

PSAMMONALIA

Number 5

Newsletter of the Association of Meiobenthologists

April, 1968

PSAMMONALIA is sent to individuals interested in the study of the minute biota of aquatic sediments.

Editor: W. DUANE HOPE, Department of Invertebrate Zoology, Museum of Natural History, Smithsonian Institution, Washington, D. C., USA.

Board of Editors: JOHN S. GRAY, Welcome Marine Laboratory, Robin Hood's Bay, Yorkshire, England; ROBERT P. HIGGINS, Department of Biology, Wake Forest University, Winston-Salem, N. C., USA; DONALD J. ZINN, Department of Zoology, University of Rhode Island, Kingston, R. I., USA. 02881

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Report of the Meeting of the Association, 30 December, 1968.

The main items discussed at the business meeting included the question of whether or not registrants of *PSAMMONALIA* should establish a formal society in the near future, and, if so, select a name for the organization, elect officers, form a constitution and bylaws, etc.

At the meeting it was decided that we should continue to function as an informal organization. Although it was suggested that this association continue to exist within the framework of the Division of Invertebrate Zoology of the American Society of Zoologists, subsequent investigation has shown this to be impractical except for meeting purposes.

Dr. W. Duane Hope, Department of Invertebrate Zoology, Museum of Natural History, Smithsonian Institution, Washington, D. C. was elected acting chairman for a term of two years by those present. Dr. Hope was directed to appoint an *ad hoc* committee for the study of organizational matters and establish a system whereby the organization might function effectively with a minimum of formality.

In addition to the business meeting, two motion picture films were shown and a panel discussed selected topics pertaining to interstitial research.

Films Available on Interstitial Fauna.

The two 16mm B&W films shown at the New York Meeting of the Association were highly regarded by those present. The two films: "Biological Adaptations of Marine Sand Microfauna" by P. Tessier, B. Swedmark, and J. Dragesco, and "Halimohydra" by P. Tessier may be obtained on loan by writing: Mme H. Chesnais, FACSEA, 972 Fifth Avenue, New York, N. Y. 10021.

2) *Name of the Organization:* Considering the choice between the terms Association and Society, the committee recommends Association because of its less formal connotation. The subject of study can be defined by three terms (or derivatives of these terms) depending upon the degree of inclusiveness desired, i.e., meiobenthos, interstitial biota, and Psammon. Meiobenthos (-ology) is preferred because it denotes biota generally smaller than 2mm and association with marine and freshwater sediments. It includes organisms commonly neglected because of their small dimensions and inherent problems of collection and preparation for study. Meiobenthos not only includes interstitial biota in the strict sense (biota of the interstices of sedimentary particles) but also the epibenthic and burrowing biota of a similar size range. The term psammon etymologically and historically has denoted the biota of sand or more coars sediments and is, therefore, by its inferred restriction, less desirable in our organizational name.

The *ad hoc* committee for the study of organizational matters proposed the name: The Association of Meiobenthologists.

3) *Officers:* Until such time as reorganization is warranted, the officers shall include a Chairman, Board of Editors, and Board of Councilors. The Board of Editors shall consist of the Chairman and several members appointed by him; the Board shall be responsible for organizing, editing, and distribution the newsletter.

Prior to the next issue of *PSAMMONALIA*, persons representing different disciplines of meiobenthic research and diverse geographic regions as well, will be invited to volunteer their services as members of the Board of Councilors. Their contributions will be to (1) assist in gathering and compiling information for *PSAMMONALIA* (conferences, recent literature, etc.); (2) advise on organizational activities; and (3) represent the general interest of the membership. The duration of such services will be for 2 or more years, depending upon the availability of alternates. Names of the first members of the Board of Councilors will appear in the next newsletter.

While members of the Board of Councilors will be expected to do much of the gathering of information for the newsletter, the Board of Editors will continue to encourage all members of the Association to contribute information for inclusion in *PSAMMONALIA*.

