

PSAMMONALIA

Newsletter of the International Association of Meiobenthologists



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PSAMMONALIA

Newsletter of the International Association of Meiobenthologists

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FROM THE EDITOR

Nominations

Nominees for Chairperson (and Editor) and two Committee Members are listed in this newsletter. A ballot is provided and I hope that each member will exercise his or her right to vote.

Constitution

In the last issue of the newsletter, Bruce Coull suggested that the term of the Chairperson (and Editor) be increased to a three or four year term. Since there have been some positive responses to a three year term I am drafting a constitutional amendment and urge members of the Council (Committee Members and Board of Correspondents) and any members to comments on this draft so that a consensus of approval or disapproval can be determined before placing this issue before the membership for formal approval. All comments from both the Council and membership will be included in an issue of the Newsletter well in advance of balloting.

The problem: talent and willingness to assume the role of Chairperson (and Editor). We are a relatively small organization and we will soon have eliminated the even smaller cadre of individuals who are willing and able to accept this task. How much time does it take? Not counting time spent in the library, which one would do anyway, I assume, the editorial tasks consume about 40 man-hours per issue. Once past the first issue, the task is not too difficult. However, it is a task which enters into one's planning of other activities, especially travel, and it is a task that is certainly a much more acceptable one when the editor receives a good response from the Board of Correspondents concerning Recent Literature.

The amount of time consumed in the role of Chairperson of the Society is, fortunately, minimal and should remain that way. Those members who have been nominated to the Council in this issue should take note, however, that they have a considerable responsibility to the Chairperson concerning policy, planning, etc., and to the Editor relevant to citations of recent literature.

While on the one hand we are faced with diminishing talent and willingness relevant to the principal office of the IAM we are faced also with the possibility that by making this office a three-year term instead of a two-year term, we may be making this office less acceptable. Therefore in considering the draft amendment below, I urge each member to ask him or herself: Would I accept this position under the proposed terms as opposed to the current terms? The same applies to the office of Committee Member although this office is far less demanding.

In order to avoid an unnecessarily complex schedule of elections, it would be essential to modify the term of office for the Committee Members along with any change in the Chairperson/Editor office. Currently, we elect these officers every two years to serve a four-year term. In order to have only one election every three years, and still maintain the continuity within the Executive Committee, we should elect these officers every three years (with the Chairperson/Editor) to serve a six year term.

Under these circumstances I would recommend that this proposition, if approved for balloting, not come before the membership until the election two years from this date. The Chairperson (and Editor) elected by the current ballot would serve through 1983. The following term would be affected by this action. The Committee Members elected by the current ballot could be asked to serve an additional year (until 1986) to accommodate the proposed three/six year term pattern as opposed to the two/four year term pattern for officers under the current system.

Draft Amendment (new underlined, old in parentheses)

Article 6. Officers and Elections.

The elective officers shall be a Chairperson, a Treasurer and up to four additional members comprising the Executive Committee. The Chairperson and Treasurer shall be elected every three (two) years.....

The remaining Executive Committee members shall be elected every six (four) years and shall hold office for six (four) years. The expiration date of the terms of office of these Executive Committee members shall be arranged so that only two members of the Committee will be elected in any triennium (biennium).

FROM THE MEMBERSHIP

The Abstract Issue

"I see a very fundamental problem with Bruce Coull's (last issue) suggestion of prior availability of abstracts through PSAMMONALIA before a triennial meeting of the IAM. How can such abstracts be cited, whether or not they so appeared? PSAMMONALIA specifically states on each issue a disclaimer: 'This document is not part of the scientific literature and is not to be cited, abstracted or reprinted as a published document.' It is my understanding that it would be inappropriate to cite either PSAMMONALIA or the meeting program with respect to information conveyed at the meeting, but rather that the form 'Name of source, personal communication' should be used. Perhaps copies of the program and abstracts should routinely be sent to non-attending members, or perhaps, as Bruce suggests, the program and abstracts should be in the issue of PSAMMONALIA sent out prior to the meeting. But surely we should do nothing to encourage literature citations of PSAMMONALIA. I am aware of two societies that do truly publish abstracts through their regular journal, but we are not in that position."

--Meg Hummon

MEETINGS OF INTEREST

An International Symposium on Sandy Beaches as Ecosystems. Port Elizabeth, South Africa, 17-21 Jan 83.

