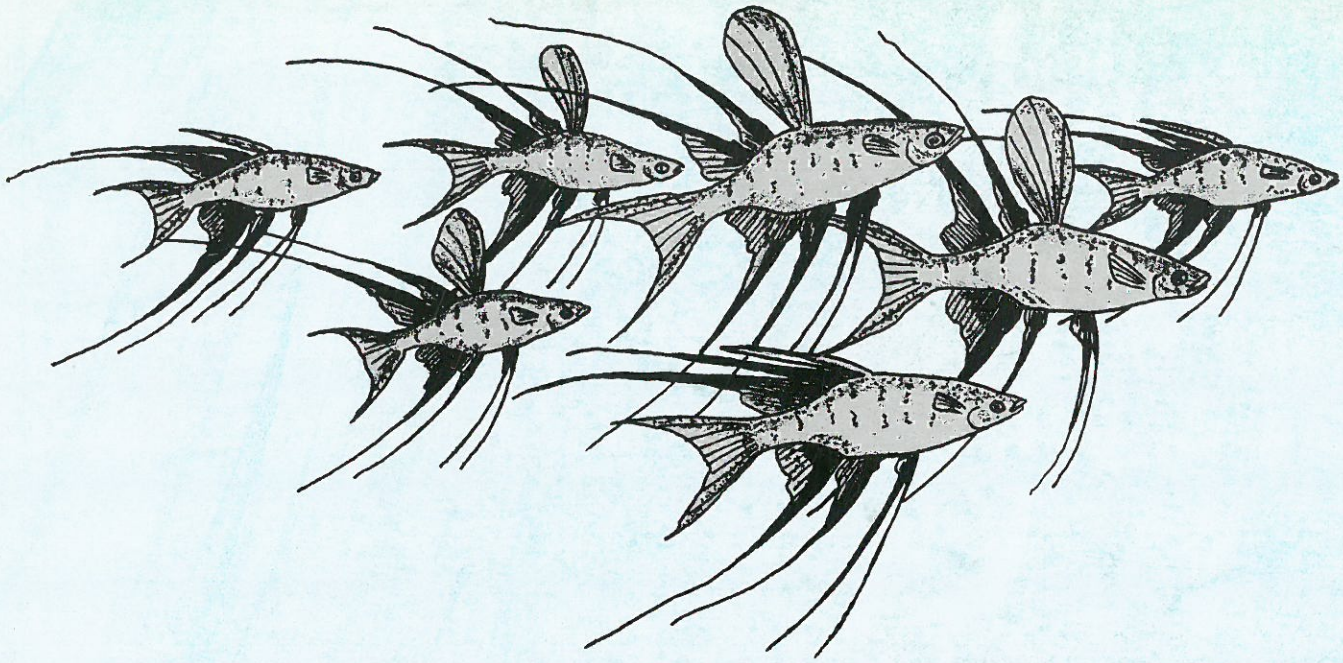

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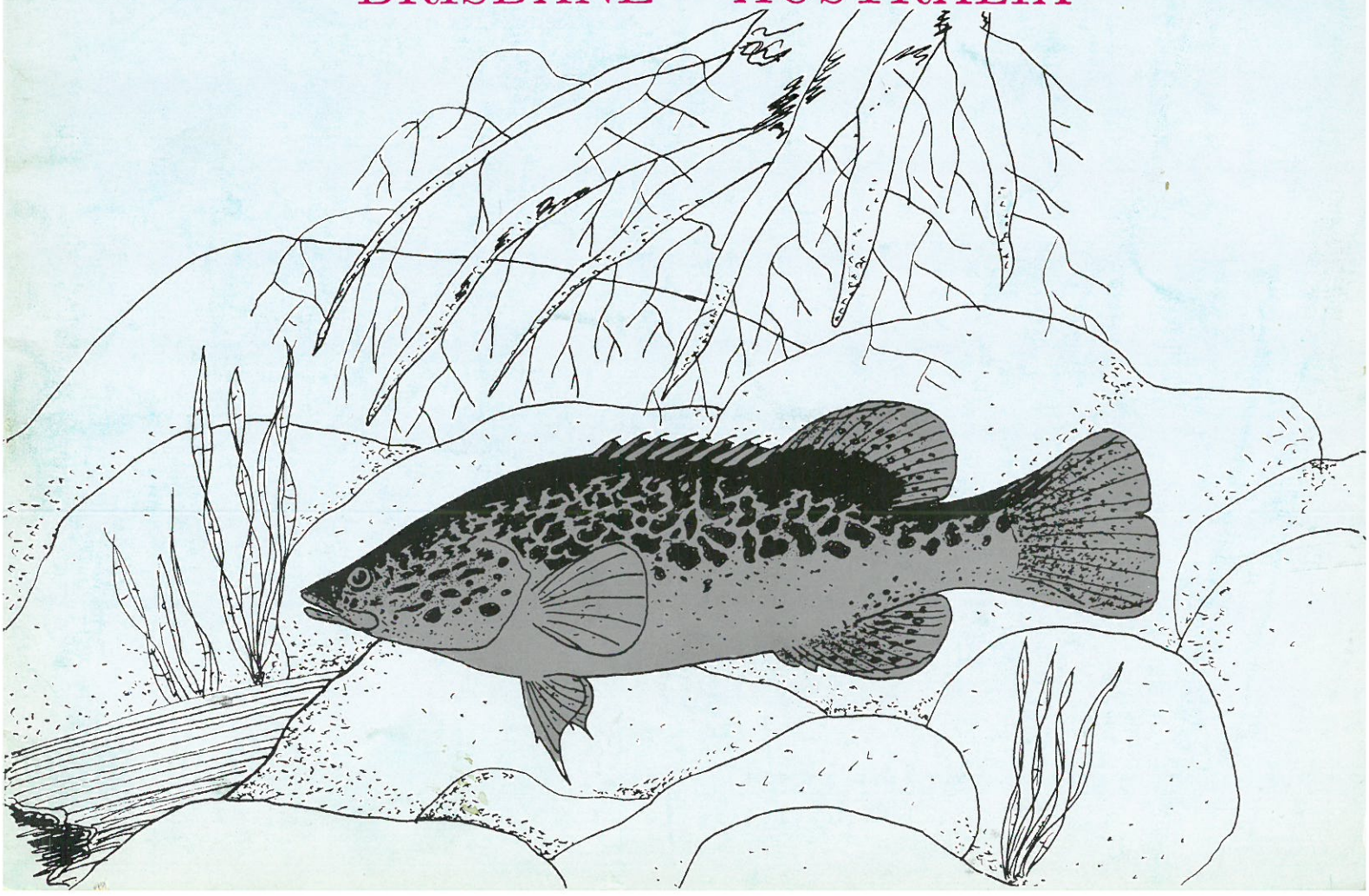

