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79.—AMERICAN CATFISH IN THE TROCADERO AQUARIUM OF PARIS.***By Dr. JOUSSET DE BELLESME.**

These fish,† which measured 12 centimeters [about 4¾ inches] in length, were in the beginning, owing to their small size, placed in one of the tanks for young fish in the aquarium, and remained there till November, 1885, when they were put in the large basin No. 6.

They were at first fed with raw meat; but as they did not seem to take very well to this kind of food, they were fed on raw fish chopped fine, which they appeared to like. As soon as they were transferred to the large basin they were fed on live fish.

The only water at the disposal of the aquarium is that which comes from the Vanne, whose temperature is 15° C. [59° Fahr.] in August and 9° C. [48.2° Fahr.] in December. It is hardly probable that this temperature is sufficiently high for the reproduction of the catfish. At any rate, those which we have in our aquarium, no matter to what variety they belong, have never spawned.

When the American catfish were transferred to basin No. 6 they were all alive and well, although they had not grown perceptibly. Since that time none of them have died, as far as we have been able to observe, for these fish have a habit of keeping in their holes and never coming out during the day, so that they are hardly ever seen. In basin No. 1 we had some of considerable size, and in order to assure ourselves of their existence it became necessary to empty the basin and carefully search for them at the bottom in the cracks between the rocks. Even then we did not always succeed in finding them. I have therefore reason to believe that the seven catfish which the Acclimatization Society has given us are still in existence, and the first time the basin is emptied I will search for them again in order to make sure of it.

I should state that the Trocadéro aquarium is by no means adapted to researches of this kind. The impossibility of varying the temperature of the large mass of water which feeds it prevents us from successfully reproducing any other fish but salmonoids. Moreover, our basins are too large for small fish, which easily escape observation.

PARIS, FRANCE, May 28, 1886.

* "*Catfish dans l'aquarium du Trocadéro, Paris.*" From the *Bulletin mensuel de la Société Nationale d'acclimatation de France*, Paris, August, 1886. Translated from the French by HERMAN JACOBSON.

† For note on their receipt see Fish Commission Bulletin for 1886, p. 138; also Fish Commission Bulletin for 1885, p. 433.