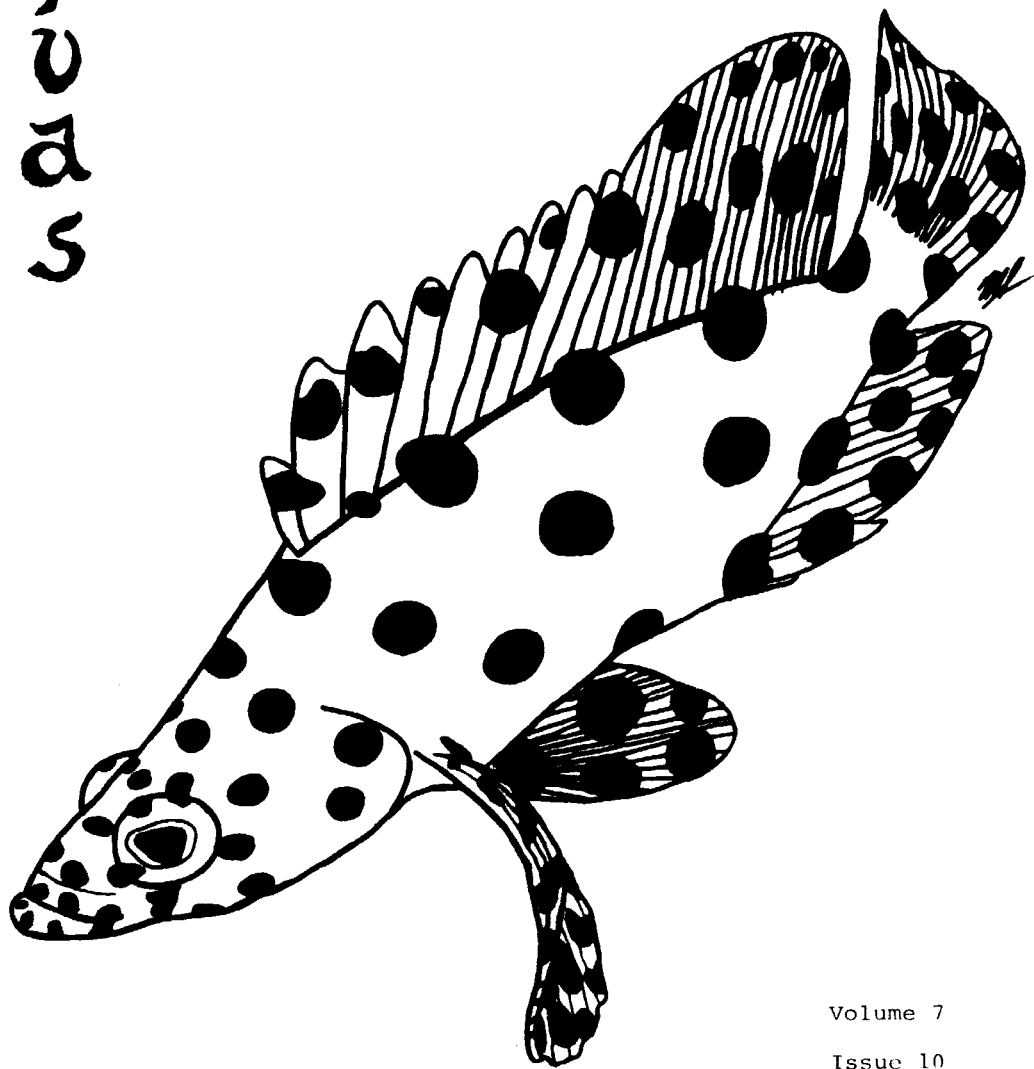


# DELTA TALK

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF P.V.A.S.

OCTOBER 1976

PARAS



Volume 7

Issue 10

DELTA TALE is published for the benefit of the Potomac Valley Aquarium Society (formerly the Potomac Valley Guppy Club), a non-profit organization, established in 1960 for the purpose of furthering the aquarium hobby by disseminating information, encouraging friendly competition, soliciting participation in its show, and promoting good fellowship. Correspondence should be addressed to Secretary, P.V.A.S., P.O. Box 6219, Shirlington Station, Arlington, Virginia, 22206. Original articles and drawings may be reprinted if credit is given the author and DELTA TALE. Two copies of the publication in which the reprint appears should be sent to DELTA TALE which will forward one copy to the author. All materials for inclusion in the DELTA TALE must reach the editor no later than the Saturday after the monthly Monday meeting.

The Potomac Valley Aquarium Society takes no responsibility for the claims or statements made by advertisers in this publication. Complaints against any advertiser herein should be forwarded in writing to the Editor, DELTA TALE.

