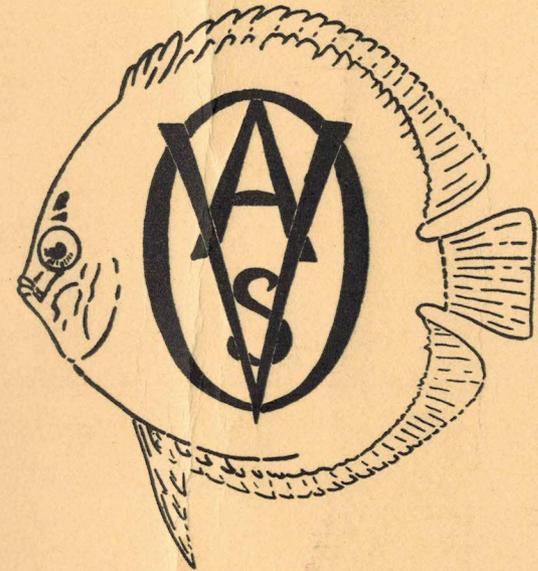


OVAS NEWS



OFFICIAL PUBLICATION

OF THE

OTTAWA VALLEY
AQUARIUM SOCIETY

OTTAWA VALLEY AQUARIUM SOCIETY
P.O. BOX 542 STN. "8"
OTTAWA, ONT., CANADA



APRIL 1961 OTTAWA, CANADA VOL.6 No 11
THE OTTAWA VALLET AQUARIUM SOCIETY MEETINGS

Junior Society

Thursday, April 20th..... 7.00 PM

Senior Society

Thursday, April 27th..... 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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Advertising rates will be furnished by the Editor on request. Write or call:

Mr. Jack Fraser, Editor,

Ottawa 2, Ontario, Canada.

Telephone

THIS SOCIETY IS A MEMBER OF TIFAS

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The Ottawa Valley Aquarium Society is a member of The International Federation of Aquarium Societies. (TIFAS)

OTTAWA VALLEY AQUARIUM SOCIETY

The Ottawa Valley Aquarium Society was founded on the eleventh day of March, nineteen hundred and fifty-four.

The object of this 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 consists of two bodies, a Senior and a Junior Society, each operating independently. The Junior Society was founded on the fourteenth day of April, nineteen hundred and fifty-five.

Membership is open to all persons wishing to acquaint themselves with this hobby. Each person may attend two meetings and on the third meeting, application for membership accompanied by the membership fee shall be made to the Membership Committee.

The Ottawa Valley Aquarium Society publication "THE OVAS NEWS" is published by the Society, a non-profit hobby organization, and copies are made available to all members. Subscription rate for the publication to non-members is \$2.00 per year.

The opinions, statements and viewpoints expressed in the OVAS NEWS are those of the authors and not the Society.

UNLESS OTHERWISE INDICATED, THE CONTENTS OF THE OVAS NEWS MAY BE REPRINTED PROVIDING CREDIT IS GIVEN TO THIS MAGAZINE AND THE AUTHOR OF THE ARTICLE.

APRIL APRIL APRIL APRIL APRIL APRIL

THE AQUARIST'S CALENDAR

"The Aquarium"

APRIL - There used to be old-timers who wore red flannels all winter without a change. Afraid of taking cold. April was the first month in which they would take a chance. This reminds us of some aquarists who give their fish no new water all winter except when it was necessary to make up for loss due to evaporation. This is not bad practice if there is a sturdy growth of plants and the fish have an abundance of room, but it should be remembered that every bit of food going into the aquarium (except the fraction that goes into fish growth) must turn into waste products. This concentrates in the water as the weeks go by. It is possible for this liquid fertilizer to be absorbed by a sufficient number of growing aquatic plants, but such an ideal set-up is rather unusual. With most aquarists the balance is heavily on the animal side. That is to say, too many fish for the plants, or insufficient light to make them active.

