

Fish & Chips

A Monthly Marine Newsletter

May 1999 Issue

From Us

By Elizabeth M. Lukan 5/25/99

Not much to say this month, so let's get to it.

John Canada of Great Plains Seahorses has written an article for Fish & Chips which should be of interest to any of you with tanks suffering from parasite problems. His article, **A Website Intro and Stop Parasites Offer**, speaks highly of the Chem-Marin product from both the perspective of the hobbyist and businessman. Over the course of working with John on this article, he and I have become friends. John's a nice man - hobbyist first, honest businessman second. A rare find in my opinion. Do him, and me, the honor of considering his offer, considering his site for your purchases of Chem-Marin products, and stop by his site now and then and watch it's growth.

Before I let you go, I'd like to extend a very special thank you to Don Higgins for the donation of the book Ocean Realm Guide To Reef Creatures Marine Invertebrates (Text and Photography by Paul Humann, First Printing 1982, Ocean Realm Publishing Corporation). It's an older book, but no less useful. Don's donation came perfectly timed as the book contained information on the Sea Pen, this month's Critter. Thanks bunches.

Aqua Medic Turboflotor T1000 Skimmer

- A Hobbyist Skimmer Review -

General Information:

All ratings are 1 through 10 (10 being the best or yes, 1 being the worst or no). The items in parentheses are only given as a more detailed explanation and to give you an idea of what was meant by the category. Permission to publish these reviews was obtained through a clause in the survey. See the end of this article for review, survey, and article credits.

Construction Quality (Acrylic thickness, polish, glue job, etc.):

Score: 8

Aesthetic Quality (Does it look good, etc.):

Score: 9



Performance (Does it keep your water clean, must you adjust it all the time, etc.):

Score: 9

Foaming (Does it do it consistently, is it nice and thick, is it dark, etc.):

Score: 8

Ease Of Installation:

Score: 7

Would you buy it again?:

Comments: Yes

Electrical Efficiency (Does the pump it uses work well, etc.):

Score: 10

Plankton Level (Do you have a lot, etc.):

Score: *Editor's Note: Hobbyist did not respond.*

Overall Value (Did you get what you paid for, etc.):

Score: 9

Overall Satisfaction (Do you like it, etc.):

Score: 9

Comments:

The tank is a 58 gallon LPS tank. The tank has been running for a year and a half.

Review, Survey, and Article Credits:

Review by Louis Lin on 11/24/98.

Survey created and hosted by Ian McDonald (IANsSnakes@aol.com)

Home Page: <http://members.aol.com/IANsSnakes/index.html> (**information updated 4/19/00: survey closed**)

Survey Page: <http://www.geocities.com/heartland/prairie/2196/Survey.html> (**information updated 4/19/00: survey closed**)

Ian would like to extend his thanks to Chris Paris (aka Cap) and Steve Wolfe (aka NerveGas) for all their assistance in getting the survey going.

Article edited by Elizabeth M. Lukan, 5/14/99.

Editing was limited to spelling corrections and some grammar (capitalizing the beginning of a sentence, adding a period at the end, etc.). No other editing was done, what you read was exactly what was sent to Ian by the reviewer.

Editor's Comments:

The Aqua Medic Turboflotor T1000 is rated for 25 to 250 gallons and is usually sold with the pump, but I did find it on at least one website without the pump. The pricing I note is with the pump as that is the most popular option. My local fish store did not carry this skimmer so I was unable to obtain a local price for it. Online pricing ranged from \$179 to \$189 US Dollars and \$379 Canadian Dollars. I found the skimmer on AquaDirect by AquaLink (<http://www.aquadirect.com>), Marine Depot (<http://www.marinedepot.com>), Premium Aquatics (<http://www.premiumaquatics.com>), Reefers (<http://www.acropora.com> (*url dead 10/03/05*)), and Invert-ual Realities Canada (<http://www.interlog.com/~invertea/ire.htm> (*url dead 8/24/04*)). I was also unable to locate a website for the manufacturer, but found great product information on the Premium Aquatics (<http://www.premiumaquatics.com>) website and would definitely suggest a visit there if you want more information on this skimmer. Remember, the inclusion of the above sites is not a recommendation on my part, just for your information and to assist you in finding out more about, or purchasing, the product if you are so inclined.

Photo Credits:

The picture of the Aqua Medic Turboflotor T1000 Skimmer was obtained at the Premium Aquatics website (<http://www.premiumaquatics.com>). Thanks to Jason Frey for granting permission for it's use here.

