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JOHN FLEEGER

Editor

Department of Zoology and Physiology
Louisiana State University
Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70803, USA

INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF MEIOBENTHOLOGISTS
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Department of Zoology and Physiology, Louisiana State University, Baton Rouge, LA 70803, USA

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Dues are \$5 per year and may be paid in US currency or a check or money order in \$ to David Thistle

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

EDITORIAL

To me, there are two major points of interest in this number of Psammonalia. First, this is the last issue before SVIMCO-89, so please carefully read the updated announcement concerning our International Conference. One additional circular will be mailed to all participants in July. SVIMCO-89 promises to be exciting and rewarding scientifically (two workshops and a dense program are organized), culturally and socially (with tours for accompanying guests, socials, sightseeing trips and banquets planned in and around Vienna). I hope to see you there in just three short months!

Secondly, please find the ballot for new IAM officers on the back page of this issue. Nominations were sought for Chairperson, Treasurer and Executive Committee members. All nominees have been contacted, and those on the ballot are willing to serve if elected. Biographical sketches for the Chairperson and Treasurer candidates also appear on the ballot. Nominees are; Chairperson, R.M. Warwick, Treasurer, J.M. Gee and Executive Committee Members (two to be elected), M.A. Palmer, E.N. Powell, M. Bergmans and Y. Shirayama. The terms of Fleeger and Thistle expire as do Committee members Bell and Westheide. These elections are important, so please vote!

On a lighter note, meiobenthology does sometimes inspire creative achievements outside the realm of science. The following poem was written by Tom Shirley after many hours of looking at graphs attempting to relate meiofauna densities with phytoplankton sedimentation rates. When I first saw it, I reacted as a good newsletter editor should, and immediately realized its potential for Psammonalia. The second poem was my way of announcing the impending publication in Psammonalia to Tom.

John Fleeger

SPECIAL POETRY SECTION

THE GHOSTS OF SPRING BLOOMS PAST

or

CAN YOU PARADIGM, BUDDY?

Does phytoplankton sedimentation
Result in harpacticoid procreation?
The data we launder,
Graph and then ponder,
Is it all our meio - imagination?

Why do I have this sensation,
About field studies and correlation?
