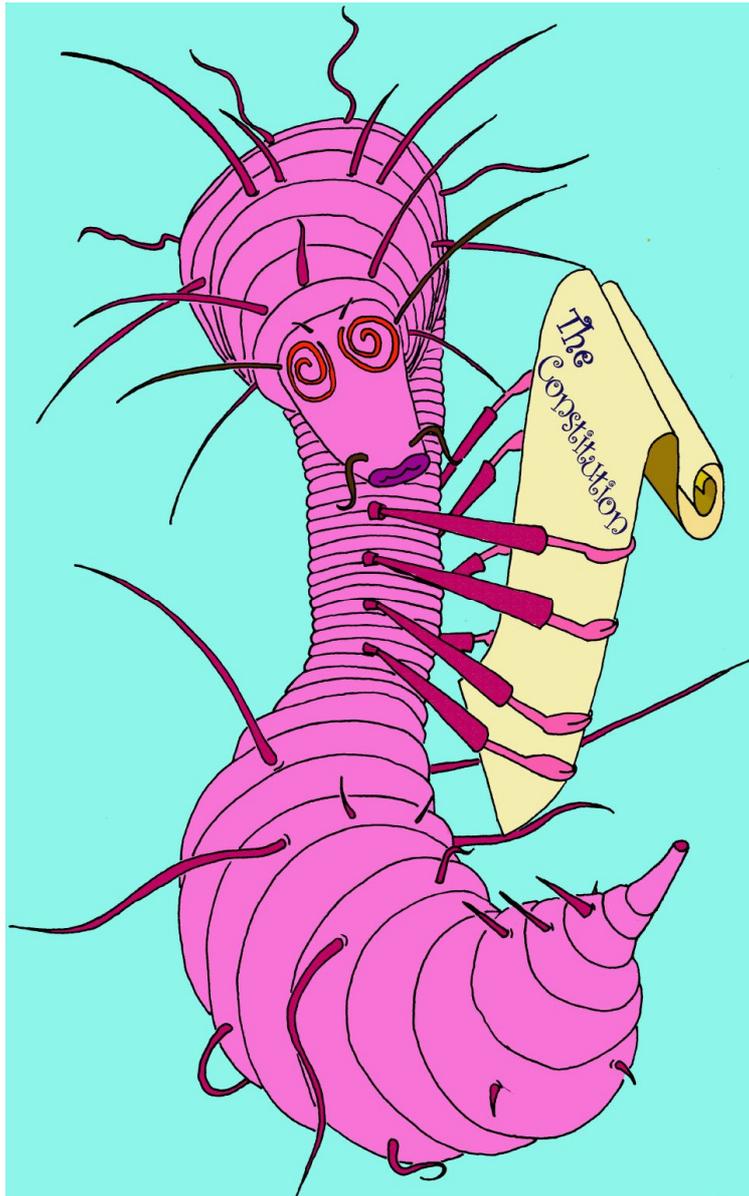


PSAMMONALIA

The Newsletter of the
International Association of Meiobenthologists

Number 140, October 2004.



Constitutional Issue

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Cromwell Road, London,
SW7 5BD, United Kingdom.

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

Unfortunately, John Lambshead has been unwell and has not been able to write an editorial for this issue. John is much better now and has asked me to pass on his congratulations and thanks to the organisers and participants of TWIMCO, for making it such an excellent meeting, and he will write more on this theme for the next issue of Psammonalia.

At TWIMCO, I attended a meeting of the executive, at which many aspects of the IAM's future were discussed. Since then, president-elect Keith Walters has summarised some of the discussion with his own thoughts and there will be more on this topic in the following issues of Psammonalia. At the meeting, a planning committee was chosen comprising:

David Thistle (Chair)
Thais Corbishier
John Lambshead
Tom Moens
Paul Montagna
Emil Olafsson
Antonio Todaro

The job of this committee is:

To provide a top-to-bottom review of the IAM, with the goal of suggesting a range of concrete actions. These suggestions to be submitted to the membership early in 2005 for a vote by the membership at the end of 2005.

As the future of the IAM is under consideration, this issue includes, for the first time in many years, the full constitution of the IAM for members to read and consider. Hopefully, this will enable all of us to consider the suggestions of the planning committee in the appropriate framework.

