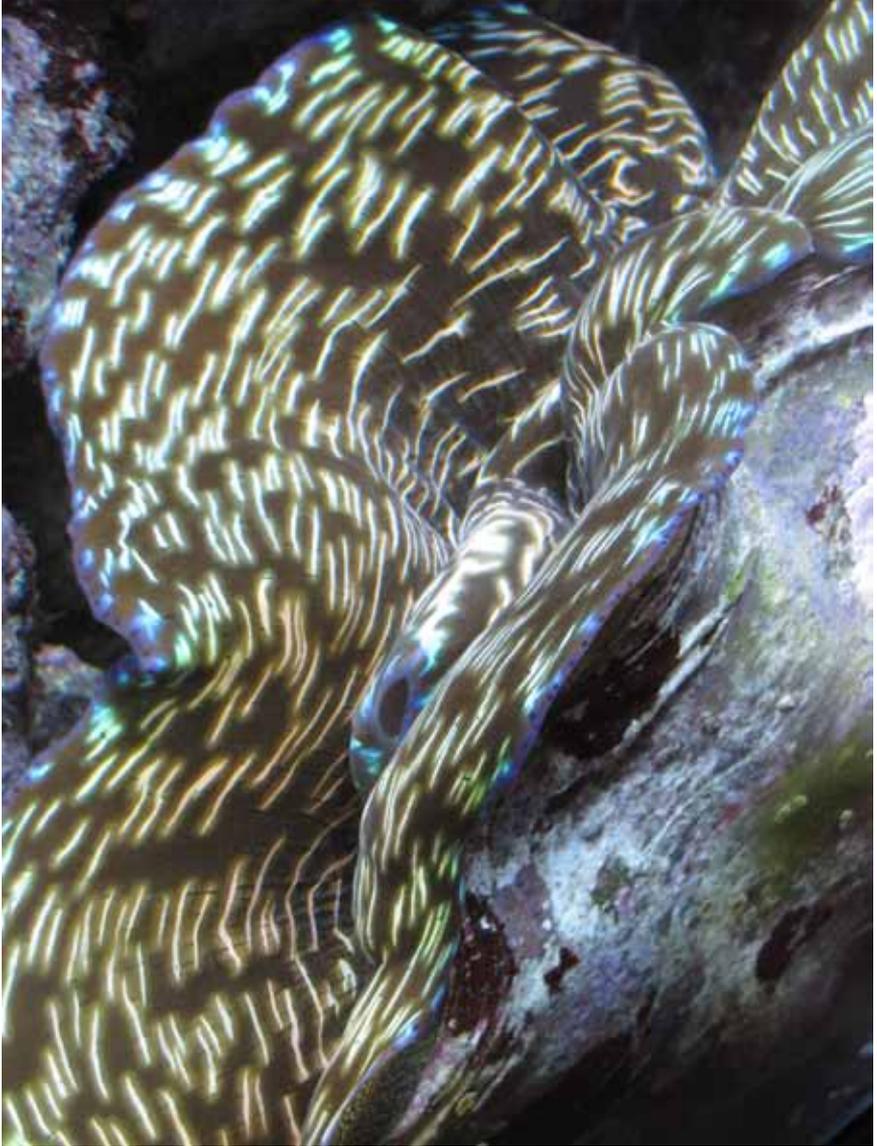




*Hamilton & District
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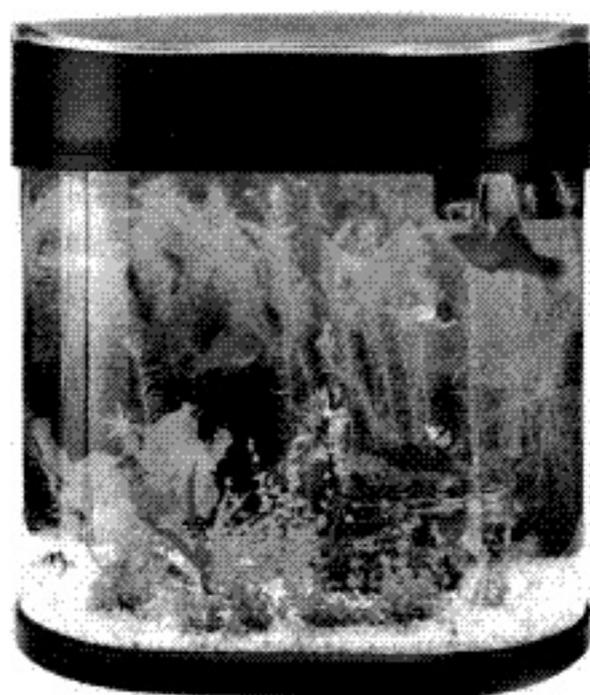
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The society meets the second Thursday of each month at 7:30 PM,
except in July and August, at the Church of the Resurrection, 435
Mohawk Rd. West near the corner of Garth. Visitors are welcome.

