



The Raleigh Aquarium Society

P.O. Box 31564, Raleigh, North Carolina 27612-1564
<http://www.raleighaquariumsociety.org>
raleighaquariumsociety@yahoo.com

April 15th, 2010

*Next Meeting: Thursday @7:30pm **May 6, 2010.***

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.

Workshop Information

Dates are June 11th-June 13th

The workshop will be held in the Wake County Commons building off of Poole road. For more information, please email

Mark your calendars!!!!

raleighaquariumsociety@yahoo.com

Meeting Agenda

Although most people think of gambling when they think of Las Vegas, this city has a lot of activities for hobbyists of all kinds. Specifically, for those interested in fish and aquatic life, there are nearly a dozen locations around town with magnificent fresh and marine aquariums, shows, and novelty tanks, most of which are free to the public. The May meeting will be a multimedia presentation showing where you can find these places and what they have to offer, hosted by Becky Hunter and Michael Maieli. Hope to see you there!!!

Monthly Feature

ARTICLE INFORMATION: Bristle Worms

Author: Emily Hirtle

Title: Bristle worms: Friend or Foe?

Summary: An article about some bristle worm species in saltwater fish tanks.

Contact for editing purposes: Emily Hirtle

Email: xxemmyxx@gmail.com

Date first published: April 23, 2010

Publication: N/A

Reprinted from Aquarticles: No.

ARTICLE USE: Written By Emily Hirtle

Resources and References for Bristle Worm Article.

Pictures are credited to their rightful owners.

Cleaning a diseased freshwater fish tank article from aqua-fish.net

Bristle Worms: Friend or Foe?

By Emily Hirtle

So you are looking in your tank at your corals or fish, and you see this red, spiny looking thing crawling out of your live rock. Do you go retrieve your invert book and try to identify it, or do you say “Ahh!! I have to get it out!!” and go running for the tweezers. What you should do is retrieve your invert book because it could be a passive kind of bristle worm that will not do any harm in your reef tank and you could be throwing away a harmless little sand sifter.

Bristle worms are pretty misunderstood critters. Some of them, yes, can eat your fish if they are big enough, but most of the time you will just find a small red guy digging in your sand and rocks rummaging for food. There are two main different types of bristle worms that I will be discussing in my article.

Caribbean Bristle Worms



picture courtesy of reefloung.com

The Caribbean bristle worm, or the *Hermodice carunculata*, are the “dangerous ones” that aquarists tend to mix up with the smaller guys. This species of bristle worm can get up to a whopping 12 inches (1 foot) and tend to feed on fish and sessile invertebrates. They have a more flat and wide body than other bristle worms and tend to be more of a brown/tan like color than

your typical bright red. These are actually not very common hitchhikers in live rock, but they do exist! This particular breed is one that would be in the foe category for the most part, however, if you have a fish only tank with live rock and you have pretty large, fast fish, then you could probably keep him without any trouble. I would not, however, pet him, since they have a sting very similar to a fire ant. If you must remove them and dispose of them, use tweezers!!!

“FIRE WORM” or Common Bristle Worm



photo from reefs.org

These types of bristle worms are your basic “run-of-the-mill” live rock hitchhikers. They are very harmless, and actually excellent scavengers. They will come out of the rock and clean up your uneaten food in your tank, think of them as a long, thin, red vacuum. Aquarists tend to believe that they will kill their corals, but actually, they just bore through the rock and if they damage the coral while doing so, it is completely unintentional. They tend to be thinner and a much brighter red than the Caribbeans, so they are very easy to tell apart. They are more of a nocturnal creature, however, if they smell food and they are hungry, they will probably come sneaking out to grab some of that uneaten Mysis shrimp on the bottom of your tank near their rock house. Though they are harmless to your fish and other inverts, do not touch them because much like the Caribbeans, they also have a rather painful sting to us humans.

So before you go running for the tweezers or trying to find ways to poison them, rip them to shreds, flush them, or throw them in the trash, please take the time to try and identify the type it is because you may be trying to kill a very efficient part of your cleaning crew!

Fishy Reading

At some time or another all [fish](#) keepers will experience some form of disease in their tanks, this is the downside to this wonderful hobby. Most [medications](#) are designed to deal with this problem and remove the disease from the fish and hopefully remove it from the tank altogether. Sadly this is not

always the case especially when the disease is actually a viral infection or parasitic infection that has attacked the tank inhabitants, lowering their immune system which then results in the fish contracting diseases as a side effect. Effective tank maintenance should lower the possibility of this occurring by a large margin but there is always the chance that your tank that has been lovingly looked after will fall victim to this situation.

The good news is that there is no situation that cannot be resolved, the key to dealing with this is not to panic but attack the problem even though it can mean a time consuming process to eradicate the disease and infections completely. Basically a full tank clean is required to remove the problem and to get the tank back into top shape. Parasites and nasty bacterias can survive in the substrate etc. for periods of time before reappearing and launching another attack on the fish, everything will need to be cleaned but it also needs to be done in a specific order.

Cleaning your diseased fish tank

The correct order for giving your tank a full clean is as follows:-

Clean all of the inside glass, remove the decor to clean thoroughly, clean the outer glass and any external lighting units., finally clean the filtration system.

