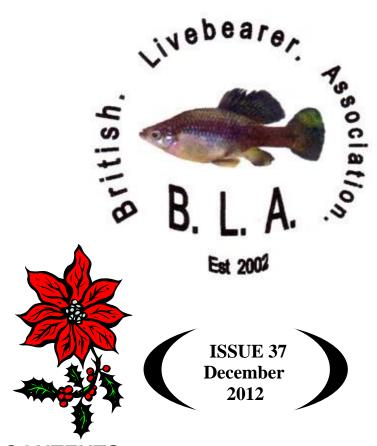
Livebearer News

Official Members Magazine of the BRITISH LIVEBEARER ASSOCIATION



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Editorial by Paddy Davies

We are finally at the end of the year, I have enjoyed putting the magazine together this year and would like to thank both readers and contributors alike. It was especially nice to meet a lot of you at the convention this year, I had a great time and look forward to the various livebearer events set up for next year.

In this issue you will find articles on transporting fish with Kordon Breathing bags, visits to fish houses, unidentified fish, highly scientific articles on nomenclature (sort of...) as well as the normal stuff.

I want to particularly thank Alan Rothwell for photocopying old copies of Viviparous magazine for us, and Pat Lambert for giving us permission to re publish them. there are many wonderful articles that deserve to be re read. The first of which appears here.

Have a fantastic Christmas,

Paddy

B.L.A. Members Subs,

This is a reminder that all Memberships are due for January 2013, please note if payment is not received from you, the March issue will not be sent and you will not receive any Magazines in 2013 until your payment is received Thank you.

Thank you to all those that have paid during the convention and online at the www.brishlivebearersasscoation.co.uk website link, you can also post by snail mail to Chris Cheswright address below, Memberships is £12.00 by email, £16.00 by postal and £22.00 sterling by post outside UK (increased due to rising postal charges). please note any payments sent to Don Kenwood will be forwarded to

Mr C Cheswright

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Essex

SS12 9DT

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We look forward to hearing from you soon Merry

Christmas and Happy New year

regards The Committee

Chairmans Message

by Chris Cheswright

The request for this report seems to get closer but that is because Paddy is determined to get this magazine out on time. Behind the scenes the committee have been doing there best to make sure what you get is worthwhile. In that respect this is the last publication you will receive if you have not paid your subs for 2013- we have given you a free year due to problems in the previous year so now it is time to cough up.

I would like to thank Don Kenwood for his years as treasurer as he has decided to step down from the position. I am anticipating a standing committee member to take this on (hopefully on a temporary basis) until we can find a replacement. Don has been in the hobby for a long time and I can remember back to visits down to the Bristol area and Nailsea when I was a teenager and remember Don in his days as a judge. He has stuck with the livebearers through thick and thin and I am assured we have not seen the last of him. He has a particular

interest in Gambusias and has made links with hobbyists in Europe. It is essential that we keep links with fellow keepers otherwise it ends up with only one person in control of a species and we know what can happen there. Thanks Don, your efforts and support have been greatly received.

We go ever onward and I would like to see 2013 as a better stable year building on this year's foundations. We will be holding an event in the spring near Sheffield and will ensure that all members receive information in good time. The convention in Kettering was a great success and we will continue with such joint ventures with our cultivated brethren.

Well, although Christmas is not my favourite time of year, have a good one and hope to see you in the New Year.

.

Understanding Scientific Names

by Clive Walker

The names of all creatures come from the dead (I wished it was also buried at school) and now 'international' language of Latin and some Greek.

Understanding the names tells us something about our fish. *Scatophagus argus* means many eyed dung eater - *argus* from the Greek god who had eyes all over his head, referring to the fish's many spots gives this part of the description while the rest of the name tells us what to feed it.

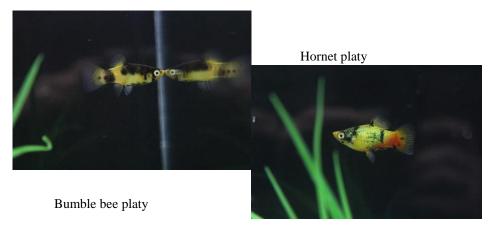
Turning to livebearers we find that *Xiphophorus* means sword bearing and *maculatus* spotted. This tells us that *X. maculatus* is a sword bearing spotted fish. Isn't science wonderful! (Tell that to the sunset platy! - Ed)

There follows a list of a few definitions that may be of help:

Magnum Opus - A large Irish cat (fish)

- Carpentry a way in for ornamental fish
- Zoogonecticus quitzeoensis what on earthwere we drinking last night!
- Zoogonecticus tequila could have been this stuff!
- Carpe Diem fish of the day (best fish in show?)

