

PSAMMONALIA

The Newsletter of the
International Association of Meiobenthologists

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Coastal Carolina University
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Welcome to Myrtle Beach, Golf-capital USA!

The International Association of Meiobenthologists
Executive Committee

Keith Walters <i>Chairperson</i>	Department of Marine Science, Coastal Carolina University, POB 261954, Conway, SC 29528-6054 USA
John Lambshead <i>Past Chairperson</i>	The Natural History Museum, Department of Zoology, Cromwell Road, London SW7 5BD UK
Ann Vanreusel <i>Treasurer</i>	Lab Morphologie, Universiteit Gent, Ladengancjstraat 35, B-9000 Gent, Belgium
Robert Feller <i>Assistant Treasurer</i>	Baruch Institute for Marine Science, University of South Carolina, Columbia SC 29208 USA
Thais-N Corbisier <i>(term expires 2007)</i>	Universidade de Sau Paulo, Instituto Oceanografico, 191 Cidade Universiaria, Sau Paulo, 05508-900, Brazil
Antonio Todaro <i>(term expires 2007)</i>	Dipartimento di Biologia Animale, Univeristy di Modena e Reggio Emilia, Via Campi 213/d, I-41100 Modena, Italy
Kevin Carman <i>(term expires 2010)</i>	Department of Biology, A103 Life Sciences Annex, Louisiana State University, Baton Rouge LA 70803 USA
Emil Olaffson <i>(term expires 2010)</i>	University of Stockholm, Department of Zoology, Stockholm S-10691 Sweden

Ex-Officio Executive Committee (Past Chairpersons)

1966-67	Robert Higgins Founding Editor	1982-83	Carlo Heip
1968-69	W. Duane Hope	1984-86	Olav Giere
1970-71	John Gray	1987-89	John Fleeger
1972-73	Wilfried Westheide	1990-92	Richard Warwick
1974-75	Bruce Coull	1993-95	Paul Montagna
1976-77	Jeanne Renaud-Mornant	1996-98	Magda Vincx
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1980-81	Robert Higgins	2002-04	John Lambshead

Board of Correspondents

Jeffrey Baguley	Baruch Institute for Marine and Coastal Sciences, University of South Carolina, Columbia, SC 29208 USA
.....OPEN.....	

Editorial

Greetings and apologies from Coastal Carolina University, land of the



wily chicken on steroids (see left)! Apologies because my first issue of Psamie is taking an inordinate amount of time to get to y'all and

I somehow missed the prescribed February publication deadline. I could say that preparing my talk for the Special Session on Soft-Sediment Ecology recently held at the 34th Benthic Ecology Meeting (in honor of Richard Warwick's contributions to the field of marine science) took all of my spare time over the past months. The audience could give an unbiased assessment of whether it's been time well spent. Of course, my preparations only would be a partial excuse; ah well, APOLOGIES! However, consistent with the recent unapologetic testimonies before the US Congress by Sammy Sosa and Mark McGuire (modern day heroes of our favorite past-time in N. America – baseball) I will not apologize for CCU's mascot indulging in 'roids. How else is the unassuming chicken of Chaucer fame going to bulk-up enough to take on the big boys of intercollegiate athletics like Liberty University (of Jerry Falwell fame) and Newberry College? Enough for the preamble...

PLANNING COMMITTEE - In the last issue (#140) Tim Ferrero indicated the formation of an informal planning committee to provide a "review" of all

things IAM with the goal of bringing specific actions (e.g., bylaw changes, Psamie form, 21st century society mission) to the membership for a vote. Members were selected for the planning committee with a mind towards diverse representation of the membership and, as in all such things, recognition of the potential member's demonstrated inability to say "no." Formation of the committee is **NOT** meant to be exclusory nor will any action be taken without a full and thorough airing by the entire membership. I would encourage any member with good or even not so good ideas about the future of IAM to forward them to myself or other executive/planning committee members. **A society flourishes when its membership is engaged.**

Unfortunately, intention does not guarantee action, and planning committee discussions have been slow to develop – wholly my fault. I established a password-protected discussion board on the IAM website to facilitate exchanges among the committee members, but the existence of a discussion board does not necessarily result in discussion. One needs to follow-up and direct the flow of information toward a result. Initially I had asked the planning committee to consider the following proposed actions related to Psammonalia:

- 1) Establish the editorship of Psammonalia as a position of not less than ten (10) years. Reason: Maintain publication continuity in light of changing Executive Board Members. Enable further growth/development of the newsletter in light of changing societal needs. Recognize the editor's contribution in light of proposed newsletter changes.
- 2) Establish new publication guidelines and schedule as follows:

a.) Maintain the current newsletter format excluding the current literature review for 2-3 online issues during the calendar year. Reason: “Snail mail” costs (primarily time and labor) are an unnecessary and unsustainable (ecology-wise) expenditure in the cyber age. Current search engines enable members to develop and maintain usable bibliographies of meiofaunal studies.

b.) Institute a new, once yearly summary issue to be published as a bound edition at the end of the calendar year.

