

**SOUTHERN AFRICAN  
KILLIFISH SOCIETY *Letters*  
Volume 3, Number 2, 2003**



*Aphyosemion herzogi* "K98/99 Red". Photo by Rudolf Koubek

**Contents**

<b>Greetings</b> .....	<b>1</b>
<b>News</b> .....	<b>1</b>
<b>Fish and Egg Trading</b> .....	<b>2</b>
<b>Chromaphyosemion Confusion</b> , by Tyrone Genade .....	<b>4</b>
<b>Contact details</b> .....	<b>7</b>

## Greetings

Hello all

Autum is here (and nearly gone) and time is drawing short for trades!

This time we have the beautiful *Aphyosemion herzogi* K98/K99 Red of Mr Koubek on the title page. Rudlof tells me he has lots of these available...

Just to remind you that our webpage can be found at: <http://tgenade.freeshell.org/saks/index.html>. Please pass this on to your fishy friends as well as pass any local or exceptional foreign fish links to me for inclusion on the website. Also, please let me know what fish you have available and would like to advertise on the website. Rudolf Koubek's fish can now be found at: <http://tgenade.freeshell.org/kfg>.

I've been rather busy as of late and so have not had much time to work on the newsletter and I am only going to get more busy in the near future. I would however like to keep this newsletter coming out at more frequent (even if sporadic) intervals. This is goes especially for the trading section. There is a new lister this time round in the Fish and Egg section and hopefully more will join him on the list. If you have fish or eggs to trade or sell let me know by phone, email or fax and I will include it in the newsletter. If there is enough response I will gladly make the time and send out a newsletter once a month.

Now on to some news...

## News

### New members:

Cornell, 083-631-9370 (getting started again, looking for fish)  
Louwrens Opperman, [opperla@lantic.net](mailto:opperla@lantic.net), Pretoria, 082-825-2282 (beginner looking for fish)

### New species/new names

Costa has again been reshuffling the species names and describing new species.

**Costa, W.J.M.** (2003) The *Simpsonichthys flavicaudatus* species group (Cyprinodontiformes: Rivulidae: Cynolebiatinae) phylogenetic relationship, taxonomic revision and biogeography. *Ichthyological Exploration of Frshwaters* Volume 14 (1):31-60

The species described are : *Simpsonichthys flagellatus* ("similar to" *S. flavicaudatus*), *Simpsonichthys delucai* ("similar to" *S. alternatus*) and *Simpsonichthys brunoi* ("similar to" *S. flammeus*). *Simpsonichthys filamentosus* is moved to *Spectrolebias* (due its closer relation with that genus, hypothesized to be the sister group of *Simpsonichthys*). And *Nematolebias* is considered a subgenus of *Simpsonichthys* than including, *S. whitei*, *S. myersi*, *S. izecksohni*, *S. costanciae*, *S. bokermanni*, *S. rosaceus*, *S. perpendicularis* and *S. papilliferus*.

## Fish and Egg Trading List

Please submit your list of fish/eggs that you have for sale or would like to acquire. The list can be sent to [tgenade@freeshell.org](mailto:tgenade@freeshell.org).

### Dirk Bellstedt

4 Helderspruit Road, Somerset West, 7130

Tel: 021-855-3788

[dub@sun.ac.za](mailto:dub@sun.ac.za)

Imported German foods and Discus. Brine shrimp eggs, flakes, frozen foods, baby star II & IV (baby brine shrimp substitute), decapsulated brine shrimp eggs, microgranulate etc... Best prices! Excellent quality! Phone/email for a complete list of available products. Shipping: anywhere in South Africa!

### Tyrone Genade

45 Rotterdam Road, Monte Vista, 7460.

Tel: 084-3354-977 (cell), 021-558-1753 (h), 021-808-5876 (w)

[tgenade@sdf.lonestar.org](mailto:tgenade@sdf.lonestar.org)

<http://tgenade.freeshell.org>

Available eggs:

<i>Nematolebias whitei</i>	R 50/wks
<i>Nothobranchius eggersi</i> "Rufiji River Camp TAN 02-16 Red"	R 50/wks
<i>Nothobranchius foerschi</i> "Auarium Strain"	R 50/wks
<i>Nothobranchius lourensi</i> "Narubungo TAN 02-24"	R 50/wks
<i>Nothobranchius korthausae</i> "Mafia Island TAN 02-5"	R 50/wks
<i>Nothobranchius palmqvisti</i> "Ramisi KE 01-13"	R 50/wks
<i>Pseudomugil gertrudae</i> "Jones Road, Nth Qld"	R 25/12 eggs
Vinegar eel culture starter (5 ml)	R 10
<i>Hygrophylia</i> sp. Willow Leaf	R 5/cutting

All eggs are shipped fresh. Non-annual eggs are picked consecutively for 3 or 4 days and shipped off allowing three to four days of travel.

