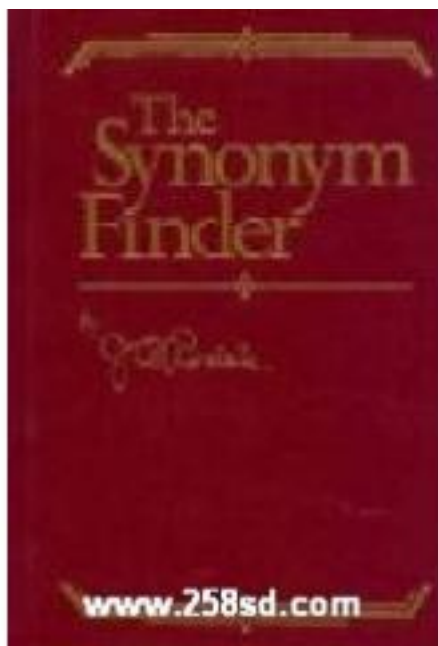


Oscars



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OSCARS IN GENERAL
POPULAR NAMES
The fish most commonly known to American aquarists as the oscar is also known to them as the peacock cichlid and velvet cichlid. The names peacock cichlid and velvet cichlid are more common in Great Britain and other present and former members of the British Commonwealth than they are in the United States but all three names (and a few others too) have achieved a degree of currency in all English-speaking lands that harbor aquarists. The name peacock cichlid is descriptive of the fish in that the oscar is indeed a cichlid and adult oscars indeed bear at least one marking in common with a peacock: the dark spot surrounded by a circle of lighter color near the base of the oscar's tail is similar to the "eye spot" on a peacock's tail. The velvet cichlid name

probably derived from the comparative smallness of the scales but also is descriptive but to a much lesser degree; the velvety look of an adult oscar although present if you're inclined to look for such things is much less evident than the eye spot. The name oscar is neither descriptive nor strictly apropos in any other way. but it has stuck. I don't believe that anyone knows for sure how a fish like this one had the name "oscar" tagged onto it but the name has been around in the aquarium hobby almost as long as the fish itself and that's more than forty years. Probably "oscar" is importer of the species or is a corruption of local South American name. SCIENTIFIC NAME Originally named Cuvier in the early 1800s science as Astronotus ocellatus unlikely to change. A fish with a star on the back ocellated marking or have a reference to another incorporated into oscar is by no means so described is Cichla more noticeable although into a big hassle about ocellatus go ahead. Real function of such markings conclusion has been drawn that such markings have THE OSCAR FAMILY Astronotus ocellatus a group of almost certainly mainly in the Americas introduction in Asia. No there are because new the time and the geographic and American cichlids for new piscine fauna Cichlids differ widely temperament and breed as the peaceful little rainbowfish

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