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P S A M M O N A L I A

Newsletter of the International Association of Meiobenthologists

Number 28

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Editor: BRUCE C. COULL, Belle W. Baruch Institute
for Marine Biology and Coastal Research,
University of South Carolina, Columbia,
South Carolina 29208 USA

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Cover by Bryan Burnett, Scripps Institution of Oceanography.

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John S. GRAY, Wellcome Marine Laboratory, Robin Hood's Bay, Yorkshire, Y022 4SL, England

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W. Duane HOPE, Department of Invertebrate Zoology, National Museum of Natural History, Smithsonian Institution, Washington, DC 20560, U.S.A.

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Ryohei YAMINISHI, Kyoto University, Seto Marine Biological Laboratory, Sirahama, Wakayama-Ken, Japan

Donald J. ZINN, P. O. Box 589, Falmouth, Massachusetts 02541, U.S.A.

EDITORIAL

The Executive Committee has recommended that Dr. Jeanne Renaud-Mornant become the next Chairperson of The Association and Editor of PSAMMONALIA. Her term of office would commence January 1, 1976 and run through December 31, 1977 and Dr. Renaud-Mornant has agreed to serve as Chairperson for this period. Members wishing to comment on the nomination should contact the Editor. Should I not receive a 51% negative vote from the membership, I will consider Dr. Renaud-Mornant duly elected. Details on the new treasurer will be forthcoming in the next issue (PSAMMONALIA #29).

Since the officers of The Association will no longer be in the United States after 31 December 1975, John Tietjen has suggested that any U. S. member wishing to pay dues in advance should do so now. Once the Treasurer's office moves to another country, all U. S. members will be required to send their dues via International Money Order. To alleviate the problems associated with currency conversion The Association is willing to accept dues in advance for 1976-77 (\$6.00). Should you want to pay in advance, please make your check payable to "Association of Meiobenthologists" and send it to John Tietjen by 15 October 1975. Dr. Tietjen's address is on page 2 of this issue.

A new cover is needed for PSAMMONALIA #29 and #30. Anyone interested in preparing a cover please contact the Editor.

Bruce C. Coull.
Bruce C. Coull
Editor

FINANCIAL REPORT

Credits

Balance on hand (prior to PSAMMONALIA #27)	\$699.90
Dues & contributions received, minus	
bank charges (1/1/75 - 4/11/75)	<u>231.01</u>
TOTAL	\$930.91

Debits

Cost of PSAMMONALIA #27	<u>\$195.00</u>
TOTAL	\$195.00
BALANCE ON HAND, 4/14/75	\$735.91

John H. Tietjen
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James M. Bishop
 South Carolina Wildlife &
 Marine Resources
 Marine Resources Research Inst.
 P. O. Box 12559
 Charleston, SC 29412 USA

Gilbert Deroux
 Station Biologique
 Place Georges Teissier
 29211 Roscoff, France

N. Dubrowsky
 Biology Department
 Westchester Community College
 75 Grasslands Road
 Valhalla, NY 10595 USA

A. Eleftheriou
 Marine Lab, P. O. Box 101
 Victoria Road
 Torry, Aberdeen AB9 8DB
 Scotland

David Gettleson
 Department of Oceanography
 Texas A & M University
 College Station, TX 77843 USA

Elliott Hartman
 Physical Science Department
 Westchester Community College
 75 Grasslands Road
 Valhalla, NY 10595 USA

Alice Levy
 Department of Biology
 City College of New York
 138th St. at Convent Ave.
 New York, NY 10031 USA

Wolfgang Mielke
 II. Zoologisches Institut
 D-34 Göttingen
 Berlinerstr. 28
 West Germany

Universita di Modena
 Instituto di Zoologia
 Via Universita, 4
 41100 Modena,
 Italy

Diane R. Nelson
 Box 2739
 East Tennessee State University
 Johnson City, TN 37601 USA

Stuart L. Santos
 Department of Biology
 University of South Florida
 Tampa, FL 33620 USA

Jouha Sarvala
 Lammi Biological Station
 16900 Lammi
 Finland

Thomas D. Sleeter
 Division of Engineering and
 Applied Physics
 Pierce Hall
 Harvard University
 Cambridge, MA 02138 USA

Robert Virmstein
 Virginia Institute of Marine Science
 Gloucester Point, VA 23062 USA

