

# PSAMMONALIA

Newsletter of the  
International Association of Meiobenthologists



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B-9000 Gent, Belgium.

*It's the silly season, ...  
it's cucumber time !*



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

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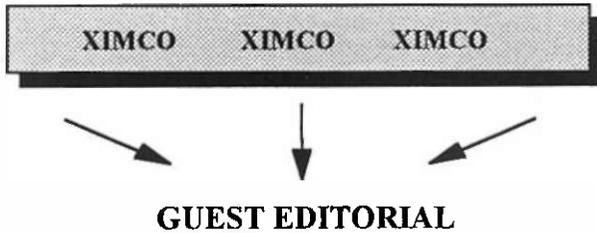
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**Ximco news from Plymouth**

The organizing committee has been meeting regularly to try and ensure that this will be a highly successful conference. In this time of austerity, Melanie Austen and Andrea McEvoy have been working hard to encourage sponsors and exhibitors to contribute financial assistance. We are pleased to announce that the meeting will be supported by the Linnean Society of London and The Marine Biological Association of the UK. Most of the conference social events have been finalized and the facilities booked—a conference dinner in the mediaeval banqueting Hall at Buckland Abbey and an evening boat trip up the river Tamar. Fund raising events for the Bertil Swedmark Fund, a raffle and funny photographs, are also being planned.

Detailed costings of the conference have been delayed, partly due to our financial secretary having to undergo a heart-by-pass operation from which he recovered successfully, and partly because we need a better idea of the likely number of participants!!! Similarly, the scientific programme is still under discussion. There will be conference themes each morning and afternoon except Thursday afternoon, with an hour a day set aside for poster sessions. However, we have received no suggestions for conference themes or possible workshops and therefore the organizing committee will have to put the programme together on their own. Again we need to have some idea of who is coming to the conference and their range of interests (i.e. possible presentations).

**Thus it is essential that you respond to the expression of interest form contained in this issue of *Psammonalia* NOW.** Thank you to the 56 people who have already done this. The organizers can work their tails off to provide the facilities and ambiance of the conference but in the end it is you the participants who will make it either a success or a failure by your presence and the quality of your scientific input.

Conference information, booking and abstract forms will go out by e-mail or post in October and pre-booking will stop at the end of February. **So, you have been warned!!**

P.S. In response to Magda's suggestions in the editorial of the May issue of *Psammonalia*: The organizing committee are all in favour of a raffle for the Bertil Swedmark Fund and would like to receive donations of prizes with a meiofauna connection. However, they are unanimously against offering prizes for conference oral presentations.

Mike Gee

**Other reaction (only 1) on the editorial of issue 116**

'Magda, Mike & Richard: I do NOT agree we should give prizes for "Best ...whatever" at the IMCO meetings. This was discussed at length at Perpignan and the consensus of the executive committee was not to give prizes because it will destroy the cordial and congenial nature of the meetings, that is, we do not need more competition in the world and we as one of the friendliest group of scientists should encourage cooperation not competitiveness. I fully support this argument and would urge that we NOT start a competition. Those are my thoughts.'

Bruce C. Coull

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

***Third International Larval Biology Meeting  
January 13-16, 1998***

The larval biology meetings were established in 1993 as a biennial forum for work on the ecology and evolutionary biology of larval stages of aquatic organisms. The meetings are relatively informal, consist of mini-symposia and oral and poster presentations on current research. The aim is to cover a wide taxonomic range.

The next meeting will be held at the University of Melbourne, Victoria, in southeastern Australia. The organizing committee is Mick Keough (Univ. Melbourne), Maria Byrne (Univ. Sydney), Jon Havenhand (Flinders Univ. South Australia), and Greg Jenkins (Marine and Freshwater Research Inst, Victoria).

