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DON'T FORGET TO RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP IN IAM!
THE APPLICATION CAN BE FOUND AT THE END OF THIS ISSUE OR AT:
http://www.meiofauna.org/appform.html

Don't forget… Ghent - Belgium

July 12-16, 2010

The International Association of Meiobenthologists

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Paulo Santos *Chairperson*	Dept. of Zoology, Federal University of Pernambuco, Recife, PE 50670-420 Brazil [pjps@ufpe.br]
Keith Walters *Past Chairperson*	Dept. of Marine Science, Coastal Carolina University, POB 261954, Conway, SC 29528-6054 USA [kwalt@coastal.edu]
Ann Vanreusel *Treasurer*	Lab Morphologie, Universiteit Gent, Ladengancjstraat 35, B-9000 Gent, Belgium [ann.vanreusel@UGent.be]
Jyotsna Sharma *Assistant Treasurer*	Dept. of Biology, University of Texas at San Antonio, San Antonio, TX 78249-0661, USA [Jyotsna.Sharma@utsa.edu]
Monika Bright *(term expires 2013)*	Dept. of Marine Biology, University of Vienna, Vienna, A-1090, Austria [monika.bright@univie.ac.at]
Tom Moens *(term expires 2013)*	Ghent University, Biology Department, Marine Biology Section, Gent, B-9000, Belgium [tom.moens@ugent.be]
Kevin Carman *(term expires 2010)*	Dept. of Biology, A103 Life Sciences, Louisiana State University, Baton Rouge LA 70803 USA [zocarm@lsu.edu]
Emil Olafsson *(term expires 2010)*	Menntun Consultoría, c/Cava Alta 9, 2ºC, Madrid 28005 Spain [emilolafsson@menntun.org]

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Webmaster

Jeffrey Baguley	University of Nevada, Reno, Department of Biology, Mailstop 314, Reno, NV 89557 [jeffbaguley@gmail.com]

Editorial

Bom dia!

In my first Editorial I suggested that the exchange of information about on-going Projects, student training opportunities/courses, occurrences of known (or unknown) taxa and several other activities may possibly increase our networking. Such information would increase interactions among members and hence inject some new blood in IAM. Despite this encouragement few members are sending news of their activities that could be useful for others. Well, I am trying an alternative way. Gathering recent literature enabled me to see how many people are publishing on meiofauna but are still not members of IAM. I am thus making use of this list of people/mails to invite them to come to Fourtimco (I expect they will not be bothered by my emails) and also to become members of our association. Nevertheless I insist that exchanging back-stage information will prove most helpful for maintaining the Association health. Send your news!

Cheers,
Paulo

Next Conference

The International Association of Meiobenthologists is pleased to invite you to participate in its 14th International Meiofauna Conference – FourtIMCo – in Ghent, Belgium, from July 12th – 16th 2010.

Full registration + abstract submission deadline: 15/03/2010.

More details in:
http://www.fourtimco.ugent.be/index.asp

Workshop

The Census of Marine Life project ChEss (Biogeography of Deep-Water Chemosynthetic Ecosystems) is organizing a workshop on 'Meiofauna from chemosynthetic deep-sea environments' in conjunction with the 14th International Meiofauna Conference at the Ghent University August, 17 2010. This workshop is organized by Monika Bright and Ann Vanreusel and we would like to invite you to attend for free.
The aim of this workshop is to bring together meiofauna researchers who are interested in any biological aspect concerning deep- sea reducing environments, such as hydrothermal vents, cold seeps, whale falls, sunken wood, and areas of low oxygen that intersect with continental margins and seamounts.

We will have sessions in which we will discuss the current state of knowledge of biogeography, biodiversity and abundance, ecology, origin and evolution, morphological and molecular phylogeny, and taxonomy, and future plans. Further we will discuss the possiblities of multidisciplinary and integrative research, building a platform of researchers to combine our efforts in databases, field programmes, and outreach activities.

