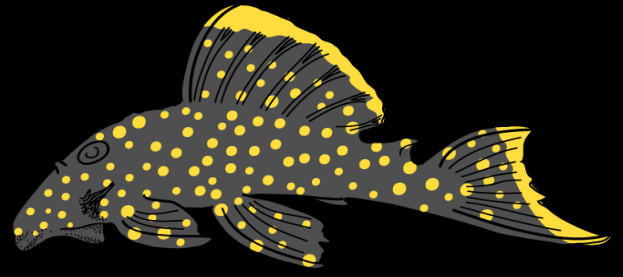


Journal of the Catfish Study Group

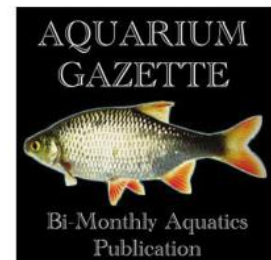
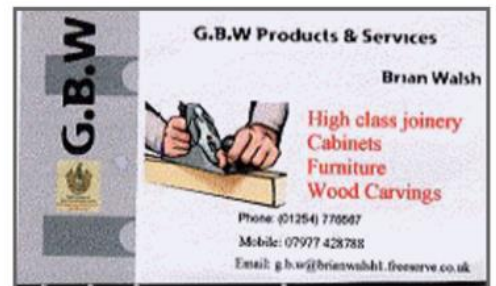


September 2019

Volume 20, Issue 3



In this Edition: *Pterygoplichthys ambrosettii*; An undescribed *Synodontis*; Breeding the blue phantom L128; New phylogeny of Auchenipteridae; New catfish in the hobby.

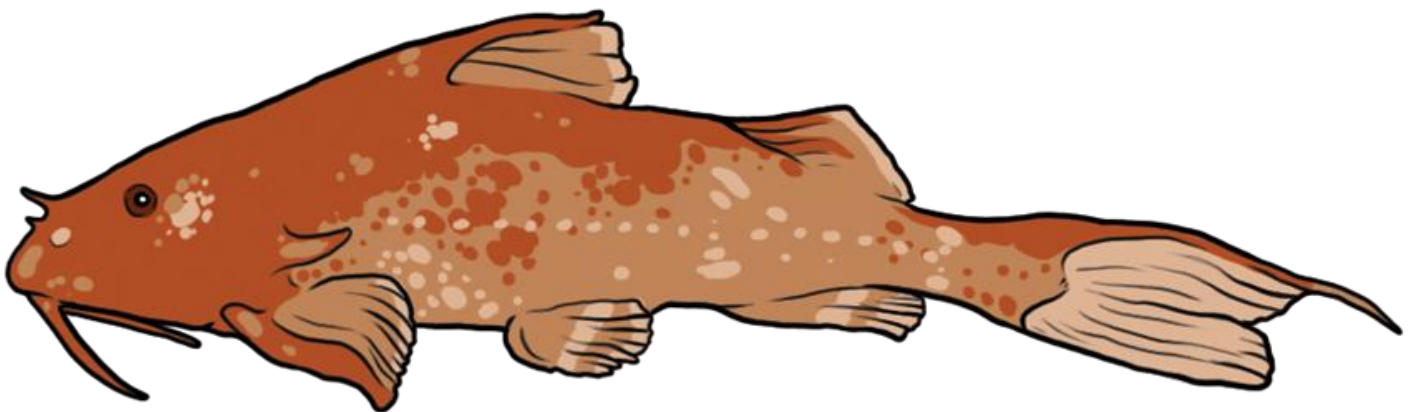


Contents

Chairman's Report	5
CSG Open Show 2019	6
A new Phylogeny of Auchenipteridae	10
<i>Pterygoplichthys ambrosettii</i> the snowking pleco	14
Breeding the blue phantom pleco L128	20
An undescribed <i>Synodontis</i> species	24
Species new to the hobby	27
Research Support Fund	29

Cover image: *Panaqolus* L351. Photo: Daniel Konn-Vetterlein

Convention 2020 logo – *Hara mesembrina* original artwork by Coral Vane Wright, courtesy of Catfishes of the World





- The Journal of the Catfish Study Group (JCSG) is a subscription-based quarterly published by the Catfish Study Group (CSG). The journal is available in print and electronic platforms. Annual subscriptions to JCSG can be ordered and securely paid for through the CSG website (www.catfishstudygroup.org).
- The JCSG relies on the contribution of content from its members and other parties. No fees or honoraria are paid in exchange for content and all proceeds from advertising and subscriptions are used to support CSG events and activities. At the end of the financial year, any remaining funds generated from subscriptions to JCSG are transferred to the CSG Science Fund. The Editor and other CSG personnel involved in the production of the journal do so voluntarily and without payment.
- Please support the CSG by contributing original articles concerning catfishes that might be of general interest to JCSG subscribers. Word processor files (e.g., .doc, .docx) and high-resolution images (at least 300 dpi and 8.5 cms wide) can be sent as email attachments to editor@catfishstudygroup.org. If necessary, the Editor will work with contributors to structure and polish text and format images for inclusion in the journal. The Editor reserves the right to edit submitted text and images to improve flow and comply with the layout and page limits of the journal. Any manuscripts that propose taxonomic or nomenclatural changes will be forwarded to a qualified professional for evaluation.
- None of the text or images contained in the JCSG may be reproduced (in whole or part) in digital or print media without the written permission of the Editor. Text and image copyrights remain with the author and original photographer, respectively. All rights are reserved. The CSG assumes no responsibility for the views or opinions expressed in contributed articles.
- The CSG gratefully acknowledges the generous sponsorship of the CSG by numerous aquatics manufacturers, retailers and private individuals.

If you would like to advertise in JCSG, here are the options we currently offer. All charges include 20% VAT and are used to support CSG events and activities. Please save advertisements as Portable Network Graphics (.png format), at least 300dpi and sized according to the table below. We can also help prepare your advertisement at no extra charge. Please contact editor@catfishstudygroup.org for further information.

