



The Greater Akron Aquarium Society

Tank Topics

October/November 2011

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A female *Brachyraphis terrabensis* taken by Wayne Toven. Learn more about this interesting and uncommon livebearer in Wayne's article about them on page 7 of this issue.

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Important Dates for 2011

March 6
Spring auction

July 9 & 10
Ultra Aqua 2011

November 6
Fall auction

Check out our website: www.gaas-fish.net

THE GREATER AKRON AQUARIUM SOCIETY

WHO ARE WE? We are a local group of aquatic enthusiasts. Formed in 1952, the Greater Akron Aquarium Society is a non-profit, non-commercial organization. Our membership ranges from the beginning hobbyist to the advanced aquarist with many years of experience. The goals of our club are to promote the care, study, breeding and exhibition of aquarium related aquatic life and to promote interest in the aquarium hobby.

MEETINGS: Our meetings are held on the first Thursday of each month at 8:00 p.m. at the Mogadore Community/Senior Center, 3857 Mogadore Road, Mogadore, Ohio. It is located East of Route 532 across from McDonald's in the former post office building. Visitors are always welcome, it costs absolutely nothing to attend a meeting and look us over.

MEMBERSHIP: The cost is only \$7.50 for adults, \$10 for a couple or a family (includes children under 10 years of age) and \$5.00 for a junior membership (10 to 17 years) Membership provides an opportunity to socialize with other that share your interests, a subscription to our bi-monthly magazine, library usage and more.

AGENDA: Our meeting agenda is simple and informal. The meeting will begin at 8:00 p.m. with a short business meeting. Immediately following is the program for the evening which usually lasts about 45 minutes. Our programs consist of a speaker, slide program, movie or perhaps a panel discussion always on a particular subject related to the hobby or various species of fish. Following the program is a short refreshment break. After which the winners of the Bowl Show are announced, the Breeder's Award Program fish are auctioned and tickets are drawn for the equipment and book raffles.

THE BOWL SHOW: Each month members can bring in fish for specific classes to compete for first, second and third place awards. The charge for each entry is only \$.25. Members also compete for annual awards by accumulating wins throughout the year.

BREEDER'S AWARD and HORTICULTURE AWARD PROGRAMS: members can receive recognition for spawning species of fish or propagating aquatic plants. All that is required is to turn in a minimum of six fry from the spawn that are between 30 and 90 days old. Members earn certificates for each species and can work towards plaques in different categories.

LIBRARY: At the library table are a number of books and other publications covering all areas of the aquarium hobby. Members may borrow the books for a month at a time. Also each month several books are raffled off.

EQUIPMENT RAFFLE: The raffle table has such items as tanks, fish food and aquarium accessories that are donated by national manufacturers, area dealers or purchased by the Society. Tickets may be purchased by anyone attending the meeting. Save your losing tickets for the Christmas Party raffle.

ANNUAL SHOW: The Ultra-Aqua show is held during the summer at the Tallmadge community Center. This has become one of the largest all-species tropical fish shows in North America. It is an international gathering of hobbyists to display their fish in class competition, talk fish and to learn about the hobby from each other.

TANK TOPICS: is published on a bi-monthly basis for the members of the Greater Akron Aquarium Society. Articles and comments for this publication are welcome and encouraged. Such articles are to be submitted no later than the board meeting prior to publication. All articles may be reprinted as long as the author(s) and GAAS are given proper credit and two copies of the publication containing the reprint are sent to GAAS. Please send any correspondence regarding this publication to:

Editor/Tank Topics, P.O. Box 494, Akron, OH 44309-0494 or email to G_A_A_S@hotmail.com

The Greater Akron Aquarium Society Membership Form

Name _____ Age _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____ email _____

How did you find out about GAAS? _____

Memberships are due one year from the date of joining. Completed membership forms can be turned in at a meeting or mailed to the membership chairman at this address:

GAAS Membership Chairman, P.O. Box 494, Akron, OH 44309-0494

☐ New ☐ Renewal
☐ Electronic ☐ Mail



Adult (18 years and older)	1 year	\$7.50
	2 years	\$12.00
Family (includes children under 10)	1 year	\$10.00
	2 years	\$15.00
Junior (10-17 years)	1 year	\$5.00
	2 years	\$7.00

Dues Collected _____ Date Received _____

President's Message

Hope you are enjoying all of the fine weather we have been getting. It could stay like this for 380 days a year, then start over again.

