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

EDITORIAL

This is the seventh issue of *Psammonalia* which I have produced, with five to go before my term expires. Now that I am supposed to "know the ropes", this seems like a good time to reflect on the state of the society. So here goes...

In the 18 months of my term, 40 people have joined or have requested information on how to join (and I expect they will). I removed 15 names from the membership list (last paid in 1985), and 22 were eventually removed after 1986. According to my records, 34 individuals on the current roll have paid only through 1987. Several have long been involved with meiofauna research, and we may expect many of them to continue with IAM. Roughly, that's 50 members lost with 40 new members joining. The total membership is 317, of which 24 receive free copies because they are retired or live in countries where currency exchange is not possible. Thus we operate with about 280 - 300 paying members. With dues at \$5 US per year, we might expect an income of \$1400 - 1500 per year, however a number of individuals have paid for more than one year at a time and are ahead on the dues. The budget showed about a \$4000 surplus as of 1 January.

The cost of an "average" issue of *Psammonalia* is about \$300 (postage runs about \$200 and duplications and envelopes about \$100). Some issues are somewhat higher (the last issue contained a membership list). The price per issue dropped by about \$100 last year when foreign airmail rates were charged differently by LSU (about one third of the members are from North America, and two thirds from Europe and Asia). In 1988 we have had about 45 members pay dues. With expenses about \$1200 - 1500 per year, we seem financially sound with something of a cushion, however postage rates have increased recently and so will our costs.

We offer a lot through *Psammonalia*. In these 7 issues, about 1000 citations have appeared in the recent literature section, more than 20 upcoming meetings have been announced and numerous tidbits of news from members and reports from meetings have appeared. All this for \$5 per year and a few drops of sweat from the collective brow of the LSU folks.

The question which arises in my mind is are we a healthy society and what is the future of meiofauna research? Our numbers may not be growing by leaps and bounds, yet I sense a unique commitment and an enthusiasm among meiobenthologists. We are spirited and willing to share ideas and help newcomers. Let's keep the society active and alive. Renew your membership if it is time (or become a Sustaining or Patron member for \$25 per year). Encourage your friends, colleagues in other benthic fields, graduate students, Post-Docs and technicians to join. Let them benefit from the literature and news in *Psammonalia*.

John Fleeger

NEWS FROM THE MEMBERS

Seth Tyler.
Members of IAM may be interested in knowing that I have written a set of dBase programs to manage a taxonomic hierarchy, including synonymy and type designations and references to the literature. Louise Bush has constructed a nearly complete file on the Turbellaria with them. Any members interested in using the turbellarian taxonomic file or the dBase programs is welcome to them (a user would need to have

dBase III Plus to use the files on computer, but we could send printouts of the taxonomic file).

Bill and Meg Hummon (from the Intensive Course on Practical Taxonomy of Meiobenthic Animals in Belgium in July).

Besides hawking *Psammonalia* all over Europe (see new members), the Hummons report that the opening day included introductory lectures and a collecting trip. The day was bright and sunny in contrast to the recent lack of summer weather locally. Seventeen students from 12 countries attended. They spent two days on gastrotrichs, proving that gastrotrichs are indeed present in Belgian beaches. Students learned how the find, mount and identify gastrotrichs with the greatest of ease.

NEW MEMBERS

Walter Traunspurger
Wasserturmweg 5, 8062 Markt Inderdorf, Fed. Rep. Germany
My interest are systematics and ecology of poolwater nematodes.

G. Winfield Fairchild
Department of Biology, West Chester University, West Chester, PA 19383 USA
Interests are primarily in freshwater microinvertebrates of the littoral zone.

