

Heiko Bleher: 10th lesson

Heiko Bleher: 10th lesson, December 26th 2007

Lesson number 10

I do not have to excuse myself again, it is a fact, my late lessons (I am not a good teacher…). I just want to give you all a short run through, what I did since lesson number 9 (and why am late):

I got the train to Lecce in the last minute. Lecce is beautiful (I never saw it before), and the place they had the Aquarium show (Salento Acquari – see also www.aquapress-bleher.com under latest news, many photos) was a beautiful old building in the historical center, all very well made, except for the discus judging, which was the worst I have seen (or heard) of since the first judging and exhibition of discus which I organized in 1986 in Japan… (and so many thereafter). I will not go into details – it bears any words if one (or two) of the judges ruled over the others and made judging-rules never heard of before; like judged fishes not me announced (only at the end of the show – so none of the thousands of visitors was able to appreciate the winners…);

no judging-paper-form to be used; correct (scientifically classified) species to be disclassified… (ie S. discus, I wonder where Mr. Goebel has learned anything about discus – or did he never learn? nor read any book, nor the revision of the genus we published recently). The judging was really unprofessional and a waste of time for such great people as Jeffrey, Dr Sun, from Malaysia and Singapore, and also Sergey from Moscow, for those judges coming from far away without having anything to say…. Really unbelievable.

From Lecce we (Natasha and myself) went directly to Duisburg, for the 10th Zierfische & Aquarium, where we had our stand and I did 5 lectures. From Germany to Switzerland, visiting one of the nicest small aquarium-petshops in Europe, ZOO-GRIMM in Thun. Back in Italy as I had to fly out to Leipzig, for the “Heiko Bleher Tag” (Heiko Bleher Giorno), which people in east Germany had declared the 13th of October, 2007. It took place in the beautiful Leipzig Zoo with great natural aquarium (biotope)decorations. My lectures, to nearly 200, went from 9:00 to 17:30 almost non-stop. They loved my talks so much that they declared the 10th of October 2009 the next “Heiko Bleher Tag”. From Leipzig I flew to Linate, fetched Natasha and we flew to Manaus via Lisbon-Fortaleza. There our ship was waiting to research the Arac. With 3 Mexicans. One was to be the brother of Salma Hayek (Hotel Campari Calendar 2007 look under http://www.hotelcampari.com/en/press_media/calendar_2007.jsp?year=2007); the famous actress, another one I helped to decorate a 21,000 liter biotope freshwater aquarium in Los Angeles); one German fish breeder (breeding 200,000 neons monthly); then Marc the largest wholesaler of France; the great Greek Nidal with a fascinating new petshop in Athens; and the editor of the large Spanish magazine Acuario Pratico. We went to areas no white man had been and I collected over 220 different species of which probably 10 are new. We dived in transparent waters full of aquatic vegetation (at pH 3.2) with hundreds of Aras nesting and flying over our heads – it was Paradise. Back to Manaus two more destinations with two Swiss guys, a two Spanish and a German couple – this was adventure pure in the Purus region. One day, in the rainy tropical storm (nothing like what we ever see in Europe) on Lake Jari, it was like on the open Ocean, one of our small boats sunk with one man on board. Nobody seemed to want to rescue him, so I jumped into the muddy water to rescue him and the boat... We ate turtles, crocodiles and much more. Collecting over 200 species again and then I went on to my third Amazon destination – back to where I discovered a neon fish already last year, a new species, the fourth one (after Paracheirodon innesi, P. axelrodi and P. simulans). From Manaus we flew to Malpensa driving to DISCUSPASSION II evening diner in the beautiful Villa Bottaro as you all know. And here I must congratulate Patrizia again for her great organization of the event. And I hope that everyone enjoyed it. After a couple of days home I flew to Nicaragua and lost my baggage… With Axel Meyer we climbed up and down into steep crater lakes, diving, collecting thousands of (baby)cichlids which all arrived well back and surely we discovered one or two new cichlid species. Soon we will know.

