



The Raleigh Aquarium Society

P.O. Box 31564, Raleigh, North Carolina 27612-1564
<http://www.raleighaquariumsociety.org>
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November 2nd 2006 Meeting

Next Meeting: Thursday @7:30pm

Meetings are held on the first Thursday of each month at the North Carolina State University College of Veterinary Medicine located at 4700 Hillsborough Street in Raleigh. Visitors are welcome! Snacks and light refreshments are provided. A raffle of fish and fish related items follow the meeting. Due to Security Issues, NCSU has required that the doors going into the downstairs lobby remain locked. Please be on time, as we will have a designated person standing by the door to let you in. If you are late, you may try knocking or call Brandon Berry's cell phone at 252-266-3559, Jeff Jenkins at 919-612-0229, or John Patterson at 919-264-4011.

Meeting Agenda

Program:

This month we have a "Plan A, B or C." Plan "A" is a return of our own Todd Wenzel's collecting trip to the Rio Negro in Brazil. It's got tons of fish, animal and collecting shots and will leave you wanting to pack your bags for the boonies. Plan "B" and "C" involve visiting aquarist David Banks, a co-conspirator at the recent All-Aquarium Catfish Convention in Laurel, Md. David will be bringing 2 powerpoint programs with him and if his work schedule allows, he can either present: "Tankmates for African Cichlids" or "Fish on Stamps, Topical fish collecting." Anyway you slice it, it's going to be a great meeting. Y'all come!

Monthly Feature

I chose this article I found on www.aquarticles.com because I bought some of these at the recent Charlotte Auction

ARTICLE INFORMATION

Author: Gerry Hawksby

Title: *Ameca splendens*

Summary: Gerry describes the external physiology of these fish and recounts his recent breeding of them. He makes a few other observations on his experiences in keeping them.

Contact for editing purposes:

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Ameca splendens

by Gerry Hawksby
of the Ryedale Aquarist Society, England
Aquarticles.com

Generally speaking, the group of fish we know as live bearing tooth carps have always been easily identified by the fact that males do not have an anal fin; instead this part of their anatomy is modified to form what is correctly known as the gonopodium. However, in the mid 1970s another family of livebearers was discovered in Central America, and more particularly Mexico, in which both sexes had an anal fin, albeit the first two rays of which in males were much shorter and formed what some biologists call the andropodium, whilst others refer to it as the spermatopodium.

This family is collectively known as the *Goodeidae*, of which there are perhaps upwards of 50 species, one such member being *Ameca splendens* (butterfly goodeid) - an attractive and very brightly coloured fish which sadly, because of its size, would not, in my opinion, make an ideal community tank inmate; this is not because of any aggressive nature, for I have found it quite peaceful in that respect, but at a mature size of 8 to 12cms (that's almost 5 inches in old money) its boisterous and hyperactive behaviour could be rather intimidating to its smaller cousins. In all other respects it would be a good fish for the novice aquarist, being quite hardy and tolerant of most tap water. It seems to prefer a vegetable diet and is a great browser on algae, which is easily cultivated by strong light. Good filtration will prove beneficial.

The fish are ready breeders, but the number of fry will be small, perhaps only one or two and never more than 25-30. Compared with other livebearers this may seem very few, but when each fry is almost 2cms long at birth one begins to realise that even 20 is an almost impossible number. Little wonder the female appears quite hollow bellied after the event.

Sexing fry in the early stages is not the easiest undertaking until such time as the observer's eye becomes practiced at discerning the minute extra lobe like appendage on the anal fin of males. As the fry mature so the task eases. Once sexual maturity has been reached then there are no problems in sorting males from females. The body colour patterns remain similar with multi-speckled glittering dots of olive, yellow, silver and black. The black dots become more numerous along the centre of the body, creating what appears to be a solid lateral line, but on closer inspection it is seen not to be the case. However the caudal fin of the male does have two vertical bands of colour, the inner being black and the outer yellow. The female caudal fin remains clear.



Ameca splendens. Male top left, female front centre

As mentioned earlier, most of the goodeid species originate from Central America and Mexico. *Ameca splendens* is found throughout this area and ironically one of its main locations is the Rio Ameca (Rio meaning river). I think I am right in saying that this is the only instance where a fish's location has been used to form its generic name. There are of course a great many examples of a species' name being a derivation of its site of discovery i.e. *amazonensis*, *brasiliensis*, *cameronensis* etc. (from the Amazon, Brazil or Cameroon). The species name in this case being *splendens* which translates as bright or glittering.

My first experiences with *Ameca splendens* was around the mid 1980s. Sadly I don't appear to have kept a complete record of when and where I obtained them. My card index system only refers to the fact that one pair of *Ameca splendens* along with one pair of *Xenotaca eiseni* had been purchased. Perhaps it was my intention to fill in the details later, and it got put off and put off until it was overlooked completely.

Thankfully I can be more precise about my current specimens. On 18th May 2005 my 'old friend' David Marshall called to see me bearing a jar of six *Ameca splendens* (one semi-mature pair and four immature fry). It was nice to be reunited with this specie again. The fish settled quickly and, to my amazement, began to consume the duckweed which completely covered the water surface. After four months not one piece remained which resulted in me having to replenish supplies from other tanks.

