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Newsletter of the International Association of Meiobenthologists



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Newsletter of the International Association of Meiobenthologists

OLAV GIERE

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University of Hamburg, Martin-Luther-King-Pl. 3
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Dear Friends,

last issue of PSAMMONALIA in 1985! Another year has gone - hard to believe - and Christmas is coming. Christmas in Meiobenthos-Land: even the tiniest creatures put on their fancy dresses like the little Loriciferan in our this-year's Christmas picture.

As a special Christmas gift to all of you this issue is particular: the thickest ever printed (that's why I'll make this editorial short), the first one with photos and a most important one: It gives you information on the new "Introduction to the Study of Meiofauna" and on details of our next Meiofauna Conference in Tampa. Try hard to attend this meeting! After three years the family must re-unite to get again this special feeling of "community unity" (to use a term from Susan Bell's recent paper), but also to welcome all newcomers. Shouldn't we give it a try and see whether all this is not as well possible with American as with Belgian beer? But also for the numerous scientific contributions and, last, but not least, for direct participation in the important election of the new chairperson we need your presence in Tampa.

For many of you the fees for extending the I.A.M.-membership will be due now, as I can see from the '85' on your address label and from our 'warning sheet' sticking to your copy of PSAMMONALIA. Please, pay this modest fee immediately, so that we don't have to drop your name from the distribution of forthcoming issues. Every year

we lose some members just because they forget to pay - and you know, we want just you!

In order to facilitate payment for our numerous members in the U.S.A., Susan Bell is again willing to collect all single fees. She writes:

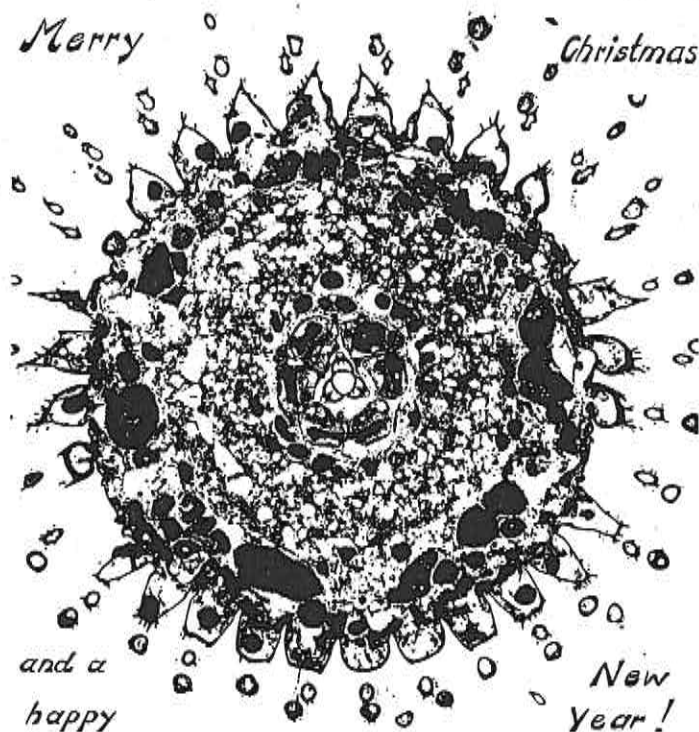
"As was done last year, I am willing to coordinate renewal of membership dues for IAM for members from the U.S.A., whereby one composite money order is sent to Hamburg. This should save some expense for all in renewal of membership. All interested should notify me by Dec. 12, 1985 (don't send money, just note of interest!) and I will then calculate the cost of the foreign money order, split the cost among participants and renotify participants of the 'group rate' which can then be forwarded to me."

(Susan's address: Dr Susan S. Bell, Dept. of Biology, Univ. of South Florida, Tampa, FLA 33620)

We from PSAMMONALIA wish you now a very happy Christmas time. Relax, contemplate on "all the tiny creatures, where do they all come from?" (with apologies to THE BEATLES) and have a successful, and, what is more important, a p e a c e f u l NEW YEAR!

