

**THE  
DARTER**

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JUNE  
1990**



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of the**

**MISSOURI AQUARIUM SOCIETY, INC.**



# BELDT'S AQUARIUM

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#### HOURS

Mon. - Fri.	9 to 9
Saturday	9 to 6
Sunday	12:30 to 6



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 \* SOUNDS FROM THE SOUTH \*  
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 \* Bob Reich \*  
 \* Missouri Aquarium Society, Inc. \*  
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BREEDING BETTA PICTA  
 (A Mouthbrooder)

I was going to start by saying "Back about a year or so, when I first purchased some *Betta picta*...", but I won't since I don't know if I got those babies then or not. Anyway, I'm not sure if this is a set way to breed *Betta picta* or not, but it does work for me. St, if and when you come across a breeding pair, and you think you wan to give them a whirl, feel free to use the following information.

First of all, the female *Betta picta* averages close to two and one half inches in length. Males are slightly smaller in length, as well as width. Males have a dark coloration in the anal fin that runs the length of the outer border.

I keep my adult fish in a ten gallon tank (four females and one male) until the male has a mouth full of eggs. I then move him to a five gallon tank with a handful; no, make that a big handful; of Java Moss (enough to cover between one-third to one-half of the tank area.

As a few folks know, I'm not much into getting conditions perfect, but the pH in the ten gallon tank stays around 7.3 or 7.4. The temperature for all tanks in "The Room" remain around 78° ( except for the four tanks with heaters). I've never checked the hardness. I try my best to do a one-third water change every two weeks. Filtration is maintained by a Tetra Billi sponge filter. Java Fern is used for "comforting," and I've put in broken flower pots and rocks for caves. The *Betta picta* love caves, at least one per fish.

Since I use water from the ten gallon tank, the pH in the "five" is close to that maintained in the "ten." There is no filtration, unless you consider the Java Moss filter material. There is no heater in either tank. Water changes in the "five" follow the routine described above, roughly two to three weeks after the male as spit out the fry (about fourteen days after mating).

Food for the adults consists of frozen brine shrimp, frozen mosquito larvae, beefheart (on occasion), frozen bloodworms, and live black worms (when available). Food for the fry consists of live microworms for three to five days after the yolk sac has disappeared, then live baby brine shrimp until the fry are big enough to devour frozen adult brine shrimp, a month or so later.

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 \* ROBERT'S REVIEWS \*  
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 \* Bob Huels \*  
 \* Missouri Aquarium Society, Inc. \*  
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In January, 1989, I became a member of MASI and quickly became interested in the history and development of the organization. Not unlike many of our members, I love to read about tropical fish. A few months ago, our friend, Bob Reich, volunteered to act as the MASI Historian. Bob has allowed me to review some of the older "DARTERS", and I thought, just possibly, others would be interested.

My first draft of this article contained a very short review of each of the original articles in each of the twelve monthly issues. However, with five continuing columns and numerous breeding articles, I began to believe that the review of 1977 alone, would take most of 1990.

DIARY OF A PAST DARTER  
 1977

WHO WAS THERE? (Where are they now?)

January through June, 1977

President: Ralph Wilhelm	Vice President: Carl Berry	
Secretary: Barbara Pozaric	Treasurer: Tom Hopfinger	
Executive Council: Larry Allbright	Rich Crabtree	Klaus Betrich
Dave Masters	Ken Cope	Frank Simmons
Activities & Chairpersons:		
Show Chairman:	Larry Allbright	
Auction Chairman:	Ray Kuster	
Breeders Award Program:	Dennis Donahue	
Editor:	Charlotte Hopfinger	

July through December, 1977

President: Dave Masters	Vice President: Carol Willemin	
Secretary: Sharon Masters	Treasurer: Ken Kiem	
Executive Council: Carl Berry	Tom Hopfinger	Rich Crabtree
Paul Powell	Ken Cope	Frank Simmons
Ralph Wilhelm		
Activities & Chairpersons:		
Show Chairman:	Paul Powell	
Auction Chairman:	John Griffiths	
Breeders Award Program:	Rich Crabtree	
Editor:	Carol Willemin	

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 \* THE LABRYNITH'S LAIR \*  
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 \* Fred & Sue Cotterell \*  
 \* Missouri Aquarium Society, Inc. \*  
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SPAWNING PSUEDOPHROMENUS DAYI  
 (Day's Paradise Fish)

Recently, we lucked into another unusual Anabantoid, Day's Paradise Fish, or as it is named in the books - *Psuedosphromenus dayi*. It is the second member of the genus *Psuedophromenus*. We have spawned the first member, the Spike-Tailed Paradise Fish, *P. cupanus*, several months ago, and we really were lucky in receiving this gem.

*P. dayi* cannot really be confused with *P. cupanus* as there is too much difference in the finnage and coloration. For the most part, *P. dayi* exhibits a different coloration in the fins, red and blue, while the *P. cupanus* exhibits only red. Also, the central rays of the *P. dayi* male's caudal fin are much more elongated than those of the *P. cupanus*. Another observed difference is that the *P. dayi* female approaches the male in a "head up" position of submission.

Our fishes are kept, alone, in a twenty gallon tank, and they seem to be quite prolific. We got our pair "turned on," and we can't seem to turn them off! The foods required by this species are of the normal fare with frozen brine shrimp being their favorite, followed by freeze dried tubifex worms. Flake food is taken only as a last resort.

Water quality seems to be unimportant to *P. dayi*. We try to keep their tank clean, but some how our maintenance schedule never seems to get around to it. The water in the tank seems to have gone to pot, and all this seems to do is make them more prolific. The water temperature is held at 80°, and the pH is 6.4 to 6.8. The hardness is unknown.

The tank has lots of floating plants and a lot of Java Moss on the bottom. It also contains some potted plants and remains of plant pots which serve as spawning and brooding areas. Most of the potted plants, Amazon Swords and Crypts, are left overs from other tanks what have been replanted or torn down. Most have gone through a process of regaining their leaves. The *P. dayi* seem to love this environment, utilizing each and every pot and rock to play hide and seek, or to court one another.

Spawning takes place in, or near, a rock cave or flowerpot. There is the approach of the female, head up as a sign of submission, and the usual pursuit and gentle nudge by the male to lead the female to his selected site. As the typical embrace is performed, small white eggs fall to the bottom, and both take part in the retrieval process.

Hatching usually takes one to two days, and as the fry emerge, they are defended by the male with such voracity that any fish within striking distance