<i>Size (page)</i>	<i>Approximate height × width (cm)</i>	<i>Colour</i>	<i>Black & White</i>
Full	26 × 18	£148.00	£50.00
Half	13 × 18	£80.00	£30.00
Quarter	13 × 9	£50.00	£20.00
Eighth	6.5 × 9	£30.00	£12.50
Sixteenth	3.25 × 9	£18.00	£8.00

Chairman's Report - Mark Walters

Welcome to lots of new CSG members who have joined us following the Cataclysm event! I was very proud to represent the CSG in September and hope that the delegates enjoy their time with the CSG! Remember, you will need to re-subscribe after next September if you want to retain your membership and continue receiving the Journal. At only £6 (less than \$10) its great value to be in receipt of the latest news from the club and opportunity to hear from some of hobby's most high profile characters!

There were many comparisons to be drawn between Cataclysm and the CSG's own Convention but the overriding experience was extremely friendly hobbyists who all had something to share about their interest in catfish with their fellow delegates. I was made to feel extremely welcome and would like to thank all of those who made it possible for the CSG to share its core values with so many new members. A report on the event will be included in the next Journal.

With only 6 months to go until the CSG's own annual Convention, you can start to plan your trip to Wigan with booking forms now available.

Whilst I was Stateside, the hard working Committee were delivering the annual Open Show and auction. Thanks especially to those who took over auction duties and assisted with the delivery of the event. A full list of results will be in a later Journal edition. Thanks to FishScience and EBO fish foods for the donation of show prizes.

Fishy articles this quarter includes subject matter on Synodontis and a revision of some members of Auchenipteridae from Steven Grant,

a breeding report on the blue phantom – L128 from Marc Wheeler and a study of *Pterygoblichthys ambrosetii* from Convention speaker Daniel Konn Vetterlein. Daniel also introduces two uncommon species which have been seen in the hobby.

I am looking forward to meeting up with Daniel and other European aquarist friends in Hanover, Germany in early October for the bi-annual L-numbers Convention, this will be my third time at the event which has been supported by the CSG for many years. This year, CSG Committee legend Danny Blundell will be speaking at the event which will be supported by at least another half dozen UK aquarists. If you have not been to this fantastic Convention before, it may not be too late to get booked in! Again, the organisers and delegates are extremely hospitable and there is so much great knowledge to be shared between speakers and participants alike.

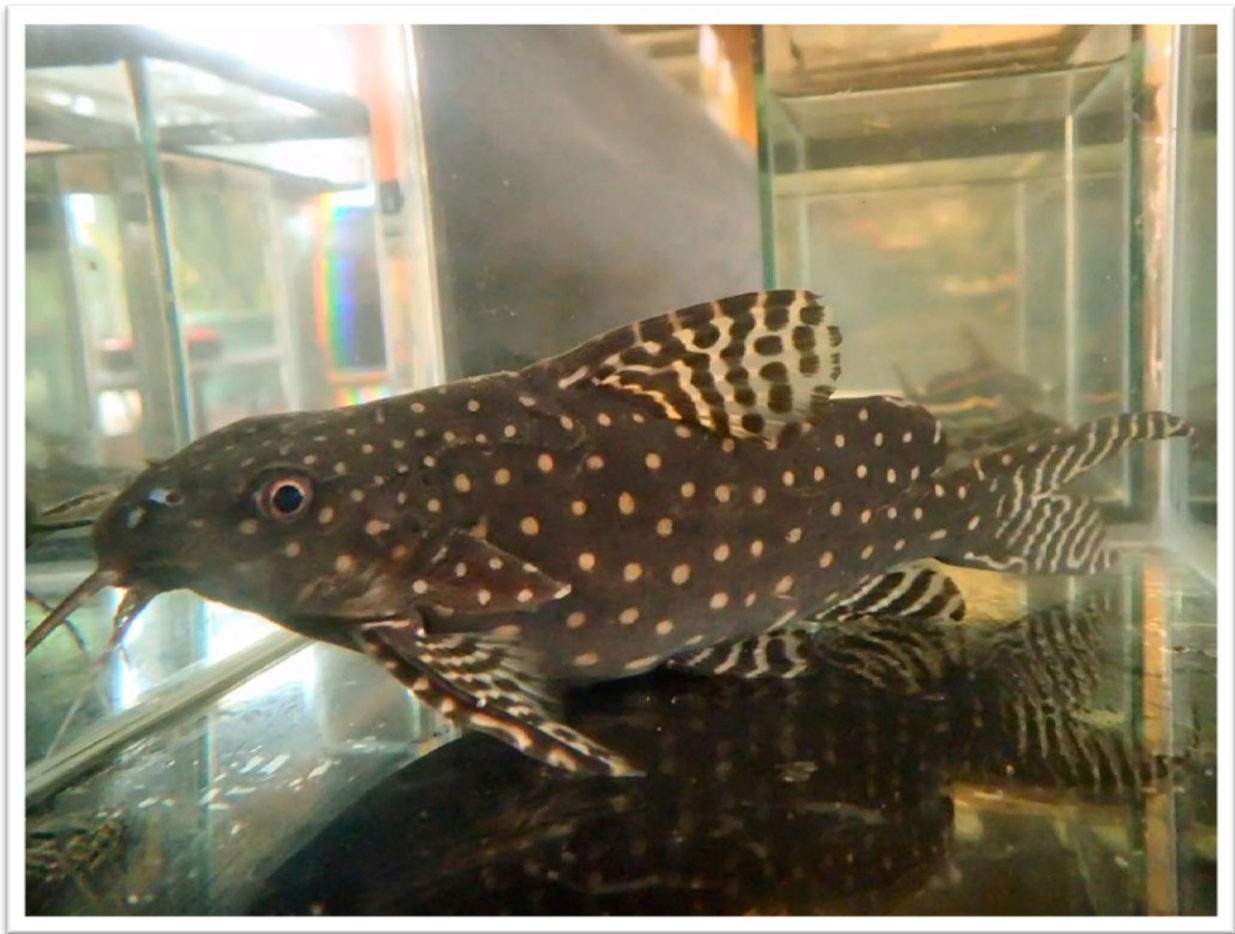
An annual reminder if any members wish to raise any official AGM business, they need to contact the Committee at: secretary@catfishstudygroup.org by 31st October, see the CSG constitution for AGM the usual procedures.

With all the activity in recent months, I have been trying to squeeze in time to refurbish my fish house and maintain the tanks which are temporarily holding more fish than usual. I expect I will update these pages with an account of the developments in due course! Whatever you are doing or plan to be doing in the wonderful world of catfish keeping, enjoy yourself and continue to make new friends, share each other's knowledge and further the study of catfish!