Back from Central America I was invited to Greece, for 8 lectures, mainly on biotopes and it was incredible. Those Greeks (I had not been for 22 years) are fantastic, friendly and hospitable (Natasha and I had to eat in several homes where they prepared gigantic food-plates for us…). There are approximately 1500 petshops now in Greece, between 200-250 large aquarium shops with up to 200 aquariums and more each and plenty of fishes. The hobby is growing tremendously and young people are particularly interested, eager to learn as much as possible. After my talks, everyone wanted to make authentic biotopes… and the local (Greek) Club-magazine interviewed me for 5 hours…(see also www.aquazone.gr). From Greece I had to go to Germany, to Tetra, talks about Biotope aquariums at INTERZOO 2008 and at the largest petshop in the World: Zoo Zajac in Duisburg. Visiting my fish breeders in Germany and Belgium and Switzerland, from where we returned just before Christmas and now I am sitting down for hours and watching this great website and many of the threads of which some I want to make comments to blow:

BUT FIRST OF ALL: MERRY CHRISTMAS AND A HAPPY AND HEALTHY NEW YEAR TO ALL OF YOU, THAT PEACE BE WITH YOU AND MANY, MANY BEAUTIFUL HEALTHY FISHES AND NICE AQUARIUMS – BIOTOPE CORRECT ONES PLEASE…

– Patrizia/Salvo: one of the photos Natasha had send you for biotopi is with the caption “incontro de acqua, Rio Negro”, which is not correct. This photo I made to show (in the middle of the Rio Negro), that when the “black water” is over white sand, it is not “black” anymore, but light tea-colored. Please

correct it. (See also in my book page 367.) Pero Salvo, ti devo dire: tu scrivi molto bene, fantastico. Grazie.

– Lorenzo: perche fa vedere il disco Heckel e Blue magri??? Alimenta i wild de più prima de fa vedere ai altri…

– Play2 (non e miglori “Spiderman”?): his 6-month-old discus should be TWICE the size they have. (One can see by the eyes.) Those fishes have also not been feed correctly (maybe already at the place from where Play2 bought them). Did you not read my lesson number 9 Huh? (why do I write here? If website contributors do not read my texts???) Spiderman, if you still want these fishes to become decent discus, you must start to feed them 6 times each day for at least 3 month, and varied foods not only dry foods (and read my lessons…).

– Billcarson: and talking about food, this Napolitano demands why his fish do not eat granulato! You should know, first of all, WHERE your discus came from (lesson number 2) and ask “what they have been feeding, what food these discus have grown up with”. If your discus never saw granulato, naturally they will hardly go for it (and definately not wild discus).

– Patrizia: where is the fine white sand in your discus aquarium??? (lesson 4).

– Ranke: this “Discus-disco-man” is rather discusting. I actually have never seen a discus dancing…

– Garrido: chi no poi andare a ferie e contruice una megavasca mi auguro che fa biotopi … (PS: le mi megavasca erano de 1200 litri e piu…)

– 1234 (perche no 567 – il mio numero de fortuna): I feel sorry for you, for your loss. But I think what really killed your discus, was the 35°C. Your “amico” is what we call in Brazil “amigo da Onca”, has definately given to you the wrong advice. He must be sick in his head, how can one suggest to give such high temperature to discus? And don’t you think? (unless you want cooked discus…). Do you not read? If the discus were good for one week (7plus days) at the petshop, than they must have been ok. There was something wrong in your water, if the fishes were aggitating fast (did you take parameters?). This is a (almost typical) shock reaction after introduction in an new environment/aquarium (can also becaused by reflecting lights/mirrors,etc.). I am sure they would have settled in a few days.

– Blackmanba de Taranto: tu ce una vasca molto bella, pero se vede i tu disco stano cercando la sabia bianca fina, where they can blow into it and search for their food and take on sand… Also there are to many plants in front of the aquarium, discus need sandy areas, PLEASE create it (unfortunately you must take some plants out – and read my lessons… number 4).

– Glosue: you should also place some fine white sand into your: IL MIO ACQARIO.

– Bagio: i tu scalare de dorso rosso sono belli. Alimentazione: variate, chironomus; larva de mosquitos (neri e bianchi); Spirulina; un cibo bueno seco (ce tanti); anche si tu trova daphnia e cyclops seria ideale. Parametri: normale pH 7; microsiemens 100-300; temperatura 27-28°C (max 29); naturalmente per riproduzione e diverso (meno pH; meno microsiemens; e temperatura 29°C). Acquari: vede minha pagina web Heiko Bleher’s Biotopes = Rio Nanay. Condizioni per separe: cuando una copia se trova, disposta la copia per un acquario solo per loro, con i parametri chi mencionate (quelli per riproduzione). Novo acquisti: me sempra chi sono veri P. altum de Rio Inirida, Colombia, pero giovanne.

– Anto: complimenti per il gruppo di wild e mi piace anche la decorazione. Così si vede molto bene chi il disco si sentano benissimo, anche così in gruppo e come in natura. Congratulazione!

