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

Editorial

This is a brief editorial, even for me. Next week I'm going to Alaska (see News from Members) for one month to chase (and I hope collect) the exclusive meiofauna, and to start working-up our three year collection of field data. Two things come to mind. First, reports on recent meetings represents one of the best kind of news items we can print in *Psammonalia*. Just knowing who is attending and the topics tend to keep us up-to-date and aware of the field. So if you attend a meeting where meiofauna is discussed or if you give a paper there, remember to send me a short report. Secondly, I look forward to two upcoming events. The Seventh International Conference of Meiofauna is scheduled for August 11-19, 1989 in Vienna, Austria. The time to make plans is now (watch for future announcements!). Additionally, the Higgins and Thiel book on the Introduction to the Study of Meiofauna will be published in the fall of 1988.

I have produced a membership list for the society which is current up to early May, 1988. The list is organized by country for your convenience.

John Fleeger

News From Members

Dr. J. Renaud-Mornant. One copy of S. Krishnaswamy's Ph.D. Thesis, Madras University, "Studies of the Copepoda of Madras" 1957: 168p. is available. Interested copepodologists, please write to J. Renaud-Mornant, Museum National D' Histoire Naturelle, Laboratoire de Biologie des Invertébrés Marins, 57 rue Cuvier 75231 Paris cedex 05 France.

Yoshihisa Shirayama. I have been on board ship RV Hakuho Maru in the last February and in Washington D.C. the last March. I shall again go to the Smithsonian to visit the Department of Invertebrate Zoology, National Museum of Natural History, Washington D.C. 20560, USA until the end of February 1989 as a postdoctoral fellow. I am intending to study the relationships between zonation of nematodes and their phylogenetic relationships in the deep-sea of the Sanriku Area, northeastern Japan.

Bill and Meg Hummon (Bill is currently on leave from Ohio University in the US and is spending a year at the Plymouth Marine Lab). Meg recently spent a month in the UK and in Crete with Bill. Bill is continuing to flourish on his sabbatical, and is

currently doing a series of island collections (Crete; Azores; Channel Islands; Sylt) to round off what is known of the European gastrotrichs, and to set the stage for what he hopes will be his future work, on biogeography, islands, and his favorite small beasties. Teresa Radziejewska was able to get Crete from Poland at the same time we were there, so we had a grand time -- we had first met her in Tasso's DAFS Benthos Section in Abdedeen back in 1974.

Meiofauna Research in Alaska

A long-term meiofauna investigation is beginning its fourth year of study near Juneau, Alaska. The meiofauna research is part of a NOAA - funded multi - institutional project named APPRISE (Association of Primary Production with Recruitment in a Subarctic Ecosystem).

Most of the primary production in the subarctic marine ecosystem occurs in a single pulse via the spring phytoplankton bloom, which settles to the benthos en masse, mainly unconsumed by herbivorous zooplankton. The goals of APPRISE are to understand the relationship between primary production and recruitment, and to relate interannual variability in primary production to environmental variables.

The meiofauna study has been concerned with interannual changes in the subtidal meiofauna community in response to phytoplankton sedimentation, but has also investigated energetics of postmetamorphic fish and crabs feeding on meiofauna, the ontogenetic changes and seasonal variation in the importance of meiofauna in the diets of post- metamorphic flatfish, depth-related changes in the meiofauna community, feeding rates of harpacticoids on senescent diatoms, and seasonal variation in the density and composition of the intertidal meiofauna. Researchers include Drs. Tom Shirley, John Fleeger, Tom Chandler, and Al Decho, and also Molly Sturdevant, Sue McGregor, John McCall and Lynnette McNutt.

The density and composition of the subtidal (25 - 55 m depth) meiofauna has been usual, with the community being predominately nematodes (95 - 98%) in the usual 10^6 quantities. Comparatively little spatial heterogeneity has been present, however, and the harpacticoid community has been diverse, consisting of about 30 species (many undescribed), with none comprising more than 15% of the total. Interannual variability in densities has been great and appears to be related to phytoplankton sedimentation rates. The timing of reproductive activities by the harpacticoids also appears to be related to sedimentation of phytoplankton. The usual array of priapulids, kinorhynchans, gastrotrichs and tardigrades have served to keep the sample sorting interesting.