Editor: Ruth Brewer

OFFICERS FOR 1976

President	John Jessup	Corres. Secy.	Chuck Story
Vice-President		Asst. Corres. Secy.	Michael Sprague
Recdg. Secy.	Susan Sprague	Treasurer	Gene Aldridge

BOARD OF GOVERNORS

Ted Walsh	Craig Tingen
Bob Smith	Pete Tietjen
Warren Garnar	Dave McInturff
Ruth Brewer	Jan McInturff

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Volume 7	Issue 10
	<u>Page</u>
Meeting Notices.....	Opposite
Membership Roster.....	8
Notice of PVAS Dinner and Auction.....	9
Bowl Show Results and Standings.....	10
Bowl Show Schedule for Balance of 1976.....	12
BAP Report.....	13
Featured Articles	
SOME SYNODONTIS SPECIES OF THE CONGO BASIN	
By Lee Finley.....	2
DERMOGENYS PUSILLUS, THE HALFBEAK	
By Ruth Brewer.....	11

This month's cover is a tracing by Michael Sprague of a slide by Gene Aldridge. The fish is a Panther Grouper (*Chromileptus altivelis*).

MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF GOVERNORS MEETING

The Board of Governors met September 7 at the home of Gene Aldridge with eight members present. Since Carl Hardy has resigned as Vice-President, it was agreed by the Board to ask Heinz Lenzen to fill the office for the balance of 1976. The matter was left pending until Heinz could be contacted. The Corresponding Secretary was directed to draft a letter for President Jessup's signature to Bob Smith to ask his intentions as to completing his term on the Board.

The President reported that he had contacted Kenny Warren with regard to possible storage of the show equipment. Kenny has not yet given us an answer. The Club is ineligible for storage with the Virginia Department of Recreation because of our registration fees, and it seems unlikely that the Coca-Cola plant would agree to allow us to store equipment there. The suggestion has been made that we do away with the stands as such, keep the plywood and stringers, and use angle iron stands or cinder blocks for supports. Pete Tietjen moved that we dispose of the stands and go to some other system to be worked out no later than March, 1977. The motion was seconded by Craig Tingen. In the discussion which followed, Pete said that with the equipment broken down in the suggested fashion, it was possible that he could store most of it. The motion was carried unanimously. The President directed Dave McInturff to make arrangements for a "break-up" party and to see that the equipment is stored.

Plans for the October dinner and auction were discussed. In view of the restrictions on use of the Ft. Myers Officers' Club, it will not be possible to hold the dinner there. Pete Tietjen, Craig Tingen and Ruth Brewer volunteered to get estimates from other restaurants and they, along with Gene Aldridge and Heinz Lenzen, were appointed as a committee to come up with a new site for the dinner. Gene Aldridge reported that Dan Fromme has agreed to be the dinner speaker.

It was agreed that the rate for advertising inserts for the Delta Tale would be the same as the full-page rate provided there were no attachments to the page.

The following were named to the nominating committee: Pat Tietjen, Chairman, Ted Kutzlo, Jim Long, Steve Siska and Bill Trout with Pat Mahoney, Glen Sherbondy and Kenny Warren as alternates.

Pete Tietjen presented a suggested revision of the Bowl Show rules. After some discussion as to how more interest in the shows could be generated, it was agreed to hold the matter over for further discussion.

The meeting adjourned at 11:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Ruth Brewer, Acting Recording Secretary

\* \* \* \* \*

BOARD OF GOVERNORS MEETING  
OCTOBER 5, 1976

Ruth Brewer  
2167 Evans Ct., #203  
Falls Church, VA  
893-6997

CICHLID GROUP  
OCTOBER 20, 1976

Gene Aldridge  
4512 S. 31st St., #10B  
Arlington, VA  
931-7426

BOWL SHOW OCTOBER 11, 1976

Guppies: Blue, Black, AOC  
Cichlids: Angelfish/Discus, Tilapia, Open  
Other: Sharks & Leaches, Catfish-non-cory, Open

## SOME SYNODONTIS SPECIES OF THE CONGO BASIN

By: Lee Finley  
Elm City Aquarium Society  
(Reprinted from Plecostomus)

The catfishes of the genus *Synodontis* are definitely on the upward swing of a popularity curve. Many of them have been available for years, and have had a decent following, but as of late a strong surge of interest has been noted in this large and varied group of fish. And it is a group that has something for everyone - from the inexpensive and playful "upside down cat" (*S. nigriventris*) to the rare and prized beauty *S. angelicus*.