I hope this has been of help.



Pictures A.Dunne

Transporting Fish using Kordon Breathing Bags by Stephen Elliott

Kordon®Breathing Bags™ are a fantastic way of transporting guppies and other livebearers, especially when a flight or extended time is necessary.

The technology was first developed in space/military research and was refined to produce the bags that we have today by Kordon together with plastics & chemical engineers.

The Breathing Bags allow the transfer of gas molecules through the plastic wall of the bag, carbon dioxide and oxygen in particular. As long as there is a breathable atmosphere outside the Breathing Bag, the guppies inside will not run out of oxygen.

Carbon dioxide exits the bags at 4 times the rate oxygen enters the bags, thereby constantly purging the water of toxic carbon dioxide and allowing oxygen to

replace it in the water. Prior to this invention, the only bags available for shipping guppies were made of ordinary polyethylene. When using these "barrier" bags, oxygen must be added as a gas inside the bag prior to sealing and shipment. However, this process has many problems including:

- high concentrations of oxygen can cause flammable conditions
- the presence of oxygen gas inside the bag takes up a lot of valuable shipping space
- once the supplied oxygen is used up there is no more available,
- toxic carbon dioxide from the fishes' breathing builds up in the water, displacing the oxygen
- the oxygenated air in the bags may not be satisfactory for fishes' breathing, because the bottled oxygen can be contaminated
- a bag partially full of water with the rest filled with oxygen allows the contents to slosh during transport, stressing fishes.

After adding water and a fish to the Breathing Bag, seal the bag with no airspace. I prefer to do this with a knot rather than with an elastic band. Breathing bags can be sealed using all of the current methods: rubber bands, twist ties, metal clips, etc.

The fish adapt readily to the lack of an airspace and so an airspace is not needed. It is best if there is no air pocket in the bag so that there is no water movement, keeping the fishes calmer with less stress. An unneeded air space also uses up valuable shipping space.

.

Breathing Bags function well when packed in conventional Polystyrene or cardboard boxes. These boxes have a high rate of breathability, even if these containers are sealed with tape. Air is normally over 21% oxygen, which is over 210,000 ppm (parts per million). Aquatic invertebrates and fishes normally have only about 4-14 ppm oxygen available to them in water.

It takes only a small amount of air passing through the packaging materials to sufficiently oxygenate the water in the Breathing Bags. This is even true for shipping boxes in an air cargo space that is not pressurized. There is sufficient oxygen at higher altitudes for the aquatic life in the Breathing Bags.

Higher temperatures increase the "breathability" of the bags - the rate at which oxygen and carbon dioxide is exchanged.

When packing individual bags in shipping boxes, it is best to separate each bag, such as with flat pieces of corrugated cardboard or layers of newspaper,

wrapping paper etc so that as much bag surface area as possible is exposed to the air in the shipping container. These materials are completely porous to air and oxygen.

Breathing Bags should not be shipped inside a "barrier" type plastic liner bag. The barrier effect of the outer non-breathing bag will prevent the Breathing Bags from performing properly.

During tests, fishes, both freshwater and marine, have survived for one month and more in shipment, including on successive flights and land transportation. However this is no excuse for extended periods of containment in the breathable bags and as with every transportation of guppies the journey time should be kept to a minimum.





Pictures Nigel Hunter

A Visit to a Goodeid Paradise (in a Shed) by Paddy Davies

Gary Randall is a well known hobbyist having been keeping fish for sinc 1978, and he has specialised in Goodeids for X of them. Like many, he started with a goldfish won at the local fairground. However, it wasn't long before he got bored of the goldfish and I wanted to move onto Topical fish, setting up a small fish room containing a 8, 3ft tanks he kept and bred a number of different cichlids, also keeping common swordtails and guppies, soon he had specialised in livebearers. By the mid 80's the number of fish tanks had grown to 60, 30 tanks inside the house and 30 tanks outside in the shed. A house extension gave extra room so all the tanks and livebeares in one place.

