



May 1, 2004
Volume 1, Issue 4

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May BAP Report

—by Greg Steeves

We had another good month of BAP participation. With the submissions of a couple new members, the number of individual species spawned by those in our club is 29.

Our BAP continues to generate funding as well as content for both the newsletter and the website. In April we had two members awarded the HCCC Spawning Award and one member receive the HCCC Breeder Award with a couple more very close to this goal. We had our first entry of a class C fish as well.

Greg remains at the top of the standings but with 6 last minute BAP submissions by Charles, he is once again within reach.

Let's make May a phenomenal month. Keep those fish proce-

Current Standings

Greg	190
Charles	110
Duc	90
Paul	65
Lisa	60
Ripple	55
Dave	45
Brian	40

Upcoming Events:

- HCCC May meeting on the 16th in New Braunfels.
- ACA Annual Convention. July 22-25.

Picture of the Month

There were many submitted photographs that could have easily made the Picture of the Month. I decided to use a picture of a very special fish recently acquired and photographed by one of our members. Can you guess what it is?

This is a Myaka myaka. From the little information I could gather about this fish, it is from Lake Barombi Mbo in West Cameroon. I've been told that this fish has never been bred in captivity and that it is possibly extinct in its native waters. Lake Barombi Mbo is part of Camer-

oon's crater lakes. This lake in particular is known for occasionally releasing toxic gases. The isolation of these lakes



© Greg Steeves

have led to the unique species of fish that can only be found here.

TCA Weekend 2004

— by Greg Steeves

Lee Ann and I attended the spring workshop put on by the Texas Cichlid Association April 16-18 2004. It was in Arlington Texas right across the road from "The Ballpark". The Rangers were out of town that weekend but there were so many fish events to take in that we didn't feel badly about missing them. We made to drive from Canyon Lake to Arlington, with dinner and pee breaks included in 6 hours. We arrived and checked into our room at 7pm. After a quick shower it was off to the main hall to see everyone. We immediately found Spencer Jack, fellow Canuck and great friend of both Lee Ann and I and the HCCC. After brief chit chat and lots of hand shakes with folks we hadn't seen in a while, it was time to register



for the event. While registering we paid our TCA membership dues as we had wanted to join for some time. After mingling with everyone, we had to get our fish that we were showing into their tanks. I was really happy to see Jim Beck and his wife. Jim is of course, a founding member of our club and I really enjoyed his company through the weekend.

As soon as we had the fish settled, it was time for Spencer's first talk. He gave an enjoyable fish trivia spiel. Lee Ann and I both made it to the final five, but were quickly eliminated in the playoffs. Once

the talk was over we were both pretty exhausted and decided to call it a night.

Saturday morning we got up and had coffee. While we were waiting for the caffeine to sink in we stumbled to the hall once again. We attended a Victorian cichlid talk by Chuck Rambo. I really enjoyed the talk but there were some aspects of it that were out of date. Chuck is a great speaker and knows lots of interesting tidbits that I eat up. I was surprised to learn that of the three big African lakes, the first fish to make it to the US were from Lake Victoria.



Next Spencer gave another talk called "Confessions of a Cichlaholic". This was hilarious! It covered all those taboo fish tips like how to file down the teeth of your jack dempsey so it can't tear your other fish apart and how to turn your bath tub into a cichlid tank. This was really entertaining and had everyone laughing most of the time.

After the talk we went out for dinner with Spencer, Chuck, and TCA members. Over dinner, we had great talks concerning our club. I was happy to know that the TCA is almost as excited about our formation as



we are. We broached the subject of the HCCC hosting the ACA 2005 hospitality suite. This is a real possibility. The Dallas 2005 ACA may be over a year away but if we intend to do this we will have to start planning for it now. Af-

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ter dinner Lee Ann, Spencer and I drove all over Arlington looking for a filter for his camera. Spence was leaving on a collecting trip after the show so apparently this was something he desperately needed. After coming up empty handed, we were driving back to the hotel when across the street we noticed a camera store. Sure enough, he found what he needed there so all was well in the world once again. Our filter search was somewhat prolonged and we missed Cary Strong's talk on discus but got to hear him again at the banquet.



