

PSAMMONALIA

The Newsletter of the
International Association of Meiobenthologists

Number 137, June 2003.



First Announcement

TWIMICO

2004

See Inside...

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International Association of Meiobenthologists

PSAMMONALIA

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You may make your donations to the Bertil Swedmark Fund directly to the IAM bank account: Lloyds TSB, 8 Royal Parade, Plymouth PL1 1HB, UK. – Account Number 6586667, Sort Code 30-96-68.

EDITORIAL

June seems to be a scientific downtime with a short lull in our ceaseless endeavours to push back the frontiers so my mind has been turning to sport. We are very keen on sport in England, indeed we invented many sports that are now global, but to tell the truth we are not actually very good at it. Our sports pages are normally full of explanations of why plucky English players have failed this time – e.g. the air pressure was too low, the ground too dry, the weather too warm or the sky just the wrong shade of blue. So it comes as no little shock to learn that an English rugby football team is beating all comers Down Under and at the time of writing here in London we still have a tennis player who hasn't been knocked out of Wimbledon! No doubt normal service will soon be returned but in the meantime I intend to enjoy the sunshine and the strawberries.

John Lambshead

FEEDBACK

I note from the issue of *Psammonalia* 135 that there is a proposal afoot to instigate IAM awards for students and lifetime achievers. This is something we have discussed several times at IAM Annual General Meetings, the first (if I recall correctly) in South Carolina. The consensus view has always been that the IAM is an informal “family” of friends, among whom elitism and rivalry of this nature has no part. Whilst it might make one or two people happy, it might have the reverse effect on many others. Is this what we really want. I vote No.

Richard Warwick

HELP!

Dear colleagues, you'll probably notice that this edition of *Psammonalia* is a little shorter than usual. It's true, we haven't received much to put in it this time. So, this is a plea to send us your news, thoughts, and details of recent publications.

Membership seems to be going rather well at the moment – at least seven new members in the last quarter – which would seem to indicate that there is a thirst for information about the wonderful world of meiofauna.

The good thing is that we, the IAM, are the people with the information!

So, as well as hearing from new members, I invite some of the more experienced members to send us

their pearls of wisdom. I suppose I now have to include myself in this group so in the next issue I'll be taking my own advice and telling you all how I first got into meiofauna (on a very cold beach in Scotland) and why Nathan Cobb is my hero.

Practical information also seems to be in demand and in scientific discussions with colleagues, it is often the case that the practical techniques and equipment used takes equal place with the significance of the data produced.

Following the recent discussion on slide ringing compounds, we discovered an internet supplier for the “White Cement” we're now evaluating and another supplier for the entomological pins we prefer for sample picking. Without wanting to advertise individual companies, I invite IAM members to send us the addresses of similar useful sites and a short description, so we can publish a listing in a future edition of *Psammonalia* and update the links on our web site.

Thanking you all in advance...

Tim Ferrero

MEMBERSHIP UPDATE

Dear Colleagues,

I have now compiled a new, and hopefully, up to date list of all of your contact details. Please take a few moments to check the updated membership list that now appears on the website: <http://www.meiofauna.org>
If there are mistakes or your details need to be updated further, please contact me at psammon@nhm.ac.uk

Thankyou

Nicola Mitchell

First Announcement
The International Association of Meiobenthologists (IAM)
<http://ww2.coastal.edu/meiofauna/index.html>

Announce

Twimco - XII International Meiofauna Conference
11/16 July, 2004 - Ravenna, Italy



Organizing Committee

'Alma Mater' University of Bologna

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Themes

- 1) New insights on phylogenetic relationships and distributional patterns of meiofaunal taxa based on morphological and/or molecular analysis
- 2) Coupling habitat complexity/heterogeneity and meiofaunal assemblages
- 3) Meiofauna trophic relationships
- 4) Response of meiofaunal taxa and/or assemblages to physical and/or chemical disturbance
- 5) Deep-sea meiofauna
- 6) Meiofauna in selected habitats

Poster session may be widened to include other topics such as Biodiversity, Biogeography etc.

For details look for upcoming announcements!!!

