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EDITORIAL

Dear Friends,

recovering from the Florida heat on the shores of a beautiful, remote Swedish lake, my thoughts go back to our Tampa Conference, to inspiring talks, most enjoyable conversations with old and new friends, but also to crazy flume rides and, of course, to good Florida sea food.

Well, since I could attend also the previous conferences in Columbia 1980 and Gent 1983, it's natural to compare and find out differences and similarities. I'm just talking of the scientific contents - the 'social' events are incomparable, every time genuine and unique, but always easy going! What has changed then, what seemed (to me) characteristic?

The majority of the talks given in Tampa dealt with experimental work, in the field or in the lab, trying to find out reactions of one or a few species in a simplified and controllable environment, fashionably termed "microcosm". This is a relatively new trend in meiobenthology - is it the insight that the endless studies on community composition of local beaches and flats do rarely lead to any valid generalization, since they were not understood correctly, not even with the most advanced statistics and computer programs, because we often lacked simple basic informations? Do we now go back from far-reaching models to the single links of the chains, realizing that we did not understand well enough the "simple biology and ecology" of common species to quantify their share in complicated hierarchial systems? In any case, in former meetings we had more community descriptions and less reports on experiments investigating such basic factors like dispersal, predation or reproduction.

A fact that amazed me was the almost complete absence of papers dealing with the impact of pollution, a field which in former years often dominated the congress programmes. Since the threat of regardless destruction of our and also the meiofaunal environment has certainly not diminished, must I take this as a sign of a wide-spread resignation? Have we given up our hopes that the results of our scientific work will change anything?

A more encouraging new aspect was the growing number of investigations, even sophisticated experiments, on deep-sea meiofauna reflecting the increased understanding of this biota (how much do we have to change our views!) and the improved modern sampling techniques.

And there was another feature which contributed to the overall success of the Tampa Conference: The series of papers on freshwater meiofauna, introduced by Pennak's presentation on recent anomalies and rarities in that field. It underlined beautifully that not only in the sea we can expect strikingly novel findings. To be honest: Most of us marine meiobenthologists learned a lot in that morning session. How much can the freshwater biota differ from what we know of saltwater!

Speaking about the success of the meeting - the best result was the high standard of most talks. Good, interesting and new data were presented in a well prepared and clearly illustrated way - and this is not self-understood for congress talks! Lively, really useful discussions and comments, chairmen flexible enough not to cut down too cruelly the flux of discussions, and the usual informal atmosphere, so characteristic for Meiofauna Conferences, warranted the success.

One scope, I felt, was somewhat underrepresented, especially when comparing with the Gent Conference. In times when new major taxa are being discovered and described also from meiofauna it is not just much if four papers deal with classical structural and systematical analyses, the basis of all biology and ecology. But this is, of course, depending on the dominating scientific background of the participants and there is nothing wrong with it. It will surely be balanced to a certain extent at the next conference to be held in Vienna (see Report on Meeting of the Executive Committee).

And Vienna will hopefully settle a far more serious problem which is really not just encouraging: The drastic drop in the number of participants from between 85 and 100 in the former meetings to only about 65 now, with altogether just 10 colleagues from Europe! I still don't believe that the interest in meiofauna research has sunk so much and tend to blame the harsh financial situation in many countries for this deplorable development. Well,

let's wait for Vienna to see further!

You want also to know what we did during leisure hours? In those pleasant, warm evenings? Believe it or not, there were Hjalmar Thiel and Bob Higgins who spoiled it all: they forced many of us to work on the new Meiofauna Manual! So, what could have been just funtime turned now into hard work, going through the various chapters submitted. But we survived the critical revision and could then, exhausted and thirsty, join the others, the lucky ones, who already enjoyed their beer at/in the swimming pool.

Besides: From my former stays in the U.S.A. I knew - money can be made out of everything. They even sold "Genuine Canned Florida Sunshine" - but this we got free, all day long and at the hottest rates desired. We don't have to thank you for that, Susan, but for most of the rest!

Yours sincerely



Olav Giere

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REPORT ON THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING  
IN TAMPA, July 15, 1986

At the meeting it was decided that the 7th International Meiofauna Conference 1989 be held in Vienna (Austria). The hope was expressed that this meeting, for the first time in Austria, would be convenient also for freshwater meiobenthologists (e.g. stygobiologists) and favourable to all our colleagues from the Eastern European countries. I.A.M. thanks Dr. Jörg Ott for his kind invitation.

