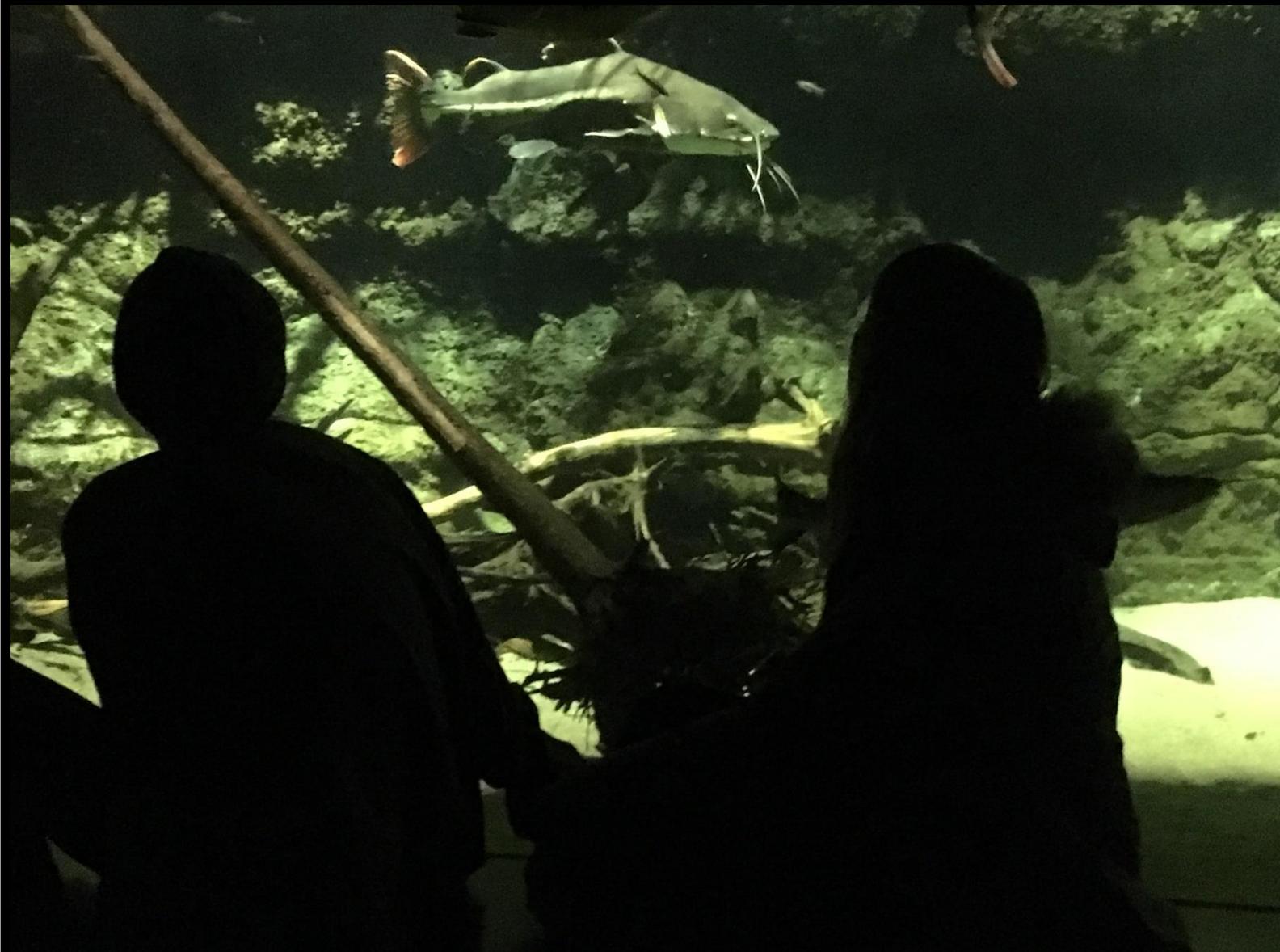


Journal of the Catfish Study Group



December 2018

Volume 19, Issue 4



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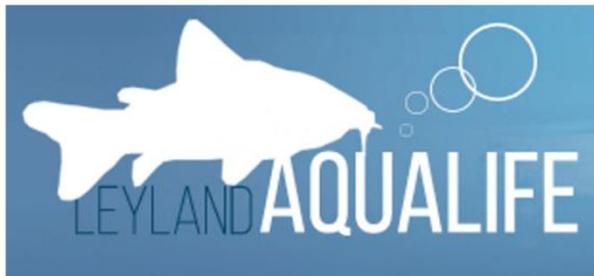
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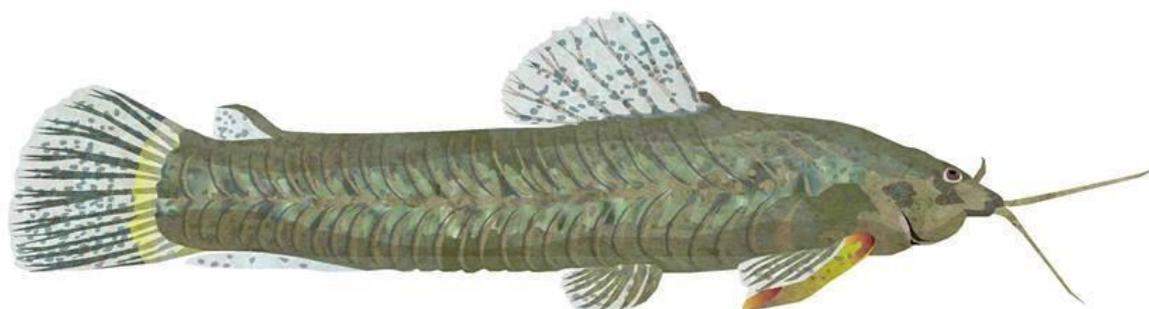
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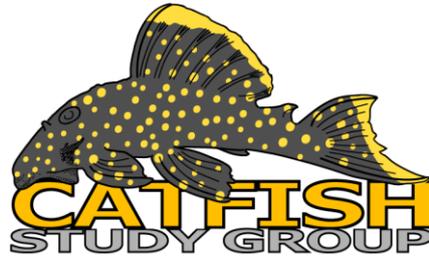
Cover image: CSG visit to the Denmark Aquarium Photo: Mark Walters