(4) *Financial Support:* Expenses for previous issues of *PSAMMONALIA* have largely been assumed by Drs. Higgins and Zinn. With the present mailing list now over 100 it is necessary to request financial contributions if the goals of the newsletter are to be met. The *ad hoc* committee recommends that non-student members donate \$2.00 each year to help meet these expenses. The funds will be used only for purchasing such materials necessary for producing and mailing the newsletter. Student members will not be expected to donate funds for support.

hope that this enthusiastic support will grow, for it is contributions from all over the world that will increase the value of *PSAMMONALIA* for each of us.

The editors also wish to give special thanks to Dr. John Gray, who has acted as intermediary in contacting European meiobenthologists.

Future Issues of *PSAMMONALIA*.

A future issue of *PSAMMONALIA* will include information on European laboratories where meiobenthic research is being conducted. If the membership will respond, we would like to include occasional briefs of research being conducted by various individuals or groups of individuals. A future issue will contain such a report on the work being done in the Woods Hole community. Once again, this information depends on contributions from the membership; please help us. Let us have your comments on this issue.

The Association Invites New Membership.

Any interested person or institution may receive *PSAMMONALIA* by writing the Chairman.

Help Support *PSAMMONALIA*.

This issue of *PSAMMONALIA* (200 copies) has cost approximately \$0.40 per copy. The *ad hoc* committee has suggested that non-student members donate \$2.00 annually for the support of the newsletter. Make checks payable to "Association for Meiobenthologists" and send to Dr. W. Duane Hope, Department of Invertebrate Zoology, Museum of Natural History, Smithsonian Institution, Washington, D. C. 20560, USA. Future issues may depend upon your response.

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Membership Directory, Association of Meiobenthologists (revised April, 1968).

AX, PETER

Morphology, ecology and systematics; Interstitial fauna in general, and especially Turbellaria and Archiannelida.

Professor

II. Zoologisches Institut und Museum
der Universitat Gottingen
Berlinerstrasse 28
Gottingen, WEST GERMANY.

BOADEN, P.J.S.

Systematics, behavior and ecology of schizorhynchid Turbellaria, Archiannelida and Gastrotricha.

Department of Zoology
The Queen's University
Belfast, NORTH IRELAND.

SISTER BONAVENTURE

General interest.

College of New Rochelle
New Rochelle, New York 10805, USA.

BORRER, ARTHUR C.

Systematics-ecology; Ciliata.

Associate Professor of Zoology

Department of Zoology
University of New Hampshire
Durham, New Hampshire 03824, USA.

BOUSFIELD, EDWARD L.

Systematics-ecology; Amphipoda

Chief Zoologist

Department of Zoology
National Museum of Canada
Ottawa, Ontario, CANADA.

BOYKIN, JOHN C.

Anatomy-systematics; Kinorhyncha

Graduate student

Department of Zoology
University of Washington
Seattle, Washington 98105, USA.

BRINKHURST, RALPH O.

Systematics; Oligochaeta

Professor of Zoology

Department of Zoology
University of Toronto
Toronto, Ontario, CANADA

BRENOWITZ, HENRY

Ecology; Vertical distribution

Professor of Biology

Department of Biology
Adelphi College
Garden City, New York 11530, USA.

BUSH, LOUISE

Systematics-ecology; Turbellaria, Coelenterata

Associate Professor of Biology

Department of Zoology
Drew University
Madison, New Jersey 07940, USA.

CAHET, G.

Qualitative and quantitative aspects of organic degradation in sediments

Laboratoire Arago
Banyuls s/Mer 66, FRANCE.

CHANDLER, CLAY M.

Systematics-ecology; fw Turbellaria

Professor of Biology

Department of Biology
Bethel College
McKenzie, Tennessee 38201, USA.

CLAUSEN, CLAUS

Coelenterata, Gastrotricha

Zoological Laboratory

University of Bergen
Bergen, NORWAY.

CORLISS, JOHN O.

Systematics; Ciliata

Professor of Biology and Head

Department of Biological Sciences
University of Illinois at Chicago
Circle
Chicago, Illinois 60680, USA.

COULL, BRUCE C.

