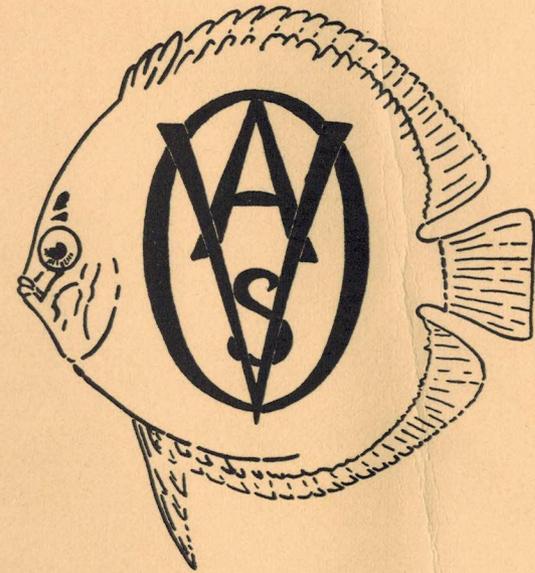


# OVAS NEWS

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OFFICIAL PUBLICATION

OF THE

OTTAWA VALLEY  
AQUARIUM SOCIETY

OTTAWA VALLEY AQUARIUM SOCIETY  
P.O. BOX 3143 STN. "C"  
OTTAWA, ONT., CANADA



JANUARY 1961 OTTAWA, CANADA. VOL 6 No.8

THE OTTAWA VALLEY AQUARIUM SOCIETY MEETINGS

Junior Society

Thursday, January 19th ... 7.00 PM

Senior Society

Thursday, January 26th ... 7.45 PM

Regular meetings are held in the Chemistry Building, Room 37, University of Ottawa, 365 Nicholas Street, Ottawa, Canada.

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IMPORTANT NOTICE

"CHANGE OF ADDRESS FOR OVAS"

Ottawa Valley Aquarium Society, Post Office Box 542, Station B, Ottawa, Ontario, Canada.

EDITOR: Harvey J. Wittenberg, [redacted], OTTAWA 3, ONT., CANADA ([redacted]).

MEMBERSHIP FEES ARE NOW DUE  
SEE PAGE 3

OTTAWA VALLEY AQUARIUM SOCIETY  
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(SENIOR SOCIETY)

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The OTTAWA VALLEY AQUARIUM SOCIETY was founded on the eleventh day of March, nineteen hundred and fifty-four.

The object of the Society is to further the study of aquarium life, the spreading of information regarding it, and the promotion of good fellowship among fanciers of aquarium life.

The OTTAWA VALLEY AQUARIUM SOCIETY is a Charter Member of The International Federation of Aquarium Societies, (T.I.F.A.S.).

Membership is open to all persons wishing to acquaint themselves with this hobby.

CONTENTS OF THE OVAS NEWS MAY BE  
REPRINTED



1961 Membership Fees are now due. If you are unable to be present at the January meetings it would be appreciated if you would mail your membership fee to:

Senior Society

Mr. Al Johnson

Stittsville, Ontario.

Phone

Junior Society

Frank Jones

, Ottawa 3

Phone

Membership fees are \$4.00 Married Couples, \$3.00 Single Membership and \$1.00 for Junior Society Membership.

Renewal of membership fees are due by January 31st. 1960 members will receive a copy of the OVAS News for January and February. If you have not renewed your membership by February 28th then we have no other alternative but to remove your name from our mailing list.

Subscribers to the OVAS News are required to renew their subscription no later than February 28th. One year subscription \$2.00.

Cheques, or money orders, should be made payable to The Ottawa Valley Aquarium Society (indicate Senior or Junior).

## THE DISCUS FISH YIELDS A SECRET

By Gene Wolfsheimer

(Reprinted from the National Geographic Journal, Vol.117, No.5, May 1960)

The mystery of the discus fish has puzzled the country's aquarium owners ever since this graceful Amazonian was first imported into the United States about a quarter of a century ago.

Rarely does the wild discus breed successfully in captivity. Discus mates often eat their eggs; if the eggs do hatch, the parents may turn, cannibal-like, on their own offspring. Yet if the babies are separated from their parents, they frequently starve to death.

