

THE FILTER

TAMPA BAY
AQUARIUM
SOCIETY

25
Years



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FLORIDA



*Lamprologus
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April 2019
Volume 28 Issue 9

TBAS . . . Since 1992

Photo Mike Jacobs . . . 2019



TAMPA BAY AQUARIUM SOCIETY

"THE FILTER"

Tampa/St. Pete, Florida

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Hi folks, I was sitting here thinking about the April bulletin and a thought came to me: I have never, in all the years, done an entire “**Oldies**” issue. I thought and thought and decided . . . “This is the time!!!”. So I went back in the archives and got some articles from the **PAST!!**

All of the dates the articles were published are in the Table of Contents on the article name line!

I got a variety of the “**old people**” (😊 😊 😊) too!!!

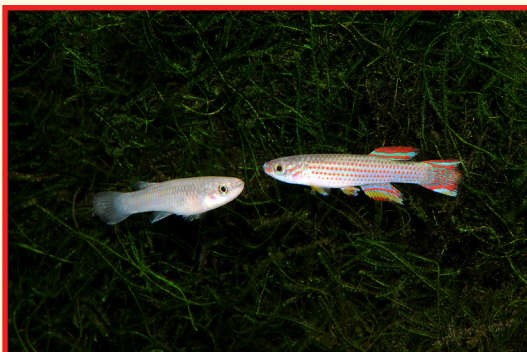
Al Knowles . . . one of the founders of the TBAS club.

Joe Berberich . . . one of the true older members of the club.

Bill Little . . . a past President of TBAS.

Patty Moncrief . . . who has been with us doing “Patty Talks” for a long time now!

I hope you enjoy this issue!



Mike

Mike Jacobs, Editor TBAS Filter

Aphyosemion striatum

Photo by Mike Jacobs 2019

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Cichlosoma Spinosissimum



by

Al Knowles

photo by Mike Jacobs . . . 2012

Hanging Out With Mr. *Cichlosoma spinosissimum* . . .

At the 1990 American Cichlid Association Convention, I met several hobbyists that were to become good friends of mine. One of those was Don Zilliox of Depew, NY. Although Don is an “Apistogramma person”, he also keeps some small “Cichlosomas”. He was able to provide me with a lead on a fish that had been on my most wanted list for years, ***C. panamense***. Don directed me to a member of the ACA by the name of Jaap – Jan De Greef, who lives in Parrish, FL, thirty miles from my home.

I was new to the ACA and new to the “serious” hobby community. I shied away from contacting Jaap at that time. You see, Jaap is a noted collector. He was born in Holland and raised in Mozambique. He is known around the world for his specialty in live bearers, Neotropical cichlids and killifish. He has spoken at many conventions nationally and internationally. I was sure he would not have time for a mere beginner hobbyist looking for this one little fish. MY MISTAKE . . . MY BIG MISTAKE!!!

A year or so later I noticed an ad in the Trading Post (ACA Trader)

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by Mr. De Greef for another fish on my wanted list that I had lost earlier, due to yet another one of my MISTAKES. The fish was the true ***Cichlasoma spinosissimum***.

This fish had been confused in hobby literature for years with *C. Spilurus*. I was a year more mature in the hobby and was determined not to let this fish go the way of the Panamenses. I called Mr. De Greef, introduced myself and explained my desire to obtain the fish. To my surprise, he invited me down to his home to see his new fish house . . . and away I went. To make a long story shorter, I was able to get six F1 juvenile *Spinosissimums* from a pair he had collected in the Lago De Isbal system near Guatemala. And also to my surprise, he had a wild pair of ***C. panamense*** he had collected from the Ipeti sytem. We have since become good friends. I've been back to his home to get other fish (Panamense included) and he has been to my home several times.

