



*Mexican Dwarf Orange Crayfish,
Cambarellus patzcuarensis*



Hamilton & District Aquarium Society

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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.

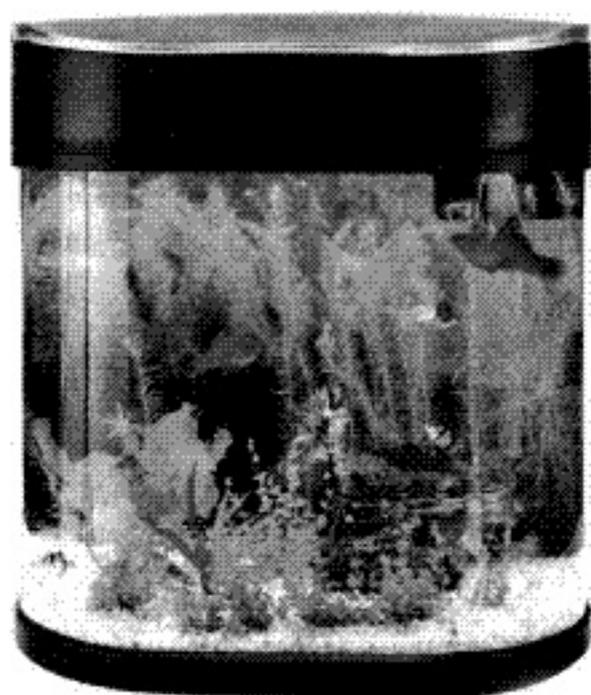
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Carla's Comments

Carla MacDonald

Hi Everyone!!!

I hope you are all enjoying the colours of the fall. It's been pretty nice so far.....winter will be here soon enough I'm sure.

We are looking at some great programs coming up. November - Larry Johnson will be entertaining us with his pictures from Lake Malawi. This is sure to be a great program. We will also be giving out the fish for the fish growing contest. I have some turquoise rainbows coming from Catfish Creek. December 8th is the Christmas program. We have a pizza night including a fish game with Noel, a fishy table draw (it doesn't need to be fish), and neighbour to neighbour food drive. If you have anything to go on the fishy table, please let Sarah L know. The following week, on Thurs. Dec 15, everyone is invited to go to the Red Maple Chinese Buffet on Appleby Line and Upper Middle Rd in Burlington. There will be a sign up sheet at the Nov. meeting. The December meeting is also the last chance you have to put in your nominations for the January meeting. If you are interesting in running for a position or nominate someone, please let myself or Charlie D know. All positions are open. Voting takes place at the January meeting.

Who is interested in taking part in the Home Show? The Home Show was a really great success last year and I think it can be even bigger and better this year but not without you. Sign up to take part at the next meeting. The judging of the tanks for the Home Show will be in March and the program is in April.

If you have any suggestions for programs, please let Joe B know. He is only too happy to try to work his magic to make it happen.

Do you know anyone that would like to advertise in our bulletin? If you do, please get in touch with Albert or myself as we are sending out the info for the 2012 bulletins soon.

See you at the next meeting,

Carla

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Breeding Simpsonichthys suzarti

Charles Drew

Simpsonichthys suzarti is an interesting little South American killifish. It is fairly new to the hobby and is not often found or available in the fish and egg listings. I acquired mine quite by chance as Bob Wright had picked them up for a dollar at the Catfish Convention 2010 in the Washington area last year. Cramped for space with his new acquisitions he gave them to me. They were very small but I put them into a 2-1/2 gallon tank and fed them live baby brine shrimp. My next step was to do a search and see what information I could find.

What my search revealed was that they came from a temporary pool near Canavieras on the Rio Pardo floodplains in South Bahia Brazil. The males are said to grow to 6 cm and the females' 5 cm. Mine only grew to about half that size; it may have been the small tank.

The males of this species are distinguished by having a rounded anal fin with oblique dark brown bars, alternated reddish brown and greenish blue bars down the flanks, and dark brown reticulation on the dorsal fin. The tips of the dorsal and anal fins of males have filamentous rays.