Why? The answer lies in a startling characteristic of this strange fish: It feeds its young in very much the same way mammals do.

I first made the acquaintance of the discus in 1949, when I tried to raise 10 young specimens. Relatively colorless, they gave little hint of the beauty that makes the fully grown fish so prized by experienced aquarists. Not until breeding time does the mature discus acquire the hues that make it, in my opinion, the most colorful of fresh-water fishes.

The discus's body ranges from burnt orange to shades of brown, with irregular blue-green striping on the head and fins. Darker vertical bars appear and then fade again, apparently in concert with the fish's emotions. Its eyes often gleam bright red.

In size, too, symphysodon discus commands attention. One of the larger home aquarium fishes, it has a disk-shaped, pancake-thin body that measures up to nine inches in diameter. Like its cousin the fresh-water angelfish (both are members of the cichlid family), the discus hangs with

motionless grace alongside the aquarium wall, or glides through the water like a vessel in full sail.

Discus Habits Frustrate Owners - I soon found that raising the delicate and temperamental discus can be a most frustrating experience. For one thing, the fish is notoriously shy. Given profuse plant growth or rock grottoes in an aquarium, it will at first hide constantly.

Compared to many fishes, however, it is extremely intelligent and soon learns to recognize its owner. Whenever I appeared, my 10 specimens would rush to the front of the tank to welcome me. But when alarmed by a stranger or by a sudden gesture, they would dart for shelter behind a rock or a leaf. In their terror, some slammed repeatedly against the aquarium walls.

Then there is the matter of diet, a vexing problem with any fish when spawning, but a monumental obstacle with the discus. For no apparent reason it may stop eating and waste slowly away, even while the desperate owner dangles such delicacies as worms, mosquito larvae, and aquatic crustacea before it.

In my first experiment, I ran the gamut of problems. Despite plenty of room, and water carefully adjusted for temperature and acidity, several of my discus simply starved to death before my eyes. Others sickened and died. One leaped out of the tank at night. Within three months all had perished.

Often breeders met with similar discouragement. Those who managed a successful spawning usually isolated the fertilized eggs from their sometimes cannibalistic parents before hatching. But once the fry began swimming on their own, they almost always refused food and died.

Eventually I acquired eight more young discus and determined to investigate this

puzzling infant mortality. This time most of my pets prospered, and to my delight a handsome pair finally showed promise of spawning.

Courting Fish Lock Lips in a "Kiss" - As the female filled with ripe ova, or roe, several males sensed her impending spawning. They vied for her attention, and a period of flirting - marked by fin spreading and trembling - followed. At intervals the female locked lips for a tug of war with one or another of her suitors.

Once a mate had been selected, the pair interrupted their flirting to stake out a section of the aquarium for spawning. I substituted a tile for the smooth leaf or branch that the discus prefers in the wild. With a zeal that would have done credit to the fussiest housewife, the two fish repeatedly scrubbed and polished the tile's already immaculate surface with their mouths.

Then the female began her spawning runs, crossing and recrossing the site, emitting streams of small beige-colored eggs that stuck instantly to the flat surface. Following closely, the male gently hovered over the eggs, fertilizing them with invisible milt. Any wayward eggs were snatched up by mouth and blown back on the spawning surface. If they failed to stick, the adults ate them.

The discus, like other members of the cichlid family, shows definite parental instincts. Normally it zealously guards both eggs and young. But in captivity the fish is unpredictable, and usually eats the eggs or fry. Nevertheless I decided to gamble and leave the eggs with the parents. I was rewarded by a heart-warming display of parental devotion.

The adults took turns fanning the eggs with their large pectoral fins, thus providing an ample supply of oxygen for the

embryos. At the same time they constantly inspected and mouthed the eggs; no harmful detritus was allowed to sully them.

The female did the bulk of this work, while the male kept constant watch, prepared to attack any threat to his unhatched brood.

Parents Puff Young Back Into Line - On the fourth day wriggling fry began to hatch. The parents scooped up the infants in their mouths and transferred them to another side, already prepared and cleaned. Through the next three days, during which the non-swimming fry lay anchored by slender filaments connected to their heads, the parents frequently shifted their offspring's moorings, as if to thwart some predator.