Convention 2019 logo - original artwork by Mitsuhiro Iwamoto



Callichthys callichthys





- The Journal of the Catfish Study Group (JCSG) is a subscription-based quarterly published by the Catfish Study Group (CSG). The journal is available in print and electronic platforms. Annual subscriptions to JCSG can be ordered and securely paid for through the CSG website (www.catfishstudygroup.org).
- The JCSG relies on the contribution of content from its members and other parties. No fees or honoraria are paid in exchange for content and all proceeds from advertising and subscriptions are used to support CSG events and activities. At the end of the financial year, any remaining funds generated from subscriptions to JCSG are transferred to the CSG Science Fund. The Editor and other CSG personnel involved in the production of the journal do so voluntarily and without payment.
- Please support the CSG by contributing original articles concerning catfishes that might be of general interest to JCSG subscribers. Word processor files (e.g., .doc, .docx) and high-resolution images (at least 300 dpi and 8.5 cms wide) can be sent as email attachments to editor@catfishstudygroup.org. If necessary, the Editor will work with contributors to structure and polish text and format images for inclusion in the journal. The Editor reserves the right to edit submitted text and images to improve flow and comply with the layout and page limits of the journal. Any manuscripts that propose taxonomic or nomenclatural changes will be forwarded to a qualified professional for evaluation.
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If you would like to advertise in JCSG, here are the options we currently offer. All charges include 20% VAT and are used to support CSG events and activities. Please save advertisements as Portable Network Graphics (.png format), at least 300dpi and sized according to the table below. We can also help prepare your advertisement at no extra charge. Please contact editor@catfishstudygroup.org for further information.

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Full	26 × 18	£148.00	£50.00
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Eighth	6.5 × 9	£30.00	£12.50
Sixteenth	3.25 × 9	£18.00	£8.00

Chairman's Report



A very sad time for the CSG who have lost one of their most loved members, Ann Blundell. Ann sadly passed away at the start of December. Ann was instrumental in the running and organization of the Catfish Study Group and its predecessor the Northern Area Catfish Group. Ann was first involved with the Catfish Association of Great Britain as early as 1977 when she and husband Danny attended their first catfish open show. For more than 20 years, Ann has worked tirelessly as part of the club's committee as the Editor of its newsletter and Assistant Show Secretary (pictured above managing the award of show trophies).

Many of you will remember Ann through our Conventions and other meetings as the first person to greet you with a beaming smile, welcome and often a hug. Ann was a wonderful, kind and generous lady and the club will not be the same without her warm presence. I am sure Danny will have found comfort in reading all of your memories, kind words and messages of support for him and his family at this time.

The final Journal of the year is the usual means by which we communicate Annual General Meeting details, the agenda was issued in the last Journal and is repeated here. In preparation for the January AGM, there is notification of proposals to assist the continued smooth running of the club. There were no offers of committee support from any members outside the current committee who have indicated their intention to continue to manage the club in multiple roles.

After four years in service, Mike Hardman has retired from his Editorial role but remains on the Committee, continuing as our on-line Press Secretary producing promotional material for our events. Although I have taken up the post for the foreseeable future, Mike is almost impossible to replace as an Editor and I look back at the amazing work he has done to further transform our Journal into a top-class catfish publication.

Mike spent at least 3 solid days to pull together each edition, whilst trying to manage his work and busy family life. We were so fortunate to

have his services as a professional ichthyologist for so long. Certainly not the last we will see of him, after over 20 years contributing to the CSG.

This quarter's Journal has a report from the extremely successful CSG visit to the Denmark Aquarium, attended by nearly 30 members from across Europe. The opportunity to host CSG events in other countries helps to spread the study of catfish and brings our members closer together.

Next year, the CSG have been invited to take their brand across the pond to the Cataclysm event in Wisconsin, USA. The event will mean a big increase in our membership and potential for further sharing of knowledge and an increase in our community.

Next year also brings events run by other clubs across the world which CSG members regularly attend, including the next L-Welse event in Germany, Cory-Fest in southern England and the Catfish and Loach event in Yorkshire. The CSG will be hosting its regular events including three auctions, its open show and of course the 40th Annual Convention.

Plans are pretty much complete for the Convention with sponsors and traders secured and speakers confirmed. All we need now are delegates to fill the spaces. Interest has been fantastic and bookings have been brisk. The Denmark event also brought significant interest in the event from the attendees. Another new speaker has been announced this month generating further interest. Deadlines are January 20th for early-bird and 17th February for final bookings and payments. If you haven't already submitted your bookings, please do so as soon as you can so you are not disappointed!

Finally, in my new role as Editor, if you would like to contribute and further the study of catfish, I would love to receive any articles or submissions to the Journal. I can't guarantee publication but am very happy to help bring any submissions up to the standard we expect for the CSG Journal.

I hope you have a peaceful Christmas and prosperous New Year and to see many of our members in March.

Mark Walters



The CSG Committee at the 2017 Convention

CSG Annual General Meeting – 20/01/2019

On 20th January 2019, the CSG holds its AGM. This year sees the majority of the current committee complete a full term of 4 years of service and as per the constitution the requirement to elect or re-elect 11 committee positions. The meeting will be against the following agenda starting at 1300hrs:

- 1. Welcome**
- 2. Committee vacancies**
- 3. Accept minutes from 2018 AGM**
- 4. Committee reports: Chair, Treasurer, Secretary, Editor, Show Secretary, Convention Manager**
- 5. Proposals and amendments to Constitution**
- 6. Close**

The meeting will be via WebEx with teleconference facilities available (available via the CSG website at least one week before the meeting) and will be recorded. Last years' AGM was also successfully conducted by WebEx, providing greater access to our members.

Proposals to Changes to the Constitution

The following summarises proposals submitted to the Secretary prior to 31st October 2018.

The items will be further raised at the AGM in January and voted upon. Prior to the AGM, members can vote to accept or reject proposals using the ballot process which will be available on the CSG website. Notification will be made to all members.