Sandy beaches as ecosystems--a multidisciplinary approach to sandy beaches and their interactions with land and sea. The Symposium is being organized by the South African National Committee for Oceanographic Research (SAMCOR) with the support and encouragement of the Scientific Committee for Oceanic Research (SCOR) and in collaboration with the University of Port Elizabeth.

Sandy beach researchers from all parts of the world including those working on ecology, physical and chemical processes and coastal zone management should attend.

The symposium will be located at the University of Port Elizabeth, Eastern Cape Province, South Africa. This venue is ideally suited to accommodate field trips because the local coastline consists mainly of extensive and spectacular sandy beaches characterized by high biological productivity. A further advantage is that the University's Zoology Department has a unit active in sandy beach ecosystem research.

The symposium will be held from Monday, 17th to Friday, 21st January 1983 and there will be pre-registration on Sunday, 16th January 1983. This symposium will precede the Fifth National Oceanographic Symposium held in Grahamstown (approximately 100 kms from Port Elizabeth) during the week of 24th January 1983. January is late summer in South Africa and the weather in Port Elizabeth during this month is usually pleasantly warm and sunny. The average daily temperature fluctuates between 26°C and 17°C and the average monthly rainfall is 28 mm.

The main objective is to bring together for the first time, in a multidisciplinary symposium, scientists working on sandy beaches and interacting adjacent environments for the following purposes:

In plenary sessions

- to review existing knowledge and its application in the main fields of research

In workshop sessions

- to pinpoint deficiencies in knowledge and evaluate major problems in each field
- to consider multidisciplinary approaches to the solution of these problems.
- to discuss guidelines for future research.

The following definition of the boundaries of sandy beaches will apply for the purposes of the Symposium:

Landward boundary - that zone within the back-shore region, or dunefield, where direct interaction with the beach no longer occurs;

Seaward boundary - the extend of the highly active interaction between water and sediment movement that is the outer limit of surf circulation cells.

The program will include invited research and review papers, contributed technical papers and workshop sessions. A number of specialists will be invited to present papers dealing with research in particular fields. The following topics encompass the main aspects of beach research and emphasize the multidisciplinary nature of the ecosystems under consideration:

1. Physical aspects, including sedimentary processes, water movement and wave motion
2. Chemical aspects, including nutrient cycles
3. Energetics, including food chains and population dynamics

4. Ecophysiology, including respiratory and other physiological adaptations

5. Management, including conservation and utilization.

Authors are invited to submit titles and one-page synopses of papers dealing with the above topics to the organizers by 31st January 1982. The Organizing Committee will base the acceptance of papers on these synopses and authors will be informed of their final decision by 31st May 1982. They will then have the option of updating their synopses by 31st August 1982 for inclusion in the program. Manuscripts, not exceeding 12 pages (including diagrams), will be required by 31st October 1982. Authors of accepted papers are expected to attend the Symposium and present their papers in person. The organizers require the final manuscript by 31st March 1983 for publication in the official symposium proceedings.

As a supplement to the Symposium, the organizers will arrange optional excursions from Port Elizabeth covering two days. These excursions can include visits to local beaches, flights along the coast, boat trips to a penguin colony and visits to the Addo Elephant and Tsitsikama Coastal National Parks.

Registration fees will be approximately R180 per delegate, with reduced rates for bona fide, registered, full-time students. This fee will include synopses of papers which are to be presented at the Symposium, a copy of the proceedings and daily teas.

Accommodation will be available at residences on the university campus at economical rates (currently R5 per person per day in single accommodation, plus R6,20 for three meals per day). Alternative accommodation may also be reserved at local hotels, possibly at reduced rates for delegates.

Important Dates:

31 Jan 82	Submission of synopses
31 May 82	Confirmation of acceptances
31 Aug 82	Submission of updated synopses
31 Oct 82	Submission of full manuscripts
17-21 Jan 83	SYMPOSIUM ON SANDY BEACHES
31 Mar 83	Submission of final manuscripts for inclusion in symposium proceedings.

The secretarial services will be provided by the Symposium Secretariat of the Council for Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) and all correspondence should be addressed to:

The Symposium Secretariat S.241
CSIR
P O Box 395
PRETORIA 0001 South Africa

Symposium on Meiofauna Ecology: Present Concepts and Future Directions. Dallas, TX. USA, 27 Dec 81.