As the babies made the first feeble efforts to swim, the parents caught them in their mouths and blew them back into place. These efforts soon assumed comical proportions, with several hundred fry wriggling free and the harried adults gulping and puffing desperately. When the parents finally abandoned the impossible task, the fry schooled around them.

The young ignored the almost microscopic food I placed in the aquarium. Instead they clung to the adults much like a litter of possums.

I noted that they seemed to be nibbling at the sides of the adults, digging into the skin and jerking their heads back and forth as though tearing away food.

Since they grew fatter and more vigorous each day, I could only conclude that they were somehow being nourished by the parents. Close inspection just before breeding had revealed that the slimy protective coating on the scales of the adults had thickened considerably. I felt sure that the babies were feeding upon this substance. But what was it?

Fish Secrete Mysterious "Milk" - Dr. William H. Hildemann, currently of the

University of California at Los Angeles's School of Medicine, investigated the problem. Anesthetizing both breeding and nonbreeding adult discus, he removed samples of scales and slime from each of this unconscious patients for analysis in his laboratory.

Nothing extraordinary appeared on the skin and scales of the nonbreeding fish -- only the usual thin mucous coating. However, Dr. Hildemann found a copious whitish secretion on the skin of the breeder. Granular in composition, the substance changed into filaments when rubbed or pulled. This was the discus "milk".

Microscopic sections of the scales confirmed the finding: The parent fish do produce a food which the young normally must have to survive. Dr. Hildemann observed large mucous-producing cells in the epidermis of the breeding specimen.

The secretion awaits detailed analysis, but Dr. Hildemann believes it will prove to be a complex mixture of protein, fat, and carbohydrate. Presumably its manufacture is controlled by hormones, as is the milk production of a mammalian female.

Among vertebrates, this "lactation" of both male and female is possibly unique. Until research explains the full significance of the phenomenon, the discus - the fish that "nurses" its young - stands as a small but arresting biological wonder.

.....  
DID YOU KNOW?

There are more than 200 species of the genus Stagnicola, (pond snails) 55 species are found in America alone. These snails help keep aquarium glass clean but they may also attack living plants.



HAVE YOU HEARD THE LATEST?

By: HWGK

...it is a good thing that Christmas only comes once a year...it will take me until next Christmas to pay the bills... however...I made sure that I saved enough money for my renewal of membership and a subscription to TFH...YES! our membership fees are now due and we can help the society by paying our dues early...

...if you did not attend the Senior Society Christmas party then you missed your chance of meeting Santa Claus...this was quite a surprise and I do think that Weldon Hodges did an excellent job...

...did you see our President, Wilf Doucette, and Charlie Anderson (and family) on TV - "Night Line"...it was a program concerning pets. I thought our President did a very good job in telling the people about our hobby - the Anderson family were also very good talking about their many pets...I do have one beef - I can not see how tropical fish could have been discussed as pets in competition with birds, cats and dogs... I do believe the majority of us do NOT refer to our fish as pets but as a hobby... someone got their wires crossed...

...our editor made a boo boo by announcing the December meeting in our OVAS News as November 15th at 7.15 PM. It appears that some members did not read the date but did notice the time and arrived at the meeting at 7.00 PM...one member arrived at 8.30 and asked if the meeting was over...George

as usual was late...

...Bruno Trottier is to be congratulated on receiving a National Defence long-service Award. Bruno is employed with the Directorate of Ordnance Services at Army Headquarters in Ottawa and received the Award for a record of 43 years' service. The award was presented by Major-General RW Moncel, Quartermaster General of the Army....

...German bombers were over London, the sirens screaming and people were racing for the shelters. "Hurry up," cried the wife to her spouse. "I can't find my false teeth," called the befuddled husband. "False teeth," returned the exasperated wife. "What do you think they're dropping, sandwiches?"...

...we are now the proud owner of the coffee urn...thanks to all members who collected the CP labels for the Society.. if you still have some CP labels bring them to the meeting as 1,000 will buy us a table cloth for our refreshment table.. don't forget to turn in your IGA slips to Mr. Ed Parisien....

...a psychiatrist board was testing the mentality of a soldier. "Do you ever hear voices without being able to tell who is speaking or where the voices come from?" "Yes, sir," "And when does this occur?" "When I answer the telephone."