Information about the conference is on the web at:  
<http://rubens.its.unimelb.edu.au/zoology/larval/>

**Mini-symposia**

As with previous meetings, there will be a series of half-day symposia, organized by participants in the meeting. We called for proposals from people willing to arrange a half-day session (including contacting speakers). Several suggestions for symposia with lists of likely speakers were sent. The topics and contact names include:

-Fertilization Ecology: Toby Bolton  
(toby.bolton@flinders.edu.au)

-Larval Nutrition: John McConaughy  
(jrm100f@ludwick.ocean.odu.edu) and Paulina Selvakumaraswamy (paulina@anatomy.su.oz.au)

-Larval behaviour: is it important to dispersal and recruitment? Greg Jenkins (g.jenkins@mssl.oz.au) and Jeff Leis (jeffl@amsg.austmus.gov.au)

-Evolution of Larval Form: Maria Byrne  
(mbyrne@anatomy.su.oz.au)

- Function of Larval Body Parts: Dan-Sohkawa Marina  
(mdan@scisv.sci.osaka.cu.ac.jp)

**Timelines**

- 15 August 1997: Second mailing: Call for abstracts & list of symposium topics
- 15 October 1997: Deadline for receipt of abstracts & early registration
- Jan 13 1998: Meeting starts!!

Mailing list: The web site will be the source of most conference information, and administration. We will use our mailing list to notify you of program details. When there is a major change to the web site, an announcement will be broadcast to everyone on the mailing list. If you or a colleague wish to be added to the mailing list, please complete the response form on the web site.

General enquiries about the meeting can be sent to larval@zoology.unimelb.edu.au., or by snail mail to Larval Meetings, Dept of Zoology, Parkville, VIC 3052, AUSTRALIA.

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**VII International Conference on Copepoda  
July 25-31, 1999**

We have the pleasure to announce and invite you to attend the VII International Conference on Copepoda, to be held in Curitiba, Brazil, during the austral winter of 1999. The Conference will cover several aspects of copepod research, including taxonomy, phylogeny, ecology, zoogeography, ecophysiology, biochemistry and genetics, with emphasis on recent findings and up-to-date discussions. This meeting is sponsored by the World Association of Copepodologists (WAC) and hosted by the Federal University of Paraná.

After several consultations, the following symposium subjects were proposed. Once the organizers receive more feedback and after contacting potential conveners, the final list should boil down to eight topics.

1. Methods and points of view for a modern phylogeny of copepods
2. Coevolution in symbiotic copepods
3. Biogeography of copepods: a cross-section of the major taxa
4. Sexual dimorphism in copepods
5. Copepods in highly productive *versus* oligotrophic marine environments

6. Copepods in Antarctic and Subantarctic ecosystems
7. Copepods in challenging environments
8. Copepod trophic interactions and biogeochemical cycles
9. Anabiosis and copepod resting eggs

**Contact address:**

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**NAMIT:**

***The Northern Association of Marine Invertebrate Taxonomists***

This is to announce the formation of a new association interested in the taxonomy of marine invertebrates from Alaska to northern California. The NORTHERN ASSOCIATION of MARINE INVERTEBRATE TAXONOMISTS (NAMIT) was organized recently by scientists and other individuals interested in the systematics, taxonomy and ecology of the marine invertebrates of the northeastern Pacific region. The purposes for which the Corporation is organized are as follows:

Exclusively to facilitate the exchange of scientific information concerning the marine invertebrates of the coastal regions of Oregon, Washington, British Columbia and Alaska. This includes the organization of workshops, specimen and literature exchanges, and standardization of systematic practices and taxonomic usage.

The NAMIT intends to serve as a northern version of SCAMIT (Southern California Association of Marine Invertebrate Taxonomists). The NAMIT hopes to solicit membership via this message so those that are interested can contact Kelly Sendall at the Royal British Columbia Museum at the address below. Presently, membership is at 69 from Canada and the US.

Annual dues are \$20.00 Canadian or \$15.00 US.

Kelly Sendall  
Collections Manager  
Invertebrates  
Royal British Columbia Museum  
Victoria, BC CANADA  
(250) 387-2932  
fax (250) 387-5674  
email: ksendall@rbml01.rbcm.gov.bc.ca

## Job Announcements

ECOSUR (El Colegio de la Frontera Sur) is inviting applications for its unit in Chetumal, for seven tenure-track positions starting either in September 1997 or January 1998, as listed below. Chetumal is the capital of Quintana Roo, a peaceful city (pop. 200,000) in the border with Belize.

We seek exceptional candidates pursuing natural history and management research in neotropical ecosystems. Successful candidates are expected to develop vigorous research programs with potential for extramural funding; further, they must get involved in teaching at the graduate level.

