

THE FILTER



January 2019
Volume 28 Issue 6

Nothobranchius kilomberoensis
Ifakara Tan 95-41

TBAS . . . Since 1992

Photo Mike Jacobs . . . 2018



TAMPA BAY AQUARIUM SOCIETY

"THE FILTER"

Tampa/St. Pete, Florida

TBAS

TABLE of CONTENTS

TBAS

Click on Title to go Directly to Item

3) President's Stuff	Dre Alvarado
4-9) Hatching Nothobranchius Eggs & Stuff	Mike Jacobs
10-11) WATCH OUT!!	Randy Hann
12-13) Bushy Nose	Jim Cormier
14) Angels Plus Videos	
15) Patty Talks	Patty Moncrief
16) Random Shots	Mike Jacobs
17-20) TBAS Supporters	TBAS
21) TBAS Officers	TBAS
22) TBAS Information	TBAS



Merry Christmas everyone - and a Happy New Year!!!!

I hope everyone had a very fishy Christmas and Happy Holidays. Our meeting in January will be our annual Plant Auction. You can bring and buy plants during the auction. The meeting will be out our regular meeting location in Riverview. There will be a good variety of plants available at the auction. You can label your bags the same way as our regular meetings. If you have any questions please contact me: dreday2442@gmail.com



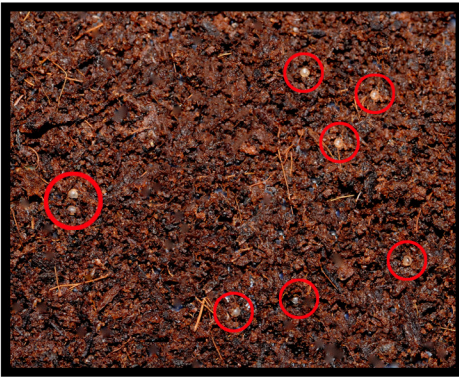
Dre

Dre Alvarado, President TBAS

Hyphessobrycon sp 'Bleeding Blue'

Bleeding Blue Tetra

Photo by Mike Jacobs 2018



Hatching Nothobranchius Eggs & Stuff!!

by Mike Jacobs

Last month Bruce Lilyea wrote an article on the species *Nothobranchius* and his new adventures and he suggested an article on the hatching and raising of the fry! OK . . . here we go!

First . . . what do the *Nothobranchius* look like? Well, the males are usually very brightly colored and the females are rather bland without any suggestive color.



Nothobranchius guntheri Male (top) & Female (bottom). This is TOTALLY typical of the male/female coloration in the *Nothobranchius* species of fish!

The *Nothobranchius* specie is a real winner in my book! It's Nature's way of pure adaption to the surroundings given. The *Nothobranchius* species is from Africa . . . it dries up there . . . and then RAINS . . . and then dries up and then

[To Table of Contents](#)

RAINS again!!! It REALLY does dry up to the point that there is no longer and water in the pool any longer. I know . . . the rains will come again but imagine a fish that can lay eggs and then the whole pond dries up and all of the fish die and when it rains the eggs start hatching!!!! Sometimes the rains come in 3-4 month . . . sometimes in 5-6 months and sometimes in 7-8-9 months . . . this is pure Mother Nature.



Above, Ian Sainthouse
- below - a Notho.
named in his honor.



These 2 photos were taken in Africa of a pond where a good friend, **Ian Sainthouse** (from England) of the Suncoast Killifish Society who has collected Nothos many, many, many times at this pool . . . I told you they REALLY, REALLY do dry up!!!!