The *Pseudomugil gertrudae* are a species of blue-eye (a relative of the rainbow fish) and is not a killifish. It does have some very nice killifish properties: small size, peaceful, large eggs with long incubation period.

### Rudolph Koubek

P.O. Box 147, Randvaal, 1873

Tel: 084-335-0101

Available fish:

<i>Aphyosemion batesii (kunzi)</i> K99 T.T.	€20/pr*
<i>Aphyosemion batesii (kunzi)</i> K01	€20/pr
<i>Aphyosemion bochtleri</i> K98	€20/pr
<i>Aphyosemion cameronense</i> K98 (yellow caudal fin)	€20/pr
<i>Aphyosemion cameronense</i> K99 Route Forest	€20/pr
<i>Aphyosemion cameronense</i> K98 (yellow spot on tail)	€20/pr

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\* Mr Koubek says that if you are interested in any of the fish give him a call and negotiate...

<i>Aphyosemion cameronense</i> K01	€20/pr
<i>Aphyosemion herzogi</i> K98 & K99 (red)	€20/pr
<i>Aphyosemion lamberti</i> K00 Congo Border (red)	€20/pr
<i>Aphyosemion maculatum</i> K98 (yellow fins)	€20/pr
<i>Aphyosemion maculatum</i> K00 T.T.	€20/pr
<i>Aphyosemion ogoense pyrophore</i> K00 (yellow caudal)	€20/pr
<i>Aphyosemion punctatum</i> K01 T.T.	€20/pr
<i>Aphyosemion punctatum</i> K01	€20/pr
<i>Aphyosemion rectogoense</i> K00 T.T.	€20/pr
<i>Diapteron abacinum</i> K01 T.T.	€20/pr
<i>Diapteron cyanostictum</i> K99	€20/pr
<i>Diapteron cyanostictum</i> K01	€20/pr
<i>Diapteron fulgens</i> K00 T.T.	€20/pr
<i>Diapteron georgiae</i> K98	€20/pr
<i>Diapteron georgiae</i> K00 (light blue)	€20/pr
<i>Diapteron georgiae</i> K01	€20/pr
<i>Rivulus agilae</i>	€20/pr

T.T. refers to *terra typica* locations based on the book: **Radda A.C. & E. Pürzl 1987**, *Colour Atlas of Cyprinodonts of the Rain Forests of Tropical Africa*, Hofmann Verlag, Wien, Austria.

#### **Errol Scholtz**

4 Cathwil Rd., Kabega Park, 6025, PE.

Tel: 041-360-2503

Available fish/eggs:

*Chromaphyosemion poliaki* "Bolifamba"

*Fundulopanchax filamentosus* "Singapore"

Trades most welcome!

#### **Otto Schmidt**

021-4345369 (H); 082 210 8373 (Cell); ottoschmidt@xsinet.co.za (e-mail).

Available for sale (limited numbers):-

*Nothobranchius palmqvisti* "Ramisi" KE 01-12 Fish R 20/pr

Eggs R 50

*Fundulopanchax filamentosus* Fish R 40/pr

Eggs R 50

*Aplocheilichthys lineatus* (gold) Fish R 10 each

Eggs R 25

Postage will be added to the above prices for orders from outside of Cape Town.

## Chromaphyosemion *Confusion*

Tyrone Genade

[tgenade@sdf.lonestar.org](mailto:tgenade@sdf.lonestar.org)

45 Rotterdam Road, Monte Vista, 7460

When many of us<sup>1</sup> were starting out in this hobby there was only *Aphyosemion bivittatum*. Today the Bivittatum-group is the genus *Chromaphyosemion* comprising *Chromaphyosemion alpha*; *bitaeniatum*; *bivittatum*; *loennbergii*; *kouamense*; *lugens*; *poliaki*; *riggenbachii*; the *splendopleure* complex; *volcanum* and a host of undescribed species. As a result many of us have no idea what is what anymore.

