characterized by its low solubility in most organic solvents. The melting point behavior of both substances on repeated melting leads to the supposition that Compound C is an isomorphous modification of Compound B.

Finally, another physiologically inert compound, D, crystallizing from petroleum ether in rhomboidal platelets with a melting point of from 70 to 74°, has been isolated from the crude crystalline material. The amount so far obtained is too small for chemical characterization.

From the above findings we are inclined to consider Compound B, M.P. 128°, as identical with the hormone causing progestational proliferation and tentatively propose to retain the name Progestin for this compound.

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LIFE SPAN OF PLATYPOECILUS, XIPHOPHORUS AND THEIR HYBRIDS IN THE LABORATORY

SEVERAL inquiries have appeared in print relative to the length of life of these fishes under laboratory conditions. Perhaps the data here presented will furnish a partial answer.

Unfortunately, complete or quantitative data are not available for the reason that laboratory procedure is such that exact records of the life span are not obtainable, except in relatively few instances. From each mating as many as ten progenies may be produced. Each is placed in a separate tank soon after birth. Males isolated from all the progenies of one mating are thrown together in one tank. As the remaining females approach maturity, conservation of space and tanks often makes it expedient to concentrate several of the progenies from the same mating, thus placing together fish of several different ages. Hence, in most cases, the age of any individual fish is known only between certain limits. In addition, very few fish are permitted to live out a "normal" life span. Ordinarily they are killed as soon as their function in a particular mating has been performed.

In a few instances, however, where only one progeny is obtained or a fish is singled out for one reason or another, exact ages are determinable. The records have been examined for such cases and the data tabulated in Table 1. Preliminary tabulations showing no appreciable differences in the males and females for each species and their hybrids, all males and females whose ages at death are known are listed in the two first columns. The same data are re-

TABLE 1

Age in months	Male	Female	P	X	H
10	5	11	9	2	5
13	3	6	7	0	2
16	2	2	3	0	1
19	3	7	5	0	5
22	3	5	3	1	4
25	2	5	4	2	1
28	3	2	1	2	2
31	1	5	3	1	2
34	0	2	0	1	1
37	0	2	0	1	1
40	1	2	2	0	1
	23	49	37	10	25
Av.	19.5	20.8	18.7	25	21.2

entered in the three last columns without regard to sex. P, X, H stand for Platypoecilus, Xiphophorus and hybrid, respectively. The hybrids may be F_1, F_2 or any of several types of back crosses.

I have no way of knowing the cause of death, although it seems probable that in most cases it is not old age. Where it is obvious that something is the matter with a fish just before death, a note is made in the records, such as, "oedema," "melanoma," "very feeble," etc. Such cases are not included in the tabulation.

Among the older specimens are several not included in the table because the exact age is not determinable; they were killed and preserved or were still alive when the last record was made and with no later entry to indicate their fate. Such specimens are listed below:

1 male	P	57–61	months.	Died.
2 female	X	37	"	Killed.
3 male	X	36	"	"
7 female	X	36	"	"
1 female	X	32	"	Alive when last recorded.
1 female	P	32	"	Killed.
6 female	P	28	"	Alive when last recorded.
1 female	X	48–52	"	Still living (4–3–34).

It is obvious that the averages given in Table 1 are too low; a matter of no great significance, however, since there can not very well be a "normal" life span in the laboratory unless very special conditions as regards food, crowding, plant growth, cleaning, parasitic infection, etc., are rigorously maintained. The figures may, however, give some indication of the life expectancy of these fishes under ordinary laboratory conditions.

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