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EDITORIAL

Dear Friends,

you certainly know 'SYPROS', the Symposium PROceedings Syndrome, this old malady with a case story and with symptoms that could go like this:

Having given their talks the participants of the symposium/conference/congress are requested to immediately deliver their manuscripts, properly prepared of course. You do your best - last-minute changes, additions to the reference list etc - and proudly send your paper only a month later to the editor(s) who had promised to publish the "Proceedings of the ..." not later than a year after closure of the symposium, if - if everybody was punctual, each manuscript had arrived in time.

E a c h manuscript? Also that miserable, merely descriptive account of only local interest, that poorly investigated superficial "bla bla" warmed up for the occasion for the fifth time, only with a new, attractive title? Of course, there will also be included in the volume this excellent review paper, the highlight of the whole week. But, what a crude mixture! Of course! For the sake of publishing a really 'comprehensive' (voluminous) book, no quality standard has to be met, no strict anonymous refereeing exists, every contribution is suitable for print.

Well, during the first year or so, you feel just uneasy about this, but thereafter you begin to worry, become increasingly annoyed when you are asked by colleagues "which now is the exact quotation of your 'in press'-paper, which year will it be out? Can I cite it at all?" But, what is more embarrassing, you are working in an active research group - your new manuscripts, based on the results presented at that old symposium, are being sent to modern, "quick" journals - but you have to cite their scientific basis continuously as 'in press': a completely unsatisfactory situation, readers are not able to check details of the more fundamental, proceeding paper, it is still not out.

And finally, after almost two years (you have more or less resigned), the "Proceedings of the..." are on your desk - a pretentious volume in its make up, with a more attractive title than what is really mirrored by many contributions' content. The relatively few participants of the meeting get it free. Free? Well, the expenses you paid long ago as Symposium Fee are almost forgotten. But,

as the financial situation in most (European only?) institute libraries is at present, few copies of these 'Symposium Proceedings' will be bought - with the result that their distribution is usually very limited, at least much less spread than those normal journals in which you have published the subsequent manuscripts and which the average library has subscribed.

Well, after all, what have you got from your symposium contribution? A very much delayed, somewhat outdated paper in a volume with a distribution restricted to not much more than to those who have attended the symposium and, thus, know your paper anyway, a volume of much unbalanced quality standard, typically affected by 'SYPROS'.

But SYPROS has often also a negative impact on the symposia themselves: If you really want to report on current results, you will seldomly have had the chance for all the meticulous experimentation, statistical treatment of your data and cross-checking with long series, which is needed for a publication. You wanted to make up your paper with somewhat provocative speculations, to inspire the discussions. But, as it often goes, THE SPIRITS ARE BANNED FROM THE SYMPOSIUM TABLE! Participants tend to read monologues, present scientific statements rather than dedicating their ideas and enthusiasm to ardent discussions. One does not take advantage of the rare chance that you have all your colleagues, friends and critics likewise, around. One does not sufficiently use the meetings as a mutualistic exchange, instead one often misuses them as autistic science shows.

Well, how to cure this pathological trend, how to minimize the risk of infection, which can pervert the true meaning of symposia? I think, there are two remedies:

- a) The radical cure: No proceedings whatsoever! If the talk presented is of good quality and substantiated by hard facts, it will be readily accepted by a regular journal. Thus, it will not only be out sooner than most 'Proceedings', but also find a wider reading public. And, of equal importance: 'no Proceedings' - that means often new ideas (although often somewhat speculative) and fruitful discussions at the Symposium.
- b) The compromising cure or "the rigid editor": A strict and early(!) deadline ensures that papers are in the editors hand not later than a month after closure of the symposium. Thus, late-comers will not delay the editing, if there are late-comers at all. The editor(s) are very demanding and have already initiated a regular and effect-

ive refereeing process (as is usual these days in normal journals) and, thus, delete the "weak" papers regardless of the name or fame of the author. There is no fear for excluding some meager contributions from the Proceedings, although they have been presented at the Symposium. The editor pushes the publisher, so that after about 8 - 9 months, but certainly not later than a year, the volume will be out, a time well corresponding to that needed by an average journal with single, submitted papers. By the way, it is often forgotten by the editor that it is the publisher who earns the money, who lives on publishing proceedings etc. They depend on regular publications and, as I was told by an insider, make money already after 200 copies sold. So, they are usually not only 'willing' to publish your proceedings, especially, if these are of good standards, but they are really 'interested' to do so.