On the other hand, we occasionally see an aquarium well stocked with good plants under apparently favorable conditions, but they barely grow, or are perhaps even degenerating. This is apt to happen in an aquarium formerly well stocked with fish but now having few or none. An increase of fish life in cases of this kind causes the plants to respond quickly with a fresh growth of leaves, provided of course that they are not fish that nip plants, such as the silver tetra or cichlids that uproot them.

Under these average conditions the simplest way to dispose of the accumulating concentrations is by occasional part-

ial substitution of fresh water for old. Not much, say ten percent per week. If the water is tempered and ripened it cannot do a bit of harm and will do good. Naturally the old water should be siphoned off from points on the bottom where most dirt can be picked up.

To those whose fish have been wearing unchanged flannels all winter, we suggest that a bit of fresh water would improve the aquarium conditions. The antics of the occupants will express their appreciation better than words.

Don't be in a hurry to put fish outdoors. Warm spring days are famous (or infamous) for leading humans to rash acts. One cold night can be very costly for the outdoor aquarist. The safest procedure is to float a thermometer in each pool. Check it early every morning. When the temperature does not go below 65 degrees for a week straight it is safe to stock it with most tropicals.

Daphnia are on the increase in most pools. All that is needed to collect them is a bucket, a long-handled, fine-meshed net and a good pond. The latter requirement is sometimes difficult to find, but once it has been located it pays big dividends in rapid growth and healthy fish.

With the approach of Spring, air pumps for aquaria should be given consideration. Warm water holds less oxygen and artificial aeration becomes important, more so than in the cold months. Under good care the better pumps will last longer, but at slight expense they can be overhauled annually by their manufacturer. A good investment!

APRIL APRIL APRIL APRIL APRIL APRIL

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OPEN SECRET: THE WONDERFUL WORLD OF LITTLE FISHES

Reprinted from McCall's, January 1961

If you succumb to even the common goldfish, you're hooked! For from that topaz swimmer, you go on to ----- the alabaster-pink Kissing Gourami, which prefers to kiss another gourami, but will settle for its own reflection; to the sapphire-and-ruby colored Bettas, which look so dainty and fight so ruthlessly. Before you know it, you have joined Crown Prince Akahito, Winston Churchill, Garry Moore, Bernard Baruch, Shirley Temple and some twenty million or more Americans who collect tropical fish.

It's easy to understand the popularity of these tiny fishes. For an absolute minimum of care, they entertain you, relax you, educate you, endlessly fascinate you. And the aquaria which are their beautiful world, can give a mysterious and breath-taking beauty to your home. Fish can be happy in almost any kind of container: in a bowl to stand on a table or hang on a wall, a brandy snifter, a tall glass cylinder, or a standard oblong tank. It may be a glass globe from the five and dime store or an elaborate, custom-built job, just as long as the conditions of their survival are met: scrupulous cleanliness; water that is a constant 75 degrees; eight to ten hours of light daily, either natural or artificial, but not direct sunlight; no overcrowding and no overfeeding.

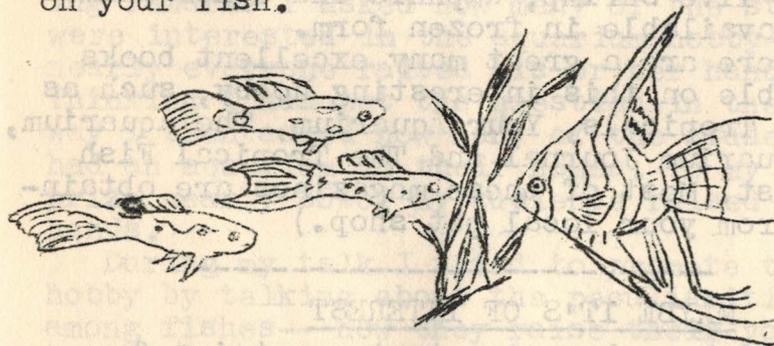
To-day, only a very few fish fanciers hand tend their collections. The great majority of aquarists are satisfied to depend upon automatic aerators and filters, thermostatically controlled electric heaters to provide their fish with practically perfect living conditions. The heater,

