

Elegans Newsletter

Notes from the „elegans study-group“ of the DKG

- 1/2000 -

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Dear Elegans-Friends,

four reasons have driven me to pick up the initiative for a new “elegans study-group”

1. I did not hear anything from the elegans-group over the past three years
2. It was hard to locate people interested in elegans-group species and their strains
3. There seems to be great interest in the elegans species, however.
4. A coordinated species maintenance for fishes of this subgenus does not exist

Therefore, I would like to revive the elegans study-group, together with all of you.

1. State of the Art

After such a long period of quietness around the study-group, the first things to do would be to define the status quo - with regards to the members of the group as well as with regard to the populations present. I have great hope that all the people mentioned on the cover page are interested in joining the group and are willing to participate actively. Maybe, there will be others interested to join too. However, all those people from the cover page received this letter (some in german, of course).

IMPORTANT!

I was almost able to contact everybody on the list personally, but from some of them an answer is still missing. Therefore, I would like to ask those to let me know if they are still interested in joining the elegans study-group. A necessary prerequisite for doing so would be the sending of their own species maintenance list of elegans-group fishes (if not done already). As soon as possible, I will give an updated list of the resulting members.

2. Contributions to the study-group

The elegans study-group can do important work only, if all members of the group are actively engaged. At present, there is neither a detailed organization available, nor are any tasks defined. Thomas Kraska asked me to take over coordinating functions for the group, which I agreed to do. Hans Kämpf has agreed to pay special attentions to articles regarding elegans-group species while browsing the DKG-library, as well as to distribute copies on request. Further suggestions are very welcome. However, the absolute minimum would be that everybody gives a list of his own elegans-group species on a regular basis (at least 2 times a year and in case of changes) and would also be willing to distribute the strains among other members of the group. The aim of this would solely be to keep the population in the hobby. It is not thought to be for personal enrichment or

commercial interests. To achieve this, I would like to introduce kind of a species maintenance program. The development of such a program still has to be done, but I already attached a draft, based in part on the AKA’s species maintenance program. I encourage everybody to give his own suggestions and modifications to the draft. In the next issue, I will print the corrected version. I hope that there will be readiness from everybody in the group to actively participate in this species maintenance program, so that we are able to find “species coordinators” for almost any strain in the list.

Furthermore, I would also like to open the study-group for foreign members who are not necessarily members of the DKG. There is for sure an impressive list of interests alone from the members of the DKG, but their stock of populations is limited. During my efforts over the last weeks, some foreign people have confirmed interest in our elegans study-group. Of those, Tim Addis (UK), Anthony Conrad (KCF), Thørgger Harder (SKS) und Allen McNeally (US) already send me their species lists. Together with the lists of some of the DKG members, we currently have the following picture (**Please check your entry!**):

Ident-No.	Species – Population	Name
427	A. chaucei „Marsépé“	Haggerty Kämpf Kraska Schwekendiek
4249	A. chaucei „Obeya“, RPC 91/6	Haggerty Kraska
430	A. chaucei „RPC Z 96/5“	Haggerty Kraska
437	A. christyi „HZ 85/8“	Haggerty Harder Hölzer Kämpf Kraska
3942	A. christyi “HZ 85/14”	Kraska
436	A. christyi “HZ 85/22”	Kämpf Kraska
442	A. christy “Lobaye”	Conrad Kämpf
432	A. christyi “Aquarienstamm”	Hölzer
499	A. cognatum “Z 82/2”	Haggerty McNealy
500	A. cognatum “Gilima”, Z 91/3	Haggerty
487	A. cognatum „Kenge“	Hölzer
484	A. cognatum „Kenge“, CI Z 93	Haggerty Kämpf Kraska
489	A. cognatum “Kinshasa”	Weber
1377	A. (cognatum ?) “Lake Fwa” = A. lujae “Lake Fwa” ?	Haggerty Kämpf Lehmann McNealy Schwekendiek

