



The Greater Akron Aquarium Society

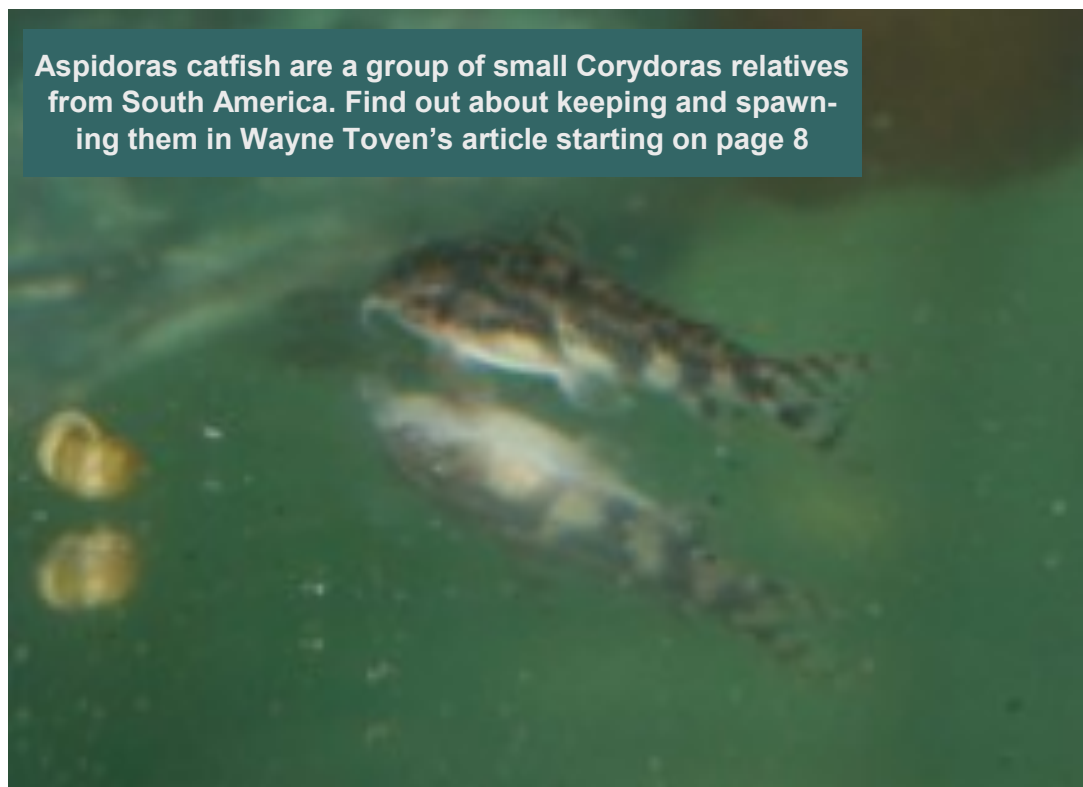
Tank Topics

January/February 2016

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Aspidoras catfish are a group of small Corydoras relatives from South America. Find out about keeping and spawning them in Wayne Toven's article starting on page 8



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Important Dates for 2016

March 6
Spring auction

June 11 & 12
Ultra Aqua 2016

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 \$10 for adults, 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 others that share your interests, a subscription to our bi-monthly magazine 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 raffle.

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.

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 dwilliamson223@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

Dues are for 1 year or 2 years if
email publications are chosen

☐ New ☐ Renewal

☐ Electronic ☐ Mail

Adult (18 years and older) & Family
(includes children under 10) \$10.00

Junior (10-17 years) \$5.00

Dues Collected _____ Date Received _____



President's Message

Page 3

Happy Holidays folks

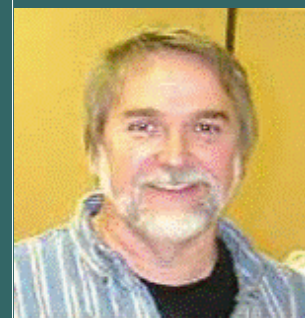
Just a short message about the Christmas party, it was really fun and the different things we did worked well. We will probably do the same next year.

We are starting to line up programs for next year, the first one is making sponge filters. So don't miss any meetings and enjoy the benefits of belonging to this club!