10 years ago Gary decided that he wanted more fish tanks so built a fish house/ shed outside, giving him the space for more tanks and also allowing more space to keep and breed all the different types of live foods that's important to maintain goodeied in good health.



Gary's first goodeied was *X.eiseni*, when visiting a local fish shop in the 80's he was fascinated by their shape and colour that he had to buy some, followed fairly quickly by *Ameca splendens*, 1992 saw Gary join his first fish club and visited lots of fish shows, meeting many fish keepers and and gaining contacts both in the uk and around the world.

Gary has kept most of the goodeids long term and taken many years to build up his collection of 50 species/populations of goodeids this would not of been possible without the help of many friends and dedicated fish keepers,

I had been looking forward to seeing his fishroom properly as last time I visited I was in a hurry and did not get a good look around. First the stats, this is Gary's 4th fish house, the first one was a small but well designed on just off the kitchen, however it was also the main route to the bathroom, as you can imagine this combination of fishroom/corridor really had to change. So the shed was commandeered and is much more suitable, apart from having to go outside on cold winter evenings. The family prefer it as well as they were getting a bit fed up of the sweet smell of microworm cultures!

There are 120 tanks in his fish house, more than many Aquarium shops. There are over 50 separate populations of Goodeids, a few Poecilids and a few other types of fish he has picked up here and there. Also as you walk about you can discover his dirty secret – a love of guppies, they are everywhere.





The space is tight, the tanks are laid out in two aisles with a row of tanks in between. The aisles are only about 6 foot high and 18 inches to 2 foot wide, however the tanks are religiously maintained and brimming with fish. An air pump and air powered filters are used, many of these are basic home made gravel filled units, basic maybe, but there is no doubt they do the job perfectly. Water changes are performed weekly





Characodon audax 'el toboso' Homemade filter

Male Xenotoca melanosma and

With so many fish, it is impossible to notice all pregnant females and to save all fry, for this reason Gary will observe his colonies regularly and give special attention to ensuring that each consists of a good mix of ages and sexes. He has a very good record of maintaining species for many years, often species become briefly popular and then disappear a few years later, Gary is one of those people who ensures it does not disappear from the hobby.

If you are into Goodeids this is an Aladdin's cave with representatives of the following Genera being kept; Allodonticthys Ataeniobius Allophorus Allotoca Ameca Characodon Chapalicthys Goodea Giradinicthys Illyodon Skiffia

Xenotaenia

Xenotoca Xenophorus

Zoogeneticus

This fish house is home to several very rare fish, for me this was the first time I had seen Albino *Chapalicthys encaustus* and *Allodonticthys hubbsi*.

I would like to thank Gary for the invitation to his fish house, the coffee and for freely giving up his time to answer my endless questions.



Photo Kim Jones robustus

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Committee member: Clive Walker Committee member: Steve Elliott Committee member: Carl Stewart

Data Protection Act

In order to comply with the requirements of the Data Protection Act, we need to inform members that their name, address, e-mail address and telephone number are being maintained on a database, the purpose of which is for the distribution of the Association's magazine and to inform members of forthcoming events. This information will not be provided to any other organisation for any purpose whatsoever without prior consultation.

The Association agrees to remove any details at a member's request.

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All views expressed herein are the opinions of the contributor and do not necessarily reflect the views or opinions of the BLA.

The print date for the next issue is 10th March 2013, could all contributors please ensure that articles are provided to the Editor by the 28th of Febuary 2013.

Members sales and wanted:

Sales and Wanted:

Trevor Williams:

Available fish:

Limia tridens, Limia nigrofasciata, Limia melonagaster, Limia zonata, Limia sp,tiger, Girardinus falcatus, Phalecerous caudomaculatus, Xiphophorus multilneatus, Xiphophorus milleri, Poecilia salvatori(liberty), and Poecilia butteri

Please note I currently have very limited numbers available.

Please email: trevsfish@fishthw.plus.com

Clive Hawkins, Bristol:

Available fish:

Poeciliopsis gracilis media luna, Xiphophorus helleri 'Golden Stream, Belize' Ameca splendens Wild Guppies

Wanted:

Pair or Trio Phallicthys amates amates male Brachyraphis terrabensis Pair or Trio Belesonox belizianus Pair or Trio Xiphophorus nezyhuacotyl pair or trio Xiphophorus variatus pair or trio Xiphophorus maculatus

Email: clivehawkins52@yahoo.co.uk or mobile 07900218170 home 01179638478

Clive Walker:

Available fish:

Illyodon xantusi & Chapalichthys pardalis both at £4.00 a pair or less.

