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Showfish coast

PROVIDING EDUCATION AND CAMERADERIE TO PEOPLE WHO ARE INTERESTED IN KEEPING TROPICAL AND TEMPERATE FISH AND OTHER AQUATIC LIFE

NEXT MONTH'S MTG: JAN 7

December 3rd Meeting: Topic – The European “Aquarama”
Luke Roebuck keys us in on what Europe’s major aquarium trade fair is like.

There are a couple of major ornamental fish trade shows in the world, one held biannually in Singapore called the Aquarama. Another is held in Europe, where one of the best import markets for new fish exist, where the newest hardware is introduced.

Luke Roebuck brings us a report of Europe’s tradeshow—the excitement, the goodies, the new fish. And he’ll do all this in accompaniment to our delicious turkey dinner with all the trimmings brought by fellow members at our famous

Holiday Buffet and
Fish Exchange Party

Buffet Guidelines:

Bring a dish to complete the meal -- potatoes, vegetables, bread and butter, cranberry sauce, salad – or a dessert or drinks (no alcohol). Quantity should be enough for four to six people (more if you like). Don’t know what to bring? Call Tom Varin at 714-962-8541 to ask.

Fish Exchange Game:

Bring one fish, gift wrapped, to be exchanged for another when your number is called. Rules on next page.

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Fish Exchange Game – How to Play

The traditional party game of fish hobby clubs—it's as much fun as you can make it!

1. This is an exchange game, so the first step is to **bring a small-ish fish to exchange**, all wrapped up in holiday paper, unlabelled.
 - a. Fish category things that have shown up in the past:
 - i. Fish—remember most people cannot accommodate a large fish all of a sudden; it's kindest if your exchange item is under three inches in total length (but not required, of course)
 - ii. Live plants
 - iii. Live food cultures
 - b. Sometimes there are so many dry goods things that we have a separate exchange for them (otherwise they just get blended into the principal fish exchange):
 - i. Fish or plant books
 - ii. Fish-themed dishes, glasses, mugs, linens, etc.
 - iii. Fish-themed décor things, such as towels, statuettes, pictures
 - iv. Fish-themed clothing and jewelry
 - v. Aquarium décor (plants, caves, marbles, figurines, etc.)
2. **Put your exchange item on the table** reserved for the game.
3. **Get your exchange number** from the game host and go have a nice dinner
4. When the game starts, gather round the game table, exchange numbers in hand.
5. The **game host calls out a number** at random
 - a. If it's your number, you get to **select an exchange item from** either:
 - i. The exchange **table OR**
 - ii. An exchange **item already chosen by another member**
 - b. The maximum number of times an **item can be exchanged** is **three (3) times** after it's been taken off the table (taking it off the table doesn't enter into the count):
 - i. It starts when you (Player 1) take an item off the table
 - ii. First exchange: a player (Player 2) takes it from you, after which you select an item from the table or another member
 - iii. Second exchange: a player (Player 3) takes it from Player 2, after which Player 2 selects an item from the table or another member
 - iv. Third exchange: a player (Player 4) takes the item from Player 3, who replaces it with an item from the table or another member
 - c. The item now permanently belongs to the member (Player 4) who completed the third exchange and the item is retired from play.
 - d. If it's not your number, **cheer on contestants** while waiting for your number to be drawn
6. **You can bring more than one item** for the exchange if you want to have more than one number to play.

The Showfish is the newsletter of California's Organization of Aquatic Show Tropicals (COAST). It is published six to twelve times a year and is a benefit of membership in COAST. The information and opinions expressed in articles are those of the author and may not reflect those held by COAST or other COAST members.

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Exchange Policy: COAST will exchange newsletters which contain information about fish and the fish hobby with other fish clubs. Please notify the Showfish editor, C.A. Marelius, if your club would like to participate in an exchange program.

Species Info – *Synodontis angelicus* Schilthuis 1891: *The Angel catfish*

By Mr. Thomas Vigliotta, 2006, "Synodontis angelicus" (On-line), Digital Morphology. Accessed November 22, 2006 at http://digimorph.org/specimens/Synodontis_angelicus/whole.