MEETINGS



SYMPOSIUM VENUE

The conference will be held at the University of Aveiro (Auditorium in the Rectorry and Administration Building). The campus is situated near the lagoon (Ria de Aveiro) and within walking distance of the city centre. Aveiro is a town in the centre of Portugal that can be easily reached by train from the airports of Lisbon (270 km south, about 2.5 hours by train) and Porto (70-km north, 50 minutes by train). The best way to get to the train station from the airport is by taxi either in Lisbon (the closest station is Oriente), or in Porto (Campanhã

THEME AND SUB-THEMES

The 38th EMBS will be convened under the theme Marine Biodiversity. Participants are invited to submit oral and poster presentations under four sub themes:

Patterns and processes (e.g. from genome to ecosystem level, local to global scales, 'hot spots' and unique environments, genetic erosion, the role of natural disturbance, habitat heterogeneity and biotic interactions in generating or maintaining biodiversity).

Assessment (techniques: e.g. mapping, imagery, remote sensing; evaluation tools: eg new indices, biological and structural indicators)

Threats (e.g. pollution, eutrophication, habitat fragmentation, introduced species, other sources of disturbance)

Management and conservation (e.g. MPAs, habitat restoration, ecosystem management)

SYMPOSIUM FORMAT AND PROCEEDINGS

Each day will start with a 30-minutes lecture given by a keynote speaker. All other oral presentations will have the duration of 15

minutes (including a few minutes for discussion). No parallel sessions will be held, in order to give all participants the chance to attend all presentations and to contribute to the discussion. Posters should not exceed 90 cm in width and 120 in length. The posters will be displayed during the meeting and can be discussed during coffee breaks.

English is the official language of the Conference, both for oral presentations and poster displays. No translation facilities will be available.

Arrangements are being made to publish the Proceedings in *Hydrobiologia*. All papers must be in English and will be subjected to peer review.

DATES TO REMEMBER

15th of February 2003: pre-registration
28th February 2003: second announcement
15th May 2003: abstract submission and early registration
July 2003: third announcement with scientific programme

10th Deep-Sea Biology Symposium. Oregon Coast, USA. 25 – 29 August 2003

The 10th Deep-sea Biology Symposium will be held at Coos Bay, Oregon, USA from 25-29 August 2003.

It will be hosted by The Oregon Institute of Marine Biology (University of Oregon). Oral presentations and poster sessions will be held in the 500-seat performing arts center on the Campus of Southwestern Oregon Community College.

This modern campus lies in coniferous forest on the shore of Empire Lake, within the Coos Bay city limits and just minutes away from the city of North Bend and the fishing village of Charleston.

This meeting will include an opportunity to socialise on the OMIB campus in Charleston and a trip down the scenic Southern Oregon coast, terminating in a jet boat trip on the wild and scenic Rogue River.

Breakfasts and lunches will be available at reasonable prices in the conference centre on campus. The conference venue is within walking distance of Pizza Parlours, a Mexican restaurant, hamburger joints etc., but several miles away from the nearest bars and better restaurants where one might want to socialise in the evenings.

There is no public transportation except for taxis. We plan to provide an evening bus service (at a nominal charge to users) that will carry people to and from eating areas, but strongly recommend that delegates rent cars wherever possible.

REGISTRATION

It is preferred that delegates register over the internet by filling out and submitting the form from this site. Alternatively the form may be printed out and faxed from the following site.

(<http://darkwing.uoregon.edu/%7Eoimb/deepsea/registrationform1.html>).

Payments must be made in U.S. funds by check or direct bank transfer. Credit card numbers cannot be accepted. Details of costs and payment methods can be found on the registration form.

Registration includes the cost of the excursion and river trip, the program, some transportation costs, the opening reception and coffee breaks. The banquet, which will be an outdoor affair at OIMB with excellent food and drink, is priced separately.

The deadline for early registration and abstract submission is May 1st, 2003. Abstracts will not be accepted after this date. Registration will incur a slightly higher fee. In the event that a delegate finds it necessary to withdraw fees will be refunded in full until August 1st 2003; later withdrawals will be dealt with on a case by case basis, with the amount refunded dependant on expenditures that have already been made.

Oral contributions and posters from any field of deep-sea biology are welcome, but we expect to organise some sessions around the following thematic areas, all of which have been suggested by delegates:

Human impacts and exploration of the deep sea.