Early information on ***Spinosissimum*** described the fish as being rather vulnerable, with most of the earlier captured fish dying in transport to the Netherlands or shortly after arrival (Konings, 1991). I experienced this with the first Spino's I obtained from another good friend of mine. These fish were very sensitive to water changes. In nature the fish is found in calm waters with plenty of aquatic plants and a pH around 6. In the aquarium it tends to be very shy and hides among the rock work and plants.

After bringing my six fish home, I raised them in a twenty high for the next year or so. Feeding consisted of high grade flake, live adult brine shrimp and DoroMin. They developed into quite an attractive fish. The body shape is similar to ***C. centrachus*** (Konings, 1991, pp 68-69). The base color is beige with faint black/gray vertical stripes that travel from the dorsal fin down to through a dominant horizontal stripe which extends from behind the eye, back to the caudal area. There are small black dots sprinkled over the body, dorsal and anal fins. In mature males the dorsal and anal fins extend beyond the caudal fin, producing a striking effect. Also, mature fish develop a blue greenish tint to the body.

By November 1992 the males were three inches SL and the females were two inches SL. I moved my group of three males and

three females along with some smaller juveniles to a thirty long tanks. I provided lots of Java moss, several slate stones and two pieces of bog wood. A month ago I started feeding heavy with live adult brine shrimp and increased the temperature to about 84 degrees. Two weeks after this, I noticed that a pair was protecting an area near the backside of one piece of slate.

It was difficult to see what was happening because of the dim lighting and all the Java moss. I decided not to disturb that tank and several days passed. I never saw free swimming fry. I made a 15% water change and continued the heavy feedings with live adult brine shrimp. About a week later, another pair spawned on the opposite side of the tank, on the vertical side of a medium sized river rock. This time I could see through the Java moss the batch of brownish orange eggs. Both parents guarded the spawn. Two days later the eggs were gone and my hopes were dashed again. The pair were still in their breeding dress and guarding the general area. As I was about to move on to feeding other tanks, I noticed the female darting down to the gravel area beneath the Java moss and returning into the moss and spitting something out. The eggs had hatched and the parents had moved the wigglers into a section of the Java moss. As I looked closer, I could see a mass of fry clinging to the Java moss. Every now and then one of the fry would wiggle free and drop to the gravel and one of the parents would return it to the nest. As I write this article, the parents have moved the fry again, this time to the back of the tank away from my probing flashlight. With a little luck, I will be able to siphon out free swimming fry in about a week.

C. spinosissimum is a delightful fish. The largest one that I've seen was displayed at the International Cichlid Conference by Tom DePiro. This fish was about five inches SL. By the way, it won its class. They are not widely available, but if you have the opportunity to obtain them, you will not be disappointed.

Works cited:

Konings, Ad, The Cichlid's Yearbook, Vol. 1, 1991.

MEMBERSHIP DUES!!!!



Membership Dues for TBAS are due on the anniversary of your sign-up date every year. Please make sure you check the “sign-in” list on the table at every meeting to check your “Dues-Date” . . . Thanks!!!

USE PAYPAL ON THE TBAS WEBSITE . . . TBAS1.COM . . . !!!!!



Corydoras pygmaeus

by Joe Berberich
TBAS

Just about a year ago I wrote an article on *Corydoras habrosus*. When I first got them I was told they were *C. pygmaeus* but after careful research they turned out to be *C. habrosus*. This time I checked and even went to a higher authority . . . Mr. Bill Shields and made sure these were the right fish namely *C. pygmaeus*. I wish to again thank Mr. Shields for his grateful help and astonishing fish knowledge.

These little catfish originally come from South America's inland waters of the Madeira River Basin in Brazil But now can be found bred locally.

There are about five different species of pygmy cories, but only three I have found listed at a reasonable price. They are *C. habrosus*, *C. pygmaeus*, and *C. hastarus*. I did find *C. gracilis* but the price on line was eight fish for \$225.00. This I believe is a little much for fish smaller than my skillet.

All adult pygmy cory's can be distinguished from one species to another. *C. pygmaeus* has a white-silverish body and three black lines. One black line goes from the eye to the caudal fin on top of the body, another runs from the nose to the caudal fin in the middle of the body and ends with a black splotch at the tail. The last black line runs from the pectoral fin to the anal fin.