### BIV vs BIT

So what is the difference between Figure 1 and 2? *Chromaphyosemion bivittatum* (BIV) has a broken stripe running down its back as can be seen in the picture. The *Chromaphyosemion bitaeniatum* (BIT) male's stripe is hardly visible but it is solid. The spotting in the fins is also different. BIVs have larger and dispersed spots on the caudal and dorsal fins. The fins of the *bitaeniatum* have smaller spots often forming a reticulate pattern. Another difference is the 'BIV' spot as seen at the base of the caudal fin in the pictured BIV. All BIT males lack this spot.

Regarding distribution, BIT is endemic to the Niger drainage occurring from Togo to Eastern Nigeria; while BIV is found along the Ndian and Cross River drainage of Eastern Nigeria and Western Cameroon.

What we now consider to be *bivittatum* used to be called *bivittatum hollyi* and hence was *bivittatum bivittatum* is today *bitaeniatum*.

### The Splendopleure-group and *Chromaphyosemion poliaki*

As one complex is resolved another emerges. *Chromaphyosemion splendopleure* made its arrival on the German killifish scene in 1929. It was properly described based on the type location strain: Tiko (that is still in the hobby today although several recollections have been made). It was then promptly traded as *Aphyosemion multicolour* to confuse matters. *Aphyosemion multicolour* is a synonym referring to the Lagos strain of BIT. The Splendopleure-group consists of *Chromaphyosemion splendopleure* (Figure 3), cf. *splendopleure* (Figure 4), sp. aff. *splendopleure* (Figure 5), *poliaki* (Figure 6) and *volcanum* (Figure 7).

The *splendopleure*, cf. *splendopleure* and sp. aff. *splendopleure* form a cryptic species complex. While the sp. aff. *splendopleure* is obviously distinct from the others (and is possibly more closely related to *loennbergii* than *splendopleure*), the cf. *splendopleure* differs on the basis of the colour of the unpaired fins and body. In *splendopleure* the unpaired fins are mainly orange with yellow streamers while the cf. *splendopleure* have mainly blue-green with yellow streamers. The body colours differ in respect to the dorsal scales. In the former they are copper-red to reddish metallic with red to orange body colour; in the latter they are yellow to gold with a blue to pink body and yellow belly and throat.

Whether *volcanum* is a valid species or not is still hotly debated. From Figure 7 it can be seen to be different from the others but not by much. It is often classed with *splendopleure* as a single species. *C. poliaki* is separated from the others based on its brown body colour and very dark blue or violet to blackish unpaired fins.

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<sup>1</sup> Not me. When I was starting the split was clear but still catching on. I'm still confused.



Figure 1. *Chromaphyosemion bitaeniatum* "Ijebo-creek". Photo Rudlof Pohlmann



Figure 2. *Chromaphyosemion bivittatum* "Funge". Photo Rudlof Pohlmann



Figure 3. *Chromaphyosemion splendopleure* "Bamukong". Photo Rudlof Pohlmann



Figure 4. *Chromaphyosemion* cf. *splendopleure* "Likoko 99". Photo Rudlof Pohlmann



Figure 5. *Chromaphyosemion* sp. aff. *splendopleure* "Mangole 99". Photo Rudlof Pohlmann



Figure 6. *Chromaphyosemion poliaki* "Bolifamba". Photo Rudlof Pohlmann



Figure 7. *Chromaphyosemion volcanum* "Kumba GPE 90/3". Photo Rudlof Pohlmann



Figure 8. *Chromaphyosemion* sp. "poliaki Bolifamba". Photo Vasco Gomez



Figure 9. *Chromaphyosemion poliaki* "Monea". Photo Rudlof Pohlmann



Figure 10. *Chromaphyosemion poliaki* "Monea". Photo unknown

In a previous edition of the newsletter (volume 2, number 1) I presented an article on what I called *Chromaphyosemion poliaki* "Bolifamba". This fish is shown in Figure 8. It appears not to be the fish pictured in Figure 6 but bears closer resemblance to the fish in Figure 3 but I can assure that this photo does not show the whole truth. The fish I have and which is shown has in deed a blueish dorsal fin as well as a darker anal fin. I have consulted Rainer Sonnenberg on this matter and he suspects that it is a cf. *splendopleure*. I have however been presented with pictures of other *poliaki* strains that show large colour variation. Individuals of the Monea population of *poliaki* can possess either a dark phenotype (Figure 9) typical of the species or a light phenotype as seen in Figure 10. So until proved otherwise the fish we call *poliaki* "Bolifamba" is just that.

## Contact Details

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