

“CORYDORAS, CARE AND BREEDING”

Talk by Vern Cloud, SWAMAS, Dec. 2013



Corydoras Sterbae

BREEDING

There are about 150 species of Corydoras catfish, including Brochis, Aspidoras, and Scleromystax. They come from varied river habitats and conditions, and Vern gave an excellent overview of this group of fishes. He has bred many species in this group, including some very difficult ones. Breeding setups for them often can be normal lighting, many plants (he especially likes to use anubias), spawning mops (floating and sinking), soft water, and a sponge filter. For darkwater species he adds leaves or peat extract and reduces the light by covering 3 sides of the tank with black plastic. Sometimes a powerhead will provide current to stimulate spawning. Corys will lay their eggs in the warmer, darker areas of the aquarium and the eggs of all corys and newly hatched fry are very sensitive to light, so keep them dark. Poor hatch rates occur often when the eggs are exposed to light. Look for the eggs, as they may be hidden or scattered around the aquarium, depending on species. Vern prepares corys for breeding by “resting” them for several weeks with cooler water, less food (no live food), and few water changes. When he is ready to breed them, he warms the water, feeds massive amounts of black worms, and does several large water changes. Other spawning triggers to try include increased aeration, other live foods and frozen brine shrimp, adding oak leaves, and increasing day length. He picks the eggs off the glass with a razor, and from the plants and mops, and places them in RO water in a

container with methylene blue, aeration, and in a dark location. He changes water daily and picks out the infertile eggs with an eyedropper, but doesn't add more methylene blue.

RAISING

The eggs and fry are sensitive to cold water, so keep the temperature constant. The eggs hatch in 2-5 days and snails and Java Moss can be added after they hatch to help clean up. 2 days after hatching the fry will begin to eat and microworms are good to start with, soon following with newly hatched brine shrimp. When feeding the fry in a small container, he feeds and does water changes 2-3 times a day and culls dead or malformed fry with an eyedropper. Right away he begins to slowly acclimate the fry to tap water by adding 1/6 tap water to the RO water with the first water change, increasing the percentage with each water change. The water should be only 2-4 inches deep to begin with, and slowly increased in depth as they are moved to larger aquaria. The fry like to hide under the sponge filter and may get trapped, so use stones or marbles to elevate it. The fry at first do well on just baby brine shrimp, but later it is best to feed a variety of foods, including frozen brine shrimp and fine flake foods. Vern feels that adult corys can be "spoiled" by feeding blackworms too much and too often, and they will not lay many eggs if fed them constantly.

Chase Klinesteker