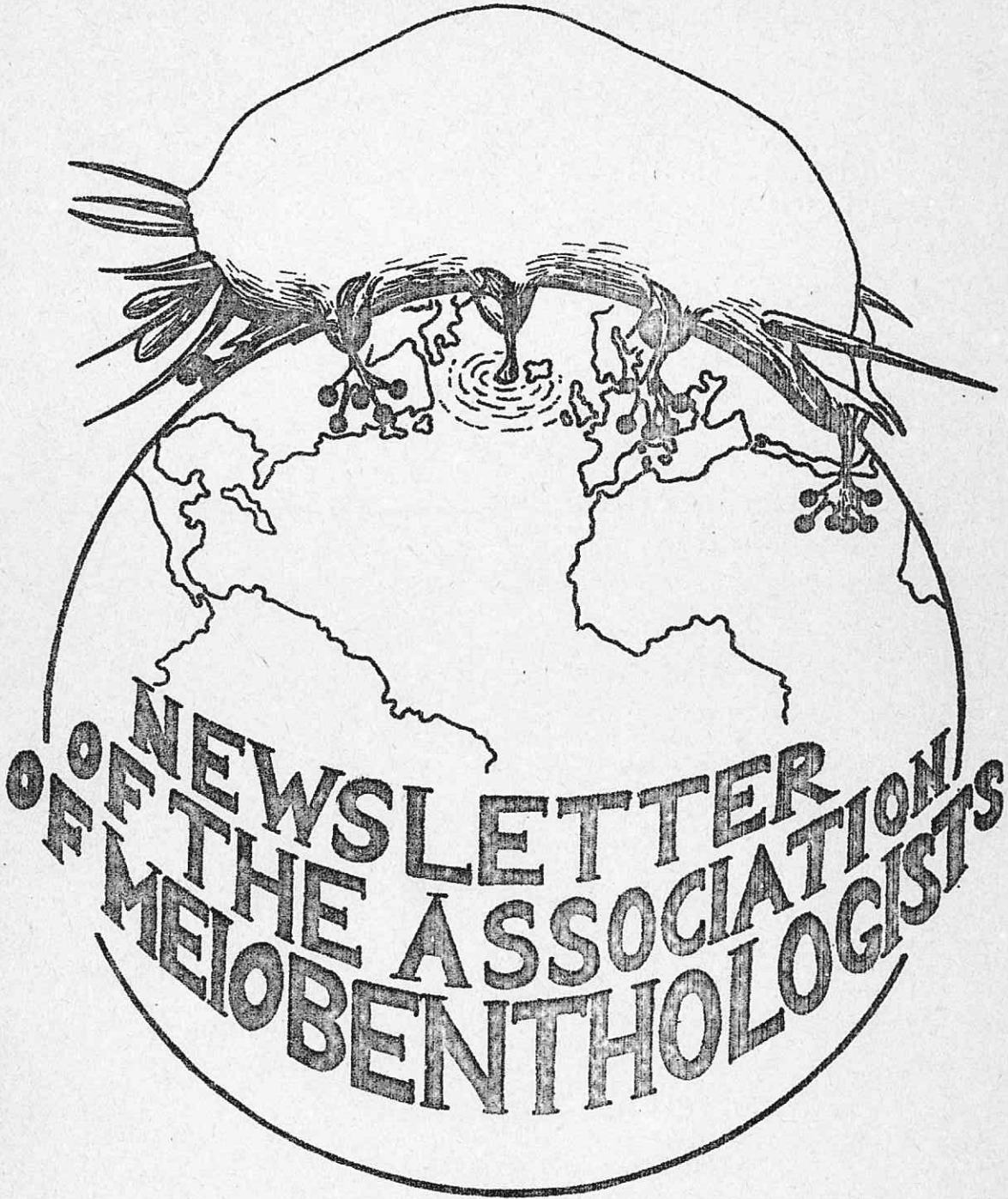


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PEAMMONALIA



1972

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Newsletter of the Association of Meiobenthologists

Number 18

October, 1972

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E D I T O R I A L

In consequence of a journey to South America this third issue of Psammonalia is published a little later than planned. The next one is expected to reach the members in December - January.

The cover of the last two issues was designed by David Masry, Eilat - whose work has previously much appreciated by members. The new cover was planned in Göttingen; further suggestions in this direction would be very welcome. Growing numbers of members are supporting Psammonalia with advice, information and critical suggestions. I regret that I can not always answer personally, and I therefore avail myself of this opportunity to thank everybody for this cooperation.

In one of the next issues I intend to enclose a revised issue of members addresses and should therefore be grateful if everybody would carefully look on the address on the envelope and if necessary let me have the corrections as soon as possible.