In addition the Committee welcomed a tentative plan to arrange the 8th Conference 1992 in Japan, provided sufficient subsidy could be raised. Dr. Shirayama has been encouraged to make an official offer to I.A.M.

REPORT ON THE BUSINESS MEETING OF I.A.M.  
IN TAMPA, July 17, 1986

The Business Meeting was attended by 42 members in good standing.

1. The announcement that Vienna be our next conference place was welcomed, but a good coordination with the recently established workshops of various meiobenthology subgroups, due for 1989, was suggested. The following motion (B. Coull, R. Higgins) passed unanimously: "Be it resolved that I.A.M. contact the other groups to closely coordinate meeting time, sequence and location for 1989".
2. The attending members of I.A.M. appreciated the possibility to have the 1992-conference in Japan and will strongly encourage all further steps to realize this tentative plan. They invite Dr. Shirayama to make an official offer for invitation to I.A.M. and simultaneously appreciate very much

every inquiry into the possibility of receiving financial support.

3. The following change of Bylaw 1 of the Constitution of I.A.M. passed unanimously. Bylaw 1 ("Annual Dues") reads now as follows (additions and changes underlined):

"Annual dues for Regular Members shall be determined by the Council at a rate consistent with the currency under which the treasury is operating at a given time. 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 in International Money Orders or form of payment not subject to a conversion loss to the Association.

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."

Some minor changes concerning a few words in the Constitution passed unanimously. The complete Constitution of I.A.M. as it stands now will be published in one of the 1987-issues of PSAMMONALIA.

4. Election of the new Chairperson of I.A.M. and of new members of the Executive Committee

John W. Fleeger was elected unanimously as the new Chairperson serving from Jan. 1st, 1987 until Dec. 31st, 1989. CONGRATULATIONS!! John will appoint in due time the new treasurer and the members of the Board of Correspondents.



Since the terms of C. Erséus (Sweden) and R. Warwick (England) will expire in Dec. 1986, the following new members were elected unanimously to substitute them: L. Guidi (France) and G. Hicks (New Zealand). Their term will last from Jan. 1987 until Dec. 1992. The expiring term of C. Heip, our former Chairman, will be ex officio substituted by O. Giere who will serve for the forthcoming three years. So, the new Executive Committee will consist of S. Bell, O. Giere, L. Guidi, G. Hicks, W. Westheide, and the new treasurer.

#### SOFT MEIOFAUNA

VIENNA for conference next,  
That calls for a limerick text:  
What a wonderful chance -  
When discussions get tense,  
Waltz music keeps tempers relaxed.



#### NEW OR REINSTATED MEMBERS

I couldn't resist, there was my chance - all of them were present! So I shanghaied in Tampa as many new members as possible when they tried to leave the audience hall (or at least I made them pay dues).  
O.G.

Kevin R. CARMAN

Dept. of Oceanography  
Florida State University  
Tallahassee, FL 32306-3048, U.S.A.

I am studying the in-situ feeding ecology of harpacticoid copepods relative to individual microbial species by employment of radiotracer and immunological techniques. I am also interested in the biogeography of interstitial and phytal harpacticoids.

Carol A. COUCH

Dept. of Biology  
University of South Carolina  
Columbia, S.C. 29208, U.S.A.

Master's student under the direction of Dr. Bruce Coull. Current project is a trophic analysis of nematodes and copepods using stable isotopes of C, N and S as food chain tracers. Developing interests are ecology of freshwater meiofauna.

David G. FREY

Dept. of Biology  
Indiana University  
Bloomington, IN. 47405, U.S.A.

My interests in the meiofauna are mainly the chydorid Cladocera. These are important elements of the aerated freshwater substrate habitats in helping utilize the organic detritus, bacteria, and algae of the system. Although most of these animals can swim, few of them occur free in the water except when they are moving from one place to another. They are claimed by most persons to be virtually cosmopolitan in distribution, but this seems false when the taxa are studied in sufficient detail.

Edward (Ned) LYKE

Dept. of Biological Sciences  
California State University, Hayward  
Hayward, CA. 94546, U.S.A.

I am developing a small program examining the meiofauna of the mudflats and salt marshes (Spartina and Salicornia) of south San Francisco Bay. At present the program is establishing baseline information of taxonomic groups present, their distribution and abundance. We hope to develop experimental approaches in the near future.

Erin Claire O'DOHERTY

Institute of Ecology  
University of Georgia  
Athens, GA. 30606, U.S.A.

I am working on stream-dwelling meiofauna, especially on the harpacticoids, and particularly interested in secondary production of meiofauna and meiofauna/macrofauna interactions.

