

Elegans Newsletter

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

- 2/2000 -

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Dear *elegans*-friends,

First of all, I would like to welcome four new members, Jürgen Heidler, Barbara and Alan Brown, Bill Drake and Pierre Pelletier, who gave me their species maintenance lists already. Thanks for that. Anita Persson (anita@pop.landskrona.se) from Sweden wants to receive the ENL even though she is not maintaining any *elegans*-group fish.

1. Updated Species Maintenance List

I have updated the species maintenance list. All updates are mentioned below and marked purple in the list. I hope, I did not overlook anything.

It looks like a complete survey of all species belonging to the *elegans*-group is not as easy as it seems. The population codes are mixed up to a certain extent and it is hard to find out what is wrong and what is right. Therefore, I would like to encourage anybody to review the list and give me a note on any possible mismatches, so that we can build a correct list of codes.

Corrections to the list of issue 1:

ID 427 corrected. Must be „**Masèpe**“

ID 430 corrected. Must be „Oltombo“, RPC Z 96/5

ID 3942 deleted. Is identical to ID 986

ID 516 corrected. Must be „Bangui“, **KCF 5**

ID 442 unclear. Should be **A. spec. aff. decorsei** „**Lobaye**“

ID 487 deleted. Is identical to ID 484

ID 1377 replaced by ID 1441

ID 490 corrected. Must be „**Kinsuka**“

ID 518 corrected. Must be „**Kapou I**“

The fish in ID 985 belongs indeed to ID 986

ID 1385 and 4252 deleted. Both combined under new ID 1392

ID 1370 deleted. New ID 1389

ID 3993 new. Was mentioned as **A. spec.** „HZ 85/20“

Ident-No.	Species – Population	Name
427	<i>A. chauchei</i> „Masepe“	Haggerty Kämpf Kraska Schwekendiek Wagner
4249	<i>A. chauchei</i> „,Obeya“, RPC 91/6	Haggerty
430	<i>A. chauchei</i> „Oltombo“, RPC Z 96/5	Haggerty Hölzer Kraska Wagner
432	<i>A. christyi</i> „Aquarium Strain“ <i>A. christyi</i> “alter DDR Strain”	Hölzer Heidler
437	<i>A. christyi</i> „HZ 85/8“	Haggerty Harder Hölzer Kämpf Kraska Ott Wagner Weber
3993	<i>A. christyi</i> “HZ 85/20”	Wagner
436	<i>A. christyi</i> “HZ 85/22”	Kämpf Kraska
442	<i>A. christyi</i> “Lobaye”	Conrad Kämpf
432	<i>A. christyi</i> “Aquarium Strain”	Hölzer
499	<i>A. cognatum</i> “Z 82/2”	Haggerty Heidler Kraska McNealy
500	<i>A. cognatum</i> “Gilima”, Z 91/3	Haggerty Ott
484	<i>A. cognatum</i> „Kenge“, CI Z 93	Haggerty Hölzer Kämpf Kraska
489	<i>A. cognatum</i> “Kinshasa”	Weber
1441	<i>A. spec. aff. cognatum</i> “Lake Fwa”	Haggerty Kämpf Lehmann McNealy Schwekendiek
490	<i>A. cognatum</i> “Kinsuka”	Harder
499	<i>A. cognatum</i> “Z 82/2”	Kraska Wagner
501	<i>A. congium</i>	McNealy
505	<i>A. congium</i> „Z 82/17“	Haggerty Heidler

		Kämpf Kraska Lehmann Ott Tomcyk Ude Weber
516	<i>A. decorsei</i> „Bangui“, KCF 5	Kämpf Kraska
442	<i>A. spec. aff. decorsei</i> “Lobaye”	Kraska
518	<i>A. decorsei</i> “Kapou I”, RCA 91/1	Haggerty Hölzer Kämpf Kraska McNealy
517	<i>A. decorsei</i> “RCA 82/3”	Haggerty Hölzer Kraska Wagner
	<i>A. decorsei</i> “RCA 91/3” (?)	Addis
	<i>A. lamberti</i> “BBA/GAB 90/1”	Addis Brown
848	<i>A. lamberti</i> „BSWG 97/9“	Türk Lehmann McNealy Pelletier
854	<i>A. lamberti</i> „G 88/7“	Haggerty Kämpf
855	<i>A. lamberti</i> „G 92/4“	Kraska
860	<i>A. lamberti</i> “GEB 94/7”	Hölzer Kämpf
4250	<i>A. lamberti</i> „GHH 97/11“	Weber
873	<i>A. lamberti</i> “PEG 96/4”	Kämpf
878	<i>A. lamberti</i> “TDK 97/17”	Addis Lehmann Weber
881	<i>A. lefiniense</i> “CI 96”	Conrad Haggerty Hölzer Kraska Ott Ude
986	<i>A. margaretae</i> “HZ 85/14”	Conrad Haggerty Kämpf Kraska Ott
1392	<i>A. spec.</i> “oyo”, RPC 91/8	Addis Drake Haggerty Kämpf