virtually invisible in its thin glass tube as it lies on the bottom of the tank costs about \$4. The filter (costs about \$5) and the important little pump that generates compressed air to aerate and circulate the water (\$4 and up) keep your tank clean and fresh indefinitely, and let you maintain twice the number of fish safely without overcrowding. Air tubes, air stones, feeding rings, and other minor adjuncts are quite inexpensive. A stainless steel ten gallon tank about 20 by 10 by 12 inches, is under \$8. An inexpensive plastic lid with holes punched through for thermostat and filter prevents evaporation, keeps fish from jumping out and dust and ashes from entering. One company offers a fully equipped stainless steel tank with illuminated reflector top, plus a tropical fish handbook and an illustrated primer of necessary information for under \$25.

A noted aquarist said: "An aquarium with no plants is like a bird with no feathers". It is true that the real beauty of a home aquarium depends more on its plants than on its fish. But to freshwater tropical fish, plants are essential. They provide food, a place to rest, a site for eggs, and a hiding place for the newborn fish. More, they supply life-giving and water-purifying oxygen and absorb poisonous gases, dangerous to the fish. For \$5 you can get enough beautiful interesting plants for a ten gallon tank. Incidentally, tank, plants, sand and gravel should be washed before the fish are added. Strew the tank bottom with about three inches of gravel, marble chips, glass crystals, etc. (Ordinary pebbles are not recommended because they offer too many places where uneaten food may lodge and decompose; sand and gravel too fine will pack down and interfere with

the growth of the plants.) Bank this base a little higher at the back, cover it with a large sheet of brown paper, then fill the tank about half full of tap water, mixed warm and cold; This will keep your base from shifting, and the paper will float to the top so that you can remove it.

Tall plants like Cabomba and Vallisneria should go in back; African Four Leaf Clover and fern-like Water Sprite are good side plants; Ludwigia, ruffly-leaved Cardamine, and the fast growing Hygrophilia at the side front; low growing Dwarf Sagittaria and Bacopa in the front, and Amazon Sword Plant, attractive and hardy, in the centre. Drag the roots gently through the gravel two or three inches to spread and anchor them. Planting completed, lay another sheet of paper over it and fill up to but not touching the metal frame. Now, bring on your fish.



What kind of fish? They can be egg-layers like the jet-black Angel Fish, disk-shaped Pompadours that change --red, orange blue--with their moods; they can be live-bearing fish like the Guppies and Mollies; scavengers, like the amusing Catfish and snails that go after leftover food. They can be fish that sell for 20 cents and less, or rare tropicals selling for many times more. Your aquarium dealer can suggest a good variety. The ten-gallon

tank will take 30 three-quarter inch fish or 20 inch-and-a-half; with automatic aeration you can easily double the number. It's better to underfeed fish a little at first, till you know how much they'll eat in five minutes. Unconsumed food decays, and can poison them. Fish resist starvation better than other pets. They'll live on algae as long as two weeks at a time.

Relatively new to hobbyists are marine or salt water fish, many from live coral reefs in tropical ocean waters, brilliantly colored, bizarrely shaped, more aggressive in behavior--and of course, more expensive, since they cannot be bred in captivity. Larger fish, they require tanks of at least 20 gallons and natural seawater or tap water salted with special artificial salt. Instead of foliage, natural coral and rocks are used to decorate the tanks. Marine fish eat minute live shrimp, daphnia and other animal food, available in frozen form.

(There are a great many excellent books available on this interesting hobby, such as Marine Tropicals, Your Aquarium, The Aquarium, The Aquarium Journal and The Tropical Fish Hobbyist. Most of these magazines are obtainable from your local pet shop.)

