

# PSAMMONALIA

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**International Association of Meiobenthologists**

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## Editorial

Hello everybody!

A warm welcome to another issue of Psammonalia, this time from Greece!

With this issue, I begin my tenure as Editor of our Newsletter for the next three years. Writing an editorial is not an easy task and every time I've sat down at the keyboard to put my thoughts together I've come away frustrated, not because I'm experiencing writer's block, but because of the great work that my predecessors have done. So I hope that our small editorial team will keep up the good work and continue to improve our newsletter.

Talking about improvements, our first task here at Heraklion, was to run through our website and find mistakes, dead links or outdated information. We ended up with a very long list which was sent to our webmaster Jeffrey, and corrections are already underway. One of the things that we should maybe take immediate action upon is the "Bulletin Board". Although it was initially a good idea, in practice it has been rather disappointing as only a few posts have been made since its introduction, the last one being sometime in 2008! This leads us to the obvious question – do we need a forum? Forums and mailing lists are great places to post a problem and get some advice or feedback, especially if you need a quick answer or solution. See for example the post of Daniel Leduc on page 4 of this issue. This is the kind of question for which a forum could be useful. However, for a successful on-line community, there have to be some important conditions such as:

- A sufficient number of experts/mentors available who will actively participate and share their knowledge
- Enough regular participants to keep the whole thing going
- A good moderator to maintain the site and keep it clean from spam

Nevertheless, I believe that there is nothing worse than a dead forum and we should think of new ways to keep it alive or else shut it down.

On a different note, I was recently astonished by the efforts of a colleague in my lab to get a newly discovered species published. Not being a taxonomist myself, mainly because of lack of time, I always try out new students on systematics in an attempt to find the one who will have the eye, the patience and the talent to become a taxonomist. However, having heard the story of my fellow colleague I got seriously worried. It took quite a few attempts before the work was even considered for publication. Most journals returned the manuscript within the day claiming that they do not publish single species descriptions any more. And these were journals that used to deal with systematics and still claim in their "Aims & Scope" that they do so. With the global decline in taxonomic expertise and the biodiversity crisis, all this is rather frustrating. On the other hand, having participated in the Census of Marine Life, a 10-year international initiative undertaken to assess, among other things, the diversity of marine life, I just cannot see where all this is leading us to. Will the future of taxonomy be to catalogue new species without a formal description, or will it be just plain DNA barcoding? And what does this leave us with for the moment?

This issue has been delayed on purpose to allow some time for digestion after the last double issue which we received in late November. The next one is planned for October and thereafter we hope to keep the regular schedule, i.e. every January and July.

Enjoy the issue, and keep in touch!  
All the best  
Nikos Lampadariou

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## Constitutional change?

During our last conference in Ghent, Olav Giere suggested the following amendment to our Constitution which could become a by-law.

*“To protect intellectual property and to promote discussion, it shall be an established requirement of each meeting that no information presented is to be used later in informal or formal publication or presentation without permission and acknowledgement of the individual or responsible person making the contribution”*

Are there any strong opinions on this?

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## Incoming Officers

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## New Members

Tomo Kitahashi

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## Help Please – a freak from Kaikoura canyon!

Below is a question submitted by Daniel Leduc from New Zealand, who, after some time, went on to answer his own question. I am publishing it as a follow-up of my thoughts in the editorial but also because of the beauty of the specimen. Nice picture!

*“I have come across a meiofaunal organism which I cannot identify in a sample from the Kaikoura canyon (1000 m depth), so I was wondering if you would mind including the attached picture in the next issue of Psammonalia to see if anyone could identify it? The animal is roughly 500 microns long, with 4 spines near swollen end of body, and appears to have some kind of pharynx. Many thanks  
Daniel Leduc”*



And here is his answer:

“... it turns out that the organism in question is a priapulid larva ...”

To bad that our forum was not working!

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## New Book

Organisms of meiofaunal size are too small and too delicate to be found in the fossil records and therefore only a few of them have been recorded so far. There are other groups however, which are found more often and comprise an important fraction of fossil assemblages. One such group is the decapod crustaceans, which are important elements in many marine, aquatic and terrestrial ecosystems.

“*Crustaceana Monographs*” constitutes a series of books on carcinology in its widest sense, published by BRILL (<http://www.brill.nl/>). The series has published about 10 books including titles such as, “*Larvae of anomuran and brachyuran crabs of North Carolina*”, “*Deep-sea Tanaidacea from the Gulf of Mexico*”, “*Marine interstitial Poecilostomatoida and Cyclopoida (Copepoda) of Australia*” etc.



The newest book of the series, the “*Systematic list of fossil decapod crustacean species*” is a catalogue of all known fossil decapod species presented under a unified classification framework. As with many other groups, decapod paleontology exploded during the late 18<sup>th</sup> and early 19<sup>th</sup> centuries; however the limitation of available literature and scientific communication led to a proliferation of names and a large amount of synonyms. Modern studies on decapods use the excellent classification scheme of Martin & Davis (2001)<sup>1</sup>, which however does not include any fossil or extinct species. Thus, the authors used a modified version of this scheme in an attempt to include, as of the first quarter of 2009, all 3270 known fossil species in a unified classification scheme. The result is a huge list of more than 130 pages with all the species names and references assigning authorship. The only downside for the unfamiliar scientist or student with the group may be the lack of an index. Otherwise a “must have” book for anyone studying fossil decapods.

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<sup>1</sup> Martin JW, Davis GE. 2001. An updated classification of the recent Crustacea. Science Series 39. Los Angeles, CA: Natural History Museum of Los Angeles County.

