

PSAMMONALIA

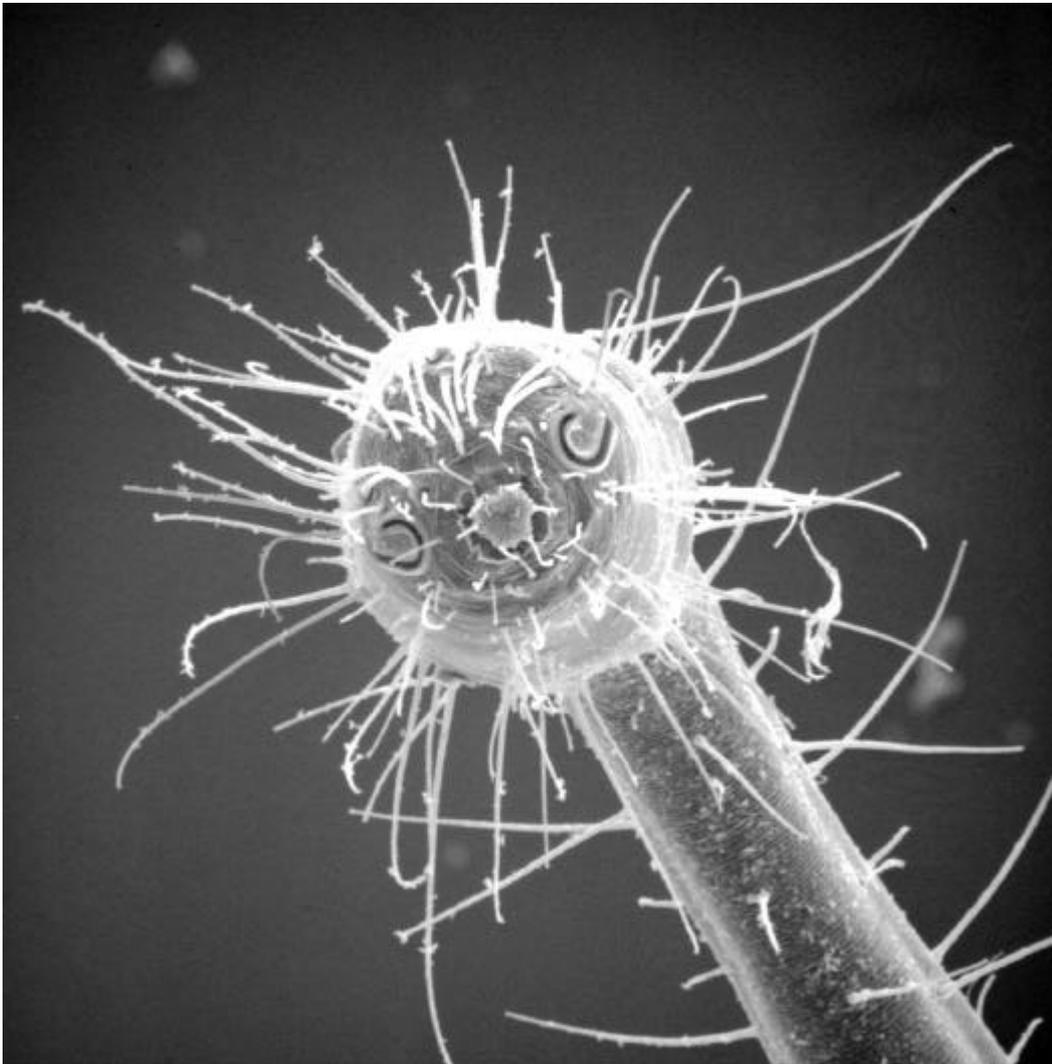
Newsletter of the
International Association of Meiobenthologists



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Hello, friends!!!



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

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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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Motohiro Shimanaga, Yoshihisa Shirayama



EDITORIAL

Studies on biodiversity have become one of the central themes of biological research since the International Convention on Biodiversity was adopted in Rio de Janeiro. It is obvious that an adequate number of taxonomists is a prerequisite for this type of study.