The intertidal meiofauna has an unusually high density of harpacticoids, with densities commonly exceeding 4×10^6 per m^2 in the summer, representing up to 50% of the total meiofauna community. Harpacticoids represent a major portion of the diet of several species of newly emerging salmon fry and recently metamorphosed flatfish. With daily ration and energetic studies we have found that 0-year class red king crab and starry flounders can obtain all requisite energy requirements for growth from harpacticoids.

The subarctic meiofauna study is expected to continue for two more years. This year's work will include laboratory microcosm experiments measuring meiofauna community responses to phytoplankton sedimentation density.

Tom Shirley, Juneau Center for Fisheries and Ocean Sciences BITNET: JFICS@ALASKA

New Members

Supawadee Chullasorn, Department of Biology, Faculty of Science, Ramkhamhaeng University, Bangkok 10240, Thailand.

I am a lecturer at Department of Biology, Faculty of Science, Ramkhamhaeng University, teaching Invertebrate Zoology. I was introduced to meiofauna by Dr. Robert P. Higgins. I am working on meiofauna and will complete my degree by December 1988.

Dr. Chittima Aryuthaka, Marine Fisheries Division, Department of Fisheries, 89/1 Soi Sapan Pla, Yanawa District, Bangkok 12, Thailand.

Last year, I graduated a doctoral degree for Faculty of Science, Kyushu University, Japan, under the supervision of Prof. Dr. Taiji Kikuchi of Amakusa Marine Biological Laboratory. My thesis concerned the ecology and taxonomy of free-living marine nematode in the seagrass bed. I still am interested in this field and attempt to continue my work in Thailand. Now, I am a biologist of Marine Fisheries Division, Department of Fisheries. I would appreciate very much contact and exchange of information with the researchers from the other regions.

Joyce H. Landingham, Auke Bay Laboratory, P.O. Box 210155, Auke Bay, AK 99821.

Jeff Cordell and Molly Sturdevant introduced me to the Society. Presently I am working on the feeding ecology of juvenile pink and chum salmon; as you are very likely aware, the principal prey of the young fish is harpacticoid copepods.

Eugenia Roidou, Institute of Marine Biology of Crete, P.O. Box 2214, 710 03 Iraklio, Crete, Greece. I am a student at the University of Crete, where under the supervision of Prof. A. Eleftheriou I am

doing my doctorate on the meiofaunal communities of the coastal areas around the Isle of Crete. The amount of information on the meiofauna of the Eastern Mediterranean sea is almost non-existent and the challenge which this provides in taxonomic, zoogeographic and ecological aspect of meiofauna, is considerable. However, the scarcity of literature, especially in the taxonomy of the main groups, will be difficult to overcome and I would be interested, if in the near future I could rely for advice and actual help on specialists, who would be willing to examine material from a so far unknown part of the Mediterranean.

Robert M. Ross, Museum of Comparative Zoology, Harvard University, Cambridge, MA 02138. My research interests are modern and fossil Cenozoic shallow marine ostracodes and foraminifera from the tropical Indo-Pacific.

Dr. P.K. Abdul Aziz, Department of Aquatic Biology and Fisheries, University of Kerala, Beach P.O., Trivandrum-696 007.

I have been interested in the meiofauna communities of anoxic biomes in the estuarine tracts of Kerala during 1972-'78 as part of my Ph.D. Programme. Later I had occasion to study the meiofauna of diverse habitats like lagoons, rivers and the marine biota. Present interest covers the meiofaunal communities of the polluted aquatic biotopes in this part of India.

Dr. Werner Anmonies, Biologische Anstalt Helgoland, Litoralstation, D-2282 List / Sylt, Federal Republic of Germany.

My field of special interest is meiofaunal ecology in the Wadden Sea and adjacent brackish waters like salt marshes and beaches. Although Plathelminthes are definitely favoured, I usually consider all major meiobenthic taxa.

Joan M. Bernhard. A-002, Scripps Inst. Oceanography, La Jolla, CA 92093.

I am presently working on my Ph. D. in Biological Oceanography (Bob Hessler is my Chairman). I work on benthic foraminiferal distributions with respect to oxygen concentration, organic carbon content, pH, etc. My primary study sites are McMurdo Sound and the California Borderland.

Judy Williams-Howze. Department Biology, Univ. North Carolina, Charlotte, Charlotte, N.C. 28223 USA

Judy is interested in copepod ultrastructure and in the production of mucus structures (tubes, cysts).

