

# Elegans Newsletter

Notes from the „elegans study-group“ of the DKG  
- 5/2002 -

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Dear Elegans friends,

the current issue of the ENL, no 5/02, is dealing mainly with this years convention of the DKG and ist output. This time, I will report on the meeting of the elegans study-group and the results of it. But first let me introduce some new members of our goup:

- Daniel Gezy, DKG 384
- Thorsten Nanniga, DKG 416
- Klaus Pietz, DKG 91
- Gerd Rosch, DKG 75
- Akeo Okada, DKG 981
- Alexey Rak, DKG 449

the first two without email access. Klaus Pietz can be contacted by Jürgen Heidler. During the convention, he received some pairs of my *A. cognatum* sp. „Madimba“.

Thorsten Nanniga was a member of the elegasn study-group some year ago. He received *A. lamberti* „G92/4“ from Horst Tomczyk during the convention. Those are the only elegans fishes he is hosting currently. He agreed to save them for the species maintenance program.

Gerd Rosch was incorporated into the group because he ist the only one who maintains the old rectogoense strain „G76/11“ from the type locality. More on this further down.

Akeo Okada from Japan spricht received strain of *A. cognatum* „Madimba“, *A. sp. aff. decorsei* „Lobaye“, *A. cognatum* „Lake Fwa“ and *A. polli* „CI01“ by mail. Now those strains are available in Japan, besides *A. lamberti* „BSWG 97/9“.

Alexey Rak would like to receive the ENL’s. He cannot care much about breeding and group activities but he has at least some elegans strains swimming around.

I put our journal editor to the recipients list as well. This is just to send him reference copies of our activities for the archive.

**I could not reach Allen McNeally by email. Does somebody know about any changes in his address?**

Unfortunately, I have a rather bad message: Harald Hölzer had to drop out because of severe health problems. He gave all his strains away. I left in on the list in order to give him the opportunity to be informed about future activities of our group.

There is one very important and surprising news:

**We got back the true *A. elegans*!**

Suddenly and completely unexpected we got some pairs of newly imported *A. elegans*, which were imported in May this year to Belgium. The fishes were collected near Boende, are very small and we hope being able to establish the strain with breeders in Belgium, The Netherlands, and Germany. I hope being able to give you more news on this in the next ENL.

**1. Meeting of the Elegans Study-Group at the Convention**

Participants:

Eckhard Bastian, DKG 316  
Thorsten Nanniga, DKG 416  
Klaus Pietz, DKG 91  
Anja Musehold, DKG 1012  
Dirk Ude, DKG 991  
Jürgen Heidler, DKG 484  
Horst Tomczyk, DKG 561  
Heiko Thees  
Gerhard Bolduan, DKG 738  
Rudolf Pohlmann, DKG 812  
Hans-Jürgen Blum, DKG 11  
Heinz Ott, DKG 360  
Axel Schwekendiek, DKG 585

Fortunately, we had a Beamer available that I could show a Powerpoint presentation I prepared earlier to show on local meetings. This gave us the opportunity for fruitful discussions about the species and exchange experiences about them. I cannot recall all the details but it was a very useful discussion which shed some light on many aspects that were unclear. However, it would be very welcome if some of you were able to produce a few lines about the species you are keeping. A small report of a few lines would be sufficient, explaining how you breed them and what problems or suggestions you have. We miss this in the latest ENLs and I would like to encourage everybody to take a few minutes to prepare such a note for the ENL. This would help to distribute knowledge on a certain species to a broader audience and would be welcomed by everybody. This way, we could generate a huge archive on *elegans* species over time.

After all, it was a very pleasant meeting. I would like to thank everybody who attended for being there and for participating in the open discussion.

**Changes to the species maintenance list for the KEP**

During the convention, we discussed the species selected for the species maintenance program (KEP stands for Killifisch Erhaltungszucht Programm: killifisch conservation program). It has become clear in the past year, that the concept of species coordinators did not prove to be manageable. I did not get any responses and I believe that nobody is accepting the concept. Therefore, we decided to switch over to plan B. Jürgen has agreed to take over the coordination for ALL species in the program. In the future, he will gather all information from the group members concerning their species. Therefore, he will contact the German group members twice a year by phone. I will hold the contact to foreign members twice a year by email. I would like to encourage everybody to support us and send us updated and complete species lists in May and November.

