

PSAMMONALIA

Newsletter of the
International Association of Meiobenthologists



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B-9000 Gent, Belgium.

A Scientist collecting Meiofauna



This Newsletter is not part of the scientific literature for taxonomic purposes

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International Association of Meiobenthologists - Founded 1966

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You may make your donations to the *Bertil Swedmark Fund* directly to the IAM bank account (account number 6586667) of the Lloyds Bank (Sort code 30-96-68), 8 Royale Parade Plymouth PL1 1HB, UK.

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Marleen De Troch, Tom Moens, Ann Vanreusel,
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EDITORIAL

It was advertised already in the previous issue of Psammonalia that the possibility is created to surf within the interstices of the sediments by reading Psammonalia on the internet Home Page. The Meiofauna WWW site is at

<http://inlet.geol.sc.edu/~nick/meiofauna.html>

I thank Nikolaos Schizas (Univ. South Carolina and student of Bruce Coull) and our computer (and fish) man Kris Hostens very much for all the help since it was not an easy at all task to transfer it from the Network system of the University of Gent to the Home Page.

Some of you reacted already quite enthusiastic about the Home Page! Nevertheless, we have to consider the good and the bad things about this progress.

What do meiobenthologists want ?

We can save at least 300 US dollars per issue in production costs (fotocopies) and postage if all (?) the members can take the information from the web. Is this a sign to decrease the dues (which are very modest anyhow)? Or should we transfer the dues to the Swedmark Fund in order to encourage the study of meiofauna among students ? Anyhow, who will in the long run still feel the need to pay dues if all the information can be taken for free from the web ?

Perhaps we have to think all over again about the production of the four Psammonalia issues a year and should move after some period to the production of only one hard copy once a year with the synthesised information which has been put on the web.

You see, many possible strategies to follow, and therefore I would like to ask you to put your personal ideas on paper (or as a note on the web) or communicate to me through email (magda.vincx@rug.ac.be). I will summarize in the next issue about your opinions.

On the other hand, monitoring this web also takes a lot of energy and I'm not sure if Nikolaos Schizas can take that effort for the future ? Normally it should be a task of the editorial board but since Nikolaos was so kind to offer his support, we took it with both our hands.

The address list has been updated in the web. A revised copy will be sent to each of you early next year. For those of you who have no access to the web you can ask me for information of course.

In order to obtain your ideas about the subject I ask the members of our organisation to comment on the following items :

1. Psammonalia should be put on the web

YES/NO

2. If yes, Psammonalia on the web will replace the paper copy issues

YES/NO

3. Part of the information of Psammonalia is put on the web

YES/NO

4. Only member-address list is put on the web and can only be updated by the web-manager

YES/NO

5. Only references of recent literature is put on the web

YES/NO

6. Both address list and recent literature is put on the web and will be updated 4 times a year

YES/NO

7. Psammonalia fees are still needed

YES/NO

8. Only those who want a paper copy, have to pay for their issues, others can have a reduced fee or free of charge

YES/NO

9. In the future (to be decided on the next meiofauna meeting in Plymouth (1998)) we have to change our product

YES/NO

10. For the next three years Psammonalia will be produced both on the web and on paper and send to the members

YES/NO

11. I do not need to receive paper copies from now on and the saved money can be put on the Bertil Swedmark Fund

YES/NO

12. Any other suggestions ?

Looking forward to a reply on this important issue by ALL OF YOU !!!!

Magda Vincx, Gent, 20 May 1996

ANNOUNCEMENTS

3rd European Ostracodologists Meeting

The 3rd European Ostracodologists Meeting will be held in Bierville-Paris, from 8 to 12 July 1996.

In addition to the scientific sessions, the following events are planned:

- Workshop on the evolution of Timiriaseviinae
- Meeting of French speaking Ostracodologists Group (OLF)
- Workshops; 4 propositions have been received and new ones are still welcome:
 - Plio-Pleistocene ostracodes by G. Ciampo
 - Masse extinctions and ostracodes by F. Lethiers
 - Homologizing Trachyleberidacean ornament by A. Liebau
 - Systematic principles for Darwinulocopina by I. Molostovskaja

All correspondence concerning the meeting should be addressed to:

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New Challenges for North Sea Research -20 years after FLEX'76- Symposium

Twenty years after the Fladen Ground Experiment (FLEX'76) it is time to consider the achievements of North Sea research in this period and to identify the gaps of knowledge which still remain. This symposium is dedicated to summarizing **the present state of the art** and collecting ideas for **a new experiment** employing new methods and tailored to new needs and questions.