Reproduction and recruitment.

Experimental community ecology.

Physiological of deep-sea and mid-water animals.

Biology of the deep Gulf of Mexico.

History of deep-sea biology.

Population dynamics and genomics.

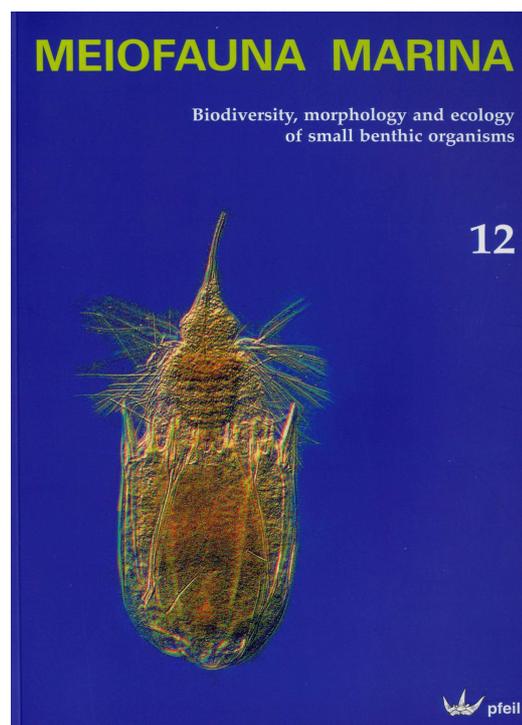
Benthic-pelagic coupling.

For more information please go to:

<http://darkwing.uoregon.edu/~oimb/deepsea/fronpage.html>

Meiofauna Marina – Biodiversity, morphology and ecology of small benthic organisms

Editors: Thomas Bartolomaeus & Andreas
Schmidt-Rhaesa
University of Bielefeld, Germany



www.meiofauna-marina.com

The marine meiofauna, defined as animals of microscopic size living in marine sediments, is one of the earth's richest and most diverse communities extending from the shore to the deep sea. The marine meiofauna still contains numerous undescribed species and higher taxa. Special morphological adaptations evolved, especially in meiofauna living in the intertidal zone, which is under a strong abiotic regime. Certain higher taxa evolved exclusively in the marine interstitial system. Evolutionary constraints caused elaborated life cycles, migration patterns, special reproductive behaviours and structural adaptations. The interstitial system is also habitat for larvae and juveniles of certain macrofaunal species. A surprisingly large number of species coexists in the tiny interstices, but still most questions on their interactions and life strategies await their answers.

Meiofauna Marina continues the journal *Microfauna Marina* (Vol. 1-11, 1984-1997). It invites papers on all aspects of permanent or temporary marine meiofauna, especially those dealing with their taxonomy, biogeography, ecology, morphology and ultrastructure. It also extends to brackish water meiofauna. Manuscripts on the evolution of marine meiofauna are also welcome. Publication of larger reviews or special volumes are possible, but need to be requested for. **Meiofauna Marina** will be published once a year. All contributions undergo a thorough process of peer-review.

The first issue of **Meiofauna Marina** (numbered volume 12 in continuation of *Microfauna Marina*) is now published. It contains papers on acoel platyhelminthes from the North American Atlantic coast, new species of *Dactylopodola* (Gastrotricha) from Australia, organization of muscles in chaetonotoid gastrotrichs, tubificids (Oligochaeta) from the Bahamas, ciliary basal structures in Pterobranchia and a checklist of Italian marina Tardigrada.

We invite readers of *Psammonalia* to subscribe to the journal (information see www.meiofauna-marina.com) and/or submit manuscripts.

Andreas Schmidt-Rhaesa

NEW MEMBERS

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My research is mainly on tardigrades, in the field of faunistic, biogeography, systematic and phylogeny of the phylum. Moreover, I study the cryptobiosis phenomenon in tardigrades, rotifers and nematodes.

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I am a PhD student at the University of Genoa, Italy. I am currently working with the ecology research group lead by Prof Mauro Fabiano which studies the structure and role of the detrital food chain (organic matter, bacteria, microphytobenthos and meiofauna) in the marine environment.

