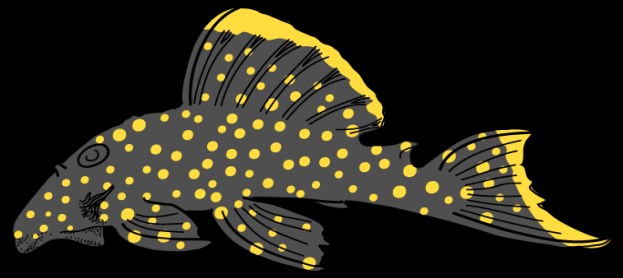


Journal of the Catfish Study Group



September 2018

Volume 19, Issue 3



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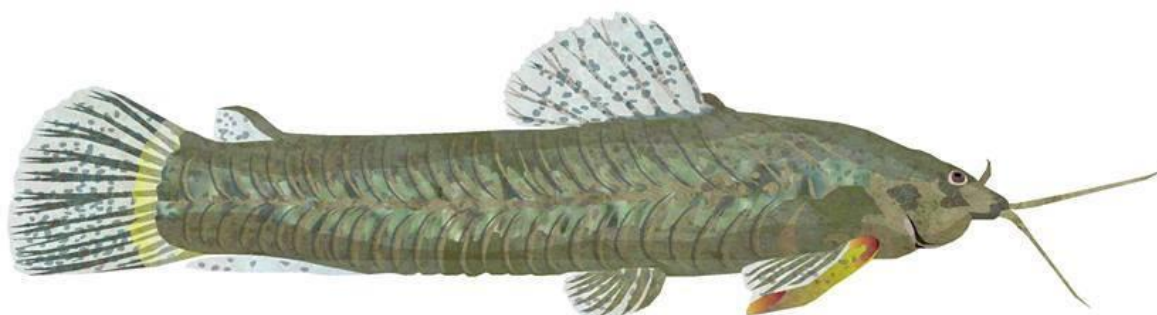
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Cover image: *Sturisomatichthys* sp. Colombia Photo: Mark Walters

Convention 2019 logo - original artwork by Mitsuhiro Iwamoto



Callichthys callichthys





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Chairman's report

As the nights draw in and the fish house starts to cool a few degrees and the *Loricarids* stop and the *Corydoras* start spawning, the CSG Committee go into overdrive arranging the forthcoming Convention and remaining events in this years' calendar.



Excitingly, in addition to the usual Autumn auction in a few months' time, we have a trip to Denmark to look forward to, visiting the National Aquarium in Copenhagen in the safe hands of Peter Petersen. It promises to be an exciting adventure for many of us with tours of the Aquarium, presentations by top catfish keepers and the camaraderie of fellow catfish keepers. I'll be making the most of the weekend, extending my stay and travelling with my wife and children to enjoy the city (and the fish!).

This is hot on the heels of the September open show and auction, which saw over a hundred aquarists through the doors competing with their prize catfish and competing to grab bargains in the auction! A few of the fish which went through included the following L-numbers (in no particular order!): L346, L156, L260, L066, L201, L200, L427, L226, L204 and the following Corydoradinae: *Scleromystax* 'CW038', *S. prionotus*, *S. barbatus*, *Corydoras* 'black schultzei', *C. burgessi*, *Aspidoras* 'CW052', *Corydoras leucomelus*, *C. agassizi*, *C. hastatus*, *C. delphax*, *Aspidoras* 'gold'.

I was pretty exhausted after the preparation and delivery of the event and stopped to reflect on the incredible hard work by our small team of committee members and volunteer members.

The CSG is kept going by the altruism shown by a very small number of hard work individuals

working to deliver top class events and outputs for hundreds of catfish keepers for very little reward. The same can be said of other aquatic clubs and I applaud the few who work tirelessly to keep this hobby active for the many.

Unfortunately, our committee effort is hampered by a tiny number of individuals who choose to scrutinize in minute detail the way CSG business is conducted and then criticise our efforts. This is despite all of our activities being conducted against a tight constitution and delivered by members of utmost integrity. The efforts by this minority to derail our efforts and undermine our work significantly reduces the ability to deliver our core activities and further the study of catfish.

Thankfully, most of this conduct is kept behind closed doors and we sincerely hope the vast majority of grateful catfish keepers are not impacted by these few agitators and will continue to support the committee in their work. We certainly try to rise above the naysayers who refuse to accept our ways of working in an unknown effort to derail the current committee.

If any of our readers would like to have a say in the way our club is managed there is a great opportunity to throw your hat into the ring with nominations for Committee roles due by the end of October. I outlined the available roles in the last Journal.

This Journal advertises the 2019 Convention with 7 speakers from across the globe. Full details for bookings can be found on our website - catfishstudygroup.org

So, here's looking forward to the longer nights – in the fish house, and plenty of fish spawnings to keep us all busy.