Topics and keynote speakers

A. Sessions on external forcing

1. Interaction with the atmosphere (T. Jickells)
2. Interaction with the North Atlantic Ocean (J.M. Huthnance)
3. Interaction with the Baltic Sea (B. Gustafsson)
4. Interaction with the land (F. Colijn)

B. Sessions on internal dynamics

5. Stratification, fronts and meso-scale features (J. Simpson)
6. New approaches in biological oceanography (M. Heath)
7. Interannual and decadal variability (H. Lindeboom)
8. Benthic processes (D. Eisma)
9. Morphodynamic evolution (H. de Vriend)

C. Sessions on new methods and experiments

10. New observational techniques (R. Doerffer)
11. New modelling techniques (J. Backhaus)
12. Synthesis and proposal for a new experiment

The symposium will be held in the city centre at the Katholische Akademie, Herrengraben 4, D-20459 Hamburg, Germany from 21 to 23 October 1996.

All correspondence should be addressed to the symposium office:

Zentrum für Meeres- und Klimaforschung
Universität Hamburg
Bundesstrasse 55
D-20146 Hamburg
Tel. +49-40-4123 4523/5
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3rd Benelux Congress of Zoology

On Friday and Saturday November 8-9 1996, the third Benelux Congress of Zoology will take place at the medical and biological building of the university of Namur, Belgium. Namur is situated 50 km south of Brussels and can be easily reached by train or car.

Scientific program

The scientific program will consist of 3 invited plenary lectures within the general congress theme "**Adaptation, from molecules to communities**". 75 contributed lectures of 15+5 minutes will take place in parallel sessions. Posters will be presented on both days and especially during lunch time.

Registration

The registration fee includes a copy of the abstract book and of the proceedings volume, as well as coffee and refreshments during the congress.

Second year graduate students don't have to pay any fee.

The deadline for registration payment is July 15th 1996. Belgian and Luxemburger participants should transfer 1000 Bef to bank account 350-0000001-23 with mention Benelux 9325. Dutch participants are requested to transfer 50 Hfl to post account n° 6234524 of the Nederlandse Dierkundige Vereniging.

Publication

Abstracts of all presentations will be provided in a camera-ready style booklet during registration. Those abstracts must be sent to Prof. Devos **before 1 September 1996.**

Prof. P. Devos
Facultés Universitaires N.-D. de la Paix
Rue de Bruxelles, 61
B-5000 Namur
Belgium

Workshop on 'Disturbances in coastal marine ecosystems'

The workshop will be held from 3-6 February 1997 in the Research Centre Terramare in Wilhelmshaven, Germany. During the workshop, effects of disturbances and the following regeneration with results from own investigations and further case studies will be discussed. Besides general scientific conclusions, some recommendations for coastal management approaches will be made.

The objectives of the workshop are:

- classification of disturbances
- patterns of succession following disturbances
- methods to describe effects of disturbances
- management approaches to prevent disturbances and to facilitate succession

Deadlines:

Preregistration:	1 July 1996
Abstract for contribution:	1 September 1996
Second Circular:	October 1996
Final registration and deadline for hotel booking:	15 November 1996

Organizer:

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Seventh international symposium on aquatic oligochaetes: First announcement and call for papers

Dr. S.R. Gelder is organizing the Seventh International Symposium on Aquatic Oligochaetes. It will be held on the campus of the University of Maine at Presque Isle (USA) during the 18th to 22nd August 1997. You are invited to present a paper on your research in either oral or poster format, or attend and contribute to discussions on oligochaetology.

The major topics of the papers in the symposium will include morphology, systematics, evolution, biogeography, ecology, pollution biology, parasite interactions, and physiology of oligochaetes. Contributions on leech phylogeny and systematics are also welcome.