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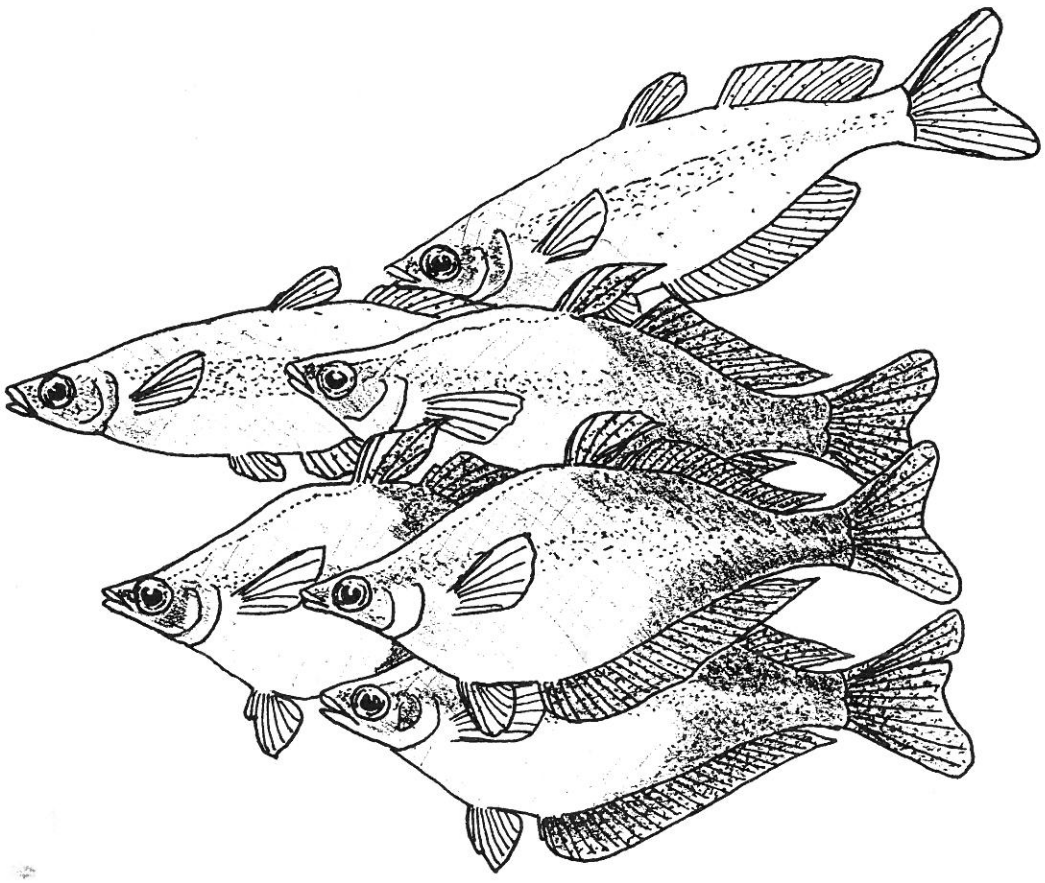

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Heiko Bleher

Aquarium Rio,
Darmstadter Landstrabe 3b,
D-6073 Egelsbach,
Federal Republic of Germany

Topic of Lecture : Sulawesi Rally (Indonesia) & West Africa Rally.

Topic of Lecture : The Unknown Upper Amazon. Rio Trombeas & Neblina.

About Heiko Bleher

Born in an air raid shelter on 18.10.1944 in the 80% war-damaged city of Frankfurt on Main, his development into probably Germany's most important international exporter of tropical fishes and discoverer of new species is so adventurous and eventful that it can only be described here in brief detail. His grandfather; Adolf Kiel after numerous collecting trips, founded what was early this century, Frankfurt's largest aquatic plant and tropical fish establishment. Heiko's mother, Amanda Bleher, continued the tradition with yet greater application and energy. The international Press named her "The woman with the heart of Tarzan". Crash-helmeted on a motorcycle, she travelled throughout Europe and northern and central Africa. Her travelling ended with all four children (Heiko was the youngest) deep in South America. Starting at Rio de Janeiro, she went off with the children into the deep Brazilian jungle, into the Matto Grosso region, and lived there with the Indians for 6 months, searching for new plants and fishes. These experiences left their mark on Heiko, his future was preordained.

Back in Germany in 1955, he attended school till 1960. Then back to Rio de Janeiro. Mother Amanda had set up a farm for aquatic plants, orchids and fishes at the city's edge. Heiko worked on the farm for four years and also looked for rare fishes and plants in the jungles of Goias, Minas Gerais, Parana, Para and the Amazon. Then to the United States for further study (biology, ichthyology, parasitology, limnology and oceanography). During his studies he set up a plant station for Dr H.R.Axelrod's Gulf Fish Farms in Florida. After this two-year stay he went back to Brazil and opened his own fish-catching and collecting stations in three states. In 1967 he returned to Germany and opened Aquarium Rio in Frankfurt on Main.

Heiko Bleher is an unusually vibrant, versatile personality. He speaks seven languages fluently , writes (more than 100 publications in five continents, two books), shoots documentaries for TV (7 so far) and is an enthusiastic photographer. Heiko neither smokes nor drinks and eats mainly vegetarian food. Only the Frankfurt national dish, spare-ribs and sauerkraut can tempt him.

There is no doubt that like his ancestors he is an outstanding businessman. His own travel agency enables him to finance his expeditions. Experienced professional breeders see to reproducing his new and re-introduced species.

Heiko Bleher supplies the wholesale trade and zoological gardens worldwide with newly discovered species and those which have died out in the wild. Because of his experience with fish, his aquarium installation at Frankfurt is exemplary; amongst other things, he has introduced automatic water changes to the well-being of the fishes.

When asked by Dr. Eduard Schmidt-Focke what motivated him to put his life at risk time and time again on hazardous expeditions, Heiko's reply was that the purpose of his life was to search for rare and undiscovered fishes before most natural paradises are finally destroyed by mankind, and his hope was to maintain the species in this way.

Many species of fishes which he has discovered have already been named after Heiko Bleher, including the popular red-headed tetra Hemigrammus bleheri, and the wine-red rainbow fish Chilatherina bleheri. We are indebted to him for almost innumerable species which now swim in European aquariums. Rainbow fishes such as Melanotaenia boesemani, Melanotaenia lacustris, Melanotaenia trifasciata, Glossolepis wanamensis, Pseudomugil furcatus, Pseudomugil connieae, Pseudomugil mellis and Pseudomugil gertrudae. He was the first to bring many characins into Germany, such as Aphyocharax rathbuni and Aphyocharax paraguayensis, Belonophago tinanti, Hemigrammus ulrey, Hyphessobrycon amandae (named after Mrs Amanda Bleher), Inpaichthys kerri, Micralestes stormsi, Mimagoniates barberi, Paracheirodon simulans, Petitella georgia, Triportheus angulatus and Triportheus rotundatus. Barbs such as Barbus candens and Sawba resplendens. Many cichlids including Hemichromis lifalili, various Nanochromis and Pelvicachromis species, Acaronia nassa, some well known Aequidens and Apistogramma species, many Cichlid species from Central America, Crenicara filamentosa and Crenicara maculata, Geophagus balzanii and Geophagus steindachneri, most Discus morphs such as the Blue-headed Heckel, the Royal Blue and Royal Green, Gypsy, Tefe and Manacapura, the true Pterophyllum altum etc. Amongst Catfishes the list is still longer, including the majority of armoured catfishes (Aspidoras, Brochis, Corydoras) and Synodontis, Chiloglanis and Glyptothoras (most recently the ornamental Glyptothoras burmanicus), Ancistrus, Rineloricaria and Peckoltia, the fabulous Liosomadoras oncinus and Merodontodus tigrinus. He has also been active amongst the killies: Aphyosemion, Epiplatys, Hylopanchax, Hypsopanchax, Rivulus, Cynolebias, Neofundulus, Pterolebias and Trigonectes species reached the trade through him. Nor must we forget the rare freshwater ray and the first freshwater swordfish which hit the world press in 1983. Then there was the Arowanas such as Osteoglossum ferreirai and Scleropagus leichardti, and the Knifefishes of various species, several of the resplendent gobies such as Tateurndina ocellicauda and Ophieleotris aporos, and others to follow if he has a bit of luck. To enrich the fishkeeping world Heiko Bleher has now gone even further and after two years intensive planning, has had a mobile Noah's Ark built. With the Heiko-Mobile he intends to open up the last unexplored places on earth.