The cave building program went well I was told, I was unable to be at the meeting. I was putting in some new windows and had a big hole in the wall from removing a window when the meeting time arrived, had to get it done so we did not we did not have the neighborhood cats, dogs and

birds coming in to stay the night.

We have a couple of important things coming up for our club, one is the elections and the other is the fall auction. If you are thinking of running for an office on the board and have questions, please ask one of the board members, you have another month to think about it, the elections are in November. We always need new ideas and direction, if you can help with that don't

hesitate, jump right in.

The fall auction will be November 6 and as always we can use help at the auction, with all kinds of details. If you have questions about what to do to help, talk to me at the meeting or send a email to me, I will be glad to help with that.

We have tried to have good speakers for the meetings and are always looking for someone else to call on, if you know someone or have an idea, please tell the program chairman or someone on the board about it.

Enjoy the weather,



see you at the meeting
Bud White

Editor's Message

BIG CHANGES COMING SOON TO AN AQUARIUM CLUB PUBLICATION NEAR YOU!!!

Well, OK, maybe I exaggerated that a little bit, I have been known to sometimes blow things out of proportion on occasion! But anyway, we were going over some things for next year at the last board meeting and one of the things we covered were some changes to Tank Topics. First of all, for those who don't know it, we have purchased a laser printer to produce the hard copy issues we print. The time was right, our mailing list is down from previous years and prices on duplexing printers have come way down. No more last minute trips to OfficeMax! (Yeah!) Technically speaking, that isn't a change since we've done it already, this is the first issue we printed on it. And for those of you who take your Tank Topics digitally, it doesn't mean a thing! It does

make life a little easier on your dear old editor so maybe I'll be less grumpy! (Don't hold your breath though, you might turn blue or something!)

Next thing, we're going to change the publication dates to match the rest of the world! Starting with January, Tank Topics will continue to be bi-monthly but on the odd numbered months not the even numbered like we've been for a number of years. The reason behind this change is that we no longer have the reason we changed it in the first place! In case you're completely baffled by where I'm going, we had changed to the even month schedule to allow more time after our annual show to get the results together and now since we've changed the show to July from August, it just makes more sense to go back to the odd month schedule for the same reason. That means that you'll be receiving Tank Topics two months in a row, and that leads us to one other thing we talked about,

but didn't make any hard decisions about because it depends on you, the membership. What I'm getting at here is do we have enough members who would be willing and/or able to produce enough content to support a monthly publication? Regardless, we'll continue to put out meeting notice mailings on the off months unless we find that we have the interest to change it.

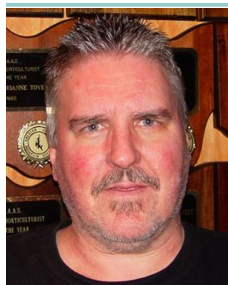
The last change we made, and may continue making for that matter is the subject of advertising. In the past we've had a number of ads for local (and even not-so-local) aquarium related business. Over the years we've gone from charging for the ads to providing them as a sort of a "thank-you" to businesses that help us out in some way throughout the year. That part isn't going to change, but you'll notice fewer of them in this issue, and there may be even fewer in the future. Along with that subject another type of advertising that we've kind of given up on was our "Swap

Meet" column of classified type ads. We stopped printing them earlier this year and I haven't heard any comments one way or the other, so I'll have to assume that nobody really misses them!

Well talking about changes does bring up an important point: our annual elections are coming up at the November meeting. Please consider the idea of running for one of the offices for next year. We could use some fresh ideas for the future, it's really not that hard, just look at me!



I'll see you at the meeting!



BAP/HAP Report

Wayne Toven

The summer is winding down and school is back in session, hard to believe that it will be fall before we know it. Soon I will have to try to find room for all of the fish outside in my 110 gallon tubs inside in the fish room.

Where are they going to go? Things are going well for the Breeder Award Program, in August there were 10 spawns turned in, and in September there were 7, come on people we need around 25 more spawns to tie last year's total, and only two more months to do it in. By the way we had our first member reach the 10 spawn level, so a 16 ounce can of brine shrimp eggs will be awarded to *Phil & Tiffany Hypes*, congratulations!! A few more members are closing in on the magic number, will they make it? The Horticultural Award Program is doing very well, we already eclipsed last years total and it is only September.

Oh yeah, don't forget about the albino bristlenose pleco growth contest, bring your largest one to the November meeting for judging.

