

Tank talk

Canberra & District Aquarium Society Journal

December 2010



The Age of Aquariums

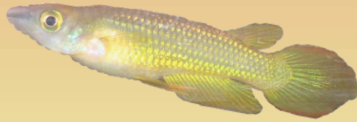


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From the Editors

We encourage CDAS members who have had a fish/aquarium keeping experience to write a little something to go into the CDAS Tank Talk

Ideas for what you might write about could be:

- Personal experience breeding a species
- Tank problems
- An encounter your fish have had with a disease and how it was treated
- Aquarium aqua scaping or plant cultivation
- An adventure you may have had with fish in their natural environment
- Setting up an aquarium/fish room

- And just about any other aquarium related experience you may have had.

We are in desperate need of articles written by current CDAS members. Zero submissions were received this December.

So give it a go. Share your aquarium experiences via a Tank talk article

Have you checked the website or forum lately for what is happening?

CDAS Website: <http://drupal.cdass.org.au/>

CDAS Forum: <http://cdass.org.au/phpBB/>

Your committee

Executive Committee Members

President / Publicity Officer:

Vice President:

Secretary:

Treasurer / Membership:

Alex .B

Michael .J

Christine .M

Andrew .R



Email: clubmail@cdass.org.au

Committee Members

Junior representative

Breeders Award / Species Conservation:

Librarian / Trade Table:

Tank Talk Editors

Online Co-ordinator:

DJ

Alex , DJ

Jason, Laurie

Christine, Tim

Tim, Laurie



Recap on Previous Meetings

September 2010

We watched most of our new epic Freshwater Natural Aquarium Documentary. We got most of the way through the documentary and it was not bad at all.

October 2010

CDAS AGM, and mega auction.

The previous committee was dissolved and a new one voted in

New committee for 2010 -2011

President- Alex

VP Michael (MJay)

Secretary - Christine

Treasurer Andrew (Rosco)

Membership Rosco, MJay

Editor Tim, Christine

Breeders Awards Chairperson DJ Don, Alex

Librarian - Jason

Web Rosco, Laurie, Tim

PR officer - Alex

Junior rep DJ

General committee members/helpers are always welcome, so feel free to come and volunteer your assistance.

The Major raffle was also drawn in October, congratulations to all of the lucky winners!

November 2010

Alex did a show and tell of his most recent visit to the Aquagreen facility.

We were able to hear about some of the behind the scenes action at Aquagreen, and see photos of the massive breeding facilities that Dave at Aquagreen has, in order to breed some amazing native aquatic plant and fish species.

The Age of Aquariums



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Conditioning aquarium fish.

By Christine Morton

Fish that have recently been shipped, or hanging out at a LFS for too long , may require quarantine or some physical conditioning before attempting to breed or introduction to a community situation.

Before and during the entire shipping fish are not fed any food to minimise the waste being produced while fish are bagged and in transit.

Fish may arrive to you, or your LFS looking hollow bellied and washed out.



Bag of *F.gardneri* day of arrival 13/08/2010, clearly these little fishes have been fasting for a while.

Refrain from feeding huge amounts of food immediately, any aquarium you add your new fish to will need to adjust to accommodate its new occupants and their waste so overfeeding would not be a good idea.

Catfish should be fed the day after they arrive to give them a chance to settle properly.

For small active fish like the *F.gardneri* pictured, easily digested foods like live frozen or freeze dried live foods, are best to help get the gut working.

By feeding very small amounts at frequent intervals throughout the day their condition will start to improve quickly



F.gardneri male and female after a few days of conditioning with freeze dried brine shrimp 15/08/2010



17/08/2010 F.gardneri looking better everyday

High quality commercial fish food can be used to get those extra vitamins in, some foods may also contain natural colour enhancers, be sure to avoid foods with hormone additives.

After about a week of conditioning, and a good 25% water change they are ready for the next stage of conditioning for breeding.