– Salvo: anche per te congratulazione per la tua vasca, e molto bella e naturale (se vede chi mi preghiere sono scoltati…). I tu pesci sone sani e felice, anche i angelfishes, se vede bene. Salvo sei veramente bravo e ti ingrazio per tutto. Tutti voi da Discuspassion.net magari no sabete, pero Salvo ha tradotto casi tutto de la minha nuova pagina web per lingua Italiana – guardate con attenzione ce tanto da vedere e leggere: www.aquapress-bleher.com e click su bandeira Italiana.

– Fedefly: also you have some great Heckel’s and all look well, but as above: they all search for the fine white sand… PLEASE give it to them, as all the rest of your decoration is fine. And about your question of Heckel’s: The first photo is 5 Heckel discus (S. discus) and 1 is a cross (all are from Nhamundà river and the cross is with blue from the mouth of the river, were it was collected); on your second photo from the top the discus to the extreme right-side is a cross and on the 6th photos from the top the first fish is across as well, all others are S. discus.

– Danny: in vecce ricevutto wild da Hustinx magri (better you choose your own discus yourself, as I mentioned in lesson 2 and lesson 7). Try to feed them very, very, well in order to recover them, otherwise you will lose them…

– Gabio: tu acquario e tu pesci sono belli, fatto bene.

– Lorichetta: per la vasca nuova per favore no mix di Heckel con blue e green e compralo se po no più grande chi 8-9 cm, e garde il occhio prima de comprarlo (devono essere piccoli…).

– Discuspassion.net Biotopi Amazzonici – wild: I can see that many visitors (almost most all visitors) come here to look (and read, I guess) these threads, and I want to make some comment in regards to my friend Hugo, who advertises and shows his (terrible) Youtupe-videos everywhere (on every discus-website around the world). Hugo is now (just recently) in Amazonas (he failed with everything he did in Portugal, unfortunately, although I warned him and he did not listen to me). The bad thing is, that he does not try to find correct names for the locations (although now he said he lives in Santarem many of the locations he writes are not existing, not correct or wrong names – I judge from what he writes and talks everywhere, also at discuspassion.net). And his videos ar terrible – nonsense – one can only place them in Youtube, with wrong information (lies) in some of them. Particularly the one you have placed on Discuspassion.net, were a caboclo swims below the water to collect a discus at daytime in shallow waters… this is totally fake and ridiculous. The discus he comes up with, was already in his net, he took it out of a container before he dived (which was not filmed naturlally…). One can see it on the discus, when he comes up (already scratched from

handelig and never in a single netting like this – which can only be done at night). I showed, explained, and wrote extensively on how discus are caught (day and night) and were discus live (day and night). No discus lives there in such shallow water at daytime. I think Hugo believes that all discus lover are stupid… And I am sorry for him and you all waisting your time. You would rather read a good book… And I feel also sorry for the administrator to place such a terrible video on your net… you should take it off, there is more than enough crab on Youtube – it is a complete waste. All of this is only to make himself (Hugo) important and to sell, he would better do things correct and wisely, would help him and the hobby much more. I also do not know, WHY you place his “tourist photos” of the Rio Negro at Manaus? What for? There are no discus and you have already 100times better, informativ Rio Negro photos, and of habitats. Is it just to fill you pages? I am very disappointed. If there was any kind of information/education, I would not have said anything... If you wnt to start placing “tourist” photos of Amazonia on your nice Discuspasion site, than you can download millions from google.com at immages… but does that make sense? – And I also want to make a comment (you all know I am bad, or better: people do not often like me because I confront them with the truth, which generally is not accepted, or not wanted…), it is the thread: “é crudele chuidere in acquario i discus selvatici” from matador: to me this is really ignorant, first of all, because of the (unknown?) fact, that all (or better almost all) fishes (and other wild animals) live in captivity much (much) longer and healthier than in nature. Secondly, Man destroys all (or better: almost all) aquatic habitats on planet Earth (besides rain forests, etc.). I have shown this extensively from more than 100 countries. (See also on my website, also there under: Projects.) Therefore most aquatic species, and specially tropicals, are, if not extinct already (I just gave a talk on 148 exctinct freshwater fishes in one single aquatic biotope due to extermination of their aquatic environment and I could list a few thousands more), threatened or endangered. These two facts alone (if one knows and realizes them – or better sees the truth) could not make any intelligent and knowlegeable person bring up, or express, such a dump frase (sorry, I have no other words for this thread). I un discus selvatici no e come un Huskie in Tunisia, pero come un bambino in Paradiso (naturalmente si curato bene) in acquari… ! Perche no cè da cerchare cibo; no cè da fare attenzioni tutto el giorno ai predatori (e anche de notte); e no cè da procuparse en la secca si rimane senza acqua.. etc. Sono in Paradiso in acquari mondiale…

– Carlo Caricotto: molto bello la tua copia, congratulazione – everyone should want babies from your pair. Sell them expensive, they will be worth it. Every penny people pay for it.