490	A. cognatum (F. Insuka ?)	Harder
499	A. cognatum “Z 82/2”	Kraska
501	A. congicum	McNealy
505	A. congicum „Z 82/17“	Haggerty Kämpf Kraska Lehmann Tomcyk Ude
516	A. decorsei „Bangui“	Kämpf Kraska
	A. spec. aff decorsei “Lobaye”	Kraska
518	A. decorsei “Kapou”, RCA 91/1	Haggerty Hölzer Kämpf Kraska McNealy
517	A. decorsei “RCA 82/3”	Haggerty Kraska
	A. decorsei “RCA 91/3” (?)	Addis
	A. lamberti “BBA/GAB 90/1”	Addis
848	A. lamberti „BSWG 97/9“	Lehmann McNealy
854	A. lamberti „G 88/7“	Haggerty Kämpf
855	A. lamberti „G 92/4“	Kraska
860	A. lamberti “GEB 94/7”	Kämpf
873	A. lamberti “PEG 96/4”	Kämpf
878	A. lamberti “TDK 97/17”	Addis Lehmann
881	A. lefiniense “CI 96”	Conrad Haggerty Hölzer Kraska Ude
985	A. margaretae	Kämpf
986	A. margaretae “HZ 85/14”	Conrad Haggerty
1385	A. spec . “oyo”	Kämpf Addis
4252	A. spec. “oyo” ,RPC 91/8	Haggerty Kraska
1198	A. polli “Z 82/26”	Wagner
1194	A. polli “CI 95”	Kämpf Schwekendiek
4253	A. polli “CI 99”	Haggerty
1272	A. rectogoense „BBA/GAB 90/27“	Addis Conrad Kämpf Lehmann Ude
1270	A. rectogoense “G 92/5”	Haggerty Kämpf

1267	A. recotgoense „G 92/11“	Haggerty Kraska Tomczyk
1275	A. rectogoense „GHP 80/30“	Conrad Haggerty Harder Lehmann
1276	A. rectogoense “PEG 95/16”	Kämpf
1319	A. schioetzi „?“	Hölzer McNealy
1321	A. schioetzi „C 85/1“	Haggerty
1336	A. schioetzi “Z 91/1”	Kämpf Ude
1370	A. spec. “Epoma” “RPC 91/1”	Haggerty Hölzer Kraska
1381	A. spec. “Madimba”	?

Table 1: Preliminary list of species of the elegans study group. Ident numbers for the strains are from my own database.

This is all together a list of almost 20 people with about 40 different populations. In my opinion, a quite impressive start. Furthermore, I know of other DKG members as well as of members from associated organizations, who do also have elegans-group fish, but are not interested in joining our group. Corrections and additions to me, please, anytime you like. I am especially in doubt about codes for A. polli “CI 99”, A. decorsei „RCA 91/3“ and A. cognatum „Insuka“.

I would like to reintroduce as many of the lost populations as possible to the german hobby. Therefore, it would be nice if all of you could keep their eyes open, especially for those strains not on the list. On the other hand, we have to take care to not loose any of the current species. But for this, we hopefully can establish our species maintenance program soon.

3. Newsletter

The „elegans newsletter“ is thought to be published quaterly, maybe sooner if required. I will send a PDF-version of the newsletter to all people who have an email account (just to save money). The necessary Acrobat-Reader can be donwloaded for free from the Adobe Homepage (www.adobe.com). Those who need the newsletter per snail mail have to pay for the postage themselves (maybe in form of fishes).

Furthermore, it is planned to introduce on of the elegans-species in greater detail in every issue. This does not necessarily mean a breeding report, rather than an overview of the populations mentioned in the literature and an overview of the status quo of the species in

the hobby. Here it is important to get feedback from the members if further facts are known. For example, it would be great if we could compile a literature list for a given species or make a list of available slides. Why not start alphabetically with *A. chauchei* at the beginning of 2001 in the next issue. I would be glad to hear from those of you, who are breeding a strain of *A. chauchei*.

Please view this “newsletter” more than a basis for discussion, rather than the last truth. Maybe, we all together might be able to make it a rich source of information about the elegans-group species and therefore the basis for journal articles or supplement issues.

4. Micellaneous

Everybody, who has further suggestions or contributions is very welcome to discuss them here with the entire group. Changes and corrections to me, please.

5. Fish & Egg Listing

Axel is looking for:

- A. christy “Lobaye”
- A. chauchei „Marsepe“
- A. spec „Lake Fwa“
- A. polli „CI 95“

Best regards,

Axel

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Bondorf, October 18th, 2000