After gathering as much information as I could I placed a container of water logged peat moss in their tank for them to spawn in. It was not long before the male was pressing the female in the moss and it was soon flying about the tank. After a week of this activity I removed the moss from the tank. It was first drained in a fine net, then wrapped in paper towel to remove excess water. Finally it was packed in a plastic bag and put away in a drawer for three months to incubate.

After the time had passed I put the moss in a bowl and added some aquarium water. The hatch was not good as only two eggs hatched, and later grew into females. This was not much good to me since in the mean time the parents had passed away. They then went into a catch all tank where they eventually disappeared. The next 2 bags



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of moss had no hatch at all so I lost most of my interest. However I did re dry out the last bag and pack it away to try another wetting a month later.

Almost 3 months later I was looking in my set of drawers when I ran across that bag, as well as a totally forgotten one that was several months past the hatching date. Not holding out much hope I still decided to wet both bags of moss together. Much to my surprise I got a hatch of 19 fry which have since grown to a spawnable size and age.

The incubation guides are not very accurate as the temperature of where the eggs are stored plays an important part. I should have tried re drying and re wetting the other moss instead of just dumping it out.

Here is hoping these interesting little peat diving killifish will be with me for a while yet. I will be much more careful next time and give the eggs a second chance.



Breeding Crayfish

William Berg, for aquacommunity.com

In the text below I shall try to give a short overview of some of the basics when breeding crayfish. Particular species may have other behaviours and demands. It should be said that my main experience as an aquarist is with relation to fish, but I shall try to convey what little knowledge I have.

Sexing Crayfish

Sexing crayfish isn't always easy. The genital openings are located in different places on the body depending on whether it's a male or a female. Males have their genital openings behind/under their posterior pair of legs. Females have their genital openings under the third pair of legs counted from the posterior. However, many individuals have a male as well as a female genital opening, making the sexing much more complicated. But these are always either male or female; usually male but you can't be sure.

Mating and egg carrying

In aquariums, spawning is possible any time of year. The male makes a little sperm packet and places it on the female's stomach. The female then spawns her eggs, passing them through the sperm packet so that the eggs get fertilized. It is not uncommon for the female to lose a claw during this process. She then places the eggs under her tail where they will be kept until they are ready to be released. How long this will be depends on the water temperature and the species, but it will be at least 4 weeks. A lot of other factors can also affect the length of the egg carrying period, such as water quality, and food supply and quality. The mother will watch over the young for a short time after birth.

Fry

The fry are very small when they are born but are fully developed miniature crayfish. Fry are usually detritus feeders, which means that they will feed on any decomposing plant parts and food