Research topics are:

- Agroecology
- Carcinology (crabs)
- Forestry
- Ecological Economy
- Herpetology
- Freshwater Ecology
- Integrated Resource Management

A Ph.D. degree is required and two or more years of productive postdoctoral research is desirable, as well as fluent Spanish. Applicants should send a curriculum vitae and statement of research interests and availability, along with the names and e-mail codes of three referees to:

Sergio I. Salazar-Vallejo  
 ECOSUR, Apdo. Postal 424  
 77000 Chetumal, Quintana Roo  
 MEXICO  
 e-mail: salazar@xaway.ciqro.conacyt.mx

## NEWS FROM MEMBERS

### Job hunting

Dear all meiofauna-people,

I have studied biology at the Technical University Braunschweig in Germany with a specialisation in Ecology and Marine Biology. In my master thesis I worked on the food-ecology of freeliving plathelminth and their prey organisms. The work was realized at the Biologischen Anstalt Helgoland (BAH)-Wattenmeerstation List with Prof. Karsten Reise and Dr. Werner Armonies. As I can see my professional career in the field of coastal and marine research I am looking for a PhD abroad. If possible, I would like to continue working with meiofauna, possibly something similar to the work done in my thesis. I am convinced working with meiofauna is a challenging field of research, with so many interesting interrelations still to describe. It would be my pleasure to contribute my professional experience and enthusiasm to someone's project and to gain more experience in meiofauna research. I hope that someone has a chance for me working in one of

their projects.

Iris Menn  
 BAH-Wattenmeerstation List  
 Hafenstr. 43 D-25992 List/Sylt  
 Fax: 04651/956200  
 e-mail: Karsten Reise <106333.1764@compuserve.com>

### *Culturing marine nematodes and the world wide web*

I would like to use this forum for asking two things. Firstly, I have been collecting available literature on the culturing of marine nematodes. I am now considering to compile this information in a comprehensive review, and would very much welcome any personal experiences any reader of Psammonalia may have gathered concerning this topic: Has anyone been culturing any marine or brackish water nematode(s), be it for purposes directly related to the study of meiofauna or not (e.g., as a food in aquaculture), and would those people who have such information want to share it?

Secondly, would those people who actually have cultures of marine nematodes be willing to "advertise" this on the web? For example, I have cultures of 11 strains belonging to 9 different nematode species from brackish and marine habitats. I would be very interested to add more species, but also to add new strains of species I already culture, for the study of within-species variability/diversity. Since the most easily cultured marine nematodes represent a limited number of species belonging to only a few families, it is well possible that several people having the odd attempt at culturing marine nematodes have success with the same or closely related species. However, much of this information never gets published, or cultures are already lost by the time it does. Creating a world-wide available inventory of what is actually in culture (with regular updating) would largely overcome this problem. Personally, I consider the meiofauna homepage as the ideal forum to do this, because it may be the most likely spot on the web to visit for non-meiofauna researchers who are looking for this type of information. With the nematode *Caenorhabditis elegans* as perhaps the best studied metazoan model for genetics, molecular and developmental biology, the interest in aspects of development and genetics of other nematodes, including marine ones, has increased. E.g., some of my strains are currently being used for developmental biology studies or have been included in an 18S rDNA based phylogeny of the Nematoda (submitted).

Any such "reference system" would include a limited information on the "owner", the origin of the species or strain, the approximate date of sampling and perhaps on the culture level. In this way, everyone is still free to decide on whether to respond to any requests for material from his/her cultures or not. The list would simply give an overview of what is in culture worldwide. Strains or species that are cultured under well controlled conditions and can be stored for longer periods could, of course, also be added to the

already existing nematode reference collection system. Since the marine (meiofauna) world does not consist of nematodes alone, the "reference system" could perhaps be extended to include other meiofauna as well? Any reactions/suggestions on this matter are welcome at my address:

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### **NEW MEMBERS**

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Arbeitsgruppe Meereszoologie  
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Germany

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e-mail: thomas@frserv.bio3.stud.uni-rostock.de

**interests:** I am a student of marine biology and ecology at the University of Rostock. I study the meiofauna structure of a bay near Iraklion (Crete) during my diploma work. My particular interest is in the taxonomy and ecology of nematode assemblages.

Lea A. Jimenez  
Davao Oriental State College of Science and Technology (DOSCST)  
NSM Department  
8200 Mati, Davao Oriental  
Philippines

**Interests:** I'm a MSc. student on Graduate Program on Fundamental and Applied Marine Ecology (FAME), Brussels, Belgium. My interest is on marine benthos in general.