Sincerely yours

Olav Giere
Olav Giere



INTRODUCTION TO THE STUDY OF MEIOFAUNA

A new edition of the MEIOFAUNA MANUAL was felt to be over-due for several years, and this matter was discussed during the 5th International Meiofauna Conference in Gent 1983. The new book intends to help newcomers in meiofauna research when starting their projects and to be useful in teaching on meiofauna. Early discussions on the contents of this book showed that a new edition of the MANUAL (1971) would not meet the needs: a totally new book under a new title had to be written. What has been achieved so far by the editors and by the authors is presented below in a shortened outline which demonstrates the extent covered. Authors are in the process of writing to meet the deadline for manuscript delivery to the editors very early in 1986. It is always a difficult task to prepare a multi-authored publication, especially with a total of 47 chapters and 50 authors. Already now are we somewhat concerned because of non-responding authors. But we still hope to have the book delivered in early 1987.

This note intends to inform you on this cooperative project and to invite you to send brand-new results you wish to have included or cited in the book to the respective chapter authors. Please, let us also know immediately if you feel we should include additional taxonomic groups and suggest competent authors.

H. Thiel & R. Higgins

INTRODUCTION TO THE STUDY OF MEIOFAUNA

H. THIEL & R. HIGGINS, Editors

P R E F A C E (A. McINTYRE)

P a r t I. I N T R O D U C T I O N

Chapter 1. DEFINITION OF MEIOFAUNA AND PURPOSE OF MANUAL. (H. THIEL & R. HIGGINS)

Chapter 2. HISTORY OF MEIOFAUNA RESEARCH (B. COULL & H. THIEL)

Chapter 3. ECOLOGY OF THE MEIOFAUNA (B. COULL)

P a r t II. M E T H O D S

Chapter 4. ABIOTIC FACTORS (T. ELEFThERIOU, D. MURISON & O. GIÈRE)

- Description of general environment
- Sampling devices for sediment (excluding those covered in Chapter 6) and interstitial water
- Substrate related factors
- Water related factors

Chapter 5. BIOTIC FACTORS (N. GREISER & A. FAUBEL)

- Organic matter related factors
- Organismic related factors

Chapter 6. SAMPLING (D. THISTLE & J. FLEGER)

- Sampling equipment
- Subsampling equipment
- Sampling strategy
- Eulittoral sampling
- Sublittoral sampling (incl. SCUBA)
- Deep sea sampling (incl. submersibles, remotes, etc.)

Chapter 7. SAMPLE PROCESSING (O. PFANNKUCHE & H. THIEL)

- Live transport
- Preservation
- Subsample/sample slicing
- Subsample/sample sieving
- Subsample/sample splitting
- Subsample/sample staining
- Organism concentration
- Organism sorting
- Enumeration
- Biomass determination

Chapter 8. ORGANISM PROCESSING (W. WESTHEIDE & G. PURSCHKE)

- Examination of live material
- Fixation
- Mounting

Chapter 9. CULTURE TECHNIQUES (J. TIETJEN)

- Interspecific
- Monospecific

Chapter 10. EXPERIMENTAL TECHNIQUES (S. BELL)

- Field techniques
- Laboratory techniques
- Tolerance experiments
- Preference experiments

Chapter 11. ENERGETICS (J. FELLER & R. WARWICK)

- Trophic aspects
- Respiration and metabolism
- Physiological techniques (internal organs, tissues, etc.)

Chapter 12. DATA PROCESSING, EVALUATION AND ANALYSIS (C. HEIP, R. HERMAN, K. SOETAERT)

- Spatial patterns
- Associations between species
- Time series analysis
- Size spectra analysis
- Species abundance relations
- Estimating production
- Treatment analysis in field experiments

Chapter 12. THE FRESHWATER MEIOBENTHOS (R. PENNAK)

Chapter 14. THE NANOBIENTHOS AND SMALL MEIOBENTHOS IN FINE SEDIMENTS (B. BURNETT)

Part III. MEIOFAUNAL TAXA

Chapter 15. TAXONOMIC CURATORIAL CONSIDERATIONS (R. HIGGINS)

Chapter 16. SARCOMASTIGOPHORA (A. GOODAY)

Chapter 17. CILIOPHORA (E. HARTWIG & J. CORLISS)

Chapter 18. CNIDARIA (H. THIEL)

Chapter 19. TURBELLARIA (L. CANNON & A. FAUBEL)

Chapter 20. GNATHOSTOMULIDA (W. STERRER)

Chapter 21. NEMERTEA (J. NORENBURG)

