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Captive-bred angels react differently to predators



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Wild-caught and captive-bred angelfish (*Pterophyllum scalare*) behave differently in the presence of predators, according to research to be published in a forthcoming issue of the *Journal of Applied Ichthyology*.

The study by Rayan El Balaa and Gabriel Blouin-Demers from the University of Ottawa compared the anti-predator behaviour, specifically the ability to recognize and avoid predator cues, between wild-caught and captive-bred angelfish.

The authors used 12 captive-bred and 14 wild-caught angelfish for their experiments, allowing them to see a predator, in this case a Jack Dempsey cichlid (*Cichlasoma octofasciatum*) and then measuring their response (in this case, the presence and length of time in which the fish remains immobile).

The experiments were conducted in two adjacent tanks placed end-to-end (on their short sides). The angelfish were placed in one tank and the Jack Dempsey was placed in the other. An opaque divider separating the tanks was removed, and the responses of the angelfishes were recorded on a video camera for subsequent analysis.

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