ANGFA would especially like to thank DUPLA for allowing us to publish this condensed version of the biographical article by Dr E. Schmidt-Focke which originally appeared in the 2/88 edition of Today's Aquarium.

Christopher G. Barlow B.Sc. M.Sc.

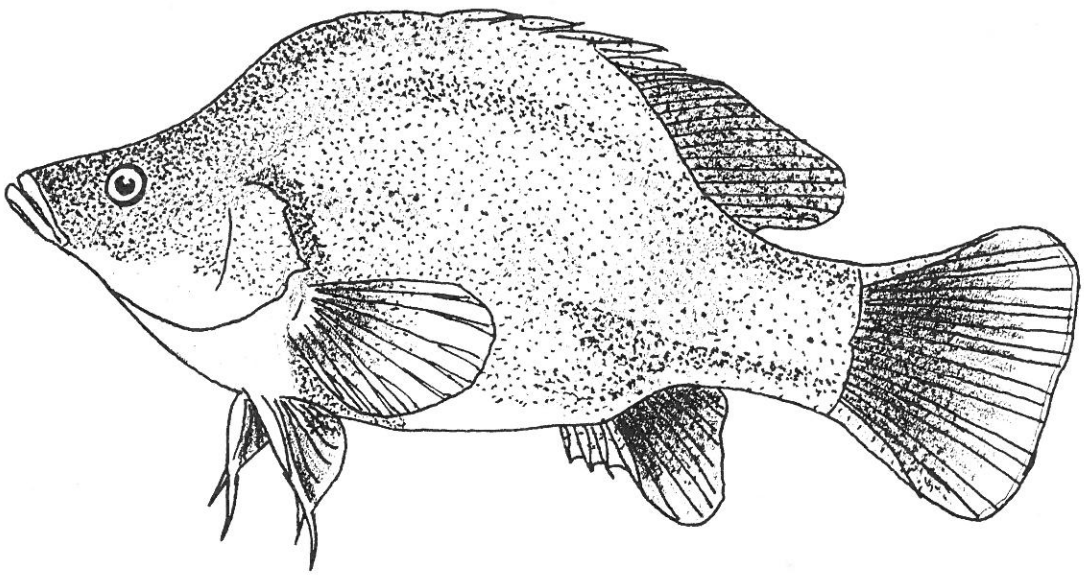
Division of Wetlands and Fisheries
Department of Primary Industries
Brisbane
Qld, Australia, 4000

Topic of Lecture : Preservation of the Lake Eacham Rainbow.

The Lake Eacham rainbowfish Melanotaenia eachamensis was confined to Lake Eacham, a closed-catchment crater lake on the Atherton Tableland. Although historically abundant, in recent times it has been eliminated from the lake, presumably as a consequence of the unauthorised introductions of Australian native species not endemic in the lake.
Stocks of the Lake Eacham rainbowfish had been collected by aquarists prior to its demise. Specimens of the "Bowman" population were supplied to the Queensland Department of Primary Industries' Walkamin Research Station. These fish were bred under quarantine conditions and approximately 3000 were restocked into Lake Eacham in November 1989. The fate of these fish is currently being monitored.
Recent electrophoretic studies by Dr Walter Ivantsoff, Macquarie University, have provided new information relevant to the taxonomic status of the Melanotaenia spp. from the Atherton Tableland. The implications of the data are discussed in relation to preservation of the Lake Eacham rainbowfish.

Topic of Lecture : Production, stocking and post-stocking monitoring of fish in Texas and Japan.

Hatchery production of fingerling fish for stocking to enhance recreational and commercial fisheries is a management tool commonly used throughout the world. The practical benefits of the stockings are often questionable, however, due to the lack or inadequacy of post-stocking evaluation programmes.
In 1989, I was awarded a Churchill Fellowship to travel to Texas and Japan to study recent advances in evaluation techniques, as well as hatchery production methods for marine fishes. Some of the findings, particularly those relevant to the role of hatcheries in the enhancement of recreational fisheries, are discussed. A case study of the recreational fishery for barramundi has enabled cost-benefits to be developed for hatchery production, given varying levels of post-stocking survival and harvest.



About Christopher G. Barlow B.Sc. M.Sc.

Chris is a senior scientist with the Wetlands and Fisheries Division of the Queensland Department of Primary Industries. He gained his undergraduate degree from the James Cook University and a M.Sc. degree from the University of New South Wales. Chris worked for several years on freshwater and marine aquaculture programmes in Malaysia and the Philippines, before undertaking work with New South Wales Fisheries on a fish in farm dams programme. In 1983 he moved to Queensland to work on the Nile Perch Programme at the Walkamin Research Station. At the Walkamin Station, he also undertook studies on production of the Coal grunter, crayfish aquaculture and Barramundi production. He has recently moved to Brisbane, where he has the role of managing aquaculture research, extension and development within the Queensland Department of Primary Industries.

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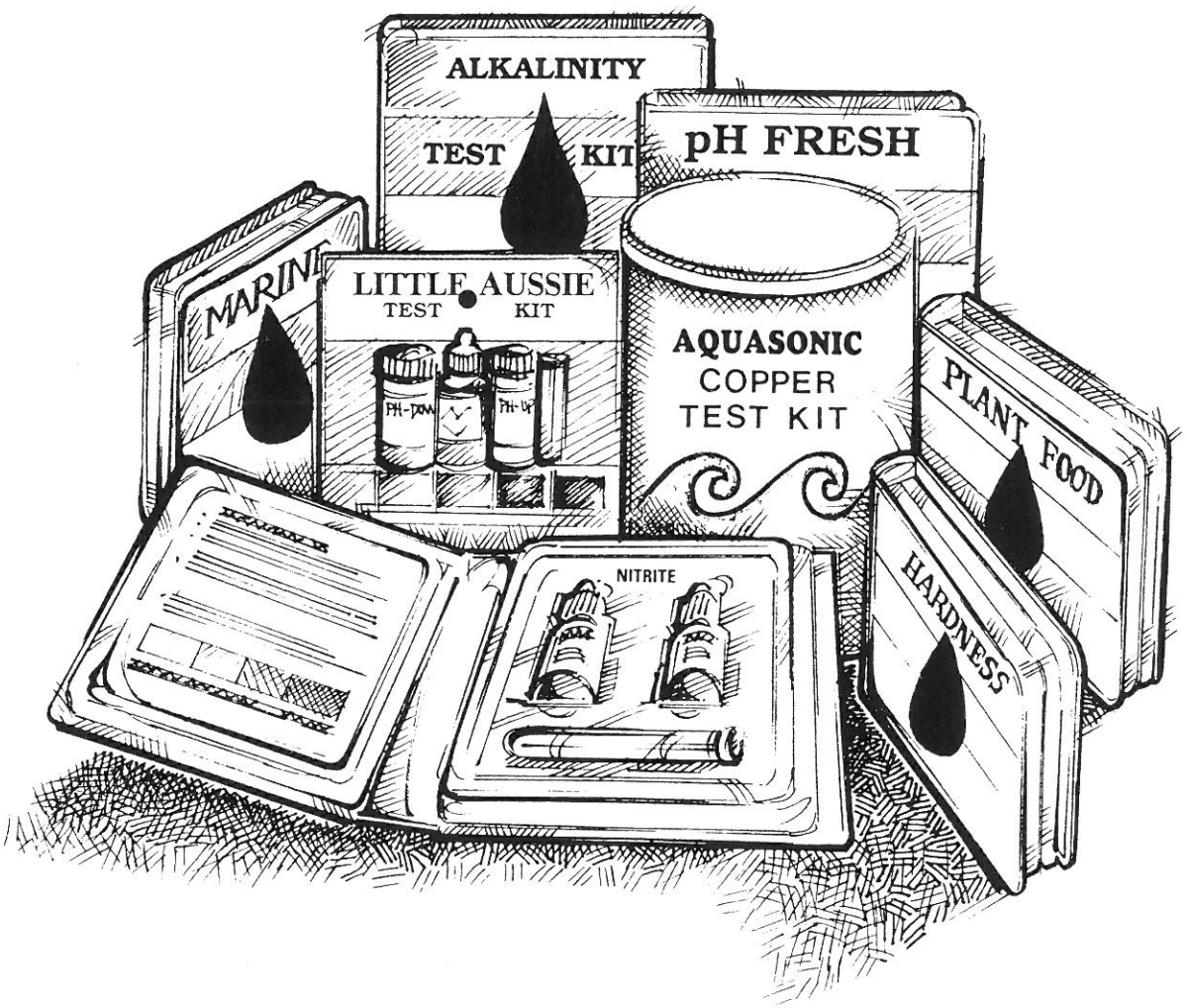