...all for now...see you at our meeting January 26th - same time same place... don't forget to renew your membership...

.....  
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SENIOR SOCIETY DECEMBER MEETING

Our Programme Director, Weldon Hodges, is to be congratulated for the very successful Annual Meeting and Christmas Party for the Senior Society December meeting. This, I am sure you will agree, was by far the best party todate.

A number of games were played, for which there were a great variety of prizes, and then a surprise visit from Santa Claus himself. The party ended with refreshments served by Mrs. Alice Neumann.

Our thanks to Mrs. Dickson for donating the plastic aquarium, also Mr. Anderson on behalf of the Aquarium Supply Company of St. Thomas for an aquarium, and Halvin Products for the filter.

This was a very enjoyable evening for everyone present - one that was fitting for the end of a very successful year for our Society. Our thanks to Weldon Hodges and programme committee members, our Social Director, Gerry Lalonde, assistant Alice Neumann. ....

### ALL ABOUT ANGELS

By E.A. Straight, Secretary, Canadian Association of Aquarium Clubs, TIFAS Region 20. Reprinted from the Pakistan International Aquarium Exhibition Souvenir 1960.

I have called this talk all about Angels, but as you well know, no one person knows all that there is to be known about Angels. However we shall try and delve into some of the secrets of their lives.

Angel fish are represented to ichthyologists by three species: Pterophyllum Altum, Scalare and Eimekei. Aquarists know two of the species: Scalare and Eimekei. At the present time, however, practically only one species is ever seen and that is the Eimekei. When the Angel fish was first brought to the attention of hobbyists, it was the Scalare that was imported. It is a larger fish than the Eimekei and the coloring is not nearly as good. One for instance is that the bars are not nearly as dark.

For our discussion here we won't worry about species. We'll call them just all Angels.

I believe if a count could be made you would find that the Angel fish is the most popular of all fresh water aquarium fishes. It is the "king". One big advantage is that the Angel is a fish that will match everybody's pocket book. We have the common or silver Angel that is within reach of every one. From there we go to the black lace, black veiled, black lace veiled, and now we have the black veiled and the so-called blue Angels. The last few mentioned are the more expensive and sort of the specialists' playthings.

As popular as Angel fish are, they are still the fish that seems to separate the novice from the Experienced hobbyist. For some strange reason the person who has bred

and successfully raised Angel fish, is at once looked upon in wonder by the beginner and then he becomes at home with the experienced breeder.

To attempt to breed angel fish the first requisite must be "Angel fish". This is not quite as simple as it sounds. If you walk into your local pet shop, you will probably see lots of Angel fish. If you have the nerve to ask for a pair, you will end up with a pair or I should say two fish. If the Angels are a quarter body size or smaller, as far as I am concerned they are impossible to sex. If the Angels are half dollar size then your chances of being able to detect male from female are roughly 70% wrong and 30% right. As the Angels increase in size so do your chances of selecting sex. I do not expect every one is going to agree with me on this, but after all that is what makes the hobby so interesting. If everybody agreed with all things it would be a pretty dull existence.

Let's deal with sex differences for a few moments. There are various methods that the experts say can be used to differentiate sex, but if six or seven differences are listed, you will be lucky if you can see any one difference distinctly.

FIRST: They say that the lower lip of the male protrudes farther than that of the female.

SECOND: The rays at the beginning of the Dorsal fin on the male are fewer and coarser.

THIRD: The opening between the "feelers" and the beginning of the anal fin on the female is wider and straighter than that of the male.

FOURTH: The line or bar that goes through the eye of the male is supposed to be straight, while that on the female curves back.

FIFTH: The vent of the male is

supposed to be rounded and that of the female oval.

SIXTH: When the breeding tube is extended the male's is pointed and is set at a forward angle while that of the female is more rounded and angled toward the rear.

SEVENTH: A new English publication claims that when looking face to face with the Angels the rear part of the male body appears to be concave while that of the female is rounded.

Of these seven differences, the only really reliable one, is the difference in the breeding tube. But when you get around to this stage you've got the battle half won anyway.

