturb the male.

Betta patoti (Unimaculata Complex). Photo by Andrew Mills.

Bubblenesters:

Splendens complex: This is the most common complex kept in captivity. Species include *imbellis, smaragdina, splendens, stiktos*, and *mahachaiensis.* All of these species prefer slightly soft, slightly acidic water with the exception of sp. Mahachai which likes hard alkaline water with some salt added. This complex will do well in almost any water condition. The best set up for these species would be a species tank with numerous hiding places that is well planted. The plants can be real or artificial as the fish do not seem to care. Some specimens can be very shy and some wild caught specimens will be ambush hunters that only feed when they feel secure and will come out of their hiding places to eat food. The majority of these individuals will need live food until they adjust to captive conditions. As to breeding pairs work best, the pair should be placed in a ten gallon tank with half the water level. A half styrofoam cup should be floated for the male to build a nest under. All species breed in the typical splendens fashion with the exception of *mahachaiensis.* Mahachai females will clamp their pelvic fins to hold the eggs so they don't drop and the male will pick the eggs out of her fins. The other exception is that males will build a satellite nest and after spawning will transfer the eggs from one nest to the other.

Betta simplex (Picta Complex). Photo by Brian Dickson.

Coccina complex: The red fighter complex has the most varied species in any complex. Three species have been confirmed mouthbrooding while the vast majority are submerged bubblenesters. These species are *brownorum, burdigala, coccina, livida, miniopinna, persephone, rutilans, tussyae*, sp. Pangkalanbun, and sp. Sukadana. These species typically come from the peat swamps where the pH is from 3.9 to 6.5. Many species are imported with various parasites which are not typical of their wild environments but are from the holding tanks they are placed in. Since many of these species have never encountered these parasites they can be quite deadly to them. All of these species can be kept in neutral water that is slightly soft without any problems and for tank maintenance this is the best way so you can have a biological filter. The vast majority of these species easily adapt to dry prepared foods but some may require a transition from live to frozen to dry food. These

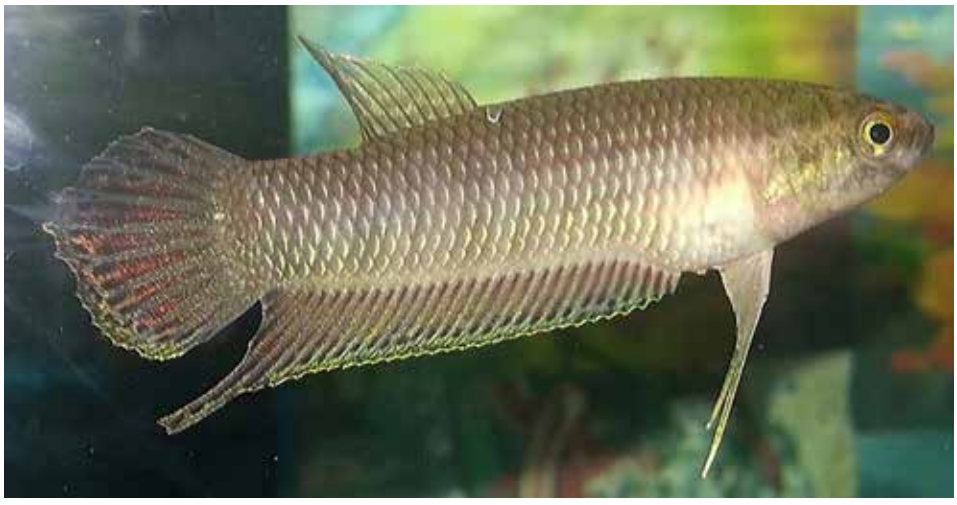
Betta albimarginata (Albimarginata Complex). Photo by Natasha Patten.

species are best maintained in species tanks with numerous hiding places and is heavily planted. In the wild these fish come from sterile environments with little plant material other then a few cryptocornes and overhanging vegetation where they feed primarily on insects that fall into the swamp such as ants and flying insects. Many of these species will spawn in pairs but sometimes need to see a rogue male to get the male into the breeding/territorial mode he needs to be in for spawning. Sometimes a gallon of distilled water with blackwater extract will stimulate the male to spawn. Males will often seek out dark submerged spawning sites such as large leafed cryptocornes. To give the pair spawning sites, one inch diameter black PVC pipe cut in 2 inch lengths or black film canisters have been used with great success and males seem to prefer them over large leafed plants. Fry should be started on vinegar eels and switched over to baby brine in a week. Fry are slow growing reaching adult size in a year.

