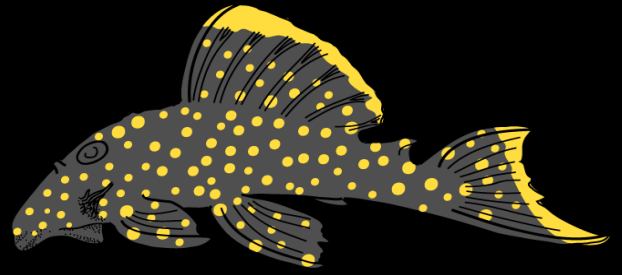


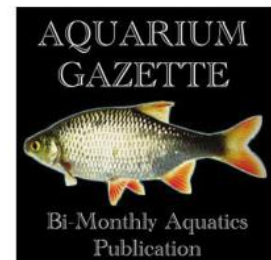
Journal of the Catfish Study Group



December 2019

Volume 20, Issue 4

In this edition: *Corydoras taeniatus*, *Synodontis violaceus*, new catfish species, Open Show 2019 results, Cataclysm 2019



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Cover image: *Synodontis violaceus*. Photo: Dave Rinaldo

Convention 2020 logo – *Hara mesembrina* original artwork by Coral Vane Wright, courtesy of Catfishes of the World





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Chairman's Report - Mark Walters

Welcome to the latest Journal, and by the time you are reading this, to a new decade. 2020 also marks the 20th anniversary of the formation of the Catfish Study Group, formed in 2000 from the Northern Area Catfish Group, which in turn took over the proceedings of the Catfish Association of Great Britain, which was formed in October 1973. The CSG became an international organisation in 2006 and now has over 400 members across the world.

2019 was a busy year for the CSG, with obvious highlights being a hugely successful Convention and record breaking receipts from our regular auctions. We also supported a number of other international events including the recent L-numbers days in Germany and Cataclysm in the USA.



Madison Zoo, Wisconsin – Cataclysm 2019

The November auction included some amazing fish including:

Corydoras pulcher, *loretoensis*, *gryphus*, *aeneus*, CW010, CW021, CW028, C091, C141, C156, *agassizi*, *splendens*, *concolor*, *panda*, *elegans*, *incolicana*, *stenocephalus*, *atropersonatus*, *sterbai*, *gossei*, *bondi*, *knackii*, *granti*, *habrosus*, *pygmaeus*, *melanotaenia*, *trilineatus*, *Aspidoras albater*, *A. fuscoguttatus*, CW126. *Scleromystax barbatus*, *S. prionotus*, L260, L066, L399, L128, *Hypancistrus debiliterra*, *Pseudacanthicus* L065, *Panaqolus maccus*, L513, L393, L184, L183, L236, L156, snow white *Ancistrus*, super red *Ancistrus*, wabenmuster, *Hemiloricaria lanceolata*,

Otocinclus sp, *Tatia gyrina*, *Duringlanis perugiae*, *Trachelyopterichthys taeniatus*, *Auchenipterichthys coracoides*, *Entomocorus gameroi*, *Agneiosis* sp. *Tatia intermedia*, *Synodontis 'pardalis'*.

Events for 2020 include the Spring and Autumn auctions in February and November respectively, the September Open Show and of course the CSG Convention in March.

Deadlines for early bird and final bookings are fast approaching so don't miss-out on one of the biggest and best Catfish events in the World! Other CSG events will be announced through our Facebook site where you can find our friendly community of members and friends talking exclusively catfish!

Also please note the date of the annual general meeting (AGM). The AGM will be held from 1pm GMT on 19th January 2020. An email was sent to all members in December with the following details:

