

PSAMMONALIA

Newsletter of the
International Association of Meiobenthologists



Number 118, November 1997

Composed and Printed at The University of Gent,
Department of Morphology - Systematics and Ecology, Marine Biology Section, K.L. Ledeganckstr. 35,
B-9000 Gent, Belgium.

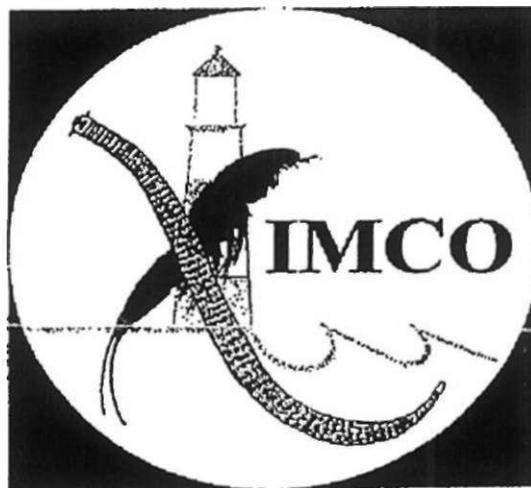
Keep the deadlines in mind:

1st March 1998: Submission of abstracts

1st April 1998: Notification by organizers of type of presentation

1st May 1998: Registration, payment of conference fee, booking of accommodation....

TENTH INTERNATIONAL MEIOFAUNA CONFERENCE (XIMCO)



UNIVERSITY OF PLYMOUTH (U.K.)

27th-31st July 1998

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

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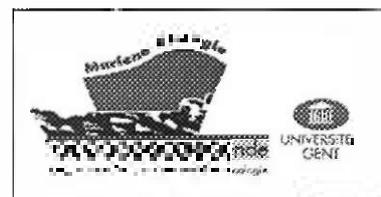
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EDITORIAL

Issue 118 dedicated to XIMCO....

10TH INTERNATIONAL MEIOFAUNA CONFERENCE (XIMCO)

Dear prospective participant.

As promised in our previous flyer, the following provides the latest information on, and booking forms for, the International Association of Meiobenthologists 10th International Meiofauna Conference, to be held at the University of Plymouth, UK on 27th - 31st July, 1998 and jointly organized by the Plymouth Marine Laboratory and the University of Plymouth.

INTRODUCTION TO PLYMOUTH

Plymouth is a city of about quarter of a million inhabitants, situated on the Devon coast about 250 miles west of London. Since the 14th century the history and commercial activity of the city has been closely allied to the sea and it has always been one of the major bases for the British Navy. In Tudor times, Sir Francis Drake, Sir Walter Raleigh and Sir William Blake operated from Plymouth. In the 17th century the Pilgrim Fathers sailed from Plymouth to America in the Mayflower; and Captain Cook set off from here on his voyages of discovery. The importance of Plymouth as a seafaring port continued to grow throughout the 18th and 19th centuries and the city played a vital role during the two great wars of the 20th century, providing the stepping-off point for the invasion of France in 1944, despite large areas of the city having been bombed out of existence. As in sea-faring and warfare, Plymouth has always been at the forefront of research into the marine environment with the founding, in 1888, of the Marine Biological Association laboratory, followed this century by the Plymouth Marine Laboratory and the University of Plymouth with its strong bias towards marine orientated courses. These three organizations are now strongly linked together to form a centre of excellence in marine research in the UK. Although Plymouth is quite a large city, dramatic rocky coastlines, fine beaches, wild moors and lush farmland surround it on three sides. The climate is very oceanic, with warm damp summers and mild wet winters. It is impossible to predict the weather conditions at conference time so bring both the suntan lotion and an umbrella. Further information, including photographs of Plymouth, can be found on the web site www.plymouth.gov.uk