Bud



See ya soon



Bud White

Editor's Message

Dave Williamson

Here we are again, I'm writing this on New Year's Eve and as per usual the fact that another year is ending makes me think about a lot of things. First there are the personal life things such as my dad being in the hospital and just getting placed into a nursing home for rehab. We'll see how this works out this time. Then there good things too such as getting a different position with my employer at a location less than two miles from home and better hours to boot and a couple of great vacations. There are even outside influences that impact our daily lives such as terrorist attacks, natural disasters and the political circus unfolding around us. Even the loss of famous people you never met such as actors and musicians (RIP Lemmy!) all add up to make us feel overwhelmed sometimes. So, you might be asking at this time what does all this have to do with a hobby club's bulletin? Nothing specifically, but our hobbies and interests are often what we use to center ourselves to keep the outside world from taking over and driving us crazy. So here's hoping that this hobby we all love and the friendships we've developed through it continue to fulfil that part of our lives, and a sincere wish that everyone's new year will be better than the last, whatever that

means to them!

Ok, enough about the holiday at hand, on to other stuff!

First up, as I warned you all before, we were getting critically low on articles to publish in Tank Topics. In fact I've run out. So rather than resort to reprints from other clubs and if you check out the Exchange Column in this issue, there's not much to pick from there either! What I've chosen to do is use a "Blast from the Past" article by one of our members who many of you may not know personally. Carolyn Hanlon's Betta breeding article in this issue was originally published sometime in the early 80's. You can tell by the references she used, but the techniques she suggest work the same today as they did then. One benefit you'll notice using articles like this now is the ease of finding photographs on the internet to illustrate the points made in the article. We didn't have that luxury back when we had to rely on drawings in the publication. I'd love to see us producing an all current magazine, but in a pinch this can help. If there are any topics you'd like to see in the future, ask. We've got a whole file cabinet drawer of articles from the 70's and 80's that most of our current



membership has never seen before. That said, feel free to write a new article at any time! We'd appreciate it!

And last but not least, you'll see that there are actually a few listings in the coming events column for the next couple of months. It used to be there weren't any auctions in the area before ours the first weekend of March, but that's not the case anymore. So if you're not up to your knees in snow get out there and have some fun!

I'll see you at the meeting!



BAP/HAP Report

Wayne Toven

Gee it's December already, winter is here or is it? We haven't really had any snow yet in my neck of the woods, so who knows what is in store for us in the near future (well maybe the Star Wars movie soon). The Breeder and Horticultural Awards year of 2015 officially ended last month (November). There were eight spawns turned in at the club's fall auction, six were actually fry at the auction and two were via articles after having the fry verified previously. Our editor Dave is always in need of articles for our Tank Topics publication, so if you had some fish spawn for you, take some pictures and notes so you can write an article about it, it's not that hard to do. In case you have forgotten you can qualify a spawn by either turning in at least six fry between 30 – 90 days old at a meeting or at one of the club's three auctions, have the fry verified that you kept them alive that long and write an article or do a presentation on the fish and the spawning at a monthly meeting. Through the last two options you can make either our publication editor or speaker chairman happy. Just a reminder any current member can participate in the Breeder or Horticultural Award Programs, if you need rules and forms they can be downloaded from the club's web site www.gaas-fish.net or see me at a meeting and I will hand you a copy of what you need.

We just had our December meeting / Christmas party, if you missed it there was

lots of good food, a larger than normal raffle, a Chinese raffle with some nice larger items, and the fish and stuff giveaway. Also at this meeting we presented the end of the year awards; **Breeder of the Year 2015** was Wayne Toven, **Horticulturist of the Year** was Phil Hypes, congratulations! Usually there are no spawns turned in due to the fish giveaway, but we did have three turned in this time to get a jump start for the 2016 Breeder Award Program year.

2015 Totals	BAP	Points	HAP	Points
Wayne Toven	12	125	-	-
Gary Shingler	11	100	-	-
Joe Reich 6		50	-	-
Dave Williamson	6	35	2	30
Ken McGill	4	35	-	-
Dan McMonigle	3	35	-	-
Rich Serva	3	20	1	10
David Girard	2	20	-	-
Orin McMonigle	1	15	-	-
Don Youngkin	1	20	-	-
Phil Hypes	-	-	4	30

December 2015

BAP

Species	Common name	Class	Points
Jeffrey Swanson			
<i>Pelvicachromis pulcher</i>	Kribensis Cichlid - substrate spawner		15
<i>Neolamprologus brichardi</i>	Brichardi Cichlid – substrate spawner		15
<i>Ancistrus temminckii</i>	Bristlenose pleco	Catfish	20

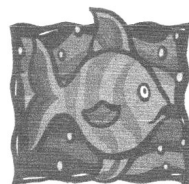
2016 Totals	BAP	Points	HAP	Points
Jeffrey Swanson	3	50	-	-



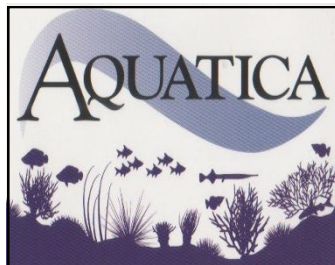
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Bowl Show & Special Activities

Don Youngkin



I would like to start by wishing everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

The 2015 Bowl Show season ended on a high note, with 16 entries for the November Bowl Show. The results are listed below.