### Core Species for the KEP and IKCP

I am happy that we had the opportunity to discuss the question of elegans core species in more detail during our meeting in Wilhelmshaven. After a longer discussion, we came to the conclusion that we should define the following criteria for a good core species:

1. the population should be representative for a larger group of species
2. the population should be easily breedable and attractive in appearance and coloring
3. overall the selected species should cover a representative fraction of all species of the group
4. doubling of (closely related) species should be omitted under all circumstances
5. the complete list should be small

Because of point no. 3, we had to select some more species. We agreed to focus on those kind of populations, that have been shown to have a longer tradition in the DKG. This would ensure that we select those species that are easy to maintain and have much potential for surviving in captivity (no large potential for short-term degeneration). After a short discussion, we came up with the following list:

- A. christyi HZ 85/8
- A. cognatum Z 82/2
- A. congium Z 82/17
- A. lamberti G 92/4
- A. rectogoense G 76/11

Of this list, especially A. christyi HZ 85/8 and A. congium Z 82/17 seem to be very important, because they cannot be reintroduced currently. A rectogoense G 76/11 was not in the list before. The strain is available with Gerd Rosch (DKG 75), who is breeding it for years. He agreed to review his stocks and he will try to enhance breeding production for being able to distribute pairs to group members in the near future.

Many of the spec. forms (Oyo, Epoma) are not included, since their status and their belonging to the elegans-group is unclear. However, we should keep an eye on them and try to conserve them, even if they are not on the list.

I will suggest the five above species to the IKCP too. I hope we can evaluate their status in the other organisations as well. At this point, I would like to encourage everybody of the group to acquire at least one of the core species, besides his/her current strains. On success, please inform me or Jürgen Heidler immediately.

Here is one special point, that I would to emphasize a bit: In our opinion, it does not make much sense to keep all those many populations of a single species in the hobby. For example, we have a huge number of A. lamberti available, which cannot torn apart by their appearance. The same is true for many A. cognatum populations, as well as for schioetzi, rectogoense and others. If we were successful to focus on a core number of a few selected species with a larger number of breeders, we would certainly go a step in the right direction. This would enable us to keep the selected species for a longer period in the hobby, instead of losing the species after a while because too many breeders kept a certain species solely. I just want to remember the many HZ populations introduced in 1985 by Stenglein and his group, which are almost completely lost by now, or the A. elegans itself, which has been absent for many years now. Therefore, I am asking everybody to take care of one or more of the core species in favour of any other strain. We should not lose focus and concentrate on long term conservation, which is extremely important, especially for elegans-group species that cannot be reintroduced. However, this also means that we have to narrow down the number of available species in favor of a smaller core of representative populations for the whole group.

## **2. Misc**

### Corrections to ENL 4/01

The A. christyi CIM01 introduced in ENL 4/01 is renamed to A. polli CI01 due to suggestions of Thomas Kraska. This is for sure not a christyi but rather an A. polli. The strain was introduced several times to Germany during 2001.

### Material requested for molecular analyses

Uli Schliewen is interested in work on the biogeography of the congo basin. Therefore, he is investigating A. elegans species from well known locations by molecular DNA-based methods. These methods allow the clarification of relationships between populations, which may in turn

give insights into biogeographic settlement questions. However, the results are important for Uli’s work and our group as well.

For making such investigations, Uli needs material, e.g. conserved fishes. It is not important if the fish are male or female, young or old. Even ill or degenerate fish are welcome. However, specimen collections, fully colored would be most welcome. The only important issue is that they must be from well know locations. Whoever has odd fish available for such studie is encouraged to contact Uli at any time.

### 3. Species List

Unfortunately, the following members did not report their current list:

Tony Pinto  
Steffen Riese  
Anthony Conrad  
Bill Drake  
Allen McNealy

Therefore, I had to remove theri entries. Species selected for the KEP are labelled in red. Especially *A. cognatum* Z82/2 and *A. rectogoense* G76/11 need more attention. I hope that many of you are willing to take over these fishes or we may have to discuss other species for the list soon (if those are gone!).