Proposal 1 by Mark Walters, CSG Chairman

Propose a new Code of Conduct item: 'In raising any issue or complaint with the CSG, its members and its organisation, members must provide reasonable evidence'.

Reason – The onus is currently on the CSG Committee to prove that complainants have a case, without any tangible evidence being presented, wasting significant time and effort on the part of the Committee.

Proposal 2 by Mark Walters, CSG Chairman

Make necessary amendments in the constitution with reference to the CSG Journal, removing the word 'quarterly' where appropriate and referring to the last Journal of the year, instead of the fourth Journal of the year.

Reason – The CSG is currently constrained by the production of four Journals a year. The Constitution does not provide flexibility for more or fewer Journal issues.

Proposal 3 by Julian Dignall, CSG Secretary

Propose a new Code of Conduct item: 'Distribution of any type of recording by any media of more than 5% of content from any CSG events or related IPR will not be permitted'

Reason – The public broadcasting ("sharing", live or after the event) of typically unsolicited recording of events and may be deleterious to the CSG, its members and particularly invited speakers. It is also rude.

Proposal 4 by Julian Dignall, CSG Secretary

Addition to 4.d.xi: ‘Committee members who do not attend more than half of scheduled committee meetings in a year (without good reason) will rescind their voting privilege in Committee matters’

Reason – lack of input to Committee meetings by Committee members reduces its ability to deliver its outputs; without enough interaction with the committee, absentees will not be up-to-speed.

Proposal 5 by Ian Fuller, CSG Member

Change to b.3 ‘Membership to be from the 1st January until the 31st December.’

Reason - There is no continuity in membership term and committee office terms, i.e. 12 months from the time of joining, and committee member is 12 months AGM to AGM. In theory a committee officer could be out of office by default. It could be either by a personal lapse or a technical fault with auto payment, but either way it would mean a break in service, which to be in line with the constitution, the position would need a re ratification to reinstall said member.

The committee have suggested this issue could be resolved by changing the constitution to allow a “period of grace” in the event of a “personal lapse or technical fault” and this would apply to lay members too. Otherwise, the administrative complexities behind all members requiring to sign up, for a temporary period and again, on the 1st of January may occur, would likely result in a severe loss of membership.

Proposal 6 by Ian Fuller, CSG Member

Change to Section 4d vi - ‘If standing unopposed, candidates are automatically elected to the vacant position and will immediately agree the term limits of the post (1–3 years) with the Chair and other committee members present. Unless a committee member resigns or otherwise leaves their position during their tenure, terms will begin immediately after the AGM and ends after the officer reports at the AGM of the completion of their tenure.’

Reason - If the term of office is made 3 years and the compulsory officers (Chairman, Secretary and Treasurer) are staggered, there will always be two officers in office to be able to conduct an AGM. This coming AGM is unique and, in all likelihood, would never occur again, but provision needs to be made to avoid it.

This committee has, by chance, avoided this but we agree the constitution could be improved to reflect.

Proposal 7 by Ian Fuller, CSG Member

New addition to 4.e. ‘Add positions for two lay members be added to the committee (Non-specified roles).’ At the present time the CSG has no mechanism in place to bring on new committee officers, and I feel that this has a big part in why we have members holding several positions and other positions vacant.

Reason - Many members are inexperienced in the ways of committee workings and as such are intimidated at the thought of taking on a specific role. By introducing the position of a lay committee member without specific tasks to accomplish, it would in effect give members a chance to be a part of the development of the group and to learn its workings, and thus enabling the development of future committee officers.

The committee has repeatedly advertised committee positions via Facebook and this Journal. Previously the constitution did have lay members, but experience showed that they did not often result in productive committee appointments. Aside from the faint hint of “pressganging”, the committee’s position is that lay committee members without specific tasks to accomplish would result in power without responsibility and a return to the prior issues i.e. (and with genuine apologies for our directness), much talk and little action.

Any comments or points of discussion against the proposals must be submitted to the General Secretary by the 7th January. The proposals and discussion points will be summarised by the Committee and

presented to the AGM attendees where any remaining members can vote for or against the items and the final vote will be counted.

Nominations for Committee Roles

The following full committee positions were advertised as available:

Chair, Treasurer, General Secretary, Convention Manager, Auction Manager, Sales Secretary, Press Secretary, Show Secretary, Breeders Award Programme Secretary Information Technology Secretary, Editor, Catering Manager.

For any committee position, the nominee must have been a CSG member for at least a year. For the positions of Chair, Treasurer and General Secretary the nominees must have held a committee post for at least three years and be based in the UK.

Full details of committee post responsibilities can be found in our constitution on our website. Committee members will be expected to carry out their duties (for between 1-4 years) and attend regular committee meetings.

The deadline for nominations or offers to fill Committee positions was passed in November. Other than the existing Committee, no further nominations or offers were made, following notification in previous Journals and posts made on the CSG social media forum.

The following posts are unopposed and were confirmed in the CSG Committee meeting in November 2018.

Chairman – Mark Walters seconded by Michael Hardman

Treasurer – Danny Blundell seconded by Michael Hardman

Secretary – Julian Dignall seconded by Michael Hardman

Show Secretary – Brian Walsh seconded by Michael Hardman

Press Secretary – Michael Hardman seconded by Julian Dignall

Editor – Mark Walters seconded by Julian Dignall for a term of four years, starting 1st November 2018

IT Secretary – Julian Dignall seconded by Michael Hardman

Auction Manager – Mark Walters seconded by Julian Dignall

Catering Manager – Brian Walsh seconded by Michael Hardman

Convention Manager – Mark Walters seconded by Michael Hardman

Sales Secretary, BAP Secretary - vacant

Committee Member Opportunities

Posts can be filled between AGM's in the event of vacancies or if committee members resign or otherwise leave their posts. Several posts remain unfilled which would suit a new Committee member, with support and guidance from the rest of the Committee. Other posts exist which are currently filled by existing Committee members which could suit new Committee members. In addition, any position can appoint an assistant with the support of three other committee members and who can be ratified as full committee members at the following AGM.