TRANSPORT FOR ARRIVAL AND DEPARTURE

You can get to Plymouth by air, rail, road and sea, but be warned that the weekend of your arrival will coincide with the first weekend of the school summer holidays so all modes of transport are likely to be busy and seats on planes, trains and buses from London should be booked well in advance. **BY PLANE:** Plymouth airport is about two miles outside of the town and there are several British Airways flights per day to/from London GATWICK international airport. If you are arriving from outside the UK and wish to get a connecting flight to Plymouth we would advise you to try to book your flight via Gatwick. (However there is a shuttle bus service between London HEATHROW International airport and London Gatwick - estimated transfer time 2.5 hours). There are also some European flights into Plymouth e.g. British Airways flies Paris - Plymouth (via Jersey) so it may be worth enquiring about these through your travel agent. **BY TRAIN:** Plymouth railway station is within walking distance of the University. Plymouth is on the UK inter-city network. There are trains from London PADDINGTON station approximately every two hours (fewer on Sundays), which all stop at Reading (travellers arriving at London Heathrow airport see below). **BY ROAD:** There is a good road link to Plymouth from the rest of the country via the M5 motorway and the A38 dual carriageway. There are direct buses from cities throughout the UK including London (VICTORIA bus station) and London Heathrow airport. Participants travelling by car who require a parking space at the conference centre should indicate this on their registration form. **BY SEA:** Brittany ferries runs a regular cross-channel ferry service to Plymouth from north west France (Roscoff - 6 hours sailing time) and northern Spain (Santander - 24 hours sailing time) **REACHING PLYMOUTH FROM LONDON INTERNATIONAL AIRPORTS:** If you fly to London Gatwick airport you can get a connecting flight to Plymouth (see above), or take the fast rail link into central London from where you can catch the train (London Paddington railway station) or the bus (London Victoria bus station). From London Heathrow airport you can transfer to Gatwick for a connecting flight (see above) but it will probably be quickest to take the direct, non-stop bus to Plymouth or, if you prefer the train, take the shuttle bus from London Heathrow to READING train station (not free) and take the train to Plymouth.

CONFERENCE AGENDA

All conference proceedings will be conducted in English.

A. Programme outline

Sunday 26th July

1400 - 2200 Registration in the Robbins Building.

1800 - 2000 Informal reception

A Registration and Enquiry desk will also be open from 0830 on subsequent days.

Monday 27th July

0900 - 1000 Welcoming addresses.

1000 - 1230 Oral presentations.

1400 - 1730 Oral presentations.

Tuesday 28th July

0900 - 1230 Oral presentations.

1400 - 1730 Oral presentations.

1900 - 2300 Boat cruise up the river Tamar, past the old and new Royal Navy Dockyards as far as Morwellham Quay. A buffet meal will be provided and a bar will be available.

Wednesday 29th July

0900 - 1230 Oral presentations

1400 - 1730 Oral presentations

1800 - 2100 Poster presentations by authors (with drinks and light refreshments).

Thursday 30th July

0900 - 1230 Oral presentations.

1400 - 1530 Triannual General Meeting and election of officers.

1630 - 0000 Coach trip over Dartmoor National Park to Buckland Abbey and the conference dinner in the Abbey's mediaeval banqueting hall. The evening will also include a limericks competition and a raffle to raise money for the Bertil Swedmark Fund.

Friday 31st July

0900 - 1230 Oral presentations

1400 - 1730 Oral presentations

1735 Official closure of conference.

If specialist groups (e.g. Nematode group) wish to arrange group meetings before or after the main conference, please let us know and we can include them in a later edition of the programme.

B. Scientific content

Please note that the proceedings of this conference are not published. This is in order to encourage participants to talk about their most recent research findings, including research which is not yet completed or which is speculative. The participants will not want to hear about work which is published and which probably they have read about already. The scientific agenda will be based around a number of themes, for each of which, we have attempted to pose a general question. These themes may occupy a variable number of sessions depending on the number of submissions. At the end of the sessions dealing with each theme we will have a short period of open discussion in which all the presenters of papers and the session chairpersons will lead the discussion. Participants, therefore, should bear in mind these themes and questions when submitting and preparing their presentations. Obviously, it is not expected that each presentation should try and answer the question but it should make some contribution towards this. Based on the submissions we have already received from persons expressing an interest in attending the conference (about 136 persons, so far), the organizing committee have suggested the following themes. 1. Pollution and disturbance. Question: Are the principles of meiofaunal responses to pollution and disturbance the same for all environments (deep-sea, continental shelf, estuaries and freshwater)? 2. Biodiversity and Biogeography. Question: Are there large-scale patterns of variation in meiofaunal biodiversity and if so, why? 3. Biotic and environmental interactions. Question: Are environmental and biotic interactions of equal importance in community dynamics and how do we measure interactions between species? 4. Scale and Size. Question: Does what we see depend on where we are looking from? 5. Systematics and phylogenetics. What are the exciting conceptual and methodological new developments in meiofaunal systematics? Note, contributions dealing with the straightforward taxonomy of individual groups are more appropriate as posters than oral presentations.

