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P S A M M O N A L I A

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## EDITORIAL

John Tietjen and I urge each of you who has not yet paid your dues to send your \$3 (1974 dues) or \$6 (1974/1975 dues) to John immediately. If you are located in North America you have paid your dues or you would not be receiving this issue of PSAMMONALIA. Unfortunately, we were forced to drop 19 North American members from the membership for non-payment of dues. For those outside North America that have not paid their dues, this issue of PSAMMONALIA (#25) will be your last unless your dues are paid. This ultimatum, of course, excludes those members in countries unable to export currencies. We cannot continue to operate with a small percentage of the membership paying for the printing, mailing, etc. Each issue costs us between \$130-\$180 to produce. Based on the current Treasurer's report, we can produce 3 more issues of PSAMMONALIA after this one - so if you have not paid - please do so as soon as possible.

Please note the increased foraminiferan references in the recent literature section of this issue. Bob Ellison of the University of Virginia kindly supplied these and they make a most welcome addition to our newsletter. Dr. Ellison assures me he will continue to send these in and we thank him very much.

Fifty (50) members have returned the ballot which appeared in PSAMMONALIA No. 24 on the proposed constitutional amendment to change the Association's name to International Association of Meiobenthologists. If you have not yet mailed in your ballot, please do so at your earliest convenience - every vote counts.

*Bruce C. Coull*  
Bruce C. Coull, Editor

## FINANCIAL REPORT

Credits

Balance on hand (prior to PSAMMONALIA #24)	\$376.12	
Dues and Contributions received (4/19- 7/7/74)	487.41	
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TOTAL		\$863.53

Debits

Cost to produce PSAMMONALIA #24	\$168.80	
Bank Service Charges (foreign currency exchange etc.)	15.23	
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TOTAL	\$184.03	

TOTAL BALANCE on hand 10 July 1974		\$670.50
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 (Biology of harpacticoids, particularly  
Tisbe)

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 (Sublittoral interstitial fauna of  
 reef areas)

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NEWS FROM THE MEMBERS

B. R. BURNETT, R. R. HESSLER, H. THIEL, D. THISTLE, Scripps Institution of Oceanography: During October-November 1973 we sampled macro-, meio-, and microfauna in the San Diego Trough, 15 miles off San Diego at a depth of 1200m. Sampling was done with modified Ekman grabs of 20 x 20 cm; each grab was subdivided into 4 subcores of 10 x 10 cm. The samples were taken by RUM (Remote Underwater Manipulator) and all its actions on the bottom were observed by television on board ORB (Oceanographic Research Buoy). This method allowed very careful sampling. The grabs were pushed very slowly into the sediment, and no bow wave was created. The grabs are sealed top and bottom and brought to the surface in upright position. Five grab samples as well as other type of samples could be taken in one lowering. Using transponder position location, each of the samples can be accurately located within the 500 m triangular sampling site. Our studies are part of a cooperative program, which includes investigations on mega-, macro-, meio-, and microfauna; bacterial activity; ATP measurements, in situ respiration of single fishes and of the benthic community. A 15-minute movie has been made highlighting the actions of RUM on the bottom. Meiofauna was taken from subcores (100 cm<sup>2</sup>) to a depth of 1 cm for the study of harpacticoid small-scale spatial distribution and from meio-stecher subsamples (10 cm<sup>2</sup>) to a depth of 6 cm for quantitative analyses of total meiofauna. In all 50 grabs were taken. We will obtain information on number and biomass variation for the different taxa on transects of varying length e.g. sampling intervals of 0.1, 1, 10 and 100 m.

G. BOUCHER, Roscoff: I am presently studying the seasonal distribution of marine nematodes in sublittoral fine sand in the West Channel near Roscoff. Monthly samples (collected by SCUBA) are sectioned at 1 cm levels to study nematode vertical distribution. So far, I have been working mainly on systematics, since many of the species encountered are new. Two papers are presently in press, one on the genus Rhynchonema, and the other on the Desmodorida and soon I hope to complete a study of Chromadoridae. The nematode population is stable, although some species do show seasonal changes in their number. Specific species occupy certain depths in the cores, and often only in that particular layer. To delineate the factors affecting nematode distribution, a bacteriologist (S. CHAMROUX) and myself, are maintaining an enclosed laboratory ecosystem with sand from my station. We hope to correlate the distribution of nematodes and bacteria, under controlled physical and nutritional parameters.

