

Livebearer News

Official Members Magazine of the
BRITISH LIVEBEARER ASSOCIATION



Issue 47
September
2016

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Editorial

Hello and welcome to Issue 47 of “*Livebearer News*”. Again I start with the usual plea for articles – I would be very grateful to receive anything about your experiences of keeping any livebearing species or about collecting trips or any other aspect of keeping livebearers. My email address and snail-mail address are at the back of this issue but if you don’t want to email me an article but can write it down on paper then I will type it up for you.

I attended the Southern Livebearer Aquatic Group section of the BLA open show and auction in Basingstoke in July and had a very enjoyable day. The first talk was about fish nutrition and how it affects the colour of our fish. The second talk was by our own Nigel Hunter. He talked about the problems faced by *Goodeid* livebearers in Mexico and what we as fish keepers can do and why we should do what we can. It was both thought provoking and entertaining and I am trying to persuade him to write it up as an article so that BLA members who could not attend can read his ideas for themselves.

The auction went well that day. I was headed for a holiday in the West Country after the show and so could not bid for any fish – which was very disappointing as some very desirable species were sold – several that I have never seen before. The two species of *Brachyrhaphis* and the *Xiphophorus* species were very nice and sold at reasonable prices. Hopefully, some of these will be in the next auction at the Autumn Convention in Kettering on the 8th and 9th October. Further details are in the “Diary Dates” section later in this issue. I hope to see you there.

Poecilia salvatoris REGAN 1907

N.B. This article first appeared in issue 22 of "Viviparous", the magazine of the Livebearer Information Service, in 1993 and is reproduced here with kind permission of Pat Lambert.

Family :- Poeciliidae GARMAN, 1895

Synonyms :- Poecilia sphenops VALENCIENNES, 1846

Range :- Atlantic slope of Guatemala and adjacent Honduras (in the Rio Motagua basin), the Pacific slope of eastern Guatemala, the Rio Lemba basin of El Salvador, coastal streams west of the Rio Lempa mouth, and some interior lakes of that country, such as Lakes Coatepeque and Ilopongo.

Common Name :- Liberty Molly

Size :- Males 6cm, Females 8cm

Introduction to the U.K. :- This species was first imported to the U.S.A. by Wm. A. Sternke and became widely distributed in the hobby at that time. More recently, a new collection of this species was made in the Copan District of Honduras and is now being distributed.

Description :- The fish pictured is a young male of the Copan collection which is just beginning to show the full colour of this beautiful molly species. When mature, the dorsal and caudal

fins of both sexes develop an intense red colouration towards their edges. Close to the body these fins are black and between these two colours is a band of yellowish to white vertical marks. When the fish is seen in sunlight the body is a lovely iridescent blue punctuated by horizontal rows of golden bronze to red spots from head to tail. The common name of Liberty Molly is derived from the colours red, white and blue.

Temperament and Care :- This is a lively, attractive molly which fits in well with other community fish of a similar size. They prefer a well planted aquarium with good filtration and water movement, but will adapt to most conditions. They eat all foods including live, frozen and flake but grow best if fed little and often rather than 1 or 2 large feeds a day. Despite the often quoted requirement of salt in their water, this species of Molly (in common with most) is quite happy in ordinary tap water providing it is not acidic. The temperature should be maintained at about 74 to 78°F [23.5 to 25.5°C].

The gestation period is about a month but this will depend on temperature and light. Longer periods of light coupled with warmer conditions produce the shortest gestation period whilst fewer hours of light coupled with cooler temperatures can virtually stop breeding altogether. Brood numbers start at about 15 and rise to over 100 when the female is fully adult. The fry are generally robust and grow quickly on live baby brine shrimp and growth foods. Once again, feeding the fry little but often will result in a much quicker growth rate.

Preventing hybrids :- This species was known as Poecilia sphenops for many years and the Liberty Molly was thought to be a hybrid between Poecilia sphenops and Poecilia mexicana, therefore, there are a number of hybrids

and mis-identified fish in the hobby. Generally, it is best to buy fish with collection data and maintain the different populations separately.



Diary dates



Fancy Guppies UK

European Championship Guppy Pairs Show

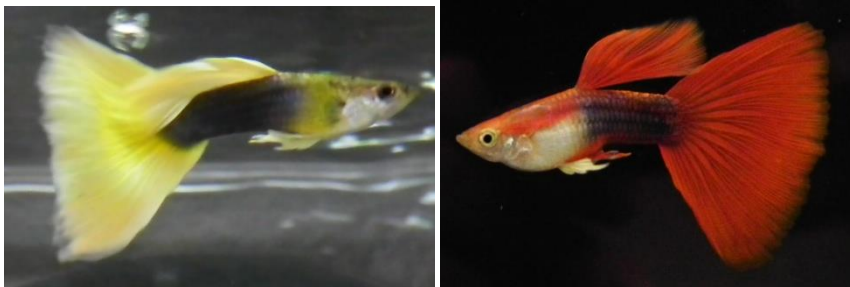
with British Livebearer Association convention and
show