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Rick Datodi

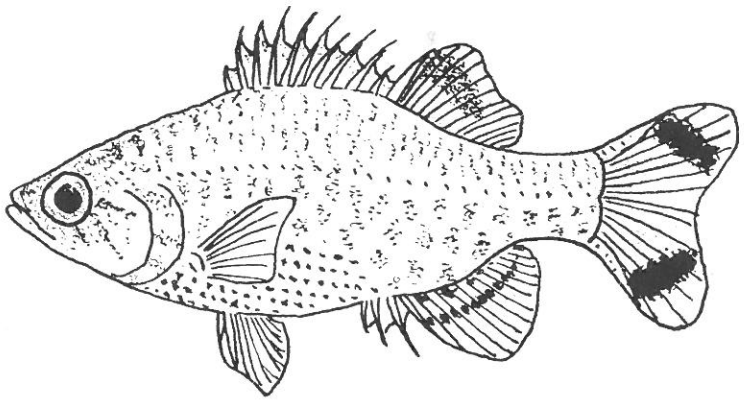
Managing Director
Pet & Aquarium Industries Pty Ltd
68 Chifley Drive
Preston, VIC 3072

Topic of Lecture : Diseases of Aquarium Fish and Their Treatment.

When Aquarium fish become ill the first step in determining a treatment regime is to ascertain the cause of the problem. Is it an environmental or pathogenic disease?
This talk will cover diagnosing water quality disease, parasitic disease and bacterial disease based on changes in behaviour and external symptoms. The use of water quality testing equipment and the use of a microscope will also be covered.
A slide presentation will show the most common pathogens of aquarium fish and appropriate treatment regimes will be discussed.

About Rick Datodi

Rick Datodi was born at Tatura, in Victoria's Golburn Valley in 1944. His interest in aquarium fish started at the age of 10, and by 1968 he had started his own business; Pet and Aquarium Industries, which now employs over 40 people, and distributes aquarium fish and accessories to every state of Australia. Being responsible for the efficient operation of Australia's largest quarantine station, and conditioning and distributing in excess of 3 million fish per year, provides Rick an enormous opportunity for gaining a broad knowledge of factors affecting fish health, such as water quality, disease and nutrition.
Rick has travelled extensively through Europe, Asia and America, communicating and sharing knowledge with collectors, breeders, wholesalers and shippers, as well as having hands on experience at collecting wild fish in the jungles of tropical South East Asia. He has spoken at international conventions and belongs to many professional, trade and hobby organisations, both nationally and internationally.
Rick was a foundation member of the Victorian Aquarium Fish Traders Association and the Federation of Aquarium Fish Importers. He has been the vice-president of P.I.J.A.C. (The Pet Industry Joint Advisory Council), since it's beginning, and has represented the industry in negotiations with the government over quarantine and permissible import issues for the last 12 years.
Rick's other areas of interest have been in sport where he is a holder of a 2nd Dan Black belt in Kyokuchinkai Karate and in native orchids where he has been president of the Victorian Native Orchid Society and co-authored a book on the cultivation of native orchids.



Bradley J. Pusey

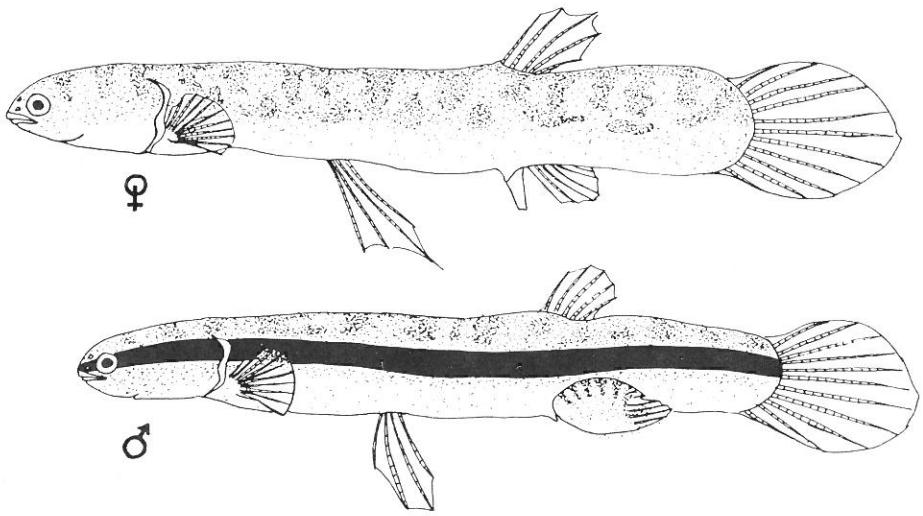
Centre for Catchment and Instream Research
Griffith University
Nathan Queensland

Topic of Lecture : Ecology of fishes in temporary waters of south-western Australia with particular reference to Lepidogalaxias salamandroides.

The southern acid peat flats are a distinctive component of the range of aquatic environments found in Western Australia. They are composed of broad valley systems with a stunted characteristic flora, leached peat sands and a chemical composition most notable for its very low pH and dark colour. Moreover, the waters of this region are temporary in nature and last from mid-autumn to early summer. Despite their temporary nature the flats are quickly colonised after inundation by a rich (by W.A. standards) fish fauna and it is postulated that the low inter annual variation in incidence and duration of the creeks and swamps of the flats is, in part, responsible for this. All colonising species use the flats as spawning and nursery grounds. The composition of the fish fauna at any particular location can be predicted solely on the basis of the accessibility of the particular water body to permanent water. Highly isolated pools are dominated by aestivating species; Lepidogalaxias salamandroides and Galaxiella nigrostriata. Less isolated areas have a more diverse fauna sometimes including the above but generally dominated by invading species.
Data will be presented on the drought survival mechanisms shown by the fish fauna, particularly the physiology of aestivation in Lepidogalaxias. In addition, life history information and details of the mating system exhibited by this species will be presented and the interaction between drought survival, seasonality or environmental variability and life history discussed.