Standings for 2011 BAPPointsHAPPoints

Phil & Tiffany Hypes	12	135	38	420
Wayne Toven	9	75	1	10
Joe Reich	8	65	-	-
Bob Miller	7	65	-	-
Dan McMonigle	6	35	14	140
Dave Williamson	6	45	4	45
Orin McMonigle	4	35	4	40
Frank Mueller	3	35	1	15
Louanne Coulter	2	10	-	-
Rich Serva	2	15	-	-
Melissa Cole	1	5	-	-
David Girard	1	15	-	-
Russ Kirkendall	1	15	-	-
Brad Johnson	-	-	23	270



August 2011

Species	Common name	Class	Points
BAP			
Phil & Tiffany Hypes			
<i>Girardinus metallicus</i>	Black chin livebearer	Livebearer	5
Dan McMonigle			
<i>Girardinus metallicus</i>	Black chin livebearer	Livebearer	5
Bob Miller			
<i>Geophagus steindachneri</i>	Red hump eartheater	Cichlid m.b.	15
<i>Cichlasoma amazonarum</i>		Cichlid s.s.	5
Frank Mueller			
<i>Marisa comuarietus</i>	Bolivian rams horn snail	Aquatic animal	5
<i>Cyphotilapia frontosa</i>	Burundi frontosa	Cichlid m.b.	15
<i>Altolamprologus calvus</i>	Fire fin	Cichlid s.s.	15
Joe Reich			
<i>Procambarus clarkii</i>	Red lobster crayfish	Aquatic animal	10
<i>Glossolepis wanamensis</i>	Lake Wanam rainbow	Rainbowfish	10
<i>Melanotaenia parkinsoni</i>	Parkinson's rainbow	Rainbowfish	10

HAP

Phil & Tiffany Hypes			
<i>Echinodorus var. Ozelot</i>	Ozelot swordplant	C – vegetative	15
<i>Nymphoides cristata</i>	Water snowflake	E – flowering	10
<i>Typha minima</i>	Dwarf cattail	G – vegetative	10
Dan McMonigle			
<i>Hygrophila sp. Ceylon</i>	Ceylon hygrophila	A – vegetative	5
<i>Hygrophila corymbosa</i>	Narrow leaf Hygro	A – vegetative	5
<i>Neptunia oleracea</i>	Water sensitive plant	G – vegetative	10
<i>Ludwigia peploides</i>	Neptune's crown	B – vegetative	10
<i>Salvinia oblongifolia</i>	Cat's tongue	A – vegetative	5
Frank Mueller			
<i>Pistia stratiotes</i>	Water lettuce	C – vegetative	15
Dave Williamson			
<i>Iris versicolor</i>	Blue Louisiana iris	B – vegetative	10

September 2011BAP

Phil & Tiffany Hypes			
<i>Clea helena</i>	Assassin snail	Aquatic animal	5
<i>Julidochromis marlieri</i>		Cichlid s.s.	15
Dan McMonigle			
<i>Poecilia reticulata</i>	Galaxy guppy	Livebearer	5
<i>Poecilia reticulata</i>	Blond Red guppy	Livebearer	5
Wayne Toven			
<i>Heros severus</i>	Green severum	Cichlid s.s.	10
<i>Tilapia sp. Cross river</i>		Cichlid m.b.	10
HAP			
Phil & Tiffany Hypes			
<i>Butomus umbellatus</i>	Flowering rush	G – vegetative	10
<i>Butomus umbellatus</i>	Flowering rush	E – flowering	10
<i>Echinodorus sp. var. Paul Kloecker</i>		C – vegetative	15
<i>Echinodorus sp. var. Paul Kloecker</i>		E – flowering	15
<i>Utricularia macrorrhiza</i>	Bladderwort	E – flowering	10
<i>Hibiscus moscheutos</i>	Swamp rose mallow	E – flowering	10
<i>Ludwigia peploides</i>	Floating primrose	E – flowering	10
<i>Echinodorus angustifolia</i>	Vesuvius sword plant	E – flowering	15
Dan McMonigle			
<i>Hygrophila aristata</i>	Asian water grass	G – vegetative	10
<i>Neptunia oleracea</i>	Water sensitive plant	E – flowering	10
<i>Pogostemon erectus</i>		B – vegetative	10
<i>Cryptocoryne siamensis</i>		C – vegetative	15
<i>Cryptocoryne moellmanni</i>		C – vegetative	15

Exchange Report

Wayne Toven



Here's how it goes, I review original articles by other fish club's members, I don't review reprints because I have probably reviewed them in the past. If you would like to read one of the articles listed below let me know and I will get a copy of it to you.