In particular my PhD is focused on the meiobenthic community in harbour sediments of the Ligurian Sea (Genoa harbour, NW Mediterranean) in order to investigate the ecology of this community under extreme environmental constraints and particularly organic enrichment.

From 5th of June to 18th of July I am at the Natural History Museum of London to learn to identify nematode family and species, thanks to Dr. Tim Ferrero.

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I am interested in i) evolutionary aspects of reproductive biology, life history traits and cryptobiosis of tardigrades; ii) karyotype and genome evolution in tardigrades and crustaceans; iii) faunal and biogeographic analyses of tardigrades

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Nicola Mitchell (Production Editor).

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

Please send any news, articles or pictures to:

psammon@nhm.ac.uk

Or you can write to us at the Natural History Museum – the address is on the front page.

RECENT LITERATURE

Brown, RJ, Rundle, SD, Hutchinson, TH, Williams, TD & Jones, MB. 2003 Small-scale detritus-invertebrate interactions: influence of detrital biofilm composition on development and reproduction in a meiofaunal copepod. ARCHIV FUR HYDROBIOLOGIE **157**: 117-129

Gerdes, D., Hilbig, B. & Montiel, A. 2003 Impact of iceberg scouring on macrobenthic communities in the high-Antarctic Weddell Sea. POLAR BIOLOGY **26**: (5) 295-301
BP 295

Soltwedel, T., Miljutina, M., Mokievsky, V., Thistle, D. & Vopel, K. 2003 The meiobenthos of the molloy deep (5 600 m), Fram Strait, Arctic Ocean VIE ET MILIEU-LIFE AND ENVIRONMENT **53**: (1) 1-13

Lamshead, PJD & Boucher, G. 2003. Marine nematode deep-sea biodiversity – hyperdiverse or hype?. JOURNAL OF BIOGEOGRAPHY **30**: 475-485.

Mahmoudi, E., Beyrem, H. & Aissa, P. 2003 Free-living nematodes communities, indicators of anthropogenic degree in the Bou Ghrara lagoon (Tunisia) VIE ET MILIEU-LIFE AND ENVIRONMENT **53**: (1) 47-59

Riemann, Franz & Helmcke, Elisabeth 2002, Symbiotic Relations of Sediment-Agglutinating Nematodes and Bacteria in Detrital Habitats: The Enzyme-Sharing Concept." Marine Ecology P.S.Z.N.I. **23**: 93-13

Schratzberger, M., Daniel, F., Wall, CM., Kilbride, R., Macnaughton, SJ., Boyd, SE., Rees, HL., Lee, K. & Swannell, RPJ. 2003 Response of estuarine meio- and macrofauna to in situ bioremediation of oil-contaminated sediment. MARINE POLLUTION BULLETIN **46**: (4) 430-443

Westheide, W., Hass-Cordes, E., Krabusch, M. & Muller, MCM. 2003 *Ctenodrilus serratus* (Polychaeta : Ctenodrilidae) is a truly amphiatlantic meiofauna species - evidence from molecular data MARINE BIOLOGY **142**: (4) 637-642

Weiss MJ. (2001) Widespread hermaphroditism in freshwater gastrotrichs. INVERTEBRATE BIOLOGY **120**: (4): 308-341.

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 10 euro (\$ 10 US) and you may pay up to 3 years in advance, i.e. 30 euro (\$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.

Please check appropriate boxes:

- New member (*) Renewing member 10 euro or \$10 Change of address
 Regular membership 10 euro or \$10 Patron or Sustaining membership 50 euro or \$50
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<i>Patron or Sustaining member at 50 Euros or 50 US\$ / Year.</i>	
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For North American members: dues can be paid in US dollars. Make checks payable to Intl. Assoc. of Meiobenthologists. Send dues and applications to: Dr. Robert Feller, Belle W. Baruch Institute, Univ. of South Carolina, Columbia, SC 29208 USA

For all other members: dues can be paid in euro.. Make (euro) checks payable to Ann Vanreusel. If possible make use of the credit card transaction possibilities. Send dues and applications to: Dr. Ann Vanreusel, Marine Biology Section, Krijgslaan 281 (S8) B-9000, Ghent, BELGIUM

(*) New members please introduce yourself to the IAM in 10 lines for publication in *Psammonalia*.