About Brad Pusey

Brad undertook a degree in Zoology and then postgraduate studies at the University of W.A. The bulk of the data presented above is the result of his PhD studies on the ecology of the fish of the acid flats. In addition, other work in Western Australia has included studies on the temporal and spatial variation shown by riverine fish communities and the feeding ecology of rainbow trout in a reservoir. Currently employed as a Research Fellow in CCISR investigating the effects of agricultural landuse on macroinvertebrate communities and the regulation of fish communities structure in ten Queensland rivers.



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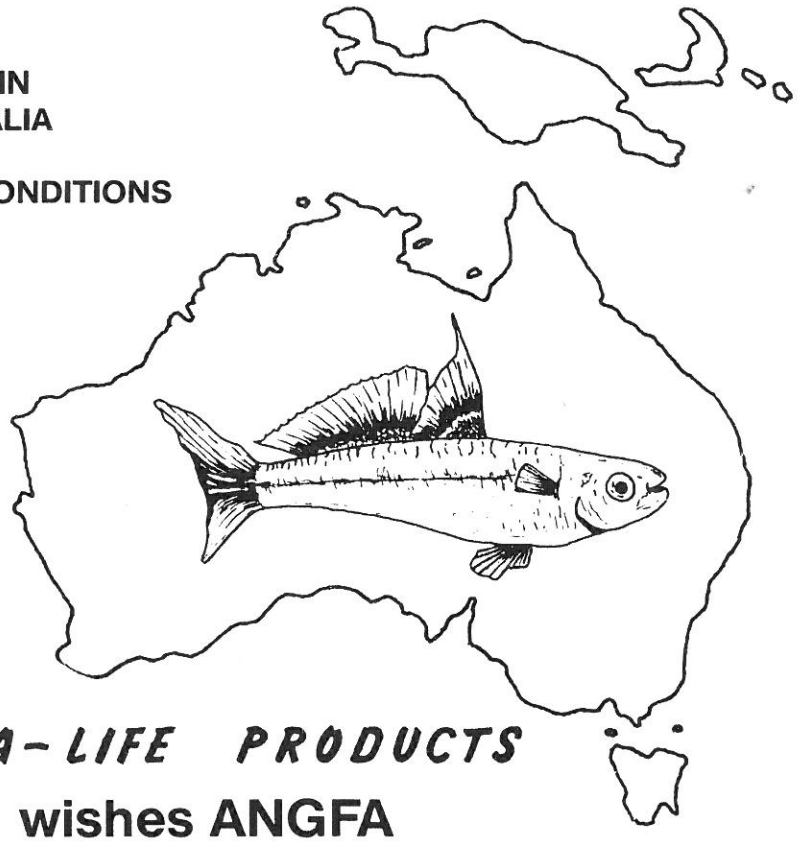

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Dr. Walter Ivantsoff

Senior Lecturer in Biology
Macquarie University
New South Wales 2109

Topic of Lecture : The influence of past geological events on the distribution of present day freshwater fishes of Australia

Although the present drainage pattern seems to influence the distribution of freshwater fish species, the changes in sea levels and tectonic activity had a considerable effect on the evolution and diversity of freshwater fish in Australia. This lecture wil highlight some of these events and relate them to the patterns seen today.

About Dr Walter Ivantsoff

I have a B.Sc. from the University of Sydney and a Ph.D. from Macquarie University. I have taught at Macquarie University, first as a part time tutor in 1967 and as a full time member of staff about a year later. My present designation is a senior lecturer. I have published about thirty papers on blue-eyes, hardyheads and rainbowfishes having collected the various species from as far away as Mexico and the Mediterranean and I have collected right around Australia and Tasmania. Much of my time is devoted to teaching university students and the course I like to teach every year is called the Biology of Fishes.

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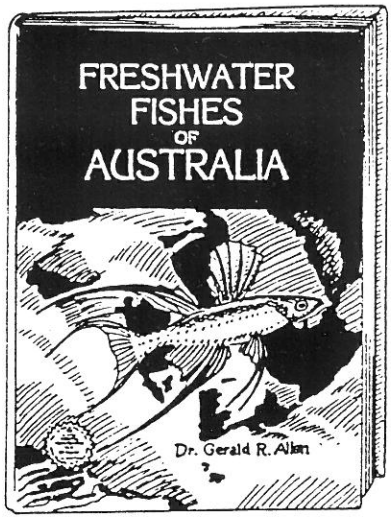

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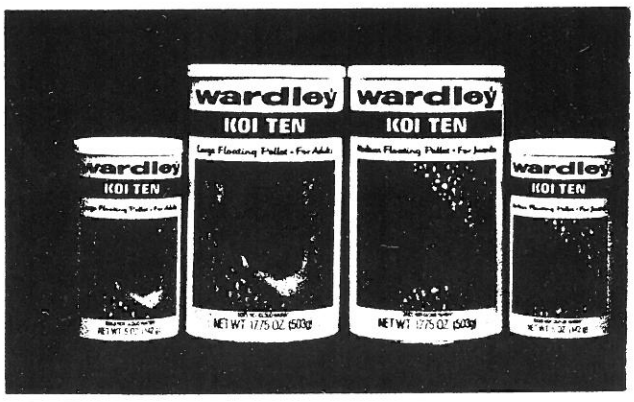
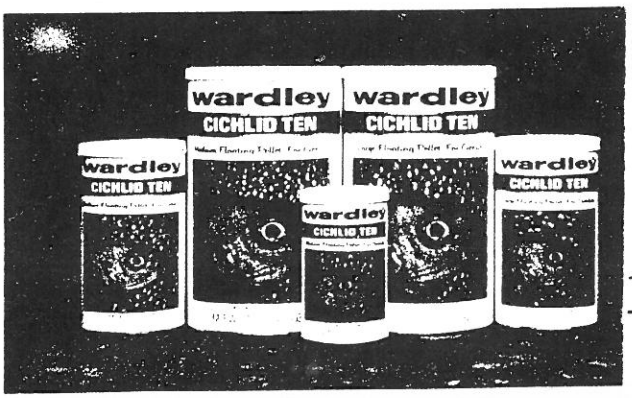




Rolly McKay

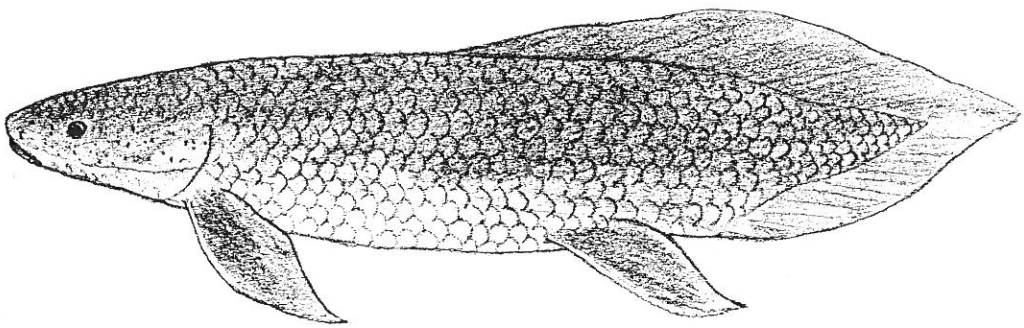
Senior Curator of Fishes
Queensland Museum
Qld Cultural Centre
South Brisbane 4101

Topic of Lecture : The Future of Australian Freshwater Fishes.

Australian freshwater fishes are now facing serious threats to their existence. Few are in danger of immediate extinction, but it is postulated that many species will be lost if the present rate of increase of world human population continues. The demand for energy, food and shelter can, in the short term, only be satisfied by further exploitation of our natural resources. The results of man's insatiable greed and wasteful lifestyle at the expense of the developing countries, and to the detriment of other species, are there to be judged by all thinking persons. Will we accept some reduction of our consumption of natural resources and assist less fortunate countries to meet their problems of overpopulation, or will we continue in our selfish way to despoil what remains of our ecosystem?

