

Making Solid SnakeSkins (Exposing the Hidden Genetics)

Frank Schulterbrandt 11/06/2015

Sometimes making different crosses in your guppy room, produce strange and totally unexpected events. The strange thing that happened this time in my guppy room, was the strange event happened twice in the same week.

My records indicate that I crossed a Female from a now discontinued Steve Kwartler Green line (that was given to him by another breeder) to a Steve Kwartler HB-AOC male. I also crossed his Half Black AOC male line onto a female that I got off of AQUABID. Both crosses yielded Solid SnakeSkins. What are the chances of that happening... I would have a better chance hitting "LOTTO". In a previous cross with a SK HB-AOC male cross to a Green female, I got Half Black Females and Yellow Cobra males. So I really thought the Solid SnakeSkin thing was an error with my records. My intent was to make AOC Bi-Colors again with the cobra markings in the body. Like I said was crossing a SK HB-AOC male to Green female.

Anyway as a wise guppy man who lives in Virginia says ,
"When the Lord gives you lemons make lemonade".

So now I have two lines of Solid Snakeskin guppies. The line with the Half Black females which have larger males but the caudal has 1 – 3 very small patches of yellow. I could be making a mistake but I am not going to use these Half Black Females in any future crosses. I will cross the Solid SnakeSkin males from this line to the other SnakeSkin Line as that line has grey bodied females. I always knew that a lot of the Half Black AOC carried some form of SnakeSkin genetics material. So by chance and not design, Snakeskins showed up in this double cross in the same week. So the question was in both cases , did I have enough of the Snakeskin pattern in the body... The answer was yes, as there was at least 60 percent of the body with the snakeskin (not Cobra) pattern in the body. Now I could continue making lemonade. So I took one tank entry to the IFGA Annual Show just to be sure.... My SnakeSkin tank entry did not get DQ (disqualified).

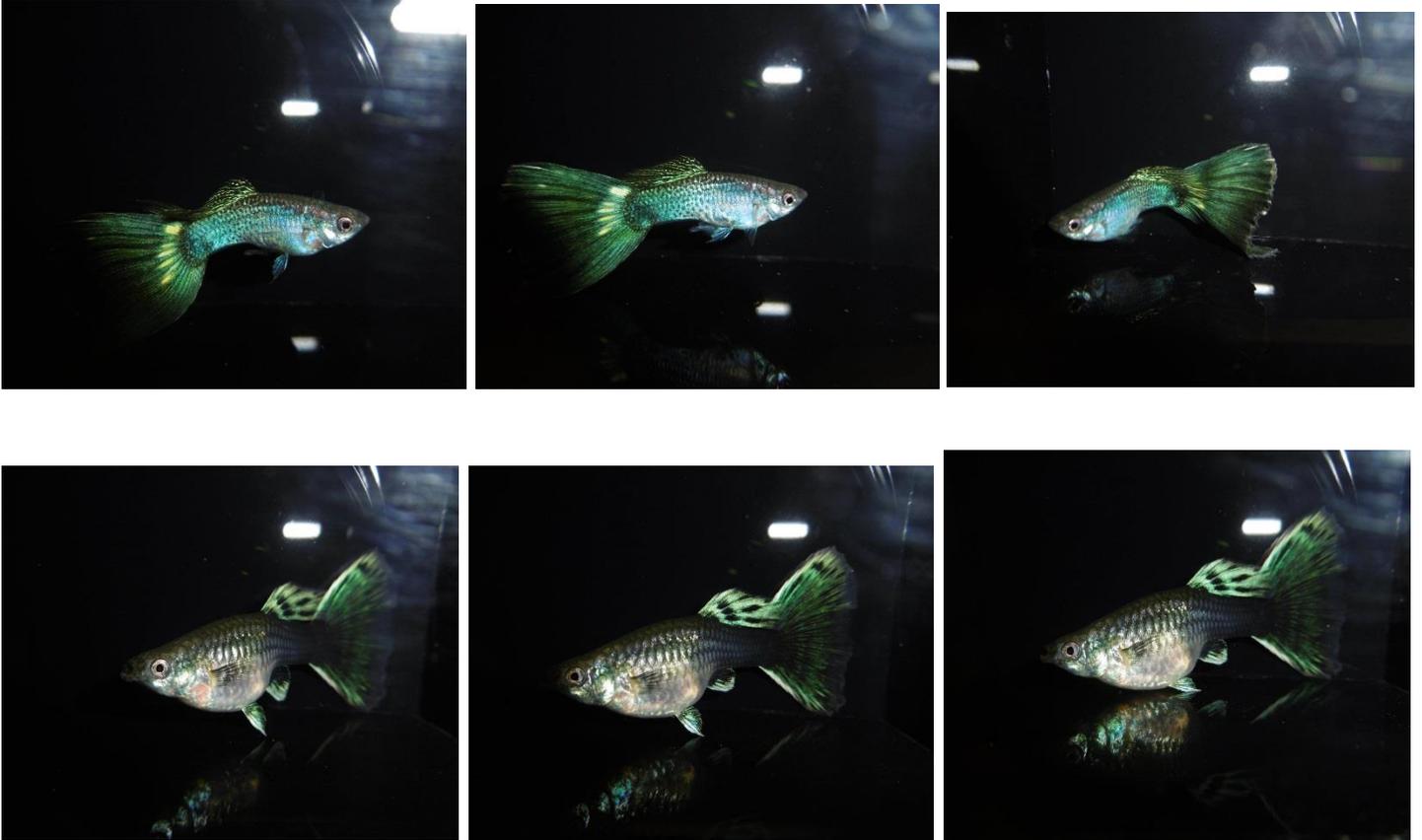
The next step is to fix the short dorsal. I can do this with some fish from another breeder who has fish specifically for this. He calls his fish extended dorsals and has put this trait into various color lines.

Then the real hard part starts: The color in the mismatched dorsal will be the hardest area to fix. Fixing the color on dorsal can be the biggest headache as you are trying to make the color of the dorsal the same color as the caudal. From the Grey bodied SnakeSkin females I have both Purple and Green Solid SnakeSkin males. From the Half Black SnakeSkin females I have Green Solid SnakeSkin males.

Snakeskin that I made from Steve Kwartler's HB-AOC line.. This is not a good photo can't really see the snakeskin pattern.. HB-AOC Leopard male onto Greens that were given to Steve by another breeder which he has since discarded. I have to make another cross to extend the dorsal (that is just one cross to a special guppy line).. The hard part is to get the dorsal color to match the caudal..



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I just wanted to add this final note: today 11/04/2015 in one of my junk tanks where I had 3 SK HB-AOC females and 3 Green females along with one SK HB-AOC leopard male: I never bother to take any babies out of that tank. There was about 3 generations of fish in the tank:
Here is a description of what I found: Yellow Cobras, Purple variegated Snakeskins, HB-AOC leopards, Green Snakeskins, various colored HB-AOC females, Green females...

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