Wilfried Westheide
Editor

F i n a n c i a l R e p o r t

Brought forward	DM 339.14
Suscriptions received	<u>141.23</u>
Total	480.37
Cost of producing issue No. 17	<u>227.54</u>
Balance	<u>252.83</u> =====

Please do not let the Association be supported only by a few members. Please pay up. Annual dues of three dollars shall be made to account Dr. Wilfried Westheide, Kreissparkasse Göttingen No. 100034057 !

N E W M E M B E R S

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(I am interested in the importance of the meiofauna for the ecological energy flows in Baltic sublittoral soft and sand bottoms. I am still in the initial stages of this work, that is identifying the species of importance (hard fauna), and finding out what their abundance is, and how it varies in the course of the year. This will be followed by studies of production, respiration, food chains etc. My research is part of a larger project, "Energy flow through the baltic ecosystem", carried out by the Askö Laboratory.)

Dr. Olav Giere
Zoologisches Institut
und Zoologisches Museum
der Universität Hamburg
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Papendamm 3

(I am working since 1968 on the systematics and ecology of Oligochaetes, mainly enchytraeids, in marine shores. Measuring environmental factors in the sediment (i.e. salinity, eh, ODR, pH, temperature) with specially constructed electrodes I tried to find out the ecological structure of the microbionics and to relate it to the inhomogenous oligochaete distribution. Recent investigations deal with the food supply of enchytraeids, the productive role of the often abundant populations and with lab experiments on the influence of various ecofactors on distribution and reproduction.)

Instituut voor Zeewetenschappelijk Onderzoek:
"The Institute, founded 1970, resumed the activities of the former
Belgian Zeewetenschappelijk Instituut - Institut d'Etudes Maritimes
Oostende. Several universities, institutes and scientific laboratories
are cooperating with its research work, thus covering the whole field
of marine scientific research. There are two editions:

- 1. COLLECTED PUBLICATIONS - (Vol. 2 - 1972 is now ready for shipment) - it is sent either on an exchange basis with periodicals from other institutes or to interested people or libraries for the equivalent of 500 Bfr.
- 2. MEDDEDELINGEN & INFORMATIE

this is a bi-monthly bulletin for "communications and informations" to the members of this Institute. Actually only for internal use, published in Dutch."

Bruce E. Hopper: "Dr. Alejandro Ciardelli, acting chairman of the Biology Department of the University of Caragena, has expressed an interest in initiating studies of marine nematodes from the shores of Colombia, South America. Those of us who deal mainly with the marine nematodes fully realize how little attention is being directed towards this group on a world-wide basis. Therefore, any encouragement and/or assistance that we could give to Dr. Ciardelli which would enable his department to contribute to the overall knowledge of the marine nematoda ought to be of significant priority. Dr. Ciardelli is urgently in need of literature, both taxonomic and ecologic, in order to get his program operational. Anyone able to contribute to this worthy cause is asked to either contact and/or send literature to: Dr. Alejandro Ciardelli, Biology Department, Iniversidad de Cartagena, Apartado Aereo 13821 Cartagena, Colombia, South America."

Howard M. Platt: "I have recently (successfully!) completed a Ph.D. thesis, entitled "The ecology and taxonomy of free-living marine nematodes from an intertidal sandflat in Strangford Lough." The work was carried out in the Zoology Department, Queen's University of Belfast, under the supervision of Dr. P.J.S. Roden. Publications emanating from this work will be available in the near future.

In November, 1972, I shall be going to South Georgia, Antarctica, for a period of 21/2 years (without a break!). I shall be initiating a programme to study the sublttoreal metobenthic production ecology, utilizing SCUBA techniques. If any member can provide me with references, reprints or other information on Antarctic species I should

be very grateful. The work will be part of a wider study of the marine biology of the Antarctic regions being undertaken by the British Antarctic Survey."

My new address: Dr. Howard M. Platt, British Antarctic Survey,
Monks Wood Experimental Station,
Abbots Ripton, Huntingdon, England.

