CONCLUSIONS

DISCUSSION

     The overall accomplishments have supported the initial idea that prolonged constant exposure to another male betta will cause them to become oblivious to one another.  Unfortunately as soon as that variable is removed, male bettas reassume their aggressive roles.  All the data can be questioned of course, it is almost impossible to conduct a flawless test with so many independent variables causing deviations.  Things such as color may suggest a possible influence, as well as size and age.  It can not be ordained whether or not the initial testing might have left a permanent effect upon the test subjects.  The same tests could be applied to higher life forms such as mammals, and possibly humans.  Because fish no doubt have a lower brain structure that may not be able to retain short term experiences.  I personally doubt that experimentation like this may change a species from its natural behavior, based upon the data.

CONCLUSIONS

     A traditional phrase lingers after all the experimentation, "you can't teach an old dog new tricks," seems fitting for the outcome of the experiment.  As mentioned above it can be seen that constant direct contact will affect the behavior of the subjects, but it seemingly last for only a short period of time.  Thus, it can be concluded that the natural aggressive behavior of the species *Betta Splendens*, is in fact innate in that it is part of its original agnostic behavior.  Simply stated, the inherited behavior cannot be permanently altered with just constant exposure to a factor which triggers its aggressiveness, its natural behavior will always overcome any other that is forcibly applied.

IMPROVEMENTS

     Possible improvements could consist of a better laboratory conditions.  Temperature fluctuations may have influenced behavior.  Perhaps it may have been too cold compared to the regular habitat.  Not all the test subjects were identical, thus it is given that there are going to be definite variations.  A more supportable conclusion may have resulted if there were in fact more test subjects.  All the bettas used were of domestic breeding, none were from the natural habitat. Because of the fact that each had to be kept in a separate container may have caused differences in the ph level of the habitat itself.  Hopefully if one wishes to undertake this experiment, they may improve on these things.

      CLICK ONE OF THE SECTIONS BELOW

* [Home](http://docs.google.com/Page1.html)
* [Introduction](http://docs.google.com/Page2.html)
* [Observations](http://docs.google.com/page3.html)
* [Data](http://docs.google.com/Page4.html)