For full details on the AGM process and committee positions have a talk to any of our existing Committee and refer to the CSG Constitution.

CSG On Tour – Denmark Aquarium, Copenhagen

Text by Mark Walters, Images by Mark Walters, Benny Hubel Hansen and Joakim Schon



On 27th October, over 30 CSG members convened in Copenhagen, Denmark to visit the National Aquarium.

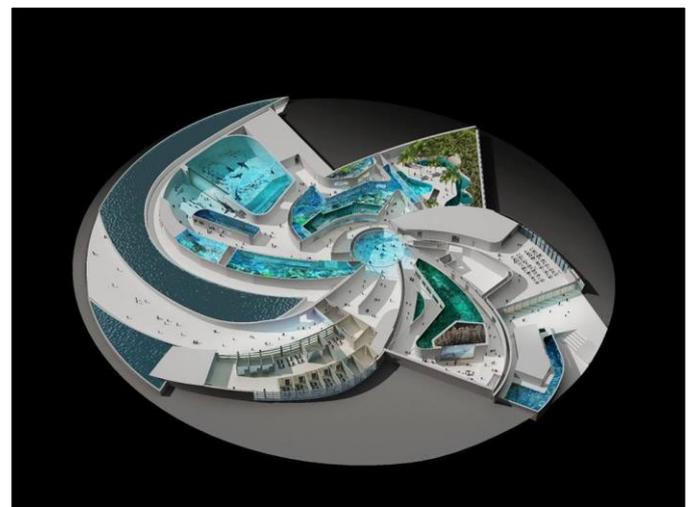
The event was the brain-child of aquarium manager Peter Petersen and Julian Dignall, extending the reach of the CSG across Europe.

The general itinerary was a general tour around the Aquarium, followed by talks from the CSG Committee and then a private tour by Peter of the aquarium and a privileged view of its behind the scenes mechanics.

After the tour, the attendees got together at the local restaurant to try out the Danish dish of the day, a few beers and chat about catfish (of course!).

The following images try to capture the Aquarium, the exhibits and the people over the course of a fantastic experience in Copenhagen.

The Aquarium



Arrangement of the Aquarium, resembling a vortex or whirl-pool



The approach to the Aquarium

The organisation

CSG events don't just happen without significant planning and coordination. This event was no exception and was planned over the course of a year with input from the CSG Committee and other CSG members.



Peter feeding the sharks and rays



...and a turtle!

In addition to his generous hospitality, Peter was kind enough to arrange behind the scenes

experience for my children, to feed the sharks and sea otters – an experience they certainly won't forget!



The speakers – Mark Walters and Julian Dignall



Jools' talk on the Rio Xingu, using the UK as a scale



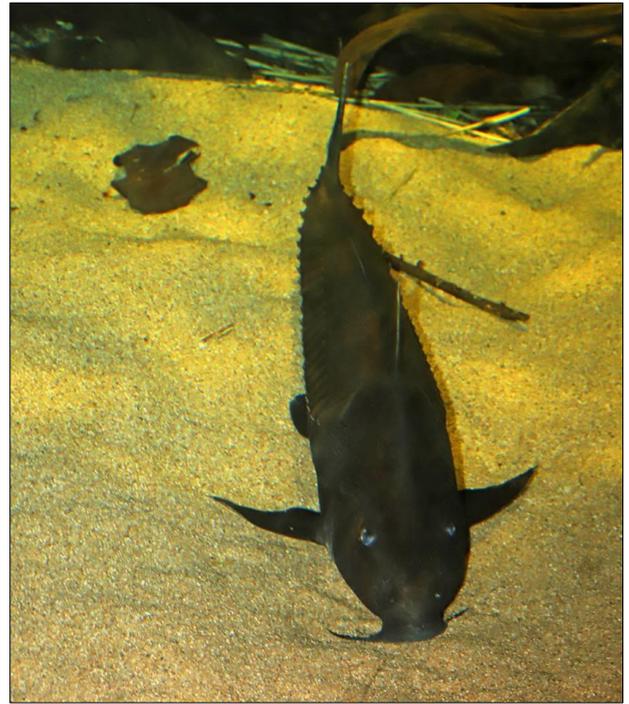
...to an appreciative audience!

The (big) Fish

In addition to Peter's collecting expeditions around the world, many of the fish on display have originated from hobbyists and aquatic retailers. The delegates of the CSG meeting donated a variety of species over the weekend including *Hypostomus*, *Corydoras* and even some giant *Auchenoglanis*.



1m *Phractocephalus*, collected by Peter as a 10cm fish



A meter long *Oxydoras*



47cm *Pseudacanthicus pitanga*



Hypostomus margaritifer

The (smaller) Fish



A suitable home for a large *Hypostomus luteus*



Not all the fish are tank busters – here is a species of *Rhadinoloricaria*

Behind the scenes



A shoal of *Pimelodus pictus*.



Industrial scale filtration



Giant whiptails



Tour of the quarantine and research rooms of the Aquarium



Super-rare *Astroblepus* being acclimatised



The Aquarium also has teaching rooms for other tours and meetings.

The CSG would like to sincerely thank Peter Petersen for making this memorable event possible. We hope to have similar collaborative events in the future!



