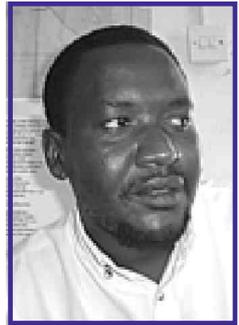




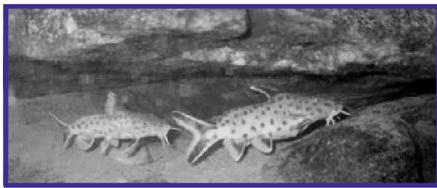
Reuben Shapola's Underwater Photo Gallery

by Kelly West



Mr. Reuben Shapola, from the Zambian Department of Fisheries (DoF) Mpulungu Station, was a participant in the first dive training course held in Kigoma in 1997 for the LTBP Biodiversity Special Study. In addition, Mr. Shapola is an amateur photography hobbyist. After being certified to dive and trained in underwater research methods, Mr. Shapola took an interest in underwater photography. He has refined his technique over the past year, and has selected some of his best images for us to show here and on the project website.

Mr. Shapola first became interested in both diving and underwater photography when some Japanese researchers visited Mpulungu Station in 1988. Over the years Mr. Shapola and other DoF staff have continued to collaborate with the Japanese research team. Though Mr. Shapola had previous experience diving, it was not until the LTBP underwater research methods training course that he tried his hand at underwater photography. The first roll of film that he shot included lots of pictures of only rocks or sand. "The fish



Synodontis sp. catfishes

move so fast!" Mr. Shapola lamented in describing some of the difficulties of underwater photography. In addition to all the complications of normal photography, Mr. Shapola notes that underwater photography is much more difficult than regular photography because the light underwater is more difficult to judge, and because the subjects, especially the fish, are not very helpful in that they never hold still and smile for the camera. As you can see from his photos, Mr. Shapola has found ways in which to overcome these difficulties.

Mr. Shapola attended Kasaka Fisheries Training Center in Kafue, Zambia before joining DoF Mpulungu Station in September 1986. In addition to diving surveys, Mr. Shapola also participates in the DoF gill net surveys in Zambia. We wish him much luck with his photography as he continues to practice and perfect his technique.



a bivalve mollusc

More photos can be viewed at

<http://www.ltbp.org/priv/GALLERY.HTM>

Kelly West is the Scientific Liaison Officer for LTBP.



Neolamprologus sexifacatus patrolling through a school of *N. brichardi*



Ophthalmotilapia ventralis patrolling territory



A troop of *Lamprologus callipterus* on the prowel



Sand-dwelling cichlid nest



The Zambian dive team out for a snorkel



This rocky outcrop is home to at least 7-10 different spp. of cichlids



Ophthalmotilapia ventralis in nest



A Zambian diver collecting samples



Catherine O'Reilly measuring primary productivity



Julidochromis sp.



Rocky/sandy habitat - 3m