About Rolly McKay

Rolly has been associated with fishes as long as he can remember (or cares to remember), first as a hobbyist keeping and breeding tropical fishes, second as technical officer in Fisheries Research on prawn trawlers, lobster boats and in trout hatcheries and whaling stations, and third as a systematic ichthyologist specialising in world revisions of the marine fish families Sillaginidae and Haemulidae. He is Senior Curator of Fishes at the Queensland Museum and has many publications on fishes, wolf spiders and conservation of freshwater fishes.
His long association with the aquarium industry as scientific advisor to the Advisory Committee on Live Fishes has made him well-known in the aquarium hobby, both in Australia and overseas. Rolly has undertaken a study of the International Aquarium Industry with particular emphasis on Australia and Singapore as case studies for a doctoral dissertation at the University of Queensland.



Michael Pearce B.V.Sc. M.Sc.

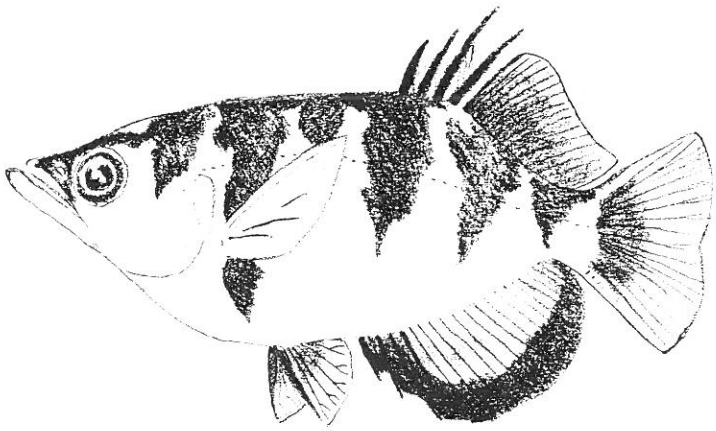
Department of Primary Industry and Fisheries,
Darwin,
N.T., 0801

Topic of Lecture : Epizootic Ulcerative Syndrome

In July 1986, a previously unrecorded syndrome, characterised by ulcerative lesions, was reported in fish from the Mary River in the Northern Territory. This syndrome has persistently appeared during the dry season in 1987, 1988 and 1989. It affects many species and now has a wide geographical range across the Northern Territory. It seems to be restricted to freshwater environments and estuarine areas since no substantiated reports of the disease have occurred in fish from the sea. The cause of EUS remains unknown. It is defined largely by its behaviour and the characteristic gross appearance of eye and skin lesions. Several causes of the disease have been suggested including weedicide spraying for Mimosa pigra, unfavourable environmental conditions and infectious agents.
Ulcerative conditions have occurred in fish elsewhere in Australia: along the eastern seaboard of Queensland and N.S.W., in the Murray River, Western Australia, Tasmania, Port Phillip Bay and S.W. Queensland. In most cases, the cause of these outbreaks was unknown. Another ulcerative condition of fish, much like EUS has been reported from S.E. Asia, Papua New Guinea, Sri Lanka, Bangladesh and India; it has caused many problems since it was first seen in 1980.

About Michael Pearce

Michael is currently employed by the N.T. Department of Primary Industry and Fisheries as a veterinary officer responsible for fish disease diagnosis and control. He graduated from Sydney University in 1981 with a B.V.Sc. and subsequently worked in mixed veterinary practice for six years, in Australia, Bermuda and the U.K. While in Bermuda, he developed an interest in fish and fish diseases. Subsequently, he enrolled to study fish pathology at the school of Tropical Vet. Science, James Cook University in 1987. He was appointed by the N.T. Government to his current position in late 1987 where he continued his studies and was awarded a M.Sc. in 1989. Michael's major research interest has been the epizootic ulcerative syndrome; other research interests include fish nutritional deficiencies and epidemiology.



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Gilbert Maebe

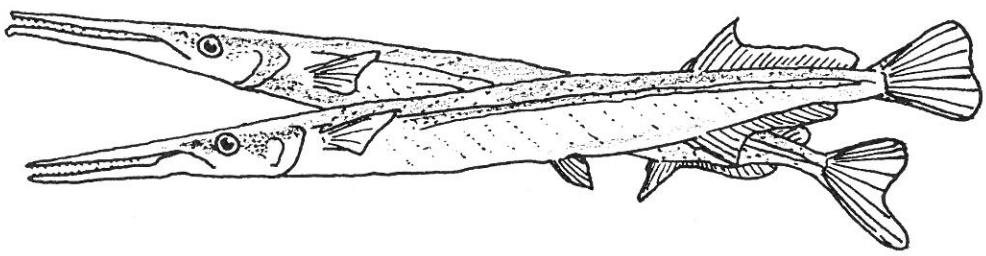
Tervuursesteenweg 472
2800 Mechelen
Belgium

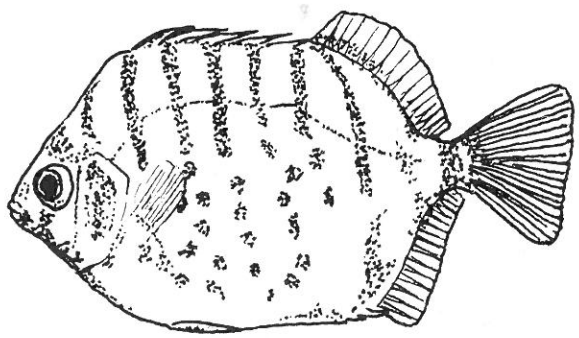
Topic of Lecture: Rainbowfish in Europe

At the foundation of the International Rainbowfish Association (IRG) in Germany in 1986, it became clear that only a few rainbowfish species were spread among the interested aquarists at that moment. The species list of the other participants at the foundation included a total of 8 species. My own species list included 22. This high number of species was the result of my membership of ANGFA for one year at that moment. I had ordered a few egg shipments to try to get as many new species as possible to Belgium. How successful, the ANGFA egg shipments have been, and still are, can be seen in my lecture, where over 50 rainbows and other fishes of Sahul will be seen.
All the slides taken by myself with the drawings done by Frans Proost who joins me in this trip to Australia.

About Gilbert Maebe

Gilbert Maebe was born in 1941 as the third child in a family of four children, two boys and two girls. Married in 1962 and father of two sons. By profession for the last twenty years he has been a Technical Teacher. An aquarist with all his heart for many years and for the last 6 years specialising in rainbowfish. He regularly gives lectures on fish in Belgium, Holland and Germany; with last year giving a total of 24 lectures. Since 1988 Gilbert has been a judge for the Belgian Aquarists Association and in 1989 he was organiser of the 1989 I.R.G. Conference in Mechelen, Belgium.
He is an aquarist who passionately keeps and breeds rainbowfish in a fishroom with fifty tanks. Gilbert regularly takes part in aquarium shows to make rainbowfishes popular with a larger group of aquarists.