My own contribution to the meeting was to report on Psammonalia and its future, and in order to stimulate some further discussion, I would like to give you a brief account of my thoughts. Psammonalia is our newsletter, and has long and distinguished history as a source of news and other information for all IAM members. But there is a paradox: members seem to like Psammonalia, and the majority still prefer a printed copy through the post, but seem less keen to contribute. Consequently, as editor, it has been difficult to amass sufficient material to merit producing four issues a year.

Certainly, the availability of information via the world wide web, and the ease of communication by e-mail, makes it easier for most of us to obtain and distribute information by other routes, but I think that most of us would be sad to see Psammonalia disappear as it is both a great title, and the "face" of our organisation.

My opinion is that Psammonalia could be developed to take account of these issues, but at the same time to strengthen its role. One possibility would be to reduce the number of issues each year to three. This would serve to boost the size and content of each issue and to reduce the editorial burden.

Another suggestion, which could be done in conjunction with reducing the number of issues, would be to transfer distribution of two of the three issues to a purely electronic format – with just a small number of hard copies distributed to those members with no e-mail account. This would reduce production costs and time and would allow for the development of the third issue into something like an "IAM/Meiofauna yearbook". Given our level of membership and subscription rates, it may just be possible to get such an annual issue printed professionally and even given an ISBN code. As an organisation, we would then have two newsletters a year aimed mainly at announcements, membership news etc, and a "yearbook" which could also include articles and other information.

My model for this suggestion is that of the Porcupine Marine Natural History Society (<http://www.pmnhs.co.uk/index.htm>), which now produces three professionally printed newsletters a year – admittedly, their membership and subscription rates are a little higher. But, the important thing is that they used to produce a newsletter similar to our own and have developed it as they developed. The Porcupine newsletter now even includes a small peer reviewed section – something for the long term perhaps.

I hope this provides some food for thought and that it will stimulate some comments for the next issue of Psammonalia. In the meantime, I intend to investigate the cost and practicalities of professional printing and will report back.

IMPORTANT

I've been reconstructing the membership list and have included our new members from TWIMCO. In response to a request made at TWIMCO, if you look at your address label, you'll now see your membership expiry date

printed on the right hand side at the bottom. If you only see a “?”, that means that the information I have is conflicting and I’m going to be asking our membership secretaries for any information they may have. If you need to correspond with me on this or have material to submit to Psammonalia, **PLEASE WRITE TO ME AT: t.ferrero@nhm.ac.uk THE psammon@nhm.ac.uk ADDRESS IS NOT WORKING AT PRESENT.**

Some weeks ago, I e-mailed as many of the IAM members as I could to say that this issue was about to be prepared. This generated most of the content you are now reading. I’ll be repeating this exercise in the future, but I realise that many of us receive enough e-mail as it is, so please let me know if you do not want to be included in the future. A number of e-mails bounced straight back to me, so you might like to think whether your e-mail address has changed in the last year or so and advise me accordingly.

Best Wishes,
Tim Ferrero

SWEDMARK AWARDS

The following 15 people were selected as the winners of the Swedmark-Travel fund awards: €200 (EUROS) each, towards the participation costs of TWIMCO. The awards were presented by Bruce Coull during the conference dinner.

Name	Country (Institution)
Hong Zhou	Qingdao, P. R. China
Marcin Filip Jedrzejczak	Wloclawek, Poland
Rita Mouawad**	Marseille, France
Gustavo Fonseca*	Gent, Belgium
Andreas Hejzol	Braunschweig, Germany
Kalogeropoulou Vassiliki	Volos, Greece
Rodrigo Riera	Canary Islands, Spain
Jeffrey G. Baguley	Texas, USA
Hannah Flint	Southampton, UK
Takashi Hashimoto	Yokohama, Japan

Pakamas Thinphanga	Queensland, Australia
David S. Johnson	Louisiana, USA
Federica Semprucci	Urbino, Italy
Katrine Worsaae	Copenhagen, Denmark
María Björk Steinarsdóttir	Reykjavík, Iceland

Country of origin: * Brazil, ** Lebanon

News

From Bob Feller:

The North American Treasurer (me!) reminds members that dues renewals can be made for a maximum of three years and that if they renew in the middle of a year, they will only get 2.5 years' worth of issues more than likely. Also, I have sent a check in the amount of 1300 USD (approximately equal to 1000 Euros after conversion fees) to Mel Austen for deposit to the Bertil Swedmark Fund that is kept in an interest-bearing account in Great Britain. This money was sitting in a non-interest bearing account here in the US. This movement of funds was voted upon and agreed to by the members present at the TWIMCO meeting in Italy this past July. Please also remember that the N. Am. Treasurer cannot accept credit card payments for dues renewal, only checks drawn on a US bank. Send credit card renewals to Ann Vanreusel.