Aquarium Club of Lancaster County,
Tank Tales: May 2011
Bread 'N Butter: Guppies, by Joel Antkowiak
Lighting Your New Aquarium, by Michael Steffen

Aquarium Club of Lancaster County,
Tank Tales: June 2011
Breeding the Pearl Eartheater – *Geophagus brasiliensis*, by Joel Antkowiak
Astatotilapia latifasciata, by Jay Stephan
Mbipia lutea (*Xystrichromis* sp. Carp), by Jay Stephan
Bread 'N Butter: Scalare, Freshwater Angelfish, by Joel Antkowiak
Creating a Cave for Photos, by Michael Steffen

Cleveland Aquarium Society,
The Wet Thumb: Spring/Summer 2011
How to Set Up a Planted Tank – Part 1, by Wesley Warren
Danio rerio, the Zebrafish, by Alan Robbins

Greater Detroit Aquarium Society,
Tropic Tank Talk: Aug 2011
Breeding and Raising Neon Tetras, by Bob Muller

Greater Pittsburgh Aquarium Society Inc. Finformation: July 2011
Tramitichromis intermedius (Lake Malawi Mouthbreeding Cichlid), by Stan Chechak
Neolamprologus multifasciatus (Lake Tanganyika Shell-Dwelling Cichlid), by Stan Chechak

Kitchener – Waterloo Aquarium Society, Fins and Tales: July 2011
Breeding Fairies and all Sorts of Other Mythical Creatures, by Jeff Loney
Revisiting the Shell Game, by Ed Koerner
Put a Cork in It, by Don Rhodes
Orinoco Flow Aquascaping, by Don Rhodes

Missouri Aquarium Society Inc.
The Darter: Jul/Aug 2011
Keeping and Breeding *Hemirhamphodon kuekenthali*, the Tri-Blue-Spot Halfbeak, by Kurt A. Zahringer
How Chickens and Fish Are Alike, by Kathy Deutsch

Missouri Aquarium Society Inc.
The Darter: Sept/Oct 2011
Betta burdigala, by Patrick A. Tosie Sr.

Pacific Coast Cichlid Association,
Cichlidae Communique: Jul/Aug 2011
Pelvicachromis: More Than Just the Common Kribbs, by Albert So

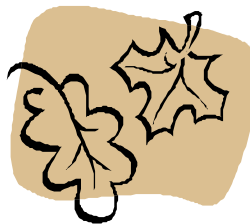
Pioneer Valley Aquarium Society,
The Underwater News: Sept 2011
Breeding *Microgeophagus altispinosus*, the Bolivian Ram, by Edward D. Burress

Southwestern Michigan Aquarium Society, Swam: Sept/Oct 2011
Keeping Freshwater Discus Fish, by John Oxner

Greater Cincinnati Aquarium Society, Fincinnati: Sept/Oct 2011
Breeding *Amphilophus* sp. Red Isletas, by John Sipes

Hamilton & District Aquarium Society: Sept 2011
Breeding the Dwarf Mexican Crayfish, by Charles Drew
DIY Pond Disaster, by Jayne Glazier
Another *Tropheus* Go Round, by Ed Koerner

Sarnia Aquarium Society,
Aqua Antics: Sept 2011
Xystrichromis sp. "Davglow", by Jack VanderAa
Aulonocara species Maleri Yellow, by Peter Melady



North East Ohio Discus

Featuring Stendker Discus

Bonnie & Nate Larson

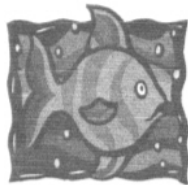
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**November 6, 2011
Greater Akron
Aquarium Society
Fall Auction**



**Tallmadge
Community Center
80 Community Rd.
Tallmadge, Ohio**

For more information:

Bud White (330) 848-3856

bwhite@neo.rr.com,

Wayne Toven (330) 296-6322 (wtoven@hotmail.com) or

Rich Serva (330) 650-4613 (rjserva@juno.com)



Bowl Show & Special Activities

Ken McGill

It looks like we've got a flourish of activity starting to finish out the year! there is just October and November to collect points for the annual award given in December. We even had a new participant in the bowl show.