MAYBE IT'S OF INTEREST

There have been twenty-two entries for the Annual Home Show this year. Judging will be carried out during April and to the 15th of May. Winners will be announced at the May meeting of the Senior Society. This will be the largest Home Show competition in some years. Thanks.

OUR ADVERTISERS MAKE THIS MAGAZINE
POSSIBLE---PLEASE PATRONIZE THEM!!

MY VISIT TO QUEEN ELIZABETH PUBLIC SCHOOL

By J. Edgar Parisien, OVAS.

If I kept a diary, it would read like this for Friday, March 17th, 1961---I went back to school to-day after a long absence.

I had accepted an invitation to speak to some of the students of Queen Elizabeth Public School, Ottawa on my favourite subject---tropical fish.

The teachers at the school had organized three or four classes, Grades VII and VIII, and also expressed to me, the disappointment of the classes who had not been selected to attend my talk. The six teachers who attended seemed quite interested in my talk.

I went prepared to talk for an hour to an audience who I thought would know little or nothing about my favourite subject, but I was given a pleasant surprize. In my opening remarks I asked how many of the students were interested in the aquarium hobby----nearly everyone raised his or her hand. Thinking I had put the question in the wrong way I then asked how many of the students had an aquarium in their homes. To my surprize nearly 25% of my audience raised their hands.

During my talk I tried to promote the hobby by talking about the peculiarities among fishes---how they raise their young, odd species and natural ways of protecting all creatures, etc.

After answering questions for those students I believe I was more impressed than they were. One thing that impressed me most was that there were four of our Junior Society members present. One of them, David Barron, introduced me. Another, John Thompson, thanked me for my remarks. I can assure you I was proud of them, not because of what they said, but because they were at least two good apostles for my favour-

ite hobby. The four Juniors present unselfishly let the other students ask the questions. These questions were to say the least most intelligent. There were several copies of the OVAS NEWS and other tropical fish publications in evidence at the school.

I am not writing this to boast of what I think I accomplished. I feel that I have a message for those who have the time and like children. Talking to those youngsters and answering their questions certainly gave me a lot of pleasure, and I think that some of you should have access to this pleasure too.

This could become a very interesting project for some of our Senior members---those who have the odd week-day afternoon free or possibly some retired gentleman---who would welcome something interesting like this. This project would not only be beneficial to the hobby but the personal satisfaction gained would be most gratifying.

I can foresee the possibility of the OVAS preparing some of its Senior members to do this type of missionary work both for our Society and as a gratifying pastime.

Speaking for myself, I can assure you that the pleasure derived from this experience far outweighed the slight effort which I expended.

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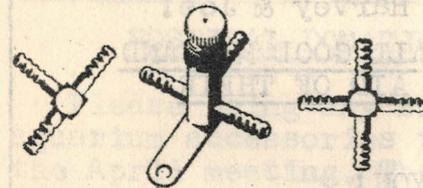
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WANTED
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Volunteers are requested to fill the two positions advertised above.

Harvey Wittenberg, our Junior Society Director is leaving for Newfoundland the end of May.

Joe Smith, our Membership Director is going to live in England and will be leaving during the summer.

Best of Luck, Harvey & Joe!

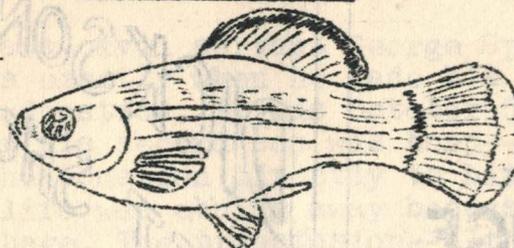
NOW IS THE TIME FOR ALL GOOD MEN AND
WOMEN TO COME TO THE AID OF THEIR
SOCIETY

HOW ABOUT YOU!