Thanks. Bob.

From Pat Boaden

As far as I remember I let my membership of IAM lapse sometime in the late 1980's. At the time I was having a hard battle to prevent the closure of the Queen's University of Belfast Marine Biology Station in Portaferry, Northern Ireland of which I had been Director since 1971. Coping with problems arising from this led to very little time for academic research and, as part of a deal with the University to retain academic staff and facilities at Portaferry, I resigned from the Directorship in 1992 to be re-appointed on a part-time senior lecturer basis. I am glad to say that The Marine Biology Station renamed the Queen's University Marine Laboratory is now as healthy as ever. Although I 'fully retired' in 2001 aged 65, I have retained some working

space in the Marine Laboratory and am presently trying to pick up some ends of previous meiofauna research. I have remained involved in conservation issues in Northern Ireland and still find time for folk music and literary activities. I was delighted to be able to attend the Ravenna meeting and to catch up with various old friends as well as to meet new ones. It seemed to me that the quality of the meeting was as high or higher than ever and that the standard of presentation had improved – I am not too sure about the limericks though! I have rejoined IAM and intend to keep my membership paid up by bankers order ‘until death us do part’.

Two limericks produced at the TWIMCO banquet relevant to the above

OPERA IN EMILIA ROMAGNA

The last time that I came was Vienna
Full of oldies and ageing duenna.
Now most here are young
And some new songs are sung -
So it's ‘Grazie, bel canto Ravenna’

SALUTÉ

Over-sixties! Come charge your chalice,
The young let us toast without malice.
We'll hand on our motto
Before we're quite blotto –
‘Cheers! Meiofauna unter Alles!’

The Constitution

CONSTITUTION OF THE INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF MEIOBENTHOLOGISTS

Article 1. Name

The name of the Association shall be the International Association of Meiobenthologists.

Article 2. Objectives

The objectives of the Association shall be the general advancement and promotion of the study of meiobenthos in all its aspects.

Article 3. Capital and Income

The capital and income of the Association shall be devoted solely to the furtherance of its objectives as stated in Article 2, and no portion thereof shall be paid to any officer or member of the Association except in respect of the repayment of any out-of-pocket expenses properly incurred, or reasonable and proper

remuneration in return for services rendered to the Association.

Article 4. Dissolution

In the event of the Association being dissolved for any reason, the surplus funds remaining after payment of debts and liabilities shall not be distributed among members, but shall be paid or transferred to some other institution or institutions, approved by the Council, having objectives similar to those of the Association. Any outstanding liabilities of the Association at dissolution shall be shared equally among the membership.

Article 5. Dues

Annual dues will be charged to cover expenses of the Association and will be set by the bylaws.

Article 6. Officers and Elections

The elective officers shall be a Chairperson, a Treasurer, and up to four additional members comprising the Executive Committee. The Chairperson and Treasurer shall be elected every three years and the former shall then automatically become a member of the Executive Committee during the three years following his/her tenure as Chairperson. Previous Chairpersons of the Association shall thereafter continue on as ex-officio members of the Executive Committee.

The remaining Executive Committee members shall be elected every six years and shall hold office for six years. The expiration date of the terms of office of these Executive Committee members shall be arranged so that only two members of the Committee will be elected in any triennium.

All newly elected Officers shall assume their duties at the beginning of the next calendar year following their election.

Article 7. Council

The Council shall consist of the Executive Committee and the Board of Correspondents.

Article 8a. Chairperson

The Chairperson shall act as Editor of the Newsletter and in this capacity shall be responsible for the production of the Newsletter of the Association.

Article 8b. Treasurer

The Treasurer shall keep the financial records of the Association and shall present an annual statement of the accounts at the end of each calendar year, to be included in the first issue of the Newsletter of the Association of the succeeding year.

Article 9. Executive Committee

The Executive Committee shall be responsible for the business affairs of the Association. It shall assist the Chairperson in the production of the Newsletter of the Association and it shall perform such other duties as may be assigned by the Chairperson.

Article 10. Board of Correspondents

The Board of Correspondents shall consist of up to twelve members of the Association and shall be appointed by the Chairperson with the advice and consent of the Executive Committee. The Board of Correspondents shall assist the Chairperson and other members of the Executive Committee in gathering literature and news items for the Newsletter of the Association and shall perform such other duties as may be assigned by the Chairperson. The Board of Correspondents shall retire automatically with the retiring Chairperson.