		Kraska Ott Wagner
1195	A. polli “N’jili”, CI Z 93 (Type loc.)	Wagner
1194	A. polli “CI 95”	Kämpf Schwekendiek
4253	A. polli “CI 99”	Haggerty
1272	A. rectogoense „BBA/GAB 90/27“	Addis Brown Conrad Kämpf Lehmann Ude Weber
1270	A. rectogoense “G 92/5”	Haggerty Kämpf
1267	A. rectogoense „G 92/11“	Haggerty Kraska Tomczyk Wagner
1275	A. rectogoense „GHP 80/30“	Conrad Haggerty Harder Hölzer Lehmann
1276	A. rectogoense “PEG 95/16”	Hölzer Kämpf Ott
1319	A. schioetzi „?“	Drake Hölzer McNealy
1321	A. schioetzi „C 85/1“	Haggerty
1336	A. schioetzi “Z 91/1”	Hölzer Kämpf Ude Wagner Weber
1389	A. spec. “Epoma” “RPC 91/1”	Haggerty Heidler Hölzer Kraska Ott Wagner
1381	A. spec. “Madimba”	Schwekendiek

Still uncertain seems to be ID 442 in my opinion. It looks like this strain should be mentioned as *A. spec. aff. cognatum* „Lobaye“. However, in almost any reports the fish is named *A. christyi* „Lobaye“. If ID 3993 is truly *A. christyi*,

it cannot be said with certainty. Purely phenotypically this should not be the case.

2. New Import of *A. cognatum* to the UK

Tim Addis has obtained a population of *A. cognatum* (?) from a commercial import near Kinshasa. This pair are now laying viable eggs. He is still in doubt about the exact population code and is looking for more information on the *A. cognatum* codes. If somebody has more information about the RCA, Z & RPC codes of 1991 please contact Tim. RCA 91/1 seems not to be in doubt. In ‘Wild Collections of Killifish 1950-1995’ Langton, the author lists the RCA codes of ’91 as *A. christyi* RCA 91/1 & *E.chevalieri* RCA 92/1 but the 92 is undoubtedly a typing error. According to Thomas Kraska, who got some further information from Wolfgang Harz (one of the collectors in 1991), *E. chevalieri* was found at location “91/2”. If there is a RCA 92/1 code this is not clear. Is anyone aware of a collection in Republic of Congo in 1992?

3. Species Coordinators

Monty Lehman is the first of our members who has chosen a core species. He is the coordinator for *A. rectogoense* and chose the population “BBA/GAB 90/27” as core species. I would greatly encourage everybody to support Monty with information about *A. rectogoense* and give him updates on the strains and populations, especially on “BBA/GAB 90/27”.

Rüdiger Wagner has agreed to take care of *A. chauchei* and *A. polli*. Please get in touch with Rüdiger if you are maintaining any of those species.

For all the other *elegans*-group species we are still in need of species coordinators. It would be great if others would follow the examples of Monty and Rüdiger and choose one of the remaining species as “THEIR” core species, so that we end up with a specific contact for every species of the *elegans*-group. Many thanks to Monty and Rüdiger.

4. Internet

I put the ENL and the other article about species maintenance to the DKG website. It is accessible via the AG-*elegans*- page, (<http://www.exotics.net/dkg/ag/ag-elegans.htm>) All other issues and reports will also be available online under this address. As this information is just targeted to *elegans*—group members, these pages are restricted by password and login:

Login: mitglied
 Password: adinia1882

Both, login and password are to be typed exactly as mentioned above (The year after adinia is 1882 and does not start with the letter “I”).

5. *Aphyosemion chauchei*

Remarks: This is just a try to give a short overview of *A. chauchei*, regarding the specific information that was available to me at this date. Therefore, I would like to encourage everybody to review these data and give me any corrections or further information.

Aphyosemion chauchei was first described in 1981 by Huber and Scheel (Huber 1981). The separation from other species of the *elegans*-group was based preliminary on morphological data. Quote from the original description:



Aphyosemion chauchei "RPC 130"
 M. Chauche, DKG-J. 28(1)

„Es ist der einzige Phänotyp mit kleinen Punkten, Netzmuster und mit einem gelb-orangenem Band in der Afterflosse. Von *lamberti*, auch zur blauen Farbphase gehörend, ist er im Westen wahrscheinlich durch Einzugsgebiete von Ogowe und Kongo getrennt, von *schioetzi* durch die Grenze

Wald-Savanne und von *elegans* und den Formen des Kongobeckens zunehmend durch die Höhenlage“ which means: „This is the only phenotype showing small red dots in a net-like pattern and with a blue-orange band in the anal fin. It is likely to be separated from *lamberti*, which also belongs to the blue color morphs by the Ogowe and Congo drainages, from *schioetzi* by the

border between forest and savanna and from *elegans* and the forms of the Congo basin by altitude.“ The next occurrence to the south is that of *A. spec. oyo*, to the east that of *A. elegans* – separated by the barrier of the Congo river. To the west, *A. chauchei* is substituted by *A. lamberti*, and further southwest by *A. schioetzi* and *A. rectogoense*. It can be easily distinguished from all those surrounding *elegans* type species simply by its unique color pattern. However, it would be nice to know if these surrounding species would be crossable with *A. chauchei*, or not and if the species would interbreed in nature. There was already a phylogenetic analysis of to this subgroup of *elegans* fishes published by Murphy et al. (Murphy 1999), but unfortunately *A. chauchei* was not included in the survey. Nevertheless, the article is a worthwhile study.