Cheers, [Mark](#)

CSG Annual General Meeting – 20/01/2019

On 20th January 2019, the CSG holds its AGM. This year sees the majority of the current committee complete a full term of four years of service and as per the constitution the requirement to elect or re-elect 12 committee positions. The meeting will be against the following agenda starting at 1300hrs:

1. Welcome
2. Committee vacancies
3. Accept minutes from 2018 AGM
4. Committee reports: Chair, Treasurer, Secretary, Editor, Show Secretary, Convention Manager
5. Proposals and amendments to Constitution
6. Close

The meeting will have teleconference facilities available (to be announced) and will be recorded.

The following full committee positions are available:

Chair, Treasurer, General Secretary, Convention Manager, Auction Manager, Sales Secretary, Press Secretary, Show Secretary, Breeders Award Programme Secretary, Information Technology Secretary, Editor, Catering Manager. An additional post of Scientific Advisor will be proposed.

For any committee position, the nominee must have been a CSG member for at least a year. For the positions of Chair, Treasurer and General Secretary the nominees must have held a committee post for at least three years and be based in the UK. Full details of committee post responsibilities can be found in our constitution on our website. Committee members will be expected to carry out their duties (for between 1-4 years) and attend regular committee meetings.

If you wish to put yourself forward for a committee post you must inform the current General Secretary by the 18th November. You must be seconded by a current CSG member.

To date we have individuals nominated for Chair, Treasurer, General Secretary, Convention Manager, Auction Manager, Show Secretary, IT Secretary, Editor and Catering Manager. If more than one member is proposed for any role then a ballot of members will take place. Members can hold more than one post at a time, but will only have one vote in Committee proceedings.

As usual, proposals or amendments to the constitution must be submitted to the General Secretary by the 31st October. Proposals will be presented to the membership in the last Journal of the year and ballots cast to vote for or against the proposals.

Any comments or points of discussion as per the proposals must be submitted to the General Secretary by the 7th January. The proposals and discussion points will be summarised by the Committee and presented to the AGM attendees where any remaining members can vote for or against the items and the final vote will be counted.

For full details on the AGM process and committee positions refer to the CSG Constitution.

Bolton Museum Aquarium

By Pete Liptrot



Bolton Aquarium opened on January 27th 1941, which makes us one of the oldest Public Aquaria in the UK. There are now over three generations of people from Bolton and beyond who remember the Aquarium as a part of their childhood, and are now bringing their own children or even grandchildren to learn more about the underwater world. Whether for aquarium enthusiasts, students and researchers, families, tired shoppers or just people looking for some quiet relaxation we welcome everyone.

Once at the entrance to the Aquarium the first of the displays can be seen. Certainly during the '70s this corridor had psychedelic prints on one wall, and display cases on the other with various fish fossils, prepared spirit specimens and anatomical information relating to fish.

In the late '70s some aquaria and vivaria were set up in this area and these exhibits changed over time, we stopped keeping reptiles in about 2005 and there are currently six aquaria which show different aspects of the aquatic world, including pollution, the fishes found in small streams in the rainforests, and threatened

species and environments. On the opposite wall there are interpretation boards showing various aspects of the history and operation of the aquarium.

All our displays are tropical freshwater, there are a number of reasons for this, but we like it because this sets us aside from most other similar institutions. 40% of the fish species of the world live in freshwater, after all.

We try to feature fish from all the continents where freshwater fish live, with each display being intended to represent a certain habitat. This involves selecting species which besides being potentially found together in nature, will be compatible in the confines of an aquarium, and also decorating the aquarium as correctly as we are able (with some artistic license, we use plants that grow well for us).

The Aquarium is classed as a Zoo, and therefore we are obliged to provide an extremely high standard of care for all the inhabitants in order to meet licensing requirements, keep records, and each year we're inspected to make sure we're doing what we should be.



Managing water quality in aquaria of this size isn't quite the same as most home situations, it takes more than the simple "hose and a couple of buckets" I use at home. Every exhibit gets around a 50% water change per week, and the sheer number of fish means that filter cleaning alone takes up a good number of hours each week.

Whenever new species or displays are considered, research is undertaken to ensure that all the requirements of the organisms concerned can be met to as great a degree as possible.

That this has been at least partially achieved is proven by the numerous breeding successes, and by the longevity of some of the specimens, including a 23 year old Piranha - Gnasher who we believed was the oldest piranha in the world, died on 24 April 2000. Many of our current fish are now well into their teens, the oldest we know for sure are some *Myleus rubripinnis* which are over 25 years old.

The diet given to the fish includes some items which surprise a lot of the public, but not catfish enthusiasts. Pears, tomatoes, sweet potatoes, grapes, cherries, carrots, figs, courgettes, and a wide range of other fresh vegetables and seafood. Because we have large aquaria with powerful filtration, we can be a bit more liberal in what we try, even allowing some fruit and veg to soften in the tank for a couple of days without worrying about it spoiling or creating a huge infusoria culture.

Fortunately Bolton has an excellent market only a few minutes' walk away where all these foodstuffs can be obtained cheaply and easily, it's a great source of food for those who keep larger fish. We also use specialist suppliers to

the public aquarium industry, we buy in bulk from them to keep costs down.

