

The Lateral Line

Volume 2, Issue 23

June 2007



Inside This Issue

Pseudocrenilabrus nicholsi
The Roving Reporter
Albino Ancistrus triradiatus





BAP Report

There were several entries for the month of May and it included two "Firsts". One was to Pat (Nascar2) for submitting his "first entry" in the BAP. Congratulation Pat on your entry of the *Pseudotropheus acei* Msuli "Yellow tail". Your first entry deserves a big congrats and keep them coming.

June 19, 2007

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

<i>Pseudocren. nicholsi</i>	4
The Roving Reporter	7
<i>Ancistrus triradiatus</i>	9
Upcoming TX Events	11

Another "first" entry into the BAP came from Marty & Melody (Marmel) and it was a "C" class spawning of *Ancistrus* sp. Congratulations to you both on your entry. Congratulations again Marty & Melody and Pat on your "First Entries" into the BAP.

One of the first entries for May came from David (Dockusan) on the *Metriaclima* sp. "black dorsal". Congratulations David on a "1st of species" entry. Two more entries soon followed, submitted by Greg (GAS). There was a "B" class entry of *Pseudotropheus polit* and a "C" entry of the *Paracyprichromis nigripinnis*. Congratulations Greg and you now have a total of 6 "C" class entries to your credit.

The next entries came from just north of Texas, by Lisa (Lisachromis). Congratulations to Lisa, she submitted two articles on the spawning of the '*Pseudocrenilabrus nicholsi*' and '*Haplochromis* sp. "blue back"'. Congrats again Lisa. For those who do not know, Lisa is a great supporter of our club not only with articles but has a wealth of information that she helpfully passes on to club members. She does this even though she lives and supports other local clubs in Canada, thanks Lisa.

■ Jim Beck

Standings on Page 11.

Cover Photo:

Gymnogeophagus balzanii

By Dave Hansen

HCCC Monthly Photo Contest



First Place
Dustin Broschat
Metriaclima lombardi (Kenya)



Second Place
Dustin Broschat
Paralabidochromis sp.
"Fire Red Uganda"



Third Place
Yvonne Beaver
Angelfish

Species Profile:***Pseudocrenilabrus nicholsi***

This cichlid was originally described as *Paratilapia nicholsi*. It is sometimes known as Nichol's mouthbrooder. There have been a few other synonyms for this fish; *Paratilapia ventralis* and *Haplochromis ventralis*.

This fish is found in Africa. More specifically, it's found in the East central Congo basin (at Ankoro and Upemba Lakes). The type locality for the fish is Ankoro (at the junction of the Lualaba and Luvua Rivers in Katanga Province in the southeast portion of the Republic of Congo (formerly Zaire). This small mouthbrooding cichlid is not well known in the general hobby at large. Most people associate African cichlids with kribbs, jewels and the Rift Lake cichlids.

The male of the species is a spectacularly coloured fish that reaches lengths of about 3½" (8.5 cm). Females are generally about an inch smaller. Males have a multitude of colours. Generally, the males front half is a bright yellow that starts changing towards

blue towards the back half of the body. The lips are bright blue. The unpaired fins are patterned with red and blue. Pelvic fins are black edged with white. The pectoral fins are yellow. From behind the gill cover towards the



Photo by Lisa Boorman

back of the fish, there are red spots on the edges of scales increasing in number as you go further back on the fish. Females are basically a plain coloured fish ranging from grey to brown to a light yellow.

These cichlids are quite aggressive for their small size. They need to be kept in small groups with more females than males. The best situation is a small tank (20g and up) with 1 male and 2 females. They spawn quite readily in the aquarium. Some people claim that they have problems getting eggs to hatch and then

Dave's Rare Aquarium Fish

a proud supporter of the HCCC

5121 Crestway Drive Suite 300

San Antonio, TX 78239 (210) 599-9444

Member discounts

www.DavesFish.com

to get the young to adulthood. They say females tend to eat their eggs. My female has been an exemplary parent. So far in my experience the fry are pretty small and need some pretty small foods at the beginning of their life to make it. The eggs are brooded for approximately 3 weeks before they are released.

Several caves in the aquarium will help with the spawning as they seem to like to spawn in them. You can keep them at 72-75°F (22-25°C). They seem fairly adaptable to most water conditions, though it's recommended to have a pH of 6-8.