Kamran Anwar Dil
2302 Sears Ct. #3, Columbia, MO 65202 USA
"I am currently a graduate student at the University of Missouri-Columbia, working on a Ph.D. in Marine Biology, specifically meiofauna in fresh water and marine systems. My main emphasis is the study of meiofaunal communities, and tardigrades. I have a B.A. degree in Biology from the University of California, San Diego.
I was introduced to meiofauna in 1987 by Wolf Sterrer in Bermuda. I am currently a graduate intern at the Bermuda Biological Station, working on a survey of the meiofaunal communities there. My lab is at the Bermuda Aquarium/Museum and Dr. Sterrer is advising me. At the end of summer, I will return to Missouri to do a similar survey in the lakes of the area."

The following new members were recruited by Bill and Meg Hummon.

Silvia Cocito
ENEA- CREA, C.P. Box 316, 19100 LA SPEZIA, ITALY

Carla Corazza
Istituto di Zoologia Università di Ferrara, Via L. Borsari, 46, 441 Ferrara, ITALY

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Andrew D. Kennedy
Dept. Biological Sciences, Hatherly Laboratories, Exeter University, Exeter EX4 4PS, ENGLAND
Interests "Role of meiofauna in benthic food webs, Ph.D. student"

Celia Besteiro Rodriguez
Univ. de Santiago de Compostella, Dept. de Biologia Animal, Santiago de Compostella, SPAIN

Ernest Schockaert
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Australia.

Desmond Murphy
Forschungszentrum Geesthacht GMBH, GKSS. Postfach
1160, Max-Planck-Strasse, 2054 Geesthacht. Fed. Rep.
Germany

I am here at GKSS as a Guest Scientist working with Dr. Roland Doerffer of the Remote Sensing Group. We are presently assessing the feasibility of using the Landsat 5 Thematic Mapper for a classification of Wadden Sea sediment surface types. The relative small-scale patchiness of the flora and fauna is one problem encountered when attempting to draw conclusions from satellite data, particularly when the 'footprint' or pixel size (i.e. 30 X 30m) of an image *is usually larger than the size of individual patches. To obtain a measure of sub-pixel patchiness we hope to combine real-time ground-truth data with that of aerial photography and an Optical Multichannel Analyzer (radiometer). In the end we would hope to integrate our findings into an ecologically meaningful framework, such as that already described by, for example, Karsten Riese (1978) for an area in Konigshafen off the island of Sylt, where our work is also centered.

IRWIN LOOPS AVAILABLE ONE MORE TIME !!

Loops are made of non-corrosive nickel-chromium wire. Ideal for sorting and transferring meiofauna and other small metazoans. Available in three sizes; blue (about 200 um x 500 um), red (about 350 um x 700 um) and yellow (about 500 um x 1100 um). Set of three loops (any size) - \$25.00 + \$1.00 shipping and handling. U.S. currency, please. Arkansas residents add 6% sales tax.

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YOU'RE LOOKING
FOR WHAT ???



Rudy Herman's view of your editor sampling in Alaska

SECOND ANNOUNCEMENT

SEVENTH INTERNATIONAL MEIOFAUNA CONFERENCE (SVIMCO 89)

The SVIMCO will be held in Vienna (Austria) from August 21 to 26, 1989, immediately after the International Limnology Meeting at Munich (August 11- 19). The next issue of Psammalia will have much more information; a call for papers, deadlines for abstracts and housing.

The following topics will be emphasized:

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

BENTHOS '90
4TH INTERNATIONAL SYMPOSIUM ON BENTHIC FORAMINIFERA

September 28 - October 2, 1990
Sendai, Japan

The scientific sessions of the 4th International Symposium on Benthic Foraminifera will be held at Sensai Fukko KiKinenkan (Sendai Memorial Hall) in Sendai, northeastern Japan. The symposium will cover a broad range of subjects emerging from the frontiers of scientific research on benthic foraminifera. At this stage, sessions are flexible in scope, but a strong emphasis will be placed upon the theme "Foraminiferal distribution in time and space, and evolution of the oceans."

Contact; Dr. Yokichi Takayanagi, Chairman, Organizing Committee, 4th International Symposium on Benthic Foraminifera, Institute of Geology and Paleontology, Tohoku University, Sendai, 980 Japan, Tel: (022) 222-1800 Ext.3419 for additional information.