B. C. COULL, University of South Carolina: Besides our (Winona Vernberg and myself) long-term study on ecology, physiology and systematics of South Carolina estuarine meiofauna (a topic I will report on in more detail in an issue of PSAMMONALIA that does not have much news from the members), 9 colleagues and I recently completed a meiobenthos cruise on the R/V EASTWARD. Participating on the cruise were R. E. Ellison, R. P. Higgins, W. D. Hope, W. D. Hummon, R. M. Rieger, W. E. Sterrer, H. Thiel, and J. H. Tietjen. We quantitatively, replicate sampled 3 stations off the North Carolina coast (400, 800, 4000 m) with a box cover. Upon retrieval meio-stecher subsamples were immediately split into cm layers. After 6 days at sea, we all returned to shore and engaged in sorting the samples. Live samples were sorted first, then stained for further examination. After one week in our on-shore meiobenthos workshop, many samples were sorted, taxa identified and a good deal of comradary established. The project, supported by NSF, was a most beneficial experience - the results of which we hope to publish next year.

J. S. GRAY, Robin Hood's Bay: Following on from a recent study of effects of interacting heavy metals on protozoan growth rates are two projects. One by Ph. D. Student Jim Parker is a comparison, using response surface analyses of effects of interacting pollutants on Uronema marina from unpolluted and polluted areas in order to ascertain the range of adaptation to pollutants. Field work, together with Eike Hartwig has produced seventy species of ciliates most new to Britain. The second project by Ned Ashby is a study of Uronema marina in continuous culture using a two stage chemostat. The chemostat has been run twice for over 3 months and even with constant rates of bacterial input populations of ciliates fluctuate in a cyclical manner, but with more complex cycles than predicted by the Lotka-Volterra equations. Computer simulations are being run to try and unravel the cycles. A new run of the chemostat with added heavy metals will be made in an attempt to measure adaptation rates to the pollutant.

For myself I have completed a review paper on animal-sediment relationships (Oceanogr. and Marine Biology, 1974) which is in press and have completed the first part of a two-year study of the meiofauna of the Tees estuary. Using classificatory and ordination techniques, the annelid fauna appears to be related to sediment stability. No major influences of pollutants could be observed. This work is being written up.

Two research projects are planned. One a study of energetics of a mud-living copepod (Platychelipus) with an added component on the influence of pollutants. The second project is a simulation study of a tidal beach varying dissolved organic matter input in order to study community structure and function.

C. HEIP, Universiteit Gent: We recently started an investigation on the ecology of nematodes in the brackish water locality which I have been studying since 1968 (the results on copepods and ostracods will be published in the near future). The importance of nematodes in all marine benthic environments is not reflected in the amount of work on this group; this is probably due to the very considerable systematic difficulties encountered in studying the group. In our laboratory is a team of well known nematode specialists and this, we hope, will enable us to overcome systematic problems. We have started to study the vertical distribution of nematodes; the results agree with published accounts as to the point that nematodes occur to considerable depths in completely anaerobic sediments. This particular sample corresponded to a density of five million nematodes per m<sup>2</sup>. We developed a good method to extract nematodes from mud in a nearly quantitative way. We hope to study the density of all nematode species (around 20) during a year and to correlate these results with culture experiments in the laboratory.

R. M. RIEGER, University of North Carolina: At present our research group includes, besides myself (Systematics and Ecology of Interstitial Turbellaria and Archannelida), my wife, Gunda E. Rieger, as a visiting postdoctoral fellow from the University of Vienna (Comparative fine structure analysis of the body wall of soft-bodied marine meiofauna), 6 graduate students: M. Crezee (Systematics and Ecology of the Acoel Turbellaria Solenophilomorphae), D. Doe (Comparative fine structure and study of the pharynx bulbosus in higher Turbellaria), R. Farris (Systematics and Ecology of Gnathostomulida from N. C. and Bermuda, in collaboration with W. E. Sterrer), D. Nixon (Microdistribution and tidal dynamics of Taumastoderma bunti FENCHEL 1970); E. Rupper (Systematics and Ecology of Gastrotrichs from N. C. and Archachon, France); S. Tyler (Comparative fine structure analysis of adhesive organs in interstitial fauna). In a general framework we are concentrating our efforts in two major lines of research: 1) Comparative microanatomy at the ultrastructure level with special emphasis on the construction of body wall and pharynx in soft-bodied marine meiofauna. 2) Character variability population analysis and speciation mechanisms in soft-bodied marine meiofauna. This part is carried out jointly with W. E. Sterrer, Bermuda Biological Station.

