

# The Lateral Line

Volume 1, Issue 4

September 1, 2004



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September 1, 2004

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**Upcoming Events:**

- September Meeting TBA, visit our website for more information.
- Cichlid Day 2004 Auction October 23rd,

Cover Photo:  
 Eretmodus  
 cyanostictus.  
 by Brett Harrington

# BAP Report

Another terrific month for the Breeder Award Program. Our program has already spawned 38 different species. Unfortunately, involvement in the program has been limited to the usual suspects. The influx of new members will hopefully shake things up in the standings. All members are welcome to participate in the program and also to take advantage of BAP fish at a great price.

BAP fish sales are great fund raisers for the club. Lets keep those fish healthy and spawning and don't forget to submit your BAP reports to earn your points.

Current Standings	
Greg	320
Charles	150
Robert	130
Duc	105
Dave	90
Paul	90
Lisa	60
Blair	55
Brian	40
Christina	25

# Cichlid Day 2004 Auction

Time is nearing for our first auction. It will be held on Saturday, October 23rd at 12:00 P.M. Everyone is welcome to participate. The location is the Bracken United Methodist Church Fellowship Hall off of I-35 just north of San Antonio (by Garden Ridge). Hobbyists and professionals will be bringing fish and other items. Non-members are welcome.

Unlike other fish auctions, there will be no charge for bidder numbers. This means you can show up, obtain a bidder number and not have to pay anything if you don't win an item. Since this is our first auction and we are just starting out, this auction will be cash only. This will ensure that sellers can be paid promptly, sorry for the inconvenience.

Snacks and drinks will be available at our concession stand. We will also have some HCCC wear available for purchase. Items include shirts and caps, all with an embroidered HCCC logo.

We do need the help of club members to help ensure that the auction runs smoothly for everyone. If you could

help out in any way, please contact Nick through our website. Even if its only for a short period of time during the auction, your help will be greatly appreciated. We hope to run a mock auction during our September meeting to work our any kinks in the process. We hope you can all attend the meeting.

Through the help of club supporters, we have obtained various items that will be raffled off throughout the day. There will also be various local businesses that will be bringing in lots of fish for the auction. This means a better chance for you to get what you want at a good price.

Proceeds generated from the auction will go to fund larger upcoming events in which we hope to have guest speakers, fish shows and more auctions.

For more information about the Cichlid Day Auction, see page 15 of this newsletter or visit [www.xdeleon.com/hccc](http://www.xdeleon.com/hccc) and click on the Events link.

# HCCC Monthly Photo Contest

## First Place:

Haplochromis sp. Kenya Gold  
Photo by Robert De Leon



## Second Place:

Pundamilia nyererei Python Is.  
Photo by Greg Steeves



## Third Place:

Haplochromis chromogynos  
Photo by Greg Steeves



A special thanks for Yves Fermon for judging our first photo contest. This month's topic was Lake Victoria Region cichlids.

### Interview with Yves Fermon

By Greg Steeves

*Yves Fermon first began working on the fauna of Lake Victoria for his PhD in 1989 and was working with the H.E.S.T. (Haplochromine Ecological Survey Team) in Leiden. Although the Victorian species flock is only one area that Yves has been involved with, the plight of Lake Victorian cichlids and establishing captive populations has remained a passion for him. He has had an integral role in the formation of the Association Haplochromis in Europe ([www.haplochromis.org](http://www.haplochromis.org)). Yves has presented online lectures as well as speaking to various societies. He has always been free to share his knowledge base and the Hill Country Cichlid Club is honored to have him be our judge for the Victorian section of our photo contest.*

**GS:** Yves, thank you for taking the time to judge our contest. When did your interest in aquatic animal life begin?

**YF:** Thanks to you. Everything began as many of you with goldfish when I was nine years old.

**GS:** What areas of Lake Victoria have you been involved with and can you tell us some of the changes you've seen occur since your first visit?

**YF:** I was working in collaboration with HEST and the TAFIRI for my PhD in the field between 1989 to 1992 concentrating on the Tanzanian part of the Lake. During my time on Mwanza Gulf I witnessed some pelagic cichlid species populations beginning to recover, and the decline of Lates (Nile perch) numbers.