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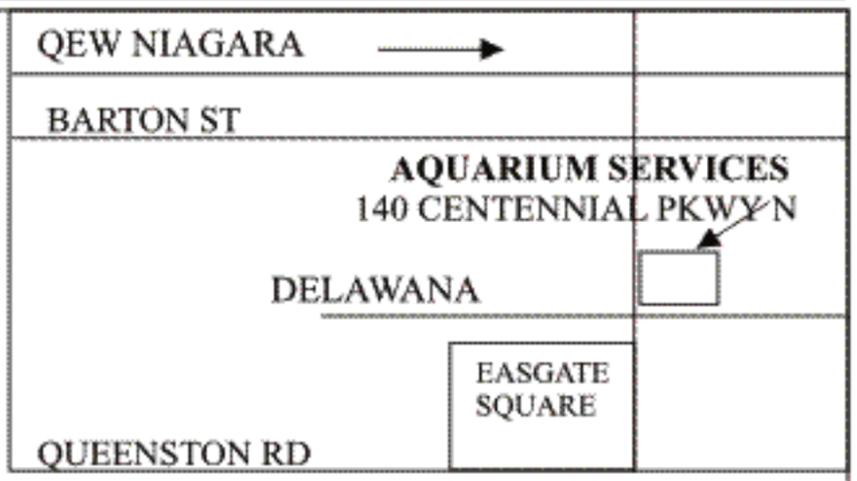
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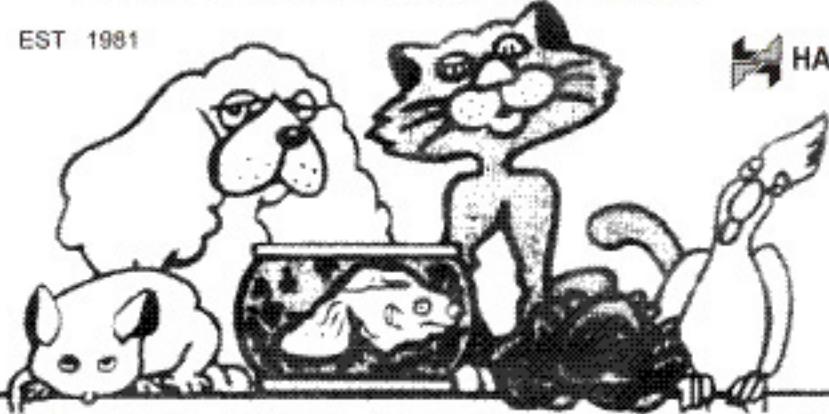
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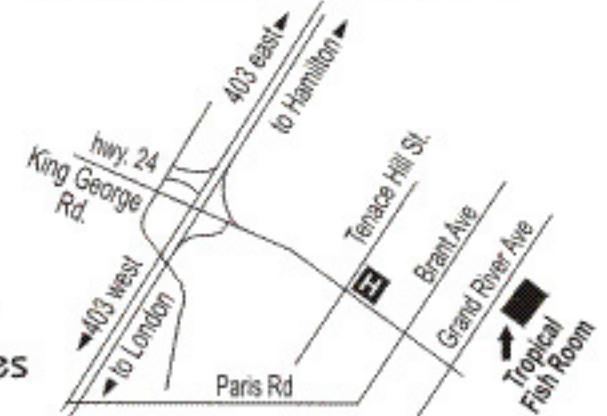
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leftovers they can find while scouring the bottom. Vegetable food is preferred and they can be fed boiled lettuce leaves that are left to decay in the aquarium. Be aware of the water quality. Fry are often very cannibalistic and a large aquarium is required if you want a higher number of fry to survive. Sorting fry for size may help the survival rate.

Breeding

Now you know about their breeding behaviour and how to raise the fry, but how can you get them to breed in the first place? Well, first of all you have to give them the right environment and good food to get them in a condition in which they can spawn. Some species also need different triggers to breed. These triggers may be a change in the amount of light and number of light hours, a change in temperature, change of circulation, etc.

Feeding

Crayfish usually accept most kinds of food, and I would recommend feeding them a diet based on boiled lettuce, sinking pellets, shrimps, and once or week or so, fish meat. This will get them in good condition and help the female survive the spawning period since she usually doesn't eat while she is carrying eggs.

Housing/environment

Many crayfish species can be kept in relatively small aquariums, but I recommend using larger aquariums since this lowers the pressure on the females by the males. The aquarium should be decorated so that a lot of hiding places of suitable size are provided. Hiding places can be created using rocks, roots, flowerpots, coconuts, PVC pipes, and so on. It's important that there is at least one, and preferably several hiding places for each crayfish



November 1991 – President Tom Tota congratulated the club for the results of the recent Fall Auction. Apparently, it set a record for the most amount of money made at an H&DAS Auction. Tom also took the time to remind the club members of the wealth of knowledge within the membership. As evidence, Tom mentioned that Charlie Drew had been referenced in an article in Aquarium Fish Magazine regarding “Breeding Callichthyid Catfishes”. Articles this month were mostly exchange reprints. Here is one of them:

The Spotted Corydoras - Corydoras delphax

Deborah Foltyn

Eight one inch spotted catfish were purchased and placed in a 90 gallon aquarium equipped with an undergravel filter, covered with three inches of medium-coarse gravel. The tank was heavily planted with a variety of crypts, vals, anubias and ferns. Also housed in this tank were a variety of livebearers. A total of four 48” bulbs provided a variety of light spectrum. The tank was lit to 12 hours per day, with additional indirect sunlight that filtered into the room. Good plant growth was seen, however there was some trouble with the growth of filamentous algae which needed to be manually removed every several weeks.