August

A.O. Old World Cichlids
no entries!

Amphibians

1st - Dave Williamson - Firebelly Toad

Bog Plants

1st - Wayne Toven - *Saracena sp.*
2nd- Wayne Toven - *Crinum menehune*
3rd- Wayne Toven - *Saracena sp.*

September

Photos (10 entries!)

1st - Marie Williams - Alligator Snapping Turtle
2nd - Dave Williamson - Harlequin Shrimp
3rd - Marie Williams - Moon Jellies

Sharks & Loaches

1st - Wayne Toven - Kuhli
2nd- Wayne Toven - Horseface

Gouramis & Anabantids

1st - Wayne Toven - *Ctenopoma congicum*
2nd- Wayne Toven - *Betta ocellata*

Name:

Dave Williamson
Wayne Toven
Jeff Plazak
Marie Williams
Larissa Jackson

Total:

94
77
50
8
3



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8x20	\$5.00	\$9.00
10x24	\$5.50	\$10.00
3 1/2- 1.5 mil	All others - 2 mil	
Rubber Bands \$1.00		

Wayne Toven
(330) 256-7836 or
wtoven@hotmail.com

How the Point System works:

1st - 4 points
2nd - 2 points
3rd - 1 point
1 point per entry,
maximum 12 points per class

2011 Bowl Show Schedule

January:

Goldfish, Male Guppies,
Minnows Danios & Rasboras

February:

Suckermouth Catfish,
Swordtails, Characins

March:

Barbs, Mollies,
Corydoras Aspidoras &
Brochis

April:

Female Guppies, Platies,
Aquatic Invertebrates

May:

Goodeids, Rift Lake
Cichlids, Aquatic Plants

June:

Native Fish, Rainbowfish,
Male Betta splendens

July:

Synodontis Catfish, Killifish,
Angelfish & Discus

August:

AO New World Cichlids,
Amphibians,
Bog Plants

September:

Gouramis & Anabantoids,
Sharks & Loaches,
Photography

October:

Arts & Crafts, Marine Fish,
All Other Old World Cichlids

November:

All Other Livebearers,
All Other Egglayers,
All Other Catfish



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Those Terrible *Terrabensis*

By Wayne Toven



Here's another one of those species that I have had some problems with, but mostly due to my own stupidity. I should have known from past experiences with similar species, I needed to keep the fry safely away from the adults, but I didn't, and needless to say even with lots of cover they took care of them in a short period of time. Next time the fry will get their own tank.

The species is *Brachyrhaphis terrabensis* was first described by Regan in 1907, but the genus *Brachyrhaphis* was not established by Regan until 1913, so they must have been called something else till then. The genus name *Brachyrhaphis* comes from the Greek words brachy which means short, and rhaps which means needle. This is in reference to the males modified anal fin, the copulatory organ the gonopodium. They got their species name from their natural habitat in the Rio Terraba which is on the Pacific side of southern Costa Rica, and their range extends south to the Rio Chiriqui in western Panama. In the wild they inhabit from the surface to mid water in shallow brooks and creeks with low to moderate currents. Water conditions vary in temperatures between 69 – 76 degrees F, at a Ph in the range of 7.0 – 7.6, and a hardness of 5 dGH or less. They are omnivorous, so they need a varied diet; I use a good quality flake, small floating pellet, frozen bloodworms and brine shrimp, and live daphnia when available. The species is commonly known as the sailfin Brachy; this is due to the fact that the base of their dorsal fin is much wider than other *Brachyrhaphis* species. They should be kept in a species only tank to preserve their unique traits, as they will hybridize with similar species. The tank should be large enough to provide abundant swimming space, have lots of cover for subdominant males, gravid females, and fry (yeah right). Speaking of fry, the gestation period for the species is 5 – 6 weeks; broods can vary from 10 up to 30 fry, which are about 8 mm in size at birth. I found no information about storage of sperm like in *Poeciliids*, but since

I always had a male present there was no way of knowing one way or the other. The fry reach sexual maturity at six months of age with proper care, consisting of frequent water changes, a variable diet, and no adults to eat them!!