Congratulations to Jeff Plazak for winning the 2015 Bowl Show Point Total, with 123 points.

For the year, 10 different people have submitted entries, with 6 of them winning at least one class. There were a total of 156 entries for the year, with the most popular categories being Swordtails, Characins, and Barbs, each with 10 entries apiece.

I would like to thank those who helped me adjudicate the show this year – Charlie Suk, Jeff Plazak, Ken McGill, and Dave Girard. Most of all, I would like to thank all who have submitted entries – without you, there would be no Bowl Show.

November

All Other Livebearers:

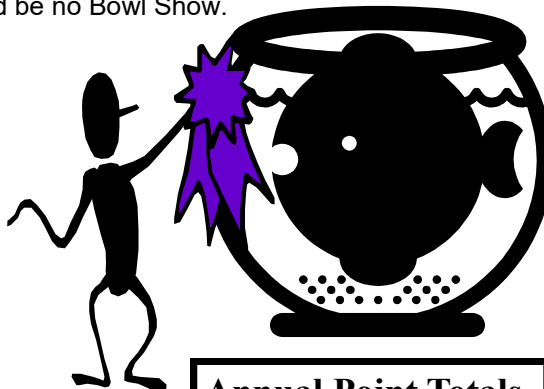
1 st	Dave Williamson	Limia zonata
2 nd	Jeff Plazak	Cuban Limia
3 rd	Jeff Plazak	Cuban Limia

All Other Egglayers:

1 st	Jeff Plazak	White Cloud
2 nd	Dave Williamson	Bumblebee Goby
3 rd	Dave Williamson	Oryzias sp. Da Nang

All Other Catfish:

1 st	Nicole Youngkin	Synodontis petricola
2 nd	Jeff Plazak	Glass catfish
3 rd	Dave Williamson	Tatia intermedia



Annual Point Totals

Jeff Plazak	123
Dave Williamson	101
Wayne Toven	63
Nicole Youngkin	18
Ken McGill	17
Don Youngkin	16
Bill Koleszar	8
Charlie Suk	5
Alissa Harvey	3
Lisa Koleszar	1

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sat. 10-6
sun 12-5 (330) 374-6765

2016 Bowl Show Schedule

January:

Male Guppies
Goldfish
Minnows, Danios & Rasboras

February:

Domestic Swordtails,
Betta splendens,
Characins (Tetras & relatives)

March:

Mollies
Suckermouth Catfish
Barbs

April:

Female Guppies
Corydoras, Aspidoras &
Brochis
Photography

May:

Rift Lake Cichlids
Sharks & Loaches
Aquatic Invertebrates

June: no bowl show

July

Native Fish
Angelfish & Discus
Aquatic Plants

August:

Platies
Rainbowfish
Amphibians

September:

Goodeids
AO New World Cichlids
Pairs (male/female)

October:

Gouramis & Anabantoids
AO Old World Cichlids
Arts & Crafts

November:

AO Livebearers
AO Egglayers
AO Catfish

Exchange Report

Wayne Toven



There weren't a lot of original articles in the publications that I received, but below are the ones worthy of reading. If you see one you want to read let me know and I will email you a copy, or hand you a copy at a monthly meeting.