Ecology; CO₂ meiobenthos

Graduate Student

Department of Biology
Lehigh University
Bethlehem, Pennsylvania 18105, USA.

- FOUND, BRUCE W.
Ecology
Student
Department of Biology
Bowdoin College
Brunswick, Maine 04011, USA.
- FRIAUF, JAMES J.
Systematics-ecology; Gastrotricha
Associate Professor of Zoology
Department of Biology
Box 1612, Station B.
Vanderbilt University
Nashville, Tennessee 37203, USA.
- GERLACH, S. A.
Marine ecology
Professor
Institut fur Meeresforschung
Am Handelshafen 12
285 Bremerhaven 1, WEST GERMANY.
- GOMOIV, MARIAN T.
Ecology; Benthic Invertebrates
Laboratorul de Biologie Marinea al
Academiei R. S. Romania
Constanta (Cas. Post. 53), ROMANIA
- GRAY, JOHN S.
Systematics-ecology; Archiannelida
Welcome Marine Laboratory
Robin Hood's Bay
Yorkshire, ENGLAND.
- GRIMALDI, PIERO
Marine Gastrotricha
c/o Istituto di Zoologia e Anatomia
Comparata.
Via Amendola 165/A
70126 Bari, ITALY.
- GRIMALDI - de ZIO, SUSANNA
Marine nematodes
c/o Istituto di Zoologia e Anatomia
Comparata.
Via Amendola, 165/A
70126 Bari, ITALY.
- GUILLAUME, MARIE-CLAUDE
Ostracoda
Laboratoire de Zoologie
Faculte des Sciences
Universite de Paris
9 Qua St. Bernard
Paris (5^e), FRANCE.
- HAGERMAN, LARS
Ecology; Ostracods
Zoological Institute
Lund University
Lund, SWEDEN.
- HALL, JOHN R. III
Ecology; Mystacocarida
Graduate Student
Department of Zoology
University of North Carolina
Chapel Hill, North Carolina 27514, USA.
- HAND, CADET
Systematics; Coelenterata
Professor of Zoology and Director
Bodega Marine Laboratory
University of California
Berkeley, California 94720, USA.
- L'HARDY, JEAN-PIERRE
*Systematics and biology;
Turbellaria and Polychaeta*
Station Biologique
29 N. Roscoff, FRANCE.
- HASBROUCK, EDWARD R.
Systematics-ecology; Nematoda
Plant Nematologist
Bureau of Plant Pathology
California State Department of
Agriculture
1220 North Street
Sacramento, California 95814, USA.

- JOUIN, CLAUDE
*Systematics and anatomy;
 Archiannelida*
 Laboratoire de Zoologie
 Faculte des Sciences
 9 quai St. Bernard
 75 - Paris, FRANCE
- KARLING, TOR G.
Lower Metazoa, mainly Turbellarians
 Professor, Dr.
 State Museum for Natural History
 Section for Invertebrate Zoology
Stockholm 50, SWEDEN
- KIRBY-SMITH, WILLIAM W.
Ecology-physiology
 Graduate Student
 Duke University Marine Laboratory
Beaufort, North Carolina 28516, USA.
- KIRSTEUER, ERNST
*Systematics; Gnathostomulida,
 Archiannelida*
 Assistant Curator
 Department of Living Invertebrates
 American Museum of Natural History
New York, New York 10024, USA.
- KLEIN, GHERTEIN
Ecology
 Graduate Student
 Institute of Marine Science
 University of Miami
 1 Rickenbacker Causeway
Miami, Florida 33149, USA.
- KRITZLER, HENRY
Ecology
 Professor and Resident Scientific
 Director
 Department of Oceanography
 Florida State University Marine Lab-
 oratory
 Route 1
Crawfordville, Florida 32327, USA.
- KUHL, HEINRICH
*Hydrography and Hydrobiology of
 estuaries*
 Institut für Küsten-und Binnenfishcherei
 Laboratorium Cuxhaven
 219 Cuxhaven B. d. Alten Liebel
Cuxhaven, WEST GERMANY.
- LACASSAGNE, MICHEL
*Systematics, anatomy, histology
 and embryology; mesopsammic
 hydrozoans*
 Laboratoire de Zoologie
 Faculte des Sciences
 9 quai St. Bernard
 75 - Paris (5^e), FRANCE
- LASSERRE, PIERRE
Marine Oligochaeta
 Institut de Biologie Marine
 2, Rue du Professeur Jolyet
 33 - Arcachon, FRANCE.
- LEE, JOHN J.
Physiological-ecology; Foraminifera
 Director, Living Foraminiferan Lab.
 Department of Micropaleontology
 American Museum of Natural History
New York, New York 10074, USA.
- LEVANDOWSKY, MICHAEL
Ecology, Food chains
 Graduate Student
 Department of Zoology
 Barnard College
 Columbia University
New York, New York 10027, USA.
- LIPPOLD, THEODORE F.
Physiology-ecology; Protozoa
 Teacher of Biology
 Department of Science
 Dighton-Rehoboth Regional High School
Rehoboth, Massachusetts 02769, USA.