While these little cats are quite peaceful they do best if

kept in a group of at least six or more. This will only take a ten gallon tank for you to set up. My ten gallon set up is fairly simple. The water is 70ph - 100 ppm in hardness, with a bare bottom a small piece of driftwood with java fern and a little java moss. And they seem to be happy. They bred anyway.



Feeding these little guys isn't hard at all. A good tropical flake is greatly appreciated and every so often cut up frozen bloodworms for them. They are not picky! As *C. pygmaeus* only grows to about

Corydoras pygmaeus

one inch any other small worm like food will also be ingested.

Watching these little guys just swimming around and doing whatever, is a joy to see. They don't bother anybody and are very peaceful. If you ever get a chance and have room get some. You won't be disappointed. Fins up!!!!

Aqua Research Center

Water Analysis & Interpretation
www.aquaresearchcenter.com

by Joe Gargas

Ph: (813)645-1717



***Megalechis thoracata* . . . Albino Spotted Hoplo, Catfish**

photo: Mike Jacobs 2019

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Experimenting with White Worm Culture!!!!

I have had the same culture of white worms for several years now. I used a base mixture of top soil and peat moss, mixed 50/50. When I take some out to start a new culture I add peat moss only to replenish the mixture.

I have read and heard many methods of feeding them and I have tried a few. I started with a piece of white bread soaked in whole milk, I found out they don't like wheat bread, but they love oatmeal bread. I have also tried oatmeal in milk and potato flakes in milk and yogurt, none worked well, and getting the worms out was just messy and got a lot of my dirt mixture too. I have used the plastic, glass and mesh top plates on the soil and put to food on top to entice the worms out of the soil. And again none of these methods seem to work well, too few worms and they duck back into the soil quickly when you open the container. Then I thought of using a small bowl, (2 1/2" w by 1 1/2" H), so I

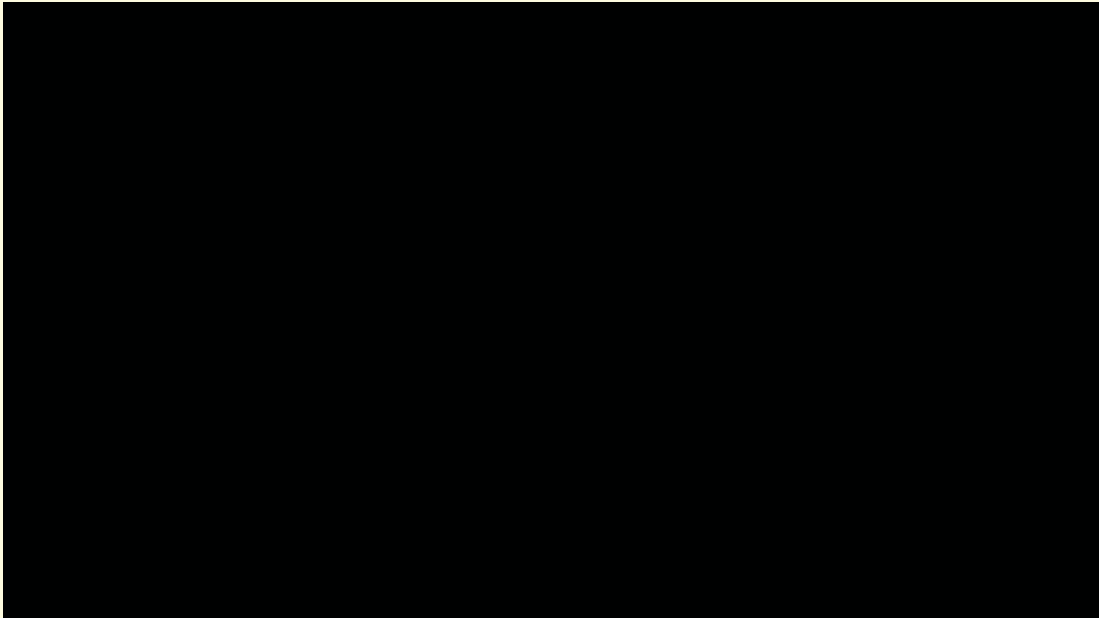
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gave it a try. I used cream and oatmeal bread. I made an indent in the soil so the lip of the bowl is almost level with the soil. When I open the worm container I just pick up the bowl and go feed my fish then put the bowl back.