The reason that the inside glass needs cleaning first is that during the cleaning process, debris or detritus will fall from the glass onto the decor and substrate. All of the tank inhabitants should be moved to a quarantine tank or a holding tank while this process is completed. At this stage it is advisable to save a bucket of tank water, this will be used when cleaning the filters. The inside glass should be cleaned with a sterilizing fluid, the same that is used in baby's bottles or you can also use a mild bleach. The glass will need to be scrubbed with suitable algae pads or algae scrapers to leave the glass spotless and algae free. You may have noticed when cleaning the tank glass while the tank is running that any algae has a rough surface, this can harbor diseases and viruses. Once you are happy that the tank glass is clean remove all of the decor and the substrate for intense cleaning. Using the same cleaner, any ornaments can be scrubbed to remove any detritus that can harbor diseases and if you have plants in the tank, they can also be dipped in a mild bleach solution for 2-3 minutes to remove any alien life forms on them. The decor and the plants is the easy part, now it is time to clean the substrate thoroughly.

Whether you have sand or gravel in the tank the method is the same, prepare a solution of sterilizing fluid in a bucket and add portions of the substrate at a time. The gravel or sand will need to be stirred around to make sure that all of it comes into contact with the sterilizing fluid, this has to be repeated until all of the substrate has been cleaned thoroughly. Before adding the substrate back into the tank it will need rinsing thoroughly, do this in the bucket changing the water 2-3 times to ensure that all of the sterilizing fluid has been washed away.

Once your substrate and decor has been thoroughly cleaned it can be added back to the tank. This is an ideal time to give your filters a thorough clean out as well. Rinse the filter media in the bucket of tank water that you saved at the beginning and check all of the pipework plus any impellers and shafts, clean these if required. I have found the best impeller cleaners to be an old tooth brush, you can get right into the impeller blades and the shaft leaving them looking like new. Once the filter has been cleaned it can be re-connected to the tank, now the tank can also be refilled with treated water. Once the tank is up and running again keep testing the water, the reason for this is that with everything being cleaned it

may have weakened the bacterial colonies and your water parameters may have been affected. These should settle down in a couple of days.

Preventative measures to keep diseases out of your tank

There are many ways for diseases to enter your tank but taking a few precautions can minimize these a great deal.

- When purchasing new fish do not add them straight into your main display tank, equip yourself with a quarantine tank where the new arrivals will be placed for a couple of weeks. During this time you can look at the fish daily for symptoms of any disease and medicate the quarantine tank if required.
- Keep your hands out of the water in the main display tank if possible. There are going to be times when you have to stick your hands in the water i.e. tank maintenance or when vacuuming the gravel, just try to keep this to the minimum.
- Only use one net to one tank. Never place a net into different tanks, this is a sure way of spreading diseases.
- Keep your tank clean and vacuum the gravel at least once a month to remove debris and detritus, any alien matter trapped in the substrate can act as a host for pathogenic bacteria.
- Keep the lid or tank covers clean, any accumulated dust can fall into the tank water and this can also act as a host for diseases that will soon take hold of your tank.

Cleaning your tank after a disease is a long process and can be very frustrating, prevention is better than a cure so always be vigilant with your tank and hopefully you will never have to go through this process.

Trading Post

If you would like to participate, please email us at raleighaquariumsociety@yahoo.com

Fishy Fashion Tips & HOT Bargains!!

Looking for something new and exciting to do with your tank? Every week I will be posting a picture of insanely cool looking tank ideas!! Below the picture I will also post the latest deals and sales at our local fish stores!



Both photos courtesy of <http://weburbanist.com/2008/12/27/aquariums-fish-tanks/>

Stores if you would like to have your latest deals posted in our hot bargains section please email raleighaquariumsociety@yahoo.com

Monthly Web Links

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

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

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

[Carolina Fish Talk](http://www.carolinafishtalk.com/) <http://www.carolinafishtalk.com/>

[Charlotte Area Aquarists Society](http://pvelasco.net/CAASBBS/index.php) <http://pvelasco.net/CAASBBS/index.php>

[Marine Aquarium Society of the Carolinas](http://masotc.net/) <http://masotc.net/>

[North Carolina Koi & Watergarden Society](http://www.nckws.com/) <http://www.nckws.com/>

[Carolina Aquatic Plant Enthusiasts](http://www.ncaquaticplants.org/) <http://www.ncaquaticplants.org/>

[Aquatic Gardeners Association](http://www.aquatic-gardeners.org/) <http://www.aquatic-gardeners.org/>

[KingFish Services](http://www.kingfishservices.net/) <http://www.kingfishservices.net/>

If you would like your site to be added above, please email us at raleighaquariumsociety@yahoo.com!

Club Sponsors

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

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

[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**

[Reef Keepers Aquarium](#) 1673 Old US Highway 70 West, Clayton, NC 27520-6566 (10%) **919.359.2424**

If you would like to sponsor us, please email us at raleighaquariumsociety@yahoo.com.

Please contact Emily Hirtle 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.

**PLEASE HELP SUPPORT YOUR
LOCAL FISH STORES BY
SHOPPING WITH THEM :)**

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