Fred Grassle has predicted that the total number of polychaete species in the world's oceans should be about 10 million. Starting from this figure, and by assuming the same Es value (an index of species diversity) and taking the far greater number of individuals into account, John Lamshead estimated for nematodes that the total number of species must be one order of magnitude higher. On the basis of very conservative assumptions, Sebastian Gerlach argued that 5000 years will be necessary to finish the alpha taxonomy of free-living nematodes, but if John is correct, then we will need a much longer time than this for understanding the total biodiversity of nematodes. Under such circumstances, many species will disappear before they are recognized by nematode taxonomists, because human environmental impacts are getting more and more serious. To avoid such an unnecessary loss of unrecorded species, the best way is, of course, to increase the number of taxonomists.

However, the number of active taxonomists is far less than what is needed. It may not be too much of an exaggeration to suggest that taxonomists themselves are also facing a crisis of extinction right now. They may disappear from the ranks of biological scientists even before the extinction of the biological species they are studying. For example, in the case of Japan, many professorial positions in universities that taxonomists once occupied have been reassigned to biologists of other fields such as molecular biology and neural science. The presentations related to taxonomy at the annual meeting of the Zoological Society of Japan have been decreasing continuously. Judging from my colleagues' reports, a serious crisis of similar nature exists in Europe and North America, too. Taxonomists of marine invertebrates, and especially of meiofaunal taxa, are no exception. Their situation seems to be worse in comparison to specialists on certain other groups, such as plant taxonomists, who are still very active in Japan, at least.

A tremendous gap exists between the social need for biodiversity studies and the lack of specialists to carry out the research. This is now well recognized not only by biologists working on biodiversity, but also those studying cell- or genetics-level biology. Movements to support biodiversity studies are widespread (see some announcements in this issue).

Several years ago, Richard Warwick and Mike Gee carried out a global biodiversity survey of meiofauna colonizing the same artificial substratum. That research was accomplished in collaboration with members of IAM from various countries. In the first year of the next century, a program called IBOY is planned by

DIVERSITAS, an organization related to SCOPE, UNESCO, and IUBS that promotes international research activities related to biodiversity. The IBOY project is a plan to carry out an inventory of global biodiversity based on international collaboration. As president of IAM, I believe it would be a good idea for IAM to carry out a second survey of global meiofauna biodiversity in 2001, because such survey would fit very well the idea behind IBOY. In addition, by comparing the results of the two surveys we may be able to recognize large-scale environmental changes, such as global warming. I propose to discuss this issue further during our next meiofauna conference in Boston in the year of IBOY.

Our New Website at Beta-Test

There is a beta-test version of the new IAM website located at:

<http://www.mtsu.edu/~kwalt/meio2>

Any comments/suggestions would be appreciated! Please feel free to forward or suggest the new website to others for their comments. All comments should be sent to: kwalt@mtsu.edu

Thanks for your input!
Keith Walter

Request for Address Information

The editor is preparing the membership directory of IAM. Those who have not report your information completely inclusive of your e-mail address, please send it via e-mail to yshira@seto.kyoto-u.ac.jp

The information IAM has can be checked in our web site at <http://www.mtsu.edu/meio/> (Not updated frequently, though).

Annual dues

Please pay your annual dues to the treasurer at your earliest convenience. Your payment status is shown on the address label of this issue. For those who have paid only to the end of 98, this is the last issue you will receive, and you will not be listed in the membership directory that will be printed with the next issue of *Psammalia* in November 1999.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Meetings

The 1999 meeting of SOPAC's Science Technology & Resources network (STAR)

Saturday 23rd & Monday 25th October 1999
Nadi, Fiji.

ABSTRACTS ARE DUE 20 September 1999. The meeting is part of the 28th Annual Session of SOPAC,

the South Pacific Applied Geoscience Commission, 23 - 29 October, 1999. For details, including registration form and accommodation costs, please monitor: <http://www.sopac.org.fj/AnnualSession/ann99/default.htm>.

Xth International Colloquium on Amphipoda

April 16-21, 2000
Heraklion, Crete, Greece

The Xth International Colloquium on Amphipoda will be held at the Institute of Marine Biology of Crete in Heraklion, 16-21 April 2000. The Colloquium will provide an opportunity for researchers to meet and exchange their research experience and scientific achievements. It is open to anyone who has an interest in the Amphipoda.

For more information see the following http://www.imbc.gr/whats_new/index.html and check out the Amphipod Web site at <http://www.odu.edu/~jrh100f/amphome/> Contact Wanda Plaiti (wanda@imbc.gr) or Adam Baldinger (abaldinger@oeb.harvard.edu) with specific questions.