If at all possible, we want to avoid parallel sessions. This means that oral presentations will be limited to 20 minutes including discussion, and should be well prepared and pre-timed to avoid the embarrassment of being cut off prematurely.

C. Abstracts.

Please submit an abstract of your proposed conference contribution by 1st March 1998. On the first line state whether the contribution is for a poster or oral presentation. This should be followed by the title (lower case letters), authors name(s) and address(es) and an abstract of no more than 400 words which should fully describe the contents of the presentation. The abstract should be forwarded; either by e-mail to XIMCO@plymouth.ac.uk [subject: XIMCO presentation] (please include the abstract text in the body of the e-mail message as well as in an attachment because it is sometimes not possible for us to read attachments but where we can read them they are easier to edit); or by mail to Mike Gee, Plymouth Marine Laboratory, Prospect Place, Plymouth PL1 3DH, UK (if possible on a disc written in either Microsoft Word 6, Word 97, Word-Perfect 5.2, or Word-Perfect 6, and/or the same text as an ASCII TXT file). These will be reviewed by the organizing committee and you will be informed by 1st April if your contribution has been accepted as a oral or poster presentation.

CONFERENCE AND AUDIO-VISUAL FACILITIES

The venue for the conference is the University of Plymouth Robbins Conference Centre which includes living accommodation, lecture facilities, bar and refectory all in one building. Lectures will be held in the acoustically designed, air-conditioned, 250 seat, lecture theatre. Both 35mm slide and overhead projection facilities will be available, although the preferred presentation method for the conference will be 35mm slides. Slide preview facilities will also be provided. If alternative methods of presentation, such as video, are required, please contact Martin Attrill in advance at the University or through e-mail on ximco@plymouth.ac.uk (Subject: Audio-visual). Posters will be displayed in the Pitt Building next door to the Robbins Centre. Details of poster size and format will be issued along with notification of acceptance of a poster.

CONFERENCE FEES AND REGISTRATION.

The Linnean Society of London, The Marine Biological Association of UK and The Systematics Association are providing funds to enable us to offer reduced conference fees for students. The conference fees, in pounds sterling, are as follows: Full participant 125; student participant 85; accompanying persons 65. To qualify for the student rate, you must be a full-time student whose only source of income is a student grant and a statement to that effect from your University/Institution must accompany the registration document. The participant and student conference fee covers the hire of the conference centre, printing costs for conference documents and abstract booklet, coffee and tea during the session intervals, the poster session refreshments, the river boat trip and the conference dinner. The accompanying person fee covers the evening events, i.e. boat trip, poster session refreshments and conference dinner.

Conference fees may be paid either by credit card (Visa, Mastercard, Delta or Switch but NOT American Express); bank draft; international money order: cheque made out in pounds sterling and drawn on a UK bank. Full details are on the registration form. Please register by completing the registration form below and returning it by mail (NOT e-mail) to Mrs D. Horn, Faculty of Technology, University of Plymouth, Drakes Circus, Plymouth PL4 8AA, UK. The deadline date for registration and payment of the conference fee is 1st May 1998. Registration fees will only be refunded if the organizers are given notice of cancellation before 13th July 1998.

British Ecological Society (BES) grants for students attending XIMCO.

The BES has decided to include XIMCO in its Student Support Scheme which will provide a limited number of students with 50% of the costs of registration, meals and accommodation (but not travel). The scheme works as follows: 1. Students apply to the BES for support by filling in a Student Support Scheme application form which is submitted to the BES with a copy of their meeting booking form. 2. If successful, each student is asked to send only 50% of the meeting fee to the organisers, the remainder will be paid directly by the BES who will keep the organisers informed of those students who have been awarded a grant. The address to write to for application forms is: Student Support Scheme, British Ecological Society, 26 Blades Court, Deodar Road, Putney, London SW15 2NU, UK.

ACCOMMODATION.

