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A Premium Belgium Conference!

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THE APPLICATION CAN BE FOUND AT THE END OF THIS ISSUE OR AT:
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Editorial

Bom dia!

First of all I have to congratulate the Fourtimco local organizers on behalf of IAM members and participants of the conference for the great reception that we had during the Fourteenth International Meiofauna Conference. The organization was very impressive as was the kindness of the Belgian people. Thus, THANK YOU Magda, and all the staff, for a very successful Conference at Gent.

During Fourtimco we had about 200 communications by 180 scientists from 28 countries. Seventy-three Oral and 128 Poster presentations were hosted in six Sessions that for the first time (to my knowledge) since the first meeting, in Tunisia in 1969, included a Freshwater Meiofauna session.

Besides the photos you can see on the Fourtimco Conference website (<http://www.fourtimco.ugent.be/index.asp>) I have included a few more in the penultimate page of this issue.

This is the last Psammonalia that I edit during my 2008-2010 term as IAM Chairperson and I should acknowledge all the support I have received from all of you that contributed with the Psammonalia edition making it more interesting to all meiobenthologists. Special thanks are due to past Chairperson Keith Walters that gave support for the first issues I edited and to Jyotsna Sharma for her kind comments of each issue.

As I expressed in my first Editorial, since the request of the Executive Committee during Thirimco to present

new ways to “reanimate” IAM I have been proposing the use of Psammonalia as an instrument to achieve this. Below is a suggestion by David Thistle that I strongly support:

“I've been thinking how to make Psammonalia more useful to our community; here is a possibility. One of the things that someone doing taxonomic work worries about is that someone else is working in the same area without his or her knowledge. There is a possibility of duplication of effort, or worse, the two authors could propose conflicting systematic schemes that will have to be laboriously harmonized subsequently.

Psammonalia could help avoid such problems if it contained a section in which people working on taxonomic studies of meiofauna could notify the community about their work. If these notices were carried in each issue until the author reported that the work was completed, Psammonalia would be the place that anyone contemplating a taxonomic study of meiofauna would check before he or she began.”

So be aware of this new section - news can be sent from now on to Nikolaos Lampadariou (nlamp@her.hcmr.gr), the new IAM Chairperson.

During our Fourtimco we had twenty-one applications for IAM membership and more than 30 renewals. This, together with 127 references included in the Recent Literature section are certainly great news to commemorate and indicate that meiofauna studies are full steam ahead.

Cheers,
Paulo

Fourtimco Best Student Poster Prize

Many student posters presented high scientific and esthetical quality and herein we congratulate the three that were considered the better:

1-Benoit Mialet et al. Temporal dynamics of meiobenthos in the epilithon of the Garonne river (SW France);

2-Joey Martinez et al. Effects of cadmium on the fitness of, and interactions between, two bacterivorous nematode species;

3-Diana Wulfken et al. The mastax musculature of *Pleurotrocha petromyzon* and *Proales tillyensis*.

Next Conference

After a nice contest between Korea (proposal presented by Wonchoel Lee) and Tunisia (proposal presented by Naceur Essid) it was decided by the membership that the next International Meiofauna Conference, fifteenth in the long list, will be held in Korea during summer 2013.

Forthcoming Conferences

The 11th International Conference on Copepoda will be held in 2011, in Merida, Mexico. For more information on the 11th ICOC, contact the Chairman of the Local Organizing Committee, Eduardo Suarez-Morales at esuarez@ecosur.mx

Announcement

Dear colleagues,

We are writing to inform you that we intend to organize a special session on freshwater meiofauna at the next SEFS congress that will be held from 27th June - 1st July 2011 in Girona (Spain).

The idea was originated during the last international meiofauna conference last summer in Gent (Belgium) where the special session on freshwater meiofauna was moderated by Lars Peters and Walter Traunspurger from Bielefeld University. Our main intention is to highlight the importance of meiofauna in the functional ecology of freshwater ecosystems and we think that the SEFS framework gives us a good chance to do this. In addition, several researchers with a good meiofauna background, like Margaret Palmer and Andrew Boulton, have confirmed their assistance as members of the scientific committee.

The deadline for a special session proposal is the 30th November, so we still have time to ask all of you if you or your students will be interested in attending that congress (general info at: <http://www.sefs2011.com/inicio.asp?p=general>). If there will be enough speakers for this session, we can proceed to the formal proposal.