IGA GOLD CASH REGISTER TAPES

You can help boost the Society's financial position by saving IGA Gold Cash Register Tapes. The Society gets 1% in cash of the totals shown on these tapes. In the March issue of the OVAS NEWS you were given an envelope in which you can put all your tapes for safekeeping. We have until June 30th to take advantage of this offer. To date, through the efforts of Mr. Edgar Parisien, we have turned in over \$2400.00 worth of tapes. This means \$24.00 for our Society treasury. Bring your tapes to each meeting and turn them in to our Treasurer, Mr. Gary Zumar or mail them to him at [redacted], Ottawa 3.

APRIL FISH-OF-THE-MONTH APRIL
SENIOR SOCIETY



Platy Variatus Male
 or
 Variegated Platy Male

WHY DON'T YOU BRING AN ENTRY TO THE
 MONTHLY JAR SHOW?

HOSPITAL DONATION NIGHT

Please bring any surplus fish, plants or aquarium accessories that you may have to the April meeting. The Hospital tanks are in need of restocking and as most people will be cleaning up their tanks for the summer, this should give every member of the Society a chance to get rid of surplus stock. Please ensure that fish and plants are in a suitable container. No donation will be too big or too small. We will be able to use them all.

FISH-OF-THE-MONTH
 Senior Society

- MAY. . . .Red SwordTail(Male & Female)
 (Must be solid red)
 JUNE. . .Neon Tetra(Male or Female)

HE'S BEEN A BLOOD DONOR FOR 34 YEARS
From Week End Magazine, Ottawa Citizen

Ottawa civil servant George Spence remembers exactly when he made his first blood donation. It was October 5, 1927--the day his second son was born--and he made the donation directly to his wife, whose life was ebbing away because of a hemorrhage. The transfusion--although it was done somewhat crudely by modern standards--saved his wife's life.

Since that day George, who is now 60, has given blood 140 times and finds it easier all the time.

"The needles to-day are so small and the Red Cross nurses are so expert that you never feel anything," he says. "Back in the old days 20 or 30 years ago we used to have to scrub up just like a doctor before an operation. Then we'd lie down and the doctor, who was more interested in the patient than the blood donor, would probe around with an oversize needle for the vein in your elbow. Believe me, there were times when it was really tough being a blood donor."

Since records are incomplete, there is no way of telling who is Canada's champion blood donor. But Paul Gormley, Ottawa regional director of publicity for the Red Cross, says: "Spence is one of the top blood donors in Canada. I am sure there are few who have given more blood over the years than he."

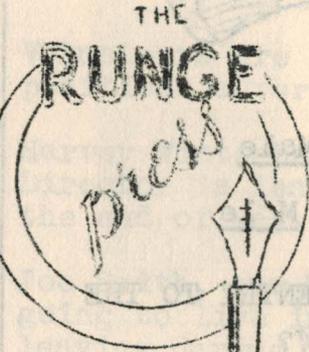
Late one evening, years ago, Spence remembers driving 28 miles into the country with a doctor to give a direct transfusion, to an expectant mother. That time he didn't arrive home till 7.30 the next morning.

To-day he misses the warm feeling of giving a direct transfusion, but the ease

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of modern methods makes up for that. "Half an hour at the blood-donor clinic with no pain whatever," he says, "and you know that your blood is doing just as much good as it did when you gave it directly by transfusion."

Editor's Note: George Spence is a valued member of our Society. In fact, so is his wife. Congratulations George.