Accommodation, meals and scientific sessions will all be situated on the campus of the University of Maine at Presque Isle. The accommodation is in high standard student dormitories, with two people sharing a room. Single person rooms are available at a slightly higher price. Tentative prices will be a registration fee of \$100US (maximum) and about \$40US per day for food and dormitory accommodation. Accurate prices will be given in the second announcement.

A tentative registration form is attached at the end of this issue. If you are interested in attending and wish to receive the second announcement, please return it BEFORE 1 SEPTEMBER 1996 to:

Dr. S.R. Gelder
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Fax: +207-768-9608
e-mail: gelder@polaris.umpi.maine.edu

13th International Symposium on Ostracoda, ISO97

The Thirteenth International Symposium on Ostracods (ISO97) will be held at the University of Greenwich, Chatham Maritime, Kent from the 27th-31st July 1997. Please note that ISO97 will be held at the University Towns Campus based at Chatham Maritime, 20 km east of Greenwich and 50 km east of central London.

Conference themes are:

- I. Non-marine Ostracoda: Evolution and Environment
- II. Marine Ostracoda and Global Change
- III. Evolutionary Biology and Ecology of Ostracoda

More information about this symposium can also be viewed at the following World Wide Web Site:

http://www.uea.ac.uk/menu/acad_depts/env/all/resgroup/ISO97/2circulr.htm

Updated members list

The members list that was 'produced' together with the previous issue, has now been updated with e-mail, telephone and fax numbers.

This list is now available on the meiofauna web site: <http://inlet.geol.sc.edu/~nick/meiofauna.html>

(pay attention: an incorrect address was mentioned in the previous number).

If you would have no access to the Internet, you can get the members list upon request to the editor. The complete list will be sent to the members together with one of the following issues (probably early next year).

NEWS FROM MEMBERS

Activities at the Limnological Institute of Mondsee (Austria)

* Prof. Dr. Dan L. Danielopol is working on a new interdisciplinary project on groundwater meiofauna from the Vienna area. His group (P. Pospisil, F. Mößlacher and J. Dreher) is now investigating the adaptations of local populations to three types of surface alluvial environments. He is also directly involved, together with his colleagues A. Baltanas (Univ. Autonoma de Madrid) and P. Marmonier (Univ. Savoie), in the morphological differentiation of local populations of a groundwater ostracod species. Another project deals with cladistic analysis of Ostracoda.

* Friederike Mösslacher is working on her PhD-thesis on physiological adaptations of groundwater species and populations. Adaptations of Copepoda living in different subterranean and surface water habitats are investigated. A comparison of the metabolism, the breathing strategy, and survival rates at different oxygen saturation levels is made. Furthermore her thesis will be completed with work on groundwater organisms and with an attempt to use this information for biomonitoring.

* Christian Griebler successfully adapted a method (DMSO reduction method) from soil microbiology for the determination of the microbial activity in freshwater sediments. Previously this method was used to investigate effects of bioturbation by tubificid worms on mixed microbial assemblages. Within his PhD-thesis the DMSO reduction method is now modified for its use in freshwater.

Contact address is:

Limnological Institute
Gaisberg 116
A-5310 Mondsee
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e-mail: ilimnolmon@pan.at

* Dr. Peter Pospisil is currently involved in a research project managed by Prof. Dr. Dan L. Danielopol. This project focusses on the groundwater cyclopoids of Vienna, especially on the *Diacyclops languidus/languidoides*-group which has at least five representatives in our 1km² research area. Some of the problems which have to be treated are: 1. Explanation of their different

small-scale distribution patterns using field data and laboratory experiments (response to oxygen depletion, temperature variations etc.); 2. Survival strategies to cope with hypoxic conditions of the groundwater during the warm season; 3. Monitoring of short-time oxygen fluctuations in groundwater habitats close to and more distant from surface waters; their influence on animal abundance and distribution; 4. Detailed examination of the "species"-status of the five *Diacyclops*-morphotypes by means of morphology, morphometry and electrophoretic investigations.

Address changes

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Interests: Bacteria-detritus-meiofauna- relationships

Matthew Hooge
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USA

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Interests: Intertidal meiofauna ecology

Idris B.A.G.
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43400 UPM Serdang, Selangor
MALAYSIA

Interests: Meiobenthos: ecology and taxonomy of copepods and nematodes.