Reason: A “useful” bound edition, format to be determined, could serve as a recruiting/dues-paying incentive and marketing device. The edition could include the “best of” contributions as well as special or invited articles/etc.

Please look for more information on the above proposed actions as well as additional actions to consider in future issues of *Psammonalia*.

SWEDMARK FUND – Consistent with the general expressions of the Executive Committee, the Swedmark Fund has been transferred from the UK to Belgium where the Association’s current treasurer will assume responsibilities for the fund. This action should consolidate and simplify accounting while having a minimal negative affect on fund performance. Many thanks to Mel Austin for overseeing the Swedmark Fund while in the UK!

CORRESPONDENTS - The Board of Correspondents, according to our constitution, “shall retire automatically with the retiring Chairperson” and “shall consist of up to twelve members of the Association...appointed by the Chairperson with advice and consent of the Executive Committee.” The Board’s duties include gathering literature and news items for *Psamie* and “other

duties.” If any Association member would like to serve on the current Board please contact me. Again, I would like Board Members to be as representative as possible of the Association’s inherent diversity. Diversity is a good thing!

Cheers,
Keith



34th Benthic Ecology Meetings
April 2005, Williamsburg, VA
Warwick Special Session on Soft-Sediment Ecology

Last year Bob Whitlatch, Univ. of Connecticut, began organizing a special session for Richard Warwick who is retiring after eight years as one of the co-editors of *The Journal of Experimental Marine Biology and Ecology*. The purpose of the session was to honor Richard’s unique role in promoting the advancement of soft-sediment ecology. An evening of poster presentations, in which a number of presenters recognized Richard’s influence, was followed by a full day of oral presentations and a session-ending reception hosted by Elsevier. Here’s hoping Richard enjoyed the presentations as much as his

anticipated enjoyment of a post-meeting tour down the Blue Ridge Parkway and the Shenandoah Valley in full spring bloom. G'donya Richard!

Oral Presentations

- Whitlatch, Robert B. Introduction to the Special Session
- Austen, Melanie C. The Life And Times Of Richard Warwick
- Warwick, Richard M., S.L. Dashfield, P.J. Somerfield. The Integral Structure of A Benthic Infaunal Assemblage
- Clarke, Kenneth R., P.J. Somerfield, R.N. Gorley. Taxonomic Dissimilarity Coefficients
- Quijon, Pedro A., P.V.R. Snelgrove. The Use of Coarser Taxonomic Resolution in Studies of Predation on Marine Sedimentary Fauna
- Baguley, Jeffrey G., P.A. Montagna, W. Lee. Spatial and Bathymetric Trends in Harpacticoida (Copepoda) Community Structure in the Northern Gulf of Mexico Deep Sea
- Gray, John S., K.I. Ugland. Are Marine Assemblages Structured Differently to Terrestrial Systems?
- Ambrose, William G. Jr., P.E. Renaud, L.M. Clough, A. Vanreusel. Meio- and Macrofaunal Diversity of the Arctic Ocean
- Somerfield, Paul J., S. Cochrane, S. Dahle, T. Pearson. Community Structure of Macrobenthos and Free-Living Nematodes Along an Environmental Gradient in a High-Latitude Glacial Fjord
- Bonsdorff, Erik. Diversity-Gradients in the Baltic Sea: Continuous Post-Glacial Succession in a Stressed Ecosystem
- Walters, Keith, D. Wilber, L. Coen. Analyses of Community Compositional Change Over Ecological Time: Examples From Natural and Constructed Intertidal Oyster Reefs
- Commito, John A., W.E. Dow, B.M. Grupe. "What's A Nice Bivalve Like You Doing in A Place Like This?" Hierarchical Spatial Structure in Soft-Bottom Mussel Beds
- Feller, Robert J. Feeding Dynamics of the Shore Crab, *Carcinus maenus*, and the Brown Shrimp, *Crangon crangon*: Significant Meiofaunal Linkages?
- Woodin, Sarah A., D.E. Lincoln, K. Fielman. Biogenic Structure, Chemical Inhibition, and Diversity
- Volkenborn, Nils, K. Reise. Lugworm Exclusion Experiments: Subtle Responses By Other Worms to Biogenic Habitat Modifications
- Ysebaert, Tom, V. Escaravage, P.M.J. Herman, C.H.R. Heip. Macrobenthos as Indicators of Environmental Quality in Tidal Estuaries
- Underwood, A.J., M.G. Chapman. Temporal Variation and Temporal Change in the Development of Assemblages of Invertebrates in Artificial Habitats on Rocky Substrata
- Levinton, Jeffery S., B. Allen. Origin, Costs and Tradeoffs of Being a Well Endowed Male Crab
- Austen, Melanie C., S. Widdicombe. Cost-Impact: Costing the Impact of Demersal Fishing on Marine Ecosystem Processes and Biodiversity
- Tenore, Ken, R.N. Zajac, F. Andrade, J. Blanton, W. Boynton, D. Carey, R. Diaz, F. Holland, E. Lopez-Jamar, P.