You think that the above 'cure b' is far too idealistic, not to be realized? Well, so take 'cure a'! But I believe these are the only ways to overcome the SYPROS-infection of symposia, to delete the almost negative fame which their publications have achieved ("oh, that's only a 'Proceedings'-paper!"). Have you ever been in the position of participating in an appointment-committee and, when it was up to select the best applicant, heard the sentence "Yes, but look at his publication list! He is a typical "Congress-Hansi"! Then you know what I mean. We should take care to improve the reputation of congress-papers, don't you think so? Anticipating many protests,  
yours sincerely,



*Olav Giere*  
Olav Giere

TREASURER'S REPORT

Another year has gone, and it is time again for the report on the financial situation of our Association. I assure you, we would be even better off if we wouldn't lose numerous members each turn of the year because they don't extend their membership by paying their dues. It can't be the money, so forgetfulness, indifference?

Well, here is Anno Faubel's report (see table) and his comments:

In 1985, the new deposits towards the PSAMMONALIA issues no 67 - 70 were DM 2,900.74. This sum includes interests, but also some smaller or larger donations made to I.A.M. from various members. On behalf of the Executive Committee I take this opportunity to thank

	* 67 I/ 1985	* 68 II/ 1985	* 69 III/ 1985	* 70 IV/ 1985
Balance forward	8,623.43	8,611.45	8,877.37	8,276.25
Deposits	768.16	754.58	340.37	1,037.63
Interests		67.36		
<b>Total</b>	<b>9,391.59</b>	<b>9,433.39</b>	<b>9,217.74</b>	<b>9,313.88</b>
<b>Expenses:</b>				
Journal	529.84	491.21	513.50	597.71
Postage and mail handling	231.50	43.56	398.24	388.00
Account dues	18.80	21.25	29.75	34.50
<b>Total</b>	<b>780.14</b>	<b>556.02</b>	<b>941.49</b>	<b>1,020.21</b>
<b>Balance</b>	<b>8,611.45</b>	<b>8,877.37</b>	<b>8,276.25</b>	<b>8,293.67</b>

all donors for their generosity. We all know, charges for International Money Orders or drafts are very high. Therefore, we here present again three less expensive alternatives for sending your dues. But remember - my address has changed recently:

Dr Anno Faubel  
Institut für Hydrobiologie  
und Fischereiwissenschaft  
Universität Hamburg  
Zeiseweg 9  
D-2000 HAMBURG 50  
Fed. Rep. Germany

1. Use a postal remittance addressed to the treasurer.
2. Send bills (US-Dollars) enclosed in a registered letter. Their amount must exceed the equivalent of DM 12.00 for a minimum (consider exchange charges!).
3. Members from U.S.A., Canada, Great Britain, France, Sweden, Austria and Switzerland: You can send a cheque to the treasurer issued in your domestic currency! However, the equivalent in DM must exceed the annual dues (12.00 DM) by at least 0.50 DM (charge per cheque).

Cordially, yours Anno Faubel



We just counted the files -  
we risk to lose 75 (seventy five !!)  
members with dues in good standing  
only until the end of 1985!  
If they don't take the last chance  
and pay with this issue, I. A. M.  
will suddenly be 25% smaller!  
Olaw five

#### MEIOFAUNAL DISTRIBUTION PROBLEMS

The meiobenthos had carnival,  
too narrow soon was the mesopsammal!  
When the turbs got squeezed flat,  
one Lady Harp said:  
"Oh dear, let us enter the pelagial!"