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Tel. +1483 303030

Interests: Tardigrada

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Interests: I am involved in experimental work and nematode identification at Plymouth Marine Laboratory.

Sérgio Netto
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Interests: Actually I am a PhD student at the University of Plymouth and the Plymouth Marine Lab. The research program involves a study of benthic communities of an offshore coralline atoll in the South Atlantic.

Michaela Schratzberger
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Interests: From April 1988 to April 1993, I carried out my biology studies at the University of Hamburg (Germany), focussed on hydrobiology and oceanography in the last two years of the studies. From April 1993 to April 1994 I did my MSc about the reaction of meiobenthic communities on beach nourishment at the westcoast of the Island of Sylt (North Sea). To proceed in this field I developed the hypothesis that reactions of meiofaunal communities to different types of natural and man-induced disturbances are specific and result in characteristically structured communities. Since June 1995, I am doing a PhD on the effects of disturbances on meiofaunal communities at the Plymouth Marine Laboratory under the supervision of Dr. R.M. Warwick (PML) and Prof. Dr. H. Thiel (University of Hamburg).

RECENT LITERATURE

This literature list contains, among others, several references on papers from Russian scientists, which have been published in the course of the past three years, and which were provided to us by dr. Tchesunov. Some of these may have already appeared in previous Psammonalia issues.

* Adrianov, AV, 1995. The first description of kinorhynch from the Spitzbergen Archipelago (Greenland Sea), with a key to the genus *Pycnophes* (Homalarhagida, Kinorhyncha). *Canadian Journal of Zoology*, 73 (8): 1554-

* Adrianov, AV & VV Malakhov, 1995. *Kinorhyncha (morphology, development, phylogeny and classification)*. Moscow, Nauka, 260 pp. In Russian.

* Adrianov, AV & VV Malakhov, 1995. Synopsis of the system of the phylum Cephalorhyncha. *Russian Journal of Marine Biology*, 21: 89-96.

* Adrianov, AV & VV Malakhov, 1995. Comparative-morphological analysis of the organization of cephalorhynch worms, the phylogeny and the system of the phylum Cephalorhyncha. I. Body plan, external morphology, symmetry. *Zoologicheskyy Zhurnal*, 74 (4): 34-48. In Russian.

* Adrianov, AV & VV Malakhov, 1995. Comparative-morphological analysis of the organization of cephalorhynch worms, the phylogeny and the system of the phylum Cephalorhyncha. II. Covers, musculature, nervous system. *Zoologicheskyy Zhurnal*, 74 (5): 3-18. In Russian.

* Adrianov, AV & VV Malakhov, 1995. Comparative-morphological analysis of the organization of cephalorhynch worms, the phylogeny and the system of the phylum Cephalorhyncha. III. Sensory organs, digestive system, body cavity. *Zoologicheskyy Zhurnal*, 74 (5): 19-30. In Russian.

* Adrianov, AV & VV Malakhov, 1995. Comparative-morphological analysis of the organization of cephalorhynch worms, the phylogeny and the system of the phylum Cephalorhyncha. IV. Excretory organs, reproductive system and development, plesiomorphous and apomorphous morphological characters. *Zoologicheskyy Zhurnal*, 74 (6): 23-30. In Russian.

* Adrianov, AV & VV Malakhov, 1995. Comparative-morphological analysis of the organization of

cephalorhynch worms, the phylogeny and the system of the phylum Cephalorhyncha. V. Phylogeny and classification. *Zoologicheskyy Zhurnal*, 74 (7): 19-27. In Russian.

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* Adrianov, AV & VV Malakhov, 1995. *Cephalorhyncha - a new phylum of the animal kingdom*. Moscow, KMK Scientific Press Ltd, 200 pp.. In Russian, with English summary.

* Amara, R & P Bodin, 1995. Could the meiobenthic environment offshore be favourable for the settlement of young sole? *Oceanologica Acta*, 18: 583-590. In French.

* Alyamani, FS & AM Fahmi, 1995. Copepod host records for Ellobiopsid parasites from the northwestern Arabian Gulf. *Arab Gulf Journal of Scientific Research*, 13: 571-581.