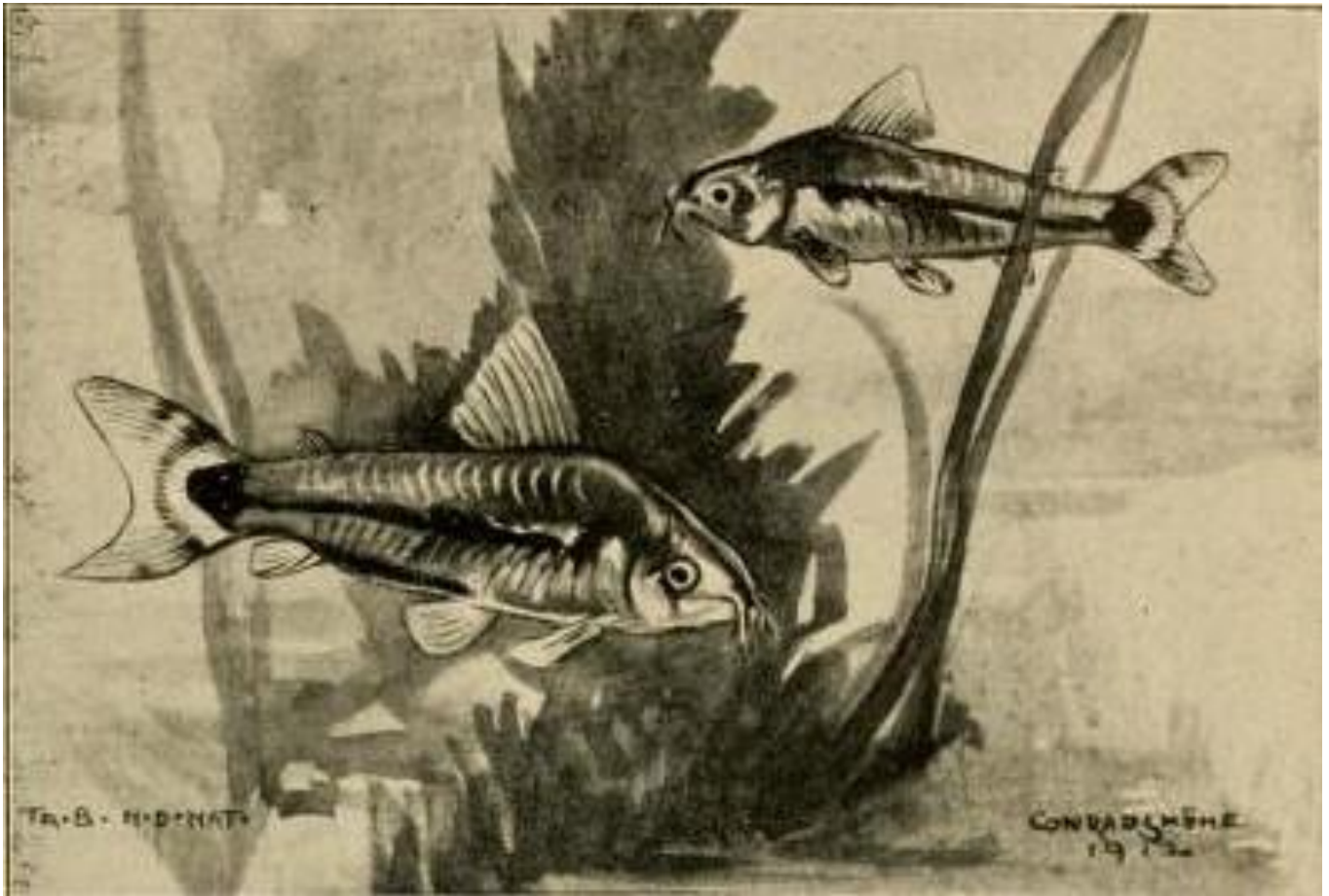
If you wish to dial into the AGM, please contact me directly by 5th January so I can arrange a suitably sized webex and details of joining. If you wish to attend in person I will arrange a meeting place in Boston Spa, West Yorkshire, UK - again please contact me by 5th January so arrangements can be made. There are no submitted proposals to vote on this year, and there were no expressions of interest in available posts as advertised in the last 2 Journals. The agenda is as follows:

1. **Welcome**
2. **Accept minutes from 2019 AGM**
3. **Committee reports**
4. **Any other business**
5. **Close**

Thanks to regular contributors Steve Grant and Daniel Konn-Vetterlein for their articles this quarter, you can also view the results from the September Open Show and read a report on Cataclysm. Note also, that we are now accepting applications for the CSG Research Support Funds, details at the back of the Journal. Happy catfish keeping!

Mark

Corydoras taeniatus Stansch, 1914 – an available scientific name Steve Grant



Original drawing of *Corydoras taeniatus* from Stansch, 1914

Whilst perusing Fricke et al. (2019) the author came across an entry for *Corydoras taeniatus* Stanch, 1914.

Fricke et al. (2019) state that they consider the name to be available under the ICZN despite the decision by Nijssen & Isbrücker (1979) to class it as a nomen nudum. Fricke et al. (2019) state “The species is named “*Corydoras taeniatus?*” in the original description, which qualifies as a conditional proposal according to Art. 11.5.1 of ICZN; as it was published before 1961 it cannot be excluded on this account alone. The description includes several diagnostic characters, as well as an illustration; therefore the species name is here considered as available.”

The ICZN defines ‘conditional’ as “Of the proposal of a name or a type fixation: one made with stated reservations”. The author agrees that inserting a question mark after the species name does mean it was proposed conditionally. As already stated, there is a clear description of its characters and a drawing of some of the type

specimens was provided so it meets the requirements set at that time to be an available name.

The description states that three specimens (so three syntypes) were imported in 1912 from the Amazon stream area. A rough translation of states it to be a dwarf form, only 3-4cm in size. The coloration was silver-grey, from the gill cover stretched a long black band to a large, triangular, black spot at the caudal peduncle. The caudal fin was decorated with several arch-like arranged bands.

Two of the three syntypes were presented alive in a drawing which is reproduced here. They were unlikely to have been preserved and therefore are presumably lost. The drawing and the description of the triangular spot that takes up the full vertical depth of the caudal base area clearly make *C. taeniatus* synonymous with *Corydoras hastatus* Eigenmann & Eigenmann, 1888. This species was described from Parintins on the Amazon River, Amazonas, Brazil.



Lectotype of *Corydoras hastatus* MCZ 7747. Copyright of the President and Fellows of Harvard College



Paralectotype of *Corydoras hastatus* MCZ 95271. Copyright of the President and Fellows of Harvard College



Holotype of *Corydoras australe* CAS 67915. Copyright of the California Academy of Sciences.

Eigenmann & Ward (1907) described *Corydoras australe* from the Upper rio Paraguai at Corumbá (19°00'S, 57°25'W), tributary of Rio Pilcomayo, Rio Paraguay system, Mato Grosso, Brazil.

They differentiated it from *C. hastatus* (tentatively) on the lateral dark band being “indistinct” in *C. australe* and “jet-black” in *C. hastatus*. Casciotta et al. (2005) show a specimen from the Paraná-Paraguay basin which has the indistinct lateral band.

However, aquarium specimens purportedly from the Amazon basin can also show an indistinct lateral band. Currently *C. australe* is a junior synonym of *C. hastatus*.

It is not unusual for species from the Paraná-Paraguay basin to be different species to very similar ones from the Amazon basin but there are examples both ways.