CSG Open Show 2019 - Gallery

All images by Allan James



Best fish in show *Synodontis angelicus*



Mystus carcio



Synodontis flavitaeniatus



Corydoras concolor, 3rd best in show



Microglanis iheringi



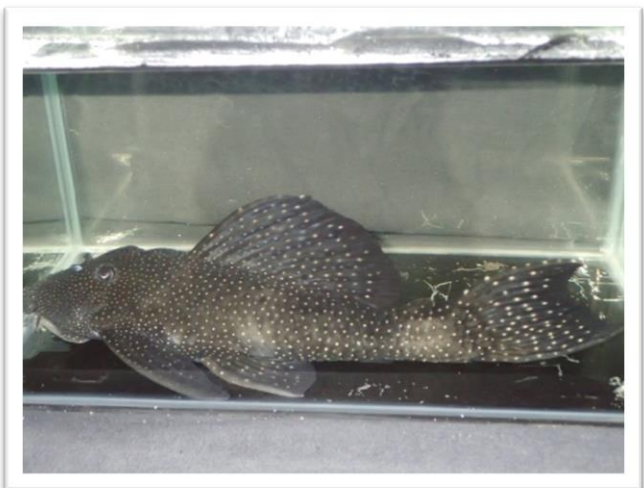
Corydoras atropersonatus



Duringlanis perugiae



Corydoras C123



Leporacanthicus sp. L240a, 2nd best in show



Tatia dunni, white form



CSG Autumn Auction

17th November 2019

**Derwent Hall, George Street,
Darwen, Lancashire, BB3 0DQ**

Booking in from 11am Auction starts at 1pm

Any legally permitted aquatic items

To book an auction lot contact:

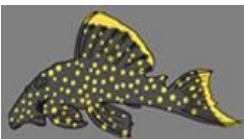
chairman@catfishstudygroup.org

See our Facebook site for more details

CSG AUCTION and SALE RULES

1. Only aquatic items are allowed, subject to restrictions on locally banned species and the rules below.
2. All electrical goods must have the vendor's name and telephone number attached, together with a statement of condition, e.g. working order, faulty, spares, etc. Otherwise they will be sold as seen with no guarantee of working.
3. All fish will be transported to and from the event in an insulated transit container. During the event, fish will be stored in a suitable insulated container.
4. All plants and fish should be in clear plastic bags, or in containers of a suitable size. Large fish may be offered in plastic containers or buckets. Fish should be identified with either a scientific or common name and reserve prices marked.
5. All fish and plants, etc., must be seen to be healthy and any damaged or deformed fish will be taken out of auction and not sold. Painted, dye injected, genetically modified or fluorescent fish will not be accepted for auction.
6. If the water is seen to be foul or conditions otherwise unsuitable, the item will be withdrawn from sale and the vendor instructed to remedy the issue. Large *Corydoras* catfish (and all *C.sterbai*) will be individually bagged due to the likelihood of poisoning the water in the company of other fish.
7. Fish will be bagged on the day of sale, not on preceding days, to reduce the opportunity for water-fouling.
8. All fish that are likely to puncture bags should be double bagged. Any fish deemed improperly bagged or presented, e.g. inadequate room in container, bag too small or deflated/leaking, will be withdrawn and the vendor will be given the option to re-bag.
9. A 15% commission payable to the CSG will be applied to auction sales. Payments to vendors will be made during the interval or at the end of the event.
10. All goods are purchased as seen. The CSG does not accept responsibility for the condition of any item sold at the event. Purchasers always have an opportunity to view the goods on the day and can return them immediately after purchase if not satisfied. The vendor's name will be available to the purchaser in the event of a problem, on the day only.
11. The CSG will not permit other private sales to take place on the premises of CSG events during its sales.

CSG Committee February 2017



CATFISH
STUDY GROUP

A new phylogeny of Auchenipteridae

Steve Grant



Centromochlus heckelii male

Calegari et al. (2019) recently published a monumental phylogenetic study of the family Auchenipteridae, also known as driftwood catfishes. The study combines morphological characters and DNA and resulted in a new classification of the family, particularly in the subfamily Centromochlinae.

The study is very comprehensive and is over 180 pages long, so cannot be discussed at any length here. However, some of the main genus changes in Centromochlinae resulting from the phylogeny are detailed here.

The author (Grant, 2015) described four new subgenera of *Centromochlus* Kner, 1858 to recognise five distinct morphological units within that genus. This work was not adopted by any ichthyologist to date nor any aquarium publications/websites.

The new phylogeny recovered *Centromochlus* as paraphyletic and raised *Gephyromochlus* Hoedman, 1961 to a full generic status, with one included species, *G. leopardus* (Hoedman, 1961). It also raised three of the four subgenera described by Grant (2015) to full generic status:

Duringlanis – this genus consists of three species: *D. altae* (Fowler, 1945), *D. perugiae* (Steindachner, 1882), and *D. romani* (Mees, 1988). *Duringlanis* differs from *Gephyromochlus*, *Balroglanis* and *Centromochlus* by (amongst other things) having a small, rounded anterior fontanel, not surpassing the line of the posterior nares (vs.

ellipsoid anterior fontanel, elongated, surpassing the line of the posterior nares); and from *Tatia* by having subequal outer and inner mental barbels (vs. outer mental barbel distinctly longer than inner).

The genus name means ‘Durin Catfish’ after Durin The Deathless from the Lord of the Rings Legendarium. Durin was the first created dwarf and the name is used in allusion to the dwarf species in the genus.



Duringlanis romani male

Ferrarissoaresia – this genus consists of one, possibly two species: *F. meridionalis* (Sarmiento-Soares, et. al, 2013) and possibly *F. ferrarisi* (Birindelli, et. al, 2015). *Ferrarissoaria* is distinguished from all Centromochlinae by the relatively long outer mental barbel, surpassing the pectoral-fin base (vs. outer mental barbel short, similar to the size of the inner barbel, ending much anterior to the pectoral-fin origin).

There are also other differences. The genus name is to honour Carl Ferraris Jr. and Luisa Maria Sarmiento-Soares whose work was used to help identify the new subgenera (now genera).