Greater Pittsburgh Aquarium Society Inc. Finformation: Oct. 2015

I'm Going to a Fish Club Auction,

How do I Prepare? By Eric Bodrock

How to Breed Quality Guppies, by Susan Everett

Kitchener – Waterloo Aquarium Society, Fins & Tales: Nov. 2015

Live Food – the Short Note on Worms, by Karen Murray

Rockscaping, by Karen Murray

Lepidolamprologus hecqui, by Al Ridley

Tropical Fish Club of Erie County, Some Things Fishy: Nov. 2015

The Splashing Tetra, by Jenny Walker

Breeding Fundulopanchax spoorenbergi Killifish, by Josh Vito

Michiana Aquarium Society, Michiana Tropical Times: Nov. 2015

Allotoca diazi: the Patzcuaro Allotoca, by Ben Slocum

Kitchener – Waterloo Aquarium Society, Fins & Tales: Dec. 2015

Fish are the Cat's Meow, by Stuart Morley

Branching Out – the Twig Catfish, by Karen Murray

Pethia conchonius – the Rosy Barb, by Al Ridley

Eastern Iowa Aquarium, Society, Fin Flap: Dec 2015

Vegetative Propagation and Flowering Cryptocoryne parva, by Dick VanHyfte



GAAS Spring Auction

March 6, 2016
Tallmadge Community Center
80 Community Rd.
Tallmadge, Ohio



Schedule

Auction Registration 10 am
Auction Begins 11 am

For more information:
Bud White (330) 571-0394
bwhite@neo.rr.com
Wayne Toven (330) 256-7836
wtoven@hotmail.com
Rich Serva (330) 650-4613
rjserva@gmail.com
website: www.gaas-fish.net



Tips on Breeding Bettas

Carolyn Hanlon



In the past several months, several people have asked me about breeding bettas. For a 5-point BAP fish, it seems that these little guys cause an awful lot of problems. I'm no exception – I've had my share of troubles too, so maybe I can give some pointers to help others.

First is the matter of the breeders. If the male is not in good condition, he will eat the eggs. Keep your male well-fed, for at least two weeks before attempting the spawning. Also, those large old males in the pet shops aren't likely to spawn. A male older than 12 months old is not likely to do more than kill females or eat eggs. Get a young male (about 6 months old) from a breeder and you'll have better luck. There are exceptions, of course, but why waste your time with an unlikely spawner.

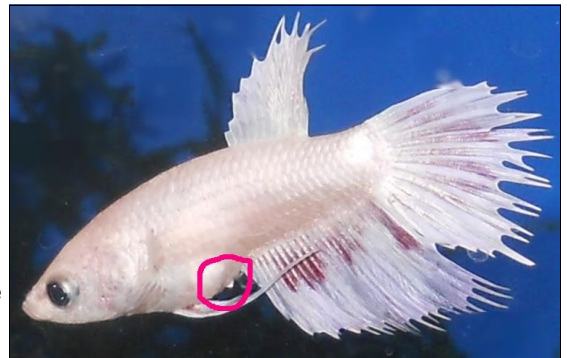
In females, age is not as significant as long as she is in condition. The old tried-and-tired statement about breeding stripes (vertical barring) is

only half true. My females show stripes in the presence of any male, any time. Your female is in condition if she has a full ovary. It is easier to see in light-bodied females, but basically the ovary is a wedge-shaped area directly behind the rounded portion of her abdomen. One of Gene Lucas's articles in FAMA (Bettas. . . And More – FAMA August 1981) had a photograph that illustrates a betta ovary beautifully. A full ovary and breeding stripes is a guaranteed ready female.

A conditioned male and ready female in a tank full of 80 degree clean water with a place for a male to blow his nest is about all that's necessary for a spawning. Males prefer to blow their nests under something – half of an inverted styrofoam cup or a piece



of opaque plastic, for example. Eggs can be seen in the nest by looking up under the nest with a flashlight. The eggs will be an opaque white area in the nest. You will learn to recognize behavioral changes in your own particular males that indicate a spawning has occurred. If your eggs repeatedly fungus, try ½ strength Nov-Aqua. It has helped me to have good hatches.



Get to know your fish. I have one male who will tend a nest for 24 hours and then eat the eggs. I let him tend the nest for about 23 hours and then pull the male. If a male tends the eggs well, he will rarely eat the fry (although it does happen).

After the fry are free-swimming, or 24 hours after the eggs hatch (whichever comes first) pull the male (you pulled the female right after the spawning). First food for the fry is baby brine shrimp, Tetra Egglayer, and Aquarian Egglayer. DO NOT use infusoria. You don't need it and you'll starve the fry. Get them onto micro-plankton after the first week, and add mashed growth food and crumbled freeze-dried daphnia – variety is the key. The fry should be able to eat frozen brine at 4 to 6 weeks of age.

Start water changes at 7 to 10 days old, and change water once or twice a week. You'll really improve growth rates.

The main thing with breeding bettas is to keep trying. The fish can be frustrating, but remember – "Patience is a virtue" (I know, you never wanted to be that virtuous). Really, it can be done, and the pleasure you'll get from watching a tankful of "slivers" become long-finned beauties is worth all the frustration.

