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EDITORIAL

Dear Friends,

with your recent voting (see report on p.) we have (hopefully) concluded a series of changes in the constitution of the International Association of Meiobenthologists, important articles have been altered. However, talks with many members of our Association made it clear to me that only few colleagues, and mostly the 'old chaps', knew somewhat better what the constitution of I.A.M. is all about. Most of the numerous 'newcomers' had only vague ideas about the contents of the various articles. No wonder! It is long ago since they have been published as a whole. In most cases one could only read separate articles which should be changed.

Well, I think it is a good occasion to print in this issue of PSAMMONALIA the complete constitution of I.A.M. as it stands now.

And isn't this also a good moment to call to our mind the 'roots' of I.A.M., how it all began, the first meetings, the development of our group's name? Here is, what Bob Higgins, one of the (few) members of the first generation, has to tell about it. Reading it, you will realize that even our young Association has developed a tradition by now which should be upheld.

Sincerely yours,



Olav Giere

"Although the first issue of PSAMMONALIA was born (1966) in my typewriter, credit for its existence is only partially mine to claim. Bob Pennak initiated my interest in the meiofauna, "Bookie" Bookhout nurtured it, my students refined it, Neil Hulings and Irv Newell, my cabin companions during a 1966 cruise of the R/V Anton Brunn, supplied the critical mass of enthusiasm, and Don Zinn added his valuable support and sage advice in sharing the editorship of the first issues. Credit is shared in no small part by the many colleagues who rallied to make PSAMMONALIA an early success despite its tenuous beginning.

A few months before PSAMMONALIA appeared, I organized the first American symposium on meiofauna and its participants agreed that it was time to form the "Psammologist's Society." The purpose of this informal organization was to promote interest in meiofauna, to effect a better communication among researchers, and to provide a mechanism to keep up with the current literature.

In 1968, Duane Hope took over the production of the newsletter, we changed the organization name to "Association of Meiobenthologists" and Neil Hulings, John Gray and I began organizing the First

International Meiofauna Conference (Tunis, 1969). Thanks to the devoted efforts of the participants of this conference and the constant encouragement by Bertil Swedmark, we produced "A Manual for the Study of Meiofauna" and "Proceedings of the First International Conference on Meiofauna", both published in 1971 (and out of print in 1974!). But, more important, we strengthened a relationship which grew into a more "legitimate" organization.

John Gray became the editor in 1970. The newsletter was now being sent to 152 members. Largely through John's leadership, a Constitution and Bylaws were established and adopted in January, 1971. Wilfried Westheide became the first elected Chairman of the "Association of Meiobenthologists" that same year. The office of Chairman was established as a working office -- the Chairman was also to be the Editor of the newsletter. In 1973, John Gray organized the Second International Meiofauna Conference in York. The organization's name was changed to the "International Association of Meiobenthologists" in 1974 when the Chairmanship was passed to Bruce Coull. Since then, the Chairmanship has been held by Jeanne Renaud-Mornant (1976-77), Bill Hummon (1978-79), Bob Higgins (1980-81), Carlo Heip (1982-83) and is now keeping Olav Giere busy.

The tradition of meeting every three years continues with a series of "IMCO's". The third was, of course, "TIMCO" (Hamburg, 1977), the fourth was "FIMCO" (Columbia, 1980), a touch of humor and roman numerals made the fifth "VIMCO" (Gent, 1983), and the sixth meeting, "SIMCO" (Tampa, 1986) is not far off.

There are many others, not mentioned here, who deserve to share the satisfying reflection of the Association's success. I believe I speak for all of them when I urge the membership to remember that it was youthful exuberance, not middle-age lethargy, that founded the Association, and its continued success is dependent upon a constant renewal of this important commodity. A generous endowment of good will, enthusiasm, humor and resistance to over-organization has made all this possible."

Bob Higgins

APPLICATION FOR FELLOWSHIPS AND GRANTS

In PSAMMONALIA 65 we requested information about scientific institutions awarding fellowships and grants. There was very little response - so we urge again especially the members from the richer nations to search for addresses and, thus, to give all those a chance for a research stay who normally have serious problems in taking up contact with leading scientists in their respective field.

Here we got our first 'hint':

The Smithsonian Institution, Washington, D.C., offers various senior, postdoctoral, predoctoral or graduate student fellowships. The deadline for applications is usually mid-January. It is of importance for potential applicants to start corresponding with an appropriate Smithsonian staff member (with whom they are likely to collaborate) very early in the process. This allows the applicant time to construct the optimal proposal.