To spawn the female comes into "season" and searches out the males . . . the BRIGHTLY colored males can be found in the murky muddy waters in the
To Table of Contents

-6-

TBAS January 2019

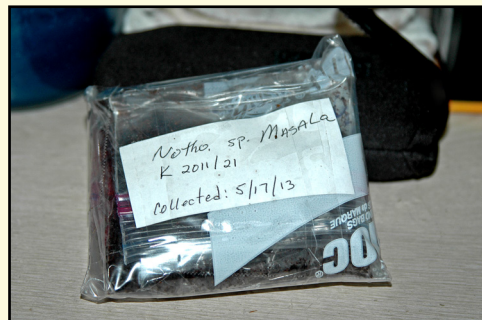
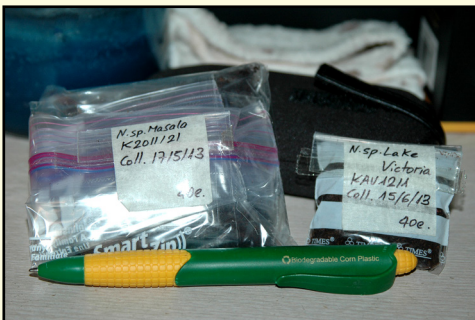
African ponds because the red coloration can be seen best in the muddy waters!!! Then, when found, the males will drive the females into the mud on the bottom of the pond and they will wiggle and wiggle and she will deposit the eggs and he will fertilize all at the same time! He will continue to drive her until she is out of eggs and then she will disappear into the murky muddy waters, and he will go about waiting for the next female to come along and she will not seek out another male until she is again "ready".

In the aquarium we don't use mud because it would do to the aquarium what it does in nature . . . make it muddy and murky. So what people use is peat moss or green sand. After a time of spawning . . . maybe 1-2 weeks . . . the container containing the peat moss or green sand is removed and the eggs are either separated from the medium (green sand) or the peat is dried to the proper consistency and then placed in an air tight baggie and stored for the proper time (varies for each Notho. species).



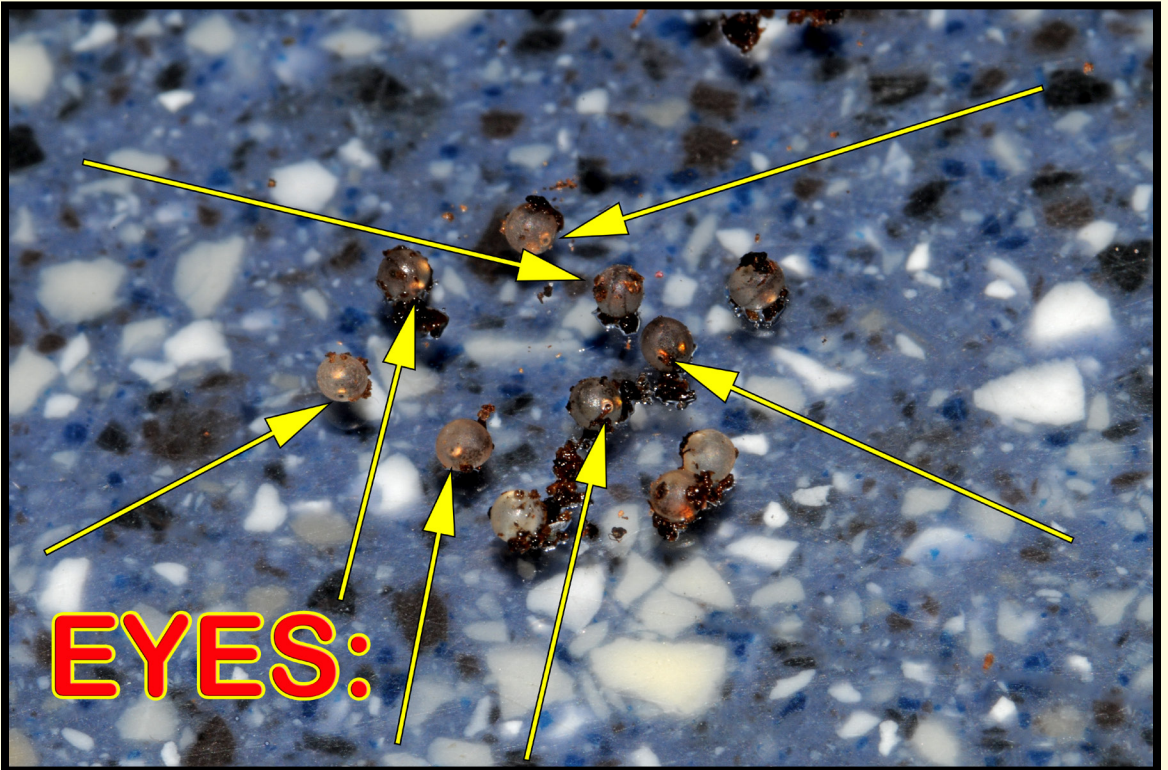
Nothos Spawning in peat moss . . . INTERNET PHOTOS!!