INTRODUCTION TO THE STUDY OF MEIOFAUNA
ROBERT P. HIGGINS AND HJALMAR THIEL, editors
Foreword by Alasdair D. McIntyre

This long awaited volume consists of fifty-four authoritative essays on the subject of microscopic benthic invertebrates, their ecology and general biology, the research methodology associated with their study, and an extensive introduction to their identification. This book was finished and delivered to Smithsonian Institution Press on 1 June 1988. The publisher decided to produce it with a cloth (hard cover). It has 487 pages (including 24 pages of index). No reprints will be produced for the authors.

An introductory section looks at the history of meiofaunal research and also at the ecology of marine and freshwater meiofauna. The methods section includes chapters on abiotic and biotic factors, sampling equipment and strategies, sample processing, organism processing, culture techniques, experimental techniques, energetics, data processing and analysis the nanobenthos. Many of these chapters have macrobenthic application as well. Taxonomic and curatorial considerations introduce the final section of the book, which includes treatments of thirty-eight separate taxa.

AVAILABLE OCTOBER 1988

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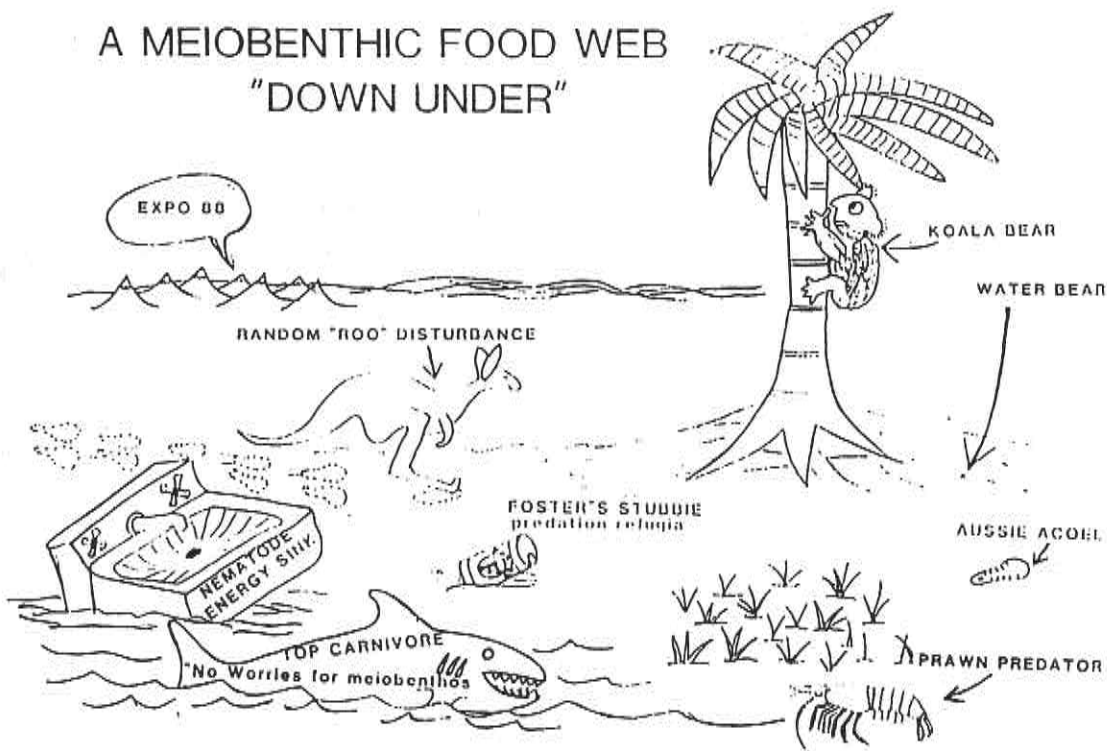
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A MEOBENTHIC FOOD WEB "DOWN UNDER"



From Alan Decho upon his return from Australia