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Our 61st Year of Publication

MARCH 2011

Carla's Comments

Carla MacDonald

Hi Everyone!

And yes, finally, February is done and so bring on spring. I can't wait to get started. The spring auctions are all happening with some great deals for all us fish people. I hope you got everything you were looking for at our Hamilton Auction.

A big Thank You to Zena for bringing us a look at Sea Horses. They were beautiful and truly remarkable. An excellent program. I hope you enjoy this month's program on Setting up A Reef Tank.

Its not too late to enter the Home Show. The Home Show Team are making plans to get out and get those pictures taken and judge your tanks soon. The program will be presented in April. If you have any questions pertaining the set up of your tank for the show, please ask Charlie, Albert or Frank to help you. We will also be having a short presentation on the CARES program in April. How can you help our environment and help maintain the fish population?

We are planning a trip to the Toronto Zoo for Sunday June 12. There are still seats available. I am trying to make plans for a behind the scenes tour of the Aquarium area.

Are you planning on spending the May Long Weekend at the CAOAC Convention. You can get a ticket to include the whole weekend with speakers for only \$80. It should be a good weekend.

We are also setting up the Third Annual Pond Tour for Sunday July 10. If you would like to have your pond on the tour, please let me know. It would be great to see YOUR pond on the tour. It doesn't matter how large or small your pond or water feature is, its sharing your tranquil space with friends. We will finish the event with a BBQ. Everyone is welcome.

Hope you enjoy the meeting this month.

Carla

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Spawning the Ancistrus sp. Pucallpa

Charles Drew

I picked up this interesting and prolific bushynose at a Cichlid Convention in Ohio a couple of years ago. A room seller had a tank full that he was trying to sell but not having much luck as they were very small and not very interesting. Since he was clearing them at rock bottom prices I took six. As they grew and matured I soon realized that they were *Ancistrus sp. Pucallpa* which is the village near where they were found in Northeastern Peru. I also found out that they are quite common in the Ohio area as they were brought in from Germany by Stephan Tanner of Swiss Tropicals. Stephan has bred them in good numbers and spread them throughout the area. He also has a gold strain which came from his original wild stock. This fish is well marked with gold spots and they do not grow over 5 inches long.



When I got mine home I placed them in a 30 gallon tank with java moss and some Banded Widow Livebearers. They got no special treatment as a matter of fact they were nearly forgotten. As they matured and got more noticeable I put in a round cave. After a while they spawned as little fry started to appear on the glass. The

livebearers didn't bother with them and they stayed there until they were ready to sell to a dealer. The adults are still in the same tank and continue to bless me with a spawn from time to time. The pattern on these fish is a bit brighter and a bit different than the Gold Spot that we see all the time. The fish even has a slightly lower profile. They eat everything and are a great fish to do the cleaning up in your tanks.

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New Aquarium Trend? Fish that glow in the dark

Matt Henning

No, these fish are not painted. They are genetically modified laboratory creations that possess new genes which are expressed to give the fish a luminescent green appearance. The animals below are reported to be medaka fish developed by a Taiwanese aquatics firm Taikong Group. The firm plans to market the fish as pets in the next six months (i.e. by about February/March 2002). The photo is by Simon Kwong/Reuters. The reference for this is given at the bottom of this page. By the way, this photo was probably taken under UV light conditions. Under daylight conditions the fluorescent green would not be quite as striking.



Note that these medaka fish are not the first fluorescent transgenic fish that may be destined for the aquarium hobby. At the recent AQUARAMA 2001 aquatic trade exhibition

(held in Singapore from May 31 to June 3, 2001) glow-in-the dark zebra danios (*Brachydanio rerio*) were displayed. These fish were genetically modified to contain various genes: either from jellyfish that makes them luminous green (with the dark horizontal stripes) or from a sea anemone that makes the fish a luminous red or pink (with the dark stripes). Other colour variants included yellow.



