

Heiko Bleher: 4th lesson

Lesson number 4, September 27 2007

Ciao Patrizia, Tatore e tutti gli appassionati di discus.

Sono nuovamente in ritardo per il mio intervento, pero voi avete visto un po de la espedizioni chi io fatto, almeno quella de la Amazzonia en Settembre al lago sconosciuto Uauaçu. Doppo io fatto 3 conference en Portogallo, 4 en Germania (6th International Discus Championships), la fiera internationale del libro in Germania e en seguito un fantastico viaggio a la Amazzonia Peruana (perche aberto una estrada nuova, e sempre cuando fanno una nuova estrada en la jungla io devo essere il primo de fare ricerca de pesci, cosi fatto da sempre – da cuando mi conosco… come la Brasilia-Belém en el 1965; Transamazônica en el 1975; Manaus-Cuiabá en el 1976; Alenquer-Monte Belo en el 1977; la Vietnane-Pakse en Laos en el 1995; Manado-Makassar en Sulawesi en el 2001, etc., i anche cosi sempre trovato pesci nuovo...). Doppo io partito para Houston, anche per conference, do dovo sono ritornato primo di ieri (martedì 24.10.07.) e adesso finalmente

4. Regola per i wild:

I have explained in my previous 3 lessons about never to mix wild with tank breed variants (= no con varinati elevati e no con ibridi, con nessuno de loro !); how to buy/get a good wild and what to watch out for; and No Plants – except for those mentioned. Today I want to explain what is important in addition for the decoration of your discus aquarium: – If you want to breed your discus, it is ok to have a blank aquarium (better with a simple potted plant, best an large Echinodorus in a ceramic pot) – but see also my comments below.

– If you have an aquarium to keep and enjoy your discus, than you should definately have a very fine, white sand on the bottom, as wild discus live in nature almost always over white sand. They blow into it and also take (“eat”) the sand into their mouth to filter out the microorganisms (see my new book, for more details).

– The remaining decoration should consist of large driftwood (best one diversified large piece coming from the top/outside of the tank) and if you want rocks, than ONLY round (best white) rocks and if you want some pebbles they should also be round (as those cannot hurt the discus). Plants, if you want, only few, and in the corners and/or background of the aquarium, as discus MUST HAVE a large area free for them to swim (which they do very well between the driftwood – that the wild are used to do). And naturally an large area with the mentioned white, fine, sand (see my book page 327). The plants should be the species I mentioned in lesson 3, also very good for wild is, if you have some floating plants, because discus need shade and the floating plants supply this shade.

– In addition to the above I would like to mention a typical thing that happened with a German man, who asked me for advice during the 5th International discus championships in Duisburg, Germany two years ago. I had a display of my (Heiko Bleher's) authentic nature biotopes and among my 9 aquariums displayed was a large aquarium (almost 2000 liter) in which I had 50 green discus I collected. They swam in it as in nature – from left to right and under the large driftwood, it was beautiful and showed that discus are schooling (group) fishes. But I mention this because the man asked for some of my green discus, and I suggested to him to take 3 (to you have a good chance for a pair) and to decorate the aquarium as I am telling you. (I told him: with white fine sand, driftwood – watered for several days, or weeks – and if plants, only a few Echinodorus or Cyperus, which may grow out of the aquarium as well, and some floating plants like Eichhornia, Salvinia, Azolla, Ludwigia, etc.) The man had exactly done what I told him, also adjusted the water parameters similar as in nature. Now, two years later the man came to my stand at Duisburg and told me that the green discus I had given him spawned a few month after he had placed them into an aquarium done/decorated as I had suggested to him. This proofed what I try to explain to fish-lovers around the world for decades (and I demonstrated it many times). If you do your aquarium as close as possible nature-like, with the right environment, the correct assemblage of species (from that area and biotope), the water parameters etc. the fishes will feel immediately as in nature and will spawn very soon. They will show colors one did not know and be happy… just like you and me, in our home…

Now I probably will only be able to get back to you all in December, because I must finish some magazine-issues.

Followed by lectures in England at the OATA- bi-annual conference (see

<http://www.ornamentalfish.org/conference/Biogsheiko.php>) and than I judge discus in Malaysia (Aquafair:

<http://www.aquafairmalaysia.com/seminar.html>), in Singapore at the Tetra World Discus Championship

(<http://www.discusclubsg.com/tetrapromo.html>). From there I will collect fishes in Java and West Papua…

But, I wanted to mention a few things I read in your forum:

– I pesci de Davide80 NO sono vero P. altum (e mai poi essere Euro 20 un vero…);

– Tatore: il mio libro BLEHER'S DISCUS poi trovare tutto sur very (e falso) P. altum e anche piú de 15 varieta de Pterophyllum de diverse regione de la Amazzonia, in testo e foto; e i pesci sur le foto dal 13.09.07 sono P. scalare del basso Amazzonas;

– Il vero P. altum no vive MAI insieme con discus (c'è cascate entre la bassia Amazzonica dovo se trova il P. scalare e il P. leopoldi e dovo vive il Pterophyllum altum, perche come discus il Pterophyllum no possano ultrapassare i caterati…) – vede anche il mio interview: <http://www.finarama.com/tba/chronicles/heiko.htm> e una buona website sur Angelfishes;

– Ogarrett c'è una bella foto dove se vede bene la differenza entre P. altum e P. scalare;

– Il vero P. altum, dei affluente del alto Orinoco fine ad oggi no sono MAI estato elevati…;
– Biotopi Amazzonici devono essere come c'è en el mio libro… senza Badis badis o latri pesci Asiatici… (Alex Vitagliano…);
– I voglio dire que la c*****a dei nome de discus e veramente un indcubo su la scena de discus mundialmente, no posso credere. Per questo io en el 1992 fatto i discus con numeri (DISCUS – Heiko Bleher & Manfred Göbel), iguale que doppo hano fatto con i Loricariidae e Callichthyidae, e mi domando perche le ultime due sone estato utilisati fine ad oggi per tutti le especie ma no mi numeri per discus… i nome “Royal Blue” lo inventato io, anche “Semi-Royal” (Tatore: il tu belle discus “semi-royal” e “brown” son del Lago Grande Monte Alegre, dovo il maschio c'è sempre piu colore che la femmina, e poi essere che la femmina e F1 or F2, pero no realmente “semi-royal” perche io lasciato il nome “semi-royal” per discus come fatto vedere Patrizia, che sono de la Regione de Manacapuru e Purus, e posiblemente del Uatumã – pero no Jatapu, perque en el Jatapu c'è solo Heckel discus), “Royal Green” etc. pero mai per definire um discus (tutti c'è numeri su mio libro) – in realtà sono tutti “Brown” e “Blue” e tutti sono de asdessa especies (Symphysodon haraldi). P.F. vede il mio libro che adesso c'è in Italiano…

I per finire voglio dire grazie a Manza per il suo intervento e spero che fatto bello vacanze Amazzonici in Puglia, e Franki a te: io fatto viaggio en Amazzonia con el grupo Dinemarquese e posso fare altro il prossimo anno, fai me sapere se voi venire (Setembre/Ottobre 2007).

Auguri attuti,
sempre
Heiko Bleher