The fish are also fed commercial fish foods of course to give a good balance of vitamins and minerals. We're lucky to get valuable support from various manufacturers, Aquarian/API of course, and also Vitalis. We also get asked to trial new formulations and report back on them, plus new equipment at times. If a filter survives what we put it through, it's likely that it's idiot-proof...

Over the past decade we've been working more and more with universities, hosting their undergraduates on work placements and for dissertation projects. This has improved our own delivery, and I think we're a world away from where we were ten years ago. We've had recent visitors from US and German universities looking at how we breed one particular little fish of interest, *Danionella*, which may go on to be important in medical research.

Obviously catfish are important in our displays, over the years we've kept and bred many different species. With so many species to choose from, sometimes it's hard to decide which to actually display, especially given how fortunate we are in this area regarding retailers.

The information available through the CAGB and now the CSG has been really important for improving and refining our husbandry techniques. Without the advice and support from members past and present, we wouldn't have been anything like as successful as we have.



Report on the 2017 International L-number days

By Mark Walters



The bi-annual L-number Days Convention was held in Hannover, Germany between the 27-29th October. The event is now a staple in the diaries of die-hard catfish keepers and was this year attended by over 160 delegates making it one of the largest in the World. Having attended in 2015, I was equally excited this time to meet so many of my aquatic friends from across the world, and received a warm welcome from all.

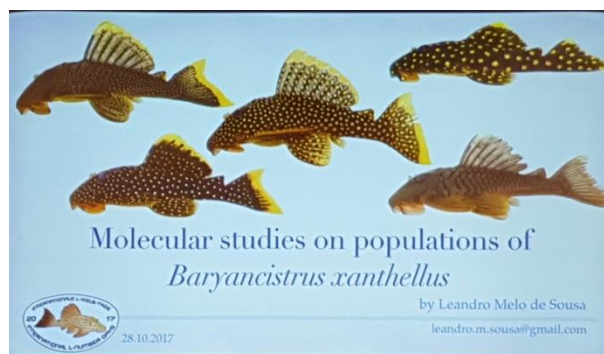
With 14 individual talks planned it didn't take me much convincing I was going to go again, although I left my arrangements and planning rather late! In addition to the great talks and opportunity to socialise with the great and the good of our hobby, there was also plenty of retail opportunity and I came home with new lots of new caves, breeding boxes and food to try out.

I haven't captured all the information from all of the talks but I hope my report casts a light on the

event which can only truly be realised by attending in person.

Leandro Sousa – Rio Xingu Talk 1

Leandro is well known to aquarists for his studies of Loricarids on the Rio Xingu, and their plight following the construction of the infamous Belo Monte hydro-electric dam. His work has further developed to study the impacts post-construction.



In his first talk of the weekend, Leandro presented interesting behavioural aspects of ‘sister’ species of plecos, including *Baryancistrus xanthellus* and *B. chrosomolus*, and *Hypancistrus zebra* and *H. sp.* ‘L174’. The latter pair of species are interesting in their vertical distribution in the river system, with *H. zebra* only found in relatively shallow depths up to 10metres. Whilst L174 inhabits much deeper zones well over 20 metres.

The dam, meanwhile, has impacted on the occurrence of certain *Hypancistrus* species with types of the L333 surviving as populations in the Altamira district, probably as reintroductions by fish-holding stations considering them being less desirable than other ‘wavy-lined’ pleco types.

Hans Georg-Evers – Madre de Dios, A journey from the Andes

No introductions necessary, Hans took the Convention on a journey from the Andes where over 75 species of *Astroblepus* sucker-mouth catfishes exist at elevations up to 3000metres. In addition, species of *Trichomycteridae* and *Nematogenyidae* exist up to 2500m. The first Loricariidae are found at 1500metres including many species of *Chaetostoma*.

The Madeira drainage, which is one of the main tributaries of the Amazon, is a hotspot of evolution with many endemic species. On every expedition, new species are discovered, although their presence in cooler waters might not make them suitable for the traditional tropical aquatic fish trade.



In the Rio Arazda, home to *Corydoras weitzmani*, Hans presented *Chaetostoma lineopunctatum* which grow to over 20cm, plus another intermediate between *Chaetostoma* and *Ancistrus* lacking plates on the head and with no barbels.

As we move down river into the lowland white-water tributaries, temperatures increase and the fauna changes accordingly. Hans recorded *Panaque schaefferi*, *Pseudorhinelepis genibarbis*, *Sturisoma nigrirostrum*, *Lamontichthys filamentosa*,

Aphanotorulus unicolor, *Hypostomus prymiezi*, *Imparfinis stictonotus*, *Farlowella kneeri* and a wide variety of undescribed *Ancistrus* species.

Haakon Haagensen, Daniel Konn-Vetterlein – 30 years of L-numbers

Haakon and Daniel took us on a journey through the L-numbers, presenting some of their favourite species and little known facts about others. The *Hypancistrus*-fest continued with presentation of more undescribed species including one with a strong resemblance to the ‘zombie’ pleco L070, which originates from the Upper Maroni river system in French Guyana and is represented by one import of three specimens which exist now in Germany. Another black *Hypancistrus* is known only from a population which exist underneath a floating bar in Manaus!