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The angel or polka-dot squeaker, *Synodontis angelicus*, is a member of the African catfish clade Mochokidae. 'Squeakers' or 'upside-down catfish' are very popular in the pet trade due to their stunning pigmentation patterns and peculiar habits. *Synodontis* catfishes inhabit a large proportion of African freshwaters including most of sub-Saharan Africa and the Nile River basin and can be found in large rivers, smaller fast-flowing streams and the massive African rift lakes. Learn more about the angel squeaker by reading this new account by Thomas Vigliotta of Cornell University.



NEW / RENEWED MEMBERS

Thank you and Welcome Aboard!

BRENT D'ANTIGNAC, Los Angeles, new member
PERRY CIAMPADAGLIA, El Segundo, new member
VICTORIA A. KUHL, Culver City, new member
ANDREW RANALLO, Costa Mesa, new member
BILL THOMPSON, Carlsbad, honorary membership
CHUCK RAMBO, San Jose, honorary membership

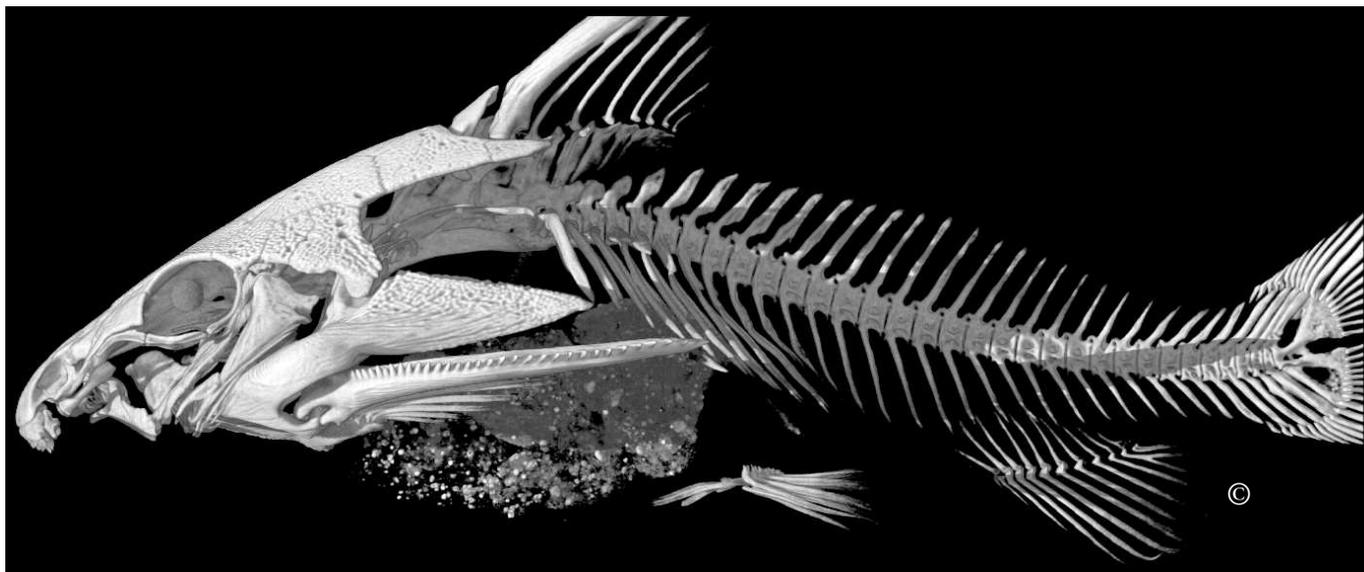
KEN AND EVA HENGSTEBECK, renewal
TERRY HEMMENT, renewal
RON AND MAMIE NASH, renewal
JOSEPH ANATALIO, renewal
ALAN ROSEN, renewal