The author has compared images of the Holotype of *Corydoras australe* to images of the Lectotype and Paralectotype of *Corydoras hastatus*.

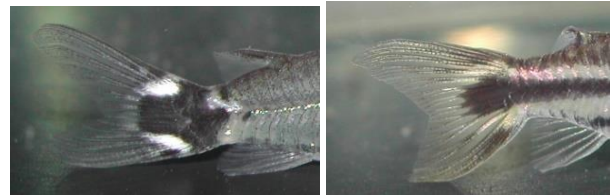
The only possible osteological difference is that in the holotype of *C. australe* the supraoccipital process appears shorter and a slightly different shape than that in the type specimens of *C. hastatus* but this may be variable if one were to look at numerous specimens of each population/species.

Further work on these two taxa needs to be done to conclusively prove they are synonymous.



Supraoccipital process in the Holotype of *Corydoras australe* CAS 67915 (Copyright of the California Academy of Sciences) and the Lectotype of *Corydoras hastatus* MCZ 7747 (Copyright of the President and Fellows of Harvard College)

Another similar species is *Corydoras pygmaeus* Knaack, 1966 but that species does not have the caudal peduncle wholly encapsulated by the triangular blotch, it instead has a pale area above and below the lateral dark band (see image).



Caudal pattern in *Corydoras hastatus* and *Corydoras pygmaeus*. Steven Grant

Acknowledgements

Thank you to Andrew Williston of the Museum for Comparative Zoology, Harvard University, USA for images of the lectotype and paralectotype of *Corydoras hastatus*; to California Academy of Sciences for the publication of images of their type specimens at: <https://www.calacademy.org/scientists/ichthyology-primary-types-imagebase>; to Erik Schiller for the description of *Corydoras pygmaeus*.

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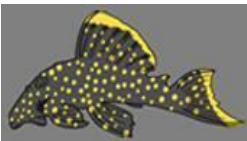
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Catfish Study Group Open Show 2019



Best Fish in Show - Synodontis angelicus owned by Dave Speed



CATFISH
STUDY GROUP

CSG Open Show Results 2019

3	CORYDORAS "A" up to 55mm SL[F]		Species	
1	Ian Wallbridge	Bradford	<i>Corydoras eques</i>	84
2	Uvonne Hart	Independent	<i>Corydoras pygmaeus</i>	81
3	Uvonne Hart	Independent	<i>Corydoras atropersonatus</i>	80

4	CORYDORAS "B" over 55mm SL		Species	
1	Ian Wallbridge	Bradford	<i>Corydoras concolor</i>	86
2	Dave Speed	CSG	<i>Corydoras concolor</i>	84
3	Dave Speed	CSG	<i>Corydoras sterbai</i>	80

5	CORYDORAS TYPES C & CW Nos/Unid.		Species	
1	Dave Speed	CSG	<i>C123</i>	79.5

7	AOC Callichthyidae		Species	
1	Mike Kirkham	CSG	<i>Megalechis thoracatum</i>	87

9	AUCHENIPTERIDAE		Species	
1	Mike Kirkham	CSG	<i>Trachelyopterus taeniatus</i>	90
2	Ian Wallbridge	Bradford	<i>Auchenipterichthys coracoides</i>	88
3	Mike Kirkham	CSG	<i>Liosomodoras oncinus</i>	86

10	BAGRIDAE		Species	
1	Dave Speed	CSG	<i>Mystus carcio</i>	88
2	Dave Speed	CSG	<i>Batasio fluvatilis</i>	85

11	DORADIDAE		Species	
1	Dave Speed	CSG	<i>Agamyxis pectinifrons</i>	89

12	LORICARIIDAE		Species	
1	Dave Speed	CSG	<i>Peckoltia lineola</i>	83
2	Dave Speed	CSG	<i>Hemiancistrus guahiborum</i>	82

13	LORICARIIDAE L&LDA		Species	
1	Dave Speed	CSG	<i>L240a</i>	86
2	Ian Wallbridge	Bradford	<i>L213</i>	83
3	Dave Speed	CSG	<i>L201</i>	81

14	MOCHOKIDAE		Species	
<i>BEST IN SHOW</i>				
1	Dave Speed	CSG	<i>Synodontis angelicus</i>	85
2	Mike Kirkham	CSG	<i>Synodontis flavitaeniatus</i>	80
3	Mike Kirkham	CSG	<i>Synodontis robertsi</i>	74

15	PIMELODIDAE		Species	
1	Bernard O'Neill	CSG	<i>Microglanis iheringi</i>	83
2	Dave Speed	CSG	<i>Microglanis iheringi</i>	80

16	AOV CATFISH		Species	
1	Dave Speed	CSG	<i>Akysis portellus</i>	84
2	Dave Speed	CSG	<i>Pareutropius buffei</i>	81

17	PAIRS – CORYDORADINAE		Species	
1	Mike Kirkham	CSG	<i>Corydoras CW123</i>	80

21	PAIRS – AOV ASIAN		Species	
1	Dave Speed	CSG	<i>Akysis portellus</i>	83

23	BREEDERS–LORICARIIDAE L&LDA		Inc	Species	
1	Dave Speed	CSG		<i>L015</i>	83
2	Danny Blundell	CSG		<i>Hypancistrus L236</i>	82
3	Danny Blundell	CSG		<i>Ancistrus 'Gold Spot'</i>	81

24	BREEDERS – AOV S AMERICAN		Species	
1	Ian Wallbridge	Bradford	<i>Centromochlus perugiae</i>	83
2	Ian Wallbridge	Bradford	<i>Tatia dumni</i>	77
3	Ian Wallbridge	Bradford	<i>Auchenipterichthys coracoides</i>	76

28	BREEDERS – MASTER CLASS			
1	Danny Blundell		CSG	243

Congratulations to all those who won awards and especially Dave Speed for his Best in Show *Synodontis angelicus*. Thanks to Fish Science and EBO –Aquaristik for sponsoring classes at the 2019 Open Show.