**GS:** What can the aquarist do to help the situation in Lake Victoria?

**YF:** More research is needed to understand the com-

*(Continued on page 14)*

# Loss of a Friend

*On the 12th of August 2004, Lee Ann and I, and the entire fish world lost a great friend. Jerry Miranda, a.k.a. Mr. Syno passed away suddenly in Attleboro Massachusetts. Jerry was very active in his club, The Tropical Fish Society of Rhode Island, and was a master cichlid and catfish breeder. In the early days of importation, Jerry was among the first people to spawn the Tanganyikan catfish Synodontis petricola and Synodontis multipunctatus. He shared his techniques with aquarists from around the world through his articles, conversations and lectures, and his self-produced videos. He was one of the good guys that got as much satisfaction from seeing another succeed as he did from his own successes. The week before his death I had been talking with Jerry on the possibility of speaking to our club the week before the ACA in Dallas next year. Sadly, that is not possible anymore but it is with pleasure that we reprint an article by Jerry that he specifically wrote for our (Lee Ann and I) website. As long as there are people benefiting from Jerry's life passion, the rearing and propagating of tropical fish, he will always be with us.*

--Greg Steeves

## Synodontis Multipunctatus By Jerry Miranda

Synodontis multipunctatus is a popular Synodontis catfish, particularly among aquarists keeping and breeding Cichlids from Lakes Tanganyika and Malawi. Synodontis multipunctatus are from Lake Tanganyika and to this day I have never had them spawn with any mouth brooding Cichlids from Lake Tanganyika. Perhaps I have never had the right pair of fish. I have kept multis with T. moorii, C. frontosa, and O. Ventralis, just to name a few, all of which are from Lake Tanganyika. Some people have reported that Lake Victorian Haps work well but I can not keep Lake Victorian Haps alive for long enough to find out if they will work for me or not! I have found that Lake Malawi pairs and groups of 1 male and 5 or 6 females work best for me.

From what I have read, heard, and now know from experience with spawning Synodontis multipunctatus is that it is not an easy fish to spawn. It is a hit or miss

situation, mostly miss! Synodontis multipunctatus are egg scatters, and in all reported cases that I know of, the fry are found in the mouth of a host fish, which is always a female mouth brooding Cichlid. Synodontis multipunctatus are what most people call "Cuckoo breeders" or "parasitic spawners". This means a pair of multipunctatus needs a pair of mouth brooding fish to hold and care for their eggs until they hatch. The multis never know if they were successful in their spawning efforts to carry on their species, or do they?

When a pair of mouth brooding Cichlids are spawning, a pair of multipunctatus will swim through the spawn-



ing site, and eat some of the host fishes eggs and deposit their own eggs in their place. Then, if all goes well, the mouth brooding female will pick up and incubate the eggs of the multipunctatus. However, there are many variables that will influence the mouth brooding female picking up the eggs and then carrying them to full term!

After I had found my first baby catfish in a female Deep Water Haps mouth (a Lake Malawi mouth brooder), I started to watch these fish very closely to see what was going on. How did that little catfish get in this female Haps mouth? The next time the Deep Water

*(Continued on page 5)*

Haps were going to spawn, I was right there and so were the multis! During the first pass though the spawning site the catfish ate any eggs that were laid by the spawning Haps. During the next pass that the cats made though the spawning site 20 or so eggs were laid and not one was picked up by the host fish. During the next pass, I was ready with a turkey baster in hand! Now, would you call me a "Cuckoo breeder" using a turkey baster to collect eggs?

Sure enough it happened again, 20 or so more eggs were expelled. This time I was able to collect 18 eggs and the host fish didn't even try to pick up a single one. Did she know that these eggs were not hers? Could she tell by size, color or by the number of eggs? The eggs were later placed in a strainer to hatch. All the eggs hatched and I was able to raise all but one of the fry to adulthood. The start of my second generation was well on its way.