I am currently a student at the University of Georgia working under the direction of Dr. Judy Meyer. I expect to earn my Ph.D. by June 1987.

Walter B. SIKORA

Coastal Ecology Institute  
Center for Wetland Resources  
Louisiana State University  
Baton Rouge, LA. 70803, U.S.A.

Since 1974 studies on meiofaunal community structure and dynamics, meiofauna/macrofauna interactions, food webs and trophic pathways in Louisiana estuarine salt marshes.

Jean Pantell SIKORA  
Coastal Ecology Institute  
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Louisiana State University  
Baton Rouge, LA 70803, U.S.A.

Although my degree work was done at the University of Georgia with L.R. Pomeroy, I was (as were many of us!) introduced to meiofauna by Bruce Coull. I have been working in the estuarine marshes of Louisiana since 1978. My principle interests are in statistical and numerical analyses of benthic assemblages or communities, and in the dynamics of their density in relation to Eh and sulfide levels.

Kevin SHERMAN  
Dept. of Oceanography  
Florida State University  
Tallahassee, FL. 32306, U.S.A.  
(no self-introduction available)

Eugene H. SCHMITZ  
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(no self-introduction available)

Daniel Gordon PERLMUTTER  
Institute of Ecology  
University of Georgia  
Athens, GA. 30602, U.S.A.

I am a graduate student in the ecology degree program at the University of Georgia, working toward a Ph.D. degree under the guidance of Dr. Judith L. Meyer. I will complete my dissertation work by January 1987. My interests are the role and significance of meiofauna in lotic freshwater systems, meiofaunal/microbial interactions, relations between meiofauna and macrofauna and the meiofaunal impact on detrital processing.

Paul N. Turner  
Dept. of Invert. Zoology  
Natn. Mus. Nat. Hist.  
Smithsonian Institution  
Washington, D.C. 20560, U.S.A.

Above all else, I am a rotiferologist. My undergraduate degree is in biology (but my Master's is not), and I have published works on rotifers many times. The distribution and taxonomy of these animals occupies most of my spare time, yet I am not a professional. Presently I am investigating South American bodies of water for baseline species lists. One of my interests is in the taxonomy of psammolittoral rotifers to which I anticipate my own or others contributions to your publication.

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SEGAL's LAW:

A man with one watch knows what time it is.  
A man with two watches is never sure.

FETT's LAW:

Never replicate a successful experiment.

Reprinted from: "Murphy's Law and other reasons why things go wrong"

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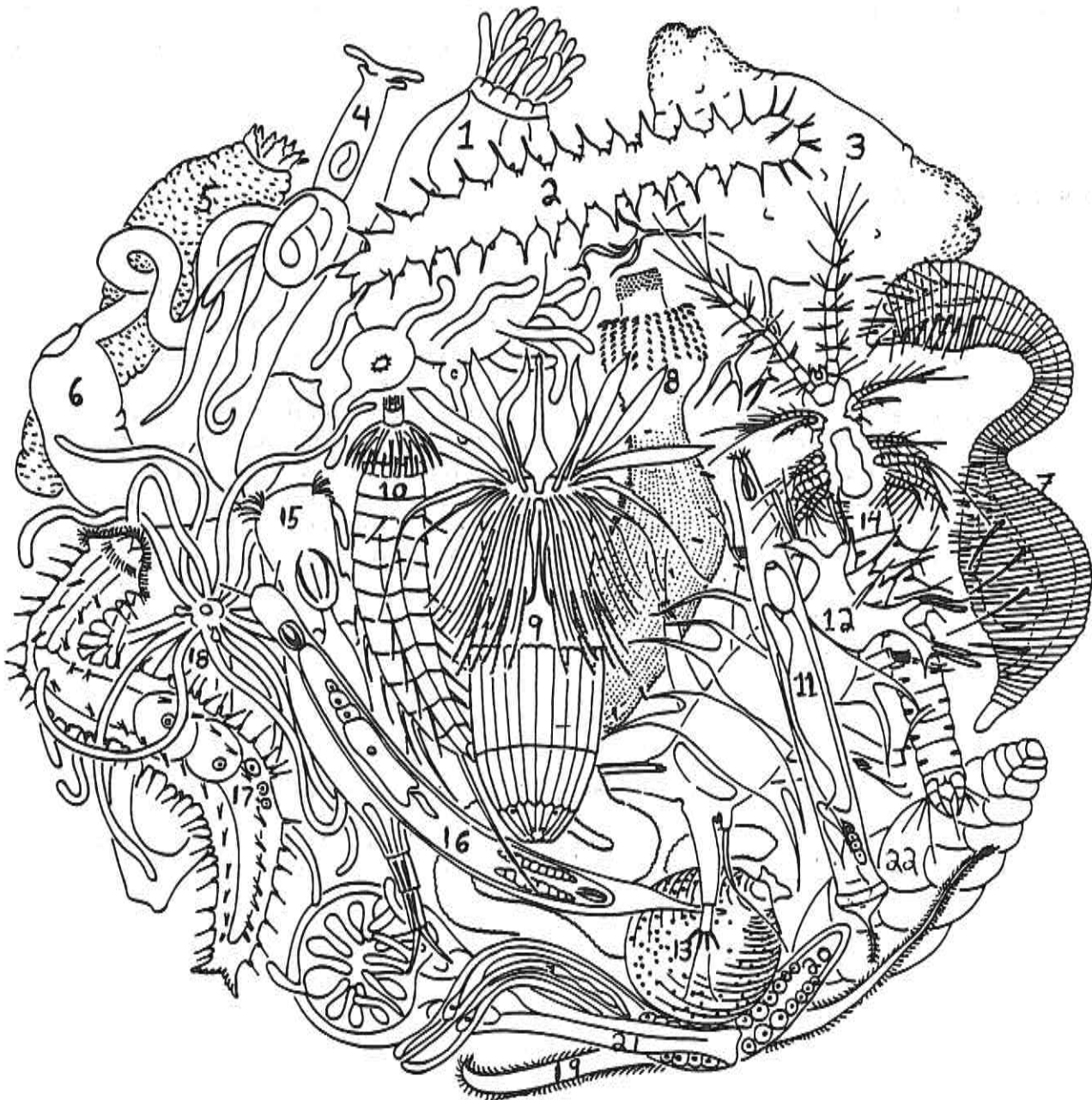
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#### MEIOFAUNA CONTEST

