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"This newsletter is not deemed to be a valid publication for formal taxonomic purposes"

EDITORIAL

A significant moment has arrived for meiobenthology. The October 12, 1987 issue of Current Contents featured the 1971 paper by S.A. Gerlach, "On the importance of meiofauna for benthos communities", *Oecologia* 6: 176-190, as its Citation Classic. Each week, Current Contents selects a frequently cited paper, and asks the author to comment on its popularity. Such papers are widely read, have influenced the thinking of many others and are, therefore, pivotal in their field. Science Citation Index shows that Gerlach's paper has been cited in over 130 publications.

The meaning of a meiofaunal Citation Classic is that meiofauna are no longer only an obscure size-grouping of animals, and that the study of meiofauna is not off-center from the rest of aquatic biology. The term "meiobenthos" must be clearly understood by a large number of workers; surely not all those citing Gerlach's work have been meiobenthologists. There are a number of reasons for the popularity of Gerlach's paper. It was published at a time when many new directions in meiofaunal research and marine biology were being undertaken. Research was turning toward a more quantitative base after describing numerous faunal assemblages. Marine ecologists were busily making ecosystem models and Gerlach's paper provided an easy compartment for the meiofauna. It was a fresh and exciting time because many avenues in meiofauna research were unexplored. Since that time, a number of aquatic biologists have been converted to the belief that meiofauna deserve to be studied, and that they can produce many scientifically interesting questions.

At one time, the term meiofauna produced little recognition at large non-specialist meetings. Now it hardly seems worthwhile to define it in presentations. Meiobenthologists have done a good job of stating a case for the importance of meiofauna and in selecting questions for study which are of interest to a broad range of scientists. However, we must continue to publicize our work and choose interesting topics of study to keep meiofauna in the mainstream of aquatic biology. Otherwise, meiobenthology will once again be only for a small group of specialists (making it harder to publish in major journals and receive funding), and there may never be a second meiofaunal Citation Classic.

John Fleeger

SPECIAL OFFER

Your editor has put together the 1987 literature lists from *Psammonalia* into one large computer file. The advantage of the one file is that the literature base is compatible with most word processor or data base programs. With this file, one could search for specific words in the title or for authors for bibliographic indices. This is useful in finding relevant literature and in creating a literature cited file for a manuscript. I am willing to make this available to members of the society in two ways. The best way is by BITNET (a mainframe computer communication method). BITNET is free to me and to the society, and the receiver usually has the capability of downloading the file to a PC. I can also send anyone a floppy disc with the file in DOS, Word Perfect or a generic word processing style. Send me your BITNET address at ZOFLEE@LSUMVS or write by mail to request the IBM compatible floppy by mail. I am also willing to send a copy of the society's mailing list to members via BITNET. I plan on reproducing the mailing list again (alphabetized by country) for everyone for the next issue of *Psammonalia*. You can save the society some money by requesting it over BITNET.

BITNET USERS

Please send your BITNET address to me at ZOFLEE@LSUMVS (if you use this system). I will compile all addresses and put them in an upcoming issue of *Psammonalia*. Meiobenthologists from many parts of the world could then communicate quickly, easily and cheaply (maybe even save reprint request card fees). If you use it, let me know.

CARTOON CONTEST

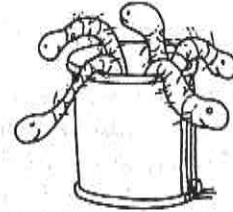
In the August 1987 issue of *Psammonalia*, I announced a meiofauna cartoon contest. I have had outstanding entries, but only from Rudy Hermens and Ludo Jacobs. How about it meiofaunal humorists? Send me a cartoon and your artwork could appear in *Psammonalia* almost guaranteeing immortality (of a sort), and a one year free subscription.



TREASURER'S REPORT

Treasurer's Report for 1987 from David Thistle (in US \$):

Balance received from previous Treasurer	\$4338.63
Dues received	1129.48
Interest on account	111.77
Debits	1587.91
New Balance	\$3991.97



Volumes 75 and 76 each cost about \$485 to produce and mail. Volumes 77 and 78 each cost about \$300 to produce and mail (costs were less due to a decrease in foreign air mail rates). Estimated cost for volumes 79 - 82 is \$1200, about the level of income in 1987.

DUES AND MEMBERSHIPS

Look at your mailing label. On the line with your name is your expiration date. For those who have not paid through 1988, this issue will be your last unless 1988 dues are paid. The Treasurer is

David Thistle
Dept. of Oceanography
Florida State University
Tallahassee, FL 32306 U.S.A.