No *Hypancistrus* species seem to get mixed quite so much as the *H. inspector* types, including *H. contradens*. Not helped by their similar L codes (L102, L201 etc). To add to the mix is a fish which is often sold as L102, but which isn’t! Now designated as ‘L501’ or ‘black phantasm’ the ‘inspector-dwarf’ has been separated from the true inspector following fry comparison and adult development.

Skipping through the fascinating presentation, one of the smallest known L-numbers L280 was presented. Found in amongst populations of *Leporacanthicus* ‘L240’ which it resembles, *Micracanthicus vadragti* only grows to 5cm and has only recently been imported to Europe. Records of captive breeding have been doing the rounds on social media and the first UK imports are reported.

The presenters appeared to have a fixation with the least colourful or patterned L numbers with a strong message to maintain them along with the prettier fish! There appear to be plenty more species to be discovered and the big question is do we continue assigning L numbers.

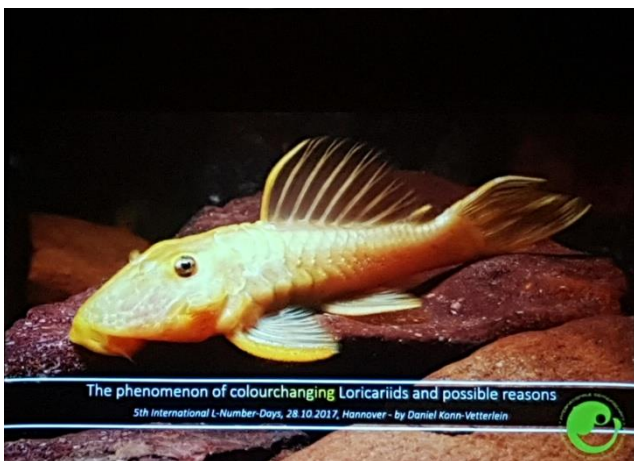
Leandro Sousa – Rio Xingu Talk 2

Leandro's second talk concentrated on the *Baryancistrus* complex and the existence of distinct populations the same species discernible by subtle differences in pattern and colour.

There is a wide distribution of the gold nugget pleco, which includes a green *B. chysomolomus* look-alike which has been proven to still be *B. xanthellus*. Analysis has determined 5 groups of *B. xanthellus* which are geographically distinct, but there is still genetic variation within geographical locations. Overall, three species are confirmed, including *B. niveatus*.

Daniel Konn-Vetterlein – Colour changing plecos

Daniel returned with his observations of plecos that have a habit of changing colour, speculating on the reasons why. Species included *Hypostomus luteus*, *Parancistrus nudiventris* and *P. aurantiacus*. Hypothesis ranged through sexual dimorphism, diet, water chemistry, sexual activity and mystery!



Heriberto Gimenes - Spectracanthicus

Heriberto must be the most knowledgeable guy I have heard talk about *Spectracanthicus* and has spent many years studying them first hand on the Rio Xingu.

He presented *S. puntatissimus* and 5 other species – L's 254, 315, 175, 353 and 30, based on morphometric analysis. Each has geographical, water column and dietary specialism which have helped define individual populations. A great reference is the excellent publication 'Loricariids of the Middle Rio Xingu, co-authored by Heriberto.

Mark Sabaj-Perez – Rio Xingu

Mark presented the grim tale of the hydro-electric damming of the Rio Xingu, from its inception in 1975 to go-live in 2015. A story of political, environmental and commercial conflict with vague benefits.

On a lighter note, Mark had us up early on the Sunday morning to hear about relationships between groups of Loricariinae, including the distinction between *Sturisomatichthys* and *Sturisoma* which are only found Trans-Andean (West of Andes) and Cis-Andean (East of Andes) respectively.

Breeding accounts: Jacqueline Heijmen Bennett-Leaver, Fabian Deuschle, Jeffrey Christian Pannaadhy

The remainder of the day saw talks from experienced aquarists and their breeding successes. Jac presented her account of *Parancistrus nudiventris*, Fabian described the differences between other *Parancistrus* species and his accounts breeding LDA046, a *P. aurantiacus* 'type'.

Jeffrey then gave a fascinating account of his 'world-first' success with *Pseudacanthicus* LDA105 at his fish farm in Jakarta, Indonesia. The installation has also experienced success with *Scobinancistrus* L014, *Pseudacanthicus pitanga*, *P. piraraya*, *P. leopardus* and the undescribed *Pseudacanthicus* L114 and L097. All three speakers were forthcoming describing their spawning methods.

Stefan Hetz – Hypoptopomatidae

Stefan has immersed himself in the tiny suckermouths of the family Hypoptopomidae, with great success including *Otocinclus piribeby* and *Parotocinclus haroldoi*. His techniques include natural aquaria stuffed with leaves. With high protein live foods, Stefan's fry can reach 3cm in just 6 weeks.