Urging particularly the senior scientists for more information we hope to continue this column with new addresses in the next PSAMMONALIA.

HALACARID'S TROUBLE

There was once a suffering water-mite who lived in a hot and muddy site. When it tried to invade cool waters in shade, it found that niche always occupied.

CHANGE OF ARTICLE 6 IN I.A.M.'s CONSTITUTION

In PSAMMONALIA 66 (Nov 84) and 67 (Feb 85) all members were requested to vote on a change in the constitution referring to an extension of the terms of the Executive Committee Members from 3 to 6 years. This became necessary in order to coordinate their time to the general triennial cycle IAM has adopted now.

Well, we received 36 ballots, whereof 35 where 'yes' and 1 was 'no'. We thank all those who showed their active interest in IAM-affairs by sending us their ballots. Hence, the four elected Committee members will serve now for six years. In order to start this extended cycle, I would like to suggest that C. Erséus and R. Warwick should be replaced by Nov 1986, preferably by an election at the "Sixth International Meiofauna Conference" in Tampa, Florida (USA), while the terms of S. Bell and W. Westheide expire in Nov 1989.

But some words for the overwhelming participation in this vote: 36 ballots!!! That means, we have easily taken the 10 % hurdle. Many political parties never reach this magic figure.

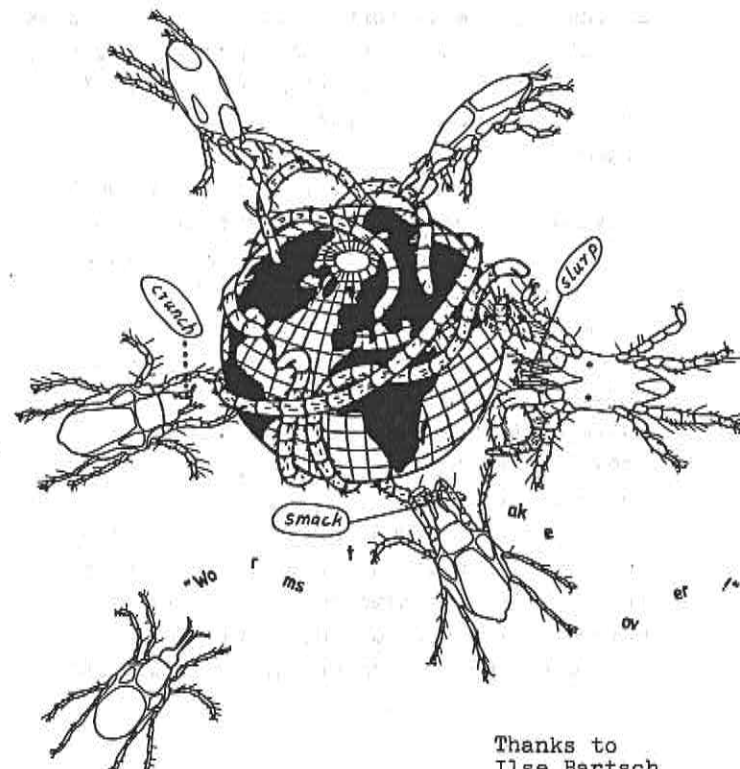
And see the rapid increase in our last votings!:

Nov 83 (election of officers)	22 ballots
May 84 (change in constitution)	32 ballots
May 85 (change in constitution)	36 ballots

That is a growth rate which will bring us, if it continues, to a sound 75%-participation by the year 2010! What a great future awaits I.A.M.!

Olav Giere

beware of halacarids



Thanks to
Ilse Bartsch

- 4 -

CONSTITUTION OF THE INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF MEIOBENTHOLOGISTS

Article 1. Name

The name of the Association shall be the International Association of Meiobenthologists.

Article 2. Purpose

The objective of the Association shall be the general advancement and promotion of research in the study of meiobenthos in all its branches.

Article 3. Capital and Income

The capital and income of the Association shall be devoted solely to the furtherance of its objective as stated in Article 2 and no portion thereof shall be paid to any officer or member of the Association except in respect of the repayment of any out-of-pocket expenses properly incurred, or reasonable and proper remuneration in return for services rendered to the Association.

Article 4. Dissolution

In the event of the Association being dissolved for any reason, the surplus funds remaining after payment of debts and liabilities shall not be distributed among members, but shall be paid or transferred to some other institution or institutions, approved by the Council, having objectives similar to those of the Association. Any outstanding liabilities of the Association at dissolution shall be shared equally among the membership.