The worms can't duck into the soil and get away and much cleaner to work with too. Use a small amount of food at the bottom of the bowl so it doesn't go bad before they can eat it, there is too much food in the bowl in the photo. Over feeding the worms makes them not want to eat anything, I usually skip a week of feeding them and then feed them a couple of weeks, repeat process. It helps if you have several cultures of worms to work with, you can rotate feeding them off. This method works very well for me, give it a try!



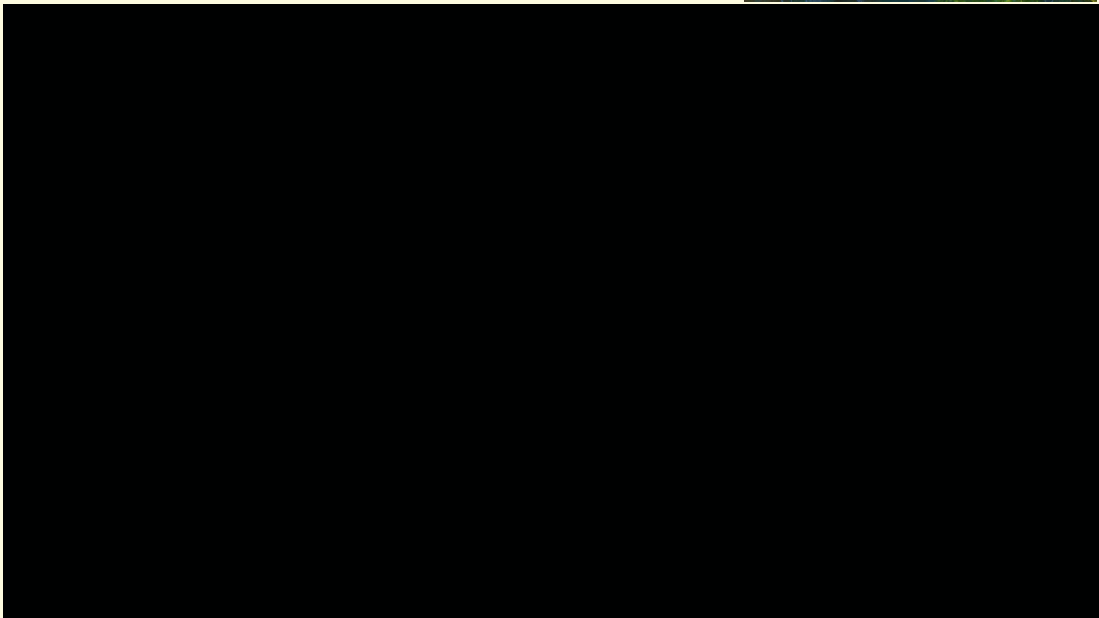
This is what Patty is talking about!!!!



[Click on the](#)



[to See Video](#)



THE BEST KOI ANGELFISH IN THE UNIVERSE

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A New Way for Growing Aquarium Plants

by Bill Little . . . TBAS

Several months (Ed: YEARS!!) ago I was shown a couple of samples of aquarium plants grown in a much different manner than what we normally experience. The tiny plants were in a plastic bag with no water and the root systems appeared to be engulfed in a transparent substance best described as something akin to a gel shampoo. I was told it was an aquatic plant that was cultivated by a process known as Tissue Culturing or (TC). I had read a little about this process after the oil catastrophe in the Gulf. Researchers from LSU had experimented with the process to replace Sea Oats as part of the coastal restoration efforts, but what I was looking at appeared to be very different.



