



Showfish

JULY 2005

NEWSLETTER OF THE COAST FISH CLUB

VOLUME 14, ISSUE 7

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Edited by Charlotte Marelus

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Items for publication in Showfish are due within one week after the monthly meeting and will be included as space and time permit within constraints of club bylaws. Articles received after the deadline will be used in the next newsletter as permitted.

Editorial Team: C. Marelus, Mike McCabe, and Pauline Jackson

July 10th – Meeting will be held in the small Harper Room PROGRAM TO BE ANNOUNCED

NOMINATE YOURSELF OR A RESPECTED COLLEAGUE FOR THE 2006 BOARD OF DIRECTORS!

July and August is the time to decide whether or not you will step up to the plate and then run for one of the elected board positions or volunteer for one of the director or chair positions.

By and large, the people who are handling the elected positions and many of the volunteer positions are the people who have been on the board continually for the last five to ten years. They are tired. They would like to have their turn at just sitting in the audience or at home and being entertained, like the other 90+ members in the club have done for years.

Stand up and be counted - serve a year as a director or officer of the club. Elections will be held in a couple of months, so now is the time to make yourself known.

Glass thickness for tanks from Living Aquarium thru the Krib

Length in cm

Dp	10	20	30	40	50	60	70	80	90	100	110	120	130	140	150	160	170	180	190
90	D	D	D	E	E	E	E	E	E	F	F	F	F	F	F	F	F	F	F
80	C	D	D	D	E	E	E	E	E	E	E	E	F	F	F	F	F	F	F
70	C	C	D	D	D	D	D	E	E	E	E	E	E	E	E	E	E	E	E
60	C	C	C	D	D	D	D	D	E	E	E	E	E	E	E	E	E	E	E
50	B	C	C	C	C	D	D	D	D	D	D	D	D	E	E	E	E	E	E
40	B	B	C	C	C	C	C	D	D	D	D	D	D	D	D	D	D	D	D
30	A	B	B	B	C	C	C	C	C	C	D	D	D	D	D	D	D	D	D
20	A	A	B	B	B	B	B	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C
10	A	A	A	A	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	C	C	C	C
Ky	Vertical									Base									
A	4 mm (1/6")									6 mm (1/4")									
B	5 mm (1/5")									6 mm (1/4")									
C	6 mm (1/4")									10 mm (2/5")									
D	10 mm (2/5")									12 mm (1/2")									
E	12 mm (1/2")									15 mm (3/5")									
F	15 mm (3/5")									20 mm (4/5")									

Species Bit – *Epiplatys dageti* Poll 1953

The Firethroat Killie by Allan Semeit

This article was originally published in the March 1995 edition of "Tropical News," magazine of the Sacramento Aq. Soc. <http://www.sacramentoaquariumsociety.org>

Why is it that a particular fish captivates you? The reasons can be many: colors, color pattern, body shape, finnage, feeding habits, disposition, behavior and rarity are some of those that come to mind. It seems to be a characteristic of tropical fish hobbyists that whatever attracts to a fish doesn't long endure. We continually find new favorites and let old favorites disappear from our tanks. Yet some species buck this trend. For me, that fish has been the Firethroat Killie, *Epiplatys dageti* (pronounced roughly "da-JAY-eye").

Epiplatys dageti first entered the aquarium hobby in 1908 when some were imported from Liberia into Germany. The species proved to be popular and relatively easy to maintain. In fact, that strain successfully survived two World Wars and is still available today.

When I first was introduced to *Epiplatys dageti* in the early 1970's, there had been a long and lingering confusion over the name. Apparently when the species was originally imported, some were sent to the famous ichthyologist Pierre Boulanger for identification. Boulanger decided that they were the same as a previously [described killifish,] - *Epiplatys chaperi*. They were then distributed into the hobby as *Epiplatys chaperi*. A few years later, Boulanger published his famous catalogue of fishes and included a picture of an *Epiplatys dageti* male labeled as *Epiplatys chaperi*. This confirmed and continued the misnaming.

In 1952, a slightly different fish was collected near Abidjan in the Ivory Coast. There were enough differences between the two strains that Poll decided that this was an unnamed species and he described the fish as *Epiplatys dageti* in 1953.

During collections by Daget and Arnoult in 1964, the true *Epiplatys chaperi* was rediscovered and identified. It was a larger fish reaching about four inches and was also attractively colored. The true *Epiplatys chaperi* appears to be widespread, ranging from Guinea to Togo.