Prof. Dr. S. Gerlach
 Marine Biological Laboratory
 DK 3000 Helsingør, Denmark

Nicole Gourbault
 Laboratoire de Zoologie (Vers)
 Museum National d'Histoire Naturelle
 57, Rue Cuvier, 75005 Paris, France

Institut voor Zeewetenschappelijk Onderzoek
 Prinses Elisabethlaan 69
 8401 Bredene, Belgium

NEWS FROM THE MEMBERS

Alice DEUTSCH-LEVY, City College of New York: I am working on my Ph. D. research under the guidance of Dr. John H. Tietjen. My work is on the digestive physiology of free-living marine nematodes: Chromadorina germanica, Monhyphista denticulata, and others isolated from the New York area salt marshes and presently in culture here. The first is an algal feeder and the second is a bacterial feeder. I hope to compare the structure and function of the digestive systems of different nematode feeding types and in particular to compare their digestive enzymes using histochemical techniques. These nematodes have been shown to be selective feeders. I therefore am studying their ability to selectively digest their foods. This past summer I worked with Dr. J. B. Jennings at the Marine Biological Laboratory at Woods Hole. We were able to demonstrate the presence of β -glucuronidase, a carbohydrase, in the gut of Monhyphista denticulata and its absence in Chromadorina germanica. We also noted an exopeptidase present in the seminal receptacle in some females of both these species. We concluded that the nematodes digested excess sperms to supplement their low-protein diets. This work is being published in Comparative Biochemistry and Physiology.

J.-L. D'HONDT, Paris: Since my return from North Africa in 1972, I have been working on ultrastructure and metamorphosis of Bryozoans and therefore have had to neglect, more than I would like, the part of my research dealing with the microfauna of marine sands. The last work that I did, presently in press, was an attempt to get a better understanding of Gastrotrich systematics with a tabular key to genera of marine gastrotrichs. This work has been in press since 1973 and at last, is out (see Recent Literature). I hope to return to my work on psammon as soon as my other activities give me the time and hopefully this will be during the winter of 1975-76 (translated from the French by B. C. Coull).

E. HARTWIG, Universität Hamburg: As a member of the benthos research group at the Zoological Institute & Museum Hamburg, I am working on interstitial ciliates especially from the marine eulittoral of exposed and sheltered shores. In these habitats the protozoa are represented by a great number of species and occur in considerable densities. Starting from these investigations, I am extending my studies to sublittoral biotopes (shallow subtidal sediments in different depths as well as sediments of coastal waters and the deep-sea).

My studies aim at three topics: (1) Faunistic and systematic studies of species composition from various areas of the German Bight and the wider North Sea (and areas of deep water); (2) Ecology: horizontal and vertical micro-distribution, annual fluctuations, effects of abiotic factors (in situ recordings of characteristic parameters with electrodes, e.g. temperature, salinity, redox potential, oxygen diffusion and analyses of grain size, pore volume, water content and the content of particulate organic material); (3) Productive role of interstitial ciliates in marine sediments by measuring abundance, biovolume and biomass of species and reproductive potential in cultures at different temperatures. I want to investigate the interstitial ciliates of limnic sediments in order to compare them with ciliates in marine sediments. Furthermore, I am interested in using ciliates as indicator organisms in polluted and unpolluted areas.

From February 18 to March 21, I was on a cruise on the R.V. "Meteor" to the upwelling region of the African West Coast. With Hjalmar Thiel and Gotram Uhlig, my studies were part of a benthos program of this region. I studied the interstitial ciliates and soft meiofauna (with G. Uhlig) of deep-sea sediments. Working with ciliates from sublittoral sediments is full of methodical difficulties.

N. C. HULINGS, Amman, Jordan: We have conducted some preliminary studies on beach meiofauna and its relation to sand beach macrofauna in the Gulf of Aqaba. More detailed studies on sand beach meiofauna and macrofauna will be initiated in the coming months. We have several other research programs underway including chemical and physical investigations on nutrients, primary productivity of grass flats, fishery investigations and some pollution problems, especially the effect of phosphate dust. We will start construction of the research facility soon. At present we have 6 people actively working in the Marine Science Program. We expect to have 6 more people beginning July 1975.