You have a couple of choices in selecting your breeding stock. One is to buy an already mated pair. The other is to purchase half a dozen youngsters and let them grow up together and select their own mates. The latter method gives a great deal more self-satisfaction and in the long run is probably a lot cheaper. What happened to us, could happen to you, that when you move a mated pair they may not spawn for several months. By purchasing young stock in a few months you can grow them to spawning size, and out of six fish you could actually end up with three pair.

The idea that "once Angels mate they are mated for life" is a lot of hokum. You can almost take any adult male and with the proper environment mate it to any adult female and vice-versa.

Now that we have the Angels the next thing is where to put them. Room is one of the most important things in breeding angels. A 30 gallon tank for one pair is not putting any space to waste. Water is the next thing. All the books tell us that the water should be 6.8. This I do not agree with. Angels in the wild in the Amazon River and its tributaries probably



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do have water that is 6.8. But I would estimate that 95% of the Angels sold nowadays are aquarium raised and what P.H. the different breeders use heaven only knows. I do know that Angels will breed at 7.8 without any difficulty. 6.8 does have one advantage, in that the bacteria count would be lower. The biggest thing in my opinion is in the feeding. Angels under almost any water conditions will spawn with good feeding.

The next thing is a place for them to spawn. As you know Angels are members of the Cichlid family, but they differ from most Cichlids in that they prefer to breed on the leaves of plants. When you have grown your fish to breeding size, you will

notice two fish will select one end of the aquarium and keep it to themselves, chasing all other trespassers away. The chances are very good then that you have your pair. The thing to do then is remove the other fish, raise the temperature to 85 degrees and let your pair have the run of the aquarium. They will then proceed to clean their spawning site. If an Amazon Sword plant is available, that would be the logical place for the eggs. The female will slowly move up the leaf, laying eggs as she goes, closely followed by the male, who is fertilizing them. Now we have eggs. What to do with them? There are several choices. Leave the eggs with the parents and let them raise them. This quite often is very disappointing. Some parents love to eat their own eggs, while others are wonderful parents. It must be pointed out that the number of youngsters from one spawning raised by the parents is usually quite a lot smaller than what you could raise artificially. Most commercial breeders use a piece of slate as a replacement for the leaf.

To raise the Angels artificially, once again every breeder has a few things that he does a little different from everybody else. There are some things in common that can be pointed out. One is that in transferring the eggs to the hatching jar or aquarium. They should not be exposed to the air. The other item that can not be overstressed is cleanliness. Any jar or aquarium that is to hold the eggs should be thoroughly sterilized.

Now we will assume that you have carefully removed the leaf holding the eggs and have it in a separate container with approximately 8" water. The one end of the leaf should be weighted to hold it down, the eggs should be on the underside

of the leaf to stop any bacteria from lodging amongst them, and a very fine air stream should be allowed to flow around the eggs to provide oxygen and prevent bacteria from settling once again.

To prevent fungus from attacking the eggs again we have several ways. Some breeders boil the water they use for hatching and then in the case of infertile eggs, they are removed with a small set of forceps. Other breeders use a fungus preventative, usually a dye, Methylene Blue, Mechurachrome or Acraflavine. Again, using the dyes breeders follow different patterns. Some select a color that satisfies them and just let the eggs take their natural course. One method that has worked very well is to use a jar and by adding Methylene Blue make it very dark for the first day. At the end of 24 hours remove half of this water and replace it with water that has been boiled and allowed to cool to the same temperature. At the end of 48 hours repeat this process. In 72 hours the eggs should have developed into wigglers. Now we take this jar and transfer the contents to a 10 gallon (at least) aquarium of the same water depth. We continue with the air stream and keep a close watch on the youngsters. For the next few days they will be attached to the leaf and wiggling stronger all the time. The youngsters are attached to the leaf by a small sticky thread. Some fry will break off and fall to the bottom of the aquarium but by this time they are getting stronger and they seem to suffer no ill effects.

In anything from 3 to 7 days after they start wiggling the fry have absorbed the yolk sac and start to set out on their own and start to free swim. Now is the time to start feeding, not before. By trying to feed before the youngsters are free swimming you only pollute the water and kill off a good portion of the youngsters.

Newly hatched brine shrimp is about the best food for these fellows right now, and feed it heavy. Three or four times a day is not too often. Make sure there is enough food there at all times, so that all the fish can get as much as they can consume. This prevents some of the youngsters from getting it all and outgrowing their brothers and sisters.