The bag is labeled and set aside for the appropriate time for the species and then when that time comes usually the peat moss is checked for "ready" eggs - below . . . Bags of Nothos eggs in dried peat all ready for storage!



To Table of Contents

“Ready eggs” . . . what does that mean??? If the eggs you have dried and stored for the proper length of time are actually ready you can take the peat and spread it out on a table or something and take a magnifying glass and look for eggs . . . actually look for eggs with their eyes showing. Yep . . . showing!!! You will actually be able to see the eyes of the fry in the eggs before you put them in the water!



THESE EGGS ARE READY TO HATCH!!!

Ok . . . what do you do now??? Put them in water and get the live foods ready!!!! When will they hatch? Well, that really varies but I will usually give them 6-8-10 hours before I look in to see how many have actually hatched . . . but be sure you have also been preparing their LIVE FOODS so you will have something for them to eat! Now this varies from Notho species to Notho species . . . some will take newly hatched baby brine . . . some will need something smaller like vinegar eels and some will actually need infusoria for 2-3 days before the vinegar eels or live baby brine . . . you just have to know this ahead of time so you are prepared . . . talk with good Nothobranchius people or look it up on the internet! Once you know what food the new fry need just keep it in front of them, maybe once or twice a day is all that's necessary, and you are on your way. The Notho fry are just like any other fry . . . some will ALL go to the top . . . some will ALL stay at the bottom . . and some will just go all over the tank.

What size tank??? Just a 2 gallon plastic tank is all I use . . . you really don't want to put them into a 10-20 gallon tank because you aren't going to USUALLY get 200-300 fry to hatch . . . something like 50-80 is what I normally get and you want to keep the distance they have to travel to find the food to a minimum for 1-2 weeks or so!!



. . . above is a GREAT hatch of Nothos I had and I NORMALLY put in some “scrunched-up” java moss in the tank so if they get really hungry and they need infusoria they can eat the “bugs” off the java moss. If I don't know what foods they can legitimately eat I will start them on the java moss and Vinegar Eels . . . They will ALWAYS take one of those two!

Well . . . as promised . . . HATCHING NOTHOS . . . in general!!!

Now . . . the raising and spawning of these fry. Nothos grow FAST . . . think of it . . . in Africa they have to hatch/grow/spawn and die before the dry season comes in a year!!!! If you are feeding them well, they should look to spawn when you can “sex” them out. The sexing will become obvious in a few weeks . . . and if provided enough food, and a place to spawn, they will begin spawning in 5-6-7 weeks or so. It really depends on how much food you provide to stimulate growth. Then the cycle starts all over again . . . pull the eggs (peat) . . . dry them

. . . put them in a bag and wait until the date!!!

Maybe next month I'll tell you about the "GREEN SAND" method instead of the "peat moss" method . . . "piece of cake"!!!

Pictures of some *Nothobranchius* . . . all males!



Nothobranchius kilomberoensis



Nothobranchius rubripinnis



Nothobranchius furzeri

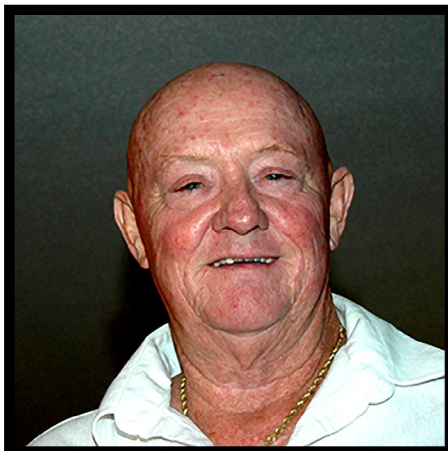


Nothobranchius rachovii



<http://www.sks1.com>

Did you ever think of KILLIFISH???
Come find out about them at the
SKS meetings!!! See the ad to
the left!