David will be happy to accept US \$5.00 for your annual dues. Checks from U.S. banks will be accepted as will international money orders. From other countries, you may send US currency in registered mail. The important thing is to send the money in a form which will not cost the society. The \$5.00 dues are just (barely) enough to cover the newsletter mailing and production costs (all non-North American members will receive the newsletter via air mail), so please don't cause us to lose money when exchanging foreign currency. You may also become a Sustaining or a Patron Member for an annual fee of \$25, and you may pay the current dues plus one year in advance at a given time. If your address or any other information is incorrect, please send me the correct information so it can be altered on our computerized mailing list.

UPDATE ON THE INTRODUCTION TO THE STUDY OF MEIOFAUNA
From Bob Higgins and Hjalmar Thiel, editors of Introduction to the Study of Meiofauna.

Although we missed the spring publication deadline of the Smithsonian Press, we have made considerable progress. The extra amount of work we are doing ourselves rather than having a publisher do it will result in the production of an inexpensive volume as

hoped for. We estimate that the book will consist of 475 pages and will be priced at \$29.95. The Smithsonian Institution Press will make a pre-publication announcement concerning the book sometime this summer in anticipation of a fall publication date.

NEW MEMBERS

Chen Guotong
Division Marine Biology
National Bureau Oceanography, PO Box 75
Hangzhou, People's Republic China.
Chen had a FAME scholarship (Fundamental and Applied Marine Ecology) from the Belgian government. He worked with nematodes under the supervision of Magda Vincx and was introduced to other meiofaunal taxa by Rony Huys and Rudy Herman. Hopefully he can introduce the study of meiofauna in his home institution.

Marco C. Curini-Galletti
Dept. Science dell' Ambiente e del Territorio
Univ. di Pisa, Volta 6, 56100 Pisa, Italy
Marco is an Italian "Ricercatore" working since 1982 on mesopsammic platyhelminthes (Proseriata). He is trying to reconstruct phylogenetic affinities in this group using morphological and karyotype data. He is working with Paul Martens.

Barun Sen Gupta
Dept. Geology and Geophysics, Louisiana State
University
Baton Rouge, LA 70803, USA
Research Interests: Modern and fossil Foraminifera

ANNOUNCEMENT

SEVENTH INTERNATIONAL MEIOFAUNA CONFERENCE (SVIMCO 89)

The SVIMCO will be held in Vienna (Austria) from August 21 to 26, 1989. This is immediately after the International Limnology Meeting at Munich (August 11- 19). Since we would like to strengthen the ties between marine and freshwater meiobiologists we considered this a good idea. Unfortunately there is no time schedule for the EMBS 1989 yet.

The following topics to be emphasized are suggested;

1. Adaptations to environmental gradients: e.g. marine- freshwater, oxic-anoxic, microenvironments and microzonation, rapid temporal changes, techniques to measure and simulate gradients.
2. Faunistics: New types, new insights into phylogeny, new and interesting aspects of biogeography.
3. Role of meiobenthos in specific processes: e.g. decomposition, remineralization, microbial interactions.
4. Trophic webs: Comparison of trophic relationships in marine, freshwater and groundwater situations, methods for tracing trophic relationships.

A special workshop on the origin of groundwater fauna will be organized within the framework of SVIMCO by Dan Danielopol.

We will be happy to receive further suggestions and comments. Please address correspondence to:

Dr. R. Novak (SVIMCO), Institute for Zoology, University of Vienna,
Althanstrasse 14, A-1090 Vienna, AUSTRIA

Dan Danielopol Rudi Novak Jörg Ott Fritz Schiemer

ANNOUNCEMENT

BRITISH MEIOFAUNA SPECIALIST GROUP (RECENT ADVANCES AND ECONOMIC ASSESSMENT)

Notification of the second meeting of the meiofauna specialist group.
Time: 21-22 March, 1988.

Location: The Linnean Society of London, Burlington House, Piccadilly,
London W1V 0LQ

Travel: Delegates will be required to arrange and pay for their own
travel

Accommodation: Delegates will be expected to arrange and pay for their
own accommodation, but the organizers will be happy to assist anyone
experiencing difficulties finding somewhere to stay

Symposium Dinner: If there is sufficient demand a symposium dinner will
be arranged for the evening of the 21st at a modest cost to delegates.

Program:

Dr PJS Boaden (Queen's University, Belfast) - Meiofauna and the origin of
the Metazoa

Dr RM Warwick (IMER, Plymouth) - The role of meiofauna in the marine
ecosystem

Dr M Gee (IMER, Plymouth) - Meiofauna as food for fish

Dr M Treet (Queen Mary College, London) - Use of the electron microscope
in meiofauna research

Dr PJD Lamshead (BMNH), London) - Meiofauna and community ecology

Dr C Moore (Heriot-Watt University, Edinburgh) - Use of meiofauna in
pollution studies

Prof. AD McIntyre (Aberdeen University, Aberdeen) - Role of meiofauna in
education

If interested, contact PJD Lamshead immediately, at Dept. of Zoology,
British Museum (Natural History), London SW7 5BD. Tel 01 938-8731.

