



October 30, 2007

tideline aquatics Newsletter

Tideline Aquatics Store Hours

Monday – Friday 11am-7pm
Saturday 10am-6pm
Sundays 1pm-5pm

SPOOKY CREATURES OF THE AMAZON RIVER BASIN

We thought it would be fun to tell you about some of the really evil fish of the Amazon River. This is the same place our beautiful cardinal and rumynose tetras are found as well as Corydoras catfish, silver dollars and many more of the freshwater fish we house in our home aquariums. But the creatures we are about to cover would not be welcomed by most hobbyists!!



THE VAMPIRE FISH (PARACANTHOPOMA VAMPYRA)

This tiny little fish was recently discovered in the Amazon. While swimming about, it suddenly darts into the gill covers of larger fish. From there, it moves into the gill slits and sucks the blood from its larger prey! Once it becomes engorged with blood, it releases itself and swims away to digest its warm meal! The BBC actually ran a contest where readers voted on a name for this new species. Here were the choices:

Paracanthopoma draculae

Referring to Bram Stocker's fictional vampire, Dracula

Paracanthopoma irritans

Irritans is part of the scientific name for human fleas

Paracanthopoma minuta

Referring to the tiny size of the fish

Paracanthopoma nosferatu

From Friederich Murnau's 1922 silent Dracula film

Paracanthopoma vampyra

The Vampire Fish (also the winner!)



THE FEARED CANDIRU – THE TOOTHPICK FISH

Now this is a fish you would not want to encounter while swimming in the Amazon. Natives will openly tell you not to urinate while in the river and you better heed their warning. The Candiru live in the dark tea-like waters of the Amazon. There is no need for good eyes in these dark waters but other senses become enhanced. Fish excrete urine from their gills. The Candiru are strongly attracted to the scent of urine allowing them to find fish prey easily. When hungry, this tiny catfish darts into the gills of other fish where it sucks at their blood. After about a two minute feast, it releases itself by retracting its sharp barbels then swimming away to digest its meal.



THE BARBELS OF THE CANDIRU

The damaged fish rarely lives long after being attacked by one of these tiny catfish. Well, this fish will also be attracted to urine from a human

being. OUCH!! It swims up the urethra, extends its sharp barbells and begins to swell as it fills its body with blood. Once filled with blood, it cannot escape and remains there requiring surgery to remove it!!



THE JAU CATFISH (PAULICEA LUTKENI)

Reaching 6 feet long and 250lbs, the Jau Catfish is one of the giant catfish of the Amazon River. Natives claim this catfish has actually dragged fishermen down and drowned them. Even worse, the Jau Catfish has also been accused of swallowing small children in the water!

Remember that many of our unusual aquarium fish are still collected from the Amazon River. What these people overcome to bring our wonderful aquarium fish to the USA and other parts of the world is quite extraordinary!!

GENERAL POND MAINTENANCE – YEAR ROUND!

Partial Water Changes:

Garden ponds, like aquariums, should receive a 25% partial water change each month to reduce accumulations of organics that cause increased algae growth, reduced fish growth and reduced fish health. Remember that all new water (if using regular tap water) should be treated with the appropriate water conditioner either prior to or (if done very carefully) while the pond is refilling with the new water. Suggested water conditioners are: Amquel, Amquel Plus, Aqua Safe or Prime.

Filter Servicing/Maintenance:

Depending on your particular pond filtration system, regular servicing of the filter will ensure good water flow, better water quality (pH, ammonia, nitrite, carbonate hardness) and clearer water. Most systems benefit from servicing the filtration system at least once per week. Never rinse biological media with untreated tap water as untreated tap water will kill the nitrifying bacteria that have colonized on the media.

Use pond water or treated tap water for cleaning biological media. Activated carbon use may be beneficial if the water displays a yellow or golden tint. Activated carbon will remove these discolorations usually within 24 – 48 hours depending on water volume and flow through the carbon. If you are using an Ultra-Violet Clarifier in your filtration system, remember to always unplug the unit when the water pump is off. This will prevent the unit from overheating and causing damage to the lamp and/or unit. Replace UV lamps every 12-18 months depending on the type of UV your filtration system utilizes.

Removal of Debris:

At least once per week, the pond bottom should be skimmed of dead plant matter, leaves and other debris that has been missed by the filtration. Decaying matter in the bottom of the pond will lead to increased algae growth and a decrease in pH and carbonate hardness in the pond water.

Water Testing:

Pond water should be tested at least monthly for pH, ammonia, nitrite, carbonate hardness (KH/Alkalinity) and general hardness (GH). Pond water should maintain a pH around 7.5-8.0 with a KH of 3-8 degrees. Pond water should have zero ammonia and nitrite. The general hardness for koi is not critical but a GH of 10-25 degrees is acceptable. About every 3 months, pond water should be tested for nitrates. Nitrates accumulate only from not performing enough regular partial water changes to keep levels low. Nitrates should be maintained below 20ppm. If algae is a reoccurring problem, try testing the phosphate levels in the pond. Elevated phosphate levels will not harm the fish or plants but will cause increased algae growth. There are phosphate removing resins that can be safely used in the pond filtration system to remove phosphates. Phosphate levels are best kept below 1.0ppm in the garden pond though they are not critical unless you are experiencing an excess of algae growth.