We made our way to the banquet that evening for awards presentation and food! Lee Ann and I were lucky enough to sit with Mr. and Mrs. Beck. Jim took 1st place in Malawian haplochromines. He entered an absolutely beautiful *Sciaenochromis fryeri* that I thought had a really good shot at "best in show" as well. I placed third in the category the HCCC sponsored, the Victorian and Kivu cichlids. Not a great representation but at least I wasn't skunked. We did manage to snag first place in the photography category for last months "picture of the month". The TCA handed out BAP awards during the meal. They really take the BAP activities seriously. A lot of the members take part in the BAP. Kathy and Marvin England received many awards including breeder of the year.



During the banquet a presentation was made to a member of the TCA. I really don't know what it was all about only that it was very emotional. There is a genuine feeling that TCA members are not only a club, but also friends. It was really great to see.

Cary Strong then gave a talk on discus diseases. He



admitted that his topic was perhaps not the best choice for an after dinner speech, but it was interesting nonetheless.

After the banquet, Spence gave another great talk on Tanganyikan cichlids. I don't remember a whole lot about it only that I won 1,000,000 Turkish lira, was not allowed to answer questions because I am a Canuck, and that Lee Ann got a beautiful framed Spencer Jack frontosa picture. It was even signed on the back. He made it out to the hillbillies (I know he couldn't have meant us)! That was the end of day two.

Day three was auction day. It turned out to be a good sized auction with a strong attendance. Members Dave, Robert and

Charles made it up for Sunday's festivities. It was a long day and if not for Caroline Estes of Amazonia in Austin, we would probably still be there bidding. She can zip through goods and is a hilarious auctioneer. I'm certain that we in the HCCC will be seeing lots more of her. During the auction, the HCCC leadership group made Spencer an honorary member. I hope we get him down to

talk to the club someday soon so we can make the formal presentation.

All in all it was a most excellent weekend. My only regret is that more of us couldn't make it to the show. Maybe next time eh?

(Pictures by Lee Ann & Greg Steeves)



“...It was even signed on the back. He made it out to the hillbillies (I know he couldn't have meant us)! “



Species Profile: Copadichromis borleyi

— by Todd Beasley

Copadichromis borleyi is a fairly common fish in the hobby today. Perhaps this is due to the sheer number of varieties that exist in the wild. All of these varieties fit into two major categories "Red Fin" and "Yellow Fin." Each of these two categories has several locations where it can be found throughout Lake Malawi. Borleyi from each of these locations vary slightly. For example, "Red Fin" borleyi are currently collected from Kadango, Taiwan Reef, Mbenji Island, Nkhungo Reef, and Ntekete. "Red Fin" borleyi from each of these locations have very minor differences. These variances are most easily seen in the females of each variety,

which vary in colors and patterns from black and brown to silver and yellow. Males from all locations have a metallic blue head with red-orange to yellow flanks.

C. borleyi was originally discovered by Iles and was originally named Haplochromis borleyi. Eventually it was renamed to



Copadichromis borleyi "Yellow Fin" Young Adult Male Copyright 2004 Aaron Lawson

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Cyrtocara borleyi before being given its current name.

Adult male borleyi are easily distinguished by their long, flowing ventral fins which, in some varieties, can go the length of their body when "tucked" in. Males can reach sizes of up to nine inches. Females are smaller and generally top out at six inches. Due to their large size they shouldn't be kept to maturity in any thing less than a 110 gallon tank.

Copadichromis borleyi is a member of a group of cichlids known as Utaka. They are open water swimmers, and can be found at depths from ranging from five to twenty meters, near the rock reefs of the lake. They are a fairly peaceful cichlid, although male can get a bit aggressive with similarly colored males. This aggression, however, is rarely anything more than show. Males' aggression levels may also escalate around breeding time.