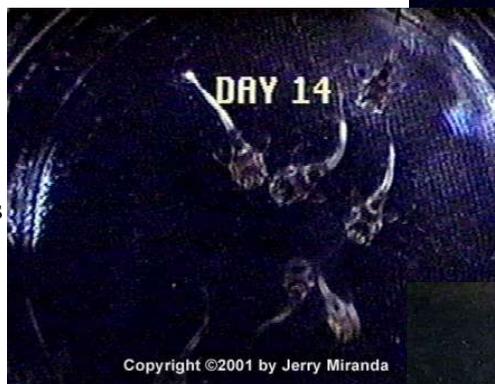
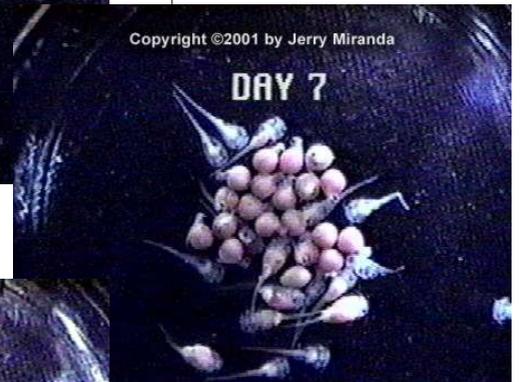
I have seen and recorded on video, multis "exploding" a hundred or more eggs at the spawning site of a pair of mouth brooding Cichlids with not one of the eggs being picked up by the female Cichlid. Most of the time the eggs would become "snacks" for the other fish in the tank. I have seen multis expel 10 to 20 eggs at a time and repeat this 5 to 8 times during the spawning of a pair of mouth brooders. My best hatch of catfish, in one mouthful was 53 cats and no Haps!

I have also seen and recorded on video, spawning female mouth brooders picking up Synodontis eggs, and then ejecting the Synodontis eggs through her gills and only holding her own eggs! Are our Cichlids smarter then we think? Can the Cichlids tell the different in the size of the eggs and eject only the smaller multi

eggs?

This is why I have built a trap to collect these eggs, which would otherwise be lost, but that is another story for another time.

"May your fish live long and spawn often!"



Photos by Jerry Miranda

8 WEEKS OLD !

## Species Profile: *Pundamilia igneopinnis*

— by Dave Hansen

*Pundamilia igneopinnis* is a great fish from Lake Victoria. Initially this fish started off as *Haplochromis* "black and orange nyererei", before it was latter classified as *Pundamilia igneopinnis*. It is thought that this fish and *Pundamilia nyererei* are closely related not only anatomically, but also ecologically. The distribution is limited to three locations at the southern mainland shore of Speke Gulf: Igombe Island, Ndurwa Point, and the Vesi archipelago.

The appearance of the fish is striking. Males have black or brown-black body. The anal, caudal, and pelvic fins are a bright orange. The dorsal fin also has some orange in it as well as blue. The females are darker than most fish, but drab for the most part. My females have a hint of orange and blue in the dorsal, but only the top trim of the dorsal. There is some variance in the anal, caudal, and pelvic fins. Depending on the location they can also be a red wine color.

I acquired some small fish from Ar-mke's. I placed them in a 20 gallon long. The tank was setup with a sand substrate and a few pieces of holey rock. Initially the dominant male was kind of a grayish color with some color in his fins. He chased around the others non-stop. I talked to our local Victorian expert, Greg Steeves and he recommended that I either add some more or maybe some other

fish to distract the male. I had a bunch of small Yellow labs in another tank and I pulled 4 out and added them to the mix. It didn't go well at all for the as *Pundamilia igneopinnis*. The dominant male lost all color and went into hiding and



Photos by Dave Hansen



the others hung around the top of the tank. After a couple days I pulled the labs out and added some zebra danios instead. That was a bad experience for the danios as they were massacred by that night. The next step was to add

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more rockwork. I threw in a couple of more pieces of holey rock and that worked wonderfully. The dominant male turned a deep black with positively glowing finnage. It gave the others, which I thought were all females some refuge. Over the next week or so another male presented himself. At times he would get almost as dark as the dominant male but mostly was a medium gray color. Surprisingly the dominant male was very tolerate of the other male and has left him alone to this point. Though they are small I did have a female holding for a couple of days. The male was

very hard on her. From what I understand that is typical and your best success is to strip the female early and tumble the eggs. I may try to pull her immediately next time and isolate her before trying the strip and tumble method.

This is fast becoming one of my favorite fish and I am very happy that I own them. I would recommend that everyone give them a try. You can never have too many Victorian fish! I am eagerly looking forward to this fish spawning and sharing them with my fellow HCCC members.

## Breeding Mbuna 101, Part II

— by Scott Carlson

*Originally appeared in the Iowa Aquaria Association newsletter, April 2004. Reprinted with permission from the author and association.*

In last month's article, I gave an account of spawning mouth-brooding Mbuna cichlids from Lake Malawi, Africa, in my own aquaria. At the end of that article I warned that in this next article I would discuss in agonizing detail four methods of caring for brooding mothers and their fry. I confess I have a blatant agenda. I will attempt to discount three methods and, with shameless subjectivity, try to defend the other one.