To date, *A. chauchei* is known only from locations from Congo. In 1978, Huber found the species at three locations (JH130, JH132 and JH134) between Etoumbi and Makoua (Huber 1981). At location JH134, 27 km north Makoua, he found also *A. elegans* in 1982 (Huber 1996). It looks like both species appear here syntopically. Furthermore, the locations RPC130 (T.t.), RPC 132, RPC134 and RPC 136 were mentioned (Woeltjes 1983), all west and north of Makoua. It may be that location RPC136 is slightly east Makoua (Huber 1981). The „RPC“-codes correspond to those of Huber in Killidata 1996, named „JH“. Generally, the „RPC“-codes are more common. In recent years there were additional locations mentioned in the lists of the annual shows and in the annual species maintenance lists (Marsépe; Oltombo, RPC Z 96/5; RPC 91/1; Oyoué, RPC 91/2; Obeya, RPC 91/6). However, those codes were not mentioned in Killidata 1996. Altogether, the following locations are known:



Aphyosemion chauchei "RPC 130"
 M. Chauche, DKG-J. 15(1)

- RPC 130: 20 km east Etoumbi to Makoua
- RPC 132 = JH 132: 36 km west Makoua
- RPC 134 = JH 134: 27 km north Makoua
- RPC 136: east Makoua
- Marsépe
- Obeya, RPC 91/6
- Oltombo, RPC Z 96/5
- RPC 91/1
- Oyoué, RPC 91/2

Oyoué is located between Etoumbi and Makoua. Therefore RPC 91/2 maybe identical with RPC132. I have no further information about the other codes and have no idea where to find the villages Marsèpe or Oltombo on my maps. Furthermore, I don't know if besides the collections of Huber in 1978 (Huber 1981) there were further collections, nor where and when these might have been. Therefore, the following map contains only the four well known locations RPC130, RPC132, RPC134 and RPC136.

Anybody, who has additional information about those missing locations, is asked to contact me. We need this data urgently.

According to all the reports made to me (Dec. 2000) the actual livestock of the individual populations is as follows:

Population	Name
„Obeya“	Haggerty
„Marsèpe“	Haggerty, Kämpf, Kraska, Lüke (DKG 53) ?, Schwekendiek, Wagner, Wester
„Oyoué“, RPC 91/2	
„RPC 130“ (T.t.)	
„RPC 132“	
„RPC 134“	
“RPC 136”	
„RPC 91/1“	Wagner
„Oltombo, RPC Z 96/5”	Haggerty, Hölzer, Kraska, Wagner, Haustein (DKG 219) ?

My own very rudimentary experiences in breeding *A. chauchei* „Masèpe“ is so far restricted mainly to the production of eggs. After a one week separation of genders, the breeding pair put between 80 and 100 eggs into the mop overnight, but stopped the second day. Most of the eggs were overgrown by fungus in 1-3 days (breeding pair to young ?). From the resulting eggs, I found only a few after two weeks on peat moss. Those did not hatch when I put them into water about 15 days after breeding. After an additional two weeks in water, they finally hatched. From several breeding events with approximately 200 eggs, I raised only 5 fry up to now which are just 2 weeks old, fed on micro worms and artemia as primary food. What a success!

6. Literature:

1. Huber, J.H. & J.J. Scheel (1981). „Revue systématique de la superspèce *Aphyosemion elegans*. Description de *A. chauchei* et *A. schioetzi* n.sp.“. Rev. fr. Aquariol. **8**(2): 33-42
2. Huber, J.H. (1996). “Killidata 1996”
3. Wagner, R. (1996). “Meine Erfahrungen mit *Aphyosemion chauchei* ‘Masepe’”. DKG-J. **28**(1): 7-9
4. Woeltjes, T. (1983). „Die Untergattung *Ahyosemion*. Eine systematische Übersicht“. DKG-J. **15**(1): 1-16
5. Murphy, W.J. & G.E. Collier (1999). “Phylogenetic Relationships of African Killifishes in the Genera *Aphyosemion* and *Fundulopanchax* Inferred from Mitochondrial DNA Sequences”. Molecular Phylogenetics and Evolution, **11**(3): 351–360

All articles are available from me (No. 1. only in french or german translation, all others also just in german. No. 5 only in the original english version – sorry! :-). Pictures and map available (copyrighted by the DKG and the authors) on the internet in higher resolution.

Enclosures: Distribution map of *A. chauchei* (file with higher resolution on the internet – 428 kb, png-format).

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Bondorf, 23. December 2000

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