The genus *Synodontis* is a large group of catfish that are found throughout most of the continent of Africa. Although there are basic consistencies, great variance exist in form, coloration, and adult size. In his revision of the genus in 1971, Dr. Max Poll listed 108 species, and a number of new species have been described since then.

The fish in this family are totally scaleless and the body is usually somewhat thickset. The dorsal and pectoral fins have strong and usually serrated spines. An adipose fin is present and it may be quite large. There are three pairs of barbels present, those on the mandible (upper jaw) usually being the longest. The maxillary (lower jaw) barbels are generally shorter and usually feathered, resembling a branched root. These barbels are very sensitive and aid the fish in finding food.

The size variation among *Synodontis* species varies quite a bit. The smallest species obtains a length of about 3 inches, while the largest reaches a few inches short of 3 feet. The average size for this genus will run approximately 8 inches.

The *Synodontis* cats usually inhabit lakes and slow flowing rivers and tend to gather in large groups. As a rule they do most of their feeding at twilight time and night and spend the days hiding in protected places. This is not always the case with aquarium kept fish as they might be seen actively swimming around their tank during the day.

Probably the most interesting habit of many of these fish is their upside down swimming. One species (*S. nigriventris*) is commonly known as the "upside down catfish" in the hobby, but practically all species will exhibit this trait at one time or another. It is thought that this adaptation is used as a method of feeding from the surface.

In the aquarium, the *Synodontis* species do well with a temperature between 70 - 80 degrees F. though slightly warmer temperatures will be accepted. They are basically a peaceful fish even though individuals of the same species may occasionally have a little "ruckus". It is best to provide some hiding places such as flower pots, rock piles, etc.

Feeding these fish usually presents no special problems and they take the normal fare of dry food, beef heart, tubifex worms, shrimp, etc. It is a good rule to also offer them some plant material in their diet.

Aquarium spawnings of *Synodontis* species are few and far between. A number of reports have been published on successful spawnings of *S. nigri-ventris*. Recently, there also have been at least two successful spawnings of *S. multipunctatus*, which is endemic to Lake Tanganyika. To my knowledge the reports of this important event have not been published.

Although many attractive and interesting species of *Synodontis* are found throughout the continent of Africa many of the more interesting ones are found in the "Congo" region. The term Congo although now inaccurate, is still in wide use. The country now known as Zaire was formerly the Belgian Congo. The Congo River system (which includes the Congo River and its many tributaries) and other rivers within this country, are the home for some of the most beautiful and interesting members of the *Synodontis* family. Let us now take a quick look at a few of these.

#### *Synodontis brichardi*

This is one of the most distinctive members of the *Synodontis* family. Once you've seen this fish, it is not to be forgotten. The body form is long and low and the caudal (especially in larger specimens) is well developed and appears too large for the body. The body coloration is a deep brown and is marked with five vertical yellow bands. The fins are banded with dark markings. The adipose fin is quite small. *S. brichardi* was described by Poll in 1959 and named in honor of Pierre Brichard who at that time was collecting Congo fishes.

#### *Synodontis contractus*

*Synodontis contractus* is closely related to and somewhat resembles the familiar *S. nigri-ventris*, the upside down catfish most commonly seen offered for sale. This fish, which reaches a length of slightly less than 4 inches, is a good example of a name problem in *Synodontis* catfish (Rift Lake cichlids have no exclusive in the troubled name market). It was first described in 1928 and then remained in a name journal for many years. As this fish became commercially available it needed a tag. Well, for some reason, through the resources of Dr. Axelrod, the name *S. davidii* was published with pictures of this fish. This situation was finally corrected by Dr. Poll in his revision, but even today this erroneous name still is sometimes used.

For the purposes of attempting to spawn the *Synodontis* cats, *S. contractus* is probably a good place to start. It is relatively small at adult size and is very similar to the regular upside down cat which has been spawned on a number of occasions.

#### *Synodontis angelicus*

Without question this is one of the most sought after of all aquarium fishes. The picture here doesn't do the fish justice, it just gives a rough idea. If you are not familiar with *S. angelicus* you should now go to a book such as Sterba, or whatever, and look at a color photograph. Young fish are the most spectacular with round white to yellowish spots on a purplish to black background. As individuals get older the color tends to fade but, none the less, it remains an attractive fish.

*S. angelicus* gets fairly large, reaching a total length of 10 inches. A subspecies, *S. angelicus zonatus*, of this fish also exists. It is very similar in appearance, the differences being that there are fewer spots and the presence of some vertical lines on the body.