On the other hand, there is very little chance that you will ever find a borleyi in a battle for "King of the Tank." My borleyi are easily dominated by a much smaller Labidochromis

caeruleus as well as a smaller Sciaenochromis fryeri. When choosing tank mates for Copadichromis borleyi, try to stay away from the more aggressive mbuna. Borleyi seem to do well with Peacocks, peaceful Haps, and other Utaka.

C. borleyi is not a picky eater. In the wild they dine primarily on zooplankton.

It is important that they receive a high protein diet. I feed mine a spirulina based flake with brine shrimp treats and they are doing great.

Like most Malawi cichlid, C. borleyi is a maternal mouthbrooder. When breeding commences, the male will claim

a territory near a flat rock. This is not a permanent territory and is likely to change with each spawning. They have a breeding ritual similar to haplochromines with the dancing and circling. If you plan on breeding this fish, be aware that it is not uncommon for the female to loose her first few clutches. When you do have a successful spawn, incubation can last up to three weeks. Brood sizes



Copadichromis borleyi "Yellow Fin" Young Adult Female Copyright 2004 Aaron Lawson



Copadichromis borleyi "Yellow Fin" Young Adult Pair Copyright 2004 Aaron Lawson

range from twenty to eighty depending on the female's size. Fry will reach a size of one and a half inches in two months and will be breeding size, which is three inches, in ten to twelve months. It takes males up to a full year to reach full coloration and two years or more to reach full adult size.

"[borleyi] have a breeding ritual similar to haplochromines with the dancing and circling."

Species Profile: *Cyrtocara moorii*

— by Lisa Boorman

This fish was originally described in 1902 by G.A. Boulenger. It was first imported in 1968. *C. moorii* is found in Lake Malawi. It is found in around sandy coastal areas. In the lake it is found following *Mylochromis lateristriga*, *Taeniolethrinops praeorbitalis*, and *Fossorochromis rostratus*. These fish dig into the sand to eat and the resulting clouds attract *C. moorii*. It feeds this way exclusively in the lake.

This fish likes a temperature of 74-79F. A pH of 7.2-8.8 with a dH of 10-18 is recommended. Needs fairly hard water. Regular water changes are a must with this fish. These fish will eat almost anything: pellets, flake, frozen, beef heart, and even small live fish. They need a high vegetable content in their diet.

There is a small amount of sexual dimorphism in this fish. Both sexes are a bright blue color. If the fish is not dominant or frightened, they show three dark blotches on their body (fry coloration). There can also be a cranial bump present on both sexes. I find that you can tell the sexes apart (at least in the fish that I have). The male appears to be a darker blue than the female. He also has longer dorsal and anal fins.

These fish reach up to 11" for males and 8" in length for females (however these sizes are unusual in an aquarium). It is a peaceful, yet territorial fish. It will burrow in the substrate but it will not harm the plants. It will school in a tank if there enough individuals in it. It is recommended to have three females to one

male as it is a polygamous fish. It is a mouth-brooder.

For a few days before spawning, the male displays more often to the female. He then prepares a spawning site. The female will lay 20-90 eggs on a selected rock or a cleared area of glass in the



aquarium and will pick them up immediately. However, the male will already have fertilized them while they were outside of the female's mouth. This is not the usual method of Malawian cichlids where fertilization takes place inside the mother's mouth. When the spawning is over the female takes on a blotchy coloration. The eggs hatch 14-20 days later but might not be released for another week or so.

The aquarium they are housed in should be fairly large considering the size they grow to. It should also have rocks and caves. There should also be a large area with no rocks as they need the swimming
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room.