Thanks also to all those who took part in the show and especially Auctioneer Mal Rimmer, runners, the judges, organisers, volunteers and of course our hard working Catering Manager and Show Secretary Brian Walsh.





CSG Spring Auction

16th February 2020

Derwent Hall, George Street,
Darwen, Lancashire, BB3 0DQ

Booking in from 11am Auction starts at 1pm

Any legally permitted aquatic items

To book an auction lot contact:

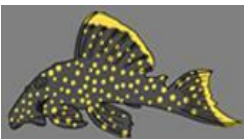
chairman@catfishstudygroup.org

See our Facebook site for more details

CSG AUCTION and SALE RULES

1. Only aquatic items are allowed, subject to restrictions on locally banned species and the rules below.
2. All electrical goods must have the vendor's name and telephone number attached, together with a statement of condition, e.g. working order, faulty, spares, etc. Otherwise they will be sold as seen with no guarantee of working.
3. All fish will be transported to and from the event in an insulated transit container. During the event, fish will be stored in a suitable insulated container.
4. All plants and fish should be in clear plastic bags, or in containers of a suitable size. Large fish may be offered in plastic containers or buckets. Fish should be identified with either a scientific or common name and reserve prices marked.
5. All fish and plants, etc., must be seen to be healthy and any damaged or deformed fish will be taken out of auction and not sold. Painted, dye injected, genetically modified or fluorescent fish will not be accepted for auction.
6. If the water is seen to be foul or conditions otherwise unsuitable, the item will be withdrawn from sale and the vendor instructed to remedy the issue. Large *Corydoras* catfish (and all *C.sterbai*) will be individually bagged due to the likelihood of poisoning the water in the company of other fish.
7. Fish will be bagged on the day of sale, not on preceding days, to reduce the opportunity for water-fouling.
8. All fish that are likely to puncture bags should be double bagged. Any fish deemed improperly bagged or presented, e.g. inadequate room in container, bag too small or deflated/leaking, will be withdrawn and the vendor will be given the option to re-bag.
9. A 15% commission payable to the CSG will be applied to auction sales. Payments to vendors will be made during the interval or at the end of the event.
10. All goods are purchased as seen. The CSG does not accept responsibility for the condition of any item sold at the event. Purchasers always have an opportunity to view the goods on the day and can return them immediately after purchase if not satisfied. The vendor's name will be available to the purchaser in the event of a problem, on the day only.
11. The CSG will not permit other private sales to take place on the premises of CSG events during its sales.

CSG Committee January 2020



CATFISH
STUDY GROUP

Species new to the hobby

Daniel Konn-Vetterlein

Hypostomus laplatae (Eigenmann 1907)



Rare in Europe and common in Northern America - not how it normally is. But thanks to Imperial Tropicals (Lakeland, Florida) operated by Mike Drawdy, *H. laplatae* is a rather well-known species in the US and Canada, where I took this picture at Spencer Jacks place. At his breeding facility he managed to find the best way for breeding this good looking *Hypostomus*.

Part of the secret surely are his outdoor ponds, where the fish live and breed under natural changes of weather conditions. He breeds with a wild caught parental generation and regularly can supply his customers with F1 juveniles. Adults tend to show a blueish hint in the base colouration. The dorsal fin is bigger and higher than in most other *Hypostomus*, the whole body is covered in small black spots.

Hypostomus laplatae grows up to around 60 cm, but unlike similarly large growing *Pterygoplichthys* spp. this species becomes even more beautiful in age. All fins are covered in a reddish sheen, the caudal sometimes even shows a deep red seam (synonym: “redfin pleco”). It’s a nice alternative to the “common plecos” (*P. pardalis*, *P. disjunctivus* and *P. gibbiceps*) and a great addition to large tanks with lower temperatures.

Due to its distribution this species is fine if temporarily kept from 15 to 20°C. *H. laplatae* was described from the Río de la Plata basin in Argentina where it lives close to Buenos Aires but has a large distribution and is also known from Montevideo, the capital of Uruguay. Locals call this and many other *Hypostomus* spp. “vieja del agua”, meaning “old lady from the water”.

On first sight *H. laplatae* seems to be closely related to *Hypostomus commersoni* Valenciennes 1836 but belongs to another lineage and is closer related to popular species like *H. luteus* and the even rarer *H. isbrueckeri* (Cardoso et al. 2019).

Following the same paper *H. laplatae* is the only species of the genus with bifid teeth, while all others have spoon-shaped teeth, and can therefore easily be distinguished by similar looking species from the region.

***Mastiglanis asopos* Bockmann, 1994**



Out of all the sand dwelling species of the family Heptapteridae this species clearly loves to bury itself the most. The shown picture was taken at Karl Schwamm's place, who kept a group of this species a while back.

Within a few seconds in the photo tank the pictured specimen disappeared in the sand and it took a while to convince it to stay outside. Not to mention we did not find even the others in their small tank.