Ferrarissoaresia meridionalis – L.N. Carvalho, F.G Cabaceira

Balroglanis – this genus consists of three species: *B. carolae* (Vari & Ferraris, 2013), *B. macracanthus* (Soares-Porto, 2000) and *B. schultzi* (Rössel, 1962). See the above accounts for some of the differences between it and *Duringlanis* and *Ferrarissoaresia*.

It differs from *Centromochlus*, *Gephyromochlus* and *Glanidium* by the lack of an anterior nuchal plate (vs. anterior nuchal plate present); from *Tatia* (except *Tatia intermedia* and *Tatia simplex*) by having the dorsal-fin spine serrated on the posterior border (vs. serrations absent on posterior border of dorsal-fin spine); from *Glanidium* and *Tatia* (except *Tatia boemia* and *Tatia jacaratia*) by having the posterior process of cleithrum positioned posteriorly (vs. posterior process of cleithrum dorsally inclined).

The genus name means ‘Balrog Catfish’ *Balroglanis* is derived from the Maia, a Balrog known as Durin's Bane, who terrorised Durin the Deathless' descendants in Khazad-dûm, in J. R. R. Tolkien's Lord of the Rings legendarium.

The name was given to recognise the larger size of species of the genus when compared with

Duringlanis, the relationship between the two genera and the two fictional characters, and the 'horns' of the nuchal shield alluding to the horns of the Balrog.

Sauronglanis Grant, 2015 was described as a subgenus of *Centromochlus* with *T. musaica* as its type species, but this study did not recover *T. musaica* as distinct from other *Tatia* so it was not used. However, there is a possibility that further work on *Tatia* alone may show that *T. musaica* is not congeneric with the type species of *Tatia*: *T. intermedia*.

Centromochlus orca, *C. bockmanni*, *C. britskii*, *C. concolor*, *C. punctatus*, *C. simplex* are now in *Tatia*.

References

Calegari, B. B., R. P. Vari and R. E. Reis, 2019. Phylogenetic systematics of the driftwood catfishes (Siluriformes: Auchenipteridae): a combined morphological and molecular analysis. *Zoological Journal of the Linnean Society*, zlz036.

Grant, S., 2015. Four new subgenera of *Centromochlus* Kner, 1858 with comments on the boundaries of some related genera (Siluriformes: Auchenipteridae: Centromochlinae). *Ichthyofile* No. 3: 1-16.

Unless specified, all images by the author.



Balroglanis macracanthus



Tatia brunnea male



Balroglanis schultzi



Duringlanis sp. Madre de Dios region



Unique Formula
with Insect meal



FishScience Catfish Foods

Recreates the natural insect based diet that most tropical fish would eat in the wild

Mini Algae Wafers contain essential roughage to allow effective digestion

Environmentally friendly and sustainable

Naturally enhances the colour of your fish using Spirulina algae, paprika and krill.

Contains garlic to support a healthy immune system

... and the fish really like it!

www.fishscience.co.uk

Pterygoplichthys ambrosettii – The Real Snowking Daniel Konn-Vetterlein



P. ambrosettii female from a white water pond

P. ambrosettii (HOLMBERG, 1893) is possibly the best-looking species of the genus *Pterygoplichthys*, yet it is almost unknown in the hobby and rarely covered in articles or talks and never seen on stock lists either. Sometimes still considered as *P. anisitsi* EIGENMANN & KENNEDY, 1903, this taxon is a senior synonym of *P. ambrosettii*, just as *P. juvenis* EIGENMANN & KENNEDY, 1903.



P. ambrosettii male

It's striking feature is the pattern. A black base colour is not uncommon in Loricariids, but few species have large white stripes on top and no other species has a reddish colouration on the tips of all fins. That's the best case to be honest.



P. ambrosettii from a white water river

Type locality is the Río Paraguay near the corresponding countries capital Asunción. EVERS & SEIDEL (2005) already mentioned that its distribution is far larger and includes many parts of the Chaco. On several expeditions I was able to collect *P. ambrosettii* in many places in Bolivia too: The upper Río Mamoré-basin is home to this species, including well known rivers like Río Beni, Río Paraguay, and Río Grande to name only some.



P. ambrosettii biotope

My first encounter took place in 2007, when we aimed to check some smaller ponds during the dry season. Those ponds are leftovers of the rainy period of the year and are often inhabited by riverine species, which left the main channel during the flooding and then missed the point of return. Most ponds dry up entirely and the fish die, but before it's rather easy to sample the ponds for their aquatic fauna.



Rio Chipiri home to *P. ambrosettii* and several large catfish species



No current, warm water, low oxygen content is another potential habitat for *P. ambrosettii*

Mentioned waters are not deep or very large in surficial area. Up to one meter of depth and often not more than 30-50 square meters of surface. Population denseness can be incredibly high

though, including numerous juveniles and also plenty adult specimen (e.g.: 40 cm of depth, 35 sqm of surface = 15 individuals between 30 and 40 cm, plus 63 individuals between 8 and 20 cm). While juveniles prefer to hide near the banks, where some emerge vegetation always extends into the water body, adults prefer the open water and tend to not hide at all.



P. ambrosettii juvenile approx. 12cm

Many of those ponds are located near villages or small towns and are therefore often contaminated by trash, which makes them look unpleasingly, but without a noticeable effect on the plecocs.

Pterygoplichthys in general are known to be of a tough nature, the ability to breathe atmospheric air is one of the reasons that enables them to inhabit less clean and swampy biotopes. They feed mainly on detritus and the few herbal resources they can find in the restricted areas of their habitats.

Due to the pond's small sizes, the temperature fluctuates immensely throughout the year and 14 °C is nothing special in winter (June-July), while summer (November-December) brings temperatures of up to 36 °C. Other parameters are just as easy to replicate in captivity: pH 6,8-7,4; 7 °dGH, ca. 300-800 µS/m.

Using a cast net, it is quite promising to catch the adults because they don't hide, neither do they react timidly when a person enters the water.

They seem to realize it's hard for any other species to be of risk for them. I could observe an identical behaviour in free living *P. disjunctivus* and *P. pardalis* in Florida (USA). Specimen of up to half a meter in length can be caught by using that method.



One throw of a cast net!



P. ambrosettii dentition

It's an active species, often seen grazing on the ground or swimming through the open water column and therefore a nice addition to big tanks and outside ponds (TL max. 60 cm). Unfortunately, it might do too well in nature in some countries and should therefore not be kept if it cannot be guaranteed that no individual gets into native waters.