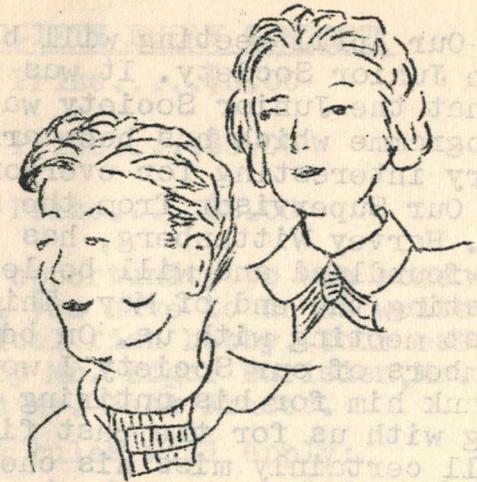
WHY CICHLIDS FAN EGGS

Reprinted from The Fish Culturist

In the May, 1936, Fish Culturist I gave a little account of how I had spawned a pair of Nannacara anomala, telling how the fish had spawned and reared their young without my even knowing it until the young fish were about three-eighths inch long. I emphasized in the note that the small aquarium had a rank growth of algae on the sides and for this reason I did not see the young fish for several weeks. This experience has since been followed by another quite similar and I now feel convinced that Cichlids fan their eggs in order to aerate them and not in order to keep them clean from the dirt in the aquarium. This has always been a question for the aquarists and some breeders insist that an aquarium should be practically sterilized in order to successfully raise Cichlids.

The sediment in the Nannacara tank was, without doubt, the worst I have ever seen. The algae had choked out the plants and had in turn died and rotted, leaving a heavy deposit of decayed vegetation all over the bottom and the sides.

JUNIOR
SOCIETY
JOTTINGS



PRESIDENT'S LETTER

We had a large turnout at our March meeting and it was very successful. Mr. Don Thompson gave a most informative talk on the Black Molly based on his own experiences.

The Fish-of-the-Month for April is the Betta (Male). This fish is commonly known as the Siamese Fighting Fish. Why don't you enter your male Betta in the Jar Show this Month? We will also have a panel discussion on the Betta at this meeting. The panelists - Andy Holdham, Gordon Worden and Jerry McMullen, will try to answer your questions. If you stump them you will win a prize, so come prepared.

We welcome Chris Greenwood who joined our Society at the March meeting, bringing our membership to 77. Bring an interested friend to the April meeting and let's hit the 100 mark in our membership drive before the June meeting.

Don't forget to bring your IGA Gold Cash Register Tapes to this meeting and turn them in to Frank Jones. We only have until the end of June to cash in on these tapes, so please try to get your friends to save them for you too.

Our April meeting will be a Birthday for the Junior Society. It was in April 1955 that the Junior Society was formed. The programme which has been arranged will be very interesting for everyone.

Our Supervisor from the Senior Society Mr. Harvey Wittenberg, has been posted to Newfoundland and will be leaving on his posting the end of May. This will be his last meeting with us. On behalf of all the members of our Society I would like to thank him for his untiring efforts working with us for the past five years. We will certainly miss his cheerful smile. Good luck to you Mr. Wittenberg, from all of us.

See you at the meeting,

Ron Ensom

Ron Ensom, President.

SIGNING IN

When you enter the Chemistry Building for our regular meetings, please sign the Register at the top of the first stairs. This Register is maintained by the University of Ottawa. Then when you come down to the meeting room, please sign the book at the door of the meeting room. This is our Attendance Record. This applies to both members and their guests. Don't forget to wear your name tag. This helps new members to get to know you.

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JUNIOR SOCIETY ESSAY CONTEST

1st Prize.....\$5.00

2nd Prize.....\$3.00

3rd Prize.....\$2.00

This is your opportunity to win some extra money! All you have to do is write about your tropical fish hobby. Your essay will be judged by Mr. Edgar Parisien, Mr. Don Thompson and Mr. Jack Fraser.

The following rules will apply:

1. Essay must not be less than 500 words.
2. You may write about your experiences in spawning any particular fish, any experiments you have carried out, etc. --in fact, anything pertaining to the tropical fish hobby.
3. Grammar and punctuation should be reasonably correct.
4. Age of author will be taken into consideration when judging the essays.
5. Essay can either be typewritten or hand written. Writing to be on one side of paper only.
6. Any essay found to be copied from an aquarium publication will be disqualified.
7. Essay will be judged for originality, interest and helpful information for the hobbyist.
8. Only one essay may be entered by a member.

SEE THE NEXT PAGE TOO

All essays will be printed in the OVAS NEWS. They will become the property of the Society.