MEMBERSHIPS DUE

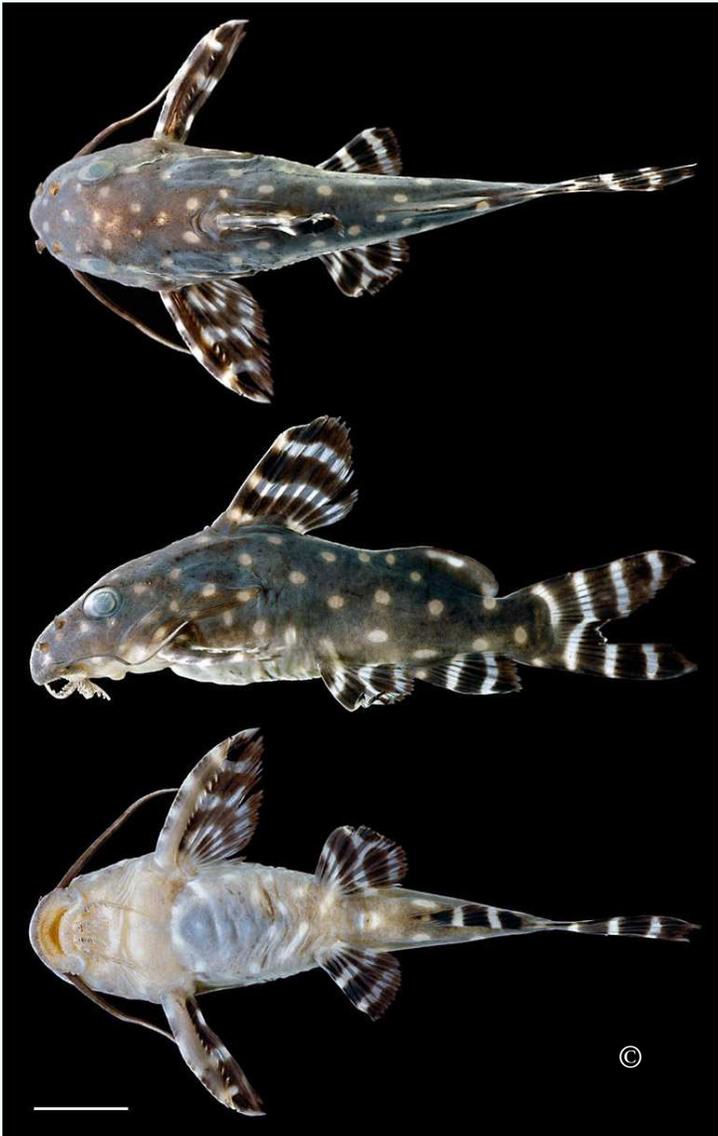
<u>DUE / PAST DUE MEMBERSHIPS</u>	<u>Due in:</u>
STAN SUNG	October
PAUL AND VIRGINIA EMGEN	October

MARC AND BARBARA ALLEN	December
DON FOLTZ	December
JOHN BANIC	December
SUMAN KAPIL	December
LEN LIEBRAND	December
JASON AND JENNIFER KUCERA	December

NOTE: OCTOBER MEMBERS -- THIS IS YOUR LAST SHOWFISH UNTIL YOU RENEW.



Synodontis angelicus, Cornell University Museum of Vertebrates (CU 91394), image processing: Dr. Jessie Maisano 10-16-06. The specimen was scanned by Matthew Colbert on 11 May 2006 along the coronal axis for a total of 1125 1024x1024 pixel slices. Each slice is 0.1056 mm thick, with an interslice spacing of 0.1056 mm and a field of reconstruction of 49 mm. This fish with his skin visible is shown above in the small photo.



The name squeaker refers to the fact that, when agitated, many *Synodontis* species are capable of making a [squeaking noise](#) (recorded by Dr. John Friel, Cornell University) by stridulation of the pectoral spine against the pectoral girdle. Even more peculiar is the habit of some species that are known to swim upside-down. This habit is most certainly correlated with feeding for insects and other food items while upside-down at the waters surface, but upside-down catfish will rest and swim upside-down on a regular basis.

Synodontis is by far the largest genus in the family Mochokidae and, indeed, one of the largest among all catfishes (about 120 species, a close second to *Corydoras*, about 150 species). And so, *Synodontis* is often the stand-in when people think about mochokid catfishes. But, in fact, the family (10 genera, ~190 species) is much more morphologically diverse when you consider some of the other recognized genera. *Euchilichthys*, *Atopochilus* and *Chiloglanis* are particularly notable for their ventrally-directed sucker-shaped mouths. Others like *Mochokus* and *Acanthocleithron* are very poorly known, but exhibit unique morphologies of their own. *Synodontis angelicus*, like many mochokids, is typified by branched mandibular barbels, well-developed nuchal plates, a large cleithral process and S-shaped mandibular teeth set in a deep cavity/cup of the dentary.