- Montagna, F. Nichols, R. Rosenberg, H. Queiroga, M. Sprung, J. Terwin, R. Whitlatch. Characterizing the Role Benthos Play in Large 'Coastal-Seas': A Modular Approach
- Heck, Kenneth L., J.F. Valentine. Plant-Herbivore Interactions in Seagrass Meadows
- Posey, Martin H., T.D. Alphin. Trophic Interactions in Benthic Communities: Interaction Between Bottom-Up and top-Down Influences
- Montagna, Paul, C. Ritter. Direct and Indirect Effects of Hypoxia on Benthos in Corpus Christi Bay, Texas
- Carman, Kevin R., J.W. Fleeger. The Influence of Copper in Contaminant Mixtures
- Poster Presentations**
- Austen, Melanie Clare, and S. Widdicombe. Comparison of the Response of Meio- and Macro-benthos to Disturbance Including the Interactive Effects of Physical Disturbance and Organic Enrichment
- Gobin, Judith F., and R.M. Warwick. Latitudinal Gradients in Species Diversity: A Comparison of Marine Polychaetes and Nematodes
- Quintino, Victor, J.H. Allen, M Elliott, and A.M. Rodrigues. The Derivation and Role of Univariate and Multivariate Indicators of Benthic Change: Case Studies at Differing Spatial Scales
- Jackson, E.L., M.J. Attrill, A.A. Rowden, M.B. Jones. Seagrass Complexity Hierarchies: Influence on Fish Groups Around the Coast of Jersey (English Channel)
- Hyland, Jeffrey L., C. Cooksey, W.L. Balthis, M. Fulton, and D. Bearden. Characterization of Benthic Infauna and Environmental Quality at Gray's Reef National Marine Sanctuary (GRNMS) and Nearby Shelf Waters off the Coast of Georgia
- Rexing, Stephanie Rose, and J.L. Hyland. Structure and Trophic Importance of Benthic Macroinfaunal Communities Around Live-Bottom Reefs at Gray's Reef National Marine Sanctuary (GRNMS)
- Weissberger, Eric J., L.M. Mayer, and P.A. Jumars. Seasonal Variation in Polychaete Sediment Depth Distribution in Wilkinson Basin, Gulf of Maine
- Dorgan, Kelly M., and P.A. Jumars. Burrowing in Mud and Sand: Different Mechanisms in Different Media
- Whitlatch, Robert B., R.W. Osman, R.N. Zajac, and J. Mercer. The Interactive Effects of Climate Change and Land Use Patterns on the Alteration of Coastal Marine Systems by Invasive Species
- Rowden, Ashley A. and Richard M. Warwick. Scales of Macro- and Meio-Benthic Spatial Heterogeneity Imposed by Bioturbation
-

Meetings of Interest



10th International Symposium on Tardigrada Catania, Italy 18-23 June 2006

SECOND ANNOUNCEMENT
15 February 2005

Dear Colleagues,

Planning is well underway for the 10th International Symposium on Tardigrada to take place 18-23 June 2006 in Catania, Italy.

If you are interested in attending the Tenth International Symposium on Tardigrada, please fill out and return the **Pre-Registration Form** (available online @ web site) before 4.10.05 to the Organizing Committee http://tardigrada_symp@unimore.it, indicating the eventual accompanying people, the type of presentation and the general topic which you would like to present. The **Pre-Registration Form** will help us in planning the meeting.

During the symposium, microscopes and tardigrade collections will be available.

A third announcement with details about abstract, symposium proceedings, registration fee and accommodations will be sent to all of you in fall of this year (2005). In any case, for any news and additional information you can visit the web site www.tenth.tardigrada.

symposium.unimore.it or contact the Organizing Committee directly via e-mail: tardigrada_symp@unimore.it

Delegates can present a variable number of talks/posters, but it will be possible to publish only one paper per author (first name), in accordance with the aim and policy of the journal.