#### *Synodontis flavitaeniatus*

When writing about some of the *Synodontis* from the Congo one tends to quickly run out of adjectives, "And now another beautiful catfish...etc., etc." Well, it is true especially with this fish. *S. flavitaeniatus* which reaches a length of 7 1/2 inches, is characterized by a dark brown coloration with two wide horizontal bands which can vary in color from yellowish to an outrageous orange. The patterns show a great amount of variance from individual to individual. Over the last couple of years not much has been seen of this fish, but recently it has been showing up again in small numbers.

#### *Synodontis notatus*

*S. notatus* is another of the commonly seen Congo species. Although not brightly colored the grayish brown to silver body with round black spot(s) on the flanks nevertheless makes an attractive addition to any collection of fish. There are two very similar species (*S. nummifer* and *S. congicus*) but is not within the scope of this article to cover the differences. If one is really interested in looking for the differences you can find it right within this species. Two varieties or sub-species, *S. notatus binotata* and *S. notatus ocellatus*, are known to exist. These fish are found as different populations and slight differences exist between the three fish. At adult size *S. notatus* reaches a length of slightly over 10 inches.

#### *Synodontis decorus*

This is a larger *Synodontis* reaching an adult size of over 12 inches. The basic coloration is whitish and the body pattern is that of black blotches. But by far and away the most fascinating characteristic of this fish (as it grows older) is the extension of the first ray of the dorsal fin. It is black in color. (This is unfortunately not shown in the picture.) There is variation in the length of this filament from fish to fish, but in many individuals it reaches back past the caudal fin.

#### *Synodontis robertsi*

This is one of the newer of the *Synodontis* species, both to science and the aquarists. It was described in 1974 by Poll and has recently been imported into this country in small numbers. The basic body coloration is whitish with almost a pinkish cast. The body is covered with brownish-bronze blotches [which] are also seen on the head although they are smaller. When feeding, this fish, like some other *Synodontis*, has the habit of taking in mouthfuls of gravel, cleaning away any food, and blowing the gravel out the gill covers. If you are interested in *Synodontis* cats this new species is definitely a must for your collection.

### References and Suggested Reading Material

1. Hockman, Stephen (1972) "Old Root-Face - the Synodontis" Aquarium Hobbyist, Spring 1972, pp 1-7
2. Kahl, Burkhard (1973) "Spotlight on Synodontis", Aquarium Digest Inter. Vol. 2, no. 2, pp 3-10 (excellent photos)
3. Poll, Max (1971) "Revision Des Synodontis Africans", Musee Royal de L'Afrique Centrale - Tervuren Belgique Annales - Serie In-8-sciences zoologiques - 191, 1971
4. Poll, Max (1974) Article on S. robertsi lost.
5. Sterba, Gunter (1966) "Freshwater Fishes of the World" pp 402-412 Pet World
6. Walker, Braz (1969) "A Study in Silver and Black", The Aquarium, Vol. II, No. 8, June.

(Drawings begin on next page.)

---

### NEW MEMBERSHIP ROSTER

On page 8 you will find a roster of current members of PVAS. We hope everyone's name is spelled correctly and that the address and phone number is right. However, errors do creep in and we ask that you check yours and notify our Acting Corresponding Secretary, Michael Sprague, 534-7487, or our Editor, Ruth Brewer, 893-6997, if there is an error.

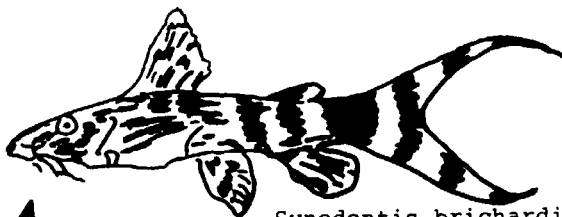
---

### OCTOBER 23-24, 1976

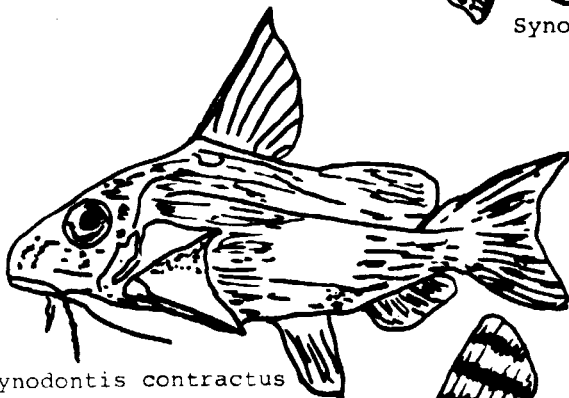
October 23 - PVAS Buffet Dinner with guest speaker, Dan Fromm.