Keeping & Spawning *Aspidoras albater*

Wayne Toven



Over my many years of fish keeping, too many to admit to, I have always kept catfish of one kind or another. The main problem with keeping catfish is most are piscivorous, which means their main food source is other fish, or other meaty items that will fit in their sometimes cavernous mouths, some can even eat fish of almost equal size. The second thing about catfish is that the majority of them are very secretive; they hide during daylight or when the light is on in an aquarium, then they get active when the lights go out, when other fish tend to get inactive and sometimes rest on the bottom. These resting fish can become easy meals for the predatory catfish; I personally have wondered why some of my fish

have disappeared, until I saw the bulge in the belly of a resting catfish. As most aquarists know catfish tend to stay near the bottom of an aquarium, hiding out around driftwood or stone caves, possibly waiting for a meal to swim by. They tend to clean up any un-

eaten food that sinks to the bottom, so they will eat flake food and sinking pellets. There are however several varieties of pellets specially formulated for catfish, these should be fed after the lights go out, when the cats come out to feed.

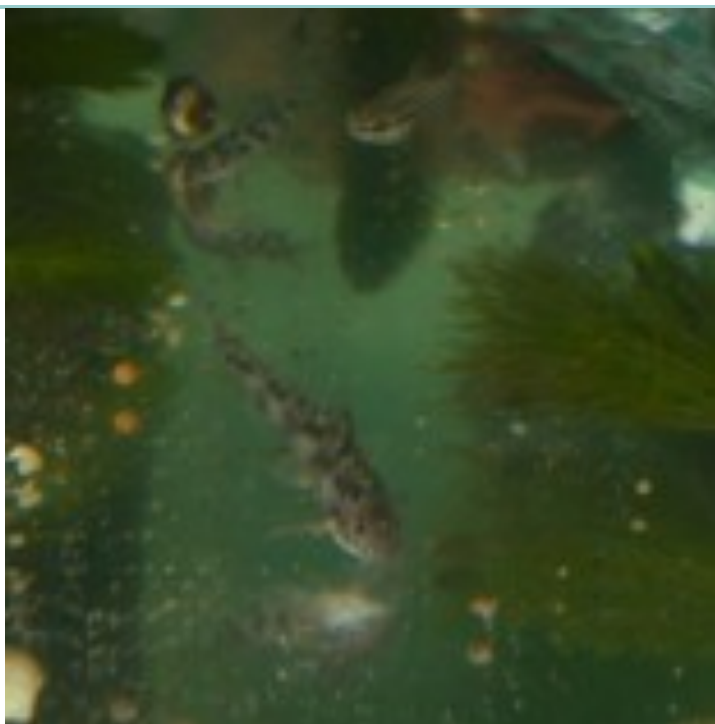
Now for those of you who like catfish that are not so predatory, and will often times be out swimming around during daylight hours, there are groups of fish in

the family Callichthyidae; the armored catfishes. For medium to large aquariums there are Hoplosternum, Portholes, Scleromystax, and Brochis species, these can range in size from 3" to 8". For your medium size aquariums there are tons of Corydoras species, these are normally always schooling fish so they should be kept in groups of a minimum of 3 to 6 individuals. Some of the Corydoras species can grow to around 3 ½ inches, but most stay a little smaller. Then there are the Aspidoras species which are the smaller, slimmer cousins of the Corydoras, however there are always the exceptions the dwarf corydoras species: hastatus, habrosus, and pygmaeus. These dwarf Corydoras and Aspidoras species are ideal if you only have small aquariums, 2 ½ to 10



gallons. Again these should also be kept in groups of 3 or more, a spawning trio of Corys or Aspidoras is one female to two males, unlike other fish where a trio is two females and one male. In all my years of fish keeping I have had several species of Corydoras but have only successfully tried and spawned 1 specie, Corydoras paleatus. That is until my group of 5 Aspidoras albater surprised me with fry in late spring of 2015.

