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THE TBAS . . . Since 1992 FILTER



A fish in Kenji Kawabata's tank at the State Fair . . . pic by MFJacobs

July Bowl Show Fish

- 1) Barbs & Rasboras
- 2) Danios, White Clouds & Rainbows

Tampa Bay Aquarium Society



“The Filter”

Tampa/St. Pete, Florida

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Rasbora heteromorpha



all pictures by mfjacobs

The Columbian Tetra

by Paul McFarlane

First published in the newsletter of the Hamilton and District Aquarium Society, March 2003

The Columbian Tetra or Blue-Red Columbian Tetra is a fish with a very chequered past, considering its relatively short life within the hobby. Only available for the past few years, the fish was first collected in a small stream upstream from Acandi, in the Rio Acandi drainage system near the Atlantic coast of Colombia. It was described as being “close to” *Hyphessobrycon ecuadoriensis*; some in the hobby conveniently ignored the “close to” and used this name anyway. It would seem strange that a fish found in Colombia and called the Columbian Tetra would have the specific name *ecuadoriensis*! Some time later it was suggested that it was not a *Hyphessobrycon* at all but rather a member of the genus *Astyanax*. Things stayed this way until late 2001 when Zarske and Géry definitively described the fish as *Hyphessobrycon columbianus* - a much better name for a fish from Colombia, even though the country’s name is misspelled. The fish grows to about two or two and a half inches with the males growing a little bigger than the females. Males exhibit more fin development than do the females but until fully grown they are not the easiest species to sex. Both sexes, as the common name implies, are shades of blue and red - the blue mostly in the body and the red in the fins. All in all they are distinctive and attractive fish.

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In my experience they make quite acceptable community fish. I've kept them with considerably smaller fish and the Columbian Tetras haven't bothered them.

For the past few years these tetras have been a common sight in pet shops and a tankful of them makes a nice display. For some reason, the



price of the Columbian has remained high (for this type of tetra). The fish are likely being bred commercially since the collection sites are said to be extremely remote and not easily accessible.

Aquarium breeding, according to the literature is easily accomplished. One text says they are "egg scatterers, even on bare glass". This may be true but I have found that *H. columbianus* is neither the easiest nor the hardest tetra to spawn. A breeding setup for these fish is typical for the group. Although a five gallon tank may do, a ten is probably better. I used a bare ten gallon tank with a spawning grid on the bottom as well as a couple of sinking mops.

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Coastal Aquarium Society
Sarasota, Florida
<http://coastalaquariumsociety.com>
1st Wednesday of Every Month

The water consisted of about one third RO water and two thirds tap water which resulted in water of about 200 micros. The female was put in the tank first in order to allow her to adjust and feel comfortable. Another reason I did this was that the first time I tried to breed these fish (about a year ago) I put the pair in the tank at the same time and the male drove the female so relentlessly that she died.

I added the male a day later and waited for eggs. The tank was checked each day for the next four or five days and although the two fish



seemed interested in each other, there were no eggs. At that point I lost interest and started paying less attention to them. Four or five days later I wanted the tank for something else and, as I removed the adults, I could see a few silver slivers (fry) scooting about the bottom. As well, there were eggs on the bottom. The fish

had spawned at least twice in the previous five days.

After the next three days or so, all of the eggs had hatched and some fry were free swimming. The free swimming fry appeared, in my opinion, large enough to not need infusoria. As a result I fed microworms and vinegar eels as first foods. In retrospect I think that infusoria or liquafry would have been preferable since about half of the 100 or so fry ended up dead. It was nearly three weeks before they were able to eat newly hatched brine shrimp and this slow initial growth is also an indication that infusoria would have been a good idea.

Once the fry began to eat baby shrimp they grew rapidly and probably doubled in size in the next week.

About fifty fry remain from the spawning and seem to now be doing well. I'm sure that with appropriate first foods, many more could result from a spawning.



Aphyosemion australe

all pictures by mfjacobs

Why are Killifish Names so Long and Complicated?

by Loh Kwek Leong *of Singapore*

Visit Loh's www.killies.com for information on killifish keeping.

