



the
GOLDFISH
STANDARD

Newsletter of the **A**ssociation **M**idland **G**oldfish **K**eepers

Summer 2024

Costia



Editor's musings

Costia?

I have been pondering on why I have had no spawnings this year (I presumed my fish keeping can't be quite that bad), I wondered if it could be a low dose of some sort of parasitic infection which was just enough to keep them out of peak condition but not enough to kill them so to test out my theory I put a fantail in my breeders tank from the other end of the fish house which looked and had been fine or at least 6 months and low and behold after 3 or 4 days it was gasping at the surface of the water struggling to breathe. Oh I thought so much for the bloody goldfish expert!

This next left me having to determine exactly what sort of parasite it was, my problem was there had been no outward sign of any sort of infection, no fin twitching, body rubbing or sore areas on the body. So what the hell was it? The only thing I could come up with was a Costia infection but maybe only a small one by that I mean enough to stop the fish wanting to breed but not enough to kill them. I did consider borrowing my grand daughters microscope to investigate but wasn't convinced I would be adept enough at taking a scrape and then being able to properly identify what I was looking at anyway.

I put the adult fish in a tank, added some salt, about a teaspoon per litre and increased the temperature to 32C then put in the prescribed amount of **Interpet anti parasite medication**. Luckily the fish all bar one recovered.

This left me with two further problems firstly to identify the parasite (still!) and secondly to disinfect their tank. I reasoned that it did not really matter whether it was costia or some kind of parasite problem especially as there was no real outwards signs of anything to identify it with. So I reasoned that it really didn't matter exactly what the damn things were I was going to have to kill them in any event. To that end I decided to throw the kitchen sink at the infected tanks by emptying them, carefully drying them, then going over everything with the wife's hair dryer (that stays in the newsletter by the way) I followed this up by mixing up a witch's brew of Blagdon anti parasite medication Sterazin and Malachite Green I wasn't sure if it would work but I was in a creative (if not vicious) mood and it looked like it would easily kill an elephant, problem was I had to explain to the wife why my hands were blue for the following three days. I then drained the tanks again) using new syphon tube) and gave them the hair drier treatment again thinking that if I don't poison the damn things I could at least cook them, I let the tanks remain dry for a week and refilled them refilled them I adding a tablespoon of salt per litre and the prescribed amount of Interpet anti parasite medication. I then left the tank empty for three weeks just in case and my hands have now returned to their normal colour. I now wonder whether my true vocation would have been working at Porton Down. I have tested the tanks with a few of young spare fish from last year and everything seems fine,

So fingers crossed . You never know I might even get a spawning . . .

AGM

Please do try and come along to the forthcoming AGM on the 27th October.

While Im on the subject of the AGM I wonder whether we should consider broadcasting it on Zoom. I think it would much more inclusive and give the broader membership a chance to see the society in action it would also more reflect the feelings of the membership and give the membership who can't make the AGM a voice. We could even try online voting (don't ask me how but it must be possible)

Red Algae?

I had a strange thing happen to a large tank that I keep beside the pond it is in full sunshine most of the day with the water normally being a



pea green colour the odd thing is the water suddenly turned red. Well the important thing is the fish are all fine but I changed the water just in case .and it has now gone green again.

Bristol Goldfish Society

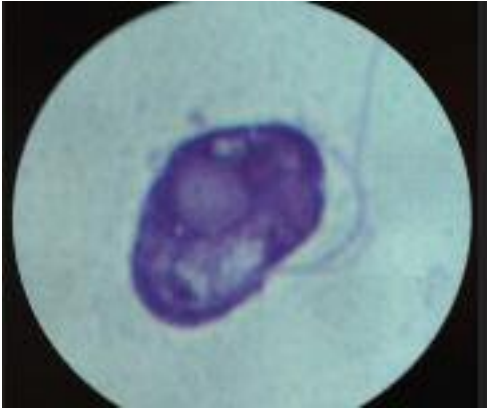
I must admit to being concerned about the viability of the Bristol Goldfish Society and whether it can survive the chasm left with the resignation of Bob Jones I really hope it does manage to keep going as it was the first real goldfish show I went to as a spotty teenager (I even had hair then quite apart from four working limbs!)

I wish I could do something useful to help out and would urge anyone who is able to lend them a hand perhaps even to help them try re-establish their open show.

