

Get rid of snails in a home aquarium

“The Compressor Method”

I have a 140 quart aquarium for warm water fish. A few months ago it was invaded by little snails that did not stop reproducing. Everyday I would crush 10-15 of them while they were climbing the walls. My search through the web indicated that it is impossible to get rid of these little pests permanently without the drastic resort of a complete cleanup of the substratum, filters, plants, etc.

I did get rid of them all in about two weeks without any drastic cleaning method or chemicals or killer fish or asian cannibal snails.

Simply I noticed that the snails reproduced under the aquarium substrate, under the plastic support (where the beneficial bacteria leave). I got a small portable compressor of the type used for tires, sold at any hardware store and connected it to the air intake. That produced an underwater tsunami, especially when I obstructed the two air exit holes. It forced all the air being blown to run under the substratum, and eventually leave through the gravel, and in the process seriously disturbed the snails' reproduction grounds. I can imagine their eggs were dislodged from where the mother placed them and thus destroyed.

I repeated this procedure twice daily for about two weeks. The observed snails started being smaller in size and eventually also in number until one day I noticed that I had not seen a snail for the whole weekend. Since then they never came back!!!! So I found an ecological solution that did not disturb the fish nor the beneficial bacteria...and it was effective. I must add that I also got rid of all plants and replaced them by pieces of my collection of Murano paperweights and small colorful plates. They look splendid and are much cleaner and pest free.

Comments welcome!!

Carlos Alfredo Rodriguez

doc@cema.edu.ar