Nicholsi will happily eat pretty much anything you put in front of them, but take care to add some vegetable matter to their diet.

I first received a pair of these wonderful fish from a friend and local club member. We had both seen the pair for sale at Wet Thumb Aquatics, but since I didn't have a tank for them at the time I didn't try too hard for them. The female was holding fry when I brought them home. When I got the pair home, I placed the male into a tank containing some white clouds

and 2 female *Pelvicachromis taeniatus*.



© Copyright 2007 Lisa Boorman

Photo by Lisa Boorman

The female was placed into a small tank with plants to release the fry. She released within a few days. She had originally spit 9 fry into the bag she was transported in but had again picked up these fry. I ended up with a lot more than 9 fry from this. This is when I learned that the fry need small food. They were fed microworms originally with some powdered spirulina. They were then fed bbs. The female was moved into the males tank after a few days as I didn't know how long I could

River City Aquatics

a proud supporter of the HCCC

Member discounts:

20% off livestock

10% off dry goods / 10% off aquariums

**12108 Roxie Dr., Suite D
Austin, TX (512)219-7200**

keep her with the fry. (Originally she would take the fry back into her mouth for protection. When she no longer took the fry in, I decided to move her.)

This tank is heavily planted. The male immediately decided to try and impress her. She didn't want much to do with him at first. The male *nicholsi* and the female *taeniatus* would actu-



Photo by Dave Hansen

ally display to each other; not with romance in mind but territory. The white clouds were totally ignored. They were fed a mix of foods. They would get several types of flakes, pellets and occasionally some frozen foods. I never saw them reject any particular food. After a while it became obvious to me that the female was holding again. During the time she was holding, the male kept pestering her. The female held the eggs and fry to term. I again put her in the small container to release the tiny fry (in comparison to most other mouthbrooders people are used to e.g. Malawians). The male had

destroyed about half of the females tail. I think if there was a second female, that the problem of the male harassing the one female would not have been so severe

The fry grow slowly at first (or at least they seem to!). After saving the 2nd batch of fry I decided to not save too many babies in my fishroom as we were moving shortly and moving babies is pretty tough on them. So, when we moved the parents, the female spit out fully formed fry into the bag. At that point I decided to save them. Right now they are in the little container on their own. I could have let her pick them up again, and release in the main tank, but once I see the fry, I have to save them.

I highly recommend trying out these colourful little mouthbrooders. They give you the same sort of behaviour as larger Malawians, but don't require as much space.

■ Lisa Boorman

Amazonia International

a proud supporter of the HCCC

Member discounts:

20% off Fish & Live Plants

10% off Tanks, Stands, Eheim's & Eclipses

25% off Filters & Powerheads

4631 Airport #116 Austin, TX

(512) 451-0958

The Roving Reporter:

North & South China Restaurant

This is the beginning of a series of articles highlighting show tanks which feature cichlids in commercial or public environments such as restaurants, offices, zoos and schools. It is my sincerest hope that many of you who have the double-whammy addictions of fish and photography

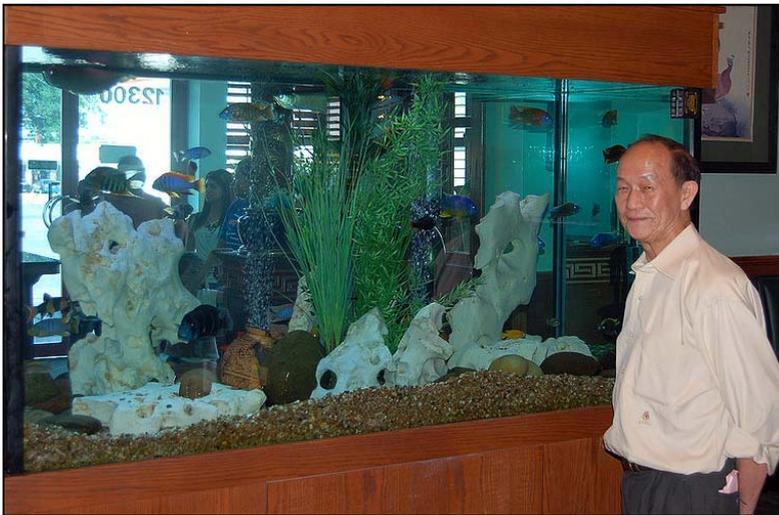


Photo by Nick Andreola

will pick up the by-line of the Roving Reporter and add articles to this series. If you're like me, you always have your camera with you, so fire away!