NEWS FROM THE MEMBERS

From Bruce C. Coull President, American Microscopical Society, 1988:

An Invitation to join the AMERICAN MICROSCOPICAL SOCIETY

The American Microscopical Society through its journal *TRANSACTIONS OF THE AMERICAN MICROSCOPICAL SOCIETY* has been a major outlet for research on meiofauna. The journal continues to publish meiofauna research and the Society encourages new members. Membership, including the journal, is \$24US per year for regular members; \$12US per year for students. A real scientific bargain! Members also enjoy reduced page charges and the opportunity to apply for funds to offset page charges. Applications for membership are available from me (see Board of Correspondents listing for address) or a letter & check sent directly to American Microscopical Society, P.O. Box 368, Lawrence, Kansas 66044 USA will make you a member. Student applications must be endorsed by their Departmental Chairman.

Günter Arlt, Sektion Biologi, Wilhelm Pieck Universität, Freiligrathstr.7/8, Rostock 2500 GDR. During the two past years I had the opportunity to take samples in shallow coastal areas of the Red Sea. Harpacticoids were collected in huge numbers. For my further work in this matter, I would very much appreciate copies of articles dealing with the Red Sea, its fauna, flora and hydrography. I'm also in need of papers which deal with the taxonomy of harpacticoids occurring in this area.

Olivia Fernando, Marine Research Laboratory, Porto Novo, 608502, Tamil Nadu, India.

After finishing my doctoral thesis on the seasonal variations of macro- and meiofauna from the intertidal region of an estuary, I have begun to have an interest in the taxonomy of meiobenthos. There are not many scientists in India who are interested in the taxonomy of meiobenthos and therefore I have decided to study the Foraminifera as a beginning. Simultaneously I am trying to collect Ostracods too. I would like to take this opportunity to request scientists who are already familiar in Foraminifera and Ostracoda to kindly send me their valuable advice with regard to practical difficulties encountered while studying these two groups, and their taxonomy. Reading material especially with regard to collection and methodology also will be greatly appreciated.

Magda Vincx, Marine Biology Section, State

University Gent, Gent, BELGIUM points out a needed correction from the November, 1987 issue of *Psammonalia*. We failed to mention two staff members, Rudy Hermans (Systematics and ecology of copepods and kinorhynchans) and Arn Vanreusel (Ecology and systematics of nematodes of the Voordelta) in a report on the activities and research personnel of the Marine Biology Section. (Sorry for any inconvenience, the editor.)

OBITUARY

Margareta Hendelberg
Institute Zoology, University Uppsala, Uppsala, Sweden.

REPORTS ON MEETINGS

Günter Arlt, Rostock GDR

A symposium on estuaries and in-shore ecosystems of the south-western Baltic Sea was held in November, 1987 at Kuehlungsborn (near Rostock). It was organized by the Section Biology of the Rostock University, the Biological Society and Chemical Society of the GDR. About 80 participants coming from Poland, USSR, FRG, Sweden, The Netherlands and GDR attended the symposium. In total, 41 papers and 6 posters were presented. The main topics were as follows: physical and chemical characters of our coastal waters, biochemical cycles; energy flow, ecophysiological problems, anthropogenic influences and management.

The papers and posters presented at the symposium will be published in *LIMNOLOGICA* as a separate volume. As a result of the symposium it was decided to continue the course of such symposia holding the next one at Gdansk (Poland) in 1990, i.e. every three years in the future. In addition it is intended to present more meiofauna papers at the next symposia. It also seems to be necessary to establish a special session dealing with estuarine topics at the next (11th) symposium of the "Baltic Marine Biologists" at Szczecin (Poland) in 1988.

John Fleeger, LSU, Baton Rouge, Louisiana

The American Society of Zoologists (ASZ) and the American Society of Limnology and Oceanography have continued a recent trend for holding meetings in New Orleans, Louisiana. Both meetings were represented by a small but stimulating core of meiofaunal researchers.

ASZ - December 27-30, 1987. Posters were given by: Farris, R., Application of videomicroscopy to the study of interstitial fauna; Bruckner, A.W. and M.P. Morse, Biology of a new species of interstitial nudibranch from Maine; Norenburg, J.R., A new old mesopsammic nemertine; Rieger, R.M., G.E. Rieger, S. Tyler and E.N. Powell, Fine

structure of mitochondria in meiobenthic organisms of the marine thallobios. Oral presentations were by Fleeger, J.W. and T.C. Shirley, Meiobenthic responses to sedimentation from a spring phytoplankton bloom; Walls, S., M. Sturdevant, L. McNutt and T. Shirley, Changes in meiobenthos with depth and season in a subarctic ecosystem; Sturdevant, M. and T. Shirley, Does behavior facilitate meiobenthic prey availability to post metamorphic starry flounder?; Meyer, H. and S. Bell, Observations on the reproductive characteristics of Metis holotharidae and Coull, B.C., Site to site variability of meiobenthic copepods along a tidal gradient over 24 hrs.