It became obvious that the same-named aquarium fish was not *Epiplatys chaperi*. At about the same time, in 1962 and 1965, Clausen found fish in Ghana and near Monrovia, Liberia, which resembled the aquarium strain. Clausen sent some of these to Scheel who crossed them with the 1952 Ivory Coast *Epiplatys dageti* to produce fully fertile and viable offspring. It turns out that the fish we now call *Epiplatys dageti* has two subspecies: *dageti* (DAG) and *monroviae* (MON). DAG displays six vertical, dark crossbars with males showing white, gray, or pinkish throat colors. MON displays only five crossbars (missing one above the ventral fin) and males have an orange-red throat.

Epiplatys dageti is an attractive fish that grows to about two inches. Like most killifish, the female is rather plain. She has an olive-drab colored, cylindrical body with five or six "tiger" stripes. The male's body is a shinier gold-green color with the dark vertical "tiger" stripes. The male also has an unusual tail. About two-thirds of the way down, the fin rays begin extending further as they approach the bottom to form a small "swordtail."

A quick glance will tell you that this fish is a surface feeder. The head is relatively flat on top and the shape of the mouth resembles the

Membership News –

New/Returning Members

The following people joined COAST recently - Welcome and Thanks!
Nobody new this month :-)

Renewals Received

The following people have renewed their memberships—Thank You!
Larry Gentry
Michael Moore

Member Renewals Due Now

Please remember to renew your membership this month.
Chuck Mateo

Showfish is not sent to people whose memberships have been expired more than one month.

Member Renewals Past Due

- David Ogershok
- Sal Arias
- ▶ William Moreno
- ▶ Barbara and Kirk Bean
- ▶ Kent and Eva Hengstebeck

▶ This symbol means this is your last Showfish until you renew.

Member Renewals Due in August

- Russ Madsen
- Paul Loiselle
- Chuck Rambo

Please fill out a Membership Application/Renewal form, on the last page of newsletter, when renewing.

Book News -

Blackwell Publishing has established a new web site dealing with just books and journals on fish, fisheries, and associated subjects such as fishing gear, boats, net mending, feeding, biology, diseases, etc.

<http://www.blackwellpublishing.com/fish>

Board of Directors

President:

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Printing and Distribution

Mike McCabe 562-888-1992
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Positions Needing Warm Bodies

Corresponding Secretary,
Refreshment Chair, Program Chair;
Auction Clerk; and Storekeeper

COAST fish club meets the first Sunday of every month, in Costa Mesa from 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Costa Mesa Neighborhood Community Center, Victoria Room (Alt: Harper)
1845 Park Avenue,
Costa Mesa, CA 92627

For map, see Orange County Thomas Bros Guide pg 888 Zone J3. Maps are also shown on our website:
<http://www.fishclub.freesevers.com> and Internet map sites.

COAST MEETING DATES:

July 10, August 8, September 4 (tentative), October 2, November 6

(Epiplatys dageti continued) ramp of a Naval landing boat. From the side, the head looks somewhat like a saber blade. These features help *Epiplatys dageti* prey upon terrestrial insects (like ants) blown unto the water as well as aquatic life such as mosquito larvae.

Epiplatys dageti is a slow-moving, generally peaceful species. Males will display to one another to show how big and tough they are, but seldom progress beyond this. I prefer to keep them in a colony of several males with two or three females per male. For breeding, my best results have come when I separate one male and female in a two gallon tank with a spawning mop.

Compared to most killifish, the eggs of *Epiplatys dageti* are small. They are about one third to one quarter the size of a typical *Aphyosemion* egg. When the fry hatch out after about two weeks, they are quite small also. If you do not have microworms or an infusoria culture as a first food, set up a rearing container (large Cool Whip tub or plastic shoe box) about a week ahead of hatching time with some Java moss or hair algae, and (most important) two or three Ramshorn snails. This combination will produce the tiny food the fry need for their first week or so. After a few days, most of the fry will be able to consume small baby brine shrimp. Why do I like this fish? I really do not know, but I do.

A Cool Killifish (*Epiplatys dageti*) by Dave Sanford

September 1997 Greater Seattle Aquarium Society <http://www.qsas.org>

Try to imagine yourself approaching a partially shaded pool with a dense growth of emergent plants in the rainforests of western Africa. As you gaze into the water, several surface feeding fish strike at insects buzzing near the air-water interphase. Upon closer investigation you observe they are a 2 to 2-1/2 inch killifish with 5-7 vertical black stripes. The larger ones have yellow-green unpaired fins and an orange stripe edged in black on the chin. This characteristic allows you to identify it as *Epiplatys dageti*, the fire mouth killi.

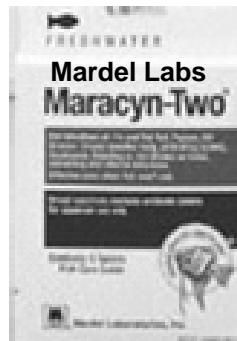
These cool killies will do well in a five to ten gallon tank having neutral to slightly acid pH, water temperature in the low to mid 70's, and gentle surface agitation. They love live foods such as brine shrimp, adult and baby, *Daphnia*, and fruit flies sprinkled on the surface will be attacked with gusto.