In case you could attend the conference and join us, please send an e-mail to: agaudes@ub.edu or lars.peters@uni-bielefeld.de indicating how many people from your lab would come.

Sincerely,

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Obituary

Prof Alasdair McIntyre
(17 November, 1926 - 15 April, 2010)

ALASDAIR McIntyre's distinguished scientific career spanned 40 years at the Aberdeen Marine Laboratory, the Scottish Office and, later, with the Scottish Executive.

There, he conducted and led research on marine ecology, fisheries and pollution. Such was his eminence he was also chairman of the United Nations Joint Group of Experts on Scientific Aspects of Marine Pollution and advised the International Council for the Exploration of the Sea on marine pollution.

He was a tireless campaigner on behalf the North-east and was often called to inquiries as an expert witness to improve and conserve the area.

At these, McIntyre gave his evidence, as he did when lecturing at the university, in a manner much admired by those he was addressing. As one colleague recalls: "Alasdair ensured everyone could follow his reasoning, however complicated the subject."

Professor Anastasios Eleftheriou, Emeritus Professor at the University of Crete and a former student and colleague of McIntyre, has said: "Alasdair stands out as an exceptional individual, part of a generation of British scientists whose expertise and interests ranged far, wide and deep.

"He was that rare and often undervalued individual: a real all-rounder, scientist, researcher, administrator, academic, writer, wine

connoisseur, gourmet and passionate reader."

Alasdair Duncan McIntyre was educated at Hermitage School, Helensburgh. He read zoology at Glasgow University, qualifying in 1948 and then gaining his doctorate from Glasgow.

He joined the marine laboratory in Aberdeen in 1951 and did much innovative research into the halibut.

He was to hold many important posts in the field of marine research, including senior principal scientific officer at the Marine Laboratory from 1973 with the Department of Agriculture and Fisheries, and from 1983-6 he was appointed professor of fisheries and oceanography at Aberdeen.

In the early 1960s, he and some colleagues, notably Prof Eleftheriou, carried out a far-reaching and lengthy project at Loch Ewe, researching into the habits of young plaice.

He was involved in another demanding field exercise which studied the sandy shores of the entire Scottish coastline – including the Hebrides. Both projects were arduous and physically demanding, but McIntyre entered into them with tremendous enthusiasm and brought great scholarship to the ensuing reports.

His knowledge was often in demand to advise committees on political and controversial issues. McIntyre kept in close contact – and enjoyed an excellent relationship with – the oil industry centered in Aberdeen.

In 2003, he advised the fishing industry and the government to find a compromise when the government proposed a "no fishing" zone off the north coast of Scotland.

As recently as 2008, McIntyre advised on offshore drilling mud that was being dumped at a landfill site near Aberdeen. He served on an independent committee set up by the Royal Society of Edinburgh to examine the many problems facing the Scottish fishing industry in 2002. It sat at North Atlantic Fisheries in Shetland and investigated how technology was affecting the industry and how it could adapt to the reduction in fishing opportunities.

Colleagues at Aberdeen recall that his advice on university matters was clear and to-the-point.

He also wrote extensively on fisheries and environmental subjects and was vice-president in 1993 and later president of the Scottish Association of Marine Scientists. He was also chairman of both the Atlantic Frontier Environmental Forum and the Falkland Islands Exploration Forum and, as well as serving on many environmental committees, was president of the Sir Alister Hardy Foundation for Ocean Science and chairman of the trustees, Buckland Foundation.

McIntyre was appointed CBE in 1994 and held honorary doctorates from both Edinburgh Napier and Stirling universities. He was also often to be seen at Pittodrie, home of Aberdeen FC, where he was an enthusiastic season ticket holder.

McIntyre was the foremost and much-respected authority in his field. As Prof Eleftheriou puts it: "For all those who had the good fortune to enjoy his friendship and his wisdom, we feel that they have been enriched by Alasdair's life."

Alasdair McIntyre is survived by his wife, Catherine, and their daughter

By Alasdair Steven

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Ending the Swedmark raffle!



Visiting a brewery - Bruges!



"Meiofauna scientists supporting the globe."



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Meiobenthologists excursion causing "emboateillage" in the centre of Ghent

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