You may want to select a pair and separate them into their own aquarium.

Continue the feeding regime for another week, after this you may be lucky enough to find your new fish spawning .



23/08/2010 F.gardneri male in full spawning colours after feeding freeze dried live foods and high quality commercial pellet and flake.

So with a little TLC even the saddest looking aquarium fish can be conditioned into breeding in no time.



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REGULAR ACTIVITIES

Monday: 7.30pm Harmonie Choir Practice

Tuesday: Schnitzel Night in the Restaurant

Wednesday: Knuckles Night in the Restaurant

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Sunday and Monday: - 12 noon to 09.00pm (at earliest)

News from the Bar - we now have three German beers on tap -
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Dinner: 05.30pm to 8.30pm

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Dinner: Tuesday to Saturday - 6.00pm to 9.00pm

All you can eat BBQ from 6pm every Thursday (weather permitting) starting 4 November

OKTOBERFEST - 29-30-31 Oct 2010

A great time was had by all at the 2010 Oktoberfest

DIRTY DICKS THEATRE RESTAURANT

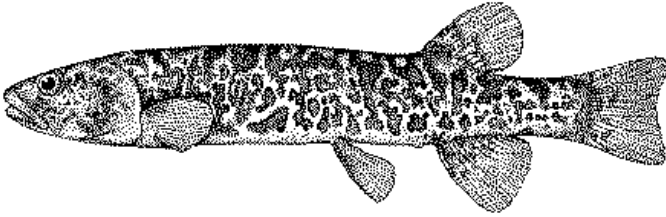
28th Nov - 4/5 Dec - 12/13 Dec - 18/19 Dec

for bookings call Chris or Lucy 62959853

Pedder galaxias - *Galaxias pedderensis*

By Jean Jackson

Threatened Fish Profile – In Newsletter 29_2, December 1999



(Drawing by Carol Kroger from “*Tasmanian Freshwater Fishes*” by Wayne Fulton)

Conservation Status:

Endangered (ASFB, Tasmania, Commonwealth), Critically Endangered (IUCN).

Description:

Probably the most endangered freshwater fish species in Australia. The Pedder galaxias is a native freshwater fish that grows to a maximum length of about 160 mm. They have a slender elongate body and dorsally flattened head. The back and sides are light yellow-brown in colour with gold iridescent flecks and irregular blackish-brown blotches (Hamr, 1995).

Life History:

Pedder galaxias are confined to freshwater and spawn in spring (mid-October) as water temperatures begin to rise. In an artificial stream, captive fish laid their eggs under flat rocks, aquatic vegetation and woody debris. As in other entirely freshwater galaxias in Tasmania, a relatively small number of large eggs is produced, ranging from about 150-1200 depending on the size of the female. Size at maturity is ~95 mm fork length in females and ~75 mm fork length in males (Hamr, 1992).

Distribution and Habitat:

The Pedder galaxias is endemic to Tasmania and naturally occurred only in the original Lake Pedder and tributary streams. It is apparently now extinct in what remains of its natural habitat (tributaries of the Lake Pedder impoundment) as no individuals have been found since 1996 despite intensive searches each summer. The species now survives only as a translocated population in the Western Arthur Range south-west of Lake Pedder. The last fish to be found in the natural habitat lived in the lower meandering sections of two tributary streams, preferring areas where the streams are heavily shaded, sandy-bottomed and highly convoluted with deep pools and instream cover. The diet of the Pedder galaxias consists mainly of aquatic insect larvae, aquatic beetles, small crayfish and copepods (Hamr, 1992).

Threats:

Most of the original lake and slow-flowing habitat of the species was destroyed with the inundation of Lake Pedder and surrounding areas for hydro-electricity in 1972. Brown trout *Salmo trutta* were introduced to the new impoundment and the native climbing galaxias *Galaxias brevipinnis* increased in abundance and distribution within the impoundment and tributaries. There is evidence of predation upon *G. pedderensis* by brown trout and climbing galaxias and it is also likely that these species competed for habitat and food.