Gunther Schmida

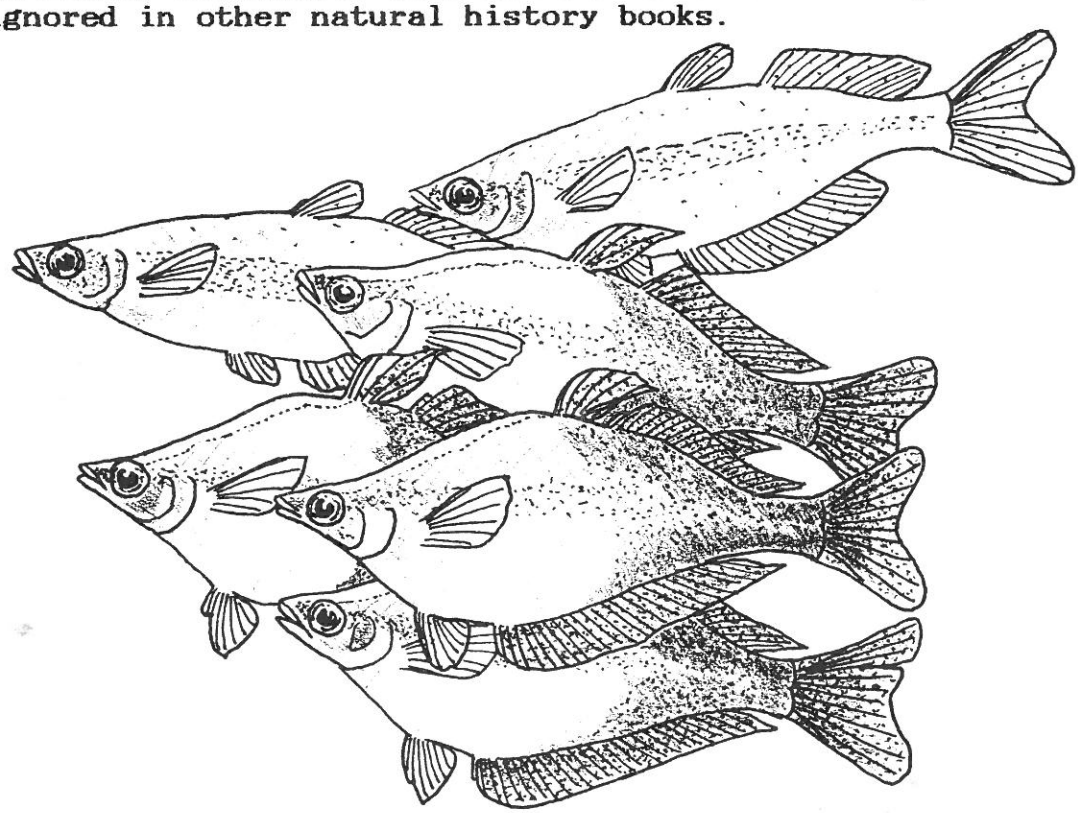
PO Box 436
Mudgeeraba
Qld 4213

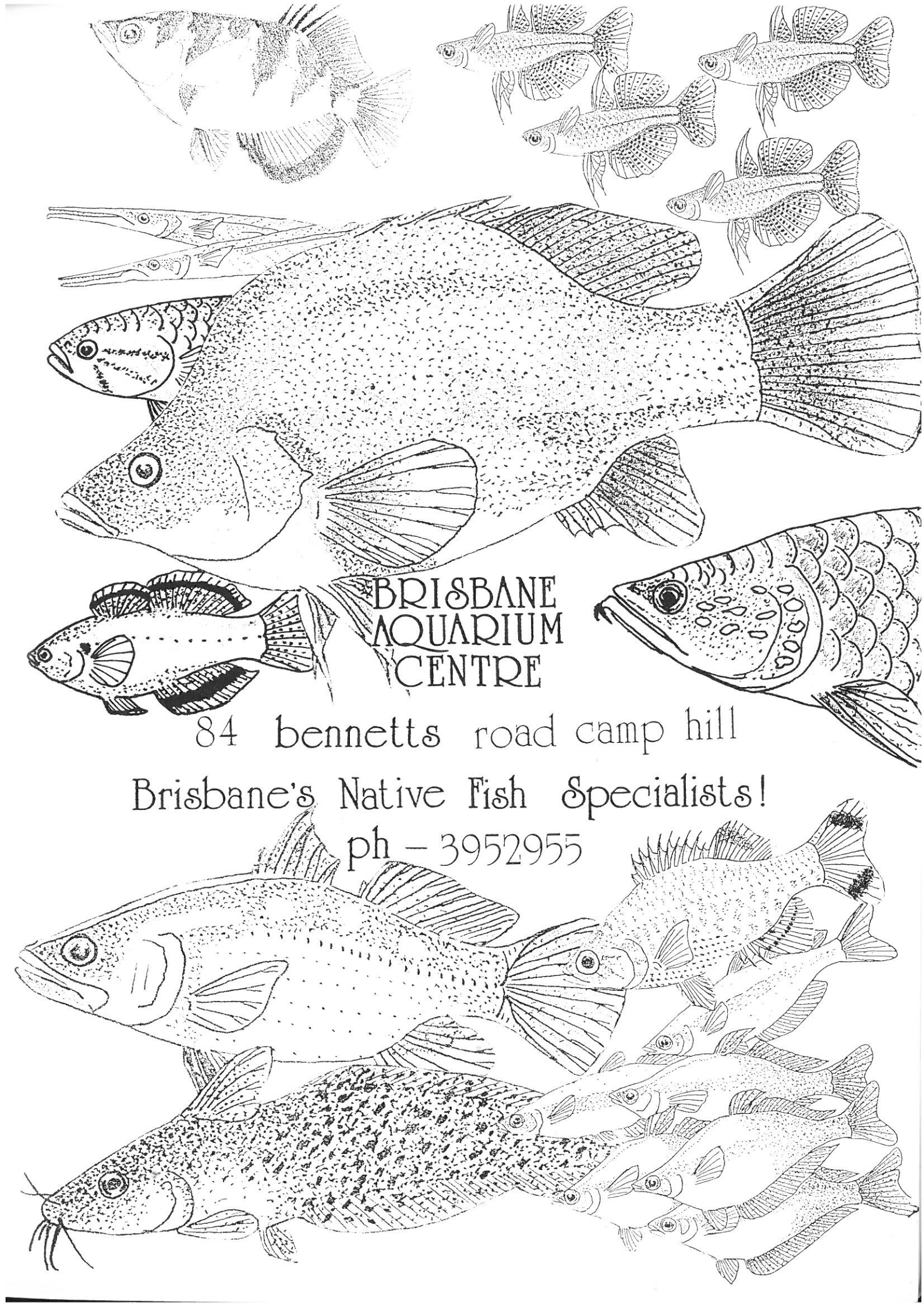
Topic of Lecture: Australian Freshwater Fishes;
A Photographer's Perspective.

A slide show of about 60 to 80 slides progressing from nearly 20 years ago to the very latest shots of Australian Freshwater Fish including much previously unpublished material.

About Gunther Schmida

Born during the middle of the second world war in a part of eastern Germany, Gunther Schmida grew up in the West-German city of Braunschweig.
He has been "mad" about things natural for as long as he can remember, bringing home all kinds of "creepy-crawlies" very much to the disgust of his mother.
So it was a relief when at the age of 12 he "discovered" tropical freshwater fish, namely Guppies which had been swapped for some postal stamps. Needless to say, he has been crazy about freshwater fish ever since.
From the age of 15 he started running the Aquarium and Terrarium section at the local zoo for 4 years. He also took up photography and scuba-diving during this time.
After having had a good look at Europe he came to Australia as a 23 year old. Here he spent the first 8 years travelling and living in various parts of the continent and mainly pursuing his interest in reptiles and frogs.
Almost 20 years ago he also "discovered" Australian freshwater fish and decided to start taking photographs of them and to this day he is still trying to record every known species on film.
His activities have resulted in 2 books and numerous articles featuring mainly freshwater fish and his favourite subjects are no longer ignored in other natural history books.