Challenger Society for Marine Science, University of Liverpool and CCMS Proudman Oceanographic Laboratory: Proudman Lecture

Thursday 11 November 1999, 1700-

Earth Sciences Herdman Building Lecture Theatre,
Liverpool University

By David E. Cartwright, FRS "The learning curve of Tidal Science"

Bidston Anniversaries meeting "Irish Sea Science"

Friday 12 November 1999, 0930-1700

CCMS Proudman Oceanographic Laboratory, Bidston Observatory, Merseyside

Speakers and titles to include:

Eric Jones Bidston Observatory and Irish Sea Science
John Simpson Turbulence and mixing
John Howarth Flow through the Irish Sea
Juan Brown Seasonal circulation of the Irish and Celtic Seas; a challenge for baroclinic models
Arnold Taylor Investigating year-to-year variations by observations and modelling
Chris Gibson Plankton and nutrients in the cold water dome region of the Irish sea
Richard Nash Ups and downs in the Irish Sea over the last 70 years
Roy Chester Atmospheric trace metal and trace organic inputs to the Irish Sea
Ceri James Morphology, sediment and bedforms in the Irish Sea
A concluding discussion on future needs, led by Rick Boelens.

Please contact Linda Parry at CCMS-POL: ljp@ccms.ac.uk fax 0151 652 2754 telephone 0151 653 8633, if you intend to come on 12 November (to give some idea of numbers) and if you would like help with

accommodation. All interested are in any case advised to confirm times and locations nearer the date.

The Coastal Society 17th International Conference (TCS17)

Coasts at the Millennium

Portland Marriott, Portland Oregon
July 9-12, 2000

The Coastal Society invites papers, posters and proposals for sessions for its Year 2000 Conference. Preference will be given to submitted papers and posters that relate closely to conference themes:

- *Revitalizing Urban Coasts and Waterfronts
- *Reducing Vulnerability to Coastal Hazards
- *Protecting and Restoring Coastal Ecosystems
- *Integrating Coastal and Ocean Management

However, all papers and proposals for special panels or programs will be considered. Sessions will generally be 90 minutes long and include 4 speakers plus time for interactive discussion.

We actively encourage student participation, papers, and posters. As added incentive, awards will be given for best student paper and poster. Detailed award guidelines will be available soon on the conference website.

The TCS 17 Conference will also be the debut of the NEW! Cascadia Chapter of TCS which covers the Pacific Northwest coastal states and provinces bordering the Cascadia subduction zone. We welcome papers for a special poster session highlighting the Cascadia region.

For full conference details, please see our website at

<http://www.oce.orst.edu/mrm/tcs17/confhome.html> or contact Laurie Jodice, TCS17 Office, Marine Resource Management, College of Oceanic and Atmospheric Sciences, 104 Ocean Admin. Building, Oregon State University, Corvallis, OR 97331-5503, USA; phone: 541-737-1340 fax: 541-737-2064; email: jodice@oce.orst.edu for more information.

DEADLINE FOR ABSTRACTS - NOVEMBER 1, 1999

The International Coastal Symposium 2000

Rotorua
April 24-28, 2000

Abstracts are now being requested and are due by 1 November 1999. Submit abstracts (<2 A4 pages) EITHER by email to ICS2000@waikato.ac.nz in normal email text, OR by email attachment using Microsoft Word; OR Fax copy to +64-7-838 4061. All abstract submissions will be acknowledged. [If you do not get an acknowledgement please contact trh@waikato.ac.nz]

Completed submitted papers are due on 1 February 2000, in Journal of Coastal Research format. Accepted and peer-reviewed papers will be published as a Special Issue of JCR. Papers will only be published from authors who attend the conference and present their

papers.

Conference fees have not been finalised but will be of order US\$400. We look forward to seeing you at ICS2000.

Terry Healy, Convenor of the International Coastal Symposium 2000. Check our web site:

<http://www.earth.waikato.ac.nz/ics2000/ics2000.htm>

Symposia on Pollutants, Aquaculture, Extremophily

The European Society for Comparative Physiology and Biochemistry is organizing in July 2000 a large international congress including symposia on Pollutants, Aquaculture, Extremophily, and more which may be of interested to many of you. Have a look at www.ulg.ac.be/physioan/escpb.htm for a look at the general programme.