#### DEADLINE APPROACHING!!

Another reminder not to forget April 1, 1986. What, you don't know which special date that is down in Tampa, Florida? Well, since it's just you whom they want there - here we tell you again: It is the LAST CHANCE to send the abstract of your paper/poster for the SIXTH INTERNATIONAL MEIOFAUNA CONFERENCE (SIMCO), to be held from July 13 - 19, 1986 in Tampa, Florida. For all further details and the necessary forms see PSAMMONALIA 69 (Aug 85) and 70 (Nov 85). By the way, your personal registration form should be in Tampa by June 1, 1986. And keep in mind -(they) you would hate it, if you missed it!

#### NEWS FROM THE MEMBERS

Preben JENSEN, Tovesvej 9, Gurre,  
DK-3000 Helsingør, Denmark

#### "Divorce"

After 11 years as guest at the Marine Biological Laboratory, University of Copenhagen, Helsingør, our relation has come to an end in the sense that the committee feels that I have to leave the laboratory because of what is called "serious difficulties as regards collaboration", however, without specifying what the problem in reality is. Consequently, I have changed my correspondence address to my private home (see above). Where to find a suitable working place

is another problem!

From June 1 to Nov 30, 1986 I will work in Kiel, Federal Republic of Germany, being employed there in a project with material from the Norwegian Sea. It concerns sedimentation and bioturbation by the macrofauna and nematodes + other meiofauna. Moreover, this summer I expect to carry out in cooperation with Scandinavian botanists in-situ-experiments on the grazing effects of nematodes on diatoms and green algae in the Baltic Sea (Tvärminne Zoological Station, Finland). Results from a pilot study are promising.

Altogether, a somewhat chaotic situation, but with an unchanged move and pleasure in benthic ecology in general and nematodes specifically. Thus, keep me on your mailing list!

Crus PALACIN-CABAÑAS, Instituto de Investigaciones Pesqueras (C.S.I.C.)  
Paseo Nacional S/N, 08003 Barcelona, Spain

So far, I have been working in the Department of Zoology, Faculty of Biology, University of Barcelona. Now I have obtained a fellowship for working on the meiofauna of an estuarine area in the western Mediterranean - the Ebro Delta. Please notice my new address.

David STRAYER, Institute of Ecosystem Studies,  
Box AB, Millbrook, NY 12545, U.S.A.

D.S. and Thomas Simmons are compiling the section on "Minor Taxa" for the annual bibliography of the North American Benthological Society. This bibliography is distributed to the more than 1400 members of NABS, most of whom have a primary interest in freshwater invertebrates. In order to expand the coverage of meiofauna, reprints or references to work on the meiofauna should be sent to David Strayer (address above). Articles on the freshwater meiofauna are especially welcome, but papers on the marine meiofauna that would be of general interest to all aquatic benthologists will be included in the bibliography as well. Thank you for your help!

Alexander FRICKE, Natn. Res. Inst. Oceanol.  
Box 320, 7600 Stellenbosch, R.S.A.

In the near future there will be organized a geological expedition (Dep. Marine Geoscience) to the Agulhas Ridge and Protea Sea Mount. This will give the opportunity to take deep-sea meiofauna samples (in triplicates, up to 5000 m depth, 40°S - 15°E). Anybody interested in nematodes particularly? Let me know if you want to receive the properly fixed samples.

#### NEW OR REINSTATED MEMBERS

What's going on? We have a whole avalanche of new members! Welcome to you all!

Patricia AISSA, Ecole Normale Supérieure  
de Bizerte, BIZERTE, Tunisia

I am working on the ecology and systematics of marine nematodes. In my thesis I am studying under the supervision of P. Vitiello the meiofauna, particularly the nematodes of Lake Tunis. Presently I investigate the nematode fauna of Bizerte lagoon.

Marek LABUDA, College of Education,  
Dept. of Ecology, 76-200 Szupsk,  
ul. Arciszewskiego 22 b, Poland

I would like to inform you that I work on problems of meiofauna in Polish lakes near the Baltic Sea. I have had an opportunity to make use of your newsletter PSAMMONALIA which turned out to be indispensable for my research. Unfortunately, so far, I have not had any access to it. I would be most grateful if I could get the chance to receive it regularly.