Plants as they come in the shipping bag

With some additional reading came a more detailed explanation:

The benefits of this growing process have a number of advantages:

- TC plants eliminates the possibility of introducing contaminants, snails, or algae spores into your aquarium system
- Their propagation method (in a nutrient gel) bypasses the need to power large lights and fan systems to grow them prior to sale, saving energy and the environment
- Their long “shelf-life” (several months under proper conditions) provides unprecedented freedom for the aquarist.

Reading about this process in one thing but to get the real feel of this process you need to get your hands dirty. I ordered a couple of samples – ***Cryptocoryne wendtii*** and ***Alternanthera reineckii*** (called Scarlet Temple). Both samples arrived in a small sealed plastic bag (2”x4”). There was no water in the bag and the roots were immersed this transparent goop. The plants, while very small, looked amazingly healthy. I had the remains of a small bag of CribSea substrate that I placed in the bottom of a 2.5 gallon critter cage. I open the ***Cryptocoryne*** package first and washed the goopy material from the roots. There were maybe a dozen to 15 green half inch leaves and a nicely developed set of roots. With a little effort it separated into two small plants. I placed both plants in a small pot and dropped the pot into the larger container holding the

water. I proceeded to the next bag and followed the same procedure. The Temple plants were a little larger and were a beautiful color of green & red leaves. Once washed, I found I had 6 small plants and again some very nice root system on each plant. I placed them in two small pots and in turn placed those pots in the larger container of water containing the Cryptocoryne plants. I added a very small amount of Seachem Flourish liquid fertilizer in the large container and placed it on the kitchen table where it would get excellent morning sun.

With a little additional research the clear gel material is called Agar and in the research it is referred to as a nutrient enriched gel and manufactured in the laboratory. Tissue Cultured plants are “cloned” and propagated by removing a small piece of plant, sterilizing it to eliminate all other organisms, then cultivating it in this nutrient gel. This whole process is accomplished in a sterile cleanroom environment. Like many other things in today’s world of science, the science comes out of our universities but the actual implementation is carried out overseas. In this case, the plastic bag was marked in very small print (Product of Thailand).

Well, it has been about 10 days since the initial planting. I have added a little water to the container to compensate for evaporation and I added a bit more of the SeaChem fertilizer. All the plants appear to be doing well and I have seen some growth on all the plants. The plan is to leave them in the original container for several more weeks and then I will move half of the plants to a 30 gallon established planted tank and see how they grow in that environment. If that goes well, I will move the remaining plants to the large aquarium several weeks later. I have been very happy so far working with the TC plants and I am looking forward to ordering some additional plants. This time I will be looking for swords and perhaps some Baby Tears. I will keep you posted as the plants continue to grow and multiply (I hope).



Plants being grown in the laboratory environment



Plants sitting on the kitchen table one week after being planted



Cryptocoryne weedtii (10 days after planting)