Coming back to its colour and pattern: It does not always show a high contrast, some individuals are pitch black while others are greyish. From what I experienced individuals from white water rivers, being heavily loaded with particles and a low depth of visibility, always show the beautiful black and white pattern. Individuals from clear waters are mainly dark in colouration and the pattern fades totally. Juveniles are more often greyish than adults, but again, they look stunning in white water.

P. ambrosettii is not being imported on purpose, but from time to time a blind passenger in shipments from Paraguay. It serves great as a low maintenance pleco for unheated tanks and ponds, it is something special and difficult to get. If you get the chance, go for it.

References

- Eigenmann, C. H. & C. H. Kennedy (1903): On a collection of fishes from Paraguay, with a synopsis of the American genera of cichlids. Proc. Acad. Nat. Sci. Phila., 55:497-537.
- Evers H.-G. & Seidel I. (2005): Mergus Wels Atlas Band 2
- Weber, C. (1991) Révision du genre *Pterygoplichthys* sensu lato (Pisces, Siluriformes, Loricariidae) Rev. fr. Aquariol. Herpétol. 19: 1-36.
- Armbruster J.W. (2004) Phylogenetic relationships of the suckermouth armoured catfishes (Loricariidae) with emphasis on the Hypostominae and Ancistrinae. Zoological Journal of the Linnean Society, 141: 1-80, 40 figs.
- Günther, A. (1864): Catalogue of the fishes in the British Museum. Catalogue of the Physostomi, containing the families Siluridae, Characinidae, Haplochitonidae, Sternoptychidae, Scopelidae, Stomiatidae in the collection of the British Museum. Cat. Fishes, 5: i-xxii + 1-455



P. ambrosettii male from a clear water pond

CSG convention 2020 Booking Form

Delegate Name (one form per person)	Address and email (address required for Hotel residents, email for confirmation of receipt)				
Convention tickets – please note all bookings close after 17/02/19					
	Weekend resident	Saturday Only	Sunday Only	Weekend non-resident*	Enter amount
Early-bird booking (By 19/01/20)	£25	£20	£20	£35	
Later booking (20/01/20 – 16/02/20)	£35	£25	£25	£40	
Hotel Accommodation (B&B, Includes Evening Meal)					
Night	Single, Double or Twin?	Delegate per night			Enter amount
Thursday		£90 or £70			
Friday		£90 or £70			
Saturday		£90 or £70			
Sunday		£90 or £70			
Please indicate name of room share (hotel admin):					
All room rates are £90 per delegate if single occupancy or £70 per delegate in a shared room (Double or Twin). Maximum of two adults per room. No room bookings after 16/02/20. Delegates' responsibility to arrange room shares. Rates are per day per occupancy over the weekend.					
Evening Meal choices – See Page 2 for Options					
Indicate below each course	Starter (1, 2 or 3)	Main (1, 2, or 3)	Dessert (1, 2 or 3)	£25 per meal IF NOT RESIDENT – Enter amount	
Friday				£25	
Saturday				£25	
Summary - See Page 2 for Additional sales					
Additional sales total (see page 2)					
Sub total					
If paying by PayPal, add 4% (Subtotal x 0.04)					
Grand Total - ALL payments by 16/02/2020					

Tickets are advance purchase only. 'Weekend' includes Friday's after dinner talk. *The CSG are charged a supplement for refreshments for non-residents. Please contact conventionmanager@catfishstudygroup.org for any special dietary/medical requirements. Dinner on Thursday and Sunday will be from hotel's a la carte menu


Forms and cheques (payable to **The Catfish Study Group**) can be returned to any Committee Members at CSG meetings OR can be sent to: The Studio, Clifford Road, Boston Spa, West Yorkshire, UK, LS23 6DB. OR email completed form and pay via PayPal to: conventionmanager@catfishstudygroup.org.

Should you wish to pay by direct bank transfer, please email conventionmanager@catfishstudygroup.org for details of the bank account you can pay into.

Dinner Menu Choices are not currently available, please wait for further notice

No.	Friday	Choice
	Starter	
1		
2		
3		
	Main	
1		
2		
3		
	Dessert	
1		
2		
3		
	Saturday	
	Starter	
1		
2		
3		
	Main	
1		
2		
3		
	Dessert	
1		
2		
3		

Additional Sales

Description Merchandise based on <i>Hara mesembrina</i> 'Convention logo' and <i>B. xanthellus</i> 'CSG logo' (images below). No clothing orders after 19th January 2020	Price	No.	Clothing size: S, M, L, XL, XXL	Clothing colour choice: Black or Grey	Total £
					
Speaker sponsor and sales table – includes 1 weekend convention ticket plus optional sales table.	£100 - or agreed merchandise equivalent				
Sales table – Limited to 8.	£50 - or agreed merchandise equivalent				
Sales tank – Limited to 18	£10 each tank				
Polo shirt - Convention logo	£15				
Polo shirt - CSG logo	£15				
Hoodie - Convention logo	£25				
Hoodie - CSG logo	£25				
2019 Convention logo enamel badge	£3				
Additional sales Total					

Contact conventionmanager@catfishstudygroup.org for further sponsorship details – all sponsorships include promotion in programme, Journal and one-year-use of CSG Facebook site for business promotions.

Venue details: [Macdonald Kilhey Court Hotel](#), Chorley Road, Standish, Wigan, WN1 2XN, Tel: 0344 879 904

41st CSG Convention

13-15th March 2020

Speakers:

Top: Rebecca Bentley, Luiz Tencatt
Middle: Andreas Tanke, Brian Walsh,
Markus Kaluza, Jost Borchering,
Bottom: Mike King, Steven Grant,
Jacqueline Heijmen Bennet-Leaver,
Allan James



CATFISH

STUDY GROUP

Kilhey Court Hotel,
Wigan, UK



Spawning *Hemiancistrus* sp. L128, the Blue Phantom

Marc Wheeler

I started fishkeeping with a small 64 litre community aquarium, once I had this aquarium more time was spent in local fish shops. After a while I began to pay more attention to catfish. What I previously thought of as green/brown slimy things living in muddy lakes and rivers turned out to have some beautifully patterned and coloured members of their family!