G. C. RAO, Calcutta: Another expedition to the Andaman Archipelago was recently undertaken by the Zoological Survey of India during February-April, 1974. This time favorable weather conditions allowed me to make satisfactory collections of the fauna, which appeared quite rich with representatives of almost all the animal groups typical of the habitat. In addition to the collection of certain ecological data, preliminary examination of some taxa i.e. Hydrozoa, Archiannelida, Polychaeta, Gastrotricha, Kinorhyncha, Copepoda, Isopoda, Amphipoda, Tardigrada, Gastropoda and Holothuroidea, was carried out during the expedition. It will take a long time to complete a detailed taxonomic study of the major groups, the fauna probably has many a new species, in addition to the previously known ones. I hope to publish these results slowly in several papers (some in collaboration with other specialists), although difficulties are arising concerning publication of these articles in Indian scientific periodicals. Some of the faunal results from earlier investigations of the area are at different stages of publication.

W. D. HUMMON, Ohio University: I taught "Ecology of Benthic Micrometazoa" during the first summer session at The College of Marine Studies Field Station, University of Delaware. The class, with four graduate students and three post graduate participants, conducted a project applying identical sampling programs to two parallel whole-beach transects. Differences in density and distribution of major meiofaunal taxa between them were assessed. The two transects, 20 m apart, had similar sediments but reflected a hydrographic gradient, in that the profile distance of one was twice that of the other. Preliminary analysis indicates that the shorter, steeper transect had reduced numbers of nematodes, ostracods, juvenile brachiuran decapods, rotifers, oligochaetes and tardigrades (in decreasing order of sampled numbers), but increased numbers of gastrotrichs and nauplii. Turbellarians and copepods remained essentially unchanged. Of unexpected importance was the finding that egg masses of Limulus polyhemus could have a striking effect on meiofaunal numbers. Based on weighted averages from ten sets of sample duplicates, with and without eggs, in zones where eggs were present there occurred an increase of nematodes, gastrotrichs, turbellarians, rotifers and oligochaetes, and a decrease in ostracods, copepods, nauplii and tardigrades.

I received one of 33 NATO Postdoctoral Fellowships awarded this year by the U. S. to scientists and social scientists, and the only one in ecology. I will work for the year 1974-75 with Alasdair McIntyre at the Marine Laboratory in Aberdeen. The research, entitled "Dynamics and variations of intra-generic biological accomodation in marine beach communities," will be conducted primarily at the Loch Ewe and Firth of Clyde sites. Data to be analyzed will include that collected during the year's tenure as well as that already available from previous collections.

#### ANNOUNCEMENTS

##### Meetings:

INTERNATIONAL SYMPOSIUM ON EVOLUTION OF POST-PALEOZOIC OSTRACODA,  
18-26 August 1974. For further information contact:

Prof. Dr. G. Hartmann  
Zoologisches Institut u. Museum  
Universität Hamburg  
D-2 Hamburg 13  
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1st INTERNATIONAL MEETING OF MEIOFAUNA PHYSIOLOGICAL ECOLOGY,  
25-29 September 1974, Arcachon, France. For further information contact:

Dr. Pierre Lasserre  
Institut de Biologie Marine  
Université de Bordeaux  
2 rue du Professeur Joyet,  
F-33120 Arcachon, France

9th EUROPEAN SYMPOSIUM ON MARINE BIOLOGY, 2-8 October 1974, Oban, Scotland.  
Theme: "Biochemistry, physiology, and behaviour of marine organisms in  
relation to their ecology." For further information contact:

Dr. Harold Barnes  
Dunstaffnage Marine Research Laboratory  
P. O. Box 3  
Oban, Argyll, Scotland

#### Publications:

The first issue of a new journal, PALEOBIOLOGY, is scheduled for publication in the Spring of 1974. The journal, sponsored by the Paleontological Society, has as its objective to bring together papers of general interest that emphasize the biological aspects of paleontology. Dr. Ralph G. Johnson, Co-Editor writes, "We also hope to publish papers concerning research utilizing recent organisms and systems if they have strong paleobiological implications. I would hope the journal would attract papers on fossil meiobenthos (forams, ostracodes, etc.) as well as general papers on their evolution." Subscriptions are \$8/year for members of the Paleontological Society, \$12/year for non-members. Potential contributors or subscribers should contact: PALEOBIOLOGY, Department of Geophysical Sciences, University of Chicago, 5734 S. Ellis Ave., Chicago, Ill. 60637 USA.

RECENT LITERATURE

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