Email: clivewalker076@gmail.com or call 07780 996557.

Wild livebearers at the 2012 convention.

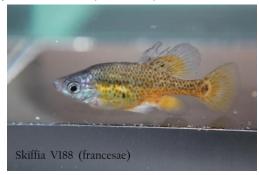
by Chris Cheswright

Many thanks to those members who donated fish for the wild Livebearer show at the convention in Kettering. A lot more fish than in recent years and some very good prices paid in the auction with all the proceeds going to the BLA. We will do the show this way again to warn the rest of you out there.

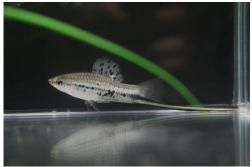
To quickly run through the winners;

The Goodeid class was won by *Ilyodon xantusi* entered by Clive Walker- great fish when they have got past the scrawny teenage phase. Second and third went to Nigel Hunter with *Skiffia sp. Sayula* and *Xenoophorus captivus*.





The Xiphophorus class had 8 entries with first and 2nd going to Michael Faint with superb pairs of X.signum and X. montezumae. Third went Clive Walker with X. cortezi. It seems at times that many species are only being kept by one or two people successfully and we should be mindful of what happens when someone leaves the hobby or has a disaster.





Xiph. montezumae

X.cortezi

Other species.

First went to Clive Walker's *Phallichthys pitteri*- a genus of fish that are great showers. Second to Alan Lusby's *Limia melanogaster*- once a staple fish back in the 1960's and now somewhat a rarity. Third went to a pair that may be should have been put in the cultivated class? A pair of *Girardinus metallicus* where the black chin and yellow forms had been crossed. A nice looking male but we would have to see what results occur when they drop.

Cultivated Livebeaers (other than Guppies).

All the fish were entered by Paddy and demonstrated the exploits of modern breeders in coming up with some interesting colour varieties of Platies and Swords.

Breeders.

All the entries were Goodeids. First and third going to Clive Walker with *Ilyodon xantus*i and *Chapalichthy pardalis*. Second went to Alan Lusby with *Xenotoca eiseni*.

Thanks to Peter Burgess for the donation of Aquarian food for prizes.



Collecting Poecilia chica by Pat Lambert

This article was originally published in Viviparous issue 1, January 1988 - the first issue of the magazine the Livebearer Information Service, a society set up by the late Derek Lambert and Pat Lambert. Pat has Kindly given us permission to reproduce articles in this magazine. In this issue I have reproduced two articles on *Poecilia chica*. I would like to thank Alan Rothwell for photocopying his magazines and forwarding them for us to use.

Over the last six years concern has been expressed about *Poecilia chica* circulating in the hobby. A slide of a fish purporting to be this species was sent to us by an American fellow aquarist who had expressed doubts about the purity of that strain. The doubts relating to the species led us personally to ban the entry of all *Poecilia chica* from our fishhouse. This was a pity as it is our favourite Molly being small, lively and attractive.

We decided in early 1987 that if we wanted this species we would have to collect it ourselves therefore we changed our collecting trips route to encompass an area where there was a good chance of capturing this

species. August 16th saw us heading to Autlan in Jalisco for the Pacific coast, about an hour's drive from Autlan we canme to a junction signposted to Purification off to the right. Turning down this side road we travelled for about 5km before we came to a tributary of the Rio purification, this river was about 15 feet wide and 6 feet deep at the collection site. It had a muddy bottomand only a slow moving current at this point. There was very heavy plant growth which included Water hyacinth and rushes etc. We caught a *poeciliopsis* species at the surface and poecilia chica in mid water. There were cichlids at the bottom but we threw these back.

We collected about 20 *Poecilia chica* of various sizes. Only three survived the journey home – they arrived healthy and lively and, as they grew, two sexed out as males. We waited anxiously for the third. Was it wishful thinking or was the body taking on the more rounded shape of a female? We crossed everything and waited. In the end it did indeed ecide to be a female. She has now produced two broods of fry. The first was only 8 fry but the second was 12 but doubtless brood sizes will increase as she grows.