H.L. Rees. Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, Directorate of Fisheries Research, Fisheries

Laboratory Remembrance Avenue Burnham-on-Crouch
Essex QM0 8HA.

I worked for the UK Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, and have a special interest in the biological monitoring of marine waste disposal and aggregate extraction sites. For routine purposes, most of our work has been concentrated on the sampling of benthic macrofauna: our meiofauna investigations to date have been very limited. However, we are naturally keen to keep pace with any developments which might lead to improved efficiency of detection of the effects of man's activities. The possible utility of meiofauna in such applied studies is therefore one area of particular interest.

Change of Address

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Meeting Report

The Benthic Ecology Meeting was held 8-10 April, 1988 in Portland, Maine. Les Watling hosted the meeting and the lobster bake. A large number of meiofauna researchers gave presentations or were in attendance. Presentations include Decker and Lopez on meiofaunal feeding, Varon and Thistle on disturbance, Salamy on selective digestion of nematodes by fish, Nelson on prey selection by fish, Tipton and Bell on benthic landscapes, Fleegeer and Shirley on meiobenthic - pelagic coupling, Trueblood et al. on spatial scale of harpacticoids, Rutledge on *Spartina* - dwelling harpacticoids, Bell and Walters on sediment re-entry by harpacticoids, Walters on meiofauna migration, Cammen on meiofauna in food webs, Palmer on disturbance of meiofauna by fish, Stephan on effects of drift algae on meiofauna, Montanga and Bauer on grazing rates and Bertelsen on defense of nematodes against polychaete predation.

The next meeting will be in Solomons, Maryland.
John Fleegeer

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**INTENSIVE COURSE IN IDENTIFICATION AND PRACTICAL
TAXONOMY OF MEIOBENTHIC ANIMALS**

TO BE HELD IN DIEPENBEEK (BELGIUM), JULY 17-30, 1988

ORGANIZER : PROFESSOR E. SCHOCKAERT

HOST INSTITUTIONS : THE LIMBURG UNIVERSITY CENTRE
(DIEPENBEEK) AND THE INSTITUTE OF MARINE SCIENTIFIC
RESEARCH (BREDENE)

AIM : TO PROVIDE AN INTENSIVE PRACTICAL TRAINING IN
THE IDENTIFICATION OF SELECTED 'DIFFICULT' GROUPS OF
MARINE MEIOBENTHIC ANIMALS (PLATHELMINTHS,
GASTROTRICHS, NEMATODES, POLYCHAETES AND
HARPACTICOIDS) FOR NON-TAXONOMISTS WHO ARE FACED
WITH IDENTIFICATION PROBLEMS IN THEIR (ECOLOGICAL)
WORK.

PROGRAMME : THE COURSE WILL INVOLVE A 1-DAY
THEORETICAL INTRODUCTION COVERING SPECIATION AND THE
SPECIES CONCEPT, PHYLOGENETIC SYSTEMATICS, AND THE
DESIGN AND USE OF IDENTIFICATION KEYS; A FIELD TRIP
TO SEVERAL MARINE BIOTOPES TO COLLECT LIVING
MATERIAL; AND SEVERAL 2-3 DAY PERIODS FOR IN-DEPTH
WORK AND PRACTICALS ON THE MAJOR TAXA UNDER EXPERT
GUIDANCE. INSTRUCTORS WILL INCLUDE U. EHLERS, W.D.
HUMMON, H. PLATT, S. TILLING AND W. WESTHEIDE.

COURSE FEE : 15,000 BELGIAN FRANCS (APPROXIMATELY
430 US\$), WHICH INCLUDES BOARD AND LODGING (IN
STUDENT ROOMS).

ATTENDANCE : WILL BE LIMITED TO 25 PEOPLE. FIRST
COME, FIRST SERVED !

DEADLINE FOR REGISTRATION : JUNE 15TH.

INFORMATION CAN BE OBTAINED :

- IN WRITING, FROM PROFESSOR E. SCHOCKAERT
DEPARTEMENT S.B.M.
LIMBURGS UNIVERSITAIR CENTRUM
B-3610 DIEPENBEEK BELGIUM
- TELEX OF LIMBURG UNIVERSITY CENTRE : LUCB39948
- THROUGH EARN/BITNET, FROM MARC BERGMANS
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