Mastiglanis asopos is one of two currently valid species of the genus. The second species *M. durantoni* is described from the Tampok River in French Guiana Pinna & Keith, 2019. But according to Faustino (2019) there are two more undescribed species to be found in Peru:

The first is known from Los Ríos Yaguas, a tributary of Río Putumayo; the second from Río Nanay a tributary to the Amazonas itself, both located in the department of Loreto, Peru. Both new species are supposed to have a shorter snout than *M. asopos*. Following Faustino *Mastiglanis* sp. 1 has eight branched rays in the anal fin, while *M. asopos* and *Mastiglanis* sp. 2 only have seven.

Furthermore *M. asopos* and *M. sp. 2* can be distinguished from each other by their head proportions: Short snout and thin head (35% of head length and 55% of head length) lead to *M. sp. 2*, while a long snout and a broad head (36.5-43.9% of head length and 57.9-70.9% of head length) lead to *M. asopos*. In latter the dorsal fin-base is also supposed to be longer.

Despite offering plenty of well-researched results and data, and even mentioning holo- and paratypes there is no species epithet given to the described fish, both are therefore not scientifically described yet. After having some nice and helpful contact with the author I am looking forward to the formal description soon.

Thanks to Mike Drawdy, Karl Schwamm and Spencer Jack (afishionados) for letting me take tons of pictures of all the fish they have in stock.

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An import of an unusual *Synodontis* Cuvier, 1816 Steve Grant



S. violaceus 10cm SL photographed 2 months after import, image by Dave Rinaldo

In 2019 an import into the US of various *Synodontis* species had two specimens of what were imported as *Synodontis voltae* Roman, 1975. The smallest specimen is approximately 10cm SL and the second is 13.5cm SL.

S. voltae was described from the Bougouriba River, Burkina Faso, Western Africa. The Bougouriba River is a tributary of the Black Volta (or Mouhoun) River, which in turn is a tributary of the main Volta River. To the author's knowledge it has not been imported into the hobby and even pictures or drawings of true specimens are extremely rare.

An adult and juvenile are depicted in Seegers (2008) (the images were taken by the describer of *S. voltae* and may even be type specimens) and thanks to Dr Emmanuel Vreven the author can present an image of a definite type specimen (paratype, MRAC 76-53-P-1).



Paratype of *Synodontis voltae*. Image by Emmanuel Vreven, copyright of MRAC

Dave's specimens were reportedly caught in the White Volta (or Nakanbé) River around Tamale, Ghana. Like the Black Volta River, the White

Volta River is a tributary of the main Volta River but so far there are no records of *S. voltae* in the White Volta (Seegers, 2008).

Looking at the images in Seegers (2008) and the paratype there are some similarities. The body has no markings and is a greyish colour, there are dark markings running along horizontally along the outer rays of each caudal fin lobe, and the maxillary barbels are short and with a thick membrane.

However, in *S. voltae* the dorsal fin has a dark vertical band on the first ray and on the membranes before and after it (lacking in Dave's fish), an extension to the first membrane (vs not present), a proportionately shorter body, and a concave dorsolateral edge of the post cleithral process (vs convex to straight).

There are a number of species with the general colour and pattern of Dave's fish, e.g. *Synodontis rufigiensis* Bailey, 1968; *Synodontis sorex* Günther, 1864, but only the ones (other than *S. voltae*) from the Volta River basin are discussed below:

***Synodontis macrophthalmus* Poll 1971.**

This species is from Volta Lake, Ghana and can be easily discounted due to the maxillary barbels having much thinner membranes, the maxillary tooth patch being smaller, and the eyes being larger than Dave's fish.

***Synodontis violaceus* Pellegrin, 1919.** This species was described from the Gribingui River, Chari river basin, Congo, but is also present in the Niger and Chad basins, and importantly the White Volta, Black Volta and main Volta rivers (Poll, 1971).

The colour and pattern in Pellegrin (1919) and Poll (1971) match Dave’s fish but more importantly the tooth patches, body and adipose fin shape, post cleithral process, and maxillary barbel morphology all match.

The author considers that Dave’s fish are *S. violaceus* and could be the first correctly identified photograph of it in life in print (the fish in Seegers (2008) is not *S. violaceus* in the author’s opinion, but is an undescribed species that Dave also obtained that was supposedly caught at with his two *S. violaceus* specimens. It is captioned here as sp. ‘Green Volta’ as this is what it was imported as).

S. violaceus is said to reach 29.5cm SL so Dave’s fish are not fully grown.



S. violaceus 10cm SL photographed after import, image by Dave Rinaldo



S. violaceus 10cm SL lateral view of head, image by Dave Rinaldo



S. violaceus 10cm SL mouth and barbels, image by Dave Rinaldo



Synodontis violaceus at 13.5cm SL image by Dave Rinaldo



S. violaceus 10cm SL dorsal view of head, image by Dave Rinaldo



Synodontis sp. ‘green Volta’, image by Dave Rinaldo



Synodontis sp. 'green Volta' mouth and barbels, image by Dave Rinaldo

Acknowledgements

Thank you to David Russell Rinaldo for the photos and sourcing information on the origin of the specimens; and Dr Emmanuel Vreven, Royal Museum for Central Africa, Belgium for the image of the paratype of *Synodontis voltae* (which is copyrighted to the Museum).