The first Loricariidae which I became fascinated with was *Hemiancistrus* sp. L128, or the Blue Phantom, at this point I decided a larger aquarium was needed. I purchased a 4 foot aquarium package and eagerly got to work setting it up. Not long after I went out and got my first L128, a juvenile. The following weeks and months were spent researching the fish, and I stumbled across reports that they were rarely bred. At that point I decided I needed to spawn them!

The next few years were spent adding a few more, trying to find females, many of which turned out to be males when they had settled and been eating well for a few months. After a few losses of recently imported fish for unknown reasons I decided to keep the two remaining fish and just enjoy them.

Shortly after we moved from our apartment into a house, excited by the additional space I purchased a few tanks, one of which would be setup with the aim of breeding L128. The aquarium measured 34x18x18 inches (~180 litres), filtered by a large external canister, and two additional powerheads.

I set to work making my own caves out of slate, using an angle grinder, chisel, and then plenty of silicone to stick it back together when the slate didn't fracture as expected! A large root was also added, along with 16 *Iguanodectes geisleri* (Red Lizard Tetra), 10 *Corydoras loxozonus*, my 2 current, and 2 recently purchased L128.

Given my previous experiences I knew if they were to breed it would be a long project, and as the aquarium was in my study I wanted something which would be nice to look at while I was working.



Tank setup (cave where spawning occurred circled in red)

As my tap water is very hard I maintained the aquarium using a 50:50 mix of RO and tap water, giving a pH of ~7.5 and TDS of ~150ppm.

The next few months were spent enjoying the tank and continuing to research the fish, its diet and natural environment, I started to introduce Repashy gel foods, mainly Fruut Luups (now replaced by Igapo Explorer) as the ingredients were the closest I could find to their natural diet.

They appeared to condition well on this food, and I was hopeful that they may spawn one day. The fish turned out to be three males and one female, only the dominant male spent time in a cave, although there were enough caves for all the fish, the rest spent their time in gaps between the slate, areas with the highest flow seemed to be preferred.

I didn't attempt to trigger the fish in any way, all maintenance was carried out using a normal RO and tap water mix, which was always a few degrees cooler than the tank water.

In September 2016, 6 months after the tank was setup, I returned from a trip to find the sand in front of the cave missing, see figure 1. So I grabbed a torch and was really happy to see eggs in the cave!

While I was away we had a very warm spell with the water temperature rising from their normal 26c (~79f), to at least 32c (~90f), this was combined with a large (for the UK!) thunderstorm, perhaps that was part of the reason they chose to spawn.

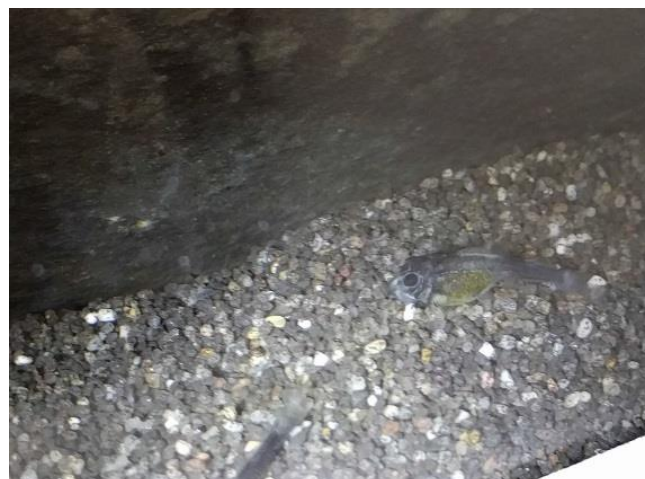


Male guarding eggs

Unfortunately, although the eggs developed well for the first few days, and many hatched 6 days after I found the eggs, none of the wrigglers made it to the point of fully absorbing their yolks.

Around 8 weeks later I noticed a few fungused eggs while performing a water change, after looking in the cave I saw a group of wrigglers! From this spawn I still have 6 surviving fry.

Fry development – 1 day after hatching, 4 days, 7 days, and 90 days



The spots develop about 10 days after hatching. After 14 months one of the fish developed a strange colouration, another couple of months passed and it returned to normal. I'm not sure what caused this lightening of base colour and fins, as it was the smallest fish, maybe it was down to stress due to its larger siblings picking on it.



Unusual colouration

Over the next couple years the same pair continued to spawn, 6 times in total with 5 being in the autumn, and one in June. Each spawn produces around 60+ eggs from a female ~6.5 inches TL.

Unfortunately, I didn't manage to raise any further fry from these future spawns, I left the eggs with the male, as it had worked previously, the male often kicked the eggs out, only when the eggs were kicked I tried to raise them artificially.

Several methods were used, net and plastic breeder boxes, floating fry rings, two types of egg tumbler, and also a separate container with Methylene Blue which I did water changes on every day slowly reducing the amount of chemical in the water. With every method the eggs fungused, at least in my experience it seems best to leave the eggs with the male, so long as he can keep hold of them!

The fry grew quickly in the first year, reaching ~3 inches TL, this growth slowed down and by the

end of the second year they reached ~4 inches TL, after the second year the growth has slowed even further, they are now approaching three years old and are only slightly bigger than a year ago.

I no longer have the adults due to an accident while I was out of the country, I believe a combination of factors, mainly a very rough trapping of the female, led to the fouling of the water and I lost the adults, luckily I had already moved the six F1 to their own tank where they remain today.

I can already see some differences between sexes, I'm hopeful they will spawn in the near future, and I have more luck with their eggs and fry!



Fry at 1 year ~3 inches TL (Left)– Fry at 2 years ~4 inches (Right)



EBO-AQUARISTIK



EBO Fish Foods
Nitrate Resin
Breeding Boxes
Decorations
Clay Products

WWW.EBO-AQUARISTIK.DE

SPIRULINA PASTE



-Special Rearing Paste

-Forms a film of food in the rearing box

-Optimal rearing of Sturisoma and others Catfish, Cichlids etc.

PROFESSIONAL SOFTGRAN MUSSEL



-Natural source of protein

-Well digestible and compatible

-Contains green-lipped mussel

-Proven for breeding Discus, Geophagus, hypancistrus, Pseudacanthicus etc.

A cryptic undescribed *Synodontis* Steve Grant



Synodontis sp.8

In March 2018 Pier Aquatics (Wigan, UK) received an African (Congo) import for the CSG Convention weekend, including some young (approx. 2cm TL) *Synodontis nigriventris* David, 1936. Some young *S. contractus* Vinciguerra, 1928 were also mixed in.