Information on Catania and Sicily is available at: www.bestofsicily.com/catania.htm and www.bestofsicily.com/

Please, forward this notice to any colleagues or to anyone who might be interested.

Your attendance at the symposium will be much appreciated. We look forward to welcoming both old and new friends and colleagues to Catania.

Yours Sincerely,

The Organizing Committee

Giovanni Pilato

University of Catania

Roberto Bertolani

University of Modena & Reggio Emilia

Maria Grazia Binda

University of Catania

Roberto Guidetti

University of Modena & Reggio Emilia

Oscar Lisi

University of Catania

Lorena Rebecchi

University of Modena & Reggio Emilia

New Members

Dewi, Kresna Tri

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INDONESIA

I am a biologist and I have been working for Marine Geological Institute of Indonesia since 1986 (ministry of Energy and Mineral Resources). I received my bachelor's and master's degrees from the University of Wollongong, Australia studying benthic foraminifera from the Java Sea and marine ostracoda, respectively. Therefore, I am interested on both the distributions and taxonomy of benthic foraminifera and ostracoda. At the moment I am conducting collaborative research with German scientists on ostracoda from the eastern part of Indonesia in relation to the paleoenvironment. My supervisor and counterpart, Prof Arlt and Dr. Peter Frenzel from the University of Rostock, Germany gave suggestion that I join the International Association of Meiobenthologists. I have attended two International Symposia on Ostracoda in Australia (1991) and Shizuoka (2001) and I hope to attend the 15th ISO meeting in Berlin next year.

Dittmann, Sabine
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AUSTRALIA

I have been working with meiofauna in sand and in mudflats of the Wadden Sea, Germany, and in tropical North Queensland, Australia. My focus was mainly ecological, studying distribution patterns, habitat requirements and species interactions. Platyhelminthes always received a special attention, due to my background from the University of Göttingen. Following my recent move

to South Australia, I will resume meiofaunal work, looking particularly at meiofauna in tidal flats, mangroves, seagrass beds and estuaries. This will be a taxonomical challenge as few investigations have been carried out in the soft-sediment habitats down here. Well, prospects for collaboration, just get in touch with me!

Mani, Eldose
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INDIA

My study includes assessing the diversity of deep sea meiobenthos in the continental slope of Indian Ocean at depths 1000 and 500 meters, off the coast of India. Presently I concentrate earnestly on the collection of reference materials regarding this research.

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CANADA

My research goal consists of a better understanding of the role of meiofauna in the processing and transfer of organic matter (originating from the water column and from the sediment) in benthic ecosystems, ultimately resulting in its integration into benthic food web models. In this research framework, I specifically address the impact of punctual events such as storms and sedimentation of phytoplankton blooms

on meiofaunal dynamics and relationships between this compartment and sedimented organic matter.

Veit-Köhler, Gritta

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At TWIMCO in Ravenna, my second meiofauna conference after XIMCO in Plymouth, I decided to become member of the IAM and I am looking forward to more meetings and contacts as inspiring as the ones I already could experience. I am working at the German Centre for Marine Biodiversity Research (DZMB), a recently founded department of the Senckenberg Research Institute. At our location in Wilhelmshaven we are focusing on meiofauna. As I did my PhD thesis under the supervision of Prof. H.K. Schminke at the University of Oldenburg my personal research interests are taxonomy, biogeography and diversity of harpacticoid copepods. Additionally, meiofauna ecology, parasitological copepods and food-web structures are topics I want to focus at in the future. Although our institute is located at Jade Bay in the North Sea, my investigations until now mainly came from the Antarctic or the deep sea.

Yuqing, Guo

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Jimei University
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P.R. CHINA

I am interested doing nematode taxonomy, systematics, and meiofauna ecology. I am interested to know the function of nematodes in the benthic ecosystems. For example, the excess accumulation of organic matter on the bottom of shrimp pond causes shrimp disease. Is it possible for nematodes to transform excess organic matter indirectly or to stimulate microbial growth and decompose organic matter efficiently? Currently, I have published 5 scientific papers in English.

Zamponi, Mauricio Oscar

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ARGENTINA

The marine interstitial fauna is better known than the freshwater interstitial fauna, and the organisms and association of the European Seas are best known of the various geographical areas. The Atlantic coast of South America is unstudied with respect to interstitial fauna, and the sandy beach of Argentina is totally unknown. It is the first study of meiobenthos towards an understanding of the composition of interstitial fauna and its assemblage, and to demonstrate that the meiofaunal distribution is partly dependent on the sediment granulometry. In organically polluted habits major taxa abundances have increased at half of the locations and decreased at others, but species diversities have consistently decreased.

Recent Literature

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