Webpage:
http://www.hydrothermalvent.com/php/chess-workshop.html

Registration: email to Monika Bright
monika.bright@univie.ac.at

Deadline of registration June 30, 2010

Any questions and suggestions: email to Monika Bright
monika.bright@univie.ac.at

New Members

Stephen C. Landers, 219A MSCS Dept. Bio. Env. Sci., Troy University, Troy, AL 36082, USA . Phone: 334-670-3661.
e-mail: slanders@troy.edu

Frank A. Romano III, Dept. Biology, Jacksonville State Univ., 700 Pecham Rd. N., Jacksonville, AL 36265, USA
Phone: 256-782-5038
e-mail: FRomano@jsu.edu
Interests: Meiofauna of the Gulf of Mexico, Tardigrades

William Jaeckle, Dept. of Biology, Illinois Wesleyan Univ., P.O. Box 2900, Bloomington, IL 61702-2900, USA.
Phone: 309-556-1063.
e-mail: wjaeckle@iwu.edu

Susan M. Sewell, 790 County Road 37, Leesburg, AL USA. Phone: 256-526-7335.
e-mail: cmsusansewell@hotmail.com

Eric N. Powell, 6959 Miller Ave., Port Norris, NS 08349, USA Phone: 856-785-0074 x4309.
e-mail: eric@hsrl.rutgers.edu

Hiroshi Yamasaki, Division of Natural History Sciences, Hokkaido University Kita 10 Nishi 8 Sapporo 0600810 Japan
e-mail: h.yamasaki@mail.sci.hokuda.ac.jp

Emil Ólafsson (new address)
I.E.O.- Centre Oceanogràfic de les Balears P.O. Box 291
07080 Palma (Spain)
Phone: (34) 971401877
Fax: (34) 971404945
E-mail: emil.olafsson@ba.ieo.es
http://www.ieo.es

Gastrotricha project

The US-NSF has funded a 3-year project entitled "An International Approach to the Biodiversity, Biogeography and Evolution of Caribbean Gastrotricha" PI is Rick Hochberg (UM-Lovell-USA), other people involved are W.D. Hummon (USA), M.A. Todaro (Italy), C.Y. Chang (Korea), A. Schmidt-Rhaesa (Germany), A. Kieneke (Germany) and S.Z: Togouet (Cameroon).

Goals of the Project. The proposed research (2010-2012) will be the most comprehensive survey of marine gastrotrichs from the western hemisphere. The primary goals are as follows:

1. To survey, collect and catalogue marine gastrotrichs from a variety of diverse habitats in the wider Caribbean. This objective includes A) the identification of species-rich habitats within four marine ecoregions and B) determination if individual SIDS have distinct faunal assemblages. SIDS and specific islands of interest include the following: Bahamas - Perry Institute, Bahamas - Gerace, Barbados - Bellairs Institute, Belize - Carrie Bow Cay, Bocas del Toro, Panama – STRI, Cayman Islands- CCMI, Curacao – CARMABI, Grenada – SGU, Jamaica – DMBL, Turks-Caicos – CMRS, US Virgin Islands - VIERS

2. Amend current electronic databases and build new museum archives in the USA, Central and South America, and internationally. Museums targeted for enhanced meiofauna collections include: Instituto de Biologia at the Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México, National Zoological Collection of Suriname, University of Suriname, Smithsonian Institute National Museum of Natural History, American Museum of Natural History, Zoological Museum of the University of Hamburg, Germany, The Natural History Museum of Denmark, Copenhagen, Denmark, Natural History Museum of Ewha Womans University, South Korea.

3. Construct CD-ROM, print and internet guides to the taxonomy of Caribbean Gastrotricha, and present new systematic and biogeographic findings at conferences and in regional and international journals. International conferences and journals targeted by our project members include: SICB, International Meiofauna Conference, Caribbean Journal of Science, Invertebrate Biology, Journal of Morphology, Molecular Phylogenetics and Evolution, Zoologischer Anzeiger, Zoologica Scripta, Zootaxa

4. Enhance molecular databases through the sequencing of genes (coxI, 18S, 28S). Specific databases include the following: Genbank, Consortium for the Barcode of Life, Moorea Biocode Database

5. Test hypotheses of cryptic speciation, organ system evolution, and gastrotrich phylogeny

6. Train multinational undergraduate and graduate students in gastrotrich systematics and provide Training in Tropical Taxonomy Workshop to Central and South American students with an interest in meiobenthology.

Course

Jon Norenburg (NMNH) and Rachel Collin (STRI) are offering some vacancies for participants in the Meiofauna Diversity and Taxonomy Course that will occur between the 7th and 18 June, 2010 at Bocas Research Station, Bocas del Toro, Panama.

Please see more information about the course and application procedures at: http://striweb.si.edu/taxonomy_training/future_courses/2010/2010_encyclopedia_of_life.html

Recent Literature

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