Conservation/management:

It was clear by 1990 that future survival of the species depended on establishing populations in secure habitats free of predatory and competing fish species. In 1991-92, fish from the wild were transferred to a highland lake in the Western Arthur Range. Attempts at captive breeding and artificial fertilization had limited success, with only 11 juveniles raised. In 1998, Pedder galaxias were found to have bred successfully in the new lake. The species is currently included in a recovery plan (Crook and Sanger, 1997) being implemented by the Inland Fisheries Commission, Tasmania. Every year the fish are counted and samples of invertebrate fauna and plankton are taken to monitor any effect of the fish introduction. If numbers become sufficient, fish will be taken to establish another translocated population. Searches for wild fish in the natural habitat continue every summer, with any fish found to be moved to the translocation site.

References:

- Crook, D.A. and Sanger, A.C. 1997. Recovery Plan for the Pedder, Swan, Clarence, swamp and saddled galaxias. Inland Fisheries Commission, Hobart.
- Hamr, P. 1992. Conservation of Galaxias pedderensis. Inland Fisheries Commission Occasional Report 92-01. Inland Fisheries Commission, Hobart.
- Hamr, P. 1995. Threatened fishes of the world: Galaxias pedderensis Frankenberg, 1968 (Galaxiidae). Env Biol. Fish. 43, 406.

Further information:

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Article sourced from the Australian Society for Fish Biology, threatened species.
www.asfb.org.au



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Species profile



Smiling Acara, Dwarf flag cichlid – *Laetacara curviceps*

- Family meaning:** Laetacara from the Latin word *Laetus*, meaning *happy/smiling acara*.
- Category:** Dwarf acaras/South American dwarf cichlids
- Distribution/origin:** South America, Amazon region.
- Size male/female:** Male 10cm, Female 8cm.
- Gender specifics:** Males are larger, more colourful and have elongated dorsal and anal fins.
- Water temperature:** 24-28°C
- Water Parameters:** pH 6-6.5.
GH 5.
- Behaviour:** Peaceful community species, territorial and protective when spawning.
- Water region:** Middle to bottom.
- Difficulty:** Easy-Moderate.
- Possible tank mates:** Tetra and rasbora species, Livebearers, Angelfish, Apistogramma, Corydoras, Ancistrus etc

History

Previously described as *Aequidens curviceps*, this fish was reassigned to its own genus *Laetacara*, smiling acaras in 1986, by Dr Sven. O. Kullander of the Swedish Museum of Natural History

In the aquarium

Dwarf smiling acaras are a relatively shy and peaceful cichlid species, suitable for beginners.

Pairs can be housed in community aquariums with other community species such as tetras.

Can be used in scenarios where Apistogramma would be used.

Dither fish like guppies or tetras will help to make this species more confident.

Equipment, decor and Aquarium Size

A 2ft or larger aquarium is suitable for a pair. Larger aquariums will be needed for a group or multiple pairs.

Include lots of live plant; including floating plants like foxtail or water sprite driftwood and rocks, fine substrate (3mm).

Water Parameters

Can be sensitive to toxins excellent water quality is important.

Enjoys soft, black-water type conditions, use driftwood and peatmoss extract to simulate this.

NOTE: This fish is adaptable to community conditions and does not require black-water to survive.

Feeding

Live or frozen foods like brine shrimp and blood worm, high quality pellet and flake such as “Prestige Growth” or “colour bites”.

Breeding

Smiling dwarf acaras are monogamous open substrate spawner preferring flat rocks to spawn on.

Males will darken in colour when courting/spawning

High level of parental care of fry, care of fry will continue months after spawning.

References

www.seriouslyfish.com

www.lem.net

By Christine Morton

CDAS
Inc.





CDAS Website: *<http://drupal.cdas.org.au/>*

CDAS Forum: *<http://cdas.org.au/phpBB/>*

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