I bought these fish from a breeder when they were about 3½" long. I bought 1 male and 1 female. They were placed in a 55 gallon tank. This tank has a internal filter. There are two 4' lights above this tank. They were kept at 78-80F. (The temperature rises to 80 when the lights are on.) The pH is about 7.8 in this tank. There is a gravel bottom with rocks, caves, and some 2" CPVC piping sections scattered in the tank. They were kept with *Aulonocara* sp. eureka orange, *L. caeruleus*, *L. fuelleborni* and *Ancistrus* sp. catfish.

About two months after I had bought them, I noticed the male was digging the gravel away from a section of the tank by the front of the glass (behind a rock). I got really excited because this was the spawning behavior I had read about. One day later I came home for lunch and the female showed the blotchy coloration

that shows that she was carrying eggs. Two days later her normal color was back and she was again eating. What a disappointment!

One month later the male was digging in the front again. This time she carried the eggs until the end. After 18 days I caught the female to remove her to 20 gallon tank that I had cleared for her. She spit out her fry into the net. So I released her into the main tank and put the fry into the 20 gallon. I got 11 fry from her and they are still all alive and doing well. After two months the fry are showing a blue tinge to their bodies. They also show the blotchy coloration. One thing I found interesting though was they have a yellowish anal fin. (I have since seen pictures of *C. moorii* fry and they all have the yellow fin) They are slightly larger than 1 inch long. I have heard that they are slow growing, so I guess I'll find that out.

"These fish reach up to 11" for males and 8" in length for females"

Species Profile: *Iodotropheus sprengerae*

— by Greg Steeves

This little mbuna is known in the trade as "rusty cichlid". It grows to around 3", and as Malawians go, it is one of the smaller species. It is not high on the aggression scale in my opinion, but can get rough with its own kind. The safest way I have found to house these guys is to keep a group of around a dozen, this way one fish won't get singled out and picked on. They do have very well defined teeth, and can handle meat in addition to flake. I feed mine ocean plankton once or twice a week for a treat. Brine shrimp and daphnia are also greedily consumed. I feel this should constitute about 10% of their diet. Spirulina flake as well as other commercial flake is fine for their remain-

ing sustenance. They are not fussy eaters in the least. Because they are "rock fish", I include many caves in their tank setup.

Unlike other mbuna, males are not territorial to the degree that they will defend a spot against all others. Rusties do co-exist well with other fish that are not too aggressive. I have them housed with *Melanochromis* species which are quite aggressive, but these fish

seem to be more concerned with picking



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on their own kind and leave the sprengerae to themselves. They also get along well with *Metriaclima estherae*. I suspect that they will get along with almost all mbuna.

I have my rusties housed in a 45 gallon tank. An AquaClear 200 filters the tank and a 50% water change is done bi-monthly. Shale caves and piles of round river rock are scattered throughout. Temperature is kept around 75F. No special tinkering is done to my water which has a near pH 8. In this setup, the fish spawn regularly. An average spawn is only around 20 fry, but I expect this number to rise as the fish get older. Spawning

occurs in the typical mouthbrooder fashion. Fry are hardy and easy to raise. They grow rapidly when well fed and when frequent water changes are done.

Rusties are not the most colorful fish in the world. They are a rusty brown color (hence the common name), but males, when in breeding coloration, take on a purple hue. They are really quite nice when in this condition. I think the attraction of this fish is that it makes a great contrast to some of the more colorful mbuna. They don't have to be housed in a terribly large tank so anyone without a whole lot of room might find rusties just the thing.

“Rusties are not the most colorful fish in the world....but males, when in breeding coloration, take on a purple hue”

Species Profile: *Julidochromis marlieri*

— by Lisa Boorman

Julidochromis refers to the former marine wrasse group *Julidini* and also the former name for cichlids (*Chromides*). *Marlieri* refers to the Belgian ichthyologist G. Marlier. This fish was originally described in 1956 by M. Poll. It was introduced to hobbyists in 1958.

Julidochromis come from Lake Tanganyika. *Marlieri* are found in the NW part of the lake near Makabola and Luhsanga in Zaire (also in Burundi). They are most commonly found in boulder and rock zones up to 115 feet below the surface.