There are currently around 19 known species with a few others awaiting positive identification. *A. albater* comes to us from the Rio Tocantins in eastern central Brazil in South America; they were first described by Nijssen and Isbrucker in 1976. The name comes from the Greek: aspis – shield, doras – skin, referring to the bony plates on their body, albater is broken down: albus – white, ater – black referring to their coloration. I could only find a tiny bit of information on *A. albater*, so I had to fluff up this article a little bit. The water parameters are easy a Ph of 6 – 7.4, a hardness of up to 20 dGH, at temperatures in the range of 71° - 76° F. Just about ideal for my fish room, my well water has a Ph of 7.4 more or less it's been a very long time since I have used a test kit to see exactly what it is, it all goes through a water softener, again I have not tested it forever, and the main fish room - the basement is heated to around 73° F. Of my group of 5 the two largest have a body length of around 1 ½ inches, are probably the females, and the other 3 just over an inch in body length, are probably the males, not too bad of a ration 2 females



to 3 males. They are housed in a bare bottom unheated ten gallon tank on the top shelf of one of my two metal racks that hold 12 ten gallon tanks each. There are some plastic lock rocks, a few real rocks, a yarn spawning mop laying on the bottom, a sponge filter, some hornwort, and a species of small livebearers (*Xiphophorus continens*) for tank mates. Like most other Corys and Aspidoras they are diurnal, they are active during the daylight, or room light, they are peaceful so can be housed in a community tank, but for breeding purposes should be kept in a species only tank. Feeding is a piece of cake, well no cake for them as they are carnivorous and omnivorous, they will eat a variety of live foods: black worms, or white worms, frozen blood worms, flake food that settles on the bottom, and small sinking pellets.

Now on to the breeding, I did not plan or try to get them to spawn; they just snuck it right by me. I never saw any courting or spawning behavior, so I don't

know if they do it in the "T" position like Corys do, how many eggs were laid, where they placed the unseen eggs (in the yarn mop or on the glass), or how long it took for the eggs to hatch. One day as I was feeding the fish I noticed something small darting around the bottom of the tank, in and out from under the lock rocks. Upon closer observation and removing the lock rocks, there were actually 7 small fry about 3/8 of an inch long, they looked just like little copies of the adults. Had I actually

tried to spawn them on purpose and observed closer I might have had a larger spawn than just seven, but our club's Breeder Award Program only requires 6 fry, so it was more than enough. Since I still have the spawning group so some day I might try again, and do it right the next time, then maybe I will get more than 7.

References: Baensch Aquarium Atlas #2, by Hans A. Baensch & DR. Rudiger Riehl

Colored Atlas of Miniature Catfish, by Dr. Warren E. Burgess

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The Greater Akron Aquarium Society

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Meeting Notice - Do Not Delay

Meeting Notice

Thursday, January 7

Program: Poret Foam Sponge Filter Hands-On Workshop. Learn how to build your own highly efficient but low-tech in-tank filter system.

Bowl Show: Domestic Swordtails,
Betta splendens,
Characins (Tetras & relatives)

Thursday, February 4

Program: What's Your Fish I. Q? Prepared by Wayne Toven This will be a contest to see if you know your stuff or don't know scat! There will be 25 pictures of a part of a fish, see if you can identify that fish; use common names or scientific names, not all fish have common names, and with all of the changes that have come along recently some will be accepted by their new names or their old names. These are all fish that I have kept in the past, which does not necessarily narrow things down for anyone; I have kept a lot of different fish. So be prepared to put on your thinking caps.

Bowl Show: Male Guppies, Goldfish,
Minnnows, Danios & Rasboras

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

Coming Events

January 16, 2016 - Champaign Area Fish Exchange Winter Auction

Urbana Civic Center
108 Water Street, Urbana, IL 61801. Doors open at 8am. Auction begins at 10:30am. Fish, plants, food, equipment, books, etc. For more information or to advance register as a seller contact Jerry 217-359-6707. Auction rules and sellers sheet can be found at <http://www.champaignfish.com>. FAAS 10 table method will be used for auction items. <http://www.champaignfish.com>

Feb 13, 2016 – Ohio Cichlid Association - Winter Auction

Holiday Inn Select Strongsville, 15471 Royalton Road.

Located at I-71 and Route 82

Cichlids, scavengers, plants and dry goods only.

Registration: 10am to 12pm Auction Begins: 11am.

Visit www.ohiocichlid.com for more info

February 13, 2016 -The Annual

February 9, 2016 - Greater Cincinnati Aquarium Society (GCAS) Swap Meet

Meet will be 10:00 AM to 2:00 PM at The Oasis Conference Center

902 Loveland Miami Road (859) 653-5347

for table information <http://www.gcas.org/threads/17550-SWAP-MEET-13-FEB-9-The-Oasis-Conference-Center-Loveland>

Admission for Buyers is \$2 ea / \$3 max. per family

February 28, 2016 – SCALES - Spring Auction

Perry Grange, 6300 Richville Dr. SW, Massillon, Ohio

Registration 10 am to noon, Auction begins 11 am

For more information: <http://www.scalesclub.com>

