

## **Corydoras sp. 'Mazaruni' (C-150)** BAP article by *Regina Spotti*

Corydoras species 'Mazaruni' was found by Ingo Seidel while on a collecting trip to South America. These fish were collected from a sandbank along the Mazaruni River in Guyana, where the fishes "un-scientific" name comes from. Corydoras species are assigned "C" numbers when the fish have not been scientifically described, as these have not been. Their actual "C" number was assigned to them by Hans-Georg Evers in 2005 as C-150. Ingo kindly provided me with the water parameters at the catch site as pH 6.4, 28 °C and the conductivity was 10 µS/cm. I set up a group of six "borrowed" fish consisting of four females and two males in a five and a half gallon tank the winter of 2007. The tank décor consisted of a large green mop made of acrylic yarn and a small bunch of java moss along with a sponge filter. A scattering of play sand was on the bottom of the tank, enough to cover the glass. The water temperature was 78 degrees Fahrenheit and the pH was 7.2, a bit different from the waters this fish is normally found in. Our fish are not wild caught, rather they are descendants from Ingo's original fish, so are not bothered by our water parameters. To condition the group, I fed them regularly with live black worms. A pinch of worms, about two hefty tablespoons, were added to the tank regularly. The fish relish the worms and they generally don't last more than two days. Also offered and eagerly devoured were white worms and freeze dried tubifex once per week. The fish do eat flake food, but in order to condition them for spawning I prefer the aforementioned fare. By the middle of January the females were noticeably fuller bodied. At that point I began to perform water changes using cooler water. The water that was added to the tank was approximately five degrees Fahrenheit cooler than the water in the adults' tank. On the 22<sup>nd</sup>, the morning following such a water change, there were twenty seven eggs on the sides of the tank and in the mop. The two millimeter amber colored eggs were scraped from the tank and moved with the mop to a two and a half gallon tank filled with water from the parents' setup. An air stone and just enough play sand to cover the bottom of the tank were added with the mop. However, the eggs did not develop, fungus quickly engulfed them. I noticed the eggs left behind in the adults' setup also developed fungus. So after two attempts and I don't know how many fungused eggs, I decided to make some changes. Snow makes an alternative to RO water (which it is not) and was caught in large quantity using large plastic flower pots and melted at room temperature in the fish room. Now the pH was lowered to 6.4, but I did not measure the water hardness which should have been noticeably lower. That seemed to be what was needed. About five days after the water changes using the melted snow, more eggs were on the glass and in the mop. I decided to play it safe and added some Pimafix to the water in the hatching tank as a preventative. Only three drops of Pimafix were added to the water in the tank, which was half full. Two



days later the fry hatched and began to roll around the bottom of the tank in the current. They measured just over one half of a centimeter. Their egg sacs lasted about three days and they were offered APR for the following week. From there they graduated to micro worms and finely ground flake food. As part of a daily regimen upon the eggs hatching, I began to siphon out one cup of water along with any debris using a turkey baster. I use a baster to ensure the fry don't get removed and tossed out with the waste water. The waste water is emptied into a Cool Whip container so that I can check the water for fry before discarding it. These guys grow quite quickly, photo shows them at one week and at eight weeks they are around one centimeter in total length. And they quickly develop their spotted pattern. They seem to never stop moving, always rooting around in the sand. These are an attractive, pretty easily kept Corydoras that should be seen more often. A special thanks to my good friend Ingo Seidel. Without his collecting efforts and generosity a lot of fish, like the Corydoras sp. 'Mazaruni', have become established in our hobby that otherwise may never have. RLS 07/23/2008