The accommodation provided by the conference organizers is the student accommodation in the Robbins Conference Centre. This consists of single rooms arranged in flats of six rooms, each with a kitchen and dining area, in which tea and coffee will be provided, and a telephone receiving only incoming calls unless used with a charge card. Each room contains a bed, desk, wardrobe, lamp, chair. The STANDARD room also contains a washhand basin but the shower and toilet facilities are shared with two other rooms. The EN SUITE rooms have their own shower and toilet. In all rooms bedlinen, towels and soap are provided. The en suite rooms are situated on floors 1-3 and the standard rooms on the ground floor and floors 4 and above. There are no lifts in the building so if you have difficulty negotiating stairs ask for a room on the ground or lower floors but these will be

allocated on a first come, first served basis. A standard room costs 22.08 pounds per night and an en suite room 25.67 pounds per night for room and breakfast. There are limited car parking facilities in an underground car park at the Conference Centre but these will also be allocated on a first come first served basis.

If you want to be accommodated in hotels or guest houses outside the University, contact Mrs. D. Horn, Faculty of Technology, University of Plymouth, Drakes Circus, Plymouth PL4 8AA UK who will try and provide information but cannot make the booking. Information can also be sought through the Plymouth Tourist Information Office, The Civic Centre, Armada Way, Plymouth, UK.

MEAL ARRANGEMENTS.

Breakfast will be served in the Robbins Centre restaurant and is included in the room rate. Except during the special evening events, no other meals will be provided. However, at lunchtime the Senior Common Room Cafeteria will be open and for both lunch and evening meals there is an abundant supply of pubs, snack bars, sandwich bars and restaurants of all kinds within easy walking distance of the University.

SPECIAL EVENTS FOR ACCOMPANYING PERSONS.

The accompanying persons conference fee covers the evening events listed in the conference agenda. However, we are offering to arrange the following activities for persons not participating in the scientific agenda. The prices for these events are in pounds sterling. The stated cost is for group entry fees; transport costs can only be determined when we know how many people wish to participate (but will probably be about 2 pounds per person). Please indicate on the conference registration form (but do not include payment for) the trips in which you would like to participate.

A. Monday 27th July. 1200 - 1630 approx. A visit to Saltram House.

This is a remarkable George II mansion complete with original contents, including Robert Adams state rooms, fine period furniture, china and pictures. The house, which recently was the location for the film *Sense and Sensibility*, is surrounded by superb 18th-century gardens, containing a chapel, several follies and an orangery. Cost per person:- 5.50 + transport

B. Tuesday 28th July. 10.00-1600 approx. A guided tour of old Plymouth, finishing at Plymouth Dome (an interactive museum of the history of Plymouth). Cost per person: approx 8.00.

C. Wednesday 29th July. A historical day in the Tamar Valley with a visit to Cothele House and the westcountry historical centre at Morwellham Quay. The former is a 16th Century country house and gardens, for centuries the home of one of Cornwall's most powerful families. The house contains original furniture, armour, a remarkable set of tapestries and other textiles, and one of the worlds oldest clocks. Morwellham was once an important port for shipping copper from the nearby mines. The village has been restored and now presents an interactive museum of 19th century village life and work. Cost per person:- Approx 11.00 + transport.

D. Friday 31st July 0930-1730 approx. The scenic beauty of Devon and Cornwall is centred in its 600 miles of rugged coastline and many coastal villages: nestled in steep narrow river valleys. To give a flavour of this there will be a visit to Looe and Polperro with a walk between the two along the Cornish coastal footpath (weather permitting). Cost per person:- transport only.

In addition to the above, Plymouth is well provided with artistic (theatre, art galleries, museums) and sporting facilities (swimming, tennis, badminton, ice skating, squash etc). More specialized pursuits such as fishing, horse-riding, SCUBA diving, golf, hill walking, etc. can be arranged on request. Further information on places to visit and tourist attractions will be provided at the conference centre.

DEADLINES

1st March, 1998. Submission of abstracts.

1st April 1998. Notification by organizers of type of presentation.

1st May 1998. Registration, payment of conference fee, booking of accommodation.

We also hope to have a conference shop for T-shirts, mugs, scarves etc; and a number of attractions, in addition the raffle, for fleecing you of money to swell the coffers of the Bertil Swedmark Fund. These will be announced at a later date but if anyone can donate a prize(s) for the conference dinner raffle we would be glad to hear from you (we have one offer so far of a complete set of Psammonalia). We are all looking forward very much to welcoming you to Plymouth next Year. From your organizing committee of Martin Attrill, Melanie Austen, Mike Gee (Chairman), Andrea McEvoy, Nigel Marley, Ashley Rowden, Martin Rundle, Paul Somerfield and Richard Warwick.

