

## Heiko Bleher:2nd lesson

Lesson II, July 27 2006 Cara Patrizia, cari lettori di Discuspassion,

primo de tutto io sono ritornato pochi ore fa da Chicago, dove havutto de dare conferncia al NADA (North American Discus Association) en el evento annuale del ACA (American Cichlid Association), la piu grande organizzazione dei aquariofili (segondo e il? AFC e doppo il DCG), dove si trovano piu o meno 800 "cichlid fans" da tutta America e Messico..

I am late for this Lesson number 2 of the wild and I want to excuse myself for that, but I must explain a few things why this happened (and Patrizia, already mentioned some of it):

1. On the 15th of July I wrote the Lesson number 2 in an e-mail, because I did not find the password, nor the user id (which I hate and think no one really needs it). I was, and I am still, under tremendous pressure because we MUST deliver before end of this month the entire Italian, French, Portuguese, Spanish (which I do all the final corrections myself - to be sure it is without errors and as my English and German volume - or even better and completely up-dated), as well as the Russian texts (which natasha is doing day and night...) of BLEHER'S DISCUS, otherwise we will not have it by end of September. And I need it to be finished (more than 2 million characters to be checked and all inserted correctly into the existing pages - 672) in all 5 missing languages, otherwise the printer will not print and the binder will not bind it in time (the biggest and longest work is to bind such a large book). In addition, as you all well know, Fieragosto is on the footsteps...

This e-mail, once finished on my Mac G3 (it is the oldest of the 8 computer terminals we have in the office, but still my preferred one), just disappeared ! I had not made a bozze, because of time-pressure.

2. On the 16th I made a bozze and wrote the entire text again - but guess what: my G3 blocked and I had to riavvia and even the bozze had this time disappeared.

3. On the 17th of July I talked to Patrizia, and explained my situation and that I am leaving the next day to Chicago, but will write it once more - for the 3rd time ! And after I had finished the corrections in my new book until page 509, prepared my two talks for the NADA and had packed my baggage, at 5:55 in the morning of July 18th I had finally also inserted, as Patrizia requested me, the text into the Discuspassion site, completely finished, gain. BUT I could not find the password (which actually I remembered) and the user id (which I did not). I had to leave to Linate airport, as my plane left at 9:00 and I could impossibly loose that flight to the USA. I left the computer on, with the text inserted, so when my secretary came, at 9, she could call Patrizia to ask for the user id. But again we had no luck. Between my departure and Rossellas arrival in the office the computers (electricity) went down for a moment and for the third time the Lesson number 2 text was gone...

4. Now I am just back and will write it for the 4th time. Now I am on Rossellas new G5 computer and the bozze cannot on this one disappear (I hope), besides I have again given user id from Patrizia and I hope it works... finally. it is after Midnight and I have been flying for 17 hours, babies crying all the time in the completly full 747-plane and with 7 hours time difference I am sitting here and doing my best....and I must ad: Never in my entire life had I write someting 4-times ! The same text, not even in school...

Now, before I go into lesson number 2, I want to make a few comments on the new (') Dissuspassion website.

It is very nice (except for needed passwords and user id - silly, I still see no reason for that), congratulations for your efforts to make this a great website. In addtion i want to thank all, who have given nice comments to my first lesson on wild, especially I want to thank tatore, who translated at 4 in the morning (I hope not this time...), as I write much faster in Enlish and maybe in the future, when I have more time again, I will dedicate to write in Italian...

I also want to thank Manza (and spero che si staccato del computer e non e anchora en vacanze...);

Filippo di Genova un auguri - spero che si vedianmo en Duisburgo, dove io faccio 5 conferenze su Discus;

Gass di Sardegna, che ecrive bene inglese;

e tutti altri: Grazie mille.

But, as it is my way of life, I also comment on the negative or better wrong doing of people - specially of those who claim to know everything and in fact know very little about the subject they write or talk. And I refere to Andrea Macciocchi's write-up in Discuspassion:

He brings nice photos - most of them from Amazon Tourist places (ie: Presidente Figueredo, Nova Airao, etc.) ? were Discus are NEVER found. And not a single Discus-biotope photo (was he never there?).

Than he talks about locations, which do not exist (nor on IBGE maps, nor in reallity, except on Discus-websites and in publicationms of dubious people and so called "Discus-experts"), such as Inau, Mata Limpa, Trindade, etc.

In addition he mixed most locations up and give completely wrong places were certain discus variants are found (ie: in RIO Nhamund? are ONLY Heckel-Discus and in LAGO Nhamund? are many variants: Blu, Royal Blue, Brown, Rose, Red and Snake Skin, as well as hybrids in the moutrh region of Rio Nhamund?, were it enters the Lake Nhamund? - and not as he states).

