

Short Communication:

NOTES ON THE BEHAVIOUR OF THE FEMALE MUDDY ARGONAUT,  
*ARGONAUTA HIANS* LIGHTFOOT, 1786 IN CAPTIVITY

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**ABSTRACT:** In captivity, the muddy argonaut, *Argonauta hians*, usually swims by hovering in the water column at night while during daytime it stays on the tank bottom. The argonauts also attach themselves to the tank wall and to the tank bottom where they crawl by using their arms with the head and egg shell pointed upward. When swimming all arms are folded backwards exposing the suckers, while beaks and arm tips are inserted in the shell. The enlarged membrane of the dorsal arms occasionally covers the shell. In the aquarium, the muddy argonaut preferred benthic polychaetes, over small fish or shrimp, as its food source. Secondary defences were observed in deimatic displays of a dark colour pattern and forcibly blowing, with protean behaviour of escape by erratic jetting and ink ejection.

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