October 24 - PVAS Fall Auction.

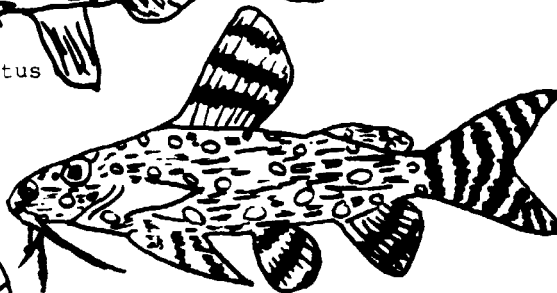
(All species pictured are from Poll 1971  
except *S. robertsi* - Poll 1974)



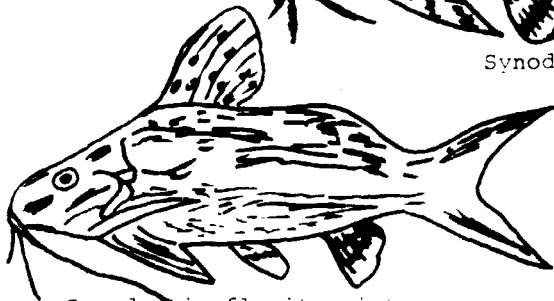
*Synodontis brichardi*



*Synodontis contractus*

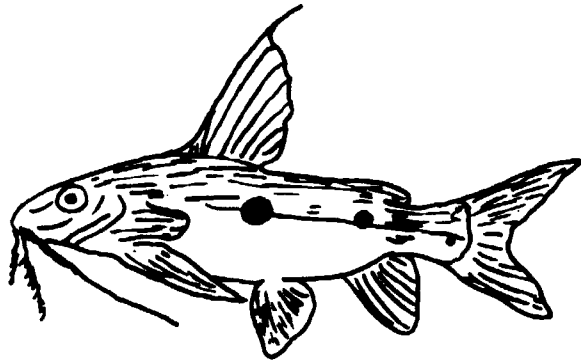


*Synodontis angelicus*

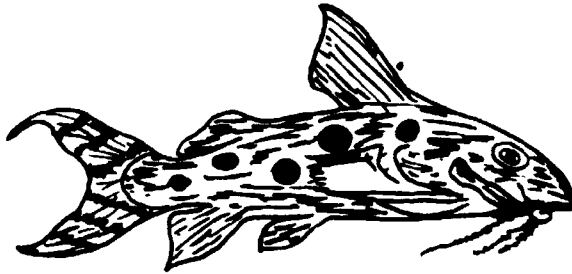


*Synodontis flavitaeniatus*

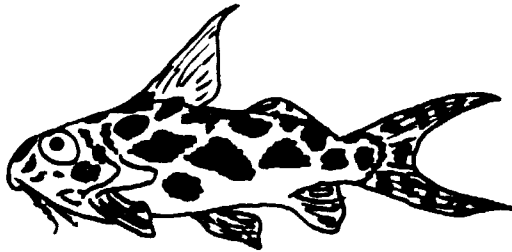




*Synodontis notatus*



*Synodontis decorus*



*Synodontis robertsi*

## POTOMAC VALLEY AQUARIUM SOCIETY

Aldridge, Gene & Millie	4512 S. 31st St. #10B	Arlington, Va. 22206	931-7426
Allen, James H.	4461 Raleigh Ave. #303	Alexandria, Va. 22304	no phone
Andreen, Pinchos	6910 Barnack Dr.	Springfield, Va. 22152	451-5240
Brewer, Ruth	2167 Evans Ct. #203	Falls Church, Va. 22043	893-6997
Colman, Robert	Rt. 1, Box 393D	Waldorf, Md. 20601	843-8454
Dawson, Margaret	840 S. Dickerson St.	Arlington, Va. 22204	671-7377
Donnelly, Jerry	609 E. Columbia St.	Falls Church, Va. 22046	533-8821
Droege, Gudrun	3801 Conn. Ave., N.W.	Washington, D.C. 20008	362-0644
Fewell, Robert	708 Glacier Ave.	Hillside, Md. 20027	
Fisher, D.M.	3215 1/2 Sherman Ave., N.W.	Washington, D.C. 20010	
Gaines, Ruth	1128 Greenway Rd.	Alexandria, Va. 22308	765-6598
Garner, Warren & Ann	2935 Tripps Run Rd.	Falls Church, VA. 22042	532-8233
Goodman, Joel & Betsy	4112 Wakefield Chapel	Annandale, Va. 22003	
Gradick, Ben	2627 Windbreak Dr. #203	Alexandria, Va. 22306	765-8552
Haas, Gary	1522 Dranesville Rd.	Herndon, Va. 22070	
Hall, Joseph	521 Powhattan Pl., N.W.	Washington, D.C. 20011	882-5258
Hardy, Carl & Mary	5927 N. Kings Hwy.	Alexandria, Va. 22303	765-1940
Harrington, Neal	4343 Old Lee Hwy.	Arlington, Va. 22207	243-7077
Isley, Lucia	424 N. Armistead St. #T1	Alexandria, Va. 22312	354-8792
Jessup, John & Barbara	1065 N. Manchester St.	Arlington, Va. 22205	534-1704
Kutzlo, Ted	4901 Seminary Rd. #725	Alexandria, Va. 22311	578-1998
Lemeskewsky, Andrew	1058 Ulmstead Circle	Arnold, Md. 21012	301-757-4528
Lenzen, Heinz & Marc	215 N. Greenbriar St.	Arlington, Va. 22203	528-1486