If plants such as water sprite, frogbit, and Java moss are provided they will utilize them as a spawning medium. In this type of permanent setup, eggs will be difficult to remove from the plants but a few fry will survive or may be sucked up in a baster to rear in another tank.

A spawning set up of one male and 3 or 4 females will result in more fry production and make life easier on the females. Even greater yields can be achieved if the sexes are separated for a few days before being placed into the tank together. I use two top to bottom acrylic yarn mops in the tank, with no live plants. This forces them to use the mops for spawning. The mops are checked every few days for eggs, which when found are picked (they're very tough) and placed into a shallow dish of clean aged tap water with just enough acriflavin to slightly color the water. Any eggs that show fungus are removed with a dropper. The viable eggs will hatch in 10-14 days. I then place the fry into a shallow temporary container with Java moss (with microfauna), and feed microworms and baby brine shrimp. The water in the unfiltered container must be kept clean by daily water exchanges and addition of

OUR SPONSORS – Manufacturers Who Support Our Club

When making buying decisions, please assess these companies' products and remember the investment they make in the tropical fish hobby. I'm sorry I've missed some sponsors, I did not attend the meeting last month.



(Epiplatys dageti cont) snails to consume the inevitable uneaten brine shrimp. After about 3 weeks I transfer the fry to a sponge filtered 2-5 gallon tank for growout. They become sexable in about 3 months, and ready to spawn at 4-6 months.

If you desire to hatch several eggs at one time this can be accomplished by placing the eggs on wet peat moss. This will allow development but delay hatching until you are ready. Then dump the peat and eggs into a container of dechlorinated water and they should hatch in 24 hours.

Considering their attractiveness and ease of spawning, these killies would make a good starter fish for the killie novice as well as a beautiful addition to the collection of the more advanced breeder.



Water parameters:
Temp 68° to 76°F
pH 6 to 7
Hardness soft to medium
Avg life span 3 years
Spawning age 4 months

<http://www.thekillifishsource.com>

Lake Malawi - Biotope Description

C. A. Marelius

Lake Malawi (aka Lake Nyasa) is the southernmost lake of Africa's Great Rift Valley. It's 350 miles long, 46 miles wide, and lies 1639 feet above the sea. This single-basin lake reaches a depth of 2314 feet (mean 957 feet). The shores in the north and east are steep and rocky. Cliffs plummet to depths of 655 feet close to the shores; in the south, there is gradual shelving, with the 650 foot depth not reached til 68 miles from shore. Water temp varies with depth and season, ranging between 72°F and 80°F. In spite of being bordered by three different countries, the lake is drained by only one river; water level is controlled.

Like Lake Tanganyika, Lake Malawi has many endemic fishes, especially cichlids. It was the fishes from Malawi that first became known as "freshwater reef fish", due to their oftentimes stunning, intense colors. There is a goodly percentage of fish carrying blue pigment in the lake, but it also boasts colors such as tangerine orange, canary yellow, and peacock greens.

No one has heard anyone comment on any beautiful or unusual coloration in those crocodiles that often times make collection unwise on Malawi.

The water allows for some plants to grow, most notably near the inflowing river mouths. The water is rich in phytoplankton and zooplankton.

The algae carpets the rocks, turning them into rich pastures. It is the principal food of the cichlids, and they owe a good deal to the algae for their brilliant colors. Most of the cichlids shelter and nest in the rocks, which they defend vigorously. Many times, a species is found solely in their one cluster of rocks .

(Map: CIA Factbook)

PRINCIPAL HABITATS:

- Grey rocks, boulders, often fairly steep.
- Littoral zones formed of the rubble between the rocky zones and the fine silver sand.
- Open water.

WATER CONDITIONS:

- pH 7.4 to 8.2, well buffered
- Hardness: moderate to hard
- Temp: 76°F ± 4 °F (depending on season)
- Clear, high in dissolved mineral salts.

BREEDING STYLES:

- Mouthbrooders
- Cave spawners
- Substrate spawners



Events elsewhere in the hobby –

DESERT FISH CLUB, a brand new club in Palm Desert, meets the third Sunday of the month in a local aquarium store. For more information, call Wanda Jacobson at 760-328-8842.

SAN DIEGO FISH CLUB meets the second Sunday of the month. For more information talk to Barbara or Kirk Bean or Brian Downing at one of our meetings or visit their website, <http://www.sandiegotropicalfish.com> . The Beans have also been contributing to the growth of an IFGA-recognized **guppy club** in the area between Riverside and San Diego; IFGA judge and award-winning breeder, Luke Roebuc, has been participating in this effort as well.