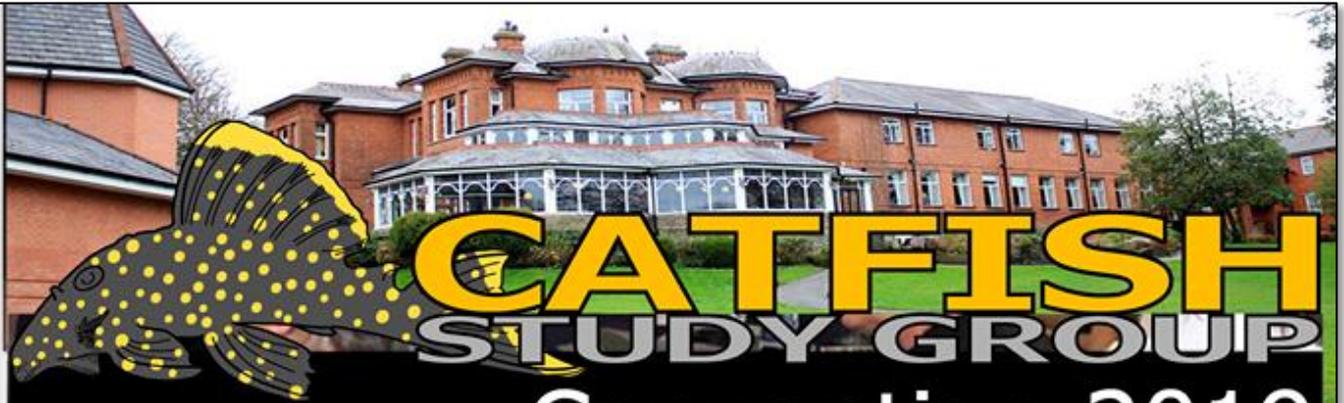
CATFISH

STUDY GROUP



Sunday 24th february 2019





CATFISH STUDY GROUP

Kilhey Court, Wigan
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Convention 2019

15-17 March

Rajanta
Rahardja



Haakon
Haagensen



Daniel
Konn-Vetterlein



Ingo
Seidel



Rob
McClure



and Eric Thomas



Joint CSG member talk by Julien Preuß
and Timo Schellenberg

Breeders display, trade stands, societies and sales tanks

Book your tickets and accommodation at

www.catfishstudygroup.org

Got a question? email chairman@catfishstudygroup.org

Delegate Name (one form per person)		Address and email (address required for Hotel residents, email for confirmation of receipt)			
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 20/01/19)	£25	£20	£20	£35	
Later booking (21/01/19 – 17/02/19)	£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 17/02/19. 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)					
Sub total					
If paying by PayPal, add 4% (Subtotal x 0.04)					
Grand Total - ALL payments by 17/02/2019					

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 for details of the bank account you can pay into.

Dinner Menu Choices

No.	Friday	Choice
	Starter	
1	Slow roast plum tomato and red pepper soup, confit cherry tomato and pickled red onion petals	
2	Pan fried pigeon breast, rösti potato, garlic wild mushrooms and spinach juniper jus	
3	Compressed lavender scented watermelon, serrano ham, glazed peach, mascarpone & honey granola	
	Main	
1	Roast rump of lamb, rosemary gratin potatoes, fine beans, mustard creamed cabbage and red currant jus	
2	Baked salmon, charred asparagus, crushed garlic new potatoes and a spinach and chive beurre blanc	
3	Roasted vegetables, gnocchi, herb and parmesan oil (V)	
	Dessert	
1	Lemon mousse tart, Devonshire clotted cream and wild berries	
2	Warm chocolate brownie, warm chocolate sauce and mint chocolate chip ice cream	
3	Classic crème brûlée with Scottish recipe shortbread	
	Saturday	
	Starter	
1	Roasted spiced butternut squash and sweet potato soup, crème fraiche and coriander	
2	Chicken liver parfait, apple and date chutney, endive salad and thyme crostini	
3	Goats cheese fondant, toasted walnut, poached pear and grape salad	
	Main	
1	Slow braised beef steak, mashed potato, carrots and tomatoes, mushroom and onion cassoulet	
2	Hake roasted in Parma ham, roasted vegetables and potatoes, tomato and basil sauce	
3	Wild mushroom ravioli. Spinach and chive velouté, sundried tomatoes and basil oil	
	Dessert	
1	Rich chocolate ganache tart, poached cherries and milk chocolate ice cream	
2	Sticky toffee pudding, butter scotch sauce and vanilla bean ice cream	
3	Baked cheese vanilla cheese cake, mulled berries and Chantilly cream	

Additional Sales

Description	Price	No.	Clothing size: S, M, L, XL, XXL	Clothing colour choice: Black or Grey	Total £
<p>Merchandise based on <i>C. callichthys</i> 'Convention logo' and <i>B. xanthellus</i> 'CSG logo' (images below). No clothing orders after 20th January 2019</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				
Polo shirt - Convention logo	£15				
Polo shirt - CSG logo	£15				
Hoodie - Convention logo	£25				
Hoodie - CSG logo	£25				
2019 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 page for business promotions.

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

CSG February Auction

Sunday 17 February 2019

Derwent Hall, Darwen, Lancs. BB3 0DQ

Contact [Mark Walters](#) or check

catfishstudygroup.org and [Facebook](#) for 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.
3. All fish will be transported to and from the event in an insulated transit 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. Fish will be bagged on the day of sale, not on preceding days, to reduce the opportunity for water-fouling.
7. 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.
8. 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.
9. 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.
10. The CSG will not permit other private sales to take place on the premises of CSG events during its sales.

Hypancistrus vandragti – L280, The dwarf spiny pleco

Mark Walters



Image courtesy of Erlend Bertelsen

I really haven't been out much in 2018, when it comes to visiting fish shops that is. One of the few excursions I made was to pick up a new purchase from Pier Aquatics in Wigan. I was alerted to an impending shipment of fish from Columbia, including a species I had had my eye on for a while.



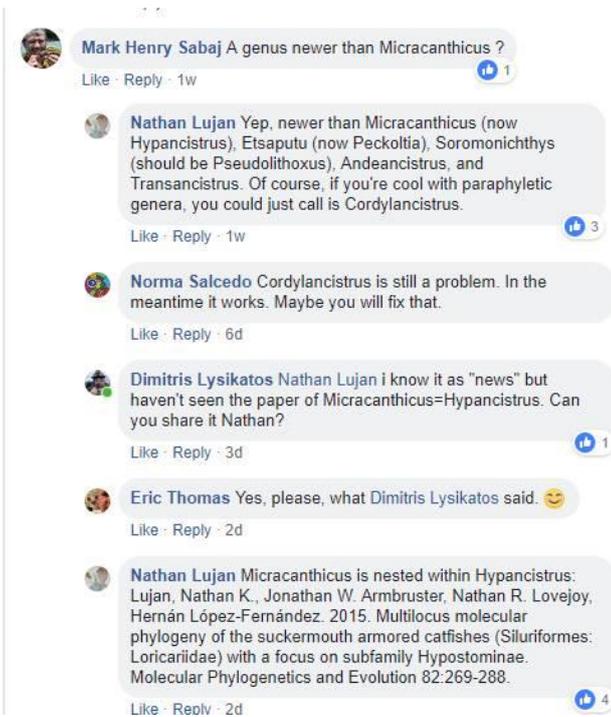
I first came into contact with the fish at the L-Welse event in Hanover in 2017, when Haakon Haagensen presented images of a tiny loricariid,

labelled L280. Haakon had recently imported some specimens which had already been bred by the fortunate new owner. They were unusual in their size and the fact they had been 'recently' described in a new genus of the Acanthicus family of catfish (Lujan & Armbruster 2011).