At first glance they do look like *S. nigriventris*, with the small size, dark body, and the pale thin wavy vertical lines on the body, before and after the adipose fin. A closer look shows some differences.

Synodontis nigriventris



S. contractus – Dave Rinaldo



S. nigriventris

The author noticed some slightly different specimens to these two obvious species, that looked similar to the *S. nigriventris*, but had a more orange base colour and slightly shorter maxillary barbels.

Five specimens of the different ones were purchased. Unfortunately, one specimen passed away, but just over a year later the specimens have grown to approx. 6cm SL and seem to have stopped growing, or certainly slowed down. They are a very peaceful and shy species.

This species has a proportionally deeper body and head, as well as the eyes being dorsolaterally positioned so as to enable them to see better when inverted (swimming upside down). It also has a spotted abdomen and fewer and thicker markings in the fins.

The unidentified species does not invert when swimming in open water based on my observations.

Synodontis sp 'Zebra Kutu'



This undescribed species is similar morphologically to *S. nigriventris* but has a darker body colour. The same differences can be found between this and the unidentified dwarf species, apart from sp. 'Zebra Kutu' also has vermiculated lines on the abdomen, albeit not as thin as in the unidentified species. *S.* sp. 'Zebra Kutu' inverts when swimming in open water, and my specimens of the unidentified species do not.

Synodontis aterrimus Poll & Roberts, 1968



S. aterrimus holotype - Emmanuel Vreven

This is an enigmatic species; whose specific name is Latin for 'blackest' or 'very black'. Over the years some specimens have been in the hobby and been sold and identified as *S. aterrimus*, but incorrectly in my opinion. At least two of them have turned out to be hybrids (see Grant, 2003).



Synodontis hybrid 'zebrinus'



Synodontis hybrid *eupterus*

The author has reproduced here the holotype and two of the paratypes of *S. aterrimus* from the 2003 article. One of the paratypes is similar in appearance to the unidentified fish but the holotype (largest specimen) looks quite different. In addition, *S. aterrimus* reaches 11.5cm TL, whereas the unidentified species seems to have stayed around 6.5cm TL. It is not clear if the specimen in Sands (1983: loose-leaf 56i) is definitely *S. aterrimus*.



S. aterrimus paratype 98694 - Emmanuel Vreven

There is a very similar fish on Planet Catfish, which could actually be the same (the females I have look like the fish on Planet Catfish). It is listed on Planet Catfish as *Synodontis* sp. 8. The name *Synodontis* sp. 8 appears to be the most appropriate one to use for now.

References

Grant, S, 2003. *Synodontis* sp. 'zebrinus' (Siluriformes: Mochokidae). Journal of the Catfish Study Group, Vol. 4, Issue 3, pp 3-6.

Planet Catfish *Synodontis* sp. 8

https://www.planetcatfish.com/common/species.php?species_id=2389

Sands, D. D., 1983. Catfishes of the World – Volume 2 Mochokidae. Dunure Publications



Pier Aquatics, Great George Street, Wigan, WN3 4DL

<https://www.facebook.com/pieraquatics/>



01942 236661

One of the UK's leading suppliers of freshwater and tropical fish to both trade and general public

New Catfish Imports

Daniel Konn-Vetterlein



Panaqolus L351

***Panaqolus* sp. L 351**

This is one of the most interesting imports I saw recently. L 351 from the Río Huallaga (Peru) is by far not as popular as it deserves to be.

Its body is more slender, the eyes are smaller and the caudal filaments can grow much longer in comparison to all other known species of the genus *Panaqolus*. Juveniles show a light brownish base colour with dark patches, that dissolve into fine lines during maturation, while base colour gets darker. I found it to be one of the most active species of the genus. They generally avoid caves and prefer to live in between of wooden structures, like roots and branches; but can also often be seen on the open ground.

They are not prudish at all and always some of the first to get their food, even with bigger fish in the same tank. Since the Huallaga is not a very warm river, 25-27 °C is totally fine for these plecos and enough to make them grow into beautiful, elegant looking fish. I am not aware of any breeding success yet, but also do not know anybody who seriously tried. It is one of the rarer species, we do not get to see on lists very often, but they tend to show up now and then in autumn.

The only negative aspect is that L 351 is a wood-eater, just as all *Panaqolus* and this shows whenever the filter needs to be cleaned. Some of the specimen I know and keep are now 19 years old and have been imported in semiadult stadium already. It still must show if L 351 represents the same species as L 329 and if one or two of these possibly are the same species as *P. nocturnus*, or if they only share a similar morphology.



Panaqolus L351 dentition

***Ancistrus* sp.**

I came across this fish at Pier Aquatics, to where it was exported as a bycatch of *Ancistrus* cf. *ranunculus* "L 255". Both species are easily

distinguishable, since L 255 is even flatter than this fish and the spots are bigger, the head is wider, and the eyes are smaller in comparison.



New *Ancistrus* sp.

However, this is an interesting fish too, since it doesn't match any of the known l-numbers. It is likely closer related to L 100.

As in all rivers inhabited by *Ancistrus*, variation is insanely huge within the genus, and diversity might even be higher in this river which is known for its numerous forms or morphotypes of a single fish species anyway. In comparison to L 100 this new form is flattened and has a wider head, the spots are a little smaller.

Similar forms have been collected in Xingu already, but have not been exported on purpose yet. Getting this form as a bycatch now is lucky, since new and rare plecos from Brazil are not as common anymore as they used to be some years ago.

Concerning the care, I can just assume to keep them like *A. ranunculus*, *Baryancistrus xanthellus* and other well known and popular species, we keep in the hobby. A feeling also tells me that this fish will be far easier to breed than L 255 and can hopefully be preserved that way in the hobby and later on get shared with more of us.





CATFISH

STUDY GROUP

Research Support Fund

To enhance the role that the CSG plays in supporting research into catfishes and to foster a closer relationship between scientists and aquarists, the committee is proposing a Research Support Fund (RSF) be established in 2018. The RSF will provide small sums (e.g., £500) to students and other researchers to support fieldwork, museum visits, laboratory work and page charges in peer-reviewed journals. Award recipients will agree to provide two articles for the CSG journal OR present their research at a CSG event via poster or talk. Like any new program, the RSF is a work in progress and we welcome the input of subscribing members. Email us at: secretary@catfishstudygroup.org

Where does the money come from?