9th International Congress on Invertebrate Reproduction and Development.

July 2001

Rhodes University,
Grahamstown, South Africa

Conference Organiser: Alan Hodgson, Department of Zoology & Entomology, Rhodes University, Grahamstown 6140, South Africa e-mail: zoah@giraffe.ru.ac.za; Fax: +46 622 4377.

The first announcement and preliminary program details are available at: <http://www.rhodes.ac.za/conferences/icird2001>

Suggestions for workshops are welcome

Publications

'Towards a European ICZM strategy' and 'Lessons from the EC demonstration programme on ICZM'

The EU Demonstration Programme on integrated management on coastal zones has produced above 2 documents. The former contains a set of fold-out maps of Europe indicating population change, coastal geomorphology and slope class, sites of major nature conservation importance, fragmentation of natural habitat, land use change degree urbanisation, land-cover, and age structure of population, tourism and fishing activities, average income levels, and coastal erosion. Some details of the maps may be doubtful but they usefully illustrate general patterns around Europe and have implications for regional variation in the balance of emphasis in coastal management. The text is also interesting, with examples drawn from projects in different countries. The programme web site europa.eu.int/comm/dg11/iczm/home.htm has more information and ordering details (the reports are free).

INTERNATIONAL CODE OF ZOOLOGICAL NOMENCLATURE - 4th Edition

At long last! The new and considerably revised Fourth Edition of the Code was published 2 weeks ago. Full

details are available on the Commission's Website "www.iczn.org". The standard cost for a copy is £40 or \$65, but a 25% discount is offered to individual members of a scientific society (such as IAM) buying one copy for personal use. Institutions or booksellers buying 5 or more copies are also offered a discount. For Airmail, please add £2 or \$3.

Copies can be ordered by e-mail from:

London - iczn@nhm.ac.uk - you can pay in sterling by credit card (Visa or Mastercard only), giving number and expiry date, or by sterling or dollar cheque payable to "ITZN"

or

Washington - smithd@nsmnh.si.edu - payment by dollar cheque (not credit card!).

(This information was provided by Rony Huys. Thank you Rony.)

Position available

Senior Research Fellowship in Biological Sciences at University of Sunderland

Applications are invited from outstanding scientists for this 5-year position, which represents an opportunity to establish a research group in the field of the successful candidate's choice. Our current fields of research strength are Evolutionary Biology, Marine Biology, Conservation Biology and Microbiology. However, we will consider candidates from all fields of Biological Science. We are equally keen to intensify existing strengths or to add new ones - our over-riding aim is to appoint an outstanding research biologist. There will be an opportunity to contribute to teaching, but we envisage that this will constitute less than ten percent of the workload. Applicants should have a Ph.D. and an outstanding record of research and publication.

£22,400 -£29,600

Fixed Term from 01/01/2000 to 31/12/2004

Informal enquiries may be addressed to Prof. Wallace Arthur (Tel. 0191 515 2533, email wallace.arthur@sunderland.ac.uk)

Application forms and further particulars are available from the University of Sunderland, Personnel Services, Langham Tower, Ryhope Road, Sunderland SR2 7EE, or tel (0191) 515 2425, 2429, 3578, 2054, e-mail employee.recruitment@sunderland.ac.uk quoting reference number SSRG01.

Closing date: 7th October 1999

Interesting websites

The Global Directory of Marine (and Freshwater) Professionals

The Global Directory of Marine (and Freshwater) Professionals is a web based database, developed and maintained by the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission of UNESCO (IOC), containing information on individuals involved in all aspects of Marine or Freshwater Research and Management. It is intended to

be a tool for scientists, policy makers, publishers and anyone who needs to contact a marine or freshwater professional. A Professional is defined as anyone who, through his/her job, has expertise related to the research and management of the aquatic environment.

GLODIR is a product developed under the auspices of the IODE's Group of Experts on Marine Information Management (GE-MIM). We stress that GLODIR is a free service available to all, and can be used for non-commercial use only. The information contained in the database is NOT passed onto

The Committee for the National Institute for the Environment Website

We would like to introduce you to the CNIE's Environmental website, winner of the Computerworld/Smithsonian's Information Technology Award: <http://www.cnie.org>. Home of the online National Library for the Environment, the CNIE website provides a wealth of environmental information not found elsewhere. The NLE has by far the largest collection of Congressional Research Service reports on the web (550 and counting). These new and continually updated, nonpartisan research reports are produced by the Library of Congress exclusively for members of Congress and their staffs and are made available to the public by the CNIE.