The body shape is similar to other *Brachyrhaphis*, females grow to 6 cm the males only to 5 cm, when males are young they are much smaller and slimmer than the females and can be bullied to the point of no recovery, of course I found this out the hard way. The basic body color for both sexes is olive tan with a white belly; there is a dark reticulated pattern on the upper part of the sides, and a dark spot at the base of the anal fin. The males have a series of dark vertical bands on their sides starting at the leading edge of the dorsal fin back to the caudal peduncle. The females have short bands (basically spots) which form a mid body broken stripe. When I caught the fish to take pictures in a small photo tank, the dark spot at the base of the anal fin was nonexistent, and the vertical banding faded out. Back in their home tank which is a 30 gallon long the banding is very prominent and the dark anal spot is very obvious on both sexes. The ventral, anal, and caudal fins are a pale yellowish white with a yellow margin, pectoral fins are clear. The leading edge of the dorsal fin starts about half way back on the body, the lower 1/2 of the fin is dark with two rows of slightly elongated light yellow spots. The upper half of the fin varies from yellow orange to red orange, and all of the fin colors are much the same in both sexes.

My two males both about an inch and a half and three females all around two inches are housed in a 30 gallon long tank decorated with rocks, a sand substrate, lots of plants, and a sponge filter. Tank mates include a six pack of panther danios, a couple of *Corydoras*, and some horse face loaches. I have never seen any fry when they are in the tank, even though females have gotten chunky and then thin again on several occasions,

they are very adept at eating the fry, then again the horse face loaches might be helping too, I don't know. Last summer the group went outdoors into a 110 gallon tub with lots of hornwort, water lilies and other plants, I figured the tub was large enough so I put a group of *Xiphophorus birchmani* in with them. During the summer when I was feeding them, which I did every other day, I noticed that there were lots of fry, of course I couldn't tell what kind of fry, I figured that I would just wait till it was time to bring the fish in for the winter to see what they were. There were little silver *X. birchmani* fry and then there were some fry that had a dark spot at the base of the anal fin, those were the *B. terrabensis* fry. Well here comes the stupid part, I figured since there were all together out in the tub, they could all go together in the tank inside. There weren't that many adults, and the fry did a good job of hiding even at feeding time, but I noticed that gradually there were fewer and fewer *B. terrabensis* fry, then there were fewer and fewer *X. birchmani* fry, when they ran out the *B. terrabensis* started in on the adult *X. birchmani*, that's enough, I moved the *B. terrabensis* to their own 30 gallon long tank where they are awaiting the move to the great outdoors once again. I don't know when that will be; Mother Nature is taking her sweet time about the weather getting warm enough. They will have the same set up as before lots of plants, especially hornwort, and I may only put in *B. terrabensis*, that way when I see fry I can net them out and they will be saved!! This time the fry will get their own grow out tank.

References:

Fresh Water Fishes of Costa Rica, - William Bussing

Atlas of Livebearers, - Lothar Wischnath

Baensch Aquarium Atlas #3 - Dr. Rüdiger Riehl, Hans A. Baensch

Wow it's a Cichlid not a Livebearer, Keeping and Spawning *Heros severus*

Wayne Toven



dominant breeder male

In my 24 years of fish keeping, I find it hard to believe it's been that long, that's almost a quarter of a century, I have kept *Heros severus* one other time, but never had them spawn. Now that I have done some research, I know why, I didn't keep them in water with a low enough Ph, high enough temperature, and a large enough aquarium, guess it's three strikes and they're out, but it is always nice to learn something. Previously known as *Cichlasoma severus* the species was described in 1840 by Heckel, and first imported to Hamburg, Germany by Carl Siggelkow in 1909. *H. severus* can be found in the Orinoco river basin, and the upper Orinoco river drainage in Colombia and Venezuela, the Amazon river basin and the Negro river basin in northern Brazil (in South America in case you were wondering). Their natural habitats are calm clear waters in lakes, ponds, and slow flowing rivers around rocky outcroppings with dense vegetation and floating plants. Diet in the wild con-

sists of algae, plants, fruits, seeds, and detritus. *H. severus* are one of the more sensitive species of cichlids, poor water quality can lead to head and lateral line disease. Water parameters should be between 5 – 7 Ph, a hardness of 4 – 12 dH, and temperatures ranging from 73 – 84 degrees F, for breeding the temperature should be in the low to mid 80's.

