

630
BRUCE COULL

P S A M M O N A L I A

Number 7

April, 1969

Newsletter of the Association of Meiobenthologists

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

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subscription fee for the newsletter beginning January, 1970. To assess your thoughts on this proposal, we ask that you indicate on the appended ballot under what circumstances you may be interested in continuing to receive the newsletter after January, 1970.

Another point for consideration is the status of the so-called "Association of Meiobenthologists." Those who initially organized the newsletter selected a name to be used in reference to the group of individuals receiving the newsletter. The name first employed was PSAMMONOLOGISTS SOCIETY, later changed to ASSOCIATION OF MEIOBENTHOLOGISTS, the name still in use. However, this is not a formal organization in that it has no constitution, stated purpose, or elected officers. Clarification of these points seems appropriate since in the questionnaires that have been used to expand the mailing list there is no reference to an association of any kind. As a result, those who responded to the questionnaire not only began receiving the newsletter, but found themselves listed as members of the ASSOCIATION OF MEIOBENTHOLOGISTS.

While this name serves a useful purpose, it is relevant to ask ourselves if the ASSOCIATION OF MEIOBENTHOLOGISTS should be more than a name. By adopting a constitution and electing officers, thus becoming a formal organization, we would gain further means of promoting research on interstitial biota. Practical advantages would include obtaining an effective means of organizing local (national) and international meetings, or other activities, and in obtaining a spokesman for the Association who would be in a position to represent the Association officially before representatives of programs (IBP, for example), or expeditions in promoting the participation of meiobenthologists. The supporting office of secretary-treasurer would not only assist the chairman, but provide assistance to lighten the burden of the editors.

The duration of office terms and method of rotating the offices from one country to another are details that can be resolved later, if organization of a formal ASSOCIATION OF MEIOBENTHOLOGISTS is favored. The important matter now is to determine how the recipients of PSAMMONALIA feel with regard to these matters. For this reason we ask that you indicate your preference on the appended ballot and return it to the editor no later than June 15, 1969. Thank you for your cooperation.

Duane Hope, Editor
John Gray
Robert Higgins
Donald Zinn

INSTITUT FÜR MEERESFORSCHUNG, BREMERHAVEN

Dr. Gerlach has provided us with news of some of his own current activities as well as those of his associates and students at Bremerhaven.

Dr. Gerlach, himself, is currently working on kinorhynchs of the genus *Caterina* Gerlach, 1957 collected from a sandy substrate at a depth of 35 m in the North Sea. Until recently members of this genus had been found only in the sand of tropical beaches.

Dr. Gerlach and Miss M. Schrage recently finished a paper on experimental studies of the shrimp *Crangon crangon* which were fed exclusively with living nematodes (*Panagrellus redivivus*) and survived on this diet up to 240 days. *Crangon* is able to pick up free-living marine nematodes from a sandy substrate at a rate of 5 per minute, but the biomass of this food source is too small to allow growth of *Crangon*.

Dr. Riemann has recently completed a paper on a new species of Monhystrium (Nematoda: Monhysteridae) from the gill chamber of the tropical land crab *Cardisoma*. It will appear in Veroffentlichungen des Instituts für Meeresforschung in Bremerhaven. Dr. Riemann is also completing a paper on interstitial nematodes from the near-shore banks of tropical rivers in Colombia, South America.

Dr. W. von Thun has completed a thesis, submitted to Kiel University, in which he reports having demonstrated that five species of brackish water nematodes have a life span of 4 weeks to 2 months and produce 17 to 13 ova. His thesis deals further with feeding behavior and other details of their live histories.

Dr. Sievert Lorenzen, who worked for some time at Bremerhaven, has submitted a thesis to Kiel University on the ecology of salt marsh meiofauna. He now has a paper in press in Veroffentlichungen des Institut für Meeresforschung in Bremerhaven on free-living nematodes from salt marshes.

Mr. Eike Rachor is finishing a paper on the demanian systems of the nematode family Oncholaimidae.

Mr. Konrad Stripp has submitted a thesis to Hamburg University on benthos in Heligoland Bay in which he discloses that meiofauna benthos is 1.5 times richer in late summer than in late winter months.

SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION

The Office of Oceanography and Limnology, Smithsonian Institution has announced the addition of Dr. Robert P. Higgins to its staff. Dr. Higgins, formerly of Wake Forest University, spent a year of research at the Marine Biological Laboratory in Woods Hole before accepting this new position. In July of this year, he will begin a two-year directorship of the Smithsonian's Mediterranean Marine Sorting Center in Salamambo (Tunis) Tunisia. Dr. Neil C. Hulings, present director of the Center since 1967 will return to his position as Supervisor for Meiobenthos at the Smithsonian Oceanographic Sorting Center in Washington, D. C.

EMPLOYMENT AND EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

The Editor commonly receives inquiries about the availability of positions and educational opportunities in various fields incorporated by the scope of PSAMMONALIA. If such opportunities would be directed to the Editor, he would gladly make note of them in future issues or keep them on file and personally contact students and senior scientists who are looking for assistance in employment or finding a suitable program in which they might continue their education in the field of meiobenthology.

TRANSLATIONS

Russian literature on meiobenthology will be translated free of charge by the National Lending Library for Science and Technology, Boston SPa, Yorkshire, England, provided the person requesting the translation is willing to edit it. Otherwise, they charge a small fee for xerox copies of translations.

The following two are currently available upon request:

- (1) Kiseleva, G. A. Influence of substratum on settlement and metamorphosis of larvae of benthonic fauna. Akad. nauk. U.S.S.R. 1967, 1:71-84 - RTS 4356. 1.15.0d.
- (2) Sveshnikov, V. A. Archannelid and Polychaeta larvae from Possjet Bay, Sea of Japan. Issled. fauny morei. 1967, 5(13):125-160.

John S. Gray

- (3) A grant for an international conference on Meiofauna has been made to the Mediterranean Marine Sorting Center, Salamambo (Tunis), Tunisia. This conference will be held at the Tunis Hilton Hotel, July 1-11. Participation is by invitation only. The purpose of the conference is to establish more uniform and effective procedures in sampling, preserving and processing meiofauna. The next issue of PSAMMONALIA will contain a report on the conference.

NEW MEMBERS

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Errata -- PSAMMONALIA No. 6:

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- WOLTERECK, R. 1905. Zur kopffrage der Anneliden. Verh. dtsch. zool. Ges. pp. 154-186.
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RECENT LITERATURE

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X GITAY, A. 1968. Preliminary data on the ecology of the level-bottom fauna of Lake Tiberias. *Israel J. of Zoology*, 17(2-3):81-96.

GOMOIU, M. T. 1968. Quelques considerations sur la repartition et la dynamique des Mollusques Psammobiontes de la mer Noire. *Rapp. Comm. int. Mer. Medit.* 19:187-189.

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