The CNIE also posts four CRS produced Briefing Books on Global Climate Change, Electric Utility Restructuring, Oceans and Summaries of EPA Administered Laws - all available from the CNIE home page. There is also the Daily Planet, <http://www.cnie.org/news/splash.htm>, a gateway to a dozen of the best environmental dailies online, and a comprehensive jump page to over 300 environmental online journals <http://www.cnie.org/Journals.htm>

The CNIE site also provides many pure research resources. First among them ranks the Environmental Researcher's Bookmarks, <http://www.cnie.org/book/> which contains entrance points to general and environmental-specific information. Information on federal, state, and private organizations can be found here, as well as access points for various types of information media. Local environmental information can be accessed via the numerous databases contained in the Your Neighborhood page, (searchable by zip and area code) or the State of the Environment page, both accessible from the CNIE home page.

The CNIE, in collaboration with numerous professionals in the field, has also developed the Population & Environmental Linkages database, a collection of web pages complete with extensive bibliographic information. Many introductory articles, some commissioned by the CNIE, are also available to provide an overview of this often overlooked environmental topic.

Contact information is available from the Yellow Pages for the Environment <http://www.cnie.org/yellow/> And this month the CNIE has launched ERIE - the Environmental Research Information Exchange - a bulletin board for posting research needs and funding opportunities. <http://www.cnie.org/exchange.htm>

commercial third parties by the IOC, nor does the IOC commercialize this information in any way.

Please would you take a few moments and put your entry into GLODIR

<http://ioc.unesco.org:591/glodir>

and encourage your colleagues to do it also by circulating this call on any relevant email list. Please help us to build GLODIR into the most important people finding tool in the aquatic sciences.

(JeffK jeff@cnie.org)

Database of the Association of Systematics Collections (ASC)

Greetings!

I am the Database Manager for the Association of Systematics Collections (ASC), a U.S.-based, non-profit organization whose purpose is to foster the care, management, preservation, and improvement of systematics collections and to facilitate their utilization in science and society. At ASC we are attempting to establish contact with international biological organizations and increase participation in the two taxonomic/sytematic databases we maintain. Hopefully your society can help! The databases can be accessed on our website at <http://www.ascoll.org> I hope that you will feel free to visit our website and learn more about ASC.

Stephanie Mealman, Association of Systematics Collections, Contract Database Manager, Email: ascweb@ascoll.org; Phone: 202.835.9050; Fax: 202.835.7334

Census of Marine Life homepage

CORE (the Consortium for Oceanographic Research and Education) has been selected by the Alfred P. Sloan Foundation to serve as the Secretariat for the Census of Marine Life, an international program that will be involved in assessing the distribution and abundance of marine organisms. CORE has recently completed the design and organization of a web page for this project. It can be found at the following location: <http://core.cast.msstate.edu/censhome.html>. The page contains background on the program, a set of reports from various workshops sponsored for the program and links to other, related international activities. For additional information on the CML, please contact the Project Director, Cynthia J. Decker by e-mail at cdecker@brook.edu.

(Scott Sparks, Program Associate, CORE)

NEWS FROM MEMBERS

News from the Paris Museum

Dr. Nicole Gourbault, nematode curator at the Laboratory of Biology of Marine Invertebrates (National Museum of Natural History, Paris) has retreated in

January 1999. She published more than 140 papers on terrestrial planarians and marine nematodes. Since 1987, her activity was devoted (1) to nematode description and phylogeny in cooperation with the nematologists of the Museum of Bruxelles and of the University of Gent ; (2) to inventories in various part of the world, mainly West Indies, SW and Central Pacific, Brasil, Vietnam and Africa in cooperation with the Plymouth Marine Laboratory nematologists and french colleagues. Nicole has developped very good data and bibliography bases and reprint collection. You were numerous to spontaneously send your reprints on nematode taxonomy to our laboratory. Please, send them now to Dr. Guy Boucher (boucher@mnhn.fr) who is the nematode curator.