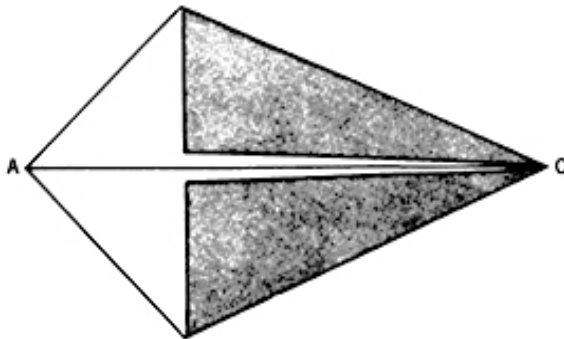
COAST DISCUSSION GROUP (COAST members only) is growing on <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/coastfishclub>

AMERICAN CICHLID CLUB 2005 CONVENTION is in Fort Worth, Texas on July 21 through 24. See the convention web site at <http://www.aca2005.org/index.html> . Speakers will be Laif DeMason, Willem Heijns, Spencer Jack, Al Klee, Ad Konings, Wayne Leibel, Ric Perez, Howard Schmidt. The 2006 convention will be near Chicago.

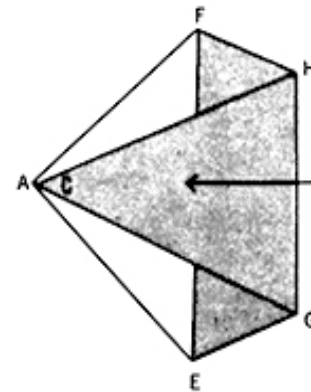
FINDIG Oct 28-30, convention of the Sacramento Aq. Soc. <http://www.sacramentoaquariumsociety.org/events/>

Kid's Corner – an Origami Seal to fold Courtesy of Dover Publication's Sampler

Seal

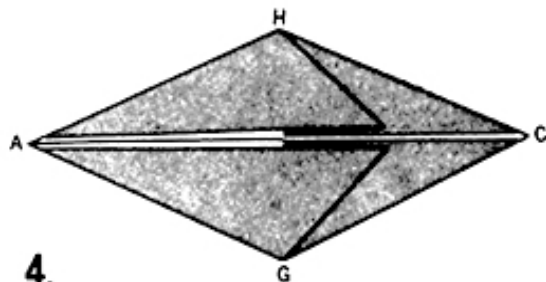
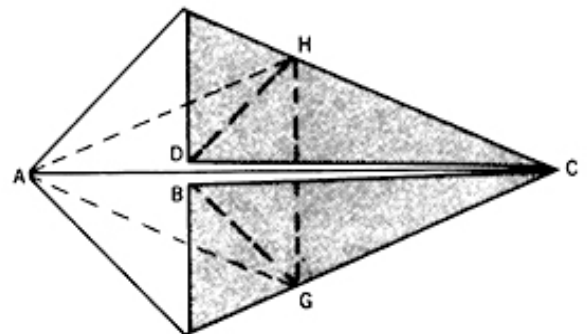


1. Fold your paper to step 4 of Basic Shape No. 1, and unfold. Bring C over to A and crease. Unfold.



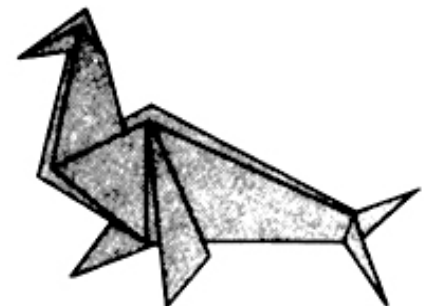
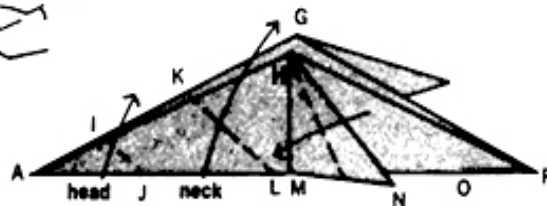
2. Refold as in figure 1 and bring C over to A and crease. Unfold.

3. Pick up point D just enough to make a new crease on line A—H. A—D now rests on line A—C. Repeat with B—G.



4. This is how your shape now looks. Place side with open edges face down on table. Fold H up to meet G.

5. Fold head up on line I—J. Unfold. Fold neck up on line K—L. Unfold. Open G and H and push neck in between G and H to crease on line K—L. Now push head down into fold I—J. Fold line H—N over to line H—M. Repeat for other side. Cut along line O—P and fold flippers out.



Finished Seal