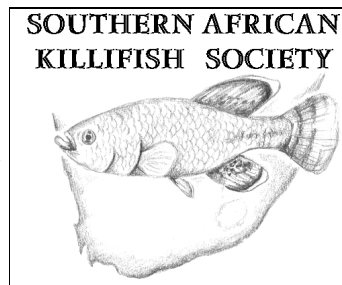


# **SOUTHERN AFRICAN KILLIFISH SOCIETY *Letters***

**Volume 2, Number 5, 2002**



*Aphyosemion batesii (kunzi)* K99 T.T. Photo by Rudolf Koubek

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## Greetings

Hello all

I've made contact with our wondering adventurer Rudolf Koubek. The title picture is a bit blurry but still get the message across: *Aphyosemion 'kunzi'* is a very attractive fish. A complete list of what Koubek has available is to be found further on. He is expensive but maybe you can negotiate...

In the news section is also some information regarding sending fish by post in South Africa as well as abroad. This will be very interesting to many of you and offers us some hope in distributing our spare fish. Also, I've listed some fish that I have imported this year in case some of you may be looking for them too. The purpose of this newsletter is to exchange information after all.

On the topic of information exchange I would like to tell you about the [aquatek@coollist.com](mailto:aquatek@coollist.com) email list. This list is run by Renier van Rensburg ([renier@sanavy.co.za](mailto:renier@sanavy.co.za)). If you want to join up contact him. So far traffic has been minimal and very enriching. I encourage you to join and partake in South African fishkeeping.

Due to the increasingly erratic nature of this little publication I have decided to do it free of charge in my spare time. Those people who want to be refunded for their membership just ask. Regardless, you will still receive an edition every now and then... I just can't guarantee the frequency.

With the prospect of trades becoming more frequent and practical I hope more use will come out of the 'Fish and Egg Trading List'. Send me your list and I will incorporate it into the next edition.

Keep well and have a merry Christmas and New Year.

## News

### Shipping fish locally

Errol Scholtz and I have been in contact since December sending eggs up and down the East coast with some success. About two months ago Erroll had the bright idea of using the South African Postal Service's overnight mail facility to send fish down from PE.

The first fish sent were some *Fundulopanchax filamentosus*<sup>1</sup>. Erroll phoned me alerting me that he was sending the fish and what the tracking number of the box was. The box was a compact Styrofoam box used to ship medicines to pharmacists. These boxes are able to keep temperatures near constant for hours. The box was

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<sup>1</sup> *Fundulopanchax filamentosus* is now regarded as the correct taxon. As far as Ken Lazara and his Killifish Master Index *Aphyosemion kunzi* is synonymous with *batesii* and *Aphyosemion bochtleri* is a colour morph, and so synonymous with *herzogi* (but don't try and convince Koubek).

posted at 16h00 and instructions were given to the driver of the postal van to be extra careful and try and keep the box warm.

9h00 the next morning I collected the box at the local post office. All the fish had made it alive. The fish were shipped in 4 bags, each with four fish: Two bags with four males and two bags with four females. All the fish ate on arrival and while looking very stressed they looked as if they were going to make it. That was Wednesday.

Friday evening all the males were dead and most of the females died Saturday. Why? Finrot. The males had been fighting in the bags and in their stressed state they couldn't resist the bacterial infection of finrot. The females must of also scuffled and died of finrot as well.

Could we improve on matters? I got ready to send the box and some fish back to PE. A chat with Otto Schmidt yielded the sage advice of less fish per bag and definetly only one male. I prepared for the shipment. Two trios of *Nothobranchius korthausae* "Kwachepa TZL 01-53" and one trio of *Nematolebias whitei* were put in separate bags. One lone *Aphyosemion australe* male was placed in the forth bag. To the bags were added a few grains of Aquaclear Amrid (to adsorb ammonia) and some shredded plastic bag to supply some cover for the fish. Newspaper was put between the bags and off I went to the post office, made it just in time and forgot to mention anything about being extra careful with the box (after all I had labeled clearly with "Handle with Care", "This way up" and "Live Tropical Fish").

Erroll phoned the next day saying the box had arrived in bad shape and the bags had started leaking. All the fish but the male *australe* made it though. We in the Cape still wanted some *filamentosus* so Erroll made plans to send the box down again.

This time the fish were shipped as pairs or trios and made it down with only one casualty.

I prepared to send the box back up to PE with a male *Aplocheilichthys lineatus* Gold and a male gold *australe*. The fish were placed in larger bags with water and Amarid. The box was closed after some Styrofoam packing was added. I marched down to the Post Office and asked them to be extra careful with the box. The clerk disappeared and came back and told me that their carrier, Speed Services, don't transport live fish and I couldn't send it via the Post Office...

I went down to Postnet and managed to send it via them except that they offered no guarantee.

If some care is taken overnight delivery can be used successfully to ship fish around the country. It is important not to put too many fish per bag and not to mix males, and that the bags be insulated. If you send the fish via the Post Office don't tell them it is live fish but do insist on extra care. Postnet is more expensive but don't mind shipping fish.

The rates are about R25 per kilogram for the Post Office and R71 per two kilogram box (two kilograms is the minium charge).

Please let us know if you try this and what the results were.

### Shipping fish internationally

I have been busy with Rudolph Koubek trying to distribute his fish. Using breathing bags he has sent fish to the USA, Austria and Japan by regular post. He uses a small non-discript box and packs eight breathing bags into this box. On the customs slip (green form) he states that the box contains live fish and doesn't seem to have any problems. The box travels between 10 and 21 days in the post without major losses. The fatality rate is about 1 out of 8 so far but these fish were shipped at the end of the weather window of opportunity and things were getting cold.