Prof. J.C. Dauvin, (jcd@loalit.univ-littoral.fr), the previous curator of polychaetes at the Paris Museum, was promoted as the Director of the Marine Station in Wimereux in 1998. Dr. Federic Pleijel from Sweden (pleijel@mnhn.fr) got the position of polychaete curator in may 1999 and is now in charge of the collections. (Happy Retirement, Nicole!!!! This news came from Guy Boucher. Thank you Guy.)

Supplier of Irwin's loop

Regarding your last editorial, I have an information to share. Last autumn I needed Irwin loops very badly as the set I had became worn out. The loops I had had been made by Mark Schram in the US. I managed to locate him and he told me he would be happy if the info on the fact that he was still making them could be passed on to members of the meiobenthological community. He makes the loops of non-corrosive nickel-chromium wire. Loops are available in three sizes: blue (approx. 200 um x 500 um); red (approx. 350 um x 700 um); and yellow (approx. 500 um x 1100 um). Set of three loops (any size) is \$30.00 + \$2.00 (domestic) or \$5.00 (international) for shipping and handling. US currency. The address: Mark D.Schram, 25 Ponderosa Dr., Batesville, AR 72501 USA. Home phone: (870) 698-0762; office e-mail: schram@lyon.edu I copied those details from Mark's leaflet and hope they might prove useful for someone who, like me, cannot make their Irwin loops themselves. (This news came from Teresa Radziejewska. Thank you Teresa.)

Wanted: Information on New Zealand Gastrotricha and Loricifera.

If there are any published or unpublished records, I would be grateful to know. I am coordinating a millennial symposium, "Species 2000: New Zealand", which aims to review and inventory the entire New Zealand biota. This will take place in Wellington on 1-5 February 2000. The only zoological higher taxa so far not being contributed to the symposium are the Gastrotricha and Loricifera (plus the Orthonectida and some protozoan groups). It is not necessary to come to the symposium in order to contribute (but if you can, all the better!). What is needed is a review and checklist,

especially for the symposium volume(s). If you can help supply information, please contact Dr Dennis P. Gordon at: d.gordon@niwa.cri.nz If you wish to know more about the symposium, please visit the symposium home page at: <http://www.niwa.cri.nz/Species2000NZ> (Dennis Gordon asked me to help him)

Address changes or New e-mail information

Guerrini Alberto (E-mail address in #124 was wrong)

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RECENT LITERATURE

(To make this section as complete as possible, please do not forget sending literature information via e-mail to the editor when you publish papers.)

Akimoto K (1999) Relationship between oceanographic environments and distribution of benthic foraminiferal assemblage in the Enshunada and Kumanonada areas, northern Pacific Ocean. *JAMSTEC J. Deep Sea Res.* 14: 389-410.

Alve E (1999) Colonisation of new habitats by benthic foraminifera: a review. *Earth Science Reviews* 46: 167-185.

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Artois TJ and Schockaert E (1999) Two new species of the genus *Duplacrrohynchus* Schockaert & Karling, 1970, with remarks on relationships within the genus and on the Duplacrrohynchinae (Platyhelminthes, Polycystididae). *Bel. J. Zool.* 129 (1): 235-244.

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Bertram MA and Cowan JP (1999) Temporal variations in the deep-water colonization rates of small benthic foraminifera: the results of experiments on Cross Seamount. *Deep-Sea Research* 46: 1021-1049.

Bird AF and Bird J (1998) Introduction to functional organization. *In: The physiology and biochemistry of free-living and plant-parasitic nematodes* (ed. by Perry RN and Wright DJ). CAB International, Wallingford, UK, pp. 1-24. ISBN 0-85199-231-5.

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Cedhagen T and Middlefart P (1998) Attachment to gastropod veliger shells - a possible mechanism of dispersal in benthic foraminiferans. *Phuket Marine Biological Center Special Publication* 18: 117-122.

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Chang CY, Lee JM and Clausen C (1998) Description of two new Thaumastodermatids (Gastrotricha, Macrodsasyida) from Korea. *Korean J. Biol. Sci.* 2: 315-321.

Chang CY and Rho HS (1998) Two marine tardigrade species of the genus *Anisonyches* (Heterotardigrada: Echiniscoididae) from Mindanao, the Philippines. *The Korean Journal of Systematic Zoology* 14: 91-98.

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