Critter Corner

Sea Pen

By Elizabeth M. Lukan 5/19/99

General Information:

According to The Reef Aquarium Volume Two, Sea Pens represent the highest order of **octocoral** based on their "... colonial complexity, polymorphism of polyps, functional specialization of polyps and colonial integration." The Reef Aquarium labels them "super organisms" since their various polyp types perform different functions (circulation and respiration, feeding and digestion, sexual reproduction, and locomotion).

The Sea Pen is quite unique. The structural support is actually a large primary polyp which forms a muscular **peduncle** (like the column and foot of an anemone), which buries and anchors the coral in the substrate without the use of **stolons** or filaments. The upper part of this primary polyp, the **rachis**, supports branches of secondary polyps. The secondary polyps are **dimorphic** and in the case of the Cavernularia Sea Pen are arranged around the entire length of the primary polyp. **Sclerites** are usually smooth needles or angular plates.

The rachis of a Cavernularia Sea Pen, considered a more primitive **genera**, is a rounded club-shaped



cylinder with polyps on all sides. Cavernularia Sea Pens are usually brown or light tan with white tipped polyps. The more advanced genera gives the appearance of a feather quill, hence the name Sea Pen. I was unable to obtain a picture of a Cavernularia, but the image I did obtain clearly shows the quill-like Sea Pen mentioned above. Color varies greatly among the different species of Sea Pens but oranges and bluish-whites are most common for the quill-like ones.

Their natural habitat are the sandy bottoms between reefs. According to The Reef Aquarium Volume Two, which contained specific information on the Cavernularia type Sea Pens, they are found in the Indo-Pacific region and imported from Indonesia and Singapore. According to Ocean Realm Guide To Reef Creatures Marine Invertebrates, which covered the more quill-like Sea Pens, they are found in colder waters (off the coast of Vancouver Island, Canada for example).

Scientific Name & Information:

Order - Pennatulacea Verrill

Family - Veretillidae Herklots

Genus - Cavernularia

Scientific Name - Cavernularia obesa

Home Aquaria:

Caring for this coral is easy if they are fed regularly, see Foods & Feeding below.

Sea Pens require a layer of substrate, usually fine sand or mud, at least three inches (7.6cm) deep.

Sea Pens are inflated by water drawn into the colony and some can deflate to a fraction of their size by forcing that water out. Touching one can cause this reaction.

Sea Pens vary in height from a few inches to a yard.

The following is according to the Reefkeeper's FAQ:

Captive Difficulty (0=beginner 5=experienced 9=advanced)	3
Florescent Lighting (50% tri-color white + 50% actinic) (0=1.5 watts/gallon 5=4.5w/g 9=7.5w/g)	3-8
Distance From Florescent Lighting	>5 inches
Metal Halide Lighting (0=1w/g 5=3w/g 9=5w/g)	1-3
Distance From Metal Halide Lighting	>20 inches

Water Current Level (0=stagnant 5=medium 9=turbulent)	2-5
Hair Algae Compatibility (0=none 5=some algae 9=heavy algae)	0
Food Source	zooplankton (baby artemia)
Additives Required	Iodine, Calcium, and Strontium

Also according to the Reefkeeper's FAQ, Sea Pens are not very compatible in reef tanks because of their half-**sessile** existence. I really didn't find any research to back this statement up. The only issue in keeping Sea Pens that I found in my research, was their feeding requirements.

Foods & Feeding:

Although Cavernularia Sea Pens have a brown coloring, there is no **zooxanthellae** present. The polyps feed on **detritus**, **zooplankton**, and possibly (according to The Reef Aquarium Vol. Two) **phytoplankton**.

You should offer your Sea Pen Artemia nauplii, Daphnia, pulverized flake food, and detritus stirred up from the bottom of the tank.

Reproduction:

Reproduction in the home aquaria has not been reported, either by sexual or asexual means.

Cost:

Store: Only one Sea Pen (a Cavernularia) was found for sale in my area (Queens, NY, USA), for \$30.

Online: I was unable to find any Sea Pens for sale online (I checked over 10 sites).

This coral is very difficult, if not impossible, to find. Luck may be your only option for obtaining one.

Photo Credits:

The picture of the Sea Pen (filename seapensr.jpg) was obtained at the Simplified Reef Keeping website (<http://www.connix.com/~reefkeep/> (*url dead 8/24/04*)). Simplified Reef Keeping is a book by Robert M. Metelsky. Thanks go to Robert for granting permission to use the image in this article.

Great Plains Seahorses

A Website Intro & Stop Parasites Offer

By John Canada 5/13/99



Great Plains Seahorses at <http://www.seaponies.com>
(information updated 4/19/00: GPS closed).