I don't know whether the additional diet of duckweed has been responsible in any way for conditioning my fish, but offspring have been produced at frequent intervals, for example, 11th July 11 fry, 25 September 5 fry and, more recently, 7th October 18 fry. In each case the fry were born under the cover of darkness. Could this be nature's way of protecting the fry from predation by other species? Unlike most other livebearers, the parents do not have predatory tendencies towards their own young; for one thing the newly hatched fry are too large to be swallowed by them anyway.

Finally, recent environmental tragedies in Mexico have made me contemplate what may have happened to colonies of river fish, such as *Ameca splendens*, which have been washed out of their environment to end up who knows where? Disasters of such magnitude and unnerving frequency make one realise just how fragile the ecology is and that the aftermath of such conditions may well be responsible for causing the extinction in the wild of species endemic to this region.

Trading Post

Sal Natarmaso has African cichlids for Sale and whatever is needed, for the aquarium
www.rducichlids.citymax.com

Gerald has extra kribensis (lots of males, few females), gold Gardneri killifish, and Okefenokee pygmy sunfish available. Also grindal worms, red worms, rotifers, moina, microworms. The pygmy sunfish need live food. 919-556-8845 or gbpottner@yahoo.com

Frank Montillo 556-9004 has these items: red rainbow fish, large gold angels, African cichlids including yellow labidochromis, lelupei. red zebras, daffodils, and electric blue ahli

Chris Duncan has Guppies (German red lace, White pastel half black, and yellow snakeskin) I also have extra male F. Gardneru Makurdi males and a couple females. Angelfish (Marble, smokes, and silver kio). 662-8537. I live in the Garner area.



Monthly Web Links

Raleigh Aquarium Society Forum on Yahoo Groups
<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/raleighaquariumsociety/>

Potomac Valley Aquarium Society in the Washington D.C. area <http://www.pvas.com/>

Atlanta Area Aquarium Association in Atlanta, Georgia <http://www.atlantaaquarium.com/>

Carolina Fish Talk <http://www.carolinafishtalk.com/>

Charlotte Area Aquarists Society <http://pvelasco.net/CAASBBS/index.php>

Marine Aquarium Society of the Carolinas <http://masotc.net/>

North Carolina Koi & Watergarden Society <http://www.nckws.com/>

Carolina Aquatic Plant Enthusiasts <http://www.ncaquaticplants.org/>

Aquatic Gardeners Association <http://www.aquatic-gardeners.org/>

KingFish Services <http://www.kingfishservices.net/>



Club Sponsors

*(The following businesses give RAS members a discount on purchases)
You may be asked to show your RAS membership card*

[Aqua Escape](#) 200 West Peace St, Suite 130, Raleigh (10%) **919.755.0400**

[Aquatica](#) 5533 NC Hwy 42-West, A-16, Garner (10%) **919.661.7790**

[Aquatic Concepts](#) 4221 Garrett Road Durham, NC **919.489.901**

[Carolina Pet Supply](#) 322 McCormick Street, Garner (10%) **919.773.0014**

[Critter Country Inc](#) 14 Technology Drive, Garner (10%) **919.772.3761**

[Down Under, Salt Water Fish & Corals](#) Highway 70 (in between Agri Supply and White Oak Shopping Center) in Garner. 20% on livestock, 15% on dry goods) **919.662.8820**

[Fins, Furs & Feathers Pet Center](#) 303 S. Horner Boulevard, Sanford, NC 27330 (10% on everything except tanks) **919.718.0850**

[Fish Pros](#) 5655 Western Boulevard, Suite A, Raleigh 27606 (10%) **919.233.1122**

[Fish World](#) 2205 Westinghouse Blvd., Suite 109, Raleigh (10%) **919.872.1228**

[Infinity Pets](#) 100 W Main St Suite C, Youngsville NC 27596 (10%) **919.570.3039**

[Pet Mania](#) 7901 Falls of Neuse Rd #125, Raleigh (10%) **919.676.3225**

[Pet Paradise](#) 9101-141 Leesville Road, Raleigh (10%) **919.848.8881**

[The Pet Pad](#) 1347 Kildaire Farm Road, Cary, (10%) **919.481.6614**

[Triangle Tropical Fish](#) 3600 N. Duke St. Suite #36 Durham (10% excluding aquariums and stands) **919.479.0088**

Please contact Christine Duncan at raleighaquariumsociety@yahoo.com if you are an active member of the Raleigh Aquarium Society and do not have an up to date membership card. Membership cards can be picked up at any meeting.

Raleigh Aquarium Society

Application for Membership

Membership privileges include:

- Ability to post items in trading post section of monthly newsletter
- A discount card good at participating local pet stores
- All club discounts on club functions
- Education from the most knowledgeable aquarium experts in NC
- Yearly Membership - \$15.00 (includes spouse and children)

(Membership dues run from March 1st each year. New members joining any other time will be pro-rated at \$3 + \$1 for each month remaining in the year.)

Name(s): _____

Date to begin membership: ____/____/____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: (____) _____ (2) (____) _____

Email Address: _____

New Membership

Renewal Membership

Mail to:

Raleigh Aquarium Society
PO Box 31564
Raleigh, NC 27612-1564