### **RECENT LITERATURE**

- \* Abebe, E. & A. Coomans, 1996. Aquatic nematodes from Ethiopia: The family Rhabdolaimidae Chitwood, 1951 *sensu* Lorenzen, 1981 (Chromadorida, Nematoda) with the description of *Udonchus merhatibebi* n. sp.. *Hydrobiologia*, 341: 197-214.
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- \* Decraemer, W. & D. Sturhan, 1997. *Desmoscolex* (*Desmolorenzenia*) *camerunensis* n.sp. (Nematoda, Desmoscolecida) from Cameroon. *Fundamental and applied Nematology*, 20: 233-238.
- \* Dermott, R. & D. Kerec, 1997. Changes to the deepwater benthos of eastern Lake Erie since the invasion of *Dreissena*: 1979-1993. *Canadian Journal of Fisheries and aquatic Sciences*, 54: 922-930.
- \* Doleolivier, M.J., P. Marmonier & J.L. Beffy, 1997. Response of invertebrates to lotic disturbance: is the hyporheic zone a patchy refugium. *Freshwater biology*, 37(2) 257-276.
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## A WORD FROM THE PRODUCTION EDITOR

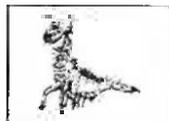
A word of explanation for the front page-drawing. As you all will know, July and August are the months during which most of us take their well deserved holidays; and so each year during this period there is nothing much happening; hence the expression 'silly' or 'dull' or 'dead' season (in the English language). The dutch expression for the silly season is 'the cucumber season' or 'cucumber time'. So we chose to present you a jar of cucumbers, but naturally - us all being 'marine scientists' - we had to fill the jar not just with 'green cucumbers' but with tasty sea-cucumbers. Oh, by the way, I am sorry that I forgot to add the onions and pickles, but I am sure that they will taste good anyway.

Till next time,

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**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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For **all other members** : dues can be paid in Belgian francs. Make (euro)checks payable to Ann Vanreusel. If possible make use of the creditcard transaction possibilities. Send dues and applications to : Dr. Ann Vanreusel, Marine Biology Section , Ledeganckstraat 35, B-9000 Gent , BELGIUM

**Interests:**

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TENTH INTERNATIONAL MEIOFAUNA CONFERENCE (XIMCO)

to be held at the

UNIVERSITY OF PLYMOUTH (U.K.)

on

27th-31st July 1998

Jointly organized by Plymouth Marine Laboratory and the University of Plymouth

Conference Theme. The conference will welcome contributions on all aspects of the ecology, physiology, behaviour and systematics of marine and freshwater meiofauna. Specific themes have not yet been decided upon but the following have been suggested by the organising committee: - 1. Biodiversity: global and regional patterns and processes in individuals to communities; 2. Ecosystem function; aspects of ecosystem function in polar, temperate, tropical, freshwater, coastal marine and deep sea habitats; 3. Specialist studies in systematics, behaviour and genetics.

Conference organization. The conference will be held in the Robbins Building of the University of Plymouth and very reasonably priced accommodation will be provided in the University Hall of Residence attached to the conference centre, close to the centre of town. Lecture (and poster) sessions will be scheduled for the morning and afternoon each day except Thursday afternoon when there will be a coach ride over the Dartmoor National Park to the Conference Dinner in the mediaeval banqueting hall of Buckland Abbey. There will also be an evening excursion up the Tamar estuary by boat. Visits to country houses, historic sites and coastal villages will be arranged for accompanying persons depending on demand. The full conference fee will probably be in the region of £130 (including the dinner) and the preferred method of payment will be by credit card.

Registration. THIS IS THE ONLY GENERAL NOTIFICATION WHICH WILL BE GIVEN. If you wish to be put on a mailing list for further notification and for registration forms you must fill in the expression of interest slip and return it by post, fax, or E-mail to the address below. Future communication will be conducted primarily by E-mail; details will be sent by post only to those people who return this form but are not on E-mail.

XIMCO (J.M. Gee); Plymouth Marine Laboratory; Prospect Place; West Hoe; Plymouth PL1 3DH; U.K. Tel. (0)1752 633100; Fax. (0)1752 633101; E-mail ximco@plymouth.ac.uk

EXPRESSION OF INTEREST. Please return by post, fax, or E-mail before 31st August 1997.

Tick where appropriate

- Please put my name on the conference mailing list for further information.
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