

Texas Area Killifish Organization

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Peru—The Ones That Got Away

I spent 25 days in Peru during the month of October 2012 for work; almost all of it in the jungle and not a single moment was spent collecting anything but insect bites. The project involved bioremediation of mud and cuttings at a

rig site where the client had drilled a dry hole. Since this occurred in a Reserve there were numerous stipulations regarding the number of flights in and out of location; what could be transported; and, the specifics of the remediation/

revegetation. Because of the agreement with the locals absolutely nothing could be accepted by either side nor removed from the Reserve under penalty of law.

Therefore, not wishing to pen this edition from the interior of a

Peruvian jail I simply brought out the photographs. Indeed, there was a very promising stream 300 meters through the jungle that might likely be holding that new species but we'll never know now.

The area truly had beauties and beasties. Since no netting/fishing was allowed I have no idea what lurked under the surface. However, there certainly were plenty of deni-

zens using the stream as pug marks of a very large jaguar were found early one morning after a 'wee hours rainfall' only 50 meters from the camp boundary. Numerous venomous snakes,

insects and plants abounded along the perimeter. Most mornings brought the sounds of local parrots and monkeys feeding nearby. The days nearly all included rainfall



Inside this issue:

Peru—The Ones That Got Away (continued)	2
Jungle Photos	2
Rivulus ornatus Rio Tigre	3
Jungle Photos	3
Jungle Photos	4

(Continued from page 1)

of heavy intensity that brought the humidity even higher. As can be imagined, the temperature ranged from the upper 80s to the upper 90s with humidity always maxed out.

brought a safety meeting at 0545 hrs discussing items of concern or various diseases that are likely to be contracted for which there are no preventative shots.

Several times a week a same sex trio (no reason why

just the way it was) of young natives would walk out of the jungle and skirt the site boundary on their way to some distant location.

Sunrise at Iquitos
(Photo - A. Leuterman)

Every morning



Rivulus ornatus Rio Tigre by A. Leuterman

Stephen Rabke and I are breeding this cryptic little fellow in a tray in our office area. The tray has one inch of water, half RO and half Houston tap with some hornwort. They deposit their eggs on the hornwort and live happily with the fry. Stephen and I pipette the fry into the 32 oz plastic jar with some *Najas*

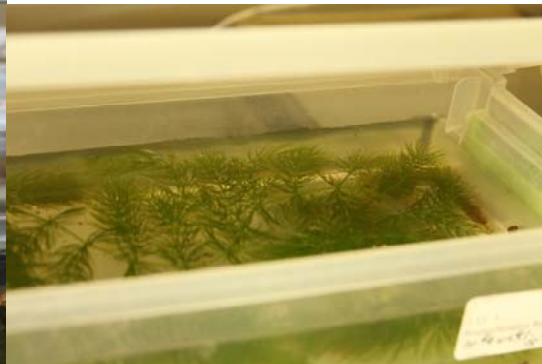
guadalupensis for cover and bacteria to colonize. Two small pond snails were added to handle uneaten baby brine.

The temperature ranges from 67 to 75 F. The adults and fry are normally fed once a day with no feeding on Saturdays and Sundays.

Thus far the small pair that I acquired at the

2012 Convention have been rather prolific with approximately 35 eggs produced since we stumbled upon the key—shallow, reasonably hard water. As opposed to some *Rivulus* species all of the eggs laid have been fertile with only two eggs not hatching thus far.

Contributors:
Arthur Leuterman
Stephen Rabke
Andre Veigas



(Photos above by S. Rabke)

Green venomous beastie crossing our walk path . (Photo by A. Veigas)



Editor—A.J. J. Leuterman, Ph.D.

742 Bison Drive
Houston, Texas
77079-4401

[Photos by A. Leuterman]



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