The fish were fed twice daily, once in the morning and once in the evening, about one half hour before turning out the lights. Feedings consisted of a variety of flake foods, black worms, brine shrimp, and commercially prepared baby food in strained or junior varieties of beef or veal. This, if kept refrigerated for at least 24 hours, will help keep it from mucking up the aquarium before it can be consumed.

About two months later, the Corydoras were about two inches in length and the sexes were easily distinguishable, with the females being much more robust. With careful research, the catfish were identified as *Corydoras delphax*. The colony of three females and five males were moved to a previously set up ten gallon tank which contained four to five inches of water, and a sponge filter. This tank was located in the basement where the temperatures were allowed



to fluctuate between 70-82°F. Regular water changes of 50% were done every other day with cool tap water. The pH was 7.0 and the degrees general hardness remained around 32. Lighting to the aquarium was indirect as there were no light directly over the tank.

After several weeks, spawning occurred in typical Cory “T” position. The female laid large patches of 2mm transparent light brown eggs on the sides of the glass, with 20 to 50 eggs per patch. About 200 eggs were laid in the early morning hours, when the water temperature was at its lowest. Spawning had taken place over a period of 30 minutes to 1 hour, depending on the female. After the spawning was complete, ¼ teaspoon of Prolong was added to the tank to protect the eggs. Even though the adults did not disturb the eggs, they were removed to another 10 gallon tank, which was set up the same as the previously mentioned tank, with the addition of a yarn mop, added for hiding purposes. The colony continues to spawn irregularly every two to six weeks.

The first eggs began to hatch in about 48 hours. Only about 50 of the eggs hatched. Upon examination the rest did not appear fertile. They did not fungus, but they were removed. The newly hatched fry were dark, about 8mm long, and free-swimming, with only a small yolk sac noticeable. Feedings were started about 24 hours post-hatch, with green water, and spirillum added in small amounts every four hours during the day. The fry were also seen frequently feeding from the sponge filter. Fifty percent water changes were done bi-weekly. Shortly after one of these changes, when the fry were about three weeks of age, there was a great loss of fry for an unknown reason. The remaining fry grew fast, but slowed in their second month of age, with an increase of activity.

Originally published in the September 1991 Pittsburgh Finformation



Corydoras delphax



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Gallery



Simpsonichthys suzarti, female top, male bottom, photos by Charles Drew



Odds 'n' Ends

EVENTS

<i>November 13</i>	Tropical Fish Club of Erie County Auction
<i>November 13</i>	Peel Regional Aquarium Club Auction

MEETINGS

<i>November 10</i>	November Meeting, Larry Johnson - Malawi Cichlids
<i>December 8</i>	Holiday Meeting
<i>January 12</i>	January Meeting - Elections

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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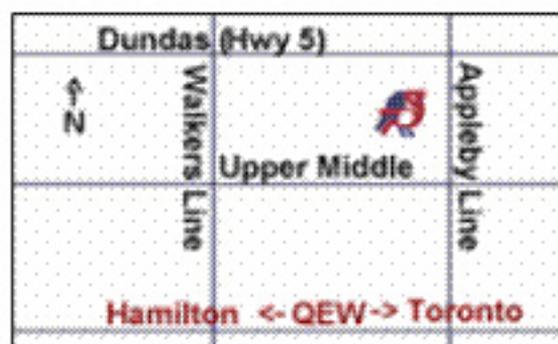
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