Winners of this contest will be announced at the September meeting of the Junior Society.

Forward your essay to Mr. Jack Fraser, OVAS Essay Contest, [redacted], Ottawa 2, Ontario.

EACH ESSAY MUST SHOW THE NAME, ADDRESS AND AGE OF THE AUTHOR.

WRITE YOUR ESSAY NOW-----
CONTEST CLOSSES JUNE 30, 1961

FISH-OF-THE-MONTH
JUNIOR SOCIETY

The fish shown below will be the official Fish-of-the-Month for the balance of the year for the Junior Society:

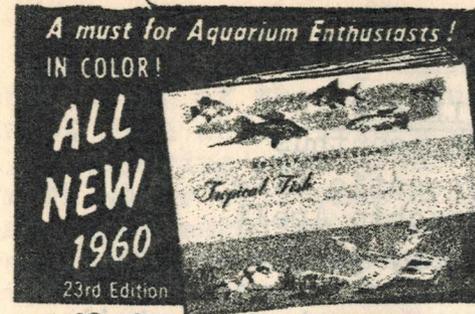
- APRIL - Betta (Male)
- MAY - Red Swordtail (Male)
- JUNE - Platty any type (Male)
- SEPTEMBER - Zebra (Male or Female)
- OCTOBER - Neon Tetra (Male or Female)
- NOVEMBER - Fancy Guppy (Male)
- DECEMBER - Tiger Barb (Male or Female)
- JANUARY 1962 - White Cloud (Male or Female)

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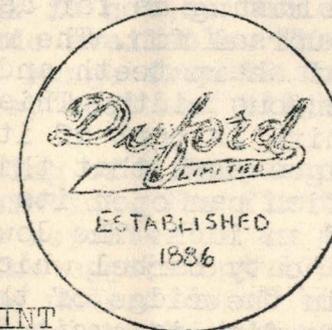
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DIAMOND

GLASS

ALL SIZES

CE 3-1195



HECKEL, THE LEAF FISH

Monocirrhus Polyacanthus

Reprinted from "Aquatic Life"

Written by Hansjoachin Apelt

In the shady and leafy jungle waters of some of the rivers of South America, a fish can be observed which has much more similarity to a dead floating leaf drifting in the water than a real living fish. It is the rare leaf fish which in the year 1912, was imported into Germany. Some of the fish found their way to the aquariums of dealers so a few lines about the handling and care of this fish. Only an experienced aquarist should try to keep this fish, as it is a very demanding ward. Problems begin with the shipping of this fish.

Every fish fancier who obtains an undamaged leaf fish is very lucky. Since the fish always swims near the surface of the water it is often slapped against the side of the container, hence damaged. Even the slightest injury can cause its death.

The sharply pointed head sits on a high egg-shaped body. The forehead is strongly indented rising as far as the beginning of the dorsal fin. The mouth is lined with rows of sharp teeth and can be opened to a tremendous width. This tremendous mouth opening is part of its way of life. Dr. Ladiges says that this two- and a half inch fish can open its mouth three quarters of an inch. The lower lip contains a short meaty barbel which is normally hidden in the ridge of the lower mandible. When the fish is excited the barbel can be raised to draw food to it. This barbel gives the fish part of its name, "Monocirrhus - with one thread."

The body coloring changes depending on the bottom of the aquarium and the surroundings. Fish which live among plants have a clay coloring with green dots. Fish in fresh water will show a dark brown, greenish black marbling. From the eye rim, three weak lines cross the body, the first going over the tail. The second slants from the eye to the beginning of the dorsal fin. The third line slants downward ending just below the anal fin. The spiky part of the dorsal fin gives the fish the name, "Poly", meaning "Many Spikes". The dorsal fin is greenish yellow while the spine rays and tail are transparent. The chief characteristic of the leaf fish is its complete mimicry of its surroundings. *M. Polyacanthus* is a very poor swimmer, so it cannot depend upon its quickness to obtain food. Instead it uses trickery. At dusk its favorite undertaking is seeking food. In its native habitat it drifts along like a leaf. Should food come close enough, the large mouth opens and the food quickly disappears.