WATCH OUT!!!



CAUTION

**Hazardous
Material**

by Randy Hann

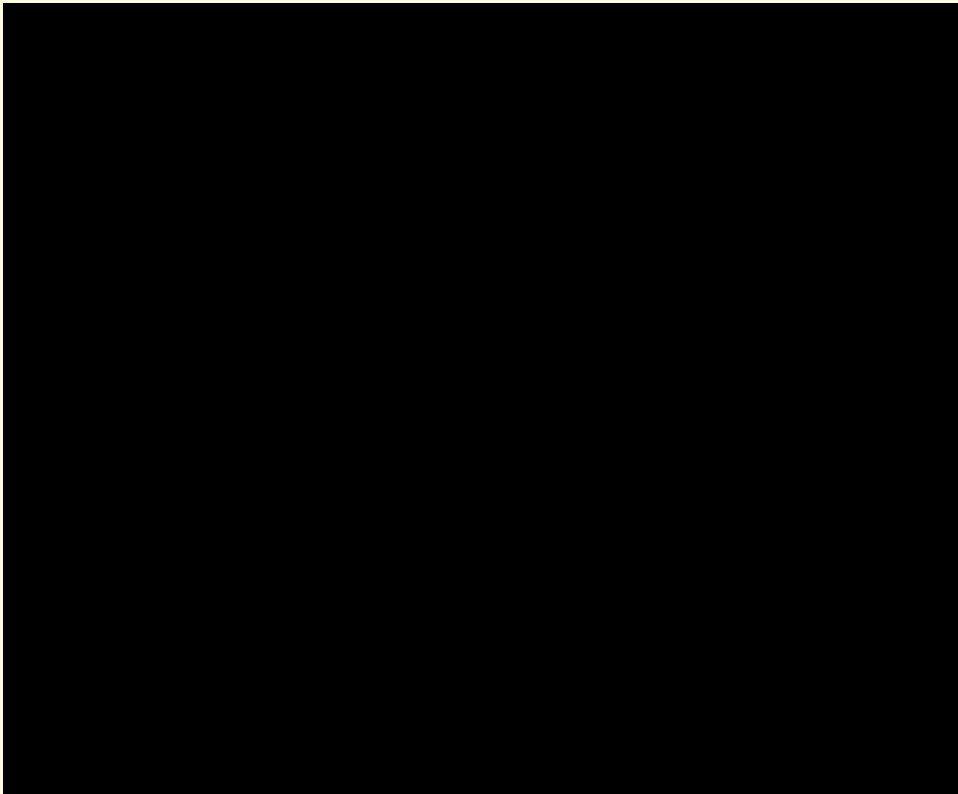
My name is Randy Hann. I am in the second year of my term as a board member of TBAS. I just thought I would relate an experience that I recently had. So often we take for granted when we are working with tropical fish, of course our hands are in water most of the day. We try to wash our hands before coming into contact with our aquariums. Well, two things happened to me just recently. I have vats and tanks outside in addition to my fish setup in the house. Consequently I have a lot of mosquitoes around both inside and outside from the doors being open. Occasionally I use insect spray on my legs. One day I was doing a water change and I sat down on a chair and scratched my leg due to a mosquito bite. Not thinking, I didn't wash my hands. I ended up losing an entire tank of guppies (a new strain I was working on). They didn't just start acting like the water was a little toxic, they just all died within the hour. **A very costly oversight.** When I was in the hospital having a bone marrow transplant, they had a rule: Whatever hits the floor - stays on the floor! To this day I try to abide by this rule. It's too easy to transfer bacteria, virus and toxic chemicals.