Chapter 22. LORICIFERA (R. KRISTENSEN)

Chapter 24. KINORHYNCHA (R. HIGGINS)

Chapter 25. ROTATORIA (G. TZSCHASCHEL)

Chapter 26. PRIAPULIDA (B. CALLOWAY)

Chapter 27. NEMATODA (F. RIEMANN)

Chapter 28. BRYOZOA (P. COOK)

Chapter 29. ENTOPROCTA (C. NIELSEN)

Chapter 30. BRACHIOPODA (C. NIELSEN)

Chapter 31. SIPUNCULA (M. RICE)

Chapter 32. POLYCHAETA (W. WESTHEIDE & G. PURSCHKE)

Chapter 33. OLIGOCHAETA (C. ERSEUS)

Chapter 34. COPEPODA (J. WELLS)

Chapter 35. MYSTACOCARIDA (R. HESSLER)

Chapter 36. OSTRACODA (D. KEYSER)

Chapter 37. AMPHIPODA (L. WATLING)

Chapter 38. CUMACEA (L. WATLING)

Chapter 39. ISOPODA (R. ARGANO)

Chapter 40. TANAIIDACEA & SYNCARIDA (J. SIEG)

Chapter 41. PYCNOGONIDA (A. CHILD)

Chapter 42. HALACARIDA (I. BARTSCH)

Chapter 43. GASTROPODA & PELECYPODA (C. POIZAT)

Chapter 44. APLACOPHORA (P. MORSE)

Chapter 45. TARDIGRADA (J. RENAUD-MORNANT)

Chapter 46. ECHINODERMATA (D. PAWSON)

Chapter 47. TUNICATA (C. & F. MONNIOT)

A P P E D I C E S

SIXTH INTERNATIONAL MEIOFAUNA CONFERENCE (SIMCO)

July 13 - 19, 1986; Tampa, Florida, U.S.A.

GENERAL INFORMATION

Transportation to Tampa: Make airplane reservations to Tampa International Airport. Limousine and bus service is available between the airport and campus. The distance from the airport to campus is 16 km and the cost for travel by limousine (Central Florida Limousine Service) is approximately \$ 15.00 per person.

If travelling by private vehicles, from the Northwest take I-75 to Fletcher Avenue exit, and travel west on Fletcher Avenue (=Rte 582-A), go over the river and continue approximately 0.5 km until you see the USF golf course on your right. Turn left onto Maple Drive. Look for Village Residence and Continuing Education Buildings on the left. Registration will be here on Sunday.

If travelling from the Northeast, take I-95 to I-4 to I-75 north and follow directions as above from Fletcher Avenue exit.

If coming from the airport, take I-275 north to Fowler Avenue (east). Go east 5 km; USF is on the left. Once on the campus, turn right

at first traffic light (onto Oak, which will take a 90° angle and become Maple Drive). Stay on Maple Drive through the traffic light and look for Village Residence and Continuing Education Building on right.

Please, park cars in the Village parking lot!

Weather:

Tampa is 3.35 m above MSL. The average high in July is 30.1°C and the low is 23°C. Summer afternoon thunderstorms are common. Of the 90 storms per year, 50 of them occur in June to August. Bring an umbrella!

Miscellaneous:

A spouse's program will be available. Details forthcoming.

Tampa is 1.5 hr driving time from Disney World in Orlando, 4 hr from Everglades National Park, and 8 hr from Key West. Cape Canaveral (and shuttle launches) is about a 3hr drive from Tampa.

MAY WE REMIND YOU OF THE INFORMATION AND FORMS PRINTED IN THE LAST ISSUE OF PSAMMONALIA (NO. 69, AUGUST 1985, pp. 3+4) ON 'CALL FOR PAPERS' AND 'INSTRUCTIONS FOR ABSTRACTS'!!!

Registration for SIMCO

Pre-registration for the conference is encouraged. Price for all participants is \$75.00. This fee includes 1) Sunday night beer social; 2) Monday night cookout; 3) Transportation and full-day (Wednesday) admission to Busch Gardens (with free beer) - a zoological park and amusement center; and 4) Thursday night reception and seafood banquet. After June 1, 1986, a late registration fee of \$85.00 will be charged.

Partner badges will be \$30.00 (includes socials, banquet, cookout, Busch Gardens) and children's badges will be \$25.00 (includes Busch Gardens; banquet, cookout).