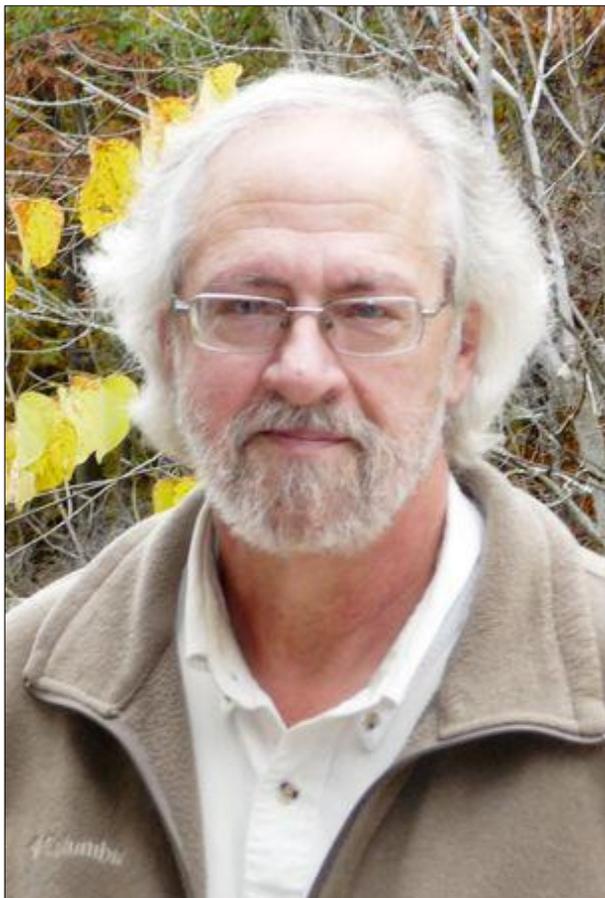
Although the new genus of *Micracanthicus* stuck around for a while, it was subsequently determined to be a new species of the existing *Hypancistrus* genus of catfish (Lujan et al 2015).

The light-hearted controversy surrounding the re-designation has ensued amongst hobbyists who emphasise numerous differences with 'typical' *Hypancistrus* species.

In my opinion, *Hypancistrus* is anything but a typical genus with great variation already existing in the recognised members – why not add L280 to the pot!



So, the full description of L280 will ensue as *Hypancistrus vandragti*, (as opposed to *Micracanthicus vandragti*) in honour of Randall Van Dragt (pictured below), an Ecosystems Biology Professor at Calvin College, Michigan USA.



Anyway, back to Pier Aquatics and the arrival of the fish happened to coincide with the 2018 CSG Convention, a perfect opportunity to pick up my new purchases. It seemed news of the arrival of the new fish had also reached the rest of Europe and the remaining fish were snapped up by some of our Convention delegates. Thankfully I was early enough to secure my group of 6 which hopefully included a pair or two.

The fish, although diminutive, are reasonably attractive for a *Hypancistrus*. A base colour of dark purple-black with numerous creamy oval spots reminds the catfish keeper of many other similar patterned fish including the some of the other Orinoco *Hypancistrus* like *H. contradens* and even some of the *Leporacanthicus* species such as *L. sp. 240*.

Indeed, one of the reasons the fish had been ignored by collectors for so long was because the small fish were thought to have been juvenile specimens of larger *Leporacanthicus*, rather than a species in their own right. It is possible (but pure conjecture), that *H. vandragti* take advantage of this similarity as a defence mechanism or other reason beneficial to its survival – e.g. cuckoo-type behaviours?

Other observations by Nathan Lujan of the species in the field include the occurrence in the wild of hybridisation with other *Hypancistrus* species, including *H. contradens* and *H. lunaorum*

Specifically, the fish is found predominantly in the Rio Ventuari and the Orinoco River. Close to its confluence with the Ventuari. Like other fish from the river system, conditions of fast flow and well oxygenated water are essential. The tank I set up had a big wave-maker and was oversized for the small fish who became its inhabitants.

After a few months, activity in the tank appeared to increase. There were numerous caves for the L280 and few other inhabitants to utilise. I had also included several whiptails in the tank, including a breeding group of *Sturisomatichthys*, some *Pseudohemiodon apithanos* and *Leliella* species. It was one day when I noticed an unexpected whiptail corpse in the tank that I started to take a closer look.

Over the course of 3 days, I realised that the population of whiptails had been decimated, including a number which had been apparently trapped in caves and partially devoured. I cleared out the remaining inhabitants for a closer look.

It appeared that the *H. vandragti* had been trapping unwary fish and killing them off. I didn't witness the behaviour but after relative calm in the tank it seemed a coincidence that this occurrence was then followed by spawning behaviour on the part of the L280.

It seemed that the diminutive plecos didn't restrict their aggressive tendencies to other species, and after a few trappings their population had reduced to three individuals, the other half of the group succumbing to conspecific aggression. To be honest, I was pretty down-hearted by the whole experience, but this turned to joy when I realised after all warfare had died down a male was sat on a bunch of eggs.

After communicating my excitement of the first reported UK spawning, it seemed a few other aquarists had also recently had their L280's spawn:

Mark Walters ▸ Catfish Study Group
September 7 at 11:18 PM · Add Topics ·

Micrakanthicus sat on a bunch of eggs, I'll remember the date - my wife's birthday! Or maybe in future I'll remember my wife's birthday as the date I got Micrakanthicus eggs!