Ocean Sciences Meeting (Sponsored by the American Society of Limnology and Oceanography and the American Geophysical Union) - January 18-22, 1988. A few papers had meiobenthos as their central focus; some at least mentioned the word meiobenthos during the course of the talk. Papers which I heard include, D. Thistle, Is a temporal difference in harpacticoid copepod abundance at a deep-sea site caused by benthic storms?, T. Shirley and J. Fleeger, Benthic-pelagic coupling in a subarctic ecosystem: Synchronization of meiobenthos population dynamics with phytoplankton sedimentation, J.H. Tietjen and D. M. Alongi Experiments on Meiobenthos from mangrove detrital systems: Effects of detrital types and age on population growth of two nematode species and R.J. Feller and B.C. Coull, Quantifying the impact of fish predation on benthos. Talks which mentioned meiobenthos in passing were given by J. Aller, G.T. Rowe, K. Carman and P.F. Kemp. (Sorry if I missed any meiobenthic papers.)

SUMMER COURSES AND COMING SYMPOSIA

Animal-Microbe-Sediment Relations, a summer course at Friday Harbor Laboratories, Friday Harbor, Washington will be taught July 19-August 20. Instructors: Dr. Craig R. Smith and Dr. Jody W. Deming, University of Washington, Dr. Richard A. Jahnke, Skidaway Institute of Oceanography. Course Description: A process-oriented course emphasizing interactions between metazoans, microbes and the benthic environment. Topics include the chemical and microbial nature of benthic habitats from the deep sea, organism effects on the fate and flux of carbon at the sea floor (e.g., sites and pathways of mineralization, organisms responsible), bioturbation (causes, consequences and models), metazoan and microbial recruitment and succession, and metazoan-microbial trophic relations (microbes as food for deposit feeders, gardening interactions, gut microflora and coevolution). The course includes lectures, laboratory and field demonstrations, and student research projects.

1988 Marine Ecology Course at Marine Biological Laboratory, Woods Hole. The course will emphasize: (1) Primary production, (2) Benthic dynamics, (3) Larval settlement and recruitment. Each of these topics will include about 24 lectures by persons active in the discipline; instruction in laboratory and field techniques; organized class research, including the student participation in project design; analysis and interpretation of data from the class projects. Fundamental research and theory are stressed, but the relevance of ecological theory to such questions as pollution assessment and control is considered. Deadline for application is 1 March 1988. Financial aid is available to qualified applicants. Courses begin 19 June 1988. Apply to: Office of Sponsored Programs, Marine Biological Laboratory, Woods Hole, MA 02543, (617)548-3705.

2nd International Congress of Comparative Physiology and Biochemistry, August 1-5, 1988. Hosted by the Division of Comparative Physiology and Biochemistry of American Society of Zoologists. The meeting will be held on the campus of Louisiana State University, T.H. Dietz and W.B. Stickle local organizers. Sessions of interest include Sulfur metabolism in marine organisms for sulfide-rich habitats (G. Somero), and Sensory guidance in invertebrate behavior - physiological mechanisms (W.J.P. Barnes).

Louisiana Universities Marine Center in Cocodrie, LA, will offer two 5-week summer terms of graduate and undergraduate courses. The first term (June 6 - July 8) will feature Introduction to Marine Science; Marine Chemistry; Marine Science for Teachers; short courses on Wetland Vegetation and Coastal Erosion/Wetland Loss; and Special Research Topics. The second term (July 11 - August 12) will feature Marine Invertebrate Zoology; Marine Ecology; Coastal Field Geology and Coastal Geomorphology; and Special Research Topics. LIMCON facilities provide ready access to salt and brackish marshes, major bay systems, barrier islands, beaches, coastal cheniers, and the nearshore Gulf of Mexico. Two research vessels, the 105-ft Pelican and the 57-ft Acadiana, are available for research and training courses along with a fleet of small boats. The facilities and vessels are operated by LIMCON, a consortium of state universities. Enrollment is through a member institution. Highly qualified students may be eligible for financial support. For applications or further information, contact: SUMMER PROGRAM, Louisiana Universities Marine Consortium, Marine Center, Chauvin, LA 70344 or call 504/851-2800 (preferably before April 1, 1988).

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