To register fill out the following form and return with check or money order (in American dollars!) to: Mary Ann Solic, Continuing Education, CEB 012, University of South Florida, Tampa, FL 33620; (813) 974-2403.

(Make checks or money orders payable to USF)

TEAR HERE

Sixth International Meiofauna Conference

Registration

Name (print or type) _____

Affiliation _____

Address (mailing) _____

Presenting a paper? Yes ___ No ___

Enclosed payment

Registration (regular) _____ (\$75.00 before June 1, 1986
\$85.00 after June 1, 1986)

(spouse) _____ (\$30.00)

(child) _____ (\$25.00)

Name of spouse and/or child _____

HOUSING ACCOMMODATIONS: Studio/efficiency rooms will be available in the Village, on the USF campus, from Saturday, July 12 through Sunday, July 20. Each efficiency provides two single beds, desks and dressers, private bath, and full kitchen facility, including refrigerator. Each unit has ground floor access with private entrance and is equipped with an emergency/security system. Within the complex is located a swimming pool, laundry facilities, pay telephones, a convenience store and ample parking. The reception office is open for 24-hour check-in and as an information center. PLEASE NOTE that studio efficiencies may accommodate two persons only, except where participants provide cribs for small infants. If special family housing is required, a letter should accompany the pre-registration materials which outline specific needs.

Room Rates: \$25.00 plus \$ 1.32 taxper night, double/single.
Reservations cannot be guaranteed after June 30.

When signing up for housing (see following request form), participants should indicate a roommate preference. If you wish to share a room but need a roommate, we may be able to accomodate you. If no roommate is indicated or available, a single rate will be charged.

Also, please fill out the following information on your arrival-departure to Tampa. Note that all housing correspondance should be sent to a different address than that for registration and a separate payment is necessary. Again, make payments in American dollars only!!

MEALS: There are numerous restaurants around the University, but none are within walking distance. Individual meals may be purchased with cash at the door in the Argos Center Cafeteria. The meal price entitles participants to all-you-can-eat. Alacarte meals will be available in the University Center.

Rates: Cash for selected meals at the dining hall door.
Breakfast: \$2.95, Lunch: \$3.65, Dinner: \$4.55

PLEASE NOTE that the state of Florida requires prepayment for goods and services therefore, full payment will be requested upon arrival.

MAIL in your reservation request with one night's deposit today/not later than June 30, 1986. TO: Village Summer Housing Reservations, Bldg. 31, University of South Florida, Tampa, FL 33620. Phone (813) 974-3645 (Make checks or money orders payable to USF)

-----TEAR HERE-----

PROGRAM TITLE: *Sixth International Meiofauna Conference - 7/13-19*

NAME: _____ SS# _____

ADDRESS: _____

CITY: _____ STATE: _____ ZIP: _____

PHONE(DAYTIME): _____

ARRIVAL DATE: _____ HOUR _____ AM
PM

DEPARTURE DATE: _____ HOUR _____ AM
PM

AMOUNT DEPOSIT ENCLOSED _____ DATE _____

FIFTH INTERNATIONAL SYMPOSIUM ON AQUATIC NEMATODES

(Biocentre, University of Vienna, 19-22 August 1985)

That's right, if you weren't there, you have missed it! On the 19th of August last about 45 kindred spirits gathered in Vienna. The common denominator? - the love of freeliving nematodes. This was the fifth such gathering, previous ones having been in Gent, Bremerhaven, Plymouth and Roscoff. And once again, the meeting was typically relaxed, the discussions stimulating and the hospitality first class.

28 papers were delivered, each without set time limits as is becoming traditional at these meetings. The papers will not be published as a symposium volume - the idea being to encourage the reporting of work in progress. However, the organizers of the symposium plan to publish a report of the meeting, with a list of titles and participants, to provide at least some lasting record of such a worthwhile event. So we won't pre-empt that here.

The main purpose of this short report is two-fold. First and foremost, to thank the principal organizers in Vienna, Jörg Ott, Rudi Novak and Fritz Schiemer for all their hard work. Not forgetting to mention the many other helpers behind the scenes, who all contributed to making the few days go so smoothly.

The second purpose is to alert colleagues early to the fact that the next gathering will be in Banyuls-sur-Mer, France in July 1987 and will be organized by Francis de Bovée. Now there's a thought to wet the appetite.