Feeding Fish:

Feed your goldfish and koi as much as they will consume within about 3 minutes. Vary the food choices for best color and health in your koi and goldfish. Use a quality pellet food for the main diet and supplement the diet with foods like fresh spinach leaves (frozen and chopped), watermelon slices, orange slices, romaine lettuce, freeze dried krill (an excellent choice for protein) and even fresh chopped shrimp. Replace any leftover pellet food as it should be fed within a 90 day period after opening to ensure the quality of the vitamins that are included in the foods. In October, begin feeding a wheat germ based pellet. This puts some weight on the fish before the feedings stop in the winter and the fish go dormant.

Once the water temperatures drop below 50 degrees, stop feeding the fish completely. Feeding fish while water temperatures are cold can kill the fish! You will not resume feeding the fish until the spring when water temperatures rise to a steady 60 degrees. Begin feeding the wheat germ food for the first 3-4 weeks of spring and then put them back on their regular diet.

Pond Plants:

Water garden plants should be fed using fertilizer tablets once per month. Use 2 fertilizer tablets per gallon of soil each month during the growing season. Stop fertilizing the plants after September to allow the plants to go dormant for winter. Begin feeding the plants again in late March or after the last frost of winter. Plants that are root bound should be repotted into larger containers in early spring. Use water garden plant soil to repot plants and cover the soils surface using a large size gravel. This will prevent the soil from eroding into the water column of the garden pond.

AQUARIUM WATER PUMPS AND FILTERS MAINTENANCE REQUIRED!!

Aquarium water pumps and filter motors are designed to last for many years though some find theirs to fail after only a couple of years use. If you take care of a few simple maintenance procedures, you will extend the life of your aquarium components two fold. Most filters and submersible water pumps made today are magnetic drive motors. With this design, there is only one moving part in the filter or pump, the impeller unit.



If you just take the time about every 3 months to remove and clean the impeller assembly and impeller housing (the area where the impeller spins), you will remove slime accumulation, debris, sand, grit and calcareous build-up (in saltwater tanks) thus reducing friction in the motor housing. This will increase the water flow of the filter or pump and ensure that the unit starts right back up after the power has been turned off. What damages these types of motors

is when they become overheated causing them to swell and requiring replacing. Manufacturers suggest replacing the impeller assembly at least once per year to extend the life of the motor. Impeller assemblies spin at high rates of speed. Even the smallest grain of sand can create grooves in the magnet causing the unit to have reduced flow, become noisy in operation or even worse, to fail completely. So if you have not done this procedure recently, remove the impeller from your pump or filter now and clean or replace it. We have put in-stock replacement impeller assemblies on our website coupons this week – just a motivational tool to get you to inspect your filter or pumps only moving part.

NEW PRODUCTS NOW IN STOCK

Koralia Nano Circulation Pumps – The new Nano sized Koralia pumps are now in stock.

These units will greatly increase the water flow in any small aquarium. The unit is fully submersible and attaches via a magnet instead of those annoying suction cups that always fail in a short period.

Tropic Marin ProReef Premium Salt Mix –

This pharmaceutical grade salt mix optimizes calcium and magnesium concentrations as well as alkalinity (KH) and pH. It contains all major and minor elements in the exact proportions found in tropical sea water. The 70 trace elements are completely soluble due to the use of the mixed-crystal method. This salt is free from nitrates, phosphates and other unwanted chemicals often found in salt mixed produced in China. You will not believe how well this salt mix dissolves crystal clear!!

Continued next page -

Fish of the Week



ACANTHOPHTHALMUS KUHLI – THE BLACK COOLIE LOACH

In keeping with Halloween, we thought we would cover the slimy, squirmy, wormy black coolie loaches. They may give you the heeby-geebies but they are quite small and make excellent scavengers for any community aquarium. If kept singly, this fish tends to hide nearly all the time but when kept in small groups, they are much more active. They will eat uneaten fish food from the bottom but do best when supplemented with single pelleted fish foods. They may appear wormy but they are quite comical to watch. These are on special all week long without a coupon! Just a Happy Halloween In-House Special! Print off our website coupons for more savings at: www.tidelineaquatics.net

What's New At Tideline

FEEDERS (ARRIVED ON TUESDAY):

Ghost Shrimp, Guppies, Rosy Redds, Goldfish, Live Black Worms (LIMITED), Crayfish and Fiddler Crabs.

FRESHWATER FISH

(NOW IN STOCK):

Large Jet Black Angelfish, Large Gold Marble Pearlscale Angelfish, Small Super Veil Zebra Lace Angelfish, Sunburst Orange Glo-Fish, Starfire Red Glo-Fish, Red Rummynose Tetras, Jumbo Florida Bred Cardinalfish, Awesome Gold Spotted Motoro Stingray, Ebrardt's Redfin Halfbeaks, Nice Size Bala Tricolor Sharks, Banded Kuhli Loaches, Blue Dolphin Sharks, True Siamensis Flying Fox Algae Eaters, German Gold Rams, Medium Jaguar Cichlids,

Super Red Kribensis Cichlids, Red Chromides (Brackish), Roseline Denisonii Sharks, Tinfoil Barbs, Pink Kissing Gouramis, 24K Tuxedo Platies, Red Velvet Swordtails, Dalmation Mollies, Silver Arowana, Small Gold Marble Angelfish and more!!!!

