

PSAMMONALIA

The Newsletter of the
International Association of Meiobenthologists

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“I’ll have a blue, blue *Polychoerus* holiday!”

The International Association of Meiobenthologists
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Editorial

The mid-winter holiday season is upon us and, perhaps fitting to the events of 2005, the largest, single *Psamie* issue of the year should arrive in time for casual reading with a mug of hot chocolate in front of a northern hemisphere fire or under a sun-drenched umbrella on a southern hemisphere beach. Issue 143 contains important information including a report from the Informal Planning Committee and a plea to support *Meiofauna Marina*. So as not to muddle the important issues with more words than is necessary I will direct you to the following **News & Views** keeping my editorial painfully short only to wish everyone

THE BEST OF THE SEASON!

Cheers,
Keith

PS – My thanks to the members of the Informal Planning Committee and its Chair for bringing a comprehensive list of recommendations on the future of *Psammonalia* to the membership – G'donya!

News & Views

<p>Planning Committee Report (Recommendations related to the future of <i>Psammonalia</i>)</p>

Members: T. Corbisier; J. Lamshead; T. Moens; P. Montagna; E. Olafsson; A. Todaro; D. Thistle, Chair

The committee deliberated by e-mail and makes the following recommendations. A brief explanation of our reasoning follows some of the recommendations. The committee could not always agree, so for some recommendations, a minority view is also given.

Recommendation 1. The society should communicate with its members twice per year.

The committee felt that the present rate of publication was higher than necessary given the balance between the work required to produce a communication and the need for communication. Several committee members suggested that three times per year was more appropriate than twice per year.

Recommendation 2. Communication should be primarily by a newsletter on the society's website.

Converting *Psammonalia* to an electronic form will save the cost of producing and mailing a paper version. It will also make the newsletter accessible to search engines, which should make the society more visible.

Recommendation 3. The chairperson should notify the members by e-mail when a new issue of *Psammonalia* has been posted.

Recommendation 4. Members without electronic access should receive a paper copy by mail.

Recommendation 5. After a new issue is posted, the previous issue should be archived on the web site intact.

The committee agreed that an archive that could be crawled by search engines would be desirable.

Recommendation 6. The most recent issue and the archives should be freely accessible.

Recommendation 7. After a new issue is posted, appropriate components of the issue that it replaces should be copied to topic areas on the web site.

The committee envisioned topic areas to include such things as methods.

Recommendation 8. Citations of recent publications by members, contributed by the members, should be included in the newsletter.

The committee agreed that space in the newsletter and therefore on the website should be devoted to recent publications of the members because it will allow the membership to become aware of advances in our field in a rapid and convenient manner.

Recommendation 9. The recent literature section should be omitted from the newsletter.

This recommendation was controversial. In brief, a small majority felt that producing the recent literature section was not necessary in an era of searchable data bases. They felt that the editor's time would be better spent

improving the web site. A large minority felt that the recent literature section was valuable. For example, because it includes important papers in all fields of meiofaunal research, non-specialists can become aware of papers outside their fields that they would not know to search for. Also, members without access to data bases value the recent literature section.

Recommendation 10. Membership in the society and the payment of dues should be separated from access to the newsletter.

The committee agreed that the newsletter should be available to any interested person and to search engines in a timely manner, so it will not be possible to charge for it. The society should offer other incentives for dues payments, such as the privilege of posting recent publications on the society's website, a link on the society's web site to the member's home page, or a reduction in the registration fee for the annual meeting.

Recommendation 11. The back issues of *Psammonalia* should be scanned and posted on the web site.

These issues contain valuable information on techniques and give citations to older papers on meiofauna that are not in data bases.

Recommendation 12. The back issues should be dismembered and relevant portions posted in appropriate topic areas on the web site.

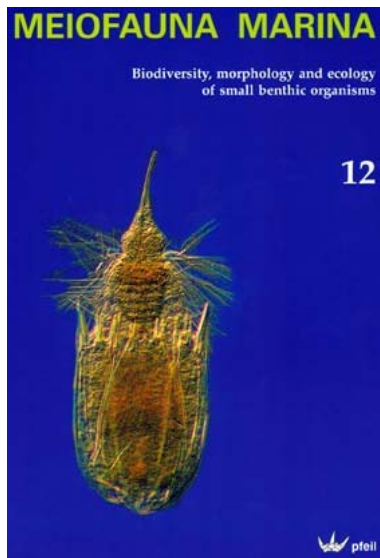
Recommendation 13. The webmaster should be authorized to hire an assistant to do the work on the back issues.

The committee agreed that this task was an appropriate way for the society to spend its money.

Submitted by D. Thistle, 10/2005

The preceding recommendations do not appear to require changes to IAM's constitution or bylaws and therefore do not require a 2/3 majority vote of the membership. I will post the list on the website by the first of 2006 and seek ways to solicit comments with the possibility of a web vote later in 2006.

Meiofauna Marina



Call for papers!
Call for subscriptions!
Support the journal
Meiofauna Marina

This year, the third issue of the journal *Meiofauna Marina* (volume 14

due to the continuation of the 11 volumes of *Microfauna Marina*) occurred with a number of contributions from the twelfth International Meiofauna Conference in Ravenna. Despite the urgent call for subscriptions and submissions, we are still receiving too few manuscripts and have very few subscriptions, too few to keep the journal alive. We are again urging you to support the journal. This is the only journal dedicated to the topics central for the meiofaunal community.

Two arguments arose, why one should not publish in *Meiofauna Marina*. The first is that no PDFs are available. This has changed and now you can purchase PDFs of your articles at a reasonable price. The second concern is that *Meiofauna Marina* does not have an impact factor. This is true and can not be changed, because impact factors only can be received by journals occurring four times a year. However, we are appealing to your support in establishing *Meiofauna Marina* anyway as a good journal with a constant readership.

We have to announce a change in the editorial board. Thomas Bartolomaeus left and we thank him for his support of the journal in its early phase. Now Andreas Schmidt-Rhaesa is joined as the editor by Pedro Martínez Arbizu and Antonio Todaro. We are thinking intensively about strategies to lead the journal into a safe future, but we will always rely on you in the first place.

The next issue will be published in 2006, but we can receive subscriptions

until the end of March. We are looking forward to receive your manuscripts!

Check out:

www.meiofauna-marina.com

Andreas Schmidt-Rhaesa
Pedro Martínez Arbizu and
Antonio Todaro

NeMys Marine Nematode Information

The NeMys biological information system offers a large dataset on marine free-living nematodes. About 5000 species have descriptions, geographical data, links, a glossary, identification keys, are also provided.

The URL: <http://www.nemys.ugent.be>

Best regards,
Tim Deprez

Request(s) for Information

I am Mrs. Priyalakshmi G. working as a lecturer at Bharata Mata College, Thrikkakara, Kochi, Kerala, India, at present doing research at Cochin University of Science and Technology under the guidance of Dr. N.R. Menon. My topic is Interstitial Fauna of Beaches of West Coast of Kerala. I would like to do the taxonomy of certain groups like Marine Interstitial Polychaetes, Gastrotrichs, Kinorhynch, Nematodes and Harpacticoid copepods. I could not get suitable taxonomic keys of these above mentioned groups other than for Nematodes. Sir, can you kindly help me out in this? Also, if you know

experts in this field, can you please give me their e-mail addresses? Kindly reply.

My address is:

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I am member of the The International Association of Meiobenthologists since July 2005. I write a publication on the Harpacticoida of a reef lagoon and I need to complete my bibliography with *Psammonalia*. I would wish to consult the various numbers of *Psammonalia* on the Web.

Recent Literature

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