6<sup>th</sup> International Meiofauna Conference, Tampa, 1986

The participants of the Meiofauna Conference in Tampa held the Contest, marvellously designed by Bob Higgins, so inspiring that all members of the Association should have the same fun we had: So, here is the puzzle, overleaf you'll find the form to be filled out and, hidden underneath the yellow label, are the correct answers. No, try first, before you cheat! Olav

P.S. I think Susan Bell has even some spare T-shirts with the same emblem.





MEIOFAUNA CONTEST

SIMCO 1986

Directions: Identify each numbered organism to the lowest taxon possible.

- |          |          |
|----------|----------|
| 1. ....  | 12. .... |
| 2. ....  | 13. .... |
| 3. ....  | 14. .... |
| 4. ....  | 15. .... |
| 5. ....  | 16. .... |
| 6. ....  | 17. .... |
| 7. ....  | 18. .... |
| 8. ....  | 19. .... |
| 9. ....  | 20. .... |
| 10. .... | 21. .... |
| 11. .... | 22. .... |

And now, let's see:

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| 1. Bryozoa: Monobryozoon ambulans                        | 12. Tardigrada: Parastygarctus higginsii                 |
| 2. Polychaeta: Hesionides riegerorum                     | 13. Brachiopoda: Gwynia capsula                          |
| 3. Tunicata: Meteorostigma gonochorica                   | 14. Crustacea, Mystacocarida: Derocheilocaridius typicus |
| 4. Mollusca: Microhedyle lactea                          | 15. Rotifera: Wizejskiella subterranea                   |
| 5. Echinodermata, Holothurioida: Leptosynapta minuta     | 16. Gnathostomulida: Gnathostomula paradoxa              |
| 6. Sipunculida: Aspidosiphon exiguus                     | 17. Gastrotricha: Turbanella cornuta                     |
| 7. Nematoda: Metepsilonema hagmeieri                     | 18. Cnidaria, Hydrozoa: Halammohydra schulzei            |
| 8. Priapulida: Tubiluchus corallicola                    | 19. Ciliophora: Remanella caudata                        |
| 9. Loricifera: Pliciloricus gracilis                     | 20. Nemertinea: Ototyphlonemertes aurantiaca             |
| 10. Kinorhyncha: Echinoderes kozloffii                   | 21. Kamptozoa (Entoprocta): Loxosoma isolata             |
| 11. Platyhelminthes (Turbellaria): Cheliplanilla caudata | 22. Sarcomastigophora, Foraminiferida: Ammonia beccarii  |

You got everything correct?

May we consider this as your application for the next chairperson?