For the first approximately four days after spawning, a female holds eggs. Then, providing they are fertile, the eggs develop tiny heads and tails. While Mom broods, she will eat very little or no food at all. Some evidence suggests that some of the fry eat some or all of the food if she does ingest any. At around 18 days (species and individual specific) she will begin shopping for a "safe" place to re-

lease her free-swimming, fully developed, but miniature fry. If she cannot find a "safe" place, she may delay releasing them longer than is healthy for her. The tank she spawned in is probably not "safe". Once released, parental care pretty much ends. The fry are not safe even from Mom, and Dad hasn't been any help since donating milt. What can be done to maintain Mom's health and help ensure the survival of (at least) some of the fry?

Do nothing. Most breeding/community Mbuna aquariums do not provide truly "safe" places for fry to be released. De-

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*Pseudotropheus demasoni*



Photo by Robert De Leon

spite lots of cover in a typical Mbuna tank proximity presents a challenge. Usually many opportunistically piscivorous fish are concentrated all day every day in a much smaller area than they would be in the lake. Conceivably all fish visit all parts of the tank many times daily. Fry instinctively hide in tiny crevices and cavities in the rock-work and even in substrate if it is coarse enough. As long as they remain hidden and inaccessible they might not be eaten but they also might not eat. They languish pale, starved and stunted until eventually hunger drives them out into the dangerous open. They cannot wait until the coast is clear. It never is. Some believe this closely imitates nature's survival of the fittest. I certainly don't disagree; however, I assert that fry in an aquarium are at a greater disadvantage than fry in the Lake. We all know of fry that survive to adulthood in tanks full of bruisers but these are the exceptions. Many equally fit fry are consumed.



*Pseudotropheus* sp. "Deep" Magunga Photo by Robert De Leon

Remove Mom to a brooding tank. This is presumably done to afford Mom a stress-free environment to brood in. In my opinion this is unnatural and possibly even cruel. I believe chaotic interaction is normal and natural even during brooding. Brooding females sometimes hide and sulk but more often are out among the masses taking their lumps. She could stay hidden but I feel they choose to interact and maintain their rank in the hierarchy. Within minutes of a fish's removal, its position is forfeited, forgotten and fought over. If a brooding female is removed from the one environment that made her comfortable enough to pro-create in and

placed into a typically smaller tank isolated from healthy interaction she is certainly not "at home". At a stressful time when she needs the sanctuary and security provided by her home she is thrown into prison alone. Her eventual re-introduction to her home tank would be as a new fish at the bottom of the pecking order. Now that's stress!

Another reason I disagree with this method is that it doesn't work. At least for me it hasn't. Mom releases whenever she is ready to. If it is in the middle of the day and no one is there to remove her she languishes all day homesick, starving and bored often in a small tank surrounded by delicious fry. The nagging temptation to devour them is too strong to ignore.

Tank space prohibit me from allocating an entire tank, no matter how small, to a single fish who may dawdle for weeks then eat her fry, especially when she was better off in her home tank anyway.

Malawi Mbuna are not exactly the most difficult fish to spawn. In fact, some people refer to them as "beginner" fish. Allow me to make an analogy. My Aunt is a Master Gardener and a member of a local Hosta club whose president once paid \$500 for a single hosta plant. (I saw it. I don't get it.) As a novice I was a little confused. "Aren't gardeners always dividing them in the fall because they spread so easily?" I asked. Then I was informed that the easily propagated ones are department store "junk" and that only skilled gardeners can propagate the "good ones". "Oh," I said.

Similarly I believe there are some Mbuna that will gladly breed in the bag on the way home from the swap-meet, but the "good ones" are a little more finicky. While *Iodotropheus sprengerae* "Rusties" are likely to spawn despite less than ideal care, my proven *Pseudotropheus* Zebra Kawanga refuse to spawn despite years of proper (in my opinion) care. When Mbuna spawn it's not all luck. You must have done something right. Somehow the water chemistry, nutrition, tank-mates etc. must have been right before the spawn, they'll probably still be right after the spawn. I recommend leaving Mom right where she was happy

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enough to spawn.