Having said all that, we must also congratulate the Austrians for a fine outflanking manoeuvre. We had all arrived in Vienna with numerous Austrian anti-freeze jokes, only to find they had done such a fine job themselves. They had provided with an adulterate-it-yourself kit of diethylene glycol, sugar and beetroot juice! To try and cap it seemed pointless. We drank the wine anyhow - even though the warm weather made it unnecessary. But Austrians know what's what, winewise. Now were back in England we think we might just stick to the beer for a while - at least until Banyuls.

Finally, for those who usually attend these meetings but didn't make it this year - come on now, you know who you are: feel guilty time - please try and make it to Banyuls because we missed you - ah! isn't that nice

Howard Platt and Richard Warwick



"A high density patch of nematodologists!"

FIFTH INTERNATIONAL SYMPOSIUM ON THE BIOLOGY OF THE TURBELLARIA

First Announcement

During the excellent Turbellaria Conference at the University of Fredericton, Canada, 1984, it was decided to arrange the next meeting in Göttingen.

So, please, accept this invitation to attend the Fifth International Symposium on the Biology of the Turbellaria at the II. Zoological Institute and Museum of the University of Göttingen from

August 9-14, 1987.

The meeting will be an open congress, and contribution is not compulsory.

In addition to the papers of invited speakers, contributions to the topics Ecology, Morphology and Systematics, Ultrastructure, Physiology, Biochemistry, Caryology, Parasitic and Symbiotic Turbellaria etc. will be accepted. These papers may be in the form of oral presentation or in the form of a poster presentation. The official language will be English. Contributions in French or German are also welcome.

The contributions will be published in a special volume of "Fortschritte der Zoologie", G. Fischer, Stuttgart, New York. No congress fees will be charged.

Accommodation will be available in hotels of different categories.

If you are interested in participating, please reply as soon as possible.

We plan to send a Second Announcement in the beginning of the next year to those who have indicated an interest by responding this first notice.

Organization committee:

Ian R. Ball, Amsterdam
Patrick J.S. Boaden, Portaferry
Ernest R. Schockaert, Diepenbeek
Peter Ax, Göttingen
Ulrich Ehlers, Göttingen
Beate Sopott-Ehlers, Göttingen

Address:

Symposium Biology of Turbellaria
c/o II. Zoologisches Institut und Museum
Berliner Straße 28
D- 3400 Göttingen
Fed. Rep. of Germany

NEWS FROM THE MEMBERS

Daniel F. WHYBREW, II. Zoologisches Institut und Museum der Universität Göttingen, Berliner Straße 28, D-3400 Göttingen:

I am now finishing my revision of the harpacticoid genus Paraleptastacus. I have redescribed the following species: P. spinicuada, P. monensis (Moore, 1976), P. holsaticus, P. katamensis, P. brevicaudatus, P. klieli, P. triseti, P. espinulatus. In addition, the distribution of the 5 species present on the Isle of Sylt (North Sea) was studied in 5 beaches of decreasing exposure.

Alexander FRICKE, Nat. Res. Inst. Oceanology
PO Box 320, Stellenbosch, 7600 Rep. South Africa:

Parasitic nematodes in marine fish

During the past months I have been examining the stomach and gut content of benthic fish (the two species of soles 1) Austroglossus pectoralis and 2) Trulla capensis) in an effort to discover whether these fish i.e. mainly their juveniles exploit meiofauna. I am half way through a large bucket of material, which was fixed within minutes of coming aboard after short trawls and have not found one free-living

Rather, these flat fish seem to be opportunistic feeders on interstitial polychaetes like Asychis capensis, gammarid amphipods, cumaceans, ostracods and errant polychaetes like nereids etc. What I have found though, were a few parasitic nematodes (which Magda Vincx was so kind to have identified!) and numerous parasitic Turbellaria. I have kept these specimen and offer them to anyone interested in this specialized group. The ones for which I have tentative names are 1) Thynnascaris syn. Contracecum sensu Mosgovoy 1951 and 2) Cucullanellus.

One problem with a study of fish stomach contents is that relatively few fish are brought up with anything in the stomach, because lacking a sphincter muscle, the pressure of all the fish lying on top of one another in the net, makes them regurgitate their food. Gut contents are mostly a waste of time. The digestive enzymes are so active, that one finds only a gray green mush with polychaete setae and denticles.