It is hard to tell the sexes apart in this fish. They are a long skinny fish. The body is yellow with brown vertical and horizontal stripes. These stripes may be intermittent. Their pectoral fins are yellow. All other fins are dark with light spotting on them. They grow 4-6". The one way possibly to tell them apart is that the male has a more pointed genital papilla slanted towards the rear. Females generally grow larger than the males.

Females of larger Julies seem to take more care of eggs and fry than the smaller Julies (ie. *transcriptus* and *ornatus*). There are several color varieties of



these fish. The darker varieties come from deeper in the lake.

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For these fish to feel comfortable in a tank they like to have rock structures, caves, or pots to hide in. The tank should not be rearranged a lot as this causes fights to break out even among mated pairs. The pH of the water should be greater than 7.5 with a temperature of 22-25C (72-77F). dH should be around 15.

These fish are micropredators in the wild. In captivity they seem to do very well on flake food, baby brine shrimp, and frozen foods finely chopped. They seem to ignore pieces that are too big.

When these fish breed they will do so in a cave like structure. Their eggs are grayish green and are laid on the roof of their 'cave'. The fry hatch after 3 days and free swim after another 10 days. Marlieris have two methods of raising young. The first is in which they lay a large batch of eggs (up to 300) at a time every 6 weeks or so. The other is where they lay 12-20 eggs every 7-10 days. They can change their method at any time for no discernable reason. Fortunately young fry are tolerated by their older siblings. They become sexually mature at about 14 months.

In the wild these fish are located next a population of *Julidochromis regani*. In the middle of these two groups is a population known as 'J. regani affinis'. The affinis seems to have characteristics of both species. It is a possible natural cross between the marlieri and the regani.

I received my fish in a trade from Wayne Cole. He told me they were a mated pair. They were placed into a 20g tank with a large conch shell and a sponge filter. They both immediately disappeared into the shell. The pH of this tank runs around 7.8. The temperature is 77F.

They were fed brine shrimp flakes. However they wouldn't eat when I was watching. I kept an eye out for them through a hole in the end of the shell that let me see the larger fish. Occasionally the smaller one

would be kicked out of the shell but was let in a few minutes later. Three days later I saw grayish green eggs at the top edge of the shell right near the hole. I counted 30 eggs. Approximately 2 weeks later I saw 12 fry

hanging around the edge of the shell. They were fed BBS for the first couple of weeks and they were also given powdered fry food. Later I discovered that only 9 of them had made it. That was a disappointment. Six weeks later there was another batch of fry. I found that they grew faster than my brichardi fry. But I think that I need more plants or another sponge in the tank so that I can grow a good 'crop' of little critters for the fry. I have a funny feeling that most of the fry starved because the BBS was a little too big for them. They hang around all over the tank after approximately 2 weeks. The ones that hang on the filter are darker than the others, I think it's because the filter is dark and they are 'hiding'. These are fairly easy fish if you can get the fry to survive. They are very pretty and don't seem to fight too much (at least for me). This fish will be one of my keepers.



© Lisa Boorman

Species Profile: *Archocentrus sajica*

— by Lisa Boorman

The name *sajica* is a acronym for SALvador JImenez CANossa, the director of the Library of Congress of Costa Rica. *A. sajica*, also known as T-Bar Cichlid, is endemic to Costa Rica and other Central American waters.

Males are larger and get longer fins than females, 4½” and 3” respectively. Males also develop a steep forehead as they mature. An open spawner, but with tendencies toward cave spawning. Requiring a neutral pH and temperatures of around 70-80°.