The leaf fish reaches a length of three to four inches. It is easily kept in a well established aquarium. It does need a heavy plant growth. Since it is a fish of the dusk, a bright tank is not suitable. Hiding places should be made available. The water temperature should range from 72 to 77 degrees F., should be very soft and slightly sour, PH 6 to 6.5.

The breeding of *M. Polyacanthus* is a very delicate operation. The first successful spawning was reported in an article in "The Aquarium". The eggs (about 100) are laid singly on the underside of broadleafed water plants or on the underside of a piece of slate which has been placed in the tank. The male cleans the spawning place and then courts the female. Each egg is then fertilized. At 77 degrees F., the eggs hatch

in from 24 to 36 hours and the young fish hang from a short thread at the spawning place. The male takes care of the young fry by waving its ventral fins producing a steady flow of water. The young fish are absolutely helpless for a few days. Young fish forced from their breeding place by hunger are soon found dead in the mulm. The male protects the fry from other fish. The female departs immediately she has finished spawning.

As soon as the fry are free-swimming, they can be fed brine shrimp or sifted daphnia. When the young fish reach one inch in length they readily swallow young guppies and other small fish. M. Polyacanthus is a lover of live food.

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THE OSCARS

By Jerry McMullin, Junior Society

The OSCAR (Astronotus Ocellatus) pronounced: As-tro-no-tus os-el-lay-tus is an old friend of aquarists. It also goes under other common names such as Velvet Cichlid or Peacock Cichlid, and of course OSCAR.

This fish is a native of Eastern Venezuela, the Guianas and the Amazon Basin from the source of the river to Paraguay.

The Oscar will grow to a length of about 12 inches. These cichlids were probably the first of the family to be spawned in captivity. Some owners seem to regard the Oscar as a garbage can with fins, throwing in to it every fish that dies or is deformed. Usually it is eaten in great haste. It is a wise precaution to step back from the tank when feeding because this fish certainly causes the water to fly.

Here is a tropical fish that, if given plenty of room to grow and plenty of food, will soon appear as a likely specimen for the regular Friday dinner. It has very distinctive coloring. The sides are black and yellow but these colors will fade if the fish is frightened. The base of the tail has a second eye--a black spot circled in red. Males are very difficult to distinguish except at spawning time. Usually the male has more red markings. When ready to spawn, the spawning tube of the female will be seen to be about twice as thick as the male's.

A large tank and plenty of food are the prime requisites to raise Oscars. Sometimes individual fish will become quite tame and will accept food from the fingers of the owner, even allowing themselves to be petted.

Parents are very likely to eat the eggs which are laid in great quantity. The eggs

which are quite large are moved from one part of the tank to another by the parents. The eggs look like strings of tiny pearls, and usually hatch in about three days time.

This is truly a most remarkable fish, and an aquisition to any hobbyist's collection. Never a dull moment when you feed your Oscar.

SALT BATHS FOR YOUR FISH

At times every hobbyist gets one or more sick fish. When the cure calls for or recommends a salt bath, here are a few tips:

Use epsom Salts to make a bath.

For a "Weak Bath" use one teaspoon of salt per gallon of water and leave the fish in the bath for no longer than 24 hours. If further treatment seems in order, change the solution and give another 24 hour bath. Be very careful to have the fresh bath exactly the same temperature as that from which the fish is transferred. It is preferable to move the fish in a spoon or cup to avoid damage by the net.

For a "Strong Bath" use one tablespoon of salt to a gallon of water and leave the fish in the bath for 15 or 20 minutes only. For severe or stubborn cases, you may try a slightly stronger solution.

Salt baths agree with the majority of tropical fish but CATFISHES of all species cannot endure salt in any quantity at all.

DO NOT USE SALT WHEN YOU HAVE CATFISH IN TANK

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