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Dr. Angela H. Arthington

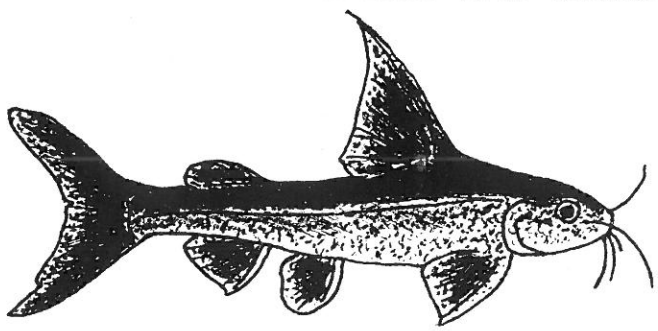
Centre for Catchment and In-stream Research (CCISR)
Griffith University
Brisbane
Qld, Australia, 4111

Topic of Lecture : Diets and Trophic Guild Structure of Stream Fish Communities in South-Eastern Queensland.

Although the diets of most Australian native fishes have been reported in general terms, there is little quantitative information on the diets of many common species. Even less is known about the trophic guild structure and how species share the food resources of their habitats. This paper describes the diets of native species occuring in streams around Brisbane and uses the data to present a preliminary, static model of trophic guild structure for these streams. Guild structure in sub-tropical and other Australian streams will be compared and related to guild structure in warm water streams of North America. The paper will end with a brief discussion of why it is important to understand how aquatic communities are organised.

About Dr Angela H. Arthington

Angela trained originally as a zoologist and entomologist, gaining B.Sc. Honours and Ph D degrees from Canterbury University, New Zealand and McGill, Canada. After a period of teaching agricultural entomology at the University of Queensland, she joined the School of Australian Environmental Studies at Griffith in 1975 and commenced research on dune lakes. This lead to broad research interest in aquatic ecology, conservation and management with special emphasis on fish ecology and introduced fishes (e.g. Tilapia and mosquitofish).
In 1987 Angela was appointed Director of CCISR and began three major research programs: an investigation of the ecological effects of eroded sediments and pesticides in streams; the ecology of introduced Tilapia in Australia, and a study of the Bjelke-Peterson Dam and its effects on water quality, fish and invertebrate communities and plant distributions in Barkers-Barambah Creek, Murgon. She is also involved in consultancy projects for the Department of Environment and Conservation, the Brisbane and Area Water Board, the Queensland Electricity Commission and the Brisbane City Council.



Dr. Jasper T. Trendall

Australian Independant Research,
P.O. Box 7197,
Cairns,
Qld, Australia, 4870

Topic of Lecture : Taking stock of stocks, The evidence for different populations of Barramundi in Northern Australia.

The Barramundi (Lates calcarifer) is common in the river systems of northern Australia and the southern coast of New Guinea. It is economically important because it supports a commercial fishery and because it is a popular sportfish. It is also an important predator in these river systems.

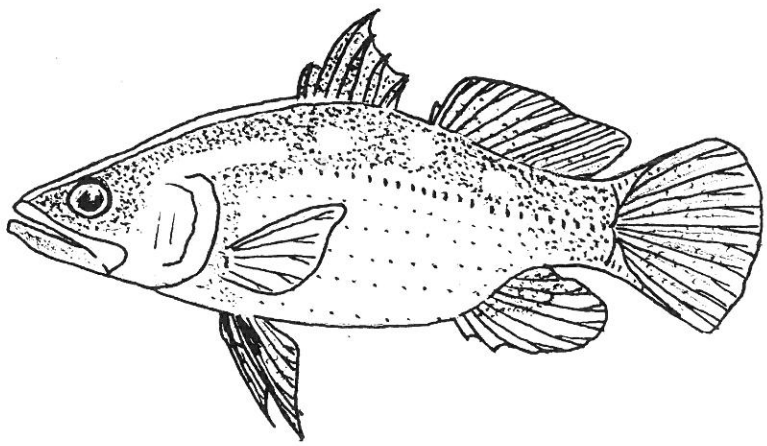
In the last five years there has been debate over the results of a study which used electrophoresis to identify a number of seperate stocks of Barramundi in northern Australia. Some of this confusion has arisen because there are several ways in which the word "stock" can be used and these have not been clearly defined.

In this talk I will use the example of Barramundi to illustrate the genetic processes that can lead to different populations within a single species and to examine the usefulness and limitations of electrophoresis.

Topic of Lecture : A small-scale, modular hatchery for the intensive culture of tropical fish.

Although hatcheries and the farming of temperate fish species is well established in Australia, the commercial production of tropical species is comparatively new. Attention has focused on Barramundi (Lates calcarifer) because females have a high fecundity and growth rates can be extremely rapid.

In this talk I will give a brief overview of the commercial culture of Barramundi in Australia. Intensive culture methods have been used most commonly and I will describe the operation of a small hatchery that is simple, cheap and effective. Although there are many possible ways in which tropical fish culture can develop in Australia, the outlook at present is very bright.



Topic of Lecture : The Fish Fauna of Lake Malawi National Park, Africa

Lake Malawi National Park is exceptional because it was declared specifically to protect the freshwater fish species that inhabit the rocky shore-line of Lake Malawi. This fish community is extremely rich and diverse.

In 1984 the World Wildlife Fund commissioned a research survey of the Fish Fauna of the Park and the publication of a guidebook to the fish. This seminar will outline some of the results of that work as well as give a brief overview of some of the more interesting aspects of the cichlid fish of Lake Malawi.

About Dr Jasper Trendall

Jasper Trendall is from Western Australia where completed a B.Sc. (majoring in Zoology) at the University of Western Australia. At the same institution he then completed a Ph.D. on an introduced fish, the mosquito-fish, Gambusia affinis.
Since then he has worked on a variety of fish communities, including estuarine fish in North Carolina (Duke University, Marine Laboratory) and Cichlid fish in Lake Malawi (World Wildlife Fund).
For the last four years he has been based in Cairns, North Queensland. Initially working on lobsters in the Torres Strait (for the C.S.I.R.O.) but most recently he has been involved in aquaculture through the development of a barramundi hatchery at Weipa, North Queensland.

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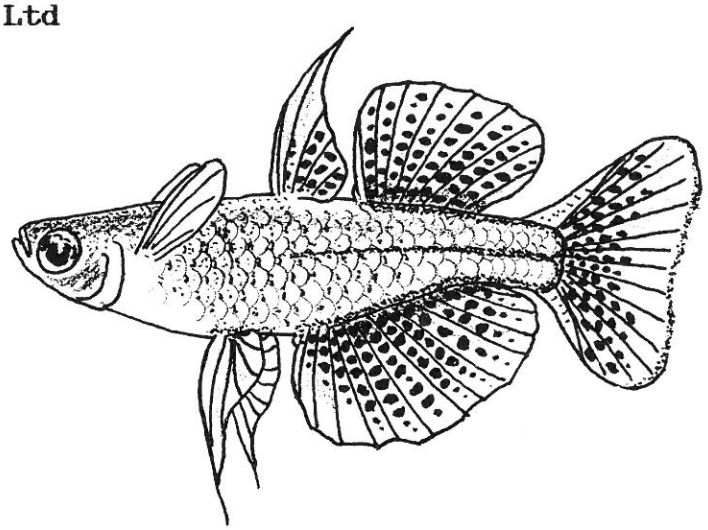

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