To keep the rearing tank clean, either siphon off the uneaten food every day or else introduce a raft of snails to do the housework. Micro worms can also be used at this time and in about two weeks the youngsters will begin to look like angels. Then you can start feeding chopped white worms and increasing the water depth.

.....

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For further information phone Mr. Don Thompson, [redacted]. Additional subscription forms are available.

AMENDMENT TO THE CONSTITUTION AND BY-LAWS  
The following was approved at the Senior Society December 15th Annual Meeting:

Article 9 - Dues

The annual dues of all members shall be payable in advance. The membership fee shall be three dollars (\$3.00) per adult, four dollars (\$4.00) per married couples and one dollar (\$1.00) for Junior members. Full dues are to be paid by 31 January of each year. After June 30th new members shall pay one half of the regular annual dues. Any person over the age of 18 is considered an adult and any person at the age of 16 may make application for membership as an adult.

.....

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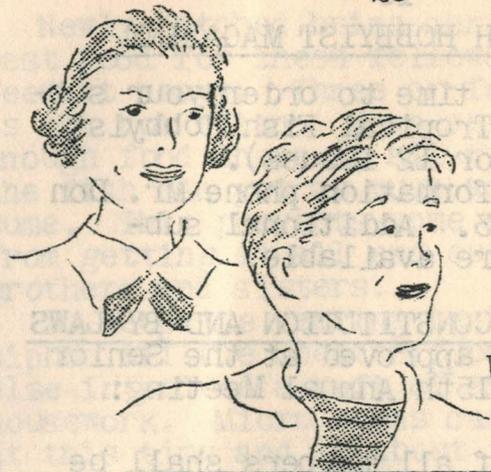


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JUNIOR

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(one to be appointed)

JUNIOR SOCIETY COMMITTEE SUPERVISORS

Director:  
Assistant:

1961 MEMBERSHIP FEE

Renewal of membership fees are required to be paid by 31 January. The membership fee for Junior Society members is \$1.00. If you are unable to attend the January 19th meeting, membership fees may be mailed to the Treasurer, Frank Jones, [redacted], Ottawa 3.

HELP YOUR SOCIETY - PAY YOUR DUES EARLY

KISSING GOURAMIE

Reprinted from The Potomac Bulletin - National Aquarium Society.

Not long ago, we had to move a pair of Kissing Gouramis. While moving them, the largest got out of the net and landed on the floor. In great haste, it was caught and lost again, this time into a 1 gallon jar of very cool water (they are normally kept at 80 degrees). When deposited into the new tank, the largest one promptly went to the bottom and lay on its side, exhibiting all the signs of shock. Our standard treatment for shock is to let the fish alone, and this we did. The fish did not move for about ten minutes, and it suddenly dawned that it was an air-breathing labyrinth fish and it needed to get to the surface for air. Gently, a net was put around the fish and it was brought up so that its mouth broke the surface. Down to the bottom it went, but it stayed right side up. Much encouraged, we tried again. This time, as the net circled the fish, it turned nose up and docilely let itself be pushed up to the surface by the net under its tail fin.

This "artificial respiration" was repeated at regular intervals for the next half hour. By the end of the day, it was eating properly and chasing its mate.

.....

Most of the Cichlids are considered fine food fishes. Fish and rice to some of the Far Eastern people is comparable to our fondness for steak smothered with mushrooms.

Fish cannot cry because they do not have lachrymol or tear glands.

(from Hamilton & District Aquarium Society bulletin)

THE NEON TETRA

By Danny McLean, O.V.A.S. Junior Society. Taken from Encyclopedia of Tropical Fishes.

*Hypheosobrycon innesi* is the famous Neon Tetra. This fish occurs far up the Amazon River, beyond the Peruvian border. The fish is small, attaining a size of only 1½ inches. The back is an olive green, and a stripe of brilliant greenish blue runs upward from the upper part of the eye to a point on the back, halfway between the dorsal fin and the tail. The belly is white; between it and the caudal base the entire area is bright red. The fins are colorless.