Spawning the Chinese Algae-eater

William Berg

Gyrinocheilus aymonieri

Common name: Chinese algae-eater

Max size: 30 cm/ 12 inches

Water conditions: pH range: 6.0 - 8.0, temperature 25 - 28°C/ 77-82°F

I would like to say a few words about one of the bigger surprises I've had as an aquarist. A few years ago I was cleaning out a 50 gallon holding tank in which I kept fishes that were going to a new aquarium when the new aquarium was ready. I also used it for keeping fish I didn't know what else to do with. At this time this aquarium was home to twelve blue discus of about 10 cm, and four albino Chinese algae-eaters that were about 20 cm. The aquarium was overgrown with lots of *C. Demersum* since it had been neglected a little during the previous months. Now the time had come to clean this aquarium and try to weed out the jungle that had formed. To my big surprise I found a small (1.5 - 2cm) Chinese algae-eater fry. After looking around a little more I found a total of seven fry. I stopped the cleaning and left the aquarium as it was, since the water quality was good and I didn't want to change too much. I didn't see any reason to move the fry since they seemed big enough to be safe from the discus which I was moving to a 120 gallon Amazon tank in a few days anyway.

The fry survived and grew relatively fast on a diet of what they could find in the well-planted aquarium, and boiled lettuce. But I never got the parents to spawn again, and the fry themselves never spawned either. However I would like to say a few words about how the Chinese algae-eaters had been kept before the spawning, and which waters they spawned in, to see if I can help anyone else have



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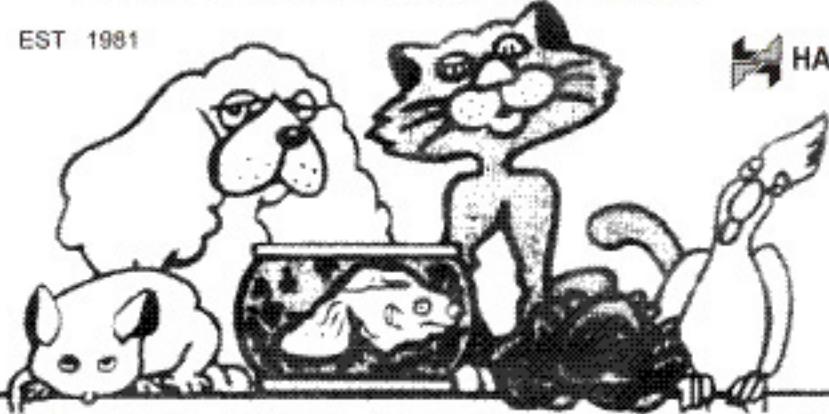
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success where I failed - to breed Chinese algae-eaters and figure out what triggers them to breed.

When I found the fry their parents had been in the holding tank for about 2-3 months. Before that I had kept them in a 50 gallon tank which was heavily circulated and contained very few plants. Temperature was 25°C/ 77°F. They were kept with clown loaches and various barbs. I've been wondering if the fact that they were kept in a heavily circulated aquarium and then moved to an aquarium with close to no circulation and warmer water (28°C/ 82°F) may have simulated a natural change in conditions that precedes spawning.

The breeding tank was as I said before, heavily planted, and had little or no circulation at all, due to the vegetation. The water was old and clean. Dh about 4. I can't say the exact water conditions as I don't know exactly when the spawning took place. However the water conditions had been relatively stable and it is reasonably safe to assume that the stated water conditions are correct.

The Chinese algae-eaters had been fed a varied diet which consisted mainly of boiled lettuce and broccoli, Hikari sinking algae wafers, and shrimps. They also ate the leftovers from the food I gave the barbs and loaches, which consisted mainly of different frozen foods.

Sexing the fishes I assume is simple. I believe it's done in the same way as *Corydoras* catfishes. Some fish have much broader bodies and I assume them to be females; males are more slender especially if well fed.

Getting the fish into spawning condition seems to be quite simple if they are fed a good diet. However the problem seems to be triggering them to spawn. As I said, I never got them to spawn again. Maybe you will have better luck!



March 1991 – The focus of President Tom Tota’s monthly message was on promoting the upcoming show. He espoused the benefits of square jars for showing fish and mentioned that the club could buy 1 gallon show tanks through CAOAC. He also highlighted that the upcoming March meeting would feature none other than Frank Hyodo speaking on “Setting up Your Aquarium Right” – a talk designed for those new to the hobby. Articles featured included “Spawning the Butterfly Goodeid”(reprint), “Gar-Amania” by Norm McEvoy, and the following:

Flowering Barclaya longifolia

Charles Drew.