Bellica Complex: Rarely kept in captivity these are the big bubble-nesters which can get to almost five inches in length but most never get more then four inches. Two species are recognized, *bellica* and *simorum* and their husbandry is identical. Males tend to be larger and have a spike caudal fin, females will have rounded abdomens. Because of their large size the breeding tank should be a twenty gallon or larger. These bubblenesters make larger bubbles and should have surface plants such as water sprite to support the nests. Water conditions should be soft and pH should be around neutral. To induce spawn ing high temperatures are sometimes required, high 80s to 90 degrees. Do not exceed 90 degrees F for any wild betta.

Mouthbrooders:

Picta Complex: These mouthbrooders are the most common kept in captivity and consist of *picta, simplex, falx, taeniata* and Goldstein places edithae in this group. The majority of these species rarely exceed two inches in length, taeniata will reach just over three inches and edithae can reach four inches. These species are quite adaptable to the aquarium except for taeniata which can be problematic. All of these species will eat prepared foods but relish live foods and live and frozen foods help condition them for spawning. The spawning tank should be a ten gallon aquarium around 76 degrees F. The tank should have some caves so that either fish could retreat if needed and plants are also helpful. The courtship can last a few days with the male displaying for the female. When the female is ready she will signal the male by nipping at his caudal fin and the two will em-



Betta simorum (Bellica Complex). Photo by April Ransom.

A good example of a planted tank set up for wild Betta species. Photo by Jessica Gibson.

brace at the bottom of the tank. Many embraces may take place before eggs are produced. Once the eggs are produced the female will pick up the eggs in her mouth and spit them out and take them up until the male takes them from her. Once the male has all of the eggs from the embrace the pair will embrace again. Spawning can take a day to complete. *Taeniata* can produce 300 eggs in a spawning. Although incubation can be from 9 to 12 days most species incubate for 10 days except for *edithae* which incubates for 7 to 10 days. Females should be removed after spawning as their egg cycle is seven days and a female could reinitiate spawning forcing the male to swallow or prematurely releasing the fry. These species are quite tolerant of pH and hardness but do require clean water conditions. Taeniata are prone to sickness when water conditions are not kept clean.

Pugnax Complex: These are also commonly kept in the aquarium and grow quite a bit larger then the picta complex with some species reaching 5 inches in length. This complex includes *pugnax, pulchra, breviobesus, enisae, schalleri, fusca, lehi, raja, pallida, prima, stigmosa*, and *cracens*. These species are typically a brown in coloration with green or gold iridescence. Males typically have a spike tail and long anal and pelvic fins. For spawning, pairs should be placed in twenty gallon aquariums that are heavily planted with flower pots or PVC sections or elbows for retreat. Typically the male will display for the female like the picta complex and the female signals readiness by biting on the males caudal fin. In some species non receptive males will be killed by females and females can be quite territorial chasing off or killing intruders. The species in this complex typically incubate the fry for 14 days but can go as long as 21 days depending on water temperature. Usually a pair will ignore the fry after they emerge if kept in a well planted tank. Fry are large enough to take baby brine shrimp and grow at moderate rate taking about a year to reach full size.

Waseri Complex: These are the big "yellow" bettas which are quite stocky, some species attain a length of five inches most stay a bit smaller. The species include *waseri, tomi, spilotogena, pi, renata, hipposideros,* and *chloropharynx*. All of the species are identified by their face markings and by location. Many of these species come from blackwater habitats that are less then 5.5 pH. Most of the species do well in almost any water condition however for spawning soft water is needed and sometimes a lower pH spike from blackwater extract added to a gallon of distilled water will initiate spawning. These species require area more then volume so thirty gallon tanks are best used for these fish. These fish are quite tolerant of each other and seldom have the aggressive displays that so many of the other species have. Spawning produces between 100 to 200 eggs and the released fry are large and take baby brine shrimp immediately.