* Ansell, AD, 1994. In situ activity of the sandy beach bivalve *Donax vittatus* (Bivalvia, Donacidae) in relation to potential predation risks. *Ethology, Ecology & Evolution*, 6: 43-53.

* Arp, AI & CR Fisher, 1995. Introduction to the symposium: Life with sulfide. *American Zoologist*, 35: 81-83.

* Ascenio, G, E Clasing, C Herrera, R Stead & J Navarro, 1995. Larval development of *Amphiascopsis cinctus* Claus, 1866 (Harpacticoida: Diosaccidae) and *Laophonte parvula* Sars, 1908 (Harpacticoida: Laophontidae). *Revista Chilena de Historia Natural*, 68: 271-283. In French.

* Atkinson, A, 1996. Subantarctic copepods in an oceanic, low chlorophyll environment: ciliate predation, food selectivity and impact on prey populations. *Marine Ecology Progress Series*, 130: 85-96.

* Azovsky, AI, 1992. Co-occurrence of congeneric species of marine ciliates and the competitive exclusion principle. *Russian Journal of Aquatic Ecology*, 1(1): 49-59.

* Azovsky, AI, 1996. New data on the fauna of benthic infusorians (Ciliata, Protozoa) of the Barents Sea. *Zoologicheskyy Zhurnal*, 75: 3-8. In Russian.

* Baltanas, A & DL Danielopol, 1995. Cladistic analysis of *Danielopolina* species (Ostracoda, Halocyprida, Thaumatoocyprididae) and the origin of the anchihaline fauna. *Mitteilungen Hamb. Zool. Mus.*, 92: Ergbd.: 315-324.

* Bartsch, I, 1996. Halacarids (Halacaroidea, Acari) in freshwater. Multiple invasions from the Paleozoic onwards? *Journal of Natural History*, 30: 67-99.

* Bergsten, H, K Nordberg & B Malmgren, 1996. Recent benthic foraminifera as tracers of water masses along a transect in the Skaggerak (north-eastern North Sea). *Journal of Sea Research* (former *Netherlands J. Sea Res.*), 35: 111-121.

* Binda, MG & G Pilato, 1995. Some notes on African tardigrades with a description of two new species. *Tropical Zoology*, 8: 367-372.

* Biserov, VI, 1994. Some tardigrades from the Seychelles with descriptions of three new species. *Tropical Zoology*, 7: 181-189.

* Biserov, VI & DV Tumanov, 1993. *Ramazottius valaamis* sp.n. (Tardigrada, Hypsibiidae), a new species of tardigrades from

Valaam Island, Karelia, Russia. *Zoologicheskyy Zhurnal*, 72 (11): 35-39. In Russian.

* Boero, F, G Belmonte, G Fanelli, S Piraino & F Rubino, 1996. The continuity of living matter and the discontinuities of its constituents: Do plankton and benthos really exist? *Trends in Ecology and Evolution*, 11: 177-180.

* Boulanouar, M, M Yacoubi, M Messouli & N Coineau, 1995. Un nouveau *Microcharon* (Isopoda, Janiroidea) du Maroc-origine et biogéographie historique. *Contributions to Zoology*, 65: 53-64. In French.

* Burkovsky, IV, 1992. Conditions for coexistence of potential competitors in marine psammophilous ciliates community. *Russian Journal of Aquatic Ecology*, 1: 39-48.

* Burkovsky, IV, 1992. Experiments on introducing a new species into a protozoan community. *Hydrobiological Journal*, 7: 43-47.

* Burkovsky, IV, AI Azovsky & VO Mokiyevesky, 1994. Scaling in benthos: from macrofauna to microfauna. *Archiv für Hydrobiologie, Supplement 4*: 517-535.