Stripping is the manual removal of eggs or fry from a female mouth-brooders buccal cavity. It is a somewhat controversial practice with breeders often passionately divided on the subject. If this is done, then when is the appropriate time?

Often eggs are stripped shortly after fertilization and tumbled by air bubbles to simulate the mothers "churning" and prevent them from becoming fungused. This is done to prevent Mom from going without food for the full term and enable her to become "ripe" again sooner. By reducing the wear and tear on her body this practice can greatly increase productivity and extend a female's productive years. But is it natural to deprive her of this essential function? Hasn't nature predisposed mouth-brooders to endure fasting while brooding? Is it possible that it is even beneficial?

Eggs are also tumbled when a female has a history of being unable or unwilling to brood properly. Eggs are rescued before something stupid happens (spitting or swallowing). I believe that if a female is unable or unwilling to brood properly something stupid already has happened. Why is she unwilling or unable? Is it genetic or (the lack of) learned behavior? I believe a lot of important nature and nurture stuff goes on in the buccal cavity. Eggs that would not have survived "naturally" but are preserved "unnaturally" may become adult females that lack the intrinsic and/or learned ability to properly brood its own fry. One way or another (or both) the behavioral defect is perpetuated and possibly reinforced. Is it possible? I tend to think so. Ask angel fish breeders about strains that have "forgotten" how to breed.



Labidochromis caeruleus

© 2003 Robert De Leon

Photo by Robert De Leon

In my humble opinion there's no better place for developing fry than in Mom's mouth and there's no better place for a brooding female than home. As ethical hobbyists we have two conflicting objectives: Mom's welfare and the kids' welfare. I don't think one comes completely at the expense of another, but there is a trade-off. In my experience the method that compromises the least is stripping free-swimming fry at around eighteen days (species and individual specific) then returning Mom immediately to her home.

Mom benefits by being relieved of duty at an appropriate time. If allowed to release on her own in the aquarium she may hold much longer in hopes that the tank will become "safe" if she waits long enough. I have had yellow labs hold for well over 30 days and remain permanently emaciated and never spawn again. I have

heard of *Labeotropheus Trewavasae* that held until they died of starvation because the tank never got "safe". Mom is allowed to enjoy healthy interaction and preserves her position in the pecking order.

The fry get the benefit of the full stay in the hopper and all the nature/nurture stuff that comes with it. Once out, they are able to swim, eat and

hide.

The hobbyist gets the satisfaction of knowing he/she is at least attempting to duplicate nature's ways and yielding a high percent of the fry.

The obvious (and possibly only) compromise that I concede is that stripping is not exactly a "natural" finish to an otherwise "natural" process. Due to the challenges of breeding fish from a lake in an aquarium I consider the resulting compromise a warranted one at best and, at worse, the lesser of four evils.