### New Imports

I just recently brought in some peat and eggs of *Epiplatys dageti monroviae* "Harbel EP82" and have several fry to show for it. The kind hearted soul who sent the eggs is sending more so hopefully I will be able to distribute some fish soon.

I have also hatched and so far raised 7 *Simpsonichthys marginatus*. This species is supposed to be extinct in the wild (habitat turned into a rice paddy).

I have also acquired *Austrolebias nigripinnis* "Carmelo" and a new strain of *Nothobranchius foerschi*. I have tubs with fry of *Austrolebias bellottii* "Maschwitz MF 02/1", *alexandri* "Ceibas" and *Pituna compacta*.

### Fish and Egg Trading List

Please submit your list of fish/eggs that you have for sale or would like to acquire. The list can be sent to [tgenade@sun.ac.za](mailto:tgenade@sun.ac.za).

#### Dirk Bellstedt

4 Helderspruit Road, Somerset West, 7130

Tel: 021-855-3788

[dub@sun.ac.za](mailto:dub@sun.ac.za)

Imported German foods and Discus. Brine shrimp eggs, flakes, frozen foods, baby star II & IV (baby brine shrimp substitute), decapsulated brine shrimp eggs, microgranulate etc... Best prices! Excellent quality! Phone/email for a complete list of available products. Shipping: anywhere in South Africa!

#### Tyrone Genade

Nr.5 Concord, Kerk Straat, Stellenbosch, 7600.

[tgenade@sun.ac.za](mailto:tgenade@sun.ac.za)

<http://www.tyronegenade.0catch.com>

Tel: 084-3354-977 (cell), 021-808-5876 (w)

Available eggs:

<i>Austrolebias nigripinnis</i> "Carmelo"	R 50/wks
<i>Nematolebias whitei</i>	R 50/wks
<i>Nothobranchius palmqvisti</i> "Ramisi KE 01-12"	R 50/wks
<i>Psedomugil gertrudae</i> "Jones Road, Nth Qld"	R 25/10 eggs

Vinegar eel culture starter (5 ml)

R 10

All eggs are shipped fresh. Non-annual eggs are picked consecutively for 3 or 4 days and shipped off allowing three to four days of travel.

The *Pseudomugil gertrudae* are a species of blue-eye a relative of the rainbow fish and is not a killifish. It does have some very nice killifish properties: small size, peaceful, large eggs with long incubation period.

Looking for *Aphyosemion striatum* "Cap Esterias".

### Rudolph Koubek

P.O. Box 147, Randvaal, 1873

Tel: 084-335-0101

Available fish:

<i>Aphyosemion batesii (kunzi)</i> K99 T.T.	\$35/pr
<i>Aphyosemion batesii (kunzi)</i> K01	\$35/pr
<i>Aphyosemion bochtleri</i> K98	\$25/pr
<i>Aphyosemion cameronense</i> K98 (yellow caudal fin)	\$25/pr
<i>Aphyosemion cameronense</i> K99 Route Forest	\$25/pr
<i>Aphyosemion cameronense</i> K98 (yellow spot on tail)	\$25/pr
<i>Aphyosemion cameronense</i> K01	\$25/pr
<i>Aphyosemion herzogi</i> K98 & K99 (red)	\$25/pr
<i>Aphyosemion lamberti</i> K00 Congo Border (red)	\$25/pr
<i>Aphyosemion maculatum</i> K98 (yellow fins)	\$25/pr
<i>Aphyosemion maculatum</i> K00 T.T.	\$25/pr
<i>Aphyosemion ogoense pyrophore</i> K00 (yellow caudal)	\$25/pr
<i>Aphyosemion punctatum</i> K01 T.T.	\$25/pr
<i>Aphyosemion punctatum</i> K01	\$25/pr
<i>Aphyosemion rectogoense</i> K00 T.T.	\$25/pr
<i>Diapteron abacinum</i> K01 T.T.	\$25/pr
<i>Diapteron cyanostictum</i> K99	\$25/pr
<i>Diapteron cyanostictum</i> K01	\$25/pr
<i>Diapteron fulgens</i> K00 T.T.	\$25/pr
<i>Diapteron georgiae</i> K98	\$25/pr
<i>Diapteron georgiae</i> K00 (light blue)	\$25/pr
<i>Diapteron georgiae</i> K01	\$25/pr
<i>Rivulus agilae</i>	\$25/pr

T.T. refers to *terra typica* based on Eduard Purzl's book: **Radda A.C. & E. Pürzl 1987**, *Colour Atlas of Cyprinodonts of the Rain Forests of Tropical Africa*, Hofmann Verlag, Wien, Austria.

### Errol Scholtz

4 Cathwil Rd., Kabega Park, 6025, PE.

Tel: 041-360-2503

Available fish:

<i>Chromaphyosemion poliaki</i> "Bolifamba"	R50/pr
	R25/10 eggs
<i>Fundulopanchax filamentosus</i>	R50/wks
<i>Nothobranchius korthausae</i> "Yellow Kwachepa TZL 53/01"	R50/wks
<i>Nothobranchius palmqvisti</i> "Ramisi KE 01-11"	R50/wks

All prices exclude shipping (overnight for fish and regular mail for eggs). Trades welcome. Looking for *Aphyosemion australe*.

## Contact Details

### Coastal and Overseas Coordinator

Tyrone Genade

[tgenade@sun.ac.za](mailto:tgenade@sun.ac.za)

<http://www.tyronegenade.0catch.com>

45 Rotterdam Road, Monte Vista,  
7460, South Africa

Ph: +27-021-808-5876 (work)

Ph: 084-3354-977 (cell)

### Inland Coordinator

Ryan Reisinger

[erimages@mweb.co.za](mailto:erimages@mweb.co.za)

P.O Box 11537, Queenswood, 0121,  
South Africa