Haakon Haagenen

Haakon rounded off the event with a summary of recent imports including *Hypancistrus*, *Peckoltia*, *Spectracanthicus* and *Pseudacanthicus* – to whet the appetite of the audience. We all look forward to seeing some of the new Loricariidae becoming available in the future!

Well done to the organisers of the event, and everyone who supports L-Welse, roll on 2019!

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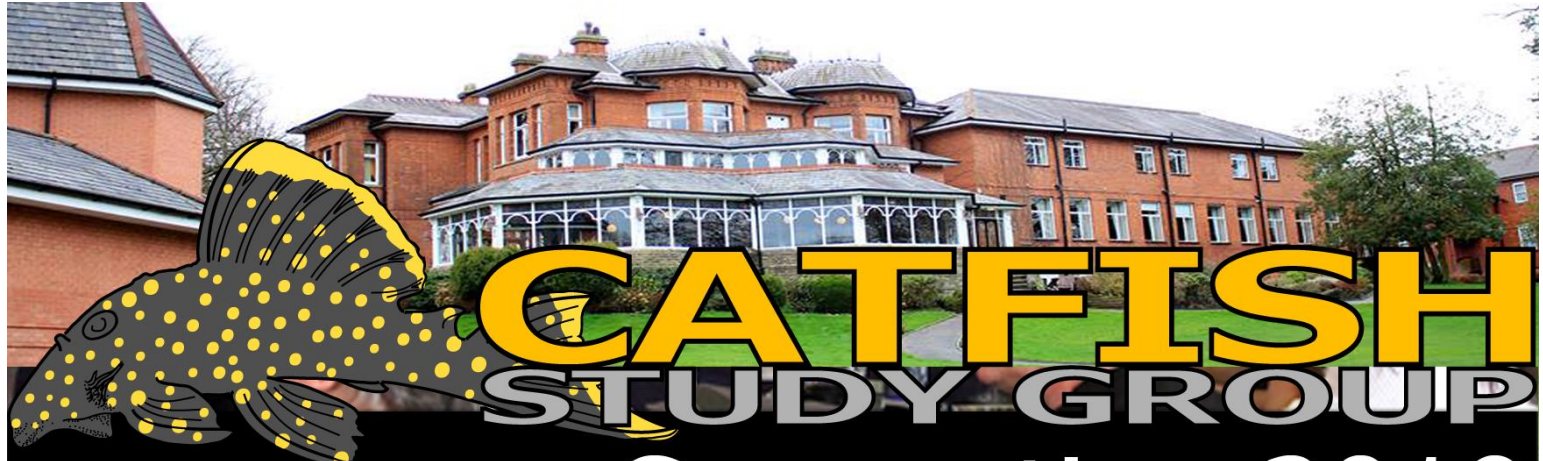


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Julia Day



Haakon Haagensen



Daniel Konn-Vetterlein



Ingo Seidel



Rob McClure



and Eric Thomas



Joint CSG member talk by Julien Preuß and Timo Schellenberg

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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 20/01/19)	£25	£20	£20	£35	
Later booking (21/01/19 – 17/02/19)	£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 17/02/19. 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 17/02/2019					

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		
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	Main	
1		
2		
3		
	Dessert	
1		
2		
3		

Additional Sales

Description	Price	No.	Clothing size: S, M, L, XL, XXL	Clothing colour choice: Black or Grey	Total £
<p>Merchandise based on <i>C. callichthys</i> 'Convention logo' and <i>B. xanthellus</i> 'CSG logo' (images below). No clothing orders after 20th January 2019</p> 					
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

CSG OPEN SHOW 2018



September 6th saw the annual CSG Open Show take place in the North West of England. After battling with motorway closures and the poor weather, over 100 people congregated for the exhibition of some of the best catfish in the UK and a massive aquatic auction.

Entries were lower than expected as a result of some regular show people either taking a break from the experience or being on their holidays!

Those who did take part, were rewarded with fantastic prizes generously supplied by Ebo-Aquaristik and Fish Science. Congratulations to David Speed for his Best in Show *Akysis portellus* (sorry I didn't get a picture of the winning fish!). Thanks to everybody who contributed to the success of the show and auction, but special thanks to our Show Secretary Brian Walsh for his hard work in delivering the show.

Below are a small selection of some of the fish on display:



Corydoras eversi



Akysis portellus



Panaqolus L206



Ancistrus sp. L184



Corydoras C134



Hypancistrus sp. L260



Ancistrus sp.