W. B. SIKORA, University of South Carolina: My research involves an investigation of the trophic relationships of the intertidal, Spartina salt marsh meiofauna and their possible energetic value to the macrofauna which frequent these areas. The study will encompass a delineation of the drainage area, quantification of primary productivity, hydrography, quantification of macrofauna and meiofauna and laboratory predation studies. Thus far, from preliminary samples taken in February, nematodes were found to be by far the dominant component comprising 96-99% of fauna with densities of approximately 4200 per 10 cm². Harpacticoid copepods were the second most important group with Nannopus palustris being dominant. Turbellarians and kinorhynchs were also found commonly. The samples contained quite a few mites, in addition the two species of Halacarids the families Tarsonemidae and Acaridae were represented along with a lot of orbacid debris. Only two live orbacid mites were found however. A qualitative sampling technique has been developed utilizing sieving and floatation-centrifugation with very satisfactory results.

WOLFGANG & CHRISTIANE STERRER, Bermuda: We are carrying on with our work on taxonomy, systematics and biogeography of Gnathostomulida, Gastrotricha and Turbellaria. As we are presently waiting for a major project to be funded by NSF ("Population analysis, dispersal and speciation in marine interstitial fauna," submitted in collaboration with R. Rieger), we have embarked on the first stages of a non-meiofauna affair, a field guide to the "Marine Fauna and Flora of Bermuda," which will - when completed - list and document about 1500 species. Current meiofauna work, therefore, concentrates on working up older collections, especially from the Caribbean area.

R. YAMANISHI, Seto Lab, Japan: I have been searching for interstitial polychaetes living in the intertidal zone of the sandy beaches near Seto Marine Biological Laboratory. Besides archiannelids very commonly seen here, I have found two species of pisionid worm, one belonging to Pisionidens and the other to Pistone, and also two species of hesionid worm, one to Hesionides and the other to Microphthalma. As the occurrence of these forms has not been reported from Japan, the results of analysis of the specimens will be published in the near future.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

INFORMATION REQUEST:

W. Duane Hope of the National Museum of Natural History (Smithsonian) has asked for information regarding slide ringing compounds other than ZUT. Dr. Hope is particularly interested in receiving information on where to purchase "Murrayite" or information on a suitable substitute for Murrayite. Any reader with this information is requested to contact Dr. Hope directly (see page 2 of this issue for address).

Announcements (cont.)

MEETINGS:

38th ANNUAL MEETING, AMERICAN SOCIETY OF LIMNOLOGY AND OCEANOGRAPHY,
 23-26 June 1975, Dalhousie University, Halifax, Nova Scotia, Canada.
 Abstracts were due 1 January 1975. For local arrangements contact:

Dr. Robert O. Fournier
 Dept. of Oceanography
 Dalhousie University
 Halifax, Nova Scotia, Canada

10th EUROPEAN SYMPOSIUM ON MARINE BIOLOGY, 17-23 September 1975,
 Ostend, Belgium. Themes: (1) Research in Mariculture at Laboratory-
 and Pilot Scale; (2) Population Dynamics of Marine Organisms in
 Relation with Nutrient Cycling in Shallow Waters. For further information
 contact:

Symposium Office
 Institut voor Zee wetenschappelijk Onderzoek
 Prinses Elisabethlaan 69
 8401 Brende, Belgium

ESTUARINE AND BRACKISH-WATER SCIENCES ASSOCIATION, 23-25 September 1975,
 Durham, England. Persons wishing to contribute to the meeting are
 invited to forward titles, abstracts, etc., to the meetings secretary:

Dr. C. R. Boyden
 Imperial College of Science and Technology
 Applied Geochemistry Research Group
 Department of Geology
 Royal School of Mines
 Prince Consort Road
 London SW7, England

THE MEIOFAUNA SPECIES IN TIME AND SPACE, 24-30 September 1975, Bermuda.
 Paper presentation is by invitation only. There are a few spots open
 for non-paper presenting participants. For additional information contact:

Dr. Wolfgang E. Sterrer
 Bermuda Biological Station
 St. George's West
 Bermuda

3rd INTERNATIONAL ESTUARINE RESEARCH CONFERENCE, 7-9 October 1975.
 Galveston, Texas USA. For further information contact:

Dr. Andrew J. McErlean
 Office of Research and Development
 U. S. Environmental Protection Agency
 Washington, DC 20460 USA

PUBLICATIONS:

Volume 3 in "The Belle W. Baruch Library in Marine Science," has recently
 been published. Volume 3 is the result of a symposium held in 1973, is edited
 by F. John Vernberg, and is entitled Physiological Ecology of Estuarine Organisms.
 The volume may be ordered from the University of South Carolina Press, Columbia,
 SC 29208 USA for \$25.00.

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