The second problem that I ran into involves using a siphon, something I have done for the past 55 years. Of course, now I'm immunosuppressed and once again I got a little careless and I didn't clear my drain line well enough. When I sucked on the hose to start the siphon I ended up with a large quantity of stagnant fish water in my mouth. I have never had a problem before but this time I developed a throat infection. Knowing what I did and already feeling tightness in tightness in my throat I started taking

antibiotics and after 6 days my sore throat was resolved. I realize that I am a little more sensitive because I am on immunosuppressive drugs; however I think we all need to maintain good hygiene and protocols when dealing with chemicals and possible disease. An interesting set of recommendations that I was presented with when I was going through all the chemotherapy was to avoid aquariums, plant soils and any dirt, whether aerosol dust or just soil. So here I was with a couple of fish tanks, about 100 orchids and two very large long haired dogs that bring the outside dirt inside. I even came down with *mycobacterium* and the first thing I was asked by the infectious disease department at Moffitt Cancer Center was if I was exposed to aquariums.

Without rambling on any further, let me say that we all need to be aware of exposure to chemicals, bacteria and viruses that we can introduce into both ours and other peoples fish rooms.

Joe Gargas's (TBAS) Red Discus Fry



[Click on the](#)  [to See Video](#)



by Jim Cormier

Bushy Nose

(ed: Jim is an “old” past president of TBAS . . . he is a wonderful aquarist and a good friend, but has since moved back to his native New England.)

During my 20 years as a hobbyist I have never kept the Bushy nose pleco. In my first 15 years I really never kept any kind of pleco’s at all. It has been just recently that my interest in Loricarids has increased but I still never thought about keeping bushy nose, but that changed in July 1996.

About this time last year I started communicating with Ron Belliveau and some others that were planning a fish collecting trip to Peru in July of 96. You may have read his article in Aquarium Fish Magazine July’s issue about one of



his previous trips to the Amazon. Well the timing was perfect, I had to go.

We went on the trip during the third week of July. Seven of us flew to Iquitos, Peru from Miami, the others were already at the camp that was setup in the jungle. We arrived at 11:00 p.m. Saturday night so we spent the night in town. We got up early Sunday morning so

we could have a quick tour of the town before we left. The only way to get to the camp is by boat and this was a 5 hour ride in a speed boat downstream (it took us 7 hours coming back up stream).

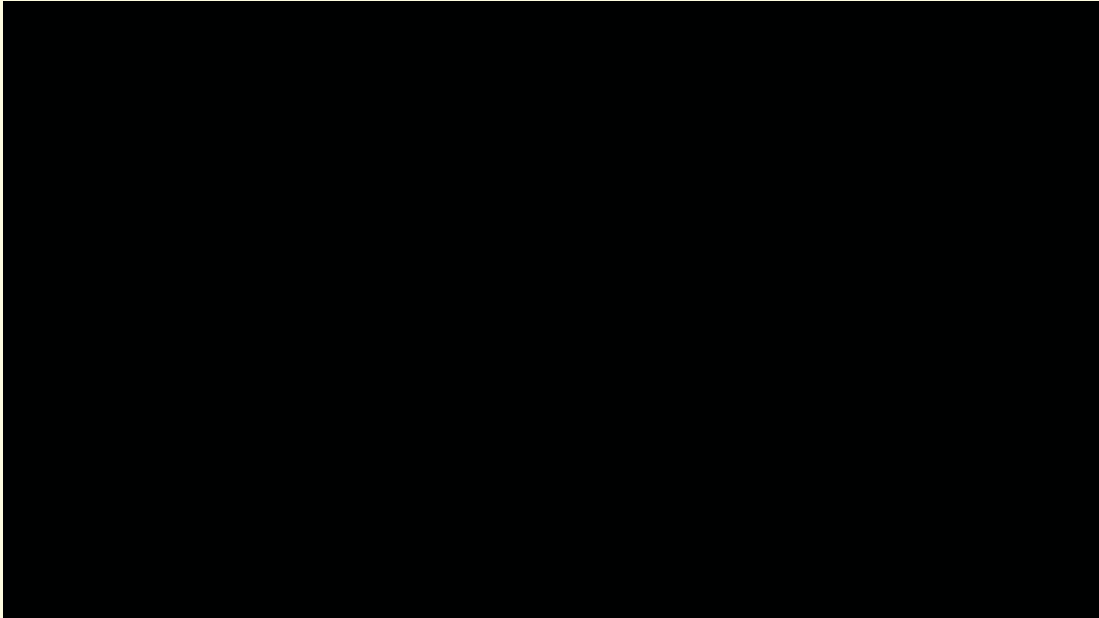
The plan was to fish from Monday to Thursday and return to town on Friday and fly to Miami on Saturday. Every day we would go to different streams and ponds to fish, some would take us an hour by boat to get to. On Wednesday we went to a stream, about 15 minutes from camp, they called it Catfish Ally.