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41st CSG Convention 13-15th March 2020

Speakers:

Top: Rebecca Bentley, Luiz Tencatt
Middle: Andreas Tanke, Brian Walsh,
Markus Kaluza, Jost Borchering,
Bottom: Mike King, Steven Grant,
Jacqueline Heijmen Bennet-Leaver,
Allan James



CATFISH STUDY GROUP

Kilhey Court Hotel,
Wigan, UK



Delegate Name (one form per person) _____	Address and email (address required for Hotel residents, email for confirmation of receipt) _____ _____ _____
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Convention tickets – please note all bookings close after 17/02/19

	Weekend resident	Saturday Only	Sunday Only	Weekend non-resident*	Enter amount
Early-bird booking (By 19/01/20)	£25	£20	£20	£35	
Later booking (20/01/20 – 16/02/20)	£35	£25	£25	£40	

Hotel Accommodation (B&B, Includes Evening Meal)

Night	Single, Double or Twin?	Delegate per night	Enter amount
Thursday		£90 or £70	
Friday		£90 or £70	
Saturday		£90 or £70	
Sunday		£90 or £70	

Please indicate **name of room share** (hotel admin): _____

All room rates are £90 per delegate if single occupancy or £70 per delegate in a shared room (Double or Twin). Maximum of two adults per room. No room bookings after 16/02/20. Delegates' responsibility to arrange room shares. Rates are per day per occupancy over the weekend.

Evening Meal choices – See Page 2 for Options

Indicate below each course	Starter (1, 2 or 3)	Main (1, 2, or 3)	Dessert (1, 2 or 3)	£25 per meal IF NOT RESIDENT – Enter amount
Friday				£25
Saturday				£25


Summary - See Page 2 for Additional sales

Additional sales total (see page 2)	
If paying by PayPal, add 4% (Subtotal x 0.04)	
Grand Total - ALL payments by 16/02/2020	

Tickets are advance purchase only. 'Weekend' includes Friday's after dinner talk. *The CSG are charged a supplement for refreshments for non-residents. Please contact conventionmanager@catfishstudygroup.org for any special dietary/medical requirements. Dinner on Thursday and Sunday will be from hotel's a la carte menu. Forms and cheques (payable to **The Catfish Study Group**) can be returned to any Committee Members at CSG meetings OR can be sent to: The Studio, Clifford Road, Boston Spa, West Yorkshire, UK, LS23 6DB. OR email completed form and pay via PayPal to: conventionmanager@catfishstudygroup.org. Should you wish to pay by direct bank transfer, please email conventionmanager@catfishstudygroup.org

Dinner Menu Choices

No.	Friday	Choice
	Starter	
1	Roasted Portobello mushroom stuffed with pancetta, chillies peppers and tomato with a herb crust, roquette and balsamic dressing	
2	Leek and potato soup, finished with chives and baby spinach	
3	Ham hock terrine, ciabatta crisp and tomato chutney	
	Main	
1	Charred chicken breast, dauphinoise potatoes, braised leeks and mushroom cream	
2	Wild sea trout, chive creamed potatoes, lemon thyme roasted carrots, roasted vine tomatoes and parsley butter sauce	
3	Pumpkin ravioli tossed in sage butter and pine nuts, garlic bread and salad (V)	
	Dessert	
1	Salted caramel and chocolate torte, Chantilly cream and raspberry,	
2	Fruits of the forest pavlova	
3	Warm apple crumble tart with vanilla custard	
	Saturday	
	Starter	
1	Warm Lancashire cheese soufflé, sundried tomato and parmesan salad with balsamic dressing	
2	Ham hock and split pea soup with potato 'croutons'	
3	Chicken liver parfait, apple and plum chutney, toasted brioche and pea shoots	
	Main	
1	Slow braised lamb shank, creamed mashed potato, fine beans and red currant and rose mary jus	
2	Pan fried hake fillet, parmentier potatoes, roasted courgettes, aubergines and peppers with a spiced tomato passata	
3	Mozzarella and basil gnocchi tossed with peppers and red onion served in a basil and tomato pesto (V)	
	Dessert	
1	Classic profiteroles and warm chocolate sauce	
2	Warm ginger and lemon treacle tart served with clotted cream	
3	Traditional Italian Tiramisu	

Other Sales	Price	No.	Clothing size: S, M, L, XL, XXL	Total £
<p>Merchandise based on <i>Hara mesembrina</i> 'Convention logo' and <i>B. xanthellus</i> 'CSG logo' (images below). No clothing orders after 19th January 2020</p> 				
Speaker sponsor and sales table – includes 1 weekend convention ticket plus optional sales table.	£100 - or agreed merchandise equivalent			
Sales table – Limited to 8.	£50 - or agreed merchandise equivalent			
Sales tank – Limited to 18	£10 each tank			
Black Polo shirt - Convention logo	£15			
Black Polo shirt - CSG logo	£15			
2020 Convention logo enamel badge	£3			
Additional sales Total				

Contact conventionmanager@catfishstudygroup.org for further sponsorship details – all sponsorships include promotion in programme, Journal and one-year-use of CSG Facebook site for business promotions.

Venue details: [Macdonald Kilhey Court Hotel](#), Chorley Road, Standish, Wigan, WN1 2XN, Tel: 0344 879 904

CSG Convention 2020 Itinerary

Friday 13 March

CSG welcome dinner.....	19:30
Introduction and announcements	21:00
1 Brian Walsh: <i>Catfish dentition</i>	21:30
2 Jost Borcharding: <i>Experiences Keeping and Breeding Loricariidae</i>	22:00
Sponsored by Maidenhead Aquatics, Wigan and ATS Aquashop	

Saturday 14 March

-----Convention marketplace and sponsor-shop visits-----	09:30
3 Mike King will be on hand to discuss <i>Corydoradinae</i> Sponsored by FishScience and GBW Products and Services	
-----Lunch break-----	12:00
4 Luiz Tencatt: <i>Loricariidae</i>	13:00
Sponsored by Pier Aquatics	
5 Allan James: <i>The Lake Synos of Africa</i>	14:30
Sponsored by Aqualife	
6 Steven Grant: <i>Erithistidae</i>	16:00
Sponsored by Planet Catfish	
-----Saturday dinner-----	19:30
7 Rebecca Bentley: <i>Behind the scenes at the NHM</i>	21:00
8 Markus Kaluza: <i>Loricariidae breeding</i>	21:30
Sponsored by BSSW, Scotcat	