Synodontis species vary greatly in adult size, from 5 cm total length (TL) in the recently described *S. acanthoperca* (Friel & Vigliotta, 2006) up to 80 cm in other species. Larger *Synodontis* are important food fishes in many parts of Africa. Species in other mochokid genera are even smaller as adults (e.g., *Microsynodontis* and *Chiloglanis*), but none are larger than the largest *Synodontis*. *Synodontis angelicus* may reach about 25 cm TL (Poll, 1971).

Members of the genus *Synodontis*, and more broadly the family, are known to exhibit obvious sexual dimorphism. For example, many species in the genus *Chiloglanis* show dimorphism of the caudal fin (Roberts, 1989; Seegers, 1996). Mochokids are also known to exhibit spiny ornamentation of the skull roof bones, opercular series and pectoral girdle. In the case of *S. acanthoperca*, a spine found at the rear of the operculum is, itself, sexually dimorphic. The spines of males are much larger than those of females (Friel & Vigliotta, 2006).

Synodontis catfishes span the entire geographic range of mochokids; they inhabit a large proportion of African freshwaters including most of sub-Saharan Africa and the Nile River basin and can be found in large rivers, smaller fast-flowing streams and the massive African rift lakes. Some species are known to swim in mid-water and some will shoal; others are primarily benthic and relatively solitary. *Synodontis angelicus* is distributed throughout the Congo River drainage (Poll, 1971). Anecdotal reports tell of angel squeakers using holes in submerged logs for shelter; this practice is probably more widespread in the family.

Fossil mochokids (almost exclusively *Synodontis*) are widespread in Africa and date as far back as the early Miocene (Stewart, 2001). Interestingly, fragments of *Synodontis* pectoral spines dating from the early Oligocene have been found in Oman, an area where mochokids do not exist today.

Beyond diet, there isn't a great deal known about the ecology of *Synodontis* or other mochokids. *Synodontis* stomach contents have included insects, nematodes, crustaceans, mollusks, annelids, seeds, algae, fish scales and incidentally sand (Bishai & Abu Gideiri, 1965; Sanyanga, 1998; Winemiller & Winemiller, 1996). The diets of the three sucker-mouthed genera (see above) may contain a higher proportion of plant matter, but it seems likely that all members of the family are omnivorous.

The relationship of species within *Synodontis* is almost entirely unstudied, but the genus was taxonomically reviewed by Poll (1971); the systematic relationship of *Synodontis* to other mochokids and the relationship of the family to other catfishes is also currently unresolved. Many recent morphological phylogenetic studies indicate a relationship between mochokids and the neotropical families Doradidae and Auchenipteridae (Chardon, 1968; Diogo, 2005; Ferraris, 1988; Higuchi, 1992; Lundberg, 1993; Mo, 1991; de Pinna, 1993, 1998), but this relationship was proposed at least as far back as Günther (1864). The phylogenetic hypothesis is based largely on the presence of well-developed nuchal plates and certain elaborations of the Weberian apparatus, including an elastic spring apparatus.

More recent molecular works have not born out this relationship, however, and place the Mochokidae with unexpected siluriform groups, for example the North American Ictaluridae (Hardman, 2005). Very recent work (Sullivan et al., in press) has suggested that the Mochokidae are most closely related to several African catfish families including the Amphiliidae (loach catfishes) and Malapteruridae (electric catfishes).

Regardless, one thing is clear; molecular and morphological phylogenies do not agree with respect to the placement of the mochokids. Placement of the Mochokidae will be greatly enhanced by a deeper understanding of the relationships within the family (previously unstudied). These intrafamilial relationships, the putative monophyly of the family and the general taxonomy of the group are currently under study by Vigliotta (in progress), among others. ©



**THE ORIGINAL
CAVES -
RINO'S**

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TRADING POST

FOR SALE:

- 55 gallon aquarium
- 40 gallon aquarium with oak stand and hood (will sell the pieces separately)
- Home made aquariums of various sizes

Anyone who is interested can contact

RON JACKSON

Phone: 714-638-8445

Email: katfishron@aol.com

When do we meet:

COAST meets the first Sunday of every month from 1:00 to 5:00 p.m. unless otherwise noted.