When I heard this name I conjured up visions of us catching hundreds of corydoras. Well this wasn't even close, I caught one cory. But I did manage to catch two adult bushy nose, a male and a female. Now that I'm thinking about it I did catch them in the same part of the stream, within ten feet of each other! When I got them back to camp I was able to get a good look at them. The first thing I noticed was a cluster of spines they could stick out of each side of their head. This was going to be a problem trying to bring them home in plastic bags and they were going to be in the bags for close to three days. All I could do is triple bag them and hope for the best.

Friday morning we packed up all our stuff and headed back to town. We arrived in town around four p.m., the fish were taken to a fish exporter in town and we were off to check into the hotel. After diner we walked over to the fish exporter where we had the opportunity to check our fish and to purchase any fish that we may not have caught on our trip like corys, discus and angles. As I suspected the bags the bushy nose were in had only enough water in them to keep them wet! I gave the exporters instructions to prepare my fish for the journey home, give all the bags oxygen and rebag the bushy nose.

I finally arrived home Sunday at midnight. I brought home a total of about 50 fish of various sizes and none of them have had a water change since Thursday morning. It took me about two hours to unpack all of the fish and to my surprise all of them survived the trip including the bushy nose who's bags only had 1/2 inch of water in them!

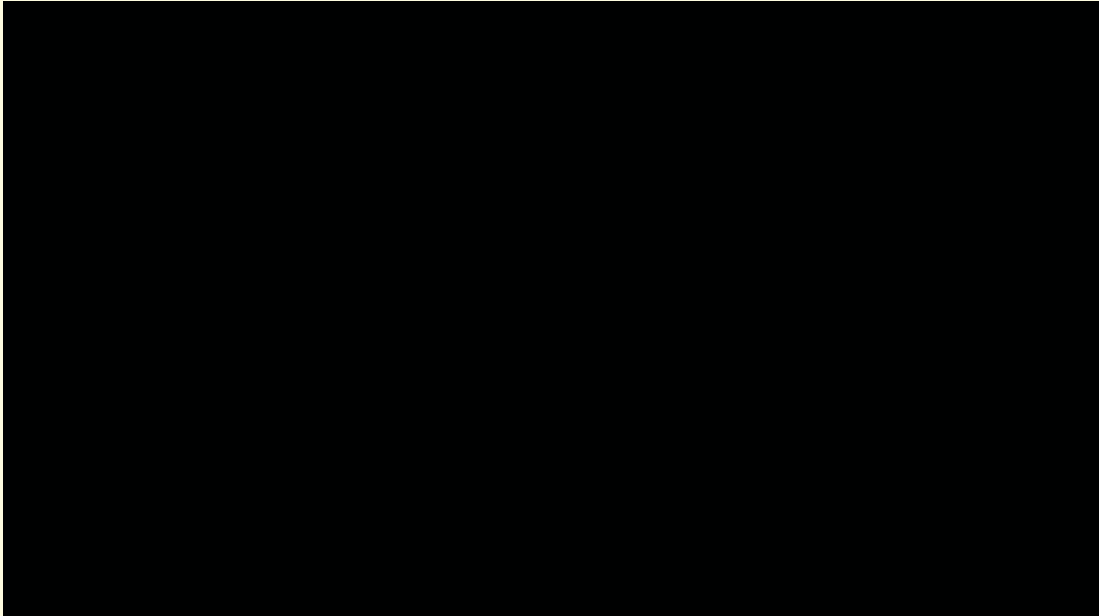
The bushy nose were set up in a 55 gal. tank along with some pike cichlids, fire mouths and some corys. Their diet consisted mostly of algae discs. There was two pieces of drift wood in the tank that had hollowed out sections that they would hide in. Nothing changed until nine months later the male was on the outside of the drift wood and he was fanning one of his ventral fins. He stayed like this for two days. After he moved from that spot everything seemed normal. At first I thought that they had spawned but after he moved I could not find any babies. One night about a month later I was walking by the tank and there were four ¼ inch bushy nose babies on the glass. The fire mouths and the pike cichlids must have eaten all the other babies. In the next couple of days I managed to save only one baby. After a couple of weeks the bushy nose were moved to a 29 gallon tank with some driftwood. The temperature was kept at 79°F and the pH was at 7.0. Within two weeks they had spawned. This time I was able to pull out over 150 babies. The pair has spawned regularly from July to January with spawn sizes from 150 to 250. So if you are looking for something a little different I suggest you give them a try.