Their common names are banded cichlid, eyespot cichlid, hero cichlid or just severum. About a year and a half or so ago I got a few green Severums and a few that are called gold or lemon severums, which is a leucistic form. They were all around 1 ½ - 2 inches in size, and since they are a supposedly mild mannered cichlids they were all housed in a 75 gallon aquarium. It was set up with a layer of sand as a substrate, some rocks, driftwood, a large sponge filter, and heated to 76 degrees F, see I used something that I learned. Severums are omnivorous, but do need

slightly more vegetable matter in their diet, so I fed a good quality flake food with a little extra veggie flake mixed in, small floating cichlid pellets, occasionally an earthworm or frozen bloodworms, and duckweed if I had extra, which if you keep fish you know is always. They would chow down on so much duckweed that most of it went right through and came out as green as it was when it went in. The six got whittled down to four, two green and two gold, and at 4 inches in size they were moved to their current home, a 180 gallon aquarium, set up the same way but heated to 78 degrees F. The only difference was the filtration; at first I used a large double ATI sponge filter and a Magnum 350 canister filter, which kept the tank pretty clean.

Then along came the wonderful Poret foam, thanks to Stephan Tanner, all of my aquariums 75 gallon and larger have a 4 inch thick foam filter completely covering one end (on the inside), with two air driven lift tubes, no need for the magnum constantly using electricity. Since installing the Poret foam filter the water has never looked cleaner or clearer. The water flow is excellent even in my 265 gallon aquarium that is 31 inches deep; my central air system consists of a ½ horsepower Gast air pump that has been running nonstop for over 13 years, it supplies air for 140 aquariums with no problem. The pump is directly under my living room; if it is real quiet and you listen very carefully you can hear water bubbling but not the pump running.

I do 20% water changes on the severum tank every 2 – 3 weeks, the water stays tea colored due to the very large piece of Malaysian driftwood, which also helps to bring the Ph down to what the severums like. I have well water which comes out of the tap at a Ph of 7.4 and it all goes through a Kinetico water softener, I have never tested the water in the severum tank to see exactly what the Ph is, but it seems to be to their liking. Since severum will eat live plants like they would in the wild, I use plastic plants that I bought at a craft store, they actually look like aquatic plants and since they get some natural sunlight, they get a light covering of green algae

which makes them look even more natural.

At present I have two male green severums, both of their bodies measure 7 inches long by 4 ½ inches high, one male gold about 5 ½ inches, and the lone female is also gold, about 4 ½ inches by almost 3 inches high. There is usually no aggressive behavior, except when they spawn and then it is just the female guarding the eggs and the male guarding a territory around her, keeping the tank mates at a safe distance. Speaking of tank mates there are only a couple, an 8 inch bodied anabantid, and an 8 inch *Megalodoras irwini*. Back to the severums, the green's basic body color is an olive-brown with some blue green markings, and bluish green under the eye from the mouth to the gill plate. The males have longer and more pointed dorsal and anal fins, gee sounds like most cichlids; these extensions are a good 1 ½ inches longer than the caudal fin, the anal fin and ventral fins of both sexes are a dull orange color for both the greens and the golds. The pectoral fins are clear, dorsal and caudal fins are normally a very pale shade of the body color to almost clear, the olive-brown for the greens and yellow for the golds. On the males this will change when in breeding color; the dorsal gets a couple rows of orange spotting, a row of prominent blue green spots on the margin, and some blue green streaks in between the rays near the extensions. The ventral and anal fins get a more prominent orange color, and the caudal fin gets some bluish green color at the margin and as spots in between the rays. The bluish green color on the face from the mouth back to below the eyes and on to the gill plate also intensifies; this is only for the dominant male. The other main sexual difference is the facial markings; the males get some brown squiggly lines and spots above the mouth up between the eyes, and below the eyes onto the gill plate, the females don't. The green males also have 6 -7 dark vertical bands on the sides of their bodies, these vary in intensity depending on their mood, the dominant male has more prominent bands but even they are not all the way up the side from the belly, while the subordinate male's bands are almost nonexistent.

The one broken dark vertical band that seems to remain most of the time is the one at the base of the tail. The gold forms don't show these vertical bands at all.