Breeding this lovely fish was once considered an impossibility; not long ago several discoveries were made which have simplified spawning them. Although the Neon Tetra will live quite well in hard or soft water, the water which is provided for spawning must be very soft, no more than 3 degrees of hardness, as well as an acid ph 6.5. A three to five gallon aquarium is preferred for spawning Neons and this must be well cleaned before put into use. Next comes the job of cleaning the plants. The usual clump of bushy plants is required and may be cleaned under the tap after being put into a salt solution for a short period. The tank is brought to 74 degrees, and the fish are ready for occupancy.

Sexes of adults are not too difficult to distinguish. Even half-grown male specimens will show a perfectly straight blue line, and the females slightly bent ones. DO NOT FEED THEM WHILE THEY ARE IN THE BREEDING TANK. After the spawning takes place remove them and keep the tank in darkness by covering it for 24 hours and then shading the tank from direct light until the fry start swimming.

At this point it is best to feed them Brine Shrimp.

KEEPING TROPICAL FISH AS A HOBBY

By Lyn Fraser, O.V.A.S. Junior Society

I think everyone will agree that a clean, well-planted aquarium containing tropical fish, is a thing of beauty. There should be one in every home.

Away back in Biblical times, fresh water fish were kept in stone jars. The Chinese kept and raised fish thousands of years ago. However, it was not until the beginning of this century that an Englishman obtained some tropical fish from a sailor and made a glass container in which to keep them.

During the early nineteen hundreds, the hobbyist could only obtain fish by having them brought into the country. Now there are large breeders of fish in the United States and recognized importers and exporters in all tropical ports.

The first requirement to start the hobby is, of course, an aquarium. Depending on the amount of money to be spent, it is suggested that a ten or fifteen gallon aquarium is the best. Then, gravel and plants come next. The gravel should be thoroughly washed before it is put in the aquarium. Then the water is put in and allowed to stand at least twenty-four hours with the plants planted artistically in the gravel. Then and then only is the aquarium ready for the fish.

Ask the pet shop dealer about the fish you should get, when you buy the aquarium. Don't get expensive fish to start with and don't get too many. The rule of thumb for the hobbyist should be - 1 gallon of water to 1 inch of fish. Of course, if you get

Of course, if you get a filter and air pump the number of inches of fish per gallon of water may be increased.

Then, you should get a reflector and light, so that you can see your plants, fish etc, during the hours when daylight is not available. Remember, tropical fish should be kept in water at about 74°F.

Tropical fish may be divided into 2 classes: (1) Live Bearers and (2) Egg Layers.

We will deal with Live Bearers first. Some of the common varieties of Live Bearers are Guppies, Swordtails, Mollies and Platties. This type of fish are very prolific and bear their young alive. As soon as the young fish leaves the mother's body, it is free swimming and will eat food. As some of these fish are cannibalistic, when young are expected, some fine-leaved plants should be put in the aquarium so that the young will have a place to hide. The most colourful and easiest to keep of the Live Bearers is the Guppy. There are many types of Guppies and a grown female will produce 10-100 young at one time. The period between the arrival of the young with Guppies is usually 28 days.

The other Live Bearers are most susceptible to disease and are therefore more difficult to keep.

The many species of Egg Layers are colourful and varied. Some of the Egg Layers are: Siamese Fighting Fish, Discus, Tetras (at least five species), Gouramis (at least five species), Danios (at least five species) and many others. This type of fish lay eggs which are fertilized and then hatch after a period of incubation. They are more difficult to raise than the Live Bearers.

One of the best known tropical fish,

but seldom seen is the Piranha. This fish comes from South America waters. It is widely known for its vicious nature. It travels in schools, and has been known to strip the meat off a whole steer.

The keeping of tropical fish is adaptable to persons of all ages. Many of the Aquarium Societies now have a Junior Society for children from 8 to 16 years of age. These are very active societies.

An International Federation of Aquarium Societies has been formed with Societies from Pakistan, England, Australia, Hong Kong, Germany, France, United States and Canada, participating and exchanging information.

Tropical Fish Keeping is now rated the second most popular hobby in the world today, next to stamp collecting.

Would'nt you like an aquarium in your home?

Editor's Note - This excellent article was written by Lyn Fraser as a project for her school, for which she received very high marks. The article contained many colored pictures of tropical fish which I am sorry to say we were not able to duplicate in our OVAS News.