German Stendker Discus Now In Stock!!!!

We have 3"-4" juveniles: Green Turquoise (Flachen), Blue Cobalts, Blue Diamonds, Pidgeon Blood Reds, Marlboro Reds and Red Scribbled. These fish have been through dewormer treatment and fluke treatment. They are already eating all types of dry and frozen foods. Want to check out photos from the hatchery in Germany: Follow the link below - www.diskuszucht-stendker.de/pages/about_us.html

LIVE AQUARIUM PLANTS

(NOW IN STOCK):

Pogostemon Stellata "Broad Leaf", Blyxa Auberti Grass, Anubias Nana "Petite", Nesaea Bunches, Bacopa Bunches, Ludwigia Peruensis Bunches, Potamogeton Gayi Bunches, Rotala Indica Bunches, Hygrophylia Difformis Bunches, Wideleaf Sagittaria, Red Foxtail Bunches, Cryptocoryne Wendtii "Bronze" Clumps, Dwarf Lily Plants, Pennywort Bunches, Limnophila Hippuroides Bunches, Hygrophylia Balsamica Bunches, Aponogeton Ulvaceous Bulbs, Crinum Onion Plants, Banana Plants, Driftwood w/ Baby Teardrop Growing Throughout!

SALTWATER FISH

(NOW IN STOCK):

Tonga Coral Beauty Angelfish, Hawaiian Flame Angelfish, Hawaiian Potters Angelfish, Christmas Island Bartlett's Anthias, Indian Ocean Bright Red Tomato Clownfish, Solomon Island True Percula Clownfish, Sumatra Gold Bar Maroon Clownfish, Indian Ocean Neon Velvet Damsel, Indian Ocean Snowflake Moray Eels, Bali Yellow Head Moray Eel, Indian Ocean Bumble Bee Gobies, China Sea Yellow Clown Gobies, Indian Ocean Green Clown Gobies, Indian Ocean Candy Cane Gobies, Cebu Greisengeri Goby, Bali Rainfordi Gobies, Indian Ocean Panther Groupers, Bali Flame Pseudochromis, Indian Ocean Bicolor Pseudochromis, Indian Ocean Dwarf Lionfish,

Indian Ocean Fuzzy Dwarf Lionfish, African Volitan Lionfish, Bali Dogface Pufferfish, Bali Valentini Pufferfish, Indian Ocean Powder Brown Tangs, Indian Ocean Sailfin Tangs, Indian Ocean Niger Triggerfish, Indian Ocean Humu Triggerfish, Bali Coral Hogfish, Bali Harlequin Tuskfish, Indian Ocean Blue Sided Fairy Wrasses, Bali Lunare Wrasses, Indian Ocean Yellow Coris Wrasses, Bali Green Bird Wrasse, Java Red Banded Fairy Wrasses, Sulawesi Tricolor Fairy Wrasses, Bali Spotted Hawkfish, Bali Foxface Rabbitfish, Ecuador Barnacle Blennies, Hawaiian Yellow Tangs, Hawaiian Sufflamen Triggerfish, Hawaiian Saddle Wrasse Super Male, African Radiant Wrasses, Bali Square Back Pink Anthias, Bali Engineer Gobies, Indian Ocean Purple Firefish, Bali Blue Regal Tangs, Bali Peacock Flounders, Bali Blue Mandarin Dragonettes and so much more folks!!

SALTWATER INVERTEBRATES (NOW IN STOCK):

Green Long Tentacle Anemones, Green Bubble Anemones, Coral Banded Shrimp, Cleaner Shrimp, Purple Reef Lobsters, Chocolate Chip Starfish, Fancy Colored Sea Urchins, Yellow Polyp Rocks, Green Wall Hammer Corals, Green Octopus Wall Corals, Green Torch Corals, Cultured Euphyllia Corals (these are awesome colored corals), Sally Lite Foot Crabs, Red Tip Reef Hermits, Arrow Crabs, Green Trachyphyllia Corals, Branching Green Hammer Corals, Blue Leg Reef Hermits, New Zebra Reef Hermits, Cortez Cerith Snails, Nassarius Sand Sifting Snails, Royal Sea Urchins, XL Green Sinularia Tree Leather Corals, Yellow Leather Corals, Symphyllia Corals, Green Zoanthid Rocks, Green Star Polyp Rocks, Short Sinularia Leather Coral, Super Green Turbinaria Corals, Premium Fiji Live Rock, Assorted Live Rock w/ Polyps and Mushrooms (sold are regular live rock this week!), Super Red Blasstomussa Corals, Super Green Blasstomussa Corals, Tonga Fancy Mushroom Rocks and much more!!!!