One day when I was working in the laundry room, that is where the 180 gallon tank is set up; I noticed the gold female hovering around the mouth of a 4 inch flower pot lying on its side. Upon closer inspection, although she tried to block my view, I could see there was a clutch of eggs on the inside of the pot, and one of the green males was patrolling nearby. Hooray!!! I finally got the conditions right and they spawned, I kept checking on the eggs since I didn't know when they had spawned, about two days later in the morning I noticed that some of the eggs were gone, I thought they had started eating them, but nooooo! There were tiny fry (wrigglers) lying in the bottom of the pot, they had started hatching, the rest hatched during the day. I left the fry with the parents since they seemed to be guarding them pretty closely, at about ¼ inch they started free swimming, I waited about 5 or 6 days and since there were other fish in the tank I decided to siphon some out. The fry were moved to a small nursery tank with water from the spawning tank and a sponge filter, yet another mistake on my part, being summer I thought they would be okay in a room temperature tank, but the tank was in the basement fish room which is a little cooler than the spawning tank. Needless to say they were all dead within a week. The fry in the spawning tank didn't do any better; they were all gone within about 11 days. Then to my surprise a few weeks later there was another clutch of eggs, on the outside of the same flower pot, again the parents did the guarding routine. This time I let the fry get a little older, I thought maybe I had stressed them too much for how young they were the first time, when they were about 3/8 inch I siphoned

some out. After I removed some fry, the parents started moving them around the tank, every day or two they were in a different part of the tank. I made sure to see where they were so I could add some crushed flake in that area for the fry, and made sure the adult fish were well fed. The fry were doing well and growing, at about ½ inch they started to show the 6 -7 dark vertical bands, after a month the parents were no longer guarding the fry, they were just swimming all around on their own, and the larger fish were paying no attention to them whatsoever. The fry I removed to a nursery tank were smaller than the ones I left with the parents so I returned them to the 180, they mixed right in with the others, the young stayed near the bottom around the rocks and plants most of the time. I noticed that there is one gold fry in the batch; it is growing a lot slower than the greens, at about two months old the greens are almost an inch long, the gold is just over ½ inch. I don't know how many eggs there were but there are at least three dozen young severums swimming around the tank now, I'm sure there was a quite a few more eggs than that, but the real surprise is that the *Megalodoras irwini* was not actively hunting them down at night. I guess that sometimes it is best to trust that the parents will do a better job than I will with the fry. I'm just watching to see if they will do it again.

References:

Baensch Aquarium Atlas - Dr. Rudiger Riehl & Hans A. Baensch

My observations



gold female

Fry at two months old

The Greater Akron Aquarium Society

P.O. Box 494
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Meeting Notice - Do Not Delay

Meeting Notice

Thursday, October 6

Program: DVD Presentation

We have a couple of choices,
so come and help decide
which one to watch!

Bowl Show: Arts & Crafts, Marine Fish,
All Other Old World Cichlids

Thursday, November 3

Program: Wayne Toven: Fish Quiz

Test your fishy knowledge and see how you do on a quiz about recognizing fish. After Wayne's or maybe before, we will hold annual elections for 2012 club offices. Consider running for one of the offices.

Bowl Show: All Other Livebearers,
All Other Egglayers, All Other Catfish

All general meetings begin at 8:00 p.m. at the Mogadore Community/Senior Center

Coming Events

October 2, 2011 - Columbus Area Fish Enthusiasts (CAFÉ) Fall Auction

Hamilton Township Community Center,
6400 Lockbourne Rd.,
Lockbourne, Ohio 43134
For more information: columbusfishclub@hotmail.com



October 15, 2011 – Medina County Aquarium Society - Fall Auction

Prince of Peace Lutheran Church, 3355 Medina Rd. (Rt. 18), Medina, Ohio 44256
Auction Starts at Noon,
Registration 10:00-1:00
More info: Call/Email:
Teresa Biggs 330-334-1447
aunttbiggs@hotmail.com,
John Kaminski 330-225-0709,
johnrkam@roadrunner.com

October 16, 2011 – Youngstown Area Tropical Fish Society - Fall Auction

J.V. Johnson Community Center, 800 Gillmer Rd - Leavittsburg, OH 44430
Registration 11 am to 1 pm - Auction begins at Noon
For more information:
Tom mruaru2@aol.com
330-758-3043 or 330-770-3131 (day of auction only)
Web site: www.yatfs.com

October 30, 2011 – Lorain County Aquarium Society – Fall Auction

Pittsfield Township Hall, Corner Rts 58 & 303, Pittsfield, Ohio
For more information:
Barbara (440) 774-4533 (heybarb@hotmail.com),
Ken (419) 668-7452 (kmcgill@neo.rr.com) or
Brenda (440) 323-0733 (bbar77@me.com)
or check club web site:
LCAS@LorainCounty.com