

Elegans Newsletter

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

No. 9, May 2004

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Dear elegans friends,

due to a high work load in the last year, which will probably continue for a while, I have to retire from the post of the group leader of the elegans study group. I regret having to take this step, especially as the group is running quite well now. On the other hand I believe all of you will continue working together in order to keep things going inside the elegans study group.

There are a few recent developments in the eastern part of the country which I would like to emphasize in particular. Especially Juergen Heidler and Klaus Pietz were successful in getting new members involved and also managed to establish a couple of populations in the past two years. I hope they will continue their good work in the future.

A major point will be to continue with our efforts in species conservation. Therefore, we need to continue our concept of species coordinators and the core species concept. Our convention in Zwickau will enable us to talk more about this and other issues and discuss concepts for the future direction of our study group. I hope I will meet all of you there in May. Please take the chance to phone around if you need anything. There are still a couple of weeks left until we meet in Zwickau.

1. Members List

New Additions:

Mike Behm (DKG1100):

m.behm@web.de

Currently, Mike is keeping the following populations:

- congium Z 82/17 6m/4w
- cognatum "Madimba" 6m/3w ca.15 Jungfische

He would like to serve as a coordinator for congium and lamberti.

Mike Militzer from Plauen:

Mike is working very close together with Klaus Pietz. E-mail:

Killifan@web.de, phone: 0160/4416712

Dietmar Scholtz (DKG 605): dietmar@dragonbetta.de

Gary Darr (USA): Gmesoged@aol.com

Gary has a couple of elegans-strains (see fishlist) and is interested in exchanging stocks with others. Most of the A. sp. Oyo in the US are from Gary.

Changes:

Juergen Heidler is available via Email: juergen_heidler@web.de

Leavings:

Hans Kaempf quit the group due to time problems. He will distribute his fishes in Zwickau.

Unfortunately, Ewald Tuerk also quit.

Monty Lehman, Wilfried Maesen and Willem van Doodewaard did not send their fishlist this time. Does anybody know why they did not respond?

2. Meeting in Zwickau

New Leadership

As already mentioned, I have to retire from my current position as a group leader of the Elegans Study Group. Fortunately, Juergen Heidler has agreed to jump in and do the job. Other suggestions are welcome as well. A final decision will be made during our meeting in Zwickau.

Ruediger Wagner has agreed to keep contact to the foreign members. Please refer to him for any questions or submissions.

3. What is a Study Group good for ?

Reply from Juergen Heidler to the posting of Axel Schwekendiek in ENL 8/2003

In the last ENL, Axel asked what for we would need a study group. This may result from the fact, that he did undoubtedly the most work in preparing the ENL. His numerous requests for action from the other members did not bring the results he wanted. I suppose he was a bit disappointed sometimes. However, I think our study group is a worthwhile institution. We simply have to be aware of the fact, that not everybody is able to give the same input. There is a huge difference among the members in what they can and will distribute in terms of fishes, time, work, and ideas. The simple breeding of some elegans-populations is worth a lot (as we experienced from the drop out of the Haggerty's).

It seems useless for me to talk about populations that I do not keep or breed. We need the study group as a central institution of people from all over the world who are worried about elegans-group fishes. Everyone of them should contribute as much as he or she likes. Besides keeping and breeding populations, a major point is to turn in everybody's fish list at least twice a year and compile a fishlist for distribution to the members. Such a fishlist is an essential part of our work and serves as a starting point for future decisions. Keeping his own fishlist and talking to other breeders is everybody's own responsibility. If we can improve species maintenance and species viability doing this, we have achieved much and can talk of successful work in our group.

Since Axel needs to drop his leader position, I would be glad to jump in and do the job. It is very important for me to get the group and its activities going. My main interest is species conservation. We should keep our concept of core species and species coordinators and develop further on them.

Recently I talked to some members and they were willing to do the following jobs:

Ruediger Wagner: Coordinator for *A. chauchei*. Keeping contacts to foreign members

Klaus Pietz: Coordinator for *A. spec.* „Oyo“ and „Epoma“

Hartmut Reusch: Internet pages of the Elegans Study Group

Juergen Heidler: Coordinator for *A. cognatum* „Z 82/2“ and *A. christyi*

Further applications would be welcome (phone: (+49) 3447-513185, e-mail:juergen_heidler@web.de).

3. Hatching Problems after incubation at low temperatures

Mike Behm

I would like raise this issue in order to solve a special problem with you or a least to get some tips from you. Here is the problem:

As usual, I kept eggs of *A. cogantum* „Madimba“ on wet peat moss. After 20 days, I watered them. However, no fry hatched. The water temperature was 13°C. I took 5 days and I needed to add some food flakes to the surface to the hatching container until 9 of 20 eggs hatched. Was the low hatching rate a problem of the strain? But this also happened for *A. amoenum* (9 of 30 hatched) and *A. primigenium* – but not for *A. congium*.