**Sat.8th and Sun 9th
October 2016**

**Holiday Inn Express, Rockingham
rd, Kettering, NN14 1UD**

**Sat. – Guppy Show, Lectures,
Sales Table, Trade Stands**

**Sun. – Guppy Show, Sales Table
am, Auction of show fish
12 noon followed by British Livebearer
Association auction.**



Featured lectures include Dr David Pool
and the launch of
the a new  fish food

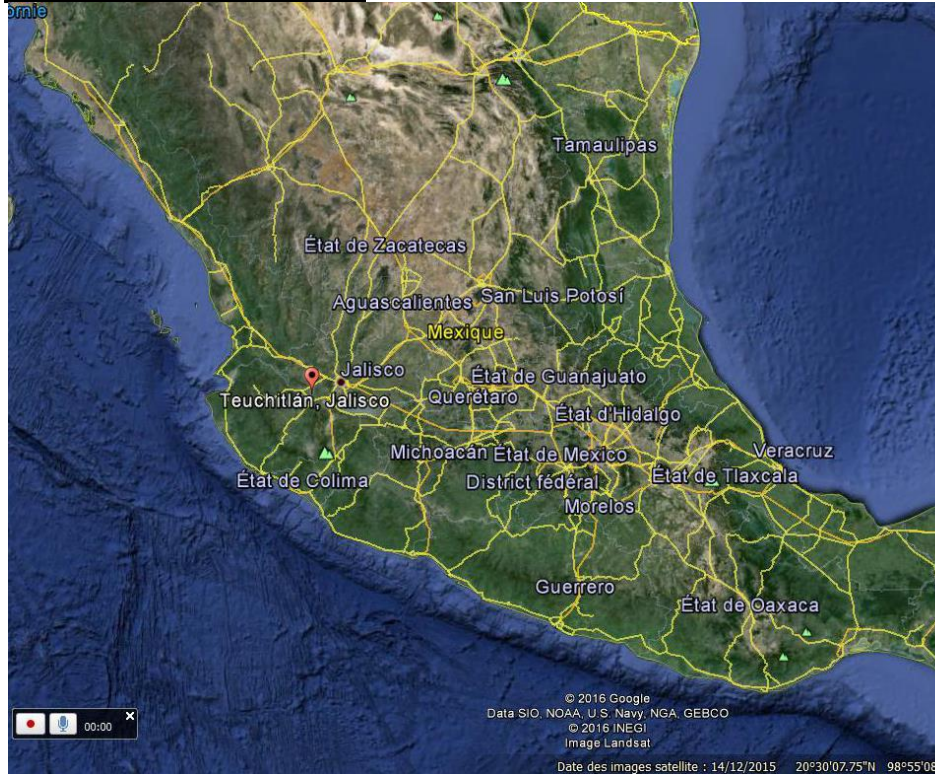


For further details of the event please contact Dawn
Pamplin : dawnpamplin@hotmail.com

or see www.fancyguppies.co.uk

**MEMBERS and NON-MEMBERS
WELCOME**

Report on the GWG survey trip to Jalisco, Mexico, March 2016



Monday 29th Feb:- “Greg, slow down” said Nigel and I realised I had been gabbling. It had been quite a day..... Alarm set for 3.00 a.m., the taxi arrived on time at 3.30, arrived Manchester airport in plenty of time; the shuttle to Heathrow was $\frac{3}{4}$ of an hour late; Heathrow to Dallas only a bit late. Long, long queues for Border Control at Dallas; no problem as I had three hours before my connection to

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Guadalajara took off. Two hours later the lady at the side of me asked an official if she could go to the front of the queue as her connecting flight was due to take off in a few minutes. “Lady, if you miss your flight you miss your flight” was his reply! Finally made it through Border Control with minutes before the flight to Guadalajara was due; rushed through the terminal to find it had been moved to a different gate; start to panic; rush to the new gate to find the flight delayed by three hours! No phone reception, can't let Nigel and the others know I'm going to be late. Eventually arrived in Guadalajara, taxi to the hotel, dump my bags with the porter and phone Nigel to find out where the team was. Ten minutes later I was meeting the rest of the team Mexico 2016 and starting to gabble, mostly with relief after 28 hours travelling. The team :- From the UK, I already knew Nigel and Paddy of course. From Austria, Michael Koeck and Erwin Radax; from Germany Guenther Schleussner and Michael Kempkes; from France Fabien Liberge.