Barclaya longifolia is a plant that is related to the lilies. It comes from Thailand and Burma. The leaves are about fifteen inches long and about an inch and a half wide. The upper side of the leaf is a glossy green and the underside a deep reddish-purple. The plant grows from a rhizome the size of a dime and will flourish if you meet its needs.

For many years I had seen pictures of flowering *Barclaya longifolia* in magazines and books, but it was only a few years ago that I was able to purchase three rhizomes from a local pet shop. I planted each one by itself in a plastic “old-fashioned” drink glass. In the bottom I put one inch of dried cattle manure and then an inch and a half of good potting soil. I then set the rhizome in place and filled around it with builder’s sand. Finally a sprinkle of aquarium gravel was placed over top to keep everything in place. It should be noted that the builder’s or masonry sand forms a seal stopping food particles that cause root destroying bacteria from entering the growing medium and also stops the nutrients from the growing medium from leaching into the aquarium.

The plants were placed in a 65 gallon aquarium at 78°F; they must have a temperature between 77°F and 86°F to do well. In a week the first leaves appeared and soon they were growing by leaps and bounds. The plants soon had six to eight leaves each, reaching up and onto the surface. The next question was whether I had sufficient light



to make them flower. I was using a two-tube four foot fluorescent fixture with one cool white and one plant grow tube, hanging about eight inches above the surface. The lights were on about 16 hours a day. I didn't have to wonder for long because in less than eight weeks from planting the first flower bud appeared. It took about a week to reach the surface where it opened into a star-shaped flower an inch and a half in diameter. The centre petals are purple-red and the lower, star-shaped petals pale green. The flower blooms for two to three days. It then folds up and the pod from this self-pollinating flower swells slowly.

After about a month the pod splits and the many seeds appear on the surface. They are wrapped in a whitish cellular substance that enables them to float for several hours. After falling to the bottom they may lay there for weeks or even months before sprouting. When they did finally sprout I gathered some and planted them in a container with cattle manure and potting soil, covered with an inch and a half of fine sand. The seedlings, less than 1" long, were pressed into the sand with a toothpick. They were then placed in a tank with good light and gentle inhabitants where they could grow. In less than a year, they themselves were in flower.

As late spring comes around, the plants grow dormant; they lose most of their leaves and cease to grow. They rest throughout the summer and in about September start to grow new leaves. This is the time to repot them. If you carefully rinse the old soil away, you should find many tiny bulblet rhizomes – about half a dozen on each plant. Plant these separately and you will soon have many more plants. If you wish to increase your plants even more, soon after the plant is growing actively with good leaves and roots, break it off from the old rhizome. The rhizome will grow a new plant and the plant will grow a new rhizome before it goes dormant. How can you go wrong with such a prolific plant? Only by ignoring its basic needs, such as light, temperature and culture medium. My theory is if a plant does not flower for you, you have not mastered the plant. An aquarium without plants is only half the hobby; give this other half a try and grow some of these intriguing plants.

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Barclaya longifolia, Chinese Algae Eater

MARCH 2011



Odds 'n' Ends

EVENTS

<i>March 6</i>	H&DAS Spring Auction, Waterdown
<i>March 27</i>	Brant Aquarium Society Show and Auction
<i>April 10</i>	Durham Region Aquarium Society Show and Auction
<i>May 20-23</i>	CAOAC Convention - Brantford, Ontario

MEETINGS

<i>March 10</i>	March Meeting, "Setting up a Marine system"
<i>April 14</i>	April Meeting, "Home Show"
<i>May 12</i>	May Meeting, Workshops
<i>June 9</i>	June Meeting, Pond Program

Submissions

Articles are needed for every month's bulletin. Topics can include breeding, nutrition, water quality, do-it-yourself techniques, and amusing anecdotes. We have kicked off a new practice of using a hobbyist's photo for the cover of the e-bulletin. Hobbyist photos are needed for future months' bulletins. They do not need to be show quality fish or professional quality photos. Please send submissions to bulletin@hdas.ca



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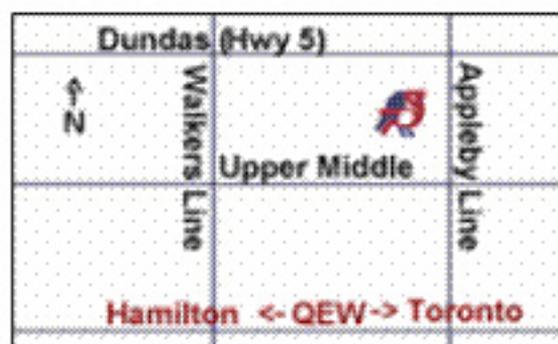
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