G.C. Rao: "At the present time, I am mainly engaged with taxonomic studies on marine interstitial fauna inhabiting the intertidal sands of Indian coast. Execution of this long term project is made possible through the facilities available at the Zoological Survey of India, Calcutta, where frequent faunistic surveys are planned on the Indian coast. Under this programme, recently I collected interstitial fauna from Andaman Islands located in the Bay of Bengal and on Gujarat coast bordering North Arabian Sea. In view of the high faunal diversity, I could not alone study all the groups of animals collected. Of the major groups, I am now working on Gastrotricha, Archiannelida and Polychaeta, while Copepoda, Isopoda, Amphipoda, Mollusca and aberrant Coelenterata are being worked out in collaboration with some outside specialists (Dr. J.B.J. Wells, Mme N. Coineau and Dr. L.V. Salvini-Plawen). Several interesting meiofaunal species have been discovered in the collection and are being described. Results of the completed study are incorporated in a few papers and communicated for publication. Bulk of the work is still under progress at different stages. However, the groups Turbellaria, Nematoda and Oligochaeta are not being studied for the present. My future work will include further surveys of new areas on the Indian coast, collection of fauna and their study. I feel, still a lot of taxonomic work is to be carried out on meiofauna of the seas around India. As at present, very few Indian zoologists are engaged in the study of interstitial fauna, I hope to make a satisfactory contribution to the knowledge of the fauna of this region with the kind co-operation of outside workers pursuing similar studies."

A. Sasekumar: "Nearly a year ago I began work on the distribution and abundance of mangrove meiofauna with special reference to three stations on the mangrove shore. Station 1 is about the level of mean low water of neap tides and is forested by the mangrove Avicennia. Station 2 is a Rhizophora forest and is about the level of mean high water of neap tides, while station 3 is a Bruguiera forest at the level of extreme high water of spring tides.

The mangrove meiofauna (53 μ -2000 μ) is made up of foraminifera, nematodes, harpacticoid copepods with oligochaetes and kinorhynchans in less

numbers. Nearly 95% of the meiofauna is concentrated in the top 5 cm of the soil, and its mean density vary from 1,500 to 2,500 / 10 cm². The basic environmental parameters are being recorded and these include pH, Rh, organic carbon, particle size and soil water contents."

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M E E T I N G S

" In conjunction with the First International Congress of Systematic and Evolutionary Biology scheduled for 4-12 August, 1973, at the University of Colorado, Boulder, Colorado, U.S.A., I am organizing a special interest group on meiofauna. There will be a workshop and round table discussion during one day of the congress and probably a contributed papers session on meiofauna. The contributed papers session, hopefully, will be part of the entire ICSEB program.

I would like to invite anyone attending the congress to attend our meiofauna sessions. When I have more details regarding date, time, room, etc., I shall give informations. Any Psammalia readers interested should contact me."

Bruce C. Coull, Ph.D.
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SECOND INTERNATIONAL MEIOFAUNA CONFERENCE

University of York, England

JUNE 7th-14th, 1973

Enclosed you will all find copies of the second announcement of this conference.

N E W B O O K S

ELTRINGHAM, S.K. 1971: Life in Mud and Sand. The English Universities Press, Ltd., London. 210pp. (£ 2,95).

"Eltringham's book is probably the most concise and comprehensive introduction to this habitat in the English language. Chapter headings indicate the breadth of coverage: The physical background; Categorizing the shore fauna; The natural history of the shore fauna; The spatial distribution of the fauna; Seasons on the shore; The shore environment and its limiting factors; The special case of estuaries; The plants of the shore; and The shore as an ecosystem. Aside from its being well written, the value of the book to meiobenthologists lies in the author's attempt to integrate information on macro-, meio- and microfauna and flora. Its deficiencies appear to lie in the preponderant reliance on British literature, utilization of the Andrewartha and Birch system of environmental categorization and neglect of current perspectives in population ecology. Nonetheless, it would be difficult to pack more information into such a short volume, and the perspectives which are offered are sufficiently provocative as to suggest several dozen doctoral-level research projects. The book is especially recommended for budding meiobenthologists, though it may be read with much benefit by seasoned workers as well."

W.D. Hummon

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Report of the Seminar on Methods of Detection, Measuring and Monitoring of Pollutants in the Marine Environment. FAO Fish. Rep., 99 Suppl.: 123p.

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17 June 72

A Bibliography of Fresh Water and Soil Gastrotricha

William D. Hummon

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This listing contains references not included in and those occurring subsequent to the most recent comprehensive monograph on the Gastrotricha: REMANE, A. 1936. Gastrotricha. In: G. Bronns (ed.), Klassen und Ordnungen des Tierreichs. Band 4, Abt.II, Buch 1, Teil 2, Lfrg.1-2, pp. 1-242. Akad. Verlagsges., Leipzig. Additional citations will be most gratefully received. THIS IS NOT A PUBLICATION AND SHOULD NOT BE CITED AS SUCH. Supplementary citations are appended at the end.

Legend regarding contents of papers:

- * Original description(s)
- (S) Systematics and taxonomy
- (D) Distribution and biogeography
- (B) Biology and ecology
- (G) General and review
- (N) References with no species designation

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