# Pundamilia nyererei of Mwanza

— by Greg Steeves

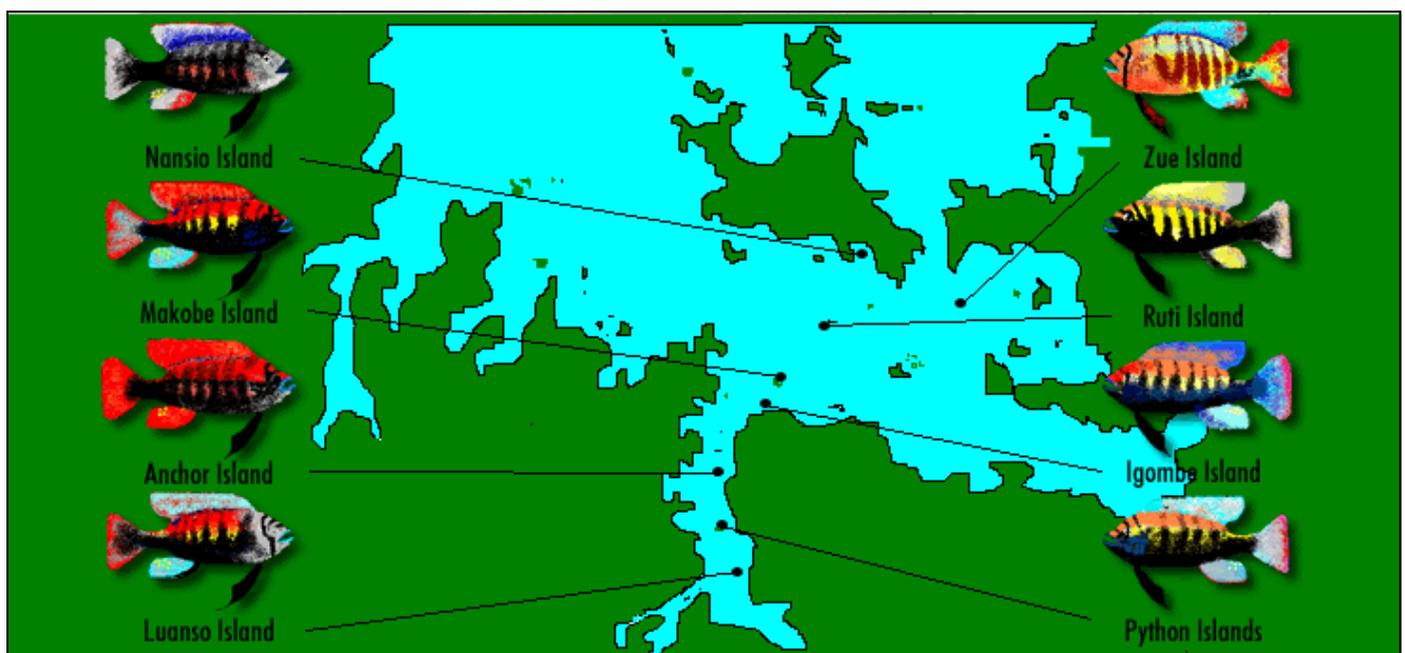
The Pundamilia complex of animals contains some of the most beautiful brightly colored organisms found in Lake Victoria. This genus is in constant revision and most individuals of this grouping are recognized by where they are found rather than an adopted name. I feel as work progresses with Pundamilia, we will see an entire revision of this genus with species, sub-species, and locale variants. Identifying an individual nyererei is important to the hobbyist because all fish in this grouping will interbreed. We must do everything we can to ensure our strains are as pure as possible. Some Pundamilia nyererei may be extinct in the wild and most are certainly threatened to some extent. There may be no going back to the wild to collect these fish so it is our responsibility to do everything we can to propagate true lines. Never mix variants of Pundamilia.

Pundamilia nyererei are not large fish. Maximum length is around three inches with the females usually being a bit smaller. Nearly all the female Pundamilia nyererei, regardless of locale, look similar. Basic coloration consists of a tan brown body with straight vertical striping. Fins are translucent and colorless for the most part with slight tingeing of blue in the dorsal fin. It is the males of this species which we concentrate on because color and body patterning is unique enough to

be able to pin down what variant we are dealing with. Pundamilia have a nearly straight slope to the forehead. The mouth contains three to five rows of randomly spaced bicuspid and unicuspid teeth. Along the lateral line nyererei have small, deeply embedded scales. This is very evident when comparing these fish along side any of the Paralabidochromis species. All males of this complex are brightly colored, with red being predominant in most cases. Throughout the southern portion of Lake Victoria, Pundamilia nyererei are restricted to small pockets where it would appear that they have evolved as an isolated group. The most obvious barrier that keeps differing nyererei locales from interacting is open water. These fish frequent the shallows where they feed mostly on the small creatures associated with algal growths. There are local populations far removed from each other that are similarly colored, but it is unlikely that these fish came from a common ancestor. More likely, this is a case of parallel evolution.

One species of fish formerly known as Pundamilia "zebra" nyererei has been reclassified as Pundamilia pundamilia. This closely related species also has a number of locale variants and is subject to revision as

*(Continued on page 11)*



well. I only mention this fish because I will not be including it or mentioning it further. If you are trying to identify your nyererei, and it is a black fish with vertical barring, blue dorsal trimmed in red, anal and tail fin red as well, you are probably dealing with a *Pundamilia pundamilia*, not *Pundamilia nyererei*.

Keep in mind when reading the following species descriptions that these observations were mostly made on dominant males in full breeding dress. Differentiation is much more obvious this way. *Pundamilia nyererei* show individual color fluctuations depending on mood as well as some variation between individuals. This guide should be used as an outline and if your nyererei varies slightly, this is perfectly understandable within this genus.