Click on the



to See Video



THE BEST KOI ANGELFISH IN THE UNIVERSE

To Table of Contents

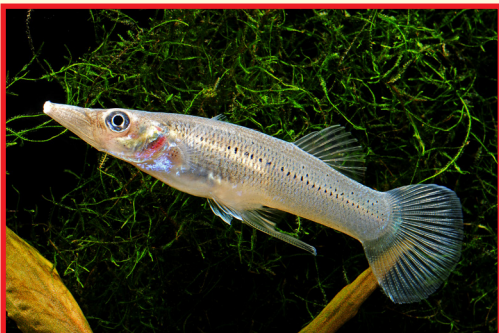


At the club meeting, Thelma Frias came up to me and asked if there was such thing as a virgin birth in fish? It seems that she had acquired a Pike-top minnow (*Balanesox belizanus*) and had kept it without a mate for six weeks and its previous owner had also kept the fish without a mate for

eight prior weeks. Then one a, much to the surprise and delight of its new owner, the fish delivered about 40 half inch babies. This did not seem possible because the time period without a mate was so long.

I hit the books because I knew nothing about this fish and it did not look like the livebearers that I knew. I found that the Piketop minnow is an aggressive predator that does not do well in a community tank. It prefers brackish water with heavy cover and it has a gestation period of 4½ to 7 weeks. So how did this fish deliver after 14 weeks? Well, it seems that some live-bearing fish have a unique breeding method. The male introduces packets of sperm called “spermatozeugmata” which behave quite extraordinarily. Some of the packets will burst and fertilize any ripe eggs present, while others become embedded in the ovarian cavity wall and will remain there until they are needed to fertilize a later batch of eggs. This way a female can have several broods of fry without mating each time.

Although I could not find any literature that said that the Piketop minnow is one of the livebearers that uses this method, it would seem logical that this is the case. Proper water quality and food they have triggered the fish to produce a new brood. Even though this is a very predatory fish, all the literature I read on them says they don't eat their young. I hope Thelma has good luck raising these very interesting fish.



***Balanesox belizanus*,**
Piketop minnow.

photo by: Mike Jacobs - 2010



Chocolate Gourami . . . *Sphaerichthys osphromenoides*

photo: Mike Jacobs 2018

[To Table of Contents](#)

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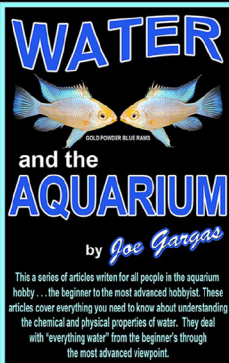


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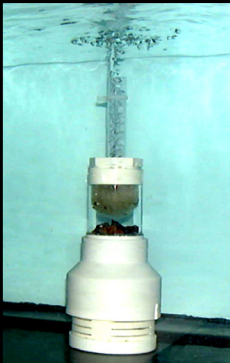


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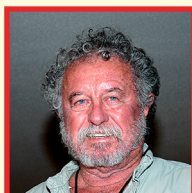
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