It was winter when I made this experience and during that time the conditions in my basement were rather cold with water temperatures between 17-18°C only. Now my presumptions:

First of all I guess the low temperatures enhance egg incubation times. The development takes longer and it is harder to get developed fry hatching out of the egg shells. Furthermore, I guess I had underestimated the appropriate egg incubation times under these cool conditions. Even if the eyes of the fry could clearly be seen inside the eggs, the fishes may still have not developed enough. This could be one explanation for the low hatching rate I observed.

These observations are strange since I was able to breed these strains earlier without any problems. However, this was during warmer periods (19-23°C). Maybe we should discuss this topic further. I would be glad to receive your opinion on this.

Mike Behm, DKG 1100

4. Core Species and Species Maintenance

A central issue of our study group is species maintenance. This topic should receive a constant column in our newsletter.

The following list was introduced in ENL 8/2003. It shows a list of core species and the number of breeders dealing with them.

Art / ENL	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Christyi HZ85/8	5	8	9	11	10	8	9	6	5
Cognatum Z82/2	2	4	4	4	2	2	2	2	3
Congicum Z82/17	6	9	8	8	10	8	11	10	8
Lamberti G92/4	1	1	1	1	4	3	3	2	2
Rectogoense G76/11	0	0	0	0	1	2	3	2	1

Table 1: Development of core species since 2000. Numbers represent the numbers of breeders, as stated in former ENL's.

In contrast to september 2003, the situation has not improved. Obviously, we have only limited and very sparse breeding material for many populations (lamberti G92/4, christyi HZ85/8). We should strongly focus our activities on combining any remaining breeders in one or a few hands in order to get a working breeding population running. I see no big hope if we continue working with 1 or 2 breeding pairs.

It is much better to see that Gerd Rosch succeeded in boosting the population of *A. rectogoense* G 76/11 from Terra typical. I hope he will bring some breeding pairs to Zwickau for further distribution.

The list of species coordinators was brought up to date. It would be nice to fill up any of the missing entries.

Species	Coordinator
A. chauchei	Ruediger Wagner
A. christyi	Juergen Heidler
A. cognatum	Juergen Heidler
A. congium	Mike Behm
A. decorsei	?
A. elegans	?
A. lamberti	Mike Behm
A. lefiniense	?
A. margaretae	?
A. polli	?
A. rectogoense	Monty Lehmann
A. schioetzi	?
A. sp. Oyo	Klaus Pietz
A. sp. Epoma	Klaus Pietz

5. Species List

Species/Population	Number/Status	Breeder
A. chauchei „Masèpe”	4/1, + safe 3/3	Okada Pietz Wagner Blum
A. chauchei „Obeya, RPC 91/6“	3/3, + 1/1, +	Blum Maesen
A. chauchei „Oltombo, RPC Z 96/5“	safe 5/5 4/4	Kraska Wagner Blum
A. christyi „HZ 85/8“	safe 6/1, 5 + 1/3, 10 + 2/2, + 2/2	Kraska Kaempf Wagner Ott Blum
A. christyi „HZ 85/20“		
A. christyi „HZ 85/22“	1/6 2/1	Kraska Kaempf

A. christyi „DDR-strain“	3/3	Heidler
A. christyi „Kisangani 2003“	5/5 12 +. 1/1 2/2 6/6, + 2/2, +	Blum Knaack Maesen Tomczyk Ott Venstermans
A. christyi „Kinshasa, CI 03“	3/3	Weber
A. christyi “Kinshasa, CI 02	1/1, + 1/0	Darr Pelletier
A. cognatum „Gilima, Z 91/3“	3/3 safe	Ott Weber
A. cognatum „Kinshasa, CI 93“	6/6	Weber
A. cognatum „Madimba“	7/3, + 4/4 7/4	Behm Militzer Pietz
A. cognatum „Kenge, CI 93“	1/1	Ott
A. cognatum „Kinsuka“	1/1, +. 5/5, 20 + 8 + safe 9 +	Darr Puetz Tomczyk Wagner Weber
A. cognatum „Kinsuka, WF 2001“	safe, +	Maesen
A. cognatum „Z 82/2“	3/3 safe 6/1	Heidler Wagner Pelletier
A. cognatum „CI 2001“		
A. cognatum „River Maindombe, OJ 8/03“	1/1 (bad condition)	Weber
A. spec. aff. cognatum „Lake Fwa“	1/0, + safe 3/3, 20 + 6/0 1/0, + 8/8	Kurachi Rosskopf Puetz Kaempf Wagner Weber
A. cogantum „CI99“	1/1, +	Venstermans
A. congium „Z 82/17“	7/5, + 6/6, +	Behm Blum