- RHOADS, DONALD C.
Ecology; relationship of macro-faunal reworking and meiofaunal distribution
 Department of Geology
 Yale University
New Haven, Connecticut 06520, USA.
- RIEGER, REINHARD
Turbellaria
 I. Zoologisches Institut der Universität
 Dr. Karl Lueger-Ring I
A-1010 Vienna, AUSTRIA
- RIEMANN, FRANZ
Systematics-ecology; interstitial fauna, particularly Nematoda
 Institut für Meeresforschung
 AM Handelshafen 12
285 Bremerhaven, WEST GERMANY
- RISER, NATHAN W.
Systematics; Nemertinea, Sipunculoidea
 Director
 Marine Science Institute
 Northeastern University
East Point, Nahant, Massachusetts 01908, USA.
- ROSENFELD, DAVID C.
Systematics; Copepoda
 Assistant Professor of Biology
 Department of Biology
 Quinnipiac College
Hamden, Connecticut 06518, USA.
- RUSSELL, HENRY D.
Systematics-ecology; Opisthobranchiata
 Research Fellow in Mollusks
 Department of Malacology
 Museum of Comparative Zoology
 Harvard University
Cambridge, Massachusetts 02138, USA.
- SALVINI-PLAWEN, LUITFRIED v.
Ecology, morphology and ontogeny; Mollusca and Cnidaria
 I. Zoologisches Institut der Universität
 Dr. Karl Lueger-Ring I
A-1010 Vienna, AUSTRIA.
- SAWTELL, JAMES J.
Ecology; Tardigrada
 Assistant Professor of Biology
 Department of Biology
 Bethany College
Bethany, West Virginia 26032, USA.
- SCHMIDT, PETER
Ecology of interstitial fauna; Kinorhyncha
 II. Zoologisches Institut der Universität
 Berlinerstrasse 28
Gottingen, WEST GERMANY.
- SCHMIDT, WALDO L.
Systematics; Crustacea
 Research Associate
 Department of Invertebrate Zoology
 Museum of Natural History
 Smithsonian Institution
Washington, D. C. 20560, USA.
- SCHOPF, THOMAS J.M.
Systematics; Entoprocta, Ectoprocta
 Assistant Professor of Geology
 Department of Geology
 Lehigh University
Bethlehem, Pennsylvania 18105, USA.
- SIMON, JOSEPH L.
Systematics, development; Archannelida, Polychaeta
 Assistant Professor
 Department of Zoology
 University of South Florida
Tampa, Florida 33620, USA.

WILLIAMS, ROBERT

Systematics-biology; Ostracoda

Research Assistant

Paleontological Institute

Department of Geology

University of Kansas

Lawrence, Kansas 66044, USA.

YOUNG, DAVID K.

Benthic ecology

Research Associate

Systematics-Ecology Program

Marine Biological Laboratory

Woods Hole, Massachusetts 02543, USA.

ZINN, DONALD J.

Systematics-ecology; Mystacocarida,

Copepoda

Professor of Zoology

Department of Zoology

University of Rhode Island

Kingston, Rhode Island 02881, USA.