RSF awards will be drawn from journal subscriptions, advertising revenue, member and corporate contributions, back issue purchases, donated auction lots and other fund-raising activities.

How often will we make awards?

We will invite applications on an annual basis in September, with the successful applicant(s) being announced via social media and at our annual convention the following March.

Who is eligible to apply?

Initially, we will open this to students and junior researchers. The committee discussed opening the competition to advanced aquarists, and we may try this in the future. But for now, we will invite applications from those enrolled or working with catfishes in a registered school, university, research institute or natural history museum. Applicants must be at least 18 years old at the time the award is made.

What items, services or expenses should the award be used for?

Awards will be used to offset travel costs for fieldwork (e.g., specimen collecting, museum visits or environmental measurements), equipment purchases (e.g., nets, meters, cameras, lenses, aquaria, lab consumables, software licenses, etc.), services (e.g., DNA sequencing and genome assembly, page charges in journals) and possibly the purchase of specimens (e.g., for observation, DNA samples, etc.).

What do we need in an application?

The application will involve completing an electronic form available from the CSG website. The form will include a brief description of the intended research project or trip, an itemized budget and a brief explanation for how the award will enable or enhance the work.

How will applications be judged?

The committee and invited reviewers will independently review applications and assign scores on the basis of their merit, feasibility and appeal to CSG members. Scores will be assigned, and the highest ranked application(s) will be funded in full or to the maximum amount available. None, one, or more than one application may be funded during each cycle. If no applications are received or less than the maximum amount is awarded, the RSF will transfer funds to the next cycle and increase the number or size of awards accordingly. Finally, in order to receive the award, the successful applicant must agree to provide two articles for the CSG journal describing their project, its results, and how the award helped them in their work, or a talk or poster to be presented at a future CSG event.



Hanover, 11th - 13th Oct. 2019

6. INTERNATIONAL L-NUMBER-DAYS

Unique schedule of talks with
lots of well-known speakers:

Danny Blundell

Rupert Collins

Hans-Georg Evers

Heriberto Gimênes Jr.

Markus Kaluza

Kai A. Quante

Karl Schwamm

Ingo Seidel

Leandro Sousa

Andreas Tanke

Donald Taphorn



All talks are given in English and German



Aquarium
Münster



nature|2|aqua



Registration and agenda: www.l-number-days.eu



Hanover, 11th - 13th Oct. 2019

6. INTERNATIONAL L-NUMBER-DAYS

ATTENTION:
Early Bird is
just until
30th of April 2019!

Convention Packages

A) Convention Package "Complete":

Friday:	Dinner Buffet	(22.50 €)
Saturday:	Lunch Buffet	(22.50 €)
	Coffeebreak with Cake	(7.50 €)
	Barbecue Dinner Buffet (Meat & vegetarian)	(30.00 €)
Sunday:	Lunch Buffet	(22.50 €)
Misc.:	Participation Fee (all Days)	(45.00 €)
	Convention T-Shirt	(15.00 €)
	Convention Magazine	(12.00 €)

Purchased individually: 177.00 €

Packageprice: 150.- €

Early Bird Price: 130.- € (until 30/04/2019)

B) Convention Package "juveniles"¹⁾:

Same like Convention Package "Complete"

Purchased individually: 177.00 €

Packageprice: 95.- €

Early Bird Price: 75.- € (until 30/04/2019)

C) Convention Package "BSSW-Member"²⁾:

Friday:	Dinner Buffet	(22.50 €)
Saturday:	Lunch Buffet	(22.50 €)
	Coffeebreak with Cake	(7.50 €)
	Gala Dinner Buffet (Meat & vegetarian)	(30.00 €)
Sunday:	Lunch Buffet	(22.50 €)
Misc.:	Participation Fee (all Days)	(45.00 €)
	Convention T-Shirt	(15.00 €)

Purchased individually: 165.00 €

Packageprice: 130.- €

Early Bird Price: 110.- € (until 30/04/2019)

D) Convention Package "Friday":

Friday:	Dinner Buffet	(22.50 €)
Misc.:	Participation Fee (Friday)	(20.00 €)
	Convention T-Shirt	(15.00 €)
	Convention Magazine	(12.00 €)

Purchased individually: 69.50 €

Packageprice: 60.- €

E) Convention Package "Saturday":

Saturday:	Lunch Buffet	(22.50 €)
	Coffeebreak with Cake	(7.50 €)
	Gala Dinner Buffet (Meat & vegetarian)	(30.00 €)
Misc.:	Participation Fee (Saturday)	(30.00 €)
	Convention T-Shirt	(15.00 €)
	Convention Magazine	(12.00 €)

Purchased individually: 117.00 €

Packageprice: 95.- €

F) Convention Package "Sunday":

Sunday:	Lunch Buffet	(22.50 €)
Misc.:	Participation Fee (Sunday)	(20.00 €)
	Convention T-Shirt	(15.00 €)
	Convention Magazine	(12.00 €)

Purchased individually: 69.50 €

Packageprice: 60.- €

Venue and Accomodation:

Hotel Hennies
Altwarmbüchen

Single room: 65.- €
Double room: 90.- €
incl. Breakfast

Hotel Hennies, Hannoversche Str. 40, 30916 Isernhagen
Tel. +49 5 11/901 80, www.hotel-hennies.de

Duration of Convention:

Friday 6 p.m. until Sunday appr. 1 p.m.

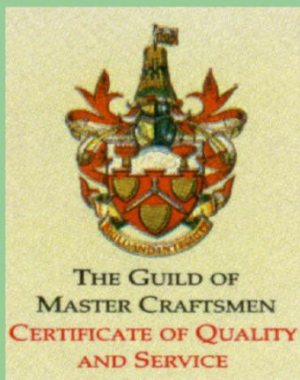
¹ just suitable for children and teenagers up to 18 years old (reference date: 11/10/2017)

² membership in organizing BSSW e.V. is required
(annual subscription: 2000 Euro) (www.1-n-number-days.de)



G.B.W

Products & Services



**High Class Joinery
Furniture
Wood Carvings
Commissions Undertaken**

Contact

Brian Walsh

Tel: (01254) 776567

Mob: 07977 428 788

Email: g.b.w@live.co.uk