Meeting agendum:	12:30	Board Meeting
	1:00	Meeting begins; general announcements
	1:30	Presentation begins
	2:45	Auction begins
	4:15-4:30	Auction usually ends; check-out begins
	5:00-5:30	Vacate the room

Where do we meet:

The Center is a brown brick building between a fire station and Lion's Park. Closest major intersection is 19th and Harbor Blvd. Costa Mesa Neighborhood Community Center. in the Victoria Room (usually) or the Harper Room 1845 Park Avenue, Costa Mesa, CA

Upcoming meetings for 2007:

January 7	Speaker and Topic:	
February 4	Speaker and Topic:	STARTS AT 10:00 A.M. DUE TO SUPERBOWL IN AFTERNOON
March 4	Speaker and Topic:	
April 1	Speaker and Topic:	
May 6	Speaker and Topic:	
June 10	Speaker and Topic:	SECOND SUNDAY DUE TO COSTA MESA FISH FRY
July 1	Speaker and Topic:	
August 5	Speaker and Topic:	
September 2	Speaker and Topic:	
October 7	Speaker and Topic:	
November 4	Speaker and Topic:	
December 2	Speaker and Topic:	

Discussion Group (members only) <http://pets.groups.yahoo.com/group/coastfishclub/>

Website: <http://www.coastfishclub.com>



Summary of Meeting Last Month –

TOPIC/SPEAKER was Building a Koi Pond by Bill Thompson of the San Diego Koi Club and KoiUSA magazine. Bill pointed out some of those things that experience makes obvious, such as having steep walls for the first couple of feet down (because predators like a nice sloping entry into a pond) and be prepared to handle the amount (now fluffed up to one and a half times the volume) of soil you dug up to make the hole for the pond. He also brought KoiUSA's new book as a donation to the club, with extras for sale to those who didn't win the bid for the donated book. The book is a compilation of KoiUSA's best pond building/problem solving articles and includes an excellent section on various bat-type filtration media and on plumbing.

GENERAL MEETING BUSINESS: Brian Downing informed us that he would not be presiding over the December meeting, as he will be away. Kirk Bean, our vice president, will lead the meeting. Runners and parents of runners were requested to check that numbers on the auction tickets were correctly entered. Buyers were cautioned to check the tickets for accurate entries before signing. What is on the ticket is the number used for accounting, and tracing/correcting errors can take many, many hours of time from people who already donate hours of their time. A sign-up sheet for our Holiday Pot-Luck Buffet was passed around, with the usual half a dozen sign-ups – not to worry, you can bring your dish on the day of the meeting (that's what usually happens).

BOARD MEETING BUSINESS: As usual, a short board meeting was held from 12:30 to 1:00.

Treasurer: Treasury received dues from five new members who joined in October in addition to member renewals; expenses were covered for the month, and the club remains modestly in the black.

Corresponding Secretary: Ron and Pauline Jackson reported they had sent out letters to potential sponsors asking for donations, so the Raffle Table could be reinstated as a regular feature of the monthly meeting. They will be sending out more letters in the months ahead.

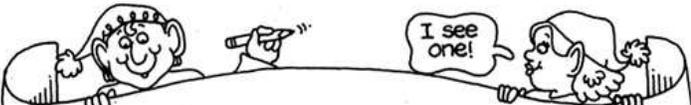
Editor: Charlotte Marelius raised the discussion that hard copies of the Showfish be discontinued except for those people who have no internet access to save money, labor and time. Kirk Bean, however, said that the experience of other clubs to which he belongs/has belonged indicates that meeting attendance and membership falls off steeply when people have no paper reminder of the upcoming meeting. The board unanimously tabled the idea. Brian Downing encouraged Charlotte to be more assertive in requesting Showfish articles from members, saying that the directors, at the least, could all be counted on contribute articles or data and pictures for articles if they were asked firmly.

Website: Tom Varin said he wants to get an interactive online membership form created for the website, even though we won't have online payment of dues at this time. The business aspects of setting up online payment include the addition of a shopping cart feature to the website (which may change the fee of the website to an unsupportable amount as a commercial entity) and the fees that PayPal charges for processing payments may require we increase our monthly dues.