Wolfgang STERRER, Bermuda Biological Station
Ferry Reach 1 - 15
Bermuda

After 16 years as director of the Bermuda Biological Station I will be leaving this position at the end of 1985, destination as yet unknown, but with the hope to find a job that will give me more time and freedom again to do research. My immediate plans, however, are for a half-year trip through the South Pacific and Indian Ocean in 1986 to collect marine meiofauna, with particular emphasis on soft-bodied taxa such as Turbellaria, Gnathostomulida, Gastrotricha, Archannelida etc. At this time I have made contact with some 40 colleagues and marine labs, and it looks as if a likely itinerary will include Chile, Easter Island, Tahiti, Fidji, Papua-New Guinea, Japan, Thailand, India and South Africa.

While neither the timing, itinerary or funding are final yet, I have started to look for colleagues who share my interest in systematics and biogeography, and would be willing to work on preserved material of hard-bodied taxa that I may collect. Any other ideas for cooperation in whatever form will be appreciated.

Günter ARLT, Wilhelm Pieck University
Section Biology
DDR-25 Rostock, German Dem. Rep.

Dear Colleagues,
The BMB Working Group No. 19 "Meiofauna taxonomy" has been established.
The principal aim of the group is to bring together again the meiozoobenthos workers from all of the Baltic Sea countries and to start joint research work again in the Baltic.
The first task would be to propose and publish a checklist of meiobenthic species living in the Baltic.
It is hoped to achieve this within 3 - 5 years. Among other activities, a workshop is planned to be held.

Those wishing to cooperate within the group, please, kindly contact the co-convenors:

Teresa Radziejewska
Institute of Fisheries Oceanography
and Protection of Sea
ul. K. Krolewicza 4
71-550 Szczecin
Poland

or Günter Arlt (address above)

Ulrich EHLERS, II. Zoologisches Institut
Universität Göttingen, Berliner Str. 28
D-3400 Göttingen
Fed. Rep. Germany

Microfauna Marina

In 1984 the new series "Microfauna Marina" has come out (one volume yearly). "Microfauna Marina", edited by P. Ax, Zoologisches Institut und Museum der Universität Göttingen, intends to cover the spectrum of all aspects of ecology, systematics and evolution, of morphology and ultrastructure, just as the natural history of the marine microbenthic fauna. "Microfauna Marina" is a continuation of "Mikrofauna des Meeresbodens" (1970 - 1983) of the Mainz Academy of Science and Literature.

Dan L. DANIELOPOL, Limnologisches Institut
der ÖAW, Gaisberg 116, A-5310 Mondsee,
Austria:

Since 1982 a research group (D.L.D., W. Geiger, C.P. Orellana, M. Tölderer-Farmer, C. Lete, L. Casale, G. Sinzinkayo, M. Handl, M.-N. Terrat), dealing mainly with the Ostracoda of Mondsee, investigated the following topics:

- 1) The spatial (qualitative and quantitative) distribution of the Ostracoda which live in Mondsee.
- 2) The changes of the ostracod fauna during the last 40 - 50 years.
- 3) The relationship between the chemical composition of the sediment and the morphology and chemical structure of the carapace of two ostracod species, Limnocythere sancti-patricii and Cytherissa lacustris.
- 4) Since 1984 we investigate how and why the ostracod Cytherissa lacustris disappeared from the deeper parts of the lake. This species seems to be one of the best indicators for lake (oligotrophic) conditions.
- 5) We studied the morphology of juveniles for the most important ostracod species living in Mondsee which allow us now to follow the dynamics of ostracod paleopopulations.

MEIOBENTHOLOGY BY THE NATIONS

"The fundamental failure of German science is that, when they have invented a name for a phenomenon, they believe they understand it. And the problem with British science is that they can't understand anything the Germans give a name to."

P.J.S. BOADEN, in a discussion
with German friends
(Brighton, 1985)

NEW MEMBERS

Nicholas G. CARTWRIGHT
Dept. of Pure & Applied Zoology
University of Reading
Whiteknights
P.O. Box No 228
READING RG6 2AJ
England

I am presently doing some research on Deep-Sea foraminiferans for a PhD under the supervision of Dr A. Gooday at the Institute of Oceanographic Sciences and Dr A.R. Jones at the University of Reading.

