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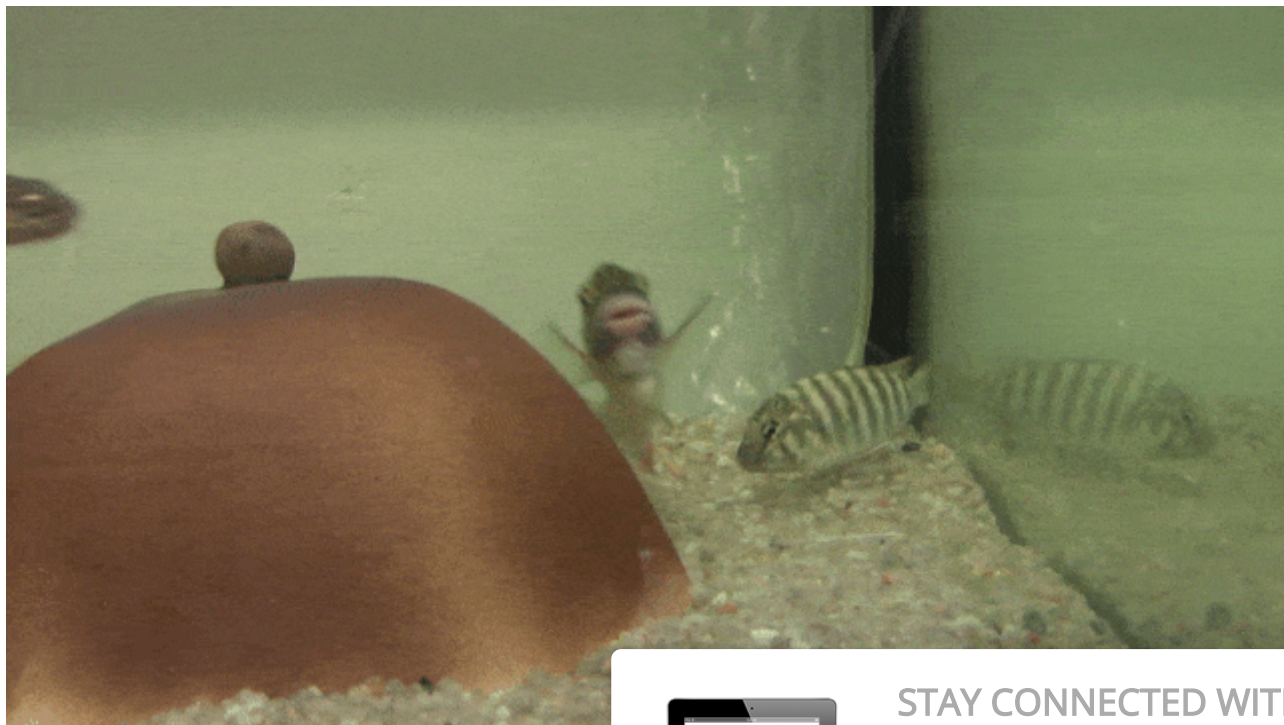
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Image of the Day: Hold My Brood

Cuckoo catfish trick cichlids into caring for their eggs in a strategy known as brood parasitism.

By *The Scientist* Staff | May 9, 2018



Popular

Cuckoo catfish planting their eggs in the cichlid hosts' mouths. RADIM BLAŽEK

Cuckoo catfish (*Synodontis multipunctatus*) have evolved to expend the energy required to care for eggs in the mouths of cichlids, who raise them as their own.

Familiarity with the catfish may help the cichlids and colleagues report last week (May 2) in *Science*



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parasitic catfish rejected the eggs more often than cichlids that hadn't. Even though the behavior led to the savvy cichlids sometimes rejecting their own eggs, they still were more successful in raising their own offspring than cichlids who accepted the catfish eggs were.

R. Blažek et al., "Success of cuckoo catfish brood parasitism reflects coevolutionary history and individual experience of their cichlid hosts," *Science Advances*, doi:10.1126/sciadv.aar4380, 2018.

Tags

video, reproductive biology, reproduction, parasites, multimedia, IOD , Image of the Day, image , gif , fish, evolution, cuckoo catfish, cichlid, brood parasitism and brood parasite

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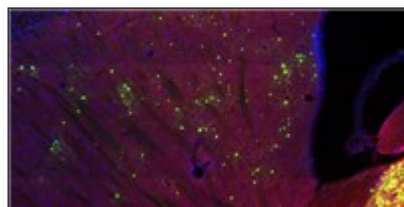


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By *The Scientist Staff*

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