They say a rose by any other name will smell as sweet. Going by the same logic, a *Nothobranchius rachovii* will look just as beautiful if it's known as a Fire Notho or a Rachow Notho. But to serious killifish hobbyists, sweetness and beauty are not just the things they are concerned about. It's important to killifish breeders all over the world that they are talking about the same fish when they exchange/sell eggs with each other. Common names can be vague and ambiguous. What's a Fire Notho to someone may be a Rachow Notho to another. It can all be very confusing if not for scientific names. Scientific names, however, can be quite a mouthful as they are in Latin. But there's a reason for that too. Latin, being a dead language, never changes so the scientific names don't change too.

Scientific names consist of 2 names, the genus and the species. A genus name like *Nothobranchius* indicates the larger group that the fish belongs to. It is always capitalised. A species name identifies the smaller group, within that larger group, to which the fish belongs, for instance, *rachovii*. Species names are always in small letters. It is highly possible for different species within the same genus to interbreed. A *Nothobranchius rachovii* would very likely mate with a *Nothobranchius*

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guentheri and produce healthy offspring. But it would be almost impossible to get a *Nothobranchius rachovii* to breed with an *Aphyosemion australe* as they belong to different generic groups. It would be like trying to cross a dog with a cat.

In print, the whole scientific name usually appears in italics.

More often than not, killifish names also have non-Latin words and numbers appended to them, for instance, *Nothobranchius rachovii* Beira 98. “Beira 98” is the collection code, Beira being the name of the village in Africa nearest to the pond where the fish was first collected from and 98 refers to 1998, the year the fish was collected. If you have a *Nothobranchius rachovii* but aren’t sure where it’s from, your fish would, by default, be known as a *Nothobranchius rachovii* (Aquarium Strain).



Fundlopanchax gardneri

Same rule applies if you cross one *rachovii* with another collected from a different pond; the offspring becomes “aquarium strain.”

Being living organisms, you and I have scientific names too. My scientific name, with a collection code

attached, would be *Homo sapiens* Kandang Kerbau 54. The name *Homo* refers to the group you and I belong to, that is, “human” or “man”; sapiens is the smaller group indicating “intelligent man”. It does not necessarily mean that we are all very clever but the species name distinguish us from our extinct cousins *Homo neanderthalensis* (Neanderthal man) who was supposedly an idiot and *Homo erectus* (Upright man) who could barely walk straight. Kandang Kerbau Hospital was where my father brought me home from after I was born and he did that in the year 1954. But hey, call me Kwek Leong.

In the August 1997 issue of the GCKA (Greater Cincinnati Killifish Association) newsletter, Donna M. Recktenwalt wrote an excellent article (from which, much of the information shown here was culled) about scientific names. Visit <http://www.intellweb.com/gcka/names.htm> to read the article.

Jeopardy Answer: Obsessive Hobbyist Question: What is a “Fish Nut”?

by Reet Thomas, Jr.

You might be a fish nut if you. . . .

- Have more than three broken aquariums in a corner in the basement.
- Have thirteen nets in a box that just need a little sewing to fix them. (Typist note: Of course, you’ve been saving them for over 5 years.)
- Have several thermometers that work perfectly...except the lead tip’s gone and they float on their side.
- Have more than three permanent water stains in your carpet and have worn out three wet vacs.
- Have been late to gatherings because you just had to clean those last two filters.
- Have a box of partially used cans of food that your fish won’t eat but you can’t throw them away because someday you’ll get fish that will eat it.
- Have mold growing on the living room wall.
- Have a stack of old, water spotted, scratched, odd-sized glass because you might need it for a patch someday.
- Have a number of bottles of medicine around, each with just a few drops left in them.
- Have boxes of empty quart jars saved because you might want to raise bettas someday.
- Have a box of heaters that need new tubes or their points cleaned. (Of course, they are so old that if you do fix them they cause static on your TV.)
- Have more than one old incandescent strip light with a rusted switch.
- Have more than four vibrators that need new bellows.
- Have a number of large electric motors that you can hook up to your smog pump if your current motor burns up.
- Have a large box of peat pellets in case you decide to breed killies someday.
- Have seven or more wide-mouth gallon pickle jars to use as emergency nurseries.
- Have eighteen back issues of aquarium magazines that you plan on reading soon.
- Have fish carcasses in your freezer to show somebody, someday, how big they were.
- Have more than three different fish club T-shirts.
- Have a box of corner filters that you haven’t used since you bought your first power filter.
- Have a number of fish trophies that are so rusted you can’t even read what you won them for.
- Have a file box full of recipes for making your own fish food.
- Have a styro box full of worm bedding from over four years ago when you thought you might try raising red worms.
- Have a large piece of cork bark from when you kept newts in your tank.
- Have four different kinds of water test kits.
- Have a very expensive microscope to use in your hobby. (Typist note: In an unopened box).
- Have an old TV made into an aquarium.
- Remember the plastic picture frame aquarium that hung on the wall. It actually held a QUART of water!
- Can name over ten pet shops that are no longer in business.
- Can remember your first aquarium and the first fish you spawned but you can’t

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remember your wife's birth date.