Centromochlus perugiae

RESULTS 2018

1	ASPIDORAS		ENTRIES 3	
1	John Hetherington	CSG	<i>Aspidoras fuscoguttatus</i>	81
2	John Hetherington	CSG	<i>Aspidoras albater</i>	79
3	John Hetherington	CSG	<i>Aspidoras</i> sp. CW052	78.5

3	CORYDORAS "A" up to 55mm SL[F]		ENTRIES 7	
1	Mark Walters	CSG	<i>Corydoras eversi</i>	87
2	Dave Speed	CSG	<i>Corydoras napoensis</i>	86.5
3	Ian Wallbridge	Bradford	<i>Corydoras napoensis</i>	84.5

4	CORYDORAS "B" over 55mm SL		ENTRIES 6	
1	Ian Wallbridge	Bradford	<i>Corydoras concolor</i>	85
2	Bernard O'Neill	CSG	<i>Corydoras agassizi</i>	84
3	John Hetherington	CSG	<i>Corydoras longipinnis</i>	79.5

5	CORYDORAS TYPES C & CW Nos/Unid.		ENTRIES 3	
1	Mark Walters	CSG	C134	85.5
2	Michael Metcalfe	Bradford	CW008	82
3	Dave Speed	CSG	C123	80

6	SCLEROMYSTAX		ENTRIES 1	
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1	Mark Walters	CSG	<i>Scleromystax CW038</i>	81.5
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9	AUCHENIPTERIDAE		ENTRIES 3	
1	Ian Wallbridge	Bradford	<i>Centromochlus schultzei</i>	76
2	Mark Walters	CSG	<i>Liosomadoras morrow</i>	74.5
3	Ian Wallbridge	Bradford	<i>Centromochlus reticulatus</i>	64

10	BAGRIDAE		ENTRIES 1	
1	Dave Speed	CSG	<i>Batasio fluvatilis</i>	83

11	DORADIDAE		ENTRIES 1	
1	Mark Walters	CSG	<i>Platydoras armatulus</i>	79

12	LORICARIIDAE up to 130mm		ENTRIES 9	
1	Mark Walters	CSG	<i>Peckoltia braueri</i>	87.5
2	Dave Speed	CSG	<i>Hemiancistrus guahiborum</i>	87
3	Mike Kirkham	CSG	<i>Otocinclus mimulus</i>	86.5

13	LORICARIIDAE over 130mm		ENTRIES 1	
1	Dave Speed	CSG	<i>Peckoltia sabaji</i>	83

14	LORICARIIDAE L&LDA Nos up to 130mm		ENTRIES 3	
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1	Mark Walters	CSG	L206	79.5
2	Ian Wallbridge	Bradford	L213	79
3	Dave Speed	CSG	Lo66	76

15	LORICARIIDAE L&LDA Nos over 130mm		ENTRIES 2	
1	Dave Speed	CSG	L240a	84
2	Mark Walters	CSG	L240	83

16	MOCHOKIDAE up to 130mm		ENTRIES 2	
1	Mike Kirkham	CSG	<i>Synodontis nigriventris</i>	84
2	Dave Speed	CSG	<i>Mochokiella paynei</i>	80

18	PIMELODIDAE up to 100mm		ENTRIES 1	
1	Dave Speed	CSG	<i>Microglanis iheringi</i>	80

22	AOV CATFISH – AFRICAN		ENTRIES 1	
1	Dave Speed	CSG	<i>Pareutropius buffei</i>	78

23	AOV CATFISH – ASIAN		ENTRIES 3	
1	Dave Speed	CSG	<i>Akysis portellus</i>	85

24	PAIRS – CORYDORADINAE		ENTRIES 1	
1	Mark Walters	CSG	<i>Corydoras eversi</i>	90

25	PAIRS – LORICARIIDAE inc L&LDA Nos		ENTRIES 1	
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1	Mark Walters	CSG	<i>Ancistrus</i> L156	78
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28	PAIRS – AOV ASIAN		ENTRIES 1	
1	Dave Speed	CSG	<i>Akysis portellus</i>	81

29	BREEDERS–CORYDORADINAE		ENTRIES 3	
1	Mark Walters	CSG	<i>Corydoras eversi</i>	86
2	Mark Walters	CSG	<i>Scleromystax</i> CW038	84
3	Mark Walters	CSG	<i>Scleromystax prionotus</i>	80

30	BREEDERS–LORICARIIDAE		Inc	ENTRIES 6	
	L&LDA				
1	Danny Blundell	CSG	<i>Ancistrus</i> L184	88	
2	Danny Blundell	CSG	<i>Hypancistrus</i> L260	85	
3	Danny Blundell	CSG	<i>Ancistrus</i> 'Gold Spot'	81	

31	BREEDERS – AOV S AMERICAN		ENTRIES 1	
1	Ian Wallbridge	Bradford	<i>Centromochlus perugiae</i>	83

34	FAMILY CLASS – Pair & Breeders Team		ENTRIES 2	
1	Mark Walters	CSG	<i>Corydoras eversi</i>	176
2	Mark Walters	CSG	<i>Ancistrus</i> L156	154

35	BREEDERS – MASTER CLASS		ENTRIES 2	
1	Danny Blundell	CSG		254
2	Mark Walters	CSG		243

SPECIAL WINNERS 2018

Best Fish in the Show – Sam Trophy

Dave Speed	CSG	<i>Akysis portellus</i>	Class 23
Mark Walters	CSG	<i>Corydoras eversi</i>	Class 3
Mike Kirkham	CSG	<i>Synodontis nigriventris</i>	Class 16

Best Corydoradinae [1-7] - Yvonne Cank Memorial Trophy

Mark Walters	CSG	<i>Corydoras eversi</i>	Class 3
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Best from Classes 8-11 – Masterstaff Cup