Article 5. Dues

Annual dues will be charged to cover expenses of the Association and will be the subject of a bylaw.

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 years and the former shall then automatically become a member of the Executive Committee during the three years following his/her tenure as Chairperson. Previous Chairpersons of the Association shall thereafter continue on as ex-officio members of the Executive Committee.

The remaining Executive Committee members shall be elected every six years and shall hold office for six 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.

All newly elected Officers shall assume their duties at the beginning of the next calendar year following their election.

Article 7. Council

The Council shall consist of the Executive Committee and the Board of Correspondents.

Article 8a. Chairperson

The Chairperson shall act as Editor of the newsletter and in this capacity shall be responsible for the production of the newsletter of the Association.

Article 8b. Treasurer

The Treasurer shall keep the financial records of the Association and shall present an annual statement of the accounts at the end of each calendar year, to be included in the first issue of the newsletter of the Association of the succeeding year.

Article 9. Executive Committee

The Executive Committee shall be responsible for the business affairs of the Association. It shall assist the Chairperson in the production of the newsletter of the Association and it shall perform such other duties as may be assigned by the Chairperson.

Article 10. Board of Correspondents

The Board of Correspondents shall consist of up to twelve members of the Association, and shall be appointed by the Chairperson with the advice and consent of the Executive Committee. The Board of Correspondents shall assist the Chairperson and other members of the Executive Committee in gathering literature and news items for the newsletter of the Association and shall perform such other duties as may be assigned by the Chairperson. The Board of Correspondents shall retire automatically with the retiring Chairperson.

Article 11. Nominations

Nominations for any office may be made in writing by any two members of the Association not later than April 1st in an election year. The Council must certify that each candidate is willing to stand for office and serve if elected. The Council shall give due consideration to equitable representation of the geographical distribution of the membership of the Association. Additional nominations for officers may be made by the Council.

Article 12. Elections

Should elections of Officers be necessary, these will be held by mail ballot. The Chairperson in his/her capacity as Editor, shall mail ballots to each member in the May issue of the newsletter in an election year. A brief biographical sketch of each candidate shall accompany the ballots. The Chairperson shall count and record the votes received by November 1st and include the results in the November issue of the newsletter. The candidate or candidates receiving the greatest

number of votes shall be elected to office. The Chairperson shall notify the candidates for office of the vote by mail. In the event that a vote results in a tie, the members of the Council shall vote by mail to resolve the tie. Should a tie still result the Chairperson shall have the casting vote.

Article 13. Finance

The expenses of the Association shall be paid from the funds of the Association within the limits in the budget of the Association. The Chairperson shall authorize all payments.

Article 14. Bylaws

Bylaws to augment this Constitution may specify details and less fundamental provisions, but shall not alter the intended meaning of this Constitution, or circumvent its provisions.

Additional bylaws may be proposed in writing by any two members in good standing and shall be adopted if a majority of the members are in its favour as shown by a mail ballot.

Bylaws may be amended upon recommendation by the Council, by a majority vote of members of the Association in good standing in a mail ballot.

Article 15. Amendments

This Constitution can be amended only by a two-thirds majority of those members in good standing voting in a mail ballot. Amendments may be proposed by any member in writing to the Chairperson who shall submit such proposal to the Council for consideration and vote. Any amendment that five members of the Council deem worthy of consideration shall be submitted to the members of the Association for vote.

Proposed constitutional amendments must be included in a newsletter 6 months in advance of balloting in order to receive and include in the balloting issue any comments received during this interim. The close of receipts for ballots shall be the first day of the sixth month following the balloting issue and the results shall be included in that month's newsletter.

Article 16. Enabling Article

This Constitution and its accompanying bylaws shall be adopted in full force and effect from January 1st 1971.

BYLAWS OF THE ASSOCIATION

Bylaw 1. Annual Dues

Annual dues for Regular Members shall be determined by the Council. The rate for Sustaining Members shall be twice that of Regular Members and the rate for Patron Members shall be five times that of Regular Members. Dues shall be payable in advance before January 1st to the Association. Payment of annual dues shall be made preferably in International Money Orders or otherwise in the currency under which the treasury is operating at a given time. Current dues plus one additional year's dues may be paid at one time. The Chairperson may send PSAMMONALIA via air mail to any member who requests this service and who pays the additional postal expenses.

Bylaw 2. Membership Rights

No membership rights shall be continued longer than six months from date notifying arrears.