Poecilia chica Information sheet

Family; Poecilidae Synonyms; None Range: Mexico

Dorsal Fin Ray Count; 6-8

Subgenus; Mollienesia

Size; Males 3cm Females 3.5cm

Introduction to the UK: In the late 1970's this species was introduced to the U.K. By the early 1980's Hybrids with *Poecilia sphenops*, *Limia melanogaster* and other closely related species were freely circulating with in the hobby. As a result of this no stocks established in the UK at that time should be completely trusted.

Spotting a hybrid: This is always a very tricky subject. However two factors make this job easier with *P.chica* than it might otherwise be The name 'Chica' comes direct from the Spanish meaning small and refers

both to the body size and the fin size. Therefore fish which have large dorsal fins are immediately suspect. One of the unique features of this species which is always a dead give away is the gravid spot. When females have just dropped their fry the gravid spot is dark and prominent. But when the females are heavily gravid the spot disappears almost completely. This is the reverse to most members of the *Poecilia* genus and is one of the first to be affected by hybridisation.

Description; When displaying, the alpha male turns almost jet black which is overlaid with gold and green highlights in rows along the body. The other males are in general a chocolate brown with some brassy highlights. The fins in these males, while having some brown spotting are very pale when compared to the alpha male. The females are a chocolate brown on the back, fading to white on the belly. The belly is overlaid with the most beautiful violet colouration in sunlight. Along the midlateral Line is a dark brown stripe, above whichis a golden sheen in both sexes.

I Unidentified Goodeid from Czech Republic by Clive Walker

At the September 2011 ASAS show I was offered a 'livebearer' that had come in from the Czech Republic with some *Aphyosemion australae*. It had apparently "ripped to pieces" the *A. australae*. I assumed it was probably *Gambusia affinis* and arranged to collect it at Hounslow Show later in the month.



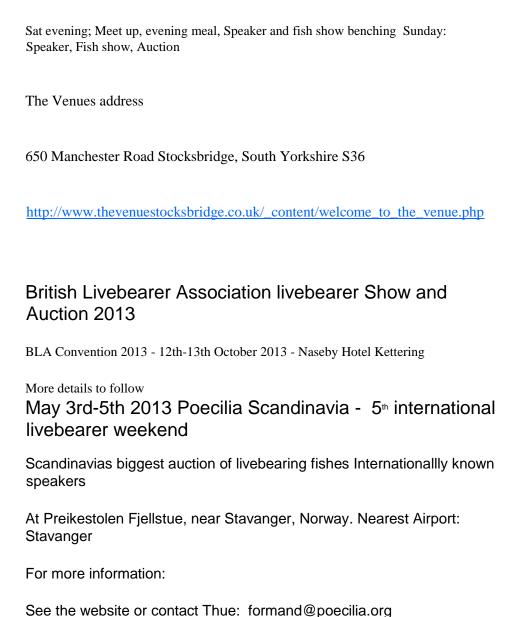
It was a Goodeid around 18mm long, silver with two rows of spots. It looks a lot like Chapalicthys pardalis. I had some in the show and for sale a lot of people thought it was C.pardalis..lt differs from my C.pardalis in having less spots, a silver background (as opposed to tan) and a crescent marking on the caudal peduncal, it also has largeish spots in the tail. None of the photos in my books show any of the species of Chapalichthys with spots in the tail. Picture 8 on page 23 of Lothar Wischnath's 'Atlas' shows a female Ameca Splendens, this fish is almost identical to mine having very similar tail markings and in addition there is a part crescent in the peduncal area. The problem is that a lot of Goodeidae look similar. I put it in a 18" tank which contained a few guppy fry. The fry were left alone for three days and then all gone. I've kept A. Splendens but have not seen the level of aggresion this fish seems to have. It could be it was just hungery when the importer recieved it. By the time you read this it should be safely housed in one of Nigel Hunter's tanks and maybe positively identified. On the subject of identification Xiphophorus Nezahualcoyot are comming in from the Cech Republic as X. Multilineatus. I think we shall be seeing a lot of 'odd livebearers from there and the correct ID could be a problem. The Skiffia Multipuntata I've seen are correctly named