Sunday 15 March

-----Doors open-----	09:30
9 Andreas Tanke: <i>Panaqolus in Science, Nature and Neustadt!</i>	10:00
Sponsored by Ebo-Aquaristik	
10 Jacqueline Heijmen Bennet-Leaver: <i>Loricariidae breeding</i>	11:00
Sponsored by Nature2Aqua	
-----Lunch break-----	12:00
11 Luiz Tencatt: <i>Corydoradinae</i>	13:00
Sponsored by Catfishes of the World	
-----Close-----	14:00

Cataclysm 2019

Mark Walters

Cataclysm is coming!
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MARK WALTERS
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Banquet
Friday Field Trip
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It started over a year ago, 6 months after the last bi-annual Cataclysm event when Julian Dignall was invited to talk. He and organising committee member Ted Judy discussed the possibility of extending the reach of the CSG to Cataclysm, through some dedicated talks presented by suitable CSG members.

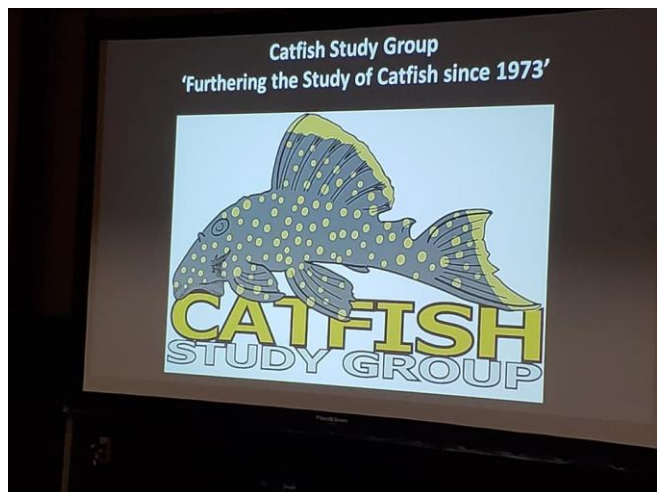
A plan was hatched through Ted joining one of the Committees' teleconferences outlining the requirements and how each party could benefit. For the CSG it was an opportunity to 'tap-in' to the US aquatic hobby, gain some members and extend the reach of its core aims and values. For the delegates of Cataclysm they would find out more about the club gain membership and receive the next 4 Journals.

The Committee decided I would serve as a suitable ambassador for the club and Ted put the wheels in motion to assist with the logistics at his

end. For me, I would need to produce two new talks and plan a long weekend away in September which unfortunately clashed with the CSG annual open show and auction. This meant delegating my role as auction manager to other CSG members who delivered the job with flying colours.

It was decided I should deliver talks on the history, purpose and outputs of the CSG and a second talk on keeping and breeding Loricariinae (whiptail catfish), and set-to with the collation of images, videos and other content to provide over 2 hours of presentations. In parallel to the production of presentations, I also needed to work out the logistics to travel across 'The Pond' to the city of Madison, Wisconsin – somewhere I needed to check on a map! Thank fully, I wasn't the only European travelling to Cataclysm, and fellow CSG member Marc Wheeler plugged me into his travel plans, which I replicated to ease the burden of planning on my part.

Of course, I was aided by the Cataclysm committee and must give special thanks to Megan McGuire who helped with my travel planning and made me feel so welcome during the long weekend.



The trip to Madison started at 3.30am on the Thursday morning and involved a car-train-underground-train-plane-car trip to transport me to the final destination over 20 hours later. Thankfully I had 24 hours to recover before my first presentation on the Friday evening and the time was filled by the organisers with a relaxing trip around Madison to visit the Botanical Gardens, arboretum and local zoo, interspersed with a scenic tour of the City and Taco restaurant for lunch!



Madison

By the time of my first talk, I had had plenty of time to assimilate to the convention and took the time to meet the delegates, many of whom I had corresponded with on social media over the years. I was sandwiched between talks by Mike Tucciana and Rob McClure on the Friday, which provided plenty of fish images, either side of my CSG history presentation. I needed to take it easy after

the talks and not get too dragged into the inevitable socialising, considering I was up again as the first speaker at 9am on Saturday.



Eric Thomas, Megan McGuire and Martin Ortiz

I had deliberately written my Loricariinae breeding talk to include relevant references to the CSG and its role in my breeding efforts over the previous 15 years. I also included a few pleco and cory experiences to keep most of the crowd happy! But I wasn't just there to entertain others, and I was very pleased to hear the other speakers talks including good friend Birger Kamprath, Rajanta Sinarda Rahardja and for a second time this weekend, Rob McClure, who I never tire of hearing about his Corydoradinae experiences and strong ties with the latest scientific developments with these fish. To round of the formal events of Cataclysm, there was an evening banquet and second talk from Mike Tucciana about his life as a professional aquarist travelling aquatic correspondent for Amazonas magazine. Mike has had more tropical diseases than I have had hot dinners.

Although Cataclysm was formally over, nobody was going anywhere because Sunday was club auction day! The convention is managed by the local aquarium society, with many of its members assisting in the organisation of the event. The convention hall remains open for its major club auction, which included some of the fish donated or offered by Convention delegates.