Than he has also not had a good look at the Amazon maps (and I believe he never was there, as otherwise how could he write such wrong directions, and also write all the wrong names), because he mixes Alenquer up with Rio Jatapu (verz far awazs from each other) and gives in addition wrong Discus names such as "Nhamund? Cobalt Heckel" (of which I wrote a long time in aqua geo, in Discus Notiziario and elsewhere) and Symphysodon Aequifasciatus Haraldi - which is not only wrong written (should be Symphysodon aequifasciatus haraldi, but also a synonym of S. aequifasciatus

since 1986 !), and many, many more.

On top he shows a Heckel-Discus from the Rio negro and writes: My Nhamund? Heckel...

But, as I said, there are some nice (tourist) photos...

Dear Discuspassion readers, this article of Andrea Macciochi, as hundreds (or better thousands) of others, books and magazine-publications around the world, cite for years such wrong informations - and especially about wild.. It was exactly because of such wrong informations, that had to write the book I wrote. My Ringbinder DISCUS, as well as many of my articles of Discus (were I always wrote the correct information), have not been looked at (nor Andrea did, otherwise he would not have written such silly things), so I had to write a big book. Also because of the correct biotops, water parametres, real history of discovery, as well as for the (new and old) sistematics (because venbe the in the latter many ichthyologists and taxonomists have made errors). As a matter of a fact, Sven O. Kullander, the world's formost Discus and Cichlid ichthyologist, has just given me the greatest compliments for my new book and I have to quote him:

Dear Heiko,

....

Thank you so much for the beautiful book. It is an outstanding reference to Symphysodon, and many aspects on expeditions, culture and ichthyological details which one cannot find information about elsewhere...Particularly the description of Schultz's revision is interesting, as it confirms much of what I already suspected, and some of the information shows that things are even worse than I thought. ...

your conclusions are compatible with our analysis and DNA results...

However what else could possibly be left for vol. 2?...

many thanks and best regards

Sven

But let me go back to what you all are waiting for (finally):

Lesson number 2 on wild:

Now I mentioned to you all that do not mix wild with tank breed variants is the first thing to pay attention to while taking care of wild Discus. But naturally before, you all must (or those who want to), have to buy the wild Discus and maybe this should be your lesson number 1:

Where to I buy/get my wild discus from?

Now here goes my advice - and please take this very seriously.

First of all you should watch out for the following:

1. Try to get a good and healthy and correct supplier (petshop, breeder or importer maybe, although the latter normally never supply to private people).

He (or she) must be able to show you the following:

- that the Discus are NOT in the with tank raised variants in the same tank/aquarium;
- that those wild take food in and do not spit it out (that means they are well quarantained); and
- that they are not in the same aquarium with sick (unhealthy) Discus.

2. Look out that those wild you get are not:

- skinny (leaf-like shape means they have not taken food for many month' and will hardly recover);
- that they are not "black" (I collected a black-colored Discus, but that is a different story, your Discus should NOT be dark, as it is a sign off excess of bacterias; unhealthyness; stressed Discus; etc.);
- are really eating and have a light clear coloration.

If you have doubts of any of the above DO NOT GET THAT DISCUS, or from that place. Better to wait. Also look at the place you want to get your wild from:

- is it a clean kept place? (otherwise it is most probaly the same in the aquariums...);
- do the fishes in general look good and healthy (if not, the wild will also not be...);
- does the seller (breeder, etc.) make a good and correct impression (serious) on you? (if yes it helps).

The NO's on Lesson 2 are besides taking care of the above points:

- DO NOT buy a wild "out-of-a-box" - that is from a importer at the airport;
- DO NOT have him (or her) pack your wild in completly new fresh water (it must be packed in its own water and THAN be added a max. of 50% fresh water of the same temperature, and possibly same pH);
- DO NOT transport your wild in cold areas (ie winter, spring or fall time) to long - keep them warm;
- DO NOT worry if your wild will not eat the first few days, that is (almost) normal;
- DO NOT mix other fishes into your wild-discus-aquarium before they are acclimatized (at least not for 21 days).

Now I will after I return from Tajikistan (to collect fshes in 4000 m high lakes, at the Top of The World: The Pamirs) and before I leave to the the Amazon again on August 29th - to a remote lake, totally unexplored, send to you all Lesson

number 3, that I promise, that is some time in the 2nd part of August when you are all (?) back from vacation...

All the best to all of you.

always  
Heiko