Article 11. Nominations

Nominations for any office may be made in writing by any two members of the Association not later than April 1st in an election year. The Council must certify that each candidate is willing to stand for office and serve if elected. The Council shall give due consideration to equitable representation of the geographical distribution of the membership of the Association. Additional nominations for officers may be made by the Council.

Article 12. Elections

Should elections of Officers be necessary, these will be held by mail ballot. The Chairperson in his/her capacity as Editor, shall mail ballots to each member in the May issue of the newsletter in an election year. A brief biographical sketch of each candidate shall accompany the ballots. The Chairperson shall count and record the votes received by November 1st and include the results in the November issue of the newsletter. The candidate or candidates receiving the greatest number of votes shall be elected to office. The Chairperson shall notify the candidates for

office of the vote by mail. In the event that a vote results in a tie, the members of the Council shall vote by mail to resolve the tie. Should a tie still result the Chairperson shall have the deciding vote.

Article 13. Finance

The expenses of the Association shall be paid from the funds of the Association within the limits in the budget of the Association. The Chairperson shall authorize all payments.

Article 14. Bylaws

Bylaws to augment this Constitution may specify details and less fundamental provisions, but shall not alter the intended meaning of this Constitution, or circumvent its provisions.

Additional bylaws may be proposed in writing by any two members in good standing and shall be adopted if a majority of the members are in its favour as shown by a mail ballot.

Bylaws may be amended upon recommendation by the Council, by a majority vote of members of the Association in good standing in a mail ballot.

Article 15. Amendments

This Constitution can be amended only by a two-thirds majority of those members in good standing voting in a mail ballot. Amendments may be proposed by any member in writing to the Chairperson who shall submit such proposal to the Council for consideration and vote. Any amendment that five members of the Council deem worthy of consideration shall be submitted to the members of the Association for vote.

Proposed constitutional amendments must be included in a newsletter 6 months in advance of balloting in order to receive and include in the balloting issue any comments received during this interim. The close of receipts for ballots shall be the first day of the sixth month following the balloting issue and the results shall be included in that month's newsletter.

Article 16. Enabling Article

This Constitution and its accompanying bylaws shall be adopted in full force and effect from January 1st 1971.

Article 17. Swedmark Fund (Amendment November 1992)

The Association shall maintain and administer a permanent fund which shall be designated as the Bertil Swedmark Fund. At the discretion of the Executive Committee, gifts and bequests will be received for inclusion in this Fund. After deduction of the expenses necessary for the administration of the Fund, twenty-five percent of the income of the Fund shall be returned to the Fund as principal and the remaining and the remaining seventy-five percent shall be used exclusively for the support of the Association. The principal of the Fund shall be invested in interest earning instruments and shall be kept inviolate, provided, however, that nothing in this Constitution or in the bylaws shall prevent the Executive Committee at any regular meeting from transferring the Bertil Swedmark Fund to a university or other incorporated institution or organization, under such conditions as shall safeguard the permanence of the Fund and its application to the general purpose for which it was intended; such power to be vested in the Executive Committee only after securing and in obedience to the expressed will of a majority of the (constitutional) members of the International Association of Meiobenthologists, or after the constitutional failure of said Association.

BYLAWS OF THE ASSOCIATION

Bylaw 1. Annual Dues

Annual dues for Regular Members shall be determined by the Council at a rate consistent with the currency under which the treasury is operating at a given time. The rate for Sustaining Members and the rate for Patron Members shall be five times that of Regular Members. Dues shall be payable in advance before January 1st to the Association. Payment of annual dues shall be made in International Money Orders or form of payment not subject on conversion loss to the Association in the currency under which the treasury is operating at a given time. Current dues plus one additional year's dues may be paid at one time. The Chairperson may send PSAMMONALIA via air mail to any member who requests this service and who pays the additional postal expenses.

Bylaw 2. Membership Rights

No membership rights shall be continued longer than six months from date notifying arrears.

Bylaw 3. Newsletter

The Newsletter of the Association shall be called "PSAMMONALIA". Its purpose shall be to promote the objectives of the Association as defined in Article 2.

Bylaw 4. Conferences

Conferences of the Association shall be held triennially, if practicable. The purpose of such conferences shall be to promote the objectives of the Association as defined in Article 2. Business of the Association may be conducted at such conferences, including nomination and election of officers, adoption of bylaws, and amendment of the Constitution or its bylaws, in accordance with the articles of the Constitution, but with a vote of the members in good standing substituting for a mail ballot.