	safe 5/4 3/3 3/3, + 15/15 2/2, 25 + 10/10, +	Kraska Kaempf Maesen Militzer Pietz Tomczyk Venstermans
A. decorsei „Bangui, KCF 5“	safe 1/0	Kraska Ude
A. decorsei „RCA 82/3“	0/3 2/1	Kraska Ott
A. decorsei „Kapou I, RCA 91/1“	5/5, + safe 0/1 safe	Blum Kraska Okada Venstermans Weber
A. spec. aff. decorsei „Lobaye“	4/4 1/1, + 2/2, 28 + 40, + 3/3	Blum Darr Kaempf Reusch Weber
A. elegans „Boende 2002“	4/4 safe safe 10/3 2/2 6/6, + 3/8, +	Blum Kraska Maesen Ott Tomczyk Venstermans Wagner
A. elegans „Lui Kotale“	2/5 3/5, + 8/3 3/6 4/6, +	Ott Reusch Schwekendiek Wagner Venstermans
A. elegans „Inongo“		
A. lamberti “BBA/GAB 90/1”	0/2 0/2	Brown Wagner
A. lamberti „G 88/7“	2/2	Kaempf
A. lamberti „G 92/4“	40 +	Tomczyk

	1/1	Blum
A. lamberti „GEB 94/7“	1/2	Kaempf
A. lamberti „PEG 96/4“	1/5	Kaempf
A. lamberti „GHH 97/11“	1/1, + 6/6 3/2, + 2/2, + 7/7, +	Behm Blum Militzer Pietz Venstermans
A. lamberti „TDK 97/17“	safe	Weber
A. lamberti „BSWG 97/9“	3/3 1/0 safe 3/3 5/5	Kurachi Pelletier Rosskopf Wagner Weber
A. lefiniense „CI 96“	safe 1/1 4/4	Kraska Pietz Blum
A. margaretae „HZ 85/14“	1/1, 2 + 1/2 4/4	Kraska Ott Blum
A. polli „N’jili, WF 2001“	2/2	Blum
A. polli „CI 2000“	3/3 2/2	Tomczyk Wagner
A. polli „CI 01“		
A. rectogoense	2/2, + 2/2 12/12	Behm Militzer Pietz
A. rectogoense „G 76/11“	10/10	Rosch
A. rectogoense „GHP 80/30“		
A. rectogoense „BBA/GAB 90/27“	1/1 0/4 1/1	Brown Kaempf Wagner
A. rectogoense „G 92/5“	0/2	Kaempf
A. rectogoense „G 92/11“	0/2, + 1/5	Kraska Wagner
A. rectogoense „PEG 95/16“	safe 4/1 4/4	Rosskopf Kaempf Ott

A. schioetzi „C 85/1“	5/0	Pelletier
A. schioetzi „Z 91/1“	3/3, + 1/1, +	Blum Darr
A. spec. „Epoma, RPC 91/1“	2/2, + safe 12 + 3/4 6/2, +	Blum Kraska Knaack Pietz Wagner
A. spec. „Oyo, RPC 91/8“	1/1 1/1, + 5/1 1/0 1/1 6/6, + 1/1 1/0, +	Blum Darr Kaempf Kurachi Militzer Okada Pietz Venstermans Wagner
A. sp. „Kinkole“	1/1, +	Darr

Legend:

+: fry or eggs available

Core species

6. Offers/Wanted

P. Pelletier is looking for:

Females of A. lamberti „BSWG 97/9“, A. schioetzi „C 85/1“ und A. christyi „Kinshasa, CI 02“

Peter Venstermans is looking for:

- A. spec. Epoma „RPC 91/1“

Axel Schwekendiek is looking for:

- A. decorsei „Lobaye“
- A. lamberti „G92/4“ or other forms of lamberti
- A. sp. „oyo“

7. Last but not least

Today, we can look back to 8 issues of ENL's, number 9 just released. This is more than 4 years of constant work in our study group. I am very happy that we succeeded in rescuing many of the original populations. Some we could even establish further and redistribute. Others, like many strains of HZ populations, are lost forever. On the other hand, we could introduce new strains like the true A. elegans. Isn't that something?

We should take the chance to meet in Zwickau for making decisions about our future work in the group. Especially, we should talk about species conservation. Please feel free to phone around in advance of the meeting to arrange for fish or egg exchanges. I would like to ask everybody to bring excess breeders or odd paired fishes to the convention in order to exchange them with other members of the group.

Anybody who is not able to visit our convention in Zwickau is asked to send his opinion, wishes or comment by email to me. I will present them in our meeting.

Hope to see you there,
Axel

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