Bylaw 3. Newsletter

The Newsletter of the Association shall be called "PSAMMONALIA". Its purpose shall be to promote the objectives of the Association as defined in Article 2.

Bylaw 4. Conferences

Conferences of the Association shall be held triennially, if practicable. The purpose of such conferences shall be to promote the objectives of the Association as defined in Article 2. Business of the Association may be conducted at such conferences, including nomination and election of officers, adoption of bylaws and amendment of the Constitution or its bylaws, in accordance with the articles of the Constitution, but with a vote of the members in good standing substituting for a mail ballot.

NEWS FROM THE MEMBERS

No news! In this ever changing cosmos no changes in the world of meiobenthology, just the boring routine. - Or just indifference? Should you know better - please, let us know!

NEW MEMBERS

Claude BOUTIN
Villa Suriwong
Rue Saadia
MARRAKESH
Morocco

As an associate professor at the Faculty of Sciences of Marrakesh I am preparing a doctorate degree directed by Prof. R. Ginot (Lyon, France) and Dr. N. Coineau (Banyuls-sur-Mer, France). I work together with a small group of young Moroccan researchers on the freshwater interstitial fauna of Marrakesh and neighbouring provinces.

We prospect the groundwater in wells, springs and hyporheic biotopes, with a special interest in microcrustaceans like Isopoda, Amphipoda, Syncarida and Thermosbaenacea. This work has an ecological background. We want to know the effects of different pollutants on the meiobenthic and stygobiotic communities of phreatic waters.

Per NILSSON
Tjärnö Marine Biological Laboratory
University of Gothenburg
Pl. 2781
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Sweden

I just started my Ph D-studies at the Zoological Institution, University of Göteborg, which concern the feeding behaviour of meiofauna, especially harpacticoid copepods. I will try to apply the ideas of optimal foraging theory on harpacticoids, to see if their behaviour is based on complex decisions or just on random searching. I am also interested in which ways macrofaunal predators influence the behaviour of harpacticoids.

HORNER'S FIVE-THUMB POSTULATE:

Experience varies directly with equipment ruined.

Reprinted from:
"Murphy's Law and other reasons
why things go wrong"
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Sloan Publ. Inc.,
Los Angeles, 1977

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PETER'S LAW OF EVOLUTION:

Competence always contains the seed of incompetence.

PETER'S RULE FOR CREATIVE INCOMPETENCE:

Create the impression that you have already reached your level of incompetence.

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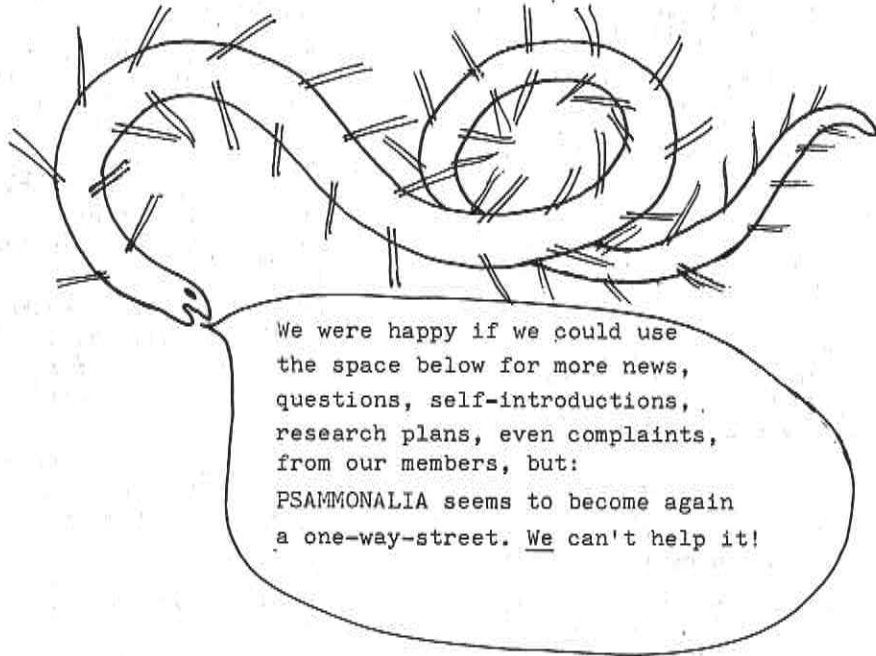
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questions, self-introductions,
research plans, even complaints,
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PSAMMONALIA seems to become again
a one-way-street. We can't help it!