

minimal with Bruce Hansen and Ray Leggett doing everything. Let's see a change in 1987, heh?

- **Constitution.** The last meeting's discussion on ANGFA's proposed constitution was lively and interesting, but tended to wind on a bit. But most importantly we did agree on something. The comments and suggestions which we decided on have been sent south.

- **Open Fish Room.** Don't forget the Club's next Open Fish Room:
Sunday, 14 September 1986: Jarvis Finger's room, 83 Weekes Road, Moggill, 1.00 pm.

- Glenn Leiper

KEEPING AND CARING

CRESCENT PERCH

Terapon jarbua

Environment

Also known as Target Fish and Spiky Trumpeter, this is a small perch found along the entire Queensland coast and happily adapts to fresh, brackish or marine situations. I have caught them at several sites around Moreton Bay and adjacent islands.

Aquarium Conditions

They are best kept either as solitary fish or small schools of upwards of 3 as they tend to be quarrelsome - accordingly 3-4 specimens up to 2" will do well in a tank of size 24 x 12 x 15. Cover in the form of logs, caves or rocks and some background planting helps them feel secure. Add some salt if possible or use hard alkaline water, and keep temperature above 24°C. Like most brackish-water fish they prefer vigorous aeration and filtration.

Communities involving species which like similar conditions, such as scats, monos,

archers, larger gudgeons, big rainbows and other perch and grunters, are possible but smaller fish will not last for long.

Feeding

This is a voracious fish - it eats all frozen, live and dried foods and plenty of it. Mine do well on frozen mix, earthworms, live *Gambusia* and dried shrimp. Well fed and kept properly, the Crescent Perch should grow steadily to upwards of 4" under aquarium conditions (although they do grow to 10-12" in nature).

One small word of warning: they have sharp spines on the gill-plates and they erect them when handled. An unwary aquarist can be surprised by the "sting".

- Bruce Hansen

BOOKS

Freshwater Fishes of Australia, Gilbert Whitley, Jacaranda Press, Brisbane, 1960, 127 pages.

I bought this little book 25 years ago when I was a young fellow studying at the University and breeding tropical fish for fun and pocket money. It showed local aquarists that there was a whole new range of freshwater fish out there besides Rainbows, Blue-eyes and Gudgeons that may be suitable for aquarium care and culture. The small pages, each headed by a black and white drawing and with a page of text, are arranged roughly in families and each fish is described under headings such as features, colour, size, range etc. Since then, much has been learned about these fishes and taxonomy especially has changed greatly. I find it historically interesting and still glean the occasional "pearl" from it.

I'm quite sure it is no longer available as I haven't seen one in the bookshops for many years but it still maintains a firm place on my bookshelf.

- Bruce Hansen