- Remember when Famous Barr had a fish department.
- Remember when Pier One stores had a huge fish department.
- Remember when fish were imported from the Orient and more times than not arrived dead.
- Remember when plastic aquarium plants were simply horrible.
- Remember when a 55 gal. aquarium was considered huge.
- Never have to worry about static electricity because of dry air.
- Have owned a house for a number of years and have worn out four dehumidifiers.
- Have more than eight watches that don't work due to water damage.
- Have a gas powered generator to run your aquarium pump in case of power failure.
- Have more than five pairs of pants with bleach damage.
- Have a number of long sleeved shirts with the cuffs rotted from being constantly wet.
- Have to install an exhaust fan in the basement.
- Your electric bill doubles in the winter because of all the heaters.
- Have more than one broken bone from slipping on wet concrete.
- Have a mailman who knows your hobby is tropical fish.
- The water company has had to replace your water meter several times because you wore it out.
- Can sex over 100 kinds of fish and tell someone how to breed them (but you can't sex your kittens).
- Your idea of art are color photos in the old Tetra calendars.
- Have a 1" net that has never touched water.
- Save your empty one-pound shrimp egg cans.
- Have a cutting board and knife that has numerous unidentifiable dried stuff on them.
- Have performed numerous autopsies on fish and still have no idea what you're looking for.
- Still have several jars full of preserved fish because for some reason you thought it would be interesting to keep them. (You never had any idea how many fish you kill. You had to stop keeping them after one month but you couldn't bring yourself to throw away the jars.)
- Have lost count of how many times you've been shocked in your fish room.
- Have broken aquariums by over six different ways.
- Have boiled a tank of fish at least once.
- Have killed a tank of fish by forgetting to de-chlorinate the water after keeping fish for years.
- Have walked away from a tank you're filling with a hose, until you hear that unforgettable splashing sound.
- Have walked away from siphoning a tank full of fish, returning to discover 1/2" of water. You then do some creative refilling.
- Have wiped out a tank of fish in a way so stupid you've never told anyone.
- You're doing an "aged in the hose" water change, don't notice when the hot water runs out, and ick out four tanks.
- Were working in the tank that holds prize fish and you leave without replacing the cover. Yep, you've guessed it.
- Have paid a small fortune for a dozen young rare fish to raise and breed, and they end up being all the same sex.

2007 - 2008 BOD Meeting Location

January	???????????????
February	Barbara Kusich
March	Chris Hockett
April	Ludo Van Den Bogart
May	Thelma Frias
June	Hank Darin
July	Patty Moncrief
August	Chris Hockett
September	
October	
November	John Papp
December	Gene Linkoski

... of course you are welcome!!!!!!

INTERNET IDEAS

- 1) <http://www.aquatic-hobbyist.com/profiles/freshwater/cyprinids/tigerbarb.html>

- 2) <http://freshaquarium.about.com/cs/fishnews/a/glofish.htm>

- 3) <http://www.australianrainbowfish.com/>

Monthly Bowl Show

January

- 1) Livebearers
- 2) Egglayers

February

- 1) Killies Top
- 2) Killies Bottom

March

- 1) Old World Cichlids
- 2) New World Cichlids

April

- 1) Sucker Catfish
- 2) All Other Cats

May

- 1) Livebearers Spawned & Raised
- 2) Egglayers Spawned & Raised

June

- 1) Open
- 2) Fish Shirt (must be worn)

July

- 1) Barbs & Rasboras
- 2) Danios, White Clouds & Rainbows

August

- 1) Bettas
- 2) Anabantids

September

- 1) Characins
- 2) Sharks, Loaches & Eels

October

- 1) Native Florida Fish
- 2) Any Plants

November

- 1) Goldfish & Koi
- 2) Participant Created Fish Art

December

Awards

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P.O. Box 27044 Tampa, Florida 33623



Tampa Bay Aquarium Society...

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