I'm here at Fish & Chips to introduce myself, my site, tell you a little bit about some products I sell and believe in, and make you an offer.

Rose Ann Canada, my wife, is the owner of this business which was started in February 1999. Yeah, we are new, but we are dedicated! Being medically retired, I find this hobby to be a fun way to spend my day. Both of us love exotic animals and keep a Cockatoo besides our fish. As for fish, it was 28 years ago when I got my first Seahorse Aquarium and I was hooked. When Rose Ann and I got married, we soon set up two 30 gallon tanks which have since become 13. What fun and what work!

Great Plains Seahorses is a small and simple site and we like it that way. We do have great plans for it though and our little, growing, business. Before I move on to those products I mentioned and that offer I hinted at, let me tell you about our future plans for the Great Plains Seahorses website. We have just made arrangements to sell live seahorses. This is so new that we haven't even had time to update our website yet! We are very excited, it's why we started this whole thing to begin with. We plan to add a discussion room for Seahorses and fish, and jewelry made from Seahorses. For you conservationists out there, the Seahorses will have died a natural death. There will be no killed Seahorses used for this purpose. We also intend on offering a wall hanging that will be Seahorse orientated.

I am selling a treatment for ICH that is safe for everything in the tank - invertebrates, corals, and live rock. The way I came across Stop Parasites is that I had been battling parasites for about 3 months. I tried everything. I tried copper and had a dead tank and lost three fish. I tried the copper-less stuff that turned the water blue and I still had the parasites. I was about to give up. Then I read an article in Freshwater And Marine Aquarium magazine. In this issue there was a write up about Stop Parasites that got my attention. It is easy. Just disconnect mechanical filtration and go for it. You can even leave the protein skimmer on.

I then did a 5 day treatment with the Stop Parasites and the parasites were gone. It was a trip watching the parasites grow bigger and bigger till there were no more. When I found out they were looking for distributors, I jumped on the band wagon.

There are two other products that Chem-Marin makes. F.W.P. which stands for Fresh Water Parasites. Even though Stop Parasites is safe for fresh water if used at half strength, F.W.P. is specifically formulated for fresh water. The only difference is Stop Parasites will kill the parasites where F.W.P. will cause the parasites to slough off and starve. I have one customer that uses it in her foot soaking solution. She says that it really helps. I am not advocating using this product as a medication, it is interesting though. The third product is Stop Aiptasia. This product is great. It will eliminate the Aiptasia with just a little application with the easy to use applicator which I sell with the Stop Aiptasia. This product is also effective against Jellyfish larva and Hydroids.



The main ingredient in Stop Parasites is a pepper extract. The balance is other vegetable products. So no toxic ingredients are added to your tank.

Don't be discouraged if you are an international reader and think that you'd have to pay way more than you need too just because you can't find these products in your local store. I ship international. Not only that, but I pay half the shipping. I've cleared this with the manufacturer. There's no real reason why those overseas should have to pay more than those of us in the US. Oh, and I ship Priority Mail (national and international). Simply because, when someone orders Stop Parasites they need it now, not a week from now when regular mail would be delivered.

To demonstrate how sold I am on this product, I am offering a 16 oz. bottle of Stop Parasites to one of you who has parasites in their tank. To qualify for this offer you must have parasites in your tank now and be willing to give a write up here in the Fish & Chips newsletter that details your fight against the parasites prior to your trying Stop Parasites, the treatment with Stop Parasites, and the results. Obviously there is always a risk involved in treating your tank with medications, etc. and you have to be willing to take that risk with no fault to me (in other words, just because it worked for me, doesn't mean it will for you). Also, and finally, your write up becomes the property of Fish & Chips to be published in a future issue with you given credit as author and tester. If interested in this offer please submit your request to jrc@seaponies.com (**information updated 4/19/00: GPS closed**), with your tank size, inhabitants, how long you've had the parasites, and whether it is a reef tank (with live rock) or if it is a fish only tank. If there are several of you wanting this offer, then I will submit the list to Elizabeth for final selection.

As you can see, I am just an ordinary person who stumbled upon an excellent treatment for parasites and Aiptasia that worked in my tank and I'm in a position to pass along the information and most likely rid your tank of parasites at the same time.



Article edited by Elizabeth M. Lukan, 5/25/99.

Editing was limited to spelling corrections and some grammar (capitalizing the beginning of a sentence, adding a period at the end, etc.) as well as formatting the article into html and the Fish & Chips newsletter format. No other editing was done, the content of what John sent me remains unchanged.