A better layout of the registration and payment forms below can be found in the November 97 issue of Psammonalia or on the internet under <http://inlet.geol.sc.edu/~nick/meiofauna.html>

REGISTRATION AND ACCOMMODATION FORM FOR XIMCO

To be returned by mail to Mrs. D. Horn, Faculty of Technology,
University of Plymouth, Drakes Circus, Plymouth PL4 8AA UK.

Title and family name
Forename(s)
Organization
Address for communication

Post or Zip Code. Country
Tel. No Fax. No
e-mail address (Please write clearly)

CONFERENCE REGISTRATION

I wish to register as:

- A full participant, Fee 125pounds sterling;
- A student participant, Fee 85 pounds sterling; I have/have not been awarded a BES grant.
- (Delete as appropriate)

I will be accompanied by person(s), Fee 65 pounds sterling per person
who will probably go on the following outings (indicate with *):

- A. Saltram House; B. Tour of old Plymouth;
- C. Historical day in Tamar valley; D. Cornwall coast walk.....

ACCOMMODATION BOOKING

Date	Standard £15.58 p.n.	En Suite £19.17 p.n	Breakfast	
			Full English £6.59 each	Continental £4.19 each
Saturday 25th July				
Sunday July 26th				
Monday July 27th				
Tuesday July 28th				
Wednesday July 29th				
Thursday July 30th				
Friday 31st July				
Saturday 1st August				
Sub-total:				
All prices are inclusive of VAT			Total:	

I do/do not have difficulty with stairs.
I will/will not require a parking space at the conference centre.
Please given details of any special dietary requirements (e.g. vegetarian, vegan).

Now fill in the payment form below

PAYMENT FORM FOR XIMCO

I am paying my conference fee(s) of £ pounds sterling and my accommodation costs of £ pounds sterling by the method indicated below.

A. Credit card.

My Visa/Mastercard/Delta/Swtich (delete as appropriate) credit card details are as follows

Number (16 digits)

Expiry date

Cardholder name

Signature (you must sign)

B. Bank Draft/ International money Order (delete as appropriate).

These should be paid to:

Bank: Midland Bank, 4 Old Town Street, Plymouth, PL1 1DD, UK

Account Name: University of Plymouth - General Account Account

Number: 61485946 Sort Code: 40-36-22

Payment Reference: XIMCO.

C. By a cheque in pounds sterling drawn on a UK bank.

Cheques to be made payable to University of Plymouth and please write XIMCO on the back of the cheque.

NEWS FROM MEMBERS

Looking for help....

I am looking for some help with tardigrades, gastrotrichs and kinorhynchans from marine and estuarine environments. Can you please give me contact details of those people with taxonomic interests in these groups.

Mark J. Gibbons
Zoology Department,
University of the Western Cape,
Private Bag X17
Bellville 7535
South Africa.
Tel: RSA-21-9592475
Fax: RSA-21-9592266

JOB AVAILABLE IN THE NATURAL HISTORY MUSEUM OF PARIS :

Nicole Gourbault wrote us that there is a possibility that a position will be opened in the MNHN next year, related to 'Eiodiversity of marine Annelida'. The job includes research in the biology lab of marine invertebrates and Malacology URA 699 CNRS and integration in the group of 'Specific and functional biodiversity'. Management of the national collection of 'free-living worms'. Theoretical courses, essential on systematics, in the frame of the DEA/PhD school of the MNHN and participation in spreading the knowledge intra and extra muros.

The putative candidate first has to register on the qualification list of the Museum of Paris, **before the end of December 1997. It is compulsory!**

If somebody is interested, please contact Nicole Gourbault very quickly to receive the application forms before the deadline.

Nicole Gourbault
Biologie des Invertébrés marins
Museum national d'Histoire naturelle
57 rue Cuvier, 75231 Paris Cedex 05
e-mail: gourbault@mnhn.fr
or gourbault@cimrs1.mnhn.fr
Tel. 33/1.40 79 31 12 - Fax. 33/1.40 79 31 09

Learn young, learn fair.