North & South China is our favorite Asian buffet in the north Austin/Cedar Park area. It's on the north side of FM620 just west of highway 183 (12300 N. FM620). They feature foods from various regions in China, as well as samplings from Viet Nam, Korea and Japan. There is an ice cream machine and delectable desserts-if you have any room after the buffet! Take a look at their web-

site, northandsouthchina.com, for more on menu items, store hours and prices.

The restaurant's owner, Raymond, has had his 400 gallon tank set up for about 6 years now. He still does a fair bit of the maintenance himself.

"Water changes are pretty easy, but I need some help pulling out the large holey rocks for an occasional cleaning." Every time I have been in to stuff myself with Raymond's good food, the tank has been crystal clear and spotless. The tank sits just beyond the foyer at the entry to the dining room. I always ask for a table nearby and the very courteous staff is always happy to oblige. I get almost as big a kick watching how captivated children become while looking at the tank as I do

with watching the tank itself. The fish are obviously so accustomed to all the movement and traffic around them that they are not shy or skittish whatsoever. The tank is viewable through

AquaTek Tropical Fish

a proud supporter of the HCCC

10% off Fish

8023 Burnet Rd. # 1

Austin, TX 78132

(512) 450-0182

all four sides. It is one of the very few 360° viewable (non-back-grounded) tanks that I really like. I'm sorry to admit this in public, but I got so excited about taking pictures of the fish in this tank that I completely forgot to ask about filtration! All I can say is that whatever he's doing is working well.

Raymond whips up treats for his fish now & then but he uses Dainichi pellets as a staple feed. Typical of cichlids, as soon as they saw the 'Color Supreme' bag in Raymond's hand they were all swarming to the top of the tank. Raymond usually shops at nearby RCA and Aquatek for his fish. I

think he would be a stiff competitor at one of our auctions! His tastes are eclectic and he breaks all the 'rules' by keeping cichlids of all types

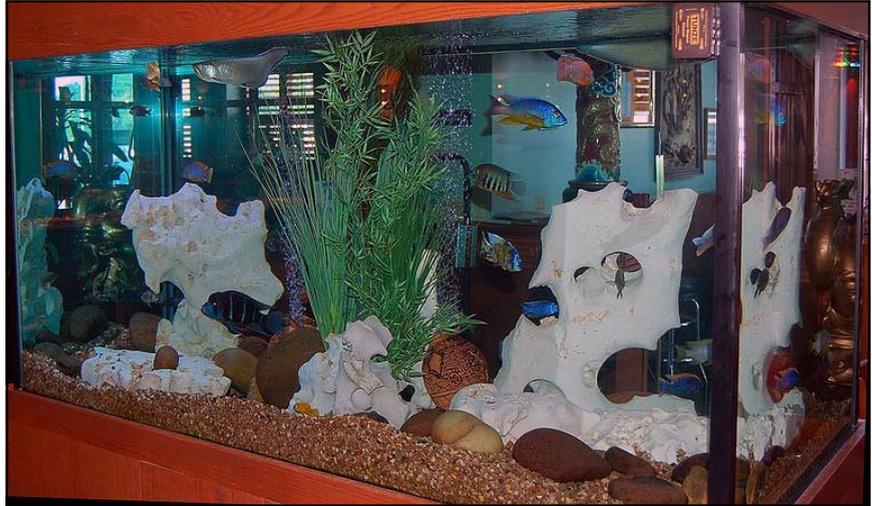


Photo by Nick Andreola



Photo by Nick Andreola

from all three African rift lake regions, SA/CAs and so-called community fish together. It's simply fantastic to see all the sizes, shapes, behaviors and colors in one tank. The male Malawi haps and peacocks are all fully colored up, the Victorians and Mbuna are beautiful without being overly aggressive, the *Frontosa* is not shy, the Neolamp's lyre tails are nip free and the red-tailed shark cruises around like he owns the place! All in all, one of the most fun tanks I've ever had the pleasure to sit and stare at! Add on the all-you-can-eat buffet line of Raymond's fine cooking and you've got an afternoon or evening very well spent!