Jeff Natterer, Karl Fenech and 40 others · 13 Comments 1 Share

Lars Jamne Juhu, I can join the L280-club as well now! just found two caves with wigglers in one and a few leftover fry in the 2nd cave and a few free fry around in the tank...

Gehan Mallawaratchy ▸ Catfish Study Group
August 19 at 1:47 PM · Add Topics ·

L280 Micrakanthicus Vandragti fry health check. The wee ones are growing out well. Tough and lively little fellas for their size 🍗

You, Mark Mackey, Terry Gargan and 16 others

I decided to evict the male and his eggs, to artificially hatch them and record the development. The images below document this. The fry have proven to be pretty robust and after raising 2 spawns in

floating fry traps, I expect my population will continue to increase over the coming months.

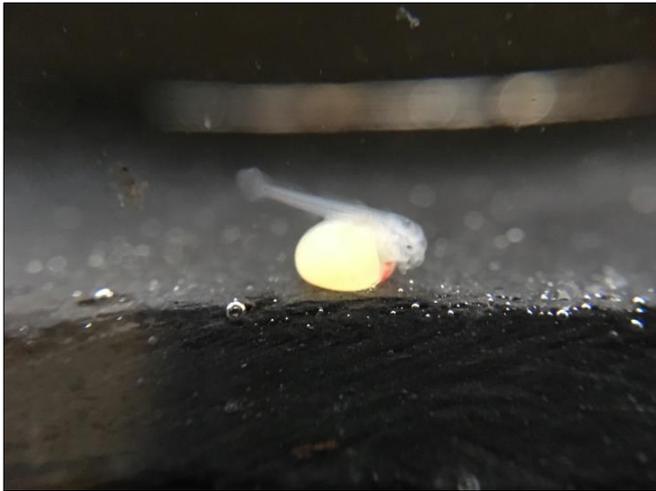
As I write, my remaining group of two males and a female are trapping again to hopefully produce some Christmas fry.



Eggs after 4 days



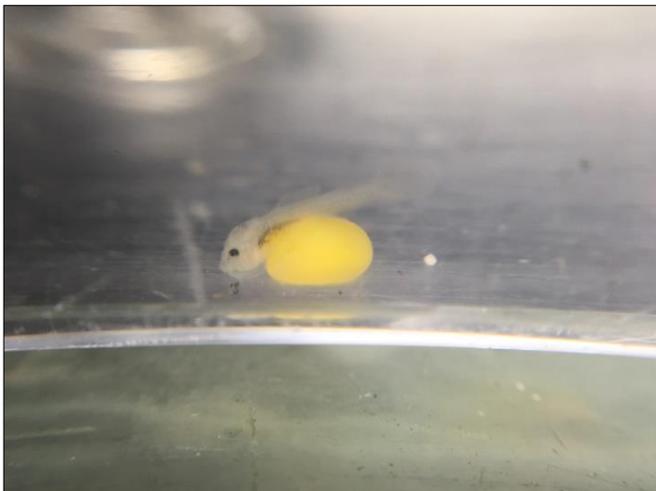
Eggs prior to hatching on day 6



Day 1 fry



Day 10 fry



Day 2 fry



Day 20 fry



Day 4 fry



Day 30 fry

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Recent Studies of *Hypostomus*

Nathan Lujan

Hypostomus pyrineusi - A wood grazing Pleco



Hypostomus pyrineusi is one of a few dozen Neotropical catfishes that specialize on diets consisting largely of wood, which they scrape from dead, submerged logs using teeth shaped like carpentry instruments.

When I first went to the Marañon River in 2006, I went with friends and collaborators Donovan German, Krista Capps, Alex Flecker, Donald Taphorn, and David Werneke specifically to study wood-eating loricariids.

Near the town of Santa Maria de Nieva, we discovered extensive wood debris dams being lived in and fed on by a diverse assemblage of specialized wood-eating catfishes, including *H. pyrineusi*. Stable isotope data from that trip indicated that these fishes were not only consuming and assimilating wood-derived cellulose but were also partitioning wood-surfaces among themselves in way that remains poorly understood, but may serve to minimize competition.

Results of that expedition and of Donovan's PhD dissertation conclusively demonstrated that although these catfishes clearly have teeth and jaws specialized for feeding on wood, they have no endogenous capacity to digest cellulose, nor compartmentalized fermenting stomachs, nor associated gut symbionts that can meet this

challenge for them (such as other wood-eating animals have).

Rather, these catfishes ingest bulk wood primarily for the associated, easily digestible fungal and bacterial communities that rapidly colonize wood surfaces upon contact with water. As any aquarist caring for one of these fishes knows, they must consume large amounts of wood to thrive on this diet and can turn large pieces of driftwood into sawdust in a matter of weeks.

Donovan and I, in collaboration with Colin Jackson, have recently discovered that the gut microbiomes of these fishes also differ between species feeding on the same wood surfaces, although the functional ramifications of this diversity are still unclear.

***Hypostomus* species of the Caqueta River**



Clockwise from top left are: *Hypostomus niceforoi*, an algivore/detritivore with many small teeth arranged in parallel rows, *Hypostomus / Cochliodon oculus* and *Hypostomus / Cochliodon pyrineusi*, both wood-eaters with few large spoon-shaped teeth arranged in acutely angled rows, and *Hypostomus / Cochliodon hemicochliodon*, a species with intermediate jaw and tooth morphologies.

Although externally very similar, these are four different loricariid species that co-occur in the Caqueta River drainage of Colombia. Three of these species exhibit jaw and tooth

morphologies that are strikingly different from each other, suggesting that the partitioning of food resources is one mechanism by which interspecific competition is minimized.

Variation in *Hypostomus* teeth

Here are examples of various loricariid teeth, with the gracile tooth at left being typical of most loricariids, and the two more robust teeth with

spoon-shaped cusps in the middle and on the right being found only in wood-eating loricariids:



If you look carefully you will notice that the tooth on the left has a thin flattened area in the middle. This is an area of reduced mineralization

that actually functions as a hinge within the tooth, giving the tooth greater flexibility while scraping surfaces.