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- * Steve Jarvis (c/o G.E.L. Harker, U.K.) :
'I liked your quiz picture in the last Psammonalia. Could this beast be "Draconema"? Regards'
- * Greg Street (Texas, USA) :
'My guess for the beast on p.9 is *Hallugenia*, the fossilized onychophoran from the Burgess Shale. I believe current opinion is that the animal's feet are the small, dorsal protrusions and the "legs" from the illustration are actually dorsal spines. Hopefully, I am wrong, and it is actually a meiobenthic animal.
Great job with the issue!
- * Guglielmo Tita (Quebec, Canada) :
'After a long and very deep research (references were not easy to find), it seemed clear to me that the animal drawn on Psammonalia no. 111 was the very rare species of *Nematosaurus polypodatus*. First description was given by Aristotle in 322 b.J.C. just before his death. The latter was probably caused by *N. polypodatus* (Wife of Aristote, 315 b.J.C.). More recent studies (not published) include *N. polypodatus* in the trophical group of "very carnivorous". Its habitat is typically the very complex system of dreamland, nevertheless it seems to be able to live within marine sediments. Take care of you !!!'
- * Donald J. Zinn (Falmouth, MA, USA) :
'The animal on page 9 of Psammonalia # 111 is probably the nematode *Bathypsilonema* spp.'

QUIZ

Quiz-question of issue 111 was : Identify this animal !

A few people mailed me an answer, and thus here follows a reflection of the true spirit of some of our fellow IAM members :

- * Rhian David (London, U.K.) :
'Is it a *Draconema* nematode?'
- * Rick Hochberg (Arcata, USA) :
'The organism appears to be a nematode of the genus *Dracograllus*. A very interesting animal indeed! Would love to run into it in California. Take Care.'

The true origin of the drawing has to be found in the genus *Polkepsilonema* Verschelde & Vincx, 1993, a member of the Epsilonematidae, of which (take care, here follows the answer) I drew a cartoon version with slightly exaggerated 'legs', creating an animal from past times which I baptised *Tyrannonema rex*, for some obvious reasons (imagine it being a six meter large nematode!).

I must say that I was very pleased with all answers and reactions, and that the wit of especially both Greg Street and Guglielmo Tita made me smile for more than a week. So I have to say a big

Thank you to all participants of last issue's quiz-question.

But due to both the speed and correctness of the answer of the following contestant, we have to declare our glamorous winner :



for that day, as it has been raining in Belgium for the last two weeks now.

THANKS

This issue was also made possible due to the help and effort of the following members :

Bruce Coull, Dan L. Danielopol, Stuart R. Gelder, Nicole Gorbault, Peter Pospisil, J.M. Schmid-Araya, Alex V. Tchesunov, Donald Zinn.

* Heino Christle (Germany) :

My suggestion concerning the quiz-question of the month may be not the most creative one, but it is quite easy to see that it must be the extinct ancestor of both Nematoda and Archosauria, one of the famous missing links called *Tyrannochaetosoma rex*.

I guess it's the ssp. millipedia, as it bears more than one pair of hind-legs.

It seems being a dangerous predator: Its mouth-opening is much bigger than that of recent Epsilonematidae. I still wonder if its mouth-cavity will bear teeth. In *Tyrannosaurus rex* it does, in Desmodorids usually not.

All the best to you, Yours Heino.'

For the new Quiz-question, I would like you to recognize and reflect on the following enlarged part of a drawing which will be the cover of the next issue of Psammonalia (# 113). Again we are eager to receive your wity reactions :



Send your email answers to :
Dominick.Verschelde@rug.ac.be

Answer in next issue of Psammonalia, together with a honorary citation of this month's winner.

By the way, by the time you will hear new news from your quiz-master (issue 113), your humble 'production editor' (that's me) will be a married man : I am getting hitched on the first of June, 1996; so 'life will never be the same again!' I hope we can get some sun

International Association of Meiobenthologists

APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP OR RENEWAL

The International Association of Meiobenthologists is a non-profit scientific society representing meiobenthologists in all aquatic disciplines. The Association is dedicated to the dissemination of information by publishing a quarterly newsletter and sponsoring a triennial International Conference. The newsletter, *Psammonalia*, is published mid-month in February, May, August and November.

Membership is open to any person who is actively interested in the study of meiofauna. Annual membership dues are 300 Belgian francs (\$ 10 US) and you may pay up to 3 years in advance, i.e. 900 BEF (\$30). New members will receive *Psammonalia* beginning with the February issue of the current year. If you are able, please add extra money to be contributed to the Bertil Swedmark Fund, which is used to help students or others who wish to attend the triennial International Conference.

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