Bylaw 5. Bertil Swedmark Fund Committee

There shall be a standing committee of three members known as the Bertil Swedmark Fund Committee to take charge of the fund and to determine how the income from it should be expended for the participation of students in the Association's conference meetings. Policy of said committee shall be subject to review and concurrence of the Executive Committee. The Chairman and two members of the Bertil Swedmark Fund Committee, shall be appointed by the Executive Committee to serve for a period of six years, renewable at the discretion of said committee. Should the Chairman be unable to serve, the vacancy shall be assumed by a member of the Bertil Swedmark Fund Committee designated by the Chairman of the Association until the next meeting of the Association at which a new Chairman shall be appointed by the Executive Committee. Should a member of the said committee be unable to serve, a new member shall be appointed by the Chairman of the Association until the next meeting of the Association at which time a new member shall be appointed by the Executive Committee.

Bylaw 6. Assistant Treasurer

The Treasurer may appoint an Assistant Treasurer to collect dues without conversion loss. Appointment of the Assistant Treasurer must be approved by the Chairperson. The Assistant Treasurer may also pay expenses, transfer funds to the Treasurer, or perform other duties as requested by the Treasurer with the approval of the Chairperson. The Assistant Treasurer reports financial records to the Treasurer, who reports to the Association. The Assistant Treasurer is a member of the Executive Committee.

Contacting Psammonalia:

Editorial Board

John Lamshead (President)

Tim Ferrero (Editor)

e-mail:

j.lamshead@nhm.ac.uk

t.ferrero@nhm.ac.uk

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

New Members

Matthew J. Boeckner

11434, 76th Ave Edmonton,

Alberta,

Canada.

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boeckner@ualberta.ca

Research interests: Factors that affect biodiversity, abundance and productivity of marine meiofaunal communities. Meiofauna account for much of the biomass and nutrient cycling processes in marine sediments, however, little is known about what controls diversity and abundance of these communities. My research utilizes artificial substrate cages to determine how selective exclusion of macrofaunal invertebrates affects the colonization rate and biodiversity of meiofaunal communities in various marine, sub-tidal habitats. Biological interactions and substrate complexity are also being examined for their effects on productivity and nutrient cycling rates. My field work is being completed at Bamfield Marine Sciences Centre on Vancouver Island, British Columbia although The University of Alberta in Edmonton is my primary PhD residency. Meiofauna taxa of prime interest to my research are nematodes, copepods, ostracods and tardigrades. Additionally, I am interested in ecological factors that shape terrestrial/bryophilous tardigrade communities.

Punyasloke Bhadury

Plymouth Marine Laboratory,

Prospect Place,

The Hoe,

Plymouth, PL1 3DH,

United Kingdom.

Email: pubh@mail.pml.ac.uk

I am Punyasloke Bhadury (friends and colleagues call me 'PB') from India. I am doing my Ph.D. on 'Molecular resolution of marine nematodes for improved assessment of biodiversity' under the supervision of Dr Melanie Austen (PML), Dr Gary Smerdon (PML), Dr John Lamshead (NHM), Dr Alex Rogers (BAS) and Dr David Bilton (UoP) at Plymouth Marine Laboratory, United Kingdom. Before moving to Plymouth I completed my M.Sc. in Marine Resource Development and Protection with First Class from Heriot Watt University in Scotland. I am investigating species diversity in estuarine and cosmopolitan nematodes using molecular as well as morphological approaches. I am particularly keen to receive specimens of *Terschellingia longicaudata* from IAM members from around the world who would be generous enough to send them. I would also be very grateful for samples of subtidal sediment where *T. longicaudata* has been found, or of estuarine sediments from around the world from which I can extract candidate nematodes. If anybody is willing to send me small samples of sediment please contact me for details as I may require 2 samples, one fixed in alcohol and one fixed in formalin for comparison (or if the postal service is very rapid fresh sediment would be great!).

Change of Address

Jeffrey Baguley

Research Assistant Professor

Belle Baruch Institute for Marine

and Coastal Sciences

University of South Carolina

Columbia, SC 29208

Email to: baguley@biol.sc.edu

Recent Literature

Austen, M. C., Parry, D. M., Widdicombe, S., Somerfield, P. J. & Kendall, M. A. 2003.

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