Long, Jim & Linda	2734 Wrexham Ct.	Herndon, Va. 22070	860-1345
Lorusso, Ronald & Carolyn	108 Priest Ct.	Hampton, Va. 23669	804-851-6592
McInturff, David & Janet	3463 Washington Dr.	Falls Church, Va. 22041	578-0577
Mahoney, Mr. & Mrs. P. J., III	3011 Aspen Lane	Falls Church, Va. 22042	
Mark, Kenneth G.	1901 Prelude Dr.	Vienna, Va. 22180	
Meyer, Debra Kay	1017 S. Quebec St. #5	Arlington, Va. 22204	
Moore, Robert	9601 Gwynndale Dr.	Clinton, Md. 20735	868-4061
Neil, Jay	P.O. Box 62	Ovid, Michigan 48866	
Nixon, Diane & Clyde Lassell	1836 Metzertott Rd. #1207	Adelphi, Md. 20783	431-4763
Peak, Larry	4309 Edmonston Ave.	Bladensburg, Md. 27710	864-3003
Rich, Richard L.	151 East 61st St.	New York, N.Y. 10021	212-753-3935
Schlier, Gwen & Frank	3559 Martha Custis Dr.	Alexandria, Va. 22302	548-1027
Sergent, Gene & Pauline	3549 Bold Bitter Dr.	Lexington, Ky. 40502	
Sherbondy, Glen	26 Thomas Rd.	Glen Burnie, Md. 21061	301-768-2761
Sisk, Nancy & Richard	761 Palmer Dr.	Herndon, Va. 22070	437-0654
Siska, Steve	2223 Dairy Farm Rd.	Gambrills, Md. 21054	261-7923
Smith, Bob & Dee	31 School Dr. #104	Gaithersburg, Md. 20760	948-8698
Spahr, Caroline	8479 Greenbelt Rd. #102	Greenbelt, Md. 20770	552-1149
Sprague, Michael & Susan	6708 N. 18th St.	Arlington, Va. 22205	534-7487
Staley, Alene	3000 Spout Run	Arlington, Va. 22201	243-9347
Story, Chuck & Genny	2238 Sanibel Dr.	Reston, VA 22091	860-8706
Summers, Demos	3506 Chadwick Ct.	Oxon Hill, Md. 20031	
Tevendale, Gary	2223 Old Ivy Rd. #D-15	Charlottesville, Va. 22901	
Tietjen, Pete & Pat	1728 S. Monroe St.	Arlington, Va. 22204	920-4442
Tingen, Craig	115 S. Iris St.	Alexandria, Va. 22304	751-0672
Trout, Bill	1211 Cottage St., S.W.	Vienna, Va. 22180	281-3573
Walsh, Ted	4017 34th St.	Mt. Rainier, Md. 20822	277-8249
Warren, Kenny	840 S. Dickerson St. #111	Arlington, Va. 22204	671-3300
Wilson, Larry	8225 Smithfield Ave.	Springfield, Va. 22191	451-5935
Wittman, William R., Jr.	4212 Ardmore Pl.	Fairfax, VA 22030	
Wolcott, John	2112 Merritt Dr.	Northfield, N.J. 08225	609-646-8202
Young, Mrs. Gordon	1330 N. Harrison St.	Arlington, Va. 22205	538-6555