Dave Speed	CSG	<i>Batasio fluviatalis</i>	Class 10
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Best Loricariidae [12-15] – Masterstaff Trophy

Mark Walters	CSG	<i>Peckoltia braueri</i>	Class 12
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Best Synodontis [16-17] – L.M.B. Aquatics Shield

Mike Kirkham	CSG	<i>Synodontis nigriventris</i>	Class 16
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Best Pimelodidae [18-19] – S & P S Cup

Dave Speed	CSG	<i>Microglanis iheringi</i>	Class 18
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Best AOV Catfish [20-23] – A.O.V. Catfish Cup

Dave Speed	CSG	<i>Akysis portellus</i>	Class 23
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Best Pair [24-28] – Clint Cup

Mark Walters	CSG	<i>Corydoras eversi</i>	Class 24
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Best Breeders Team [29-33] – Kings Carpets Trophy

Danny Blundell	CSG	<i>Ancistrus L184</i>	Class 30
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Centromochlus schultzei

CSG Autumn Auction

Sunday 18 November 2018

Derwent Hall, Darwen, Lancs. BB3 0DQ

Contact [Mark Walters](#) or check

catfishstudygroup.org and [Facebook](#) for 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.
3. All fish will be transported to and from the event in an insulated transit 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. Fish will be bagged on the day of sale, not on preceding days, to reduce the opportunity for water-fouling.
7. 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.
8. 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.
9. 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.
10. The CSG will not permit other private sales to take place on the premises of CSG events during its sales.



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Experiences with the dwarf royal whiptail of the genus *Sturisomatichthys*

Mark Walters



Sturisomatichthys sp. Colombia

When I visit fish shops and I'm scanning their sales tanks, I am used to ignoring all the fish in the upper two-thirds of the water scouring the substrate for anything with whiskers. Even the catfish get ignored if they don't tick my current wants-list or for their sins originate from the wrong continent.

One fish that seems to have escaped my attentions finally made its way into my tanks prior to the 2018 CSG Convention. The loose theme of the event was whiptail catfish, and as usual I planned a display tank featuring the relevant group of fish.

My fish house was pretty bereft of Loricariinae catfish, although in the past I have kept and bred a few species – twig, chocolate, royal and my

greatest whiptail breeding accomplishment – the giant *Spatuloricaria*.



Spatuloricaria pугanensis

During a visit to Pier Aquatics, Wigan, I had a few new fish on my wish list and ended up with groups of the Red Lizard whiptail (*Leliella* sp. L010) and a relative new species to me – the dwarf royal whiptail.

For some reason, the existence of this seemingly perfect aquarium fish had eluded me and I stared at the tank thinking hard about why I hadn't clocked this species in the past. It was a catfish, small, brown, breedable and relatively new to me.



***Sturisomatichthys* sp. Colombia**

The proprietor informed me they had already bred in the tank, although wasn't sure if there were still any females in the tank. I ended up getting four fish and promised to do a bit of research when I got home.

I was aware of the existence of the genus as distinct from their larger *Sturisoma* cousins and learned from Raphael Covain's recent paper on the phylogeny of Loricariinae (2016) about the classification of *Sturisoma* restricted to the East of the Andes (Cis-Andean) and *Sturisomatichthys* to the West of the Andes (Trans-Andean).

The paper also reclassified previously identified Trans-Andean *Sturisoma* as *Sturisomatichthys*. It is likely that my specimens are not an identified species (*S. leightoni* being the usual suspect), but well known in the hobby as '*Sturisomatichthys* sp. Colombia'.



Sturisoma aureum

My dwarf royal whiptails quickly settled in their new tank and it soon became apparent who were the girls and who was the boy! The females soon started fattening up and the male was apparent by his cheek odontodes.



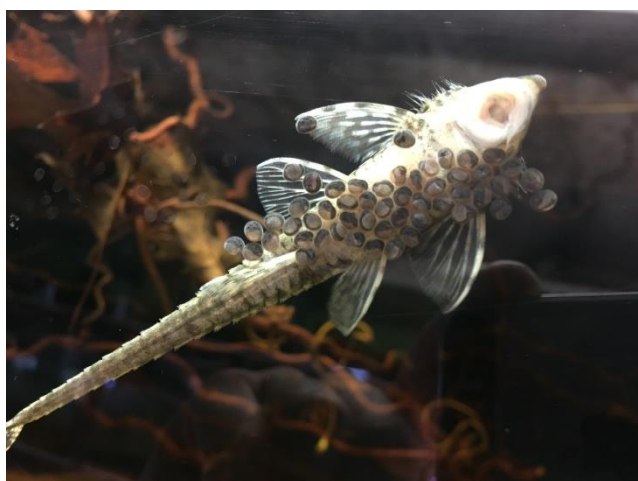
***Sturisomatichthys* sp. Colombia female**



***Sturisomatichthys* sp. Colombia male**



Adult size of these whiptails is only 80-100mm (SL). It wasn't long before I discovered the first spawning in the tank, with the male hanging in a corner guarding a clutch of eggs. The first egg plaque was hidden away, but subsequent spawnings on the front pane of the aquarium gave me a great chance to witness their activity and document the development of the eggs.