Photo Credits:

All images in this article were provided to Fish & Chips by John Canada along with the article.

Caught In The Net

By Elizabeth M. Lukan 5/25/99

The following list contains informational and educational websites, broken down into subcategories.

Informational & Educational Sites

Articles

- [Exotic Tropicals](http://ExoticTropicals.com) - <http://ExoticTropicals.com> (5/4/99)

Critter (fish, coral, invert) Information

- [CoralFarms](http://www.coralfarms.com) - <http://www.coralfarms.com> (4/22/99) *"We are the largest importer of cultured Solomon Islands SPS and soft corals. Our focus is on captive and cultured livestock."*
- [Exotic Tropicals](http://ExoticTropicals.com) - <http://ExoticTropicals.com> (5/4/99)
- Great Plains Seahorses - <http://www.seaponies.com> (information updated 4/19/00: GPS closed)

Do-It-Yourself (DIY)/How-To

- [Exotic Tropicals](http://ExoticTropicals.com) - <http://ExoticTropicals.com> (5/4/99)

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

- [CoralFarms](http://www.coralfarms.com) - <http://www.coralfarms.com> (4/22/99) *"We are the largest importer of cultured Solomon Islands SPS and soft corals. Our focus is on captive and cultured livestock."*
- [Exotic Tropicals](http://ExoticTropicals.com) - <http://ExoticTropicals.com> (5/4/99)

Picture Gallery

- [CoralFarms](http://www.coralfarms.com) - <http://www.coralfarms.com> (4/22/99) *"We are the largest importer of cultured Solomon Islands SPS and soft corals. Our focus is on captive and cultured livestock."*
- [Exotic Tropicals](http://ExoticTropicals.com) - <http://ExoticTropicals.com> (5/4/99)

Product Descriptions/Reviews

- [CoralFarms](http://www.coralfarms.com) - <http://www.coralfarms.com> (4/22/99) *"We are the largest importer of cultured Solomon Islands SPS and soft corals. Our focus is on captive and cultured livestock."*
- Great Plains Seahorses - <http://www.seaponies.com> (information updated 4/19/00: GPS closed)

Site/Link Lists

- [CoralFarms](http://www.coralfarms.com) - <http://www.coralfarms.com> (4/22/99) *"We are the largest importer of cultured Solomon Islands SPS and soft corals. Our focus is on captive and cultured livestock."*
- [Exotic Tropicals](http://ExoticTropicals.com) - <http://ExoticTropicals.com> (5/4/99)

Tank Photos/Showcase

- [Exotic Tropicals](http://ExoticTropicals.com) - <http://ExoticTropicals.com> (5/4/99)

This marks the first time I am publishing sites submitted to the Fish & Chips Site List. What you see above is what was listed as on their site by the submitter. The date that follows in parenthesis is the date submitted to the list.

Site Submission and Updating: To submit your site for inclusion in the Fish & Chips newsletter and website based Site List, please go to the Fish & Chips Website at <http://www.marinefiends.com/> (*updated 8/24/04*) and complete the Site Submission Form. Please do **NOT** send any site submission or update requests via email - *I will not process them.*

Chips...er...Tips

Water Storage #2 - Tip By Elizabeth M. Lukan 5/25/99

Remember last month when I was telling you to store your deionized water in cleaned milk gallon jugs? Well, you may want to replace those jugs every couple of months. A couple of mine sprung a leak and lets just say I'm thankful they weren't being stored in any place important. So, Water Storage Tip #2 is... Replace those containers every three months or so AND store them someplace you don't mind a little water flowing just in case your container replacement timetable isn't precise yet!

To Submit Your Tip: Send your tip via email to FishNChips@mail.com (address updated 4/26/00) with a subject of *Tip Submission* (information updated 4/26/00: coding replaces need for subject notation) and I'll publish it in an upcoming issue of Fish & Chips. I'll write it up for you or you can do it yourself if you are so inclined. Make sure you let me know if I can include your name and email address or if you'd rather go anonymous.

What the ... ?

By Elizabeth M. Lukan 5/25/99

AUTOZOOIDS - Polyps with eight well-developed tentacles that function in feeding and defense. In **monomorphic** species, these are the only polyp type. In dimorphic species, it is the larger, more conspicuous type of polyp.

GENERA - Genera is the plural of genus. In the **taxonomy** classification, the genus is the category ranking below a family and above a species. Simply said, it's a class, group, or kind with common attributes.