There were some incredible bargains on offer including 6" blue-eyed plecos for \$100 and boxes with 7 adult *Pseudohemiodon apithanos* for \$110. Also included were *Akysis portellus*, *Batasio fluviatilis*, *Microsynodontis* sp, at least 6 species of *Hypancistrus*, *Peckoltia compta* and over a

dozen Corydoradinae species. I was a little loose-lipped in mentioning I was the usual auctioneer at CSG events and of course was roped in as a guest 'overseas auctioneer' which was amusing for many of the attendees. At least I gave the Convention good value for my airfare!



Ted Judy, Mark Walters, Martin Ortiz, Marc Wheeler and Eric Thomas

In addition to the formal itinerary of talks and auction, there were plenty of other activities taking place including numerous silent auctions for thousands of pounds worth of dry goods and 20-plus tanks of rare catfish going through the same silent auction style process of highest declared bid wins.

On the Saturday night, delegates opened their hotel rooms to offer hundreds of tank bred species of fish at amazing prices. I wasn't in a position to arrange transport home of any livestock but would have certainly bagged some *Peckoltia* sp 'Paru L494 and green lazer Corys (CW009), which seem to be very widely bred by US fish keepers (unlike in the UK). Other fish which took my eye in the auction tanks were *Rhadinoloricaria macromystax* and *Rhynchodoras woodsei*.

To top it all were the professional retailers who took over their own conference hall with over a dozen stands with all manner of catfish related goods and fish on offer. My main purchase of the weekend was 2 kg of a new blend of Repashy food which led to a thorough inspection at customs on my return, thankfully they let it through and my fish love it!

I spent the rest of the day on Sunday buying gifts for my wife and children and nearly missed the

auction when I stumbled across a second hand vinyl record shop opposite the hotel. After the auction, a bunch of tiring conventioners hopped on the hotel shuttle into town to have a last supper in a great pizza restaurant and bar.

Our flights were booked late on Monday so Marc and I had plenty of time to take up the offer from Ted to go birdwatching at his local nature reserve. The woodlands and wetlands share their site with the unobtrusive sport of disc golf, a game which involves hurling a Frisbee from 'tee to green' between the trees and bushes of the park. I'd never heard of it but apparently its quite popular in the States with numerous courses. I can't imagine it will ever be featured in a future Olympics but who knows!

We were rewarded on our walk with 3 species of woodpeckers, 2 species of heron, kingfisher, vultures, falcons, hummingbirds and numerous finches, warblers and unidentified LBJ's - 'little brown jobs'!



Ted at the local reserve

We continued to Chicago for our flight home and after another 18 hour + journey made it safely back to my fish house where thankfully all was well! Thanks to everybody who made my stay in Madison so comfortable and to all the delegates who were so welcoming and hospitable.

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CATFISH

STUDY GROUP

Research Support Fund

To enhance the role that the CSG plays in supporting research into catfishes and to foster a closer relationship between scientists and aquarists, the committee proposed a Research Support Fund (RSF) be established in 2018. The RSF will provide small sums (e.g., £500) to students and other researchers to support fieldwork, museum visits, laboratory work and page charges in peer-reviewed journals. Award recipients will agree to provide two articles for the CSG journal OR present their research at a CSG event via poster or talk. Like any new program, the RSF is a work in progress and we welcome the input of subscribing members. Email us at: secretary@catfishstudygroup.org

Where does the money come from?

RSF awards will be drawn from journal subscriptions, advertising revenue, member and corporate contributions, back issue purchases, donated auction lots and other fund-raising activities.

How often will we make awards?

We will invite applications on an annual basis in September, with the successful applicant(s) being announced via social media and at our annual convention the following March. Closing date for applications is end of February. Application form: <https://www.catfishstudygroup.org/rsf/index.php>

Who is eligible to apply?

Open to students and junior researchers. The committee discussed opening the competition to advanced aquarists, and we may try this in the future. But for now, we will invite applications from those enrolled or working with catfishes in a registered school, university, research institute or natural history museum. Applicants must be at least 18 years old at the time the award is made.

What items, services or expenses should the award be used for?

Awards will be used to offset travel costs for fieldwork (e.g., specimen collecting, museum visits or environmental measurements), equipment purchases (e.g., nets, meters, cameras, lenses, aquaria, lab consumables, software licenses, etc.), services (e.g., DNA sequencing and genome assembly, page charges in journals) and possibly the purchase of specimens (e.g., for observation, DNA samples, etc.).

What do we need in an application?

The application will involve completing an electronic form available from the CSG website. The form will include a brief description of the intended research project or trip, an itemized budget and a brief explanation for how the award will enable or enhance the work.

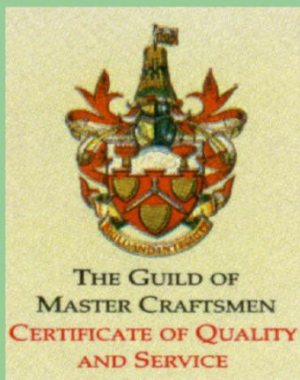
How will applications be judged?

The committee and invited reviewers will independently review applications and assign scores on the basis of their merit, feasibility and appeal to CSG members. Scores will be assigned, and the highest ranked application(s) will be funded in full or to the maximum amount available. None, one, or more than one application may be funded during each cycle. If no applications are received or less than the maximum amount is awarded, the RSF will transfer funds to the next cycle and increase the number or size of awards accordingly. Finally, in order to receive the award, the successful applicant must agree to provide two articles for the CSG journal describing their project, its results, and how the award helped them in their work, or a talk or poster to be presented at a future CSG event.



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