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## Web News

The following important conferences are scheduled for this year:

### **11<sup>th</sup> International conference on Copepoda July 10-15, 2011**

<http://www.11thcoc.com/>

The 11<sup>th</sup> International conference on Copepoda will be held in the Hyatt Regency Hotel, Merida, Mexico during summer, 10-15 July 2011. Merida is the capital of the State of Yucatan, southeast Mexico. Yucatan is a historically rich region of Mexico, home to the ancient Mayan culture. The Organization Committee has planned four special sessions (symposia I-IV):

- copepods and large-scale climate changes
- biogeography and taxonomy of cave copepods
- copepods and human health
- molecules and morphology in copepodological research

Each of these four symposia is being organized by a different colleague copepodologist.

#### Important deadlines:

Submission of Abstracts: Already closed (April 20, 2011)

Submission of Manuscripts: **September 15, 2011**

### **Sixth International Conference «Environmental Micropaleontology, Microbiology and Meiobenthology» EMMM-2011**

**September 19-22, 2011**

<http://www.paleo.ru/EMMM-2011/>

The Russian Branch of ISEMMM invites you to participate in the 6<sup>th</sup> International Conference “Environmental Micropaleontology, Microbiology and

Meiobenthology” (EMMM-2011) which will take place in Moscow and St. Petersburg, Russia and will consist of two parts.

The first part will include a field trip to be carried out by the FGUP “A.P. Karpinsky Russian Geological Research Institute” in the St. Petersburg and Leningrad region on September 15-18.

The second part will include technical sessions conducted at the A.A. Borissiak Paleontological Institute, Russian Academy of Sciences, on September 19-22.

#### Conference topics:

- Micro- and meioorganisms as indicators of environments
- Bacteria, micro- and meioorganisms
- Ecological turnovers and the evolution of Phanerozoic biota
- Prediction and interpretation of environmental issues
- Micro- and meioorganisms and the derivation of life on Earth
- Morphology and biodiversity of micro- and meioorganisms
- Degassing of the Earth, biosphere and environment
- Petroleum and micro- and meioorganisms
- Applications of micro- and meioorganisms
- Methodology and computer technology

#### Important deadlines:

Registration already closed: April 30, 2011

Second circular: **July 15, 2011**

### **World Conference on Marine Biodiversity 2011**

**September 26-30, 2011**

<http://www.marine-biodiversity.org/>

This is a follow-up from the 1<sup>st</sup> Conference on marine Biodiversity which took place from 15 to 18 November 2008 in Valencia, Spain.

This time it will take place in Aberdeen, Scotland (UK), from 26-30 September 2011. The World Conference on Marine Biodiversity has the overall aim of bringing together scientists, practitioners and the public to discuss and advance our understanding of the issues surrounding the importance of biodiversity in the marine environment. The conference will address issues of marine biodiversity across a deliberately wide range of relevant spheres and interacting topics.

Conference themes:

- Taxonomy
- Biodiversity
- Changes in Biodiversity with Time
- Marine Technology: Platforms and Sensors for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century
- Blue Biotechnology
- Ecosystem Services
- Climate Change
- Marine Extremes
- Bioinformatics and Data Delivery
- Advances in Statistics in Relation to Marine Biodiversity Science
- Marine Policy and Law
- Marine Biodiversity and Human Health
- Integrative Frameworks of Linking Physical Dynamics and Biodiversity
- Biodiversity - Ecosystem Function
- Linking Biodiversity - Ecosystem Function and Services
- Biodiversity, Education and Outreach
- Environmental Physiology
- Human Impacts of Biodiversity

The conference will also accommodate a variety of themed sessions championed by conference participants. For more information on the themed sessions please visit: <http://www.marine-biodiversity.org/programme/themed-sessions/>

Important deadlines:

Abstract submission is already closed  
Early Bird Registration Friday **1st July 2011**  
Final Registration Deadline Friday **2nd September 2011.**

## **The Society of Nematologists 50th Anniversary Meeting** **July 17-20, 2011**

<http://www.son50.org/>

The Society of Nematologists 50th Anniversary Meeting will be returning to where it all started, Corvallis Oregon, site of the first SON meeting, for a celebration of their Science and Society. The meeting will start on Sunday, July 17 and come to a close with the awards banquet Wednesday evening, July 20. Make plans to take one of the tours on Thursday, July 21. N.A. Cobb will welcome the participants to a meeting that will review SON history, present the latest research in technical sessions, and challenge scientists for the future. A series of special sessions is planned, including workshops on nematology education and the identification of dorylaims, and a wide variety of symposia.

Conference topics:

- Host-parasite interactions
- Entomopathogenic Nematodes
- Plant Resistance to Nematodes
- Chemical Management
- Cultural Management
- Ecology/Evolution/Behavior
- Biological Control
- Nematode Taxonomy and Systematics

Important deadlines:

Abstract submission is already closed (May 23)

Early Registration Rate Deadline Tuesday **31st May 2011.**

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## **Recent Literature**

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# INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF MEIOBENTHOLOGISTS

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The International Association of Meiobenthologists is a non-profit scientific society representing meiobenthologists in all aquatic disciplines. The Association is dedicated to the dissemination of information by publishing a biannual newsletter and sponsoring a triennial International Conference. The newsletter, *Psammonalia*, is published mid-month in January and July. Membership is open to any person who actively is interested in the study of meiofauna. Annual membership dues are EU\$10 (US\$10) and payment for up to 3 years in advance is possible. New members will receive *Psammonalia* beginning with the January issue of the year joining. Additional contributions to the **Bertil Swedmark Fund**, used to support student attendance at the triennial conferences, is encouraged.

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