Tuesday 1st March:- This was the first day of the real holiday. I got up early and spent some time photographing hummingbirds in the hotel courtyard and then went for a look around Tlaquepaque, the old part of Guadalajara, and very different from the rest of the busy, sprawling modern city. The two Mexican members of the team, Adan Fernando Mar Silva and Isai Betancourt, joined us later in the morning and we loaded the minibus and drove to Teuchitlan. With some time to kill in Teuchitlan, we waited in the central square where there were a couple of small water features – containing livebearers! They turned out to be the first of many *Pseudoxiphophorus* (probably *bimaculatus*).

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As soon as we could, we made our way to El Rincón, the main spring of the Rio Teuchitlan, which represents the headwater of the Rio Ameca.



As you can see, this has been turned into a swimming pool / amusement park and I didn't have high hopes. However, as soon as we looked into the water we saw fish! Lots of tilapia were present and also good numbers of *Ameca splendens*, *Goodea atripinnis* and *Zoogoneticus purhepechus*. I had seen *Goodeids* in the wild: an ambition of many years achieved!

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Ameca splendens and *Tilapia* sp in the pools at El Rincón.

Nigel had the nets out and was catching fish within seconds!



Nigel fishing and *Pseudoxiphophorus*.



Ameca splendens and *Goodea atripinnis*. *Zoogoneticus purhepechus*

A bit later the Mexican lads got the electrofishing gear out as well.



There was plenty of other wildlife around, including birds, tadpoles and the above frog, species not known, and crayfish, also species not known.



This area will be the main spot for the reintroduction of *Zoogoneticus tequila*. This project has already started; results will be presented at the GWG meeting in Lisbon.

After leaving the spring, we sampled fish from the banks of the Presa de la Vega (a large lake) but found only one *Goodea* and a few exotics like *tilapia* and *Pseudoxiphophorus bimaculatus*. The water was heavily polluted and covered in a thick growth of plants, which made fishing difficult.



A small part of the Presa de la Vega, seen early in the morning.

Wednesday 2nd March : From Teuchitlan to the Magdalena basin and back again. Michael [Koeck] had spent many hours studying “Google Earth” before the trip and had identified a spring which to the best of his knowledge had never been collected before. We arrived at the spring, on a private property in La Estancia de Ayones. After locating the owner of the property we got our first look into the water and saw..... tilapia. Nigel was again busy with a net within seconds and people quickly began to get excited. The nets contained many different *Goodeids*. It is possible that this spring has been isolated for a long time and the fish present will need to be assessed. They included a new and colourful population of *Xenotoca melanosoma* (or a related species), *Zoogoneticus purhepechus*, *Goodea atripinnis* and a *Poeciliopsis* species which was possibly *infans* but which the experts in the group thought was probably a new species. [I still haven't heard whether these fish have been assessed and whether they are indeed a new species.]



The spring at La Estancia de Ayones



Inspecting the catch at La Estancia de Ayones, watched by the landowner.



Poeciliopsis sp



Inspecting part of the catch at La Estancia De Ayones



Packing the fish in plastic tubs in a polystyrene box to keep the fishes cool.

The temperature was now into the mid 30's °C and keeping the fishes alive was a problem. They were kept in the shade in plastic buckets, transferred into plastic tubs brought by Michael, and after half an hour, given a large part water change using water bought from the shop in Teuchitlan. This routine seemed to work as very few fish were lost at this stage.



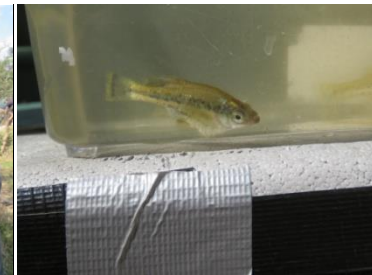
A catch of livebearers at La Estancia



Zoogoneticus purhepechus (I think!)



Nigel and Fabien inspect the Catch at Al Moloya



Ameba splendens caught at Al Moloya

That afternoon we travelled to Al Moloya spring. Here I finally got my hands on a net and caught my first wild Goodeid, a *Zoogoneticus purhepechus*. We caught several of these and *Ameca splendens*, but only one each of *Xenotoca melanosoma* and *sp San Marcos*.

To be continued.

Thanks to Nigel for getting me on the trip and to Michael for choosing me out of several other people who wanted to go.

Thanks to all the other members of the group for putting up with my interest in the birds of Mexico as well as its fishes.

Data Protection Act

In order to comply with the requirements of the Data Protection Act, we need to inform members that their name, address, email 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.

Committee

Chairman : Chris Cheswright email cheswright@blueyonder.co.uk

Treasurer : Don Kenwood; 154 Kenn Road, Clevedon, North Somerset, BS15 6JY; email donkenwood@blueyonder.co.uk

Editor : Greg Roebuck, 5 Fairholme Avenue, Neston, Cheshire, email gjrsr12@gmail.com

Events organiser : Nigel Hunter; email Nigel_w98@yahoo.co.uk

Webmaster : Alan Dunne

Committee members : Clive Walker; Carl Stewart, Dai Jones email wildun1964@gmail.com