Hypostomus niceforoi



The name '*Hypostomus niceforoi*' is used for populations of rather average-looking, spotted *Hypostomus* throughout the Andean piedmont of the Peruvian, Ecuadorian and Colombian Amazon.

This specimen is from our recent expedition to the Marañon River in northern Peru, but last year I had the opportunity to collect specimens from the type locality in the Caqueta River in Colombia (see photo below).



Topotype specimen of *H. niceforoi* from the Caqueta River in Colombia

This species, along with *Leporinus niceforoi* and *Steindachnerina niceforoi* (now synonymized with *S. dobula*) were described by Fowler (1943), who used them to honor Brother Nicéforo Maria. Brother Nicéforo was then at the La Salle Institute in Bogota, Colombia, and he shipped many Colombian fish specimens to Fowler at Philadelphia's Academy of Natural Sciences in 1931 and 1932.

I've also collected specimens assignable to this species in Ecuador (photo below) and far southern Peru. Now that we have fresh tissues and specimens from this species throughout its range, it would make a good phylogeography project for an interested student.

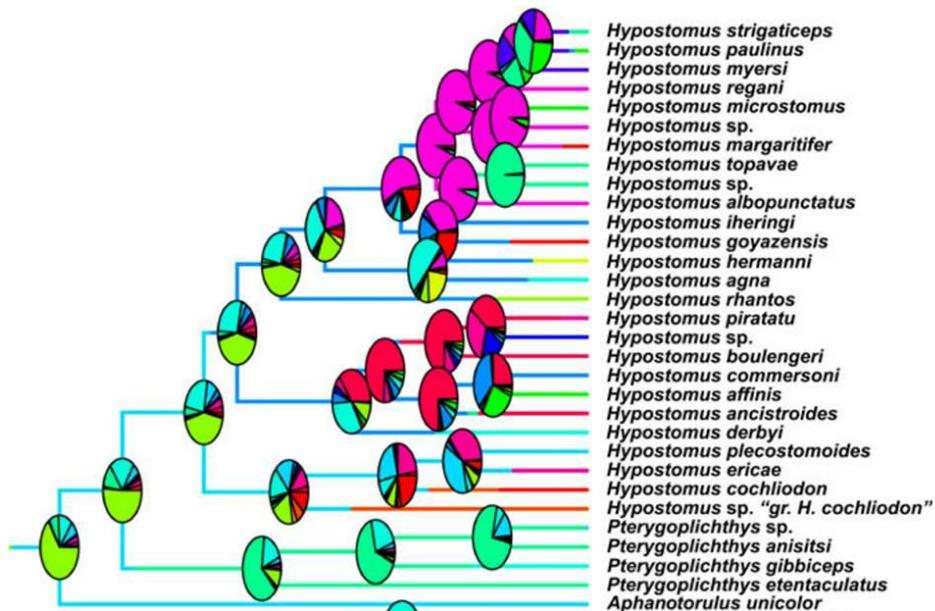


H. niceforoi specimen from the Aguarico/Napo drainage in Ecuador

Resurrect Cochliodon?

The tree below is currently the most taxonomically dense molecular phylogeny available for the genus *Hypostomus* (sensu lato). It's from a 2016 Molecular Ecology paper by Gabriel Pinky, Fábio Roxo, Victor Alberto Tagliacollo and myself. Note that in this tree,

the '*Cochliodon*' group is at bottom and forms a clade sister to all other *Hypostomus*. If this relationship holds out, then I see no problem with recognizing a genus *Cochliodon* that is sister to genus *Hypostomus*.



Thanks to Nathan Lujan for allowing the reproduction of the above information from his social media and other postings.

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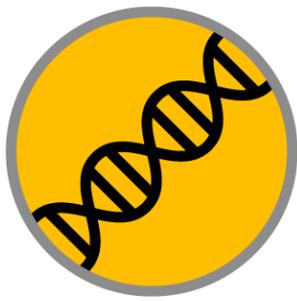
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CATFISH

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 is proposing 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.

Who is eligible to apply?

Initially, we will open this 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.

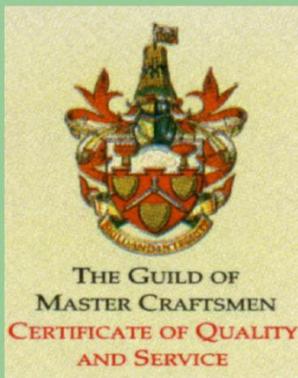
CSG Diary Dates 2019

Date	Event	Location	Details
January 20th	Annual General Meeting	WebEx / teleconference	Details on the CSG website events page
February 17th	Spring Auction	Derwent Hall, Darwen, Lancashire, England	Lots can be booked two months prior to the event, contact auctionmanager@catfishstudygroup.org
February 24th	Pleco Loricariidae Club meeting at Pier Aquatics	Pier Aquatics, Wigan, England	Details will be announced on the CSG Facebook page
March 15th – 17th	CSG 40 th Convention	Kilhey Court Hotel, Wigan, England	Details are on the CSG website or contact conventionmanager@catfishstudygroup.org
May 5th	Corydoras World Cory Fest III	Corydon, Surrey, England	Details are on Corydorasworld.com
June 23rd	CSG meeting at Pier Aquatics	Pier Aquatics, Wigan, England	Details will be announced on the CSG Facebook page
July TBC	Castleford Aquarist Society annual Catfish and Loach Show and Auction	Castleford, Yorkshire, England	Details will be announced on the CSG Facebook page
September 13th – 15th	CSG at Catfish Cataclysm	Wisconsin, USA	Details will be announced on the CSG Facebook page
September 15th	CSG Annual Open Show and Auction	Derwent Hall, Darwen, Lancashire, England	Lots can be booked 2 months prior to the event, contact auctionmanager@catfishstudygroup.org
October TBC	L-Welse	Hannover, Germany	Details will be announced on the CSG Facebook page
November 17th	Autumn Auction	Derwent Hall, Darwen, Lancashire, England	Lots can be booked 2 months prior to the event, contact auctionmanager@catfishstudygroup.org
December 8th	Xmas meeting	Derwent Hall, Darwen, Lancashire, England	Details will be announced on the CSG Facebook page



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