– Emanuele73 (ano di nacita?): congratulazione anche per te e per la reproduzioni de fantastiche discus verde. Dime la origine? Dove a comperato e cuando a pagato? (Asembra chi sono de la regione Coari/Urucu).

– Lyla: i Heckel sono morti perche sono stati messi nuovi insieme ai vecchi senza quarantaina. I have written about this extensively in my lessons: sometimes I wonder really: if anyone reads my lessons…? (What do you think Patrizia/Salvo/Darius?).

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Now as for my 10th lesson:

First of all I would ask you all kindly to READ my previous lessons again, as I see that many of you never do it (also hardly my book has been read, otherwise so many errors with wild could be avoided, but I also see the few who have, and those have fantastic wilds, some mentioned above and earlier). I noticed that my first lesson was well read, but I can see from the visitors of the following lessons, number 2 to number 9, were never as much read as the first one, I would like to know why??? Can anyone explain me that?

I had promised to talk about the foods for baby wilds (F1, or the followings, like F2 and on). After given the extensive methods of “how often” new borns should be feed and for what period of time, you have to be careful also with the food-selection. I am (naturally) for having the new born to be feed from the mucus of the parents (or, if they sometime not produce it, with forster parents). If you want to feed them simultaneously with other foods – but not before 7+days after their free swimming – than ad brine shrimps, newly hatched (of good quality please and as much as possible WITHOUT the shells). If they slowly start to go for it, than do it daily, and once you see them feeding no longer on the parents mucus, you must do it several times per day (at least 6 times…).

Artemia (salina, or other species) eggs, are still the prime source of newly hatched discus babies, I can hardly recommend anything else. There are power foods available (often made of egg-yoke), but to my experiance, they never give the possitive results brine shrimps give. Also I have given infusoria, if needed at the babies very early stage (one can easily do infusoria at home) and Cyclops (but after 10+days or later), which are actually very good and better than Artemnia, but live Cyclops are very hard to find these days. Decades ago one could catch them in European nature in ponds very easy (and I did alot of it, so do still some breeder today in eastern Europe, as in some areas you can still find it). I have raised 10,000 angelfish babies weekly, only with Cyclops, (and have grown them up with only Cyclops to sellable size in less than 6 weeks…), while I lived, studied and worked in Florida in a fish farm in the early 1960s. It is excellent food, but today one can almost only find it but frozen. It can also work with frozen, but try it first, and do it slowly.

Now after 3 to 4 weeks (and naturally than free from the parents, very few I kbow leave them longer with parents), one can (should) ad other foods. Like some do it with very fine granulato (but please not only) from one of the known brands. Others feed chopped Chironomus (some even chopped tubifex, which I do not advice, unless it is tank raised tubifex) and there are also several (mainly Asian) breeders, that give them fine (scraped) lean beef heart. The latter is a choice, but if you do it I suggest I suggest to mix it with possibly spinach (also very fine chopped); Spirulina powder; carote (or carotine); with some fruit (or extract), etc. And take only 20% beef heart into such a mixture. If you want to ad vitame (like mentioned in my book), you can do it. This paste you can give, also several times daily. And actually you can give it (but I suggest not only) throughout their maturation. If you prefere mostly granulate, that is up to you, but I suggest a very

variable food, just like yourself (as I am sure you will not eat pasta three times every day and 7 days a week…).

Now, with the next lesson (if you want me to do it still and definitely also read it!) I will talk about wilds and their nature and mistakes done around the world, including in our country.

But, I must warn you: the next two months, almost non-stop, I will ONLY work on my volume two, as I must finish it for INTERZOO 2008 (finally). I have cancelled all my appointments, trips and expeditions and therefore also Internet writings. Please understand.

I wish you, again, all the very best to all of you, and to Patrizia and company I wish to improve this website accordingly (if you want).

To say again thanks, and (if you did the translation of my lesson 9): Harrison Ford is one of the main financiers of CI (Conservation International), and Prince Albert II, is the President of the Monaco-Asia Society and the latter was the main sponsor of BLUE AUCTION NIGHT (see also www.aquapress-bleher.com under Special events) together with Conservation International. I just wanted to tell you, as it was not translated correctly, the rest is fine.

Always

Heiko Bleher