Akarensis Complex: These are large bettas up to about six inches in length with green or gold iridescence. Species include *akarensis, balunga, chini, aurigans, obscura, ibanorum*, and *pinguis.* They are identified by the stripes on their faces and by location. These are medium sized bettas between three to five inches in length. Some species come from blackwater environments and others from more neutral waters. Feeding does not pose a problem as they adapt quite readily to prepared foods how ever; to bring any fish into spawning condition live foods are best. The females of the species initiate spawning by nudging the male's caudal fin. Males hold for 12 to 15 days with 14 days being the typical. These species often produce

broods of 100 or more which are able to take baby brine shrimp immediately with the exception of chini which produce 40 to 50. The breeding tank should be soft water and neutral to acidic. Water quality is important for these species so good filtration is very important. Members of this complex have been noted spawning in mid water but typically spawn in caves. As with other species their tanks should be covered or painted and surface plants used to subdue the light coming into the tank.

Betta hendra (Coccina Complex) tending nest. Photo by Cori McWay.

Unimaculata Complex: Species include *unimaculata, patoti, pallifina, ocellata, gladiator,* and *macrostoma*. These are large slender wild bettas not exceeding six inches in length. These slender fish have a very pronounced jumping ability. In the wild these species come from swifter moving waters that vary in pH from alkaline to blackwater environments. These fish are quite adaptable to the aquarium and like the waseri complex can develop a pet like relationship with the owner. This complex appears to be very inquisitive and can be very aggressive. *Betta gladiator* was said to not tolerate any others in its territory hence its species name but those reports were highly exaggerated. In this complex the female has definitely been noted as defending the male and the territory during and after the spawning. In captivity these fish are quite adaptable and will tolerate almost any water condition with one exception - *Betta macrostoma* is very sensitive during acclimation. To acclimate macrostoma use the saltwater method of using a baster and placing one ounce of water in it's bag every fifteen minutes for about four hours. After that they can be released and will tolerate virtually any water condition. However the water must be well filtered and kept very clean. These fish should be definitely kept in pairs and not in communal settings. These fish also need caves and heavily planted tanks to feel secure. Spawning is in the typical mouthbrooder fashion and the males brood for around 10 days. They are very sensitive when brooding so a totally covered tank is the best option and periodically checking on the male as to not spook him. The fry can reach adulthood in 6 months to a year.

Albimarginata Complex: Currently species include *albimarginata* and *channoides* however there are many populations with distinct differences so they could be classified as separate species before long. As a general rule if you have location data for a species do not mix it with the same species without location unless no choice is available. These fish come from blackwater environments but are not required for captivity. *Albimarginata* can be kept in almost any environment but do best in soft acidic water. *Channoides* require some iron in its water for its health. Dry foods are not recommended. These species are not gluttonous eaters but are more of a foraging eater. For best health live foods that they can casually feed on is best. Examples would be grindal worms and daphnia. These species are high in demand because of their brilliant coloration which the males tend to keep in the aquarium even when not spawning however during spawning the already bright colors intensify beyond belief. They do best with a lot of aquatic vegetation and flower pots for hiding spaces. The pair will spawn at the bottom of the tank and spawning can take half a day. These species incubate under two weeks. Goldstein recommends moving a male to a livebearer trap at day 7.

Foerschi Complex: These fish come from blackwater environments and can be fragile in captivity. They do best in soft acidic water but will reproduce in non blackwater conditions. Tank size can be from ten gallon to twenty gallon, the larger the tank the better and tanks should be well filtered and these fish prefer leaf litter, as

or on thesubstrate. Species include *foerschi, strohi,mandor* and *rubra*. All of these species are available in the hobby occasionally. Incubation is around 14 days and broods typically are around 40 which can take baby brine shrimp immediately.