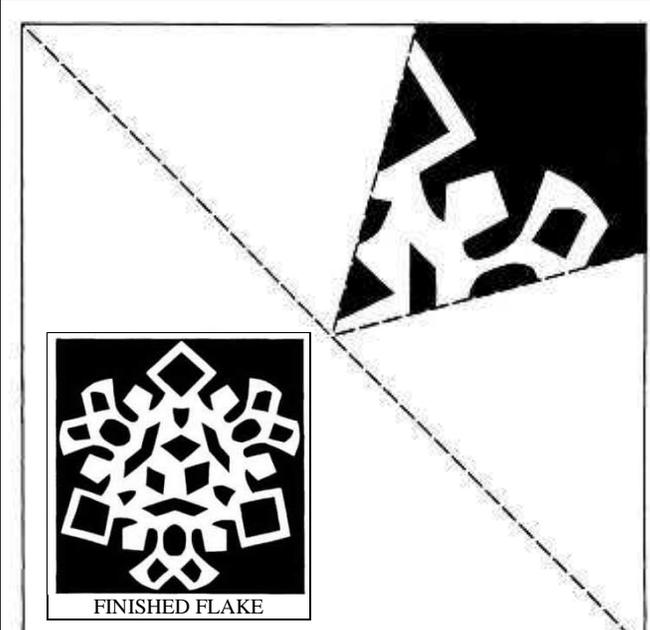
Holiday Hunt

Below are some words that we often hear at Christmastime. See if you can find and circle them all in this letter grid. Look carefully—they are hidden vertically, horizontally, diagonally and backwards.

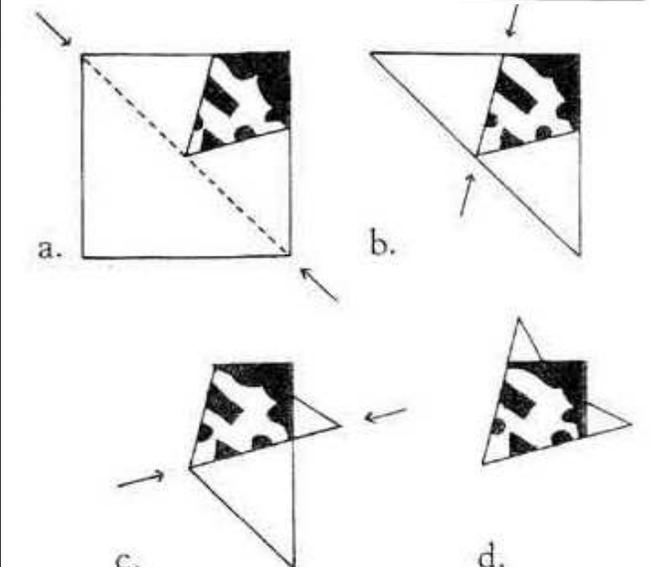
snow	cookies	bows	Santa
carols	North Pole	reindeer	sleigh
bells	mistletoe	stocking	tree
elf	ornament	present	holly



A	P	R	E	S	E	N	T	H	S	W	Q	H	J	N
B	R	U	O	D	L	Q	Z	A	O	Z	P	S	R	O
M	E	E	R	T	O	H	T	N	D	L	E	M	P	R
S	I	K	N	B	J	N	S	Y	R	T	L	G	M	T
I	N	Z	A	G	A	X	C	K	L	B	F	Y	H	H
P	D	T	M	S	R	C	A	R	O	L	S	K	I	P
T	E	J	E	K	Q	O	S	L	E	I	G	H	S	O
Z	E	C	N	D	W	O	M	E	Y	S	O	Q	L	L
U	R	S	T	O	C	K	I	N	G	D	W	R	L	E
E	Y	P	M	E	V	I	Q	U	Y	J	N	O	E	N
L	E	N	V	N	K	E	X	L	T	O	X	Z	B	S
E	O	T	E	L	T	S	I	M	J	Y	M	B	Y	Z



FINISHED FLAKE



Kid's Corner – Holiday Games

(Recommend enlarging flake 150% to 200%)

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