Eggs close to hatching

Once they had started, the group laid eggs weekly, with the male often brooding a couple of egg masses. On one occasion, all three females laid eggs in succession – giving the male the task of protecting almost 150 eggs!



Multiple spawnings

These fish spawned in a similar fashion to the 'true' royal whiptails, including *Sturisoma aureum* which I had bred a few years previously. I used my experience from those spawnings in this case. The main lessons learned were to remove the fry before hatching (sounds a bit chicken and egg!), and to keep the fry swimming in a suitable food source. After around 12 days of development, the eggs darken significantly and fully formed fry can be observed through the egg membrane. It is at this stage that I intervene, just prior to natural hatching, by siphoning the eggs from the spawning substrate.



Newly hatched fry

Simply, using a 10mm tube, I ease the eggs off the glass, siphoning them into a suitable

receptacle. Invariably, the eggs hatch during the process, or at least minutes after. This method ensures I don't lose the fry in the aquarium and I can contain them for the raising stage.

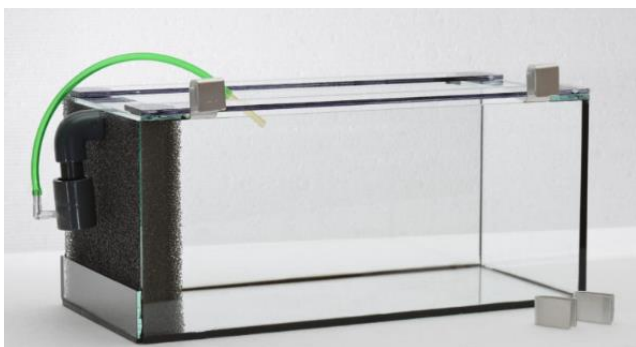
The fry have much-reduced egg sacs, after a relatively long development in the egg. They are transferred to one of the Perspex ring hatching devices developed in Germany.



3 day old fry

The aeration ensures constant through-flow of fresh water – vital considering the potential for water-fouling. I also add a few aged oak leaves and a few bits of bogwood for cover and biofilm grazing.

Feeding starts a few days later, with soaked *spirulina* powder maybe 3 or 4 times a day. I tend to continue with this regime, regularly cleaning the fry ring for a week before including powdered food with a higher protein content. After three or four weeks I move the fry to a suspended glass tank, within the aquarium, with constant through flow. I use the Ebo tanks, although other types could be used.



After a month, foods include fry pastes, *Artemia* nauplii and fine dried foods.



One week old fry



At eight weeks, the youngsters have reached 30mm and I usually release them into a 'peaceful' aquarium, i.e. one without boisterous plecos! The growth rate is quite slow with the youngsters reaching 50mm after three months.

As is often the case, I miss a few spawnings in accessible parts of the adults' tank and a fair few fry have hatched and developed 'naturally' in the aquarium.



Fry 'escaped' in the aquarium



This has encouraged me to use a more natural method for future spawnings, almost out of necessity considering the frequency of spawnings – one a week at the height of their activity.

Plus, with the centralised system their tank is a part of, I keep finding youngsters at varying stages of development popping up in tanks they don't belong – although they seem perfectly happy!

References and useful Literature:

R. Covain et al. Molecular phylogeny of the highly diversified catfish subfamily Loricariinae. *Molecular Phylogenetics and Evolution* 94 (2016) 492–517

H-G Evers, I Seidel. *Baensch Catfish Atlas 1*. Mergus Publications. ISBN 3-88244-064-3

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CATFISH

STUDY GROUP

Research Support Fund

In an attempt 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?

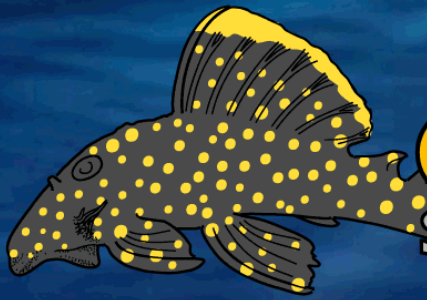
Awards will be used to offset travel costs for fieldwork (e.g., specimen collecting, museum visits or environmental measurements), equipment purchases (e.g., nets, meters, cameras, lenses, aquaria, lab consumables, software licenses, etc.), services (e.g., DNA sequencing and genome assembly, page charges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



CATFISH

STUDY GROUP

Jacob Fortlingsvej
2770 Kastrup
Copenhagen
DENMARK

DEN BLÅ
PLANET



15:00 27.10.2018



2 speakers/talere (English + dansk)

Backstage tour/tur

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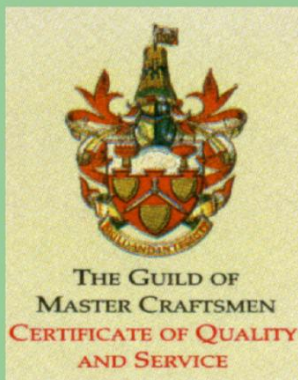


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