Hopefully this is enough information to get one started. Before purchasing any species one should do their homework but with a number of the new species coming in, there is no literature. By following these simple guidelines one should be successful in maintaining any of the species. If there are specific questions you can contact me through the International Betta Congress or emal me at herpchat at yahoo.com
Gerald Griffin

References:

Goldstein, Robert J. The Betta Handbook, Hauppauge, New York: Barron's Educational Series, 2004

IBC-SMP Website, http://www.ibcbettas.org/smp/

Betta smaragdina (Splendens Complex) tending nest. Photo by Natasha Patten.

Betta burdigala (Coccina Complex) posing. Photo by Ronald Marcos.

Betta macrostoma (Unimaculata Complex), still considered the holy grail of Betta Collectors. Photo by Ronald Marcos.

Betta hendra (Coccina Complex) is one of the recently described species. Photo by Ronald Marcos.

It's a Saints Bye Week Tradition...

SELAS FALL AUCTION

Sunday October 18, 2020

Knights of Columbus Hall

4021 Trenton St. • Metairie, LA • 70002

Doors Open at Noon

$3 Cover Charge or $5 Bidder Card
Bidder Card Necessary to Bid
Final Value Fees: 1st Dollar Goes to SELAS, then
80% of Final Selling Price Goes to Seller / 20% to SELAS
Auction Starts Promptly at 1 PM
Pizza and Soft Drinks will be Provided
Visit www.selas.us for Official Rules and Forms

Texas Cichlid Association

Presents

FOTAS 2021

DALLAS,TX

Area 1 International Betta Show

International Betta Congress Sanctioned

Hosted By: Alpha Betta Chapter

Judging August 1, 2020

Online Auction August 1st -2nd

Duluth, Georgia USA

Shipping Address:
Christina Simpson
Planned PetHood of Georgia
2860 Buford Highway
Building F, Suite 2
Duluth, GA 30096

Show Chair: Christina Simpson
Judges: Aurelia Ogles, Paul Ogles, Heidi Burkle

Benching:
Friday July 31, 2020 3pm to 6pm (Preferred)
Saturday August 1, 2020 by 9am
Recommend Shipping of All Entries
Please contact Show Chair for In Person Benching Requests

IBC Member Entry Fees:
Domestic Single Entries - $3USD
Domestic Pair Entries - $5USD
All Class E "Wild" Entries (Pairs/Singles) - $3USD

First Coast Bettas

Chapter of the International Betta Congress

Area 1 International Sanctioned Betta Show

Moccasin Lake Environmental Education Center
2750 Park Trail Ln.
Clearwater, FL 33759-2602

Friday, October 16, 2020
4PM-9PM Show set-up

Saturday, October 17, 2020
Walk-ins entries welcome until 10AM

12PM Judging Begins.

2PM-5PM Show open to the Public for FREE

Breeders Cup Raffle –
pick your favorite pair to win.

Sunday, October 18, 2020
Auction begins by 11 A.M.: No entrance fee
*Visitors will be able to acquire **show** quality Bettas at very reasonable prices. **(Open to public from 10-5 PM)***
Breakdown of show follows auction

For park information & directions to facility go to:
http://www.clearwater-fl.com/gov/depts/parksrec/facilities/mlnp.asp

Recommended hotel: **Clarion Inn and Suites,**
20967 US Highway 19 N, Clearwater FL 33765
1-727-799-1181

Mail-ins must arrive by Thursday, October 15, 2019

Mail to: Bill Little
3079 Branch Dr
Clearwater 33760-1741
Tel. 727-530-0928

Email tracking number to: blittle1942@gmail.com

To help the show committee please send a copy of your **registration** as an attachment to **JNFerrigno@gmail.com by Wednesday, October 14.**

Forms for walk-in entries will be available at the show site.

Members: Show Entry fee $3. per entry (Regular & Wild Type)
$5. per D4 pairs entry
Non-Members $4.5 per entry (Reg. & WT) , $7.5 for D-4 Pairs
PayPal: aureliaogles@gmail.com
or Make checks out to: Aurelia Ogles

ibc
INTERNATIONAL BETTA CONGRESS

Awards: Plaques for BOS, RBOS, Rosettes for Best of Variety and certificates for classes.

Previous Issue of Fish Tales

What would you like to see in the next Fish Tales Magazine?

Contact the Editor if you have story ideas or would like to contribute to Fish Tales!