BOWL SHOW RESULTS AND STANDINGS

September 13, 1976

	<u>1st</u>	<u>2nd</u>	<u>3rd</u>
<u>Guppy:</u>			
Red	-	-	-
5 match males	-	-	-
AOC	-	-	-
<u>Cichlid:</u>			
Cent/S. Amer			
Dwarf	McInturff, J.	McInturff, J.	McInturff, J.
Haplos	Warren	Warren	Warren
Other	Warren	McInturff, J.	McInturff, J.
<u>Egglayer/</u>			
<u>Livebearer:</u>			
Other than			
Guppy	McInturff, D.	McInturff, D.	-
Killies	Mahoney	Mahoney	Mahoney
Other	McInturff, D.	McInturff, D.	-

	<u>POINT STATUS</u>						
	<u>Sept.</u>	<u>Qtr.</u>	<u>Ann.</u>	<u>Egglayer/</u>	<u>Sept.</u>	<u>Qtr.</u>	<u>Ann.</u>
<u>Guppy:</u>				<u>Livebearer:</u>			
Walsh	-	29*	118	McInturff, D.	15	28*	99
McInturff, S.	-	7	12	Donnelly	-	2	13
Nixon	-	-	2	Lenzen	-	13	25
Hardy, B.	-	5	5	Nixon	-	-	4
Hardy, Don	-	4	4	Warren	-	-	2
Hardy, Dan	-	2	2	Mahoney	10	15	15
<u>Cichlid:</u>							
McInturff, J.	14	25*	84				
Warren	14	14	36				
Sprague	-	-	9				
Nixon	-	-	6				
Lenzen	1	1	5				
Tietjen	-	-	3				
Mahoney	-	5	5				
Donnelly	-	1	1				
				* Quarterly Award			
+ - + - + - + - + - + - + - + -							

TRADING POST

Axelrod: "African Cichlids of Lakes Malawi  
and Tanganyika." Fourth Edition.

\$10.00

- + - + - + - Gene Aldridge + - + - + - +  
931-7426

## DERMOGENYS PUSILLUS, THE HALFBEAK

By: Ruth Brewer, PVAS

One of the best reasons for volunteering to help register fish at an auction is that you get to see what's available as the fish arrive and you can make your decisions without being pressured at the time the fish go on the block. I was in this fortunate position at the February mini-auction and knew as soon as I saw two halfbeaks come in I just had to have them. This unusual looking livebearer is not pretty by conventional standards, but it has a certain charm. My two were a little over an inch long, had good fins even though there was little or no color to them at that time. The basic body color is sort of beige and, as the fish mature, spots of red appear on the fins as well as tiny bits of yellow and black. I was successful in the bidding and went home with my two, not daring to hope that I might have a pair. I read everything I could find about them (not too much) and set them up in a 2-1/2 gallon tank with one teaspoon of Kosher salt per gallon. I added a sponge filter, a small banana plant and some floating water sprite and duckweed. No heater was used since the fish are said to get along better in cool water. The water stayed about 72° to 74°. A couple times per month 50% of the water was siphoned out and replaced with aged, salted water. The halfbeaks will eat dry foods, provided it is floating or falling through the water, but I fed them largely on live foods: brine shrimp, both adult and fresh hatched, daphnia, microworms and drosophila. Once food hits the bottom of the tank, it's useless to expect the halfbeaks to eat it. In fact, it's mechanically impossible for them to do so. Only the upper part of the mouth, which is much shorter than the lower jaw, is movable. The fish has a neat way of getting a meal. He scoops the lower jaw (the beak) under the food and sort of rolls his body to the side before lowering the upper jaw on to it. There is a little flap of skin on either side of the beak which the fish is said to fold over the food to help him hold it until he can swallow it. Since they couldn't eat off the bottom, I added three very young corys as housekeepers. The five settled in nicely and began to eat me out of house and home.

Very soon after I acquired them, one fish broke off part of the beak, thus becoming known as "the quarterbeak". The second fish almost immediately began to grow at a much faster rate which I thought was because it was probably getting the lion's share of the food. However, after about four months of this high living, I began to wonder. I hoped I had a pair and that the larger one was gravid, but the shape threw me off. All the livebearers I had ever seen developed a deep curve to the belly and showed a gravid spot. I couldn't see a gravid spot and furthermore, the fish was beginning to look like a bratwurst. I couldn't see any gonopodium on the quarterbeak and so I started worrying about what sort of strange disease the larger fish might have.