DETRITUS - Detritus are piles of organic compounds that accumulate in the aquarium. Commonly will contain fish wastes, fragments of rock, leftover food, and so on. Usually detritus will accumulate in low water flow areas (tank corners, sumps, etc.). Detritus is rich in plant nutrients (in other words, the bad algae's food) and should be removed via mechanical filtration, good circulation, siphoning, and water changes.

DINOFLAGELLATES - A group of single-celled microscopic organisms that belong to the kingdom Protista

DIMORPHIC - Corals with two different kinds of polyps are called dimorphic. The polyps themselves can also be referred to as dimorphic. The two polyp types are **autozooids** and **siphonozooids**

MONOMORPHIC - Corals with only one type of polyp are called monomorphic. The only polyps these corals have are autozooids.

OCTOCORAL - An octocoral is a member of the **phylum** Coelenterata (Cnidaria) class Anthozoa characterized by having (normally) eight featherlike (usually called pinnate) tentacles surrounding the mouth of each polyp. Cnidaria was formerly the phylum Coelenterata. The name Coelenterata is still in common use. The class Anthozoa contains the "flower-animals" - corals, anemones, and anemone-like creatures. A subclass of Anthozoa, Octocorallia, contains the soft corals. Simply, octocorals have eight tentacles on each polyp. There are many different forms which may be soft, leathery, or even those producing hard skeletons.

PEDUNCLE - A stalklike part or structure, foot.

PHYLUM - In the taxonomy classification, the phylum is the category ranking below a kingdom and above a class.

PHYTOPLANKTON - Microscopic algae which is suspended in the part of the water column that is penetrated by light.

RACHIS - The upper part of a pennatulacean (Sea Pen). The part of a Sea Pen which bears the polyps.

SCLERITES - Part of the skeletal/structural support in soft corals. They are composed of calcium carbonate imbedded in the tissue of most soft corals (octocorallia).

SESSILE - Permanently attached. For example, a barnacle.

SIPHONOOZOOIDS - The smaller, less conspicuous polyp in dimorphic octocorals. These polyps are responsible for driving water currents through the large, fleshy octocorals.

STOLONS - Ribbon or root-like growth extensions that adhere to the substrate and link the polyps in Stoloniferan soft corals such as *Clavularia* spp. (common name - Clove or Glove Polyps). Stoloniferan corals are defined as those corals that match this description (polyps linked with root-like extensions adhering to the substrate).

TAXONOMY - The classification of organisms in an ordered system that indicates natural relationships.

ZOOPLANKTON - Animals that drift in the water column. Most zooplankton are microscopic and some are the larval forms of larger organisms.

ZOOXANTHELLAE - These are the tiny plants called **dinoflagellates** that live symbiotically with corals, tridacnid clams, and some sponges. They provide food to their host and in return get the nitrogen, phosphorous, and carbon dioxide they need for growth. *Symbiodinium* spp.

Prove It!

By Elizabeth M. Lukan 5/19/99

The American Heritage Dictionary, Third Edition, Copyright 1994 by Houghton Mifflin Company

AquaDirect by AquaLink, <http://www.aquadirect.com>

Invert-ual Realities Canada, <http://www.interlog.com/~invertea/ire.htm> (*url dead 8/24/04*)

Marine Depot, <http://www.marinedepot.com>

Ocean Realm Guide To Reef Creatures Marine Invertebrates, Text and Photography by Paul Humann, First Printing 1982, Ocean Realm Publishing Corporation

Paradise Aquarium, 66-16 Fresh Pond Road, Ridgewood, New York, USA (718) 366-6921

Premium Aquatics, <http://www.premiumaquatics.com>

The Reef Aquarium Volume One by J. Charles Delbeek and Julian Sprung, First Printing July 1994, Published by Ricordea Publishing

The Reef Aquarium Volume Two by Julian Sprung and J. Charles Delbeek, First Printing June 1997, Published by Ricordea Publishing

Reefers, <http://www.acropora.com> (*url dead 10/03/05*)

Reefkeeper's Frequently Asked Questions, Release 1.12, 8/17/94, found on AquaLink, <http://www.aqualink.com>

Simplified Reef Keeping, <http://www.connix.com/~reefkeep/> (*url dead 8/24/04*)

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To unsubscribe, send an email to FishNChips-unsubscribe@egroups.com visit <http://www.marinefiends.com/> (*updated 8/24/04*).

Any and all comments, suggestions, etc., should be directed to FishNChips@mail.com (**address updated 4/15/00**).

Please visit the Fish & Chips Website at <http://www.marinefiends.com/> (*updated 8/24/04*).

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