## Locale variants of *Pundamilia nyererei*:

### Igombe Island

**Head coloration:** The head fashions a bright red forehead that fades to orange as it recedes into the back portion of the body. A bright blue band rims the top lip. A black bar extends from the bottom of the jaw and ends at the top of the eyeball. A single thin black bar curves the forehead between the eyes.

**Body coloration:** Seven wide black bars located from behind the gill plate to the caudal peduncle. Barring fades 3/4 of the way to the dorsal. The underside is solid black. Mid sections of the body are bright yellow. Back portion is orange and fades to yellow towards the tail. Caudal peduncle is dark, almost black.

**Fin coloration:** The dorsal begins at the first body bar just behind the gills. The bottom portion is colored orange 2/3rds

of the way back. A blue line begins at the first dorsal ray and turns blue-green as it progresses towards the tail. The tail portion of the dorsal fin is totally blue with no orange left at all. The anal fin is bright blue with 3-5 egg spots. Pelvic fins are jet black. The tail fin is translucent tinted blue with a dull red trim on the end. Top portion of the dorsal is lighter than the rest of the fin and a yellow color.



Igombe Island  
Photo by Greg Steeves

### Python Island

**Head coloration:** Orange forehead. Jaw region is dark blue. A thick black bar runs from the bottom of the jaw, through the eye on a slant and around the forehead. A dominant black bar runs across the forehead between the eyes. Gill plates are blotched black.

**Body coloration:** Four dominant black bars mark the body. A black bar is also found behind the gill plate but blotched in a manner that it is not as evident as the more defined bars on the body. There is a bar on the caudal peduncle as well but again, not as defined as the four that adorn the body. The thick barring fades to a thin line 3/4 up the body towards the dorsal. Back portions of the body are a dull orange. Yellow body portions are evident between the thick black bars but are also blotched black along the lateral line. Underside of the fish is jet black. The orange of the back extends through the caudal peduncle and ends where the dorsal fin begins.



Python Island  
Photo by Greg Steeves

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**Fin Coloration:** The dorsal fin is light blue almost white with tinges of orange at the front half. Dorsal fades to almost translucent towards the tail. Anal fin is brightly colored a vibrant blue that fades to red away from the body. Four to seven egg spots adorn the back portion. Tail fin has bright blue fin rays that fade into red as they reach the end. Tail fin is blue 2/3 and red 1/3. Pelvic fins are the same black coloration as the belly portion of the body.

### Makobe Island

**Head coloration:** Top and bottom lips are rimmed bright blue. From the top of the lip, through the eye, and to beyond the gill plate is black. Forehead is brightly colored deep red. Thin black bar runs between the eyes. Thick black bar runs around the forehead fading towards the back portion of the eye. A third black bar runs around the back portion of the head where the dorsal slope begins.

**Body coloration:** Five distinct thick black bars run from the belly 2/3's up the body. Another bar is located behind the gill plate but is obscured by the black cheeks. The barring on the caudal peduncle is not evident as the portion of the body from the beginning of the anal fin to the tail fin is predominately black.

Bright yellow body markings are evident along the lateral line. The top portion of the back is the same bright red coloration found in the forehead. Faded traces of black run to the dorsal from the body bars. The black under side extends to engulf the full back section of the fish with just a hint of red running along the top of the caudal peduncle.

**Fin coloration:** The dorsal fin is bright red, the same coloration as the top of the body. The last 5 dorsal spines are colored blue and contrast clearly with the rest of the fin. The tail is a solid red with blue tinges in the rays along the middle of the fin. The anal fin is sky blue with an orange tinge contained in the first 3 fin rays. Three to seven egg spots are found near the back portions of the tail. Pelvic fins are solid black with the first 2 fin rays extending beyond the others.



Makobe Island  
Photo by Robert De Leon

*The rest of the species will be described in the next issue. They include Ruti Island, Nansio Island, Anchor Island, Zue Island and Luanso Island.*

**Artwork property of Greg Steeves and [www.africancichlids.net](http://www.africancichlids.net).**

## Friends of the HCCC

— by Robert De Leon

It is unusual to find businesses that will support fish clubs. Many feel that with the fish trading amongst club members, sales will suffer. That feeling is certainly understandable.

However, some businesses see things differently. They understand that clubs only help the hobby. A new fish owner

is more likely to stay with the hobby if they find support through the difficult first months. How many times have we read or heard of people that try to hobby only to quite within a few months? Mostly do to fish deaths and not being able to find others with the same interest.