April 6 / 7 Spring Auction of the British Livebearer Association and Mini Convention (New)

We have preliminarily booked the Spring auction and mini convention for the 6/7th April. The Fancy Guppies UK will be putting on a leg of their guppy league and several stands will be present for all your fish keeping needs

Further details are as follows

Planned Itinarary:



The Last Show at Weston-Super-Mare

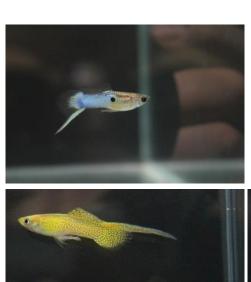
by John Smith

I am an aquarist whose main interest is in livebearing fish. This is mainly due to people like the greatly missed Aquarists; Mervyn Strange, Derek Lambert and Ivan Dibble.

I went to the recent Festival of Fishkeeping show in Weston hoping to see some livebearers, however I came away a little disappointed, however the stand from the viviparous guys did have a few of the more unusual species, including a few for sales. The usual stand of surplus fish from club members had a mix of species, both livebearers and egglayers. It was great to catch up with fellow enthusiasts including Keith Sollitt, Terry Hewitt, Dave Clarke and Alan Rothwell and have the opportunity to swap fish with them.

It was a good event, but I would have enjoyed it more if the UK Guppy Group had been their with their excellent stand and if the B.L.A had put on a stand.

Some of the Fish you missed at the convention 2012 photos A. Dunne ,Dai Jones





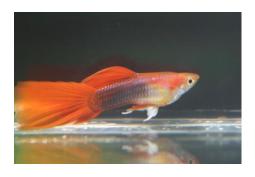












Who is keeping Zoogoneticus quitzeoensis?

By Nigel Hunter

Are you sure?

Most if not all *Zoogoneticus quitzeoensis* in the UK are from either Lake Chapala or La Luz both these locations are in fact *Zoogoeniticus purhepechus*

This is a very good reason why we should keep accurate records of fish we breed and distribute visually these fish are so similar that we need to rely on accurate records to be sure what we have and be meticulous with record keeping, so different populations are not mixed

The following list is a guide:

Zoogoneticus purhepechus come from the following locations

- La Luz in the UK hobby
- El Fuerte
- Lake Chapala in the UK hobby
- Rio Magdalena

Zoogoneticus quitzeoensis come from the following locations

- Laguna Zacapu
- La Mintzita Spring
- Rancho Nuevo
- Restlar La Isla Zamora
- Tarejero in the UK hobby

For the educated among us who understand here is a little bit of scientific information:



Z.quizeonsis **Abstract.** A genetic and morphometric study of populations of Zoogoneticus quitzeoensis (Bean, 1898) from the Lerma and Ameca

basins and Cuitzeo, Zacapu and

Ivan Dibble

Chapala Lakes in Central Mexico was conducted. For the genetic analysis, 7 populations were sampled and 2 monophyletic groups were identified with a genetic difference of DHKY= 3.4% (33.8%), one being the populations from the lower Lerma basin, Ameca and Chapala Lake, and the other populations from Zacapu and Cuitzeo Lakes. For the morphometric analysis, 4 populations were sampled and 2 morphotypes identified, 1 from La Luz Spring in the lower Lerma basin and the other from Zacapu and Cuitzeo Lakes drainages. Using these 2 sources of evidence, the population from La Luz is regarded as a new species Zoogoneticus purhepechus sp. nov. The new species differs from its sister species Zoogoneticus quitzeoensis in having a shorter preorbital distance (Prol/SL x = 0.056, SD =0.01), longer dorsal fin base length (DFL/SL x =0.18, SD = 0.03) and 13-14 rays in the dorsal fin. The new species differs from both members of its sister taxon (Zoogoneticus tequila and Z. *guitzeoensis*) at 10 fi xed nucleotide positions in the cytochrome *b* gene. We have determined that Zoogoneticus purhepechus is distributed in the lower Lerma, upper Ameca, Armeria and Santiago river basins, and Chapala Lake. This new species should be considered endangered of extinction according to the criteria of the MER (Aii, Bi, Ci, Di) and for the IUCN (A1,b,c,e).

The Hall the people Photos Dai Jones

















Guppy Copyright Alan Dunne Convention 2012



Xiphophorus nexycoytl Photo A. Dunne