I received these fish as small fry from the raffle table at a club meeting. I placed them into a 33 gallon tank along with a pair of halfbeaks. The fry immediately found any vegetation in the tank and promptly hid for most of the day while they were small. This tank has a gravel bottom and is filtered by an Aquaclear filter. Water changes are done weekly. The temperature is around 75F. I haven't tested the pH in the tank in a long time, but it comes out of the tap around 7.8. The *sajicas* took flake very well. In fact, I'd call them pigs. They grew extremely quickly. I ended up placing 4 *Thorichthys aureum* in with them as I'd had no other place to put them. For a short while it seemed to work, but soon there were problems. First, the *sajicas* spawned inside an upside down clay pot that was in the tank. Then within days, two of the aureums spawned on a large flat rock in the middle of the aquarium. This left 4 fish to try and find shelter in the tank. One of the *sajicas* was soon a victim of this. Soon followed by one of the aureums (the original spawning female in fact –

she was killed by the other female who was larger). As soon as the fry was free-swimming, both parents defended the fry against the other *sajica* and the aureums. The aureums also defended their fry. I got quite busy and didn't keep up my water changes as well as I normally do, and was dismayed to see the large male *sajica* with popeye. He was still defending his fry though. I siphoned off some of the fry worried I'd lose the male.

They were placed into a 20 gallon tank to grow out. I did lose the male. Shortly after that, the spare aureum was also killed by defending parents. As the large *sajica* was the only one that had shown any 'red' in it's fins, I'd assumed I no longer had any males, not knowing if this was a characteristic or not. I was pleasantly surprised a month later when I saw a new male with the female herding fry in their tight corner of the tank. I also lost this male to popeye. I'm not sure why he got it, as I'd been doing much more regular water changes. All in all, this is quite the pretty fish. The blue eye shows up well against the dark color of the brooding parents. The female did hold her own and defended fry by herself against the aureums. I finally stole the last few fry she had and placed them in with the others to grow out. The fry were fed microworms to start with, and later on were fed BBS and finely crushed flake.



Breeding Facts:
3-day gestation period with free-swimming fry in 5-7 days. Up to 300 fry per spawn.

HCCC Financial Report

As reported by our Treasurer, Dave Hansen:

March	
BAP Collections	\$50.00
Meeting Collection	\$0.50
Merchandise	\$20.00
March Total	\$70.50

April	
March Total	70.50
BAP Collections	\$30.00
Meeting Collection	\$3.00
Merchandise	\$6.00
Total Funds	\$109.50

Just a reminder:

The HCCC generates its funds from donations, sales of donated BAP fish and money left over from merchandise orders (also in the form of donations).

At this time, the HCCC does not collect dues from its members. People are free to join and take part in great fish discussions, exchanges ideas and acquire great fish from other members.

Interested in joining? Visit us at www.xdeleon.com/hccc

For more information about the HCCC, visit our site at www.xdeleon.com/hccc

List of BAP Species Bred:

Class	Species	Class	Species
C	Paracyprichromis nigripinnis	B	Metriaclima estherae
B	Aulonocara stuartgranti "Ngara"	B	Neochromis rufocaudalis
B	Aulonocara stuartgranti "Maulana"	B	Neolamprologus falcicula
B	Cryptoheros sajica	B	Neolamprologus multifasciatus
B	Cyrtocara moorii	B	Neolamprologus olivaceous
B	Haplochromis sp. "44"	B	Neolamprologus pulcher
B	Haplochromis sp. "flameback"	B	Paralabidochromis sp. "rock krib"
B	Haplochromis sp. "Kenya gold"	B	Pelviachromis pulcher
B	Iodotropheus sprengerae	B	Pseudocrenilabrus nicholsi
B	Julidochromis marlieri	B	Pseudotropheus acei
B	Julidochromis transcriptus	B	Pseudotropheus demasoni
B	Labidochromis sp. "Pearlmutt"	B	Pseudotropheus saulosi
B	Lamprologus ocellatus "Gold"	B	Pundamilia nyererei "Python Is."
B	Lepidolamprologus hecqui	B	Thoracochromis brauschi
B	Mbipi lutea		

Amazonia

"Home of the Fishheads"
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