Then one evening I came home, turned on the lights and saw three tiny stillborn fry on the floor of the tank. I snatched off the cover and looked. There they were! Little fry floating on the top of the water between the leaves of the plants. I took them out with a plastic cup and at the end of two hours had 30 live ones plus a few that were stillborn. I measured one of the dead ones and found it was 8 mm long which is rather small for a livebearer. The living ones all had large yolk sacs still

attached so I decided not to begin feeding right away. As the sacs were absorbed over the next two days, I began feeding microworms, but I found this an inadequate diet for the fry. Most of the worms went to the bottom and the fry were not getting enough to eat. Either as a result of being born prematurely or starving, I had lost 20 by the end of the tenth day. Meanwhile, I had begun to feed them live baby brine shrimp and they stopped dying and began to grow instead. About a week after I began the brine shrimp routine, I took out one more dead fry -- after that, I did not lose any more. The fry ate voraciously, it seemed I just couldn't fill them up. In addition to shrimp nauplii, I fed new hatched daphnia and in desperation, added Tetramin-L to their diet. They lapped it up and grew at an astounding rate. At the end of 60 days, the fry were almost as large as the parents were when I got them, so I would guess that this is a fish which matures and is capable of breeding quite early. The fry are born without beaks, just a slight point at the front of the head. The beaks begin to show at about two weeks and lengthen slowly but surely until at 60 days the fish has almost the appearance of an adult except for color. At that point, only a tiny bit of color has begun to show.

While I was stuffing this batch of fry, I was also continuing to stuff the parents. Sterba says the spawns are approximately eight weeks apart and I wanted to see if I couldn't do better by another spawn. (As my luck goes, I had wound up with nine fry instead of the ten required for points.) Well, Mama Halfbeak, not knowing any better since she can't read, produced her second spawn exactly four weeks to the day from the first, and her third spawn 31 days after the second. Both the second and third spawns were apparently further developed than the first, at least there were very few yolk sacs in these spawns. As far as I can tell, I have not lost any of these fry.

Oh yes, I finally found Mama's gravid spot. It's underneath and barely shows from the side. But I still haven't seen Papa's gonopodium.

- 0 - 0 - 0 - 0 - 0 - 0 - 0 - 0 - 0 - 0 -

#### BOWL SHOW SCHEDULE FOR BALANCE OF 1976

The Bowl Show Schedule for the balance of 1976 is reprinted here for the benefit of those who may have misplaced their copies. From now on, the Schedule for at least two months in advance will be carried in each Delta Tale.

	<u>Guppies</u>	<u>Cichlids</u>	<u>Other Egglayer/Livebearer</u>
Oct 11	Blue Black AOC	Angelfish/Discus Tilapia Open	Sharks & Loaches Catfish-non-cory Open
Nov 15	Multi 2 match males AOC	Mouthbrood New World Other Africa/Asia Open	Tetra Characins Open

NOVEMBER IS FOR DOUBLE POINTS!

Dec 13 CHRISTMAS PARTY -- NO BOWL SHOW -- CHRISTMAS PARTY

# bap REPORT

NAME	POINTS	
	Firm	In Process
Susan & Mike Sprague	155**	-
Ruth Brewer	140*	-
Gene Aldridge	80	15
John Jessup	55*	45
Diane Nixon	70*	-
Pat & Pete Tietjen	15	-
Jan & Dave McInturff	255**	-
Jerry Donnelly	10	-

\* Breeder Award

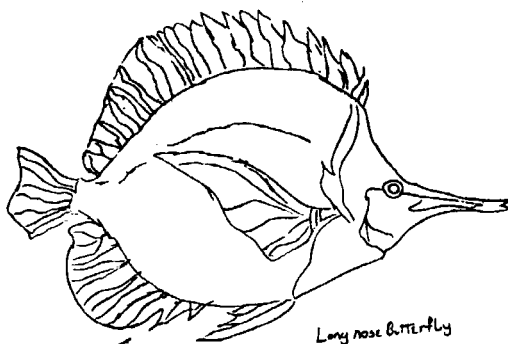
\*\* Intermediate Breeder Award

Sprague: Brichardi, Merry Widow - Intermediate Breeder Award  
this month

McInturff: Gardneri, T. macrocephala

Donnelly: A. bivattatum

Gene Aldridge  
BAP Chairman



Long nose butterfly

By Shiela  
Tietjen

Thanks to Shiela Tietjen for the above drawing  
of a long-nose butterfly.

\* \* \* \* \*

Congratulations to SUSAN and MICHAEL SPRAGUE who became the  
parents of a 7 lbs. 3.5 oz. boy, CHRISTOPHER ALLEN, on  
September 2.

Your editor has visited the Spragues and is in a position  
to refute the rumor making the rounds of the club that young  
Chris is being kept in a 55-gallon tank and fed on Tetramin.  
(At least the kind of Tetramin I know comes in a different  
kind of container.)