Ident-No.	Species – Population	Name
427	<i>A. chauchei</i> „Masèpe“	Pietz Türk Wagner
4249	<i>A. chauchei</i> „Obeya“, RPC 91/6	Haggerty Ott
430	<i>A. chauchei</i> „Oltombo“, RPC Z 96/5	Blum Haggerty Kraska Lehmann Ott Wagner
432	<i>A. christyi</i> “alter DDR Stamm”	
437	<i>A. christyi</i> „HZ 85/8“	Blum Haggerty Kämpf Kraska Lehmann

		Milkuhn Ott Tomczyk Türk Ude
3993	<i>A. christyi</i> “HZ 85/20”	Türk Wagner
436	<i>A. christyi</i> “HZ 85/22”	Kämpf Kraska
432	<i>A. christyi</i> “alter DDR Stamm”	Heidler Wagner
499	<i>A. cognatum</i> “Z 82/2”	Haggerty Heidler
500	<i>A. cognatum</i> “Gilima”, Z 91/3	Haggerty Ott
484	<i>A. cognatum</i> „Kenge“, CI Z 93	Haggerty
489	<i>A. cognatum</i> “Kinshasa”	
1381	<i>A. cognatum</i> „Madimba“	Okada Pelletier Pietz Schwekendiek
1441	<i>A. spec. aff. cognatum</i> “Lake Fwa”	Blum Haggerty Kämpf Kurachi Lehmann Okada Ott Roßkopf Schwekendiek Türk
	<i>A. cognatum</i> “Kinsuka”, WF 2001	Blum
490	<i>A. cognatum</i> “Kinsuka”	Pütz Ude Wagner
	<i>A. cognatum</i> „Kwambila“	Blum
499	<i>A. cognatum</i> “Z 82/2”	Wagner
4251	<i>A. cognatum</i> “CI 2001”	Türk
	<i>A. cognatum</i> TAAG 2000/1	Addis
505	<i>A. congicum</i> „Z 82/17“	Blum Haggerty Heidler Kämpf Kraska Lehmann Pietz Pütz Rak Tomczyk
516	<i>A. decorsei</i> „Bangui“, KCF 5	Blum Kraska Tomeczyk Ude

442	A. spec. aff decorsei “Lobaye”	Blum Kämpf Kraska Lehmann Okada Schwekendiek
518	A. decorsei “Kapou I”, RCA 91/1	Haggerty Kraska Lehmann
517	A. decorsei “RCA 82/3”	Haggerty Kraska Rak
	A. lamberti “BBA/GAB 90/27”	Brown
848	A. lamberti „BSWG 97/9“	Kurachi Pelletier Roßkopf Türk
854	A. lamberti „G 88/7“	Haggerty Kämpf Lehmann
855	A. lamberti „G 92/4“	Blum Kraska Nanniga Tomczyk
860	A. lamberti “GEB 94/7”	Kämpf Türk
4250	A. lamberti „GHH 97/11“	Blum
873	A. lamberti “PEG 96/4”	Kämpf
878	A. lamberti “TDK 97/17”	Lehmann
881	A. lefiniense “CI 96”	Blum Haggerty Kraska Tomczyk Ude
986	A. margaretae “HZ 85/14”	Blum Haggerty Kämpf Kraska Ott
1392	A. spec. “oyo” ,RPC 91/8	Haggerty Ott Pelletier Pietz Rak Tomczyk Ude Wagner
1195	A. polli “N’jili”, CI Z 93 (Type loc.)	Kraska
	A. polli “N’jili”, WF 2001	Blum Ott
	A. polli “N’jili” (T.t)	Kraska
4253	A. polli “CI 99”	Haggerty Lehmann

	A polli „CI01“	Okada Schwekendiek
1272	A. rectogoense „BBA/GAB 90/27“	Brown Kämpf Lehmann
	A. rectogoense	Pietz
	A. rectogoense “G 76/11”	Rosch
1270	A. rectogoense “G 92/5”	Kämpf
1267	A. rectogoense „G 92/11“	Kraska
1275	A. rectogoense „GHP 80/30“	Haggerty Harder Ott Pütz
1276	A. rectogoense “PEG 95/16”	Kämpf Lehmann Roßkopf Türk
1321	A. schioetzi „C 85/1“	Haggerty Pelletier Ude
1336	A. schioetzi “Z 91/1”	Blum Haggerty Ott Ude
1389	A. spec. “Epoma” “RPC 91/1”	Blum Haggerty Heidler Kraska Ott Ude Wagner

Removed from the list are:

A. decorsei „RCA 91/3“ (?)

A. polli “CI95”

A. polli “DDR Stamm”

#### 4. F&E Listing

Hans Kämpf is looking for A. rectogoense BBA/GAB 90/27. He ran out of males and has just females left. Also, he has just a single male left from A. rectogoense PEG 92/5 with a handful of females.

Okay, that’s it for this time. Many Greetings from Germany. Enjoy your summer,

Axel

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