Rod Millward asked us to include the following report of a young girl from middle school, Kelsey Johannessohn who had done a very good project on the use of meiofauna in pollution monitoring, using good analytical technique to compare meiofauna densities in sandy beaches close and

distant to human habitation, looking for the effects of pollution.

This is her report.
'MEIO.. WHAT?'

I think that you will find more meiofauna on unpopulated beaches than on populated beaches. I think this because in an article in *Discovery Magazine* it said that meiofauna were an indicator of pollution. Where there are a lot of people, there is pollution.

I first went to my unpopulated beach and found the high tide mark. I measured about 1 meter above the high tide line and dug down until I hit water (approximately 1.5-2 meters). Next, I took a 125 ml sample of the sand and water mix and put it in a cup. I filled 3 cups of sand from that hole. Next, I put 250 ml of ocean water in each of the cups. I did the same for the populated beach. At home, I drained off the water and added 250 ml of fresh water to each cup, one at a time. After stirring for 10 seconds and letting sit for 5 seconds, I filtered the water through a 48 µm mesh screen. Then I turned the screen upside down over a petri dish and rinsed the screen with one healthy squirt of filtered ocean water. When I observed each petri dish under a stereoscope at 30x I counted the number of meiofauna in each dish.

Through my research, which involved sampling the beaches six times, I found that there was little difference in the amount of meiofauna collected on the populated and unpopulated beaches. I did see a relationship between the protist population and the copepod and nematode population. It seemed to be a reverse of each other. Next year I will research more to help me identify the organisms better.'

Johannessohn, Kelsey R.
510 33rd Avenue, Vero Beach, FL 32968
Mrs. Johannessohn, Gifford Middle School, Vero Beach
Florida, USA

Address changes

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Shirahama
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Tel. 0739-42-3515
Fax. 0739-42-4518
e-mail: yshira@bigfoot.com

Unknown address

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AUSTRALIA 7035

If anyone can correct this address, please let us know.
Tel. +32 (0)9 264 52 10 Fax. +32 (0)9 264 53 44
e-mail: magda.vincx@rug.ac.be

NEW MEMBERS

Mauel Cruz Padilla
Instituto Oceanografico
Departamento de Ciencias del Mar
Division de Biologia Marina
Avenida 25 de Julio (Via Pto. Nuevo)
Guayaquil
ECUADOR
Tel. (5934) 481300; 481100
Fax.(5934) 485166
e-mail: inocar@inocar.mil.ec
inocar1@telconet.net
mcruz@gye.satnet.net

Interests:

I am studying the meiofauna of the Gulf of Guayaquil (estuarine and marine environment). The aim of the study is to know all the groups and the meiofaunal communities that exist and to do the relationship with chemistry, geology, physics and biology parameters. The principal emphasis is to study the free-living nematodes on the genus level to understand the different environments in the estuarine and marine ecosystems.

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Hoechs. Staff Quarters
Amar Nagar
Mulund (west)
400 082 Mumbai
INDIA
Tel. 5686477
Fax. 91-22-8360865

Interests:

I am a post graduate in Marine Zoology who intends to carry out investigations on marine/estuarine meiofauna at and around Bombay. I have already started collecting literature and contacting specialists in this field in India and abroad. I feel that membership of your esteemed association will go a long way in furthering my acquaintance, both with the subject and the scientists working in this field.

Barbara Manachini
Via per Vimodrone 1
20093 Cologno Monzese (Milano)
ITALY
Tel. 0039 (0) 2 254 12 12
Fax. 0039 (0) 338 66 78 702

Interests:

I'm especially interested in biodiversity and marine nematodes.

J. German Rodriguez
 Area de Ecología
 Facultade de Ciencias
 Campus Lagoas-Marcosende
 UNIVERSIADE DE VIGO
 36200 Vigo, Pontvedra
 SPAIN
 Tel. 986-812587
 e-mail: geram@uvigo.es

Interests:

I am working on the spatial and temporal distribution of the intertidal meiofauna of the sandy beaches of Galicia (NW Spain) and its relation with the environment physicochemical features. I am carrying this work forward as my Master thesis. I would also like to work on relationships between meiofauna and pollution and colonization.

Ecology of meiofauna of sandy beaches, pollution, colonization

RECENT LITERATURE

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