For information see last issue of PSAMMONALIA or write: Dr. Susan S. Bell, Department of Biology, University of South Florida, Tampa, FL. 33620.

NOMINATIONS FOR OFFICERS

In accordance with Articles 6, 11 and 12 of the Constitution of the International Association of Meiobenthologists, the following persons have been duly nominated for the offices and terms indicated.

Please indicate your vote on the Ballot (or a copy or facsimile of it) and return it immediately by AIR MAIL. Ballots will be counted on 15 July 1981 and the results will be announced in the August issue of the newsletter.

For Chairperson (1982, 1983)

CARLO HEIP. Zoology Institute, State University of Ghent, Ghent, Belgium.

M.A., 1969, State University Ghent, thesis under the direction of Lucien de Coninck; Ph.D., 1973, State University Ghent, thesis on the population dynamics of copepods and ostracods in brackish water; D.Sc., 1978, State University Ghent, thesis on community ecology of copepods. Head of a large team working on different aspects of benthic ecology at the State University Ghent; member of several national and international scientific boards or institutes, and associations; member of the Executive Committee of the International Association of Meiobenthologists, 1976-78; UNESCO expert in marine ecology, Centre de Recherches Océanographiques et des Pêches and the University of Algiers, 1979-81; author of about 40 publications on the subject of benthic ecology.

For Committee Member (1982-1985)

CHRISTER ERSEÛS. Centre for Zoological Taxonomy, Swedish Museum of Natural History, Stockholm, and Department of Zoology, University of Gothenburg, Gothenburg, Sweden.

Born, 1951; B.A., 1972, University of Gothenburg; Ph.D., 1980, University of Gothenburg; Teaching Assistant, University of Gothenburg, 1975-80; Curator, Swedish Museum of Natural History, 1979-; predoctoral fellowships, University Gothenburg, 1977-1979; member, Board of Correspondents, International Association of Meiobenthologists, 1979-; Biological Society of Washington; North American Benthological Society; research interests in morphology and taxonomy of Oligochaeta.

ANNO FAUBEL. Zoological Institute and Museum, University of Hamburg, Federal Republic of Germany.

GEOFFREY HICKS. National Museum of New Zealand, Wellington, New Zealand.

Born, 1949; B.Sc., 1971; B.Sc. Hons. First Class, 1972; Ph.D., 1976, Victoria University; Postgraduate Scholarship, 1973; Assistant Lecturer in Zoology, Victoria University, 1974-76; Walter Garstang Postdoctoral Research Fellow, Wellcome Marine Laboratory, Robin Hood's Bay, 1977-79; Lecturer in Zoology and Marine Science, University of Otago and Portobello Marine Laboratory, 1980. Curator of Crustacea, National Museum of New Zealand, 1980-; member, New Zealand Marine Sciences Society (council member, 1973, 1980); Royal Society of New Zealand; New Zealand Antarctic Society; International Association of Meiobenthologists; Copepod Society;

GEOFFREY HICKS (continued)

research interests in meiobenthic ecology with special reference to harpacticoid copepods, population and community dynamics, systematics and biology of harpacticoids.

ANTON MCLACHLIN. Department of Zoology, University of Port Elizabeth, South Africa.

Born, 1949; B.A., 1971, Ph.D., 1976, University of Port Elizabeth. Research Fellow, Marine Biological Station, University of Liverpool, Isle of Man, 1977. Lecturer and Senior Lecturer, University of Port Elizabeth, 1974-; member, Zoological Society of South Africa, South African Institute of Ecologists, South African Association for Underwater Science; member, Board of Correspondents, International Association of Meiobenthologists, 1979-; research interests in marine benthic ecology, energy flow and nutrient cycling in psammolittoral ecosystems.

RICHARD M. WARWICK. Institute for Marine Environmental Research, Plymouth, England.

Born, 1944; B.Sc., 1965, University of Exeter; Ph.D., 1968, University of Exeter; Senior Research Associate, University of Newcastle upon Tyne, 1968-69, Demonstrator in Zoology, 1969-71; Senior Scientific Officer, Institute for Marine Environmental Research Plymouth, 1972-75; Principal Scientific Officer, 1975-; research interests in structure and functioning of marine benthic communities with particular reference to the meiofauna (and nematodes in particular).

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