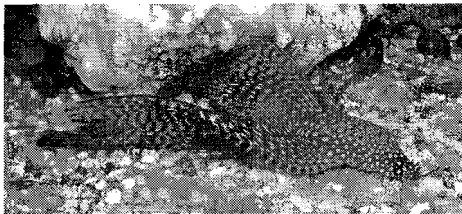


Spawning report for  
*Ancistrus  
dolichopterus*,  
Long fin  
Bushynose Pleco

by Marti Horan



My Bushynose plecos seem to find a six inch, cone-shaped ceramic cave as a suitable spawning site (this is known at a Boester Bell purchased from Rick Boester of the Greater Chicago Cichlid Association). The ceramic cave is glazed brown on the outside and off-white on the inside. The opening is 2 inches wide. The actual spawning was not witnessed, but 12 mm fry were observed in the cave, with the male guarding them. No special parameters on water were noted. Hardness was not tested. It's Iowa City hard water. pH was 7.2. Bi-weekly 50-60% water changes were performed. Stress Coat is added during water changes. A small piece of driftwood is in the tank. Java ferns

are in the tank. Temperature is 78 degrees F. The spawning pair are approximately 6-7 inches long including the extended fins. Filtration is provided by undergravel filter and a small Whisper power filter with filter pad changed or rinsed weekly. They are in a 10 gallon tank. One strip light provides the lighting 10-12 hours/day. The fish are fed twice a day: Hikari Algae wafers, blanched zucchini slices and HBH shrimp pellets.

I have had the parents for 3 years. I purchased them when they were 3 inches long (including the extended fins). The male has a large amount of fleshy bristles on his head. The female's growths are much smaller. There is a white tip on the end of the caudal fin.

Since the first spawn 9 months ago, this pair of fish has spawned several more times. I have approximately 120-150 fish now, of at least 4 or 5 different sizes from 12 mm to 10 cm (4 inches). Now 80% water changes are performed every 7 days.

**Editor's notes: I have seen Marti's baby plecos and they are really cute with their long fins. This is a great addition to the hobby.**