■ Nick Andreola

Species Profile:**Albino *Ancistrus triradiatus***

Melody and myself, as most of you know, are very much beginners at this hobby. Melody works at a school that former member P. Jackson worked at. When Mr. Jackson left we purchased a couple tanks and a breeding pair of Albino Bristlenose *Plecostomus (Ancistrus triradiatus)* from him. The Albino is a smaller Pleco that grows to only 4-5 inches, and it breeds at approx. 2 inches. These vegetarian fish are an incredible algae eater and if there is not enough algae in the tank, they will do fine with algae tabs. The males typically have more bristles on the nose and also have some ridges, where the female does not. The Plecos like to hang out in crooks, under wood and in caves. He gave us a terra cotta breeding cave, the kind that has a top and bottom. After reading on the internet about the breeding habits of the Bristlenose and talking to Mr. Jackson, we proceeded to try our hand at breeding some fish.

We had read that they laid their eggs on the underside of a flat surface so we turned the breeding cave upside down making the top of the cave larger than the bottom. Also, Mr. Jack-

son said that they liked to be secluded for breeding, so we placed the opening of the cave directly into the back corner of the tank. After we placed the cave in the tank, the male found it by the next morning. He spent a lot of time in the cave, apparently making it ready



Photo by Donald Davis

for his girl (must have had a honey do list). She would go into the cave periodically, checking out his progress. Once she was satisfied, she laid her eggs and she left the cave and went about her regular day-to-day schedule. Then the male watched over the eggs and hardly left the cave. Not even when the excited grandma (Melody) was shining a flashlight in the cave to see the eggs. Wow, were

we excited!! After a period of 3-6 days, the white eggs started to move, and Grandma was so happy, "We have babies!" They had hatched but it took another 7-10 days to absorb the yolk sac. The male continued to care for the babies while they got stronger in the cave. "The little buggers look like maggots with eyes" she said.

They became free swimmers in a short time, maybe 7 days; most of them were out of the



Photo by Robbie Maxwell

cave in that time. I guess that it is as hard to get fish out of the house as it is children. Not long after they had all left the cave, maybe 2 weeks, we noticed that the male was spending a lot of time in the cave again, and the process started all over. Each of the broods was between 50-100 fry.

As far as conditions of the water and tank: We had them in a 30-gallon tank with gravel on the bottom. The tank was filtered with an emperor 400 bio-wheel filter and we kept a long bubble

wand running. The water was just SA tap water with dechlorinator in it with monthly 30 percent water changes. Temperature of the water was non-heated room temperature and they seemed to enjoy it.

The fish have been very healthy and have satisfied the people that have purchased them from us. The breeding went on and on to the point that we had to take the cave out of the aquarium. Now we have moved the pair into a 55-gallon tank and we will let them get busy again. Gee, another tank and we need to put another one on the bottom of the stand, it just keeps growing. Wish us luck. Maybe we can sell more furniture to make room!

■ *Marty James*

Pet Frontier

a proud supporter of the HCCC

15% off total purchase

excluding specials, package deals and sale items

12315 Wetmore Rd.

San Antonio, TX 78248

(210) 653-8880

Event Calendar:**Upcoming Events in Texas****July**

July 8th

Time: 11 A.M. (Sellers at 10:00)

Houston Aquarium Society—Summer Live Fish Auction in Houston. For details and map, visit: www.houstonaquariumsociety.org

July 15th

Time: 1 P.M.

Hill Country Cichlid Club—Monthly meeting at Pet Frontier. 12315 Wetmore Rd. San Antonio. Visit events page for details and map.

August

August 18th

Time: TBA

Texas Cichlid Association—Regular monthly meetings. Details on website as soon as they become available.

September

September 7-9th

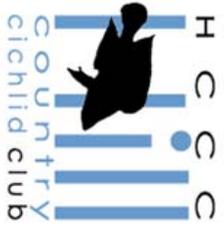
Hill Country Cichlid Club— F.O.T.A.S. 2007 hosted by the HCCC. Speakers, banquet, show and auction.

Current BAP Standings

Name	YTD
Greg W.	85
Jim	85
Diane	55
Greg S.	55
David D.	50
Dave H.	50
Christy	35
Lisa Bo.	30
Paul	30

Current Standings (cont)

Name	YTD
Duc	25
Kenneth	25
Eric	25
Lisa Bl.	20
Robert	20
Marty	20
Pat	15
Nick	5



The Lateral Line

Official Publication of the
Hill Country Cichlid Club