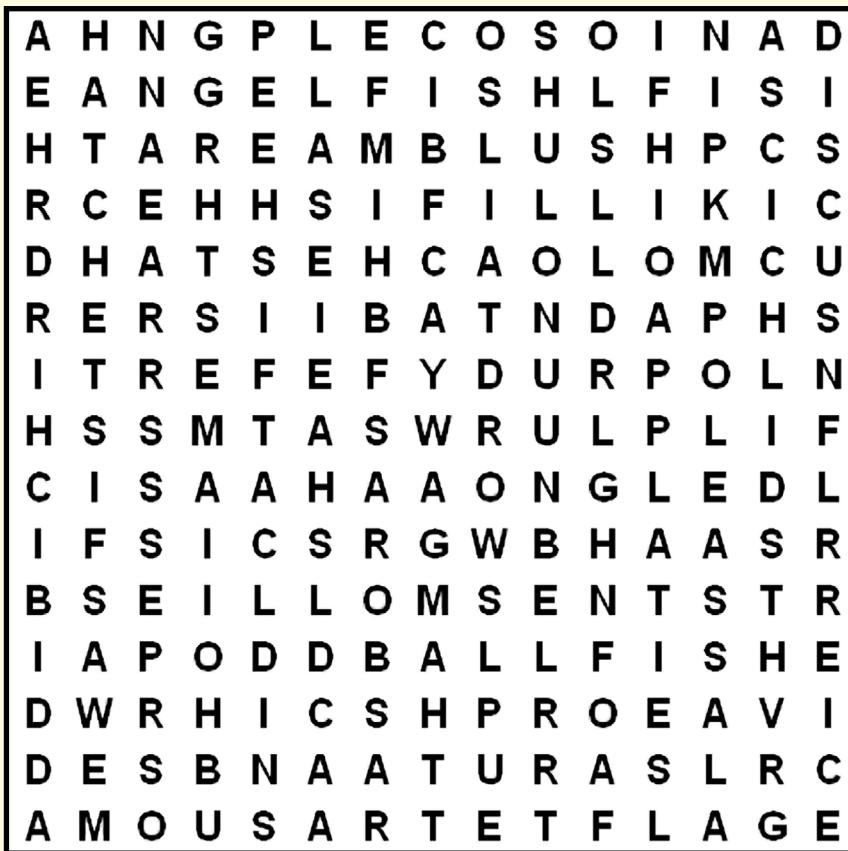


Scarlet Temple plants (*Alternanthera reineckii*)
10 days after planting)

Photos taken using a Windows Nokia Lumia 822 phone by Bill Little

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Tropical Fish Word Search




Words You Are Looking For!!!

- | | |
|-----------|--------------|
| ANGELFISH | KILLIFISH |
| BARBS | LOACHES |
| BETAS | MOLLIES |
| BICHR | ODDBALL FISH |
| CATFISH | PLATIES |
| CICHLIDS | PLECOS |
| DANIOS | RAINBOW FISH |
| DISCUS | RASBORAS |
| GOURAMIS | SWORDTAILS |
| HATCHETS | TETRAS |

*The Answer is on
the NEXT page!!*

*The Answer is on
the NEXT page!!*

To print this page, go to the bottom of this page and click on the printer icon,  and then tell it to print page - 17.

Here's the Answer to the WORD SEARCH in the March Issue!!

A	H	N	G	P	L	E	C	O	S	O	I	N	A	D
E	A	N	G	E	L	F	I	S	H	L	F	I	S	I
H	T	A	R	E	A	M	B	L	U	S	H	P	C	S
R	C	E	H	H	S	I	F	I	L	L	I	K	I	C
D	H	A	T	S	E	H	C	A	O	L	O	M	C	U
R	E	R	S	I	B	A	T	N	D	A	P	H	S	
I	T	R	E	F	E	F	Y	D	U	R	P	O	L	N
H	S	S	M	T	A	S	W	R	U	L	P	L	I	F
C	I	S	A	A	H	A	A	O	N	G	L	E	D	L
I	F	S	I	C	S	R	G	W	B	H	A	A	S	R
B	S	E	I	L	L	O	M	S	E	N	T	S	T	R
I	A	P	O	D	D	B	A	L	L	F	I	S	H	E
D	W	R	H	I	C	S	H	P	R	O	E	A	V	I
D	E	S	B	N	A	A	T	U	R	A	S	L	R	C
A	M	O	U	S	A	R	T	E	T	F	L	A	G	E

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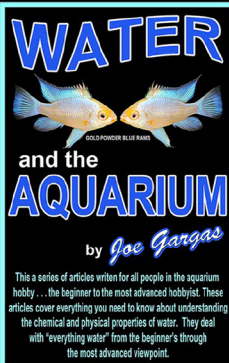


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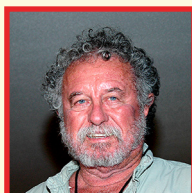
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