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While searching for fish stores that are willing to support/promote our club, we encountered both ends of the spectrum. Some stores couldn't wait to get us out of the store for fear that other customers may hear about the club. Others were willing to tolerate our existence. Yet some jumped in with both feet in support of our club.

They realize that although we trade fish with each other, we also tend to purchase more fish and fish supplies. They also know that responsible/successful fish keeping is good for business.

Last month we had our first meeting at a fish store that supports our club. Not

only were we welcome to meet, talk and exchange fish, we were also treated to a cookout provided by our host; Carlos of River City Aquatics.

Carlos not only provided a venue for us to meet, but also pledged his support to our upcoming auction. Carlos pulled a few strings with product manufacturers resulting in some raffle items for the auction.

Next time we are in the market for some items, please support those that support us. We benefit tremendously from their support, the least we can do is patron their stores.

Below is a list of businesses that have expressed support for the Hill Country Cichlid Club. If they are near you, please stop by and let them know that they are appreciated.

- **River City Aquatics**  
Austin, TX
- **Amazonia**  
Austin, TX
- **Armke's Rare Aquarium Fish**  
New Braunfels, TX
- **Alamo Aquatic Pets**  
San Antonio, TX
- **CB Pets**  
Spring Branch, TX
- **Lisa's Lair Bookstore**  
Online books

## **River City Aquatics**

*a proud supporter of the HCCC*

**Member discounts:**

**25% off livestock**

**15% off dry goods / 10% off aquariums**

**12108 Roxie Dr., Suite D**

**Austin, TX**

**(512)219-7200**

# HCCC Monthly Photo Contest (cont.)

(Continued from page 3)

plex problems plaguing Lake Victoria. Probably the best way for individuals and organizations to make a difference, is to assist in funding this research. It is important to for the aquarist to properly maintain and propagate species which may be extinct in nature. It's a part of the genetic patrimonial.

**GS:** What is the Association Haplochromis? Is it accessible to everyone?

**YF:** We have founded the Association Haplochromis primarily to study, breed, obtain, and provide information for the captive maintenance and to diffuse proper strains of haplochromine among aquarists. We would like also like to present all ecological and human context concerning this part of Africa. Of course, this As-

sociation is available to everyone who will respect the spirit and goals of the Association. If you are interested in participating in the association, please visit and explore the site. [www.haplochromis.org](http://www.haplochromis.org)

**GS:** What other areas of study have you been involved with?

**YF:** I have worked on other African fish (ecology, behavior, systematics) and recently, I have worked with the fish of French Guyana.

**GS:** Thanks as always for your time Yves. We would love to have you come to Texas to talk to our club in person. Is there any possibility of this happening in the future?

**YF:** Joker.



Haplochromis sp. 44  
By Christopher Kolman

Haplochromis sp Kenya Gold  
By Dave Hansen

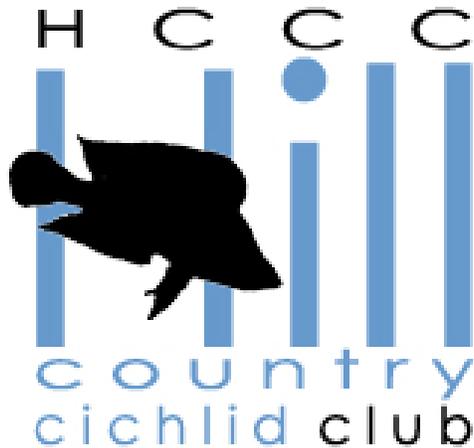


Pundamilia igneopinnis  
By Dave Hansen



P. nyererei Igombe Is.  
By Greg Steeves

All photos cropped for layout purposes



# HCCC Cichlid Day Fish Auction

The Hill Country Cichlid Club would like to invite fish enthusiasts to join us for our fish auction. Hobbyists and professionals will be bringing fish and other items. Non-members are welcome to attend and take part.

**Event:** Cichlid Day Auction

**Date:** Saturday October 23, 2004

**Time:** 12:00pm until it's over

**Location:** Bracken United Methodist  
Church Fellowship Hall  
20377 FM2252  
San Antonio, TX

- Fish Auction
- Dry Goods
- Raffle Items
- Cash Only Please

**For maps and more information as it becomes available, visit our website at: [www.xdeleon.com/hccc](http://www.xdeleon.com/hccc)**