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

Received B.S. in zoology from University of Illinois. M.S. in Marine Biology (and Ph.D. - incomplete) at University of Southern Mississippi. I have been working for environmental consulting companies throughout the eastern United States and Gulf Coast for the past 13 years, primarily involved in freshwater and estuarine invertebrate taxonomy and ecology, specializing in oligochaetes. My present research concerns the marine and estuarine oligochaete species on the west coast of Florida.

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#### BUNUEL'S LAW

Overdoing things is harmful in all cases, even when it comes to efficiency.

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Jonathan P. TOAL, c/o Kinnetic Laboratories Inc., 3050 Paul Sweet Rd., Santa Cruz, CA 95061, U.S.A.

Recently I have become involved in meiobenthos sorting and identifying a variety of harpacticoid copepods from Santa Barbara, California. Dr. Paul Montagna of Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory, who is training me in meiofauna and harpacticoid taxonomy, suggested I become a member as it would be a good way to further my knowledge of both meiofauna taxonomy and ecology.

Ann VANREUSEL, Institute of Zoology, Marine Biology Section, State University of Ghent, Ledeganckstr. 35, 9000 Gent, Belgium

In 1984, I have finished my studies in zoology (morphology, ecology, systematics). In September 1984, I have started the research for my ph.D. The subject of the thesis is an inventarisation of the free-living nematodes in the near- and offshore sediments of the North Sea situated in front of the Western and eastern Scheldt Delta. The influence of sedimentological properties, depth, tidal currents, seasonal fluctuations, and other physical parameters will be studied. Waiting for my first issue of PSAMMONALIA I send you my regards.

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The following new members have not sent a 'self-introduction'. I regret this since it is a good chance to get known in the world of meiobenthologists. It would be much appreciated if they sent it later. O. Giere

Thomas S. BOULLION, Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries, Seafood Div., P.O. Box 15570, Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70895, U.S.A.

Wayne A. EVANS, Dept. of Biology, Union College, Barbourville, KY 40906, U.S.A.

Rony HUYS, Lab. Morfologie, Institute of Zoology, State University Ghent, Ledeganckstr. 35, B-9000 Gent, Belgium

Ludo I. JACOBS, Lab. Morfologi, Institute of Zoology, State University Ghent, Ledeganckstr. 35, B-9000 Gent, Belgium

Cynthia VENN, Dept. of Geology, Univ. of Pittsburgh, Pittsburgh, PA 15260, U.S.A.

My present research efforts are directed toward understanding the distribution and ecological relationships of Foraminifera and Ostracoda in the marshes of the coast of Georgia in the U.S.A. I am also interested in correlating foram and ostracode distributions with the distributions of the soft-bodied meiofaunal groups, particularly the harpacticoid copepods.

Donald G. WEBB, Dept. of Oceanography, Univ. of British Columbia, Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada V6T 1W5

I am a Ph.D. student in the Dept. of Oceanography under the supervision of Dr. T.R. Parsons. My research is concerned with the effect of predation by juvenile salmon on the structure and dynamics of an eelgrass bed harpacticoid community. My interests include the taxonomy and systematics of harpacticoid copepods and I am presently studying copepods from the Queen Charlotte Islands, B.C., with Dr. B.M. Marcotte of McGill University.

Christian WEHRENBURG, II. Zoologisches Institut und Museum der Universität, Berliner Str. 28, D-3400 Göttingen, Fed. Rep. Germany

Since four years I am engaged in meiofauna studies. At present I am working on an ecological comparison of Plathelminthes living in eulittoral and sublittoral sands of the North Sea (Island of Sylt) for my Ph.D. thesis under the supervision of Prof. Ax and Dr. Reise. Beside ecology my interests are systematics and methods in general. I participated in VIMCO and will come to SIMCO.

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KERR - Library, Marine Science Center, Newport, OR 97365, U.S.A.

Mike MURRELL, Dept. of Zoology and Physiology, Louisiana State University, Baton Rouge, LA 70803, U.S.A.

Philip RUTLEDGE, Dept. of Zoology and Physiology, Louisiana State Univ., Baton Rouge, LA 70803, U.S.A.

Rudy VANDERHAEGHEN and Guido VRANKEN  
Lab. Morfologi, Institute of Zoology, State University Ghent, Ledeganckstr. 35, B-9000 Gent, Belgium

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