Plea for copy

If the Standard is going to truly be the voice of the AGMK (and it needs to be) some members are going to have to contribute otherwise you will just hear me bleating on about nothing important or constantly going on about my dismal goldfish keeping exploits. So please give my good hand rest and send in an article or just your thoughts on the society or any goldfish related topic.

Costia



Costia is a tiny parasite that is comprised of a single cell and thrives in cold water where multiplies quickly and can cause great harm to any fish it comes into contact with. It is a protozoan flagellate as it contains two appendages named flagella which extend from the cell and latch onto the fish. In small quantities it will do no harm to a healthy fish but can be deadly if the fish loses condition and it gets an opportunity to take hold. These parasites will attach themselves to the gill and skin of fish. They achieve this through burrowing through, where they consume the content of the cells.

In small amounts, Costia will not cause any harm, but is very dangerous in larger quantities. A fish with an immune system which has been compromised is very vulnerable as this can result in an explosion of Costia parasites, poor water quality is also considered the leading cause of infection (because it stresses the immune system in fish). Costia may cover the entire fish or it may just affect certain patches. Overall, the infection level is dependent on the strength of the fish's immune system. Once Costia reaches the gills it can cause very serious breathing problems and eventually death. Costia often appears in spring when fish tend to be weakened due to their winter hibernation. So great care should be taken at the start of spring by treating any fish to a salt bath and anti parasite medication. The speed at which Costia spreads is dependent primarily on temperature. It reproduces fastest at temperatures ranging from 17C to 22C but will be destroyed at temperatures higher than 32C. At temperatures lower than 12C they will turn into cysts and then they must find a host once they return back to their normal state or they will not survive more than 24 hours.

Symptoms of Costia

Costia is can be very difficult to diagnose as it can resemble the symptoms of other conditions such as

chilodotiasis or trichodinosis. The Costia parasite is extremely small, between eight and fifteen micrometers, which means that it can be very difficult to confirm a diagnosis without collecting scrapings and analyzing them beneath a microscope. Even then, you have to know what to look for. Fish which are suffering with Costia may also display loss of appetite, red patches, clamped fins, rubbing their body on the sides or base of the tank mucus near their gills, twitching of fins, slimy patches and gasping at the surface.

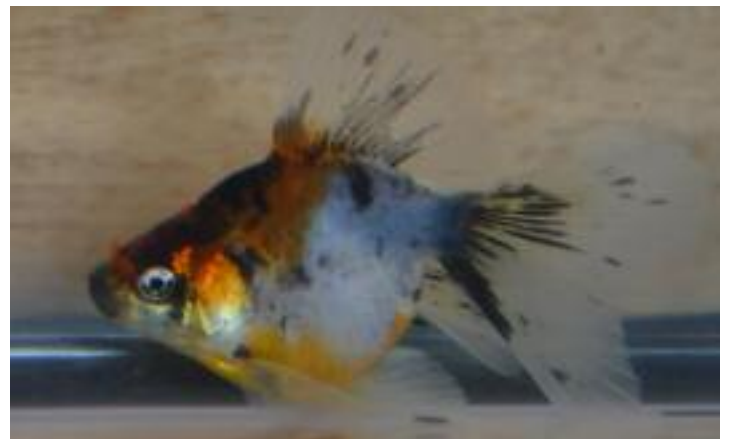
Treating Costia

There are a number of ways in which Costia can be treated, but one of the most effective and affordable is with salt. This method is most gentle for goldfish which can tolerate higher salt levels in the water. When using this method it is best to start with between three and four grams of salt per litre. This should work unless the Costia has begun producing strains which are salt resistant. If this proves ineffective then buy a remedy that contains Praziquantel Treatment

Aquascape Praziquantel Treatment can be used to treat external protozoan parasites including Ich, Costia, and Trichodinella. Common symptoms of these types of issues include fish rubbing or twitching their fins surfaces in the pond as does **Interpet Anti parasite slime and velvet** medication

pictures from the baby fish table show taken by Andy

Barton





Nationwide: Goldfish Societies UK

9th National Fancy Goldfish Open Show.

Saturday 5th October 2024

To be held at

Wyken Community Centre
Westmorland Road
Belgrave Estate
Coventry
CV2 5PY

Closing date for entries 28th September 2024

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