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JANUARY FEBRUARY MARCH APRIL MAY JUNE

THE AQUARISTS'S CALENDAR

"The Aquarium"

JANUARY is a month in which it pays to be specially careful with new fishes. No matter how long some of us have been in the hobby, there is always that terrific temptation to hurry things up a bit when it comes

to getting the newly acquired fishes into our tanks. There is no difference between the urges of expert or amateur, the results are the same, in the end it simply spells "trouble".

This is a time of year when many of us are bringing in "strangers" to our tanks, so let us pause a minute and check the temperature between the container and the tank. Are they equal?

Sudden changes at this time of year, whether they concern temperatures or pH, are well worth investigating and avoiding if possible.

In times past, during mid-winter months, it was customary to move all tanks as far back from drafty windows as possible. This of course cut down the lighting to the point where both plants and fishes suffered unless artificial lights were provided.

Today, by simply fastening a sheet or two of clear, moisture-proof "Cellophane" either directly to the inside of a window frame or to the cold side of an aquarium, the effect is double insulation with no light reduction. In addition the trouble of moving the tank is eliminated. "Cello-glass" is another trade-named commercial product easily obtained, that will serve equally well as a mid-winter insulation.

AUGUST SEPTEMBER OCTOBER NOVEMBER DECEMBER

BEEF HEART AS A FISH FOOD

Reprinted from "The Toronto Aquarium Society Monthly Bulletin".

At the last Society meeting there was quite a discussion on the use of beef heart as a food for tropicals, some of the newer members and visitors had not heard of it and there may be others who would be interested in knowing about the preparation and feeding of this food.

Beef heart is best, but veal heart will do if the other is not available. First, using a sharp knife, trim off all fat and muscle. The fish will not eat either and that much of the heart is waste, unless you happen to have a dog. The colder the heart is, the easier the heart is to trim.

The next step varies. Some people prefer to run the heart through a meat grinder or food chopper at least once and then shape the meat into rolls, wrap them in wax paper or foil, keep frozen and grate as needed. Others cut the meat into cubes of about 2 inches, wrap, freeze and grate ahead.

Any type of grater may be used, using the fine side, but the best thing we've found for this purpose is the little mouli grater. It's a small hand grater, and the size of the shredded meat can be controlled by the amount of pressure used while grating. The fine particles may be fed to even very small fish. Be sure to let them thaw before feeding.

Some fish may not take to beef heart immediately but continue feeding for several days and watch for results. As yet we have not found any species of fish that will not eat beef heart. However, it is possible that some individual specimens will have become so used to another type of food that the change-over may produce a little problem, easily overcome.

As a substitute for live food we've found nothing better. It's easy to keep, easily prepared, not too expensive and it produces rapid growth in fish that require a meaty diet. You can't ask for more of any food.

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DON'T FORGET OUR ADVERTISERS

"TID BITS" OF INFORMATION

From "The Scalare", Dallas, Texas USA

A sponge is a handy gadget to have around the fish room. An ordinary kitchen-size sponge will absorb quite a bit of drips, drops and dribbles spilled by the average "fish keeper" while cleaning or filling the aquarium.

For cleaning rusty spots, water marks or corrosion off stainless steel aquarium frames, we still stick to steel wool. Use the fine grade, wadded into a small ball and dampened.

One of the best things to clean the water streaks off the outside glasses of an aquarium - paper towels! Use a dampened towel first - follow with a dry towel - makes 'em sparkle like crystal! Paper towels are also good for removing scum from the top of the water in your aquarium. Just lay a towel on the surface, lift quickly, and...Presto, Scum goes too.

You don't have to get sand and water in your mouth to start a syphon. Take the hose to a faucet, fill completely with water, close both ends with thumbs-place one end in tank to be syphoned, other in bucket and release ends. Automatic!

Small pieces of cork on the upper corners of the aquariums make excellent "lifts" for your aquarium cover glass or hood. They allow a better circulation of air, also.

A good infusoria is prepared by the use of milk. Two teaspoons of milk to a glass of water, allowed to stand for twenty-four hours, produces clouds of fine infusoria.

Fishes are killed more by an excessive amount of carbon dioxide than lack of oxygen.

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