Vera Maria ABUD P. DA SILVA &
Priscilla ARACI GRCHMANN
Departamento de Zoologia
Instituto de Biologia da U.F.R.J.
RIC DE JANEIRO
Brasil

We began to study sandy beach fauna in 1983. In Brasil, this kind of beach has received little scientific attention until now, although it forms the major part of our coast. Our initial goal was to form a group of staff with knowledge of the great number of animal groups which compose this fauna. Fifteen researchers, supervised by us, are now involved in the work on Praia Vermelha, Rio de Janeiro, where the research first began.

M.S. HARIRI
Dept. of Zoology
University of Glasgow
GLASGOW GL2 8DQ
England

I am a postgraduate student doing my PhD-degree on marine benthos. One part of my thesis is on meiobenthos.

Pamela ROE
Dept. of Biological Sciences
California State University, Stanislaus
TURLOCK, CA 95380
U.S.A.

- no 'self-introduction' available -

Michael R. MILLIGAN
Mote Marine Laboratory
1600 City Island Park
SARASOTA, FL 33577
U.S.A.

- no 'self-introduction' available -

Robert J. DIAZ
Virginia Institute of Marine Science
GLOUCESTER POINT, VA 23062
U.S.A.

I am senior scientist at VIMS; my interests are in estuarine and marine benthos, both meio- and macrofauna. Recent applied research revolves around environmental effects of dredging, field validation of laboratory microcosms, secondary productivity, and determination of habitat value. My taxonomic interest is in oligochaetes. With my coworkers we are developing programs in animal-sediment interactions (Linda Schaffner), animal-flow interactions (Mark Luckenbach), and long-term population dynamics (Donald Boesch).

David STRAYER
The New York Botanical Garden
Institute of Ecosystem Studies
The Mary Flagler Cary Arboretum
Box AB
MILLBROOK, N.Y. 12545
U.S.A.

I just completed a detailed study of the meiobenthos of Mirror Lake, New Hampshire, including the description of the size structure of the community (similar to the marine work of Schwinghamer and Warwick) and the construction of a tentative energy budget for the fauna. I am presently engaged in a survey of the underground meiofauna of southeastern New York.

Christian SCHMIDT
Lerchenstr. 76
D- 2000 HAMBURG 50
Fed.Rep. Germany

When I found my first tardigrade in the sands of the Elbe-estuary a few years ago, I became interested in meiofauna and meiobenthos research. Now, as a graduate student of Zoology at the University of Hamburg, I am working on ecological aspects in the meiobenthos under the supervision of Dr Giere. At the moment, I prepare experimental studies using 'artificial sand systems'. My other fields of zoological interest: evolution and zoogeography of meiobenthos and identification of nematodes. I would like to get in contact with other students from Germany and abroad who are similarly interested in the biology and systematics of 'smaller animal groups'.

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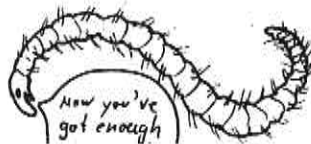
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Something to think about under the Christmas tree:

CHISHOLM'S THIRD LAW:

Proposals, as understood by the proposer, will be judged otherwise by others.

Corollaries:

1. If you explain so clearly that nobody can misunderstand, somebody will.
2. If you do something which you are sure will meet everybody's approval, somebody won't like it.
3. Procedures devised to implement the purpose won't quite work.

FINAGLE'S THIRD LAW:

In any collection of data, the figure most obviously correct, beyond all need of checking, is the mistake.

Corollaries:

1. No one whom you ask for help will see it.
2. Everyone who stops by with unsought advice will see it immediately.

MAIER'S LAW:

If the facts do not conform to the theory, they must be disposed of.

Corollaries:

1. The bigger the theory, the better.
2. The experiment may be considered a success if no more than 50 % of the observed measurements must be discarded to obtain a correspondence with the theory.



ZYMURGY'S FIRST LAW OF EVOLVING SYSTEMS DYNAMICS:

Once you open a can of worms, the only way to recan them is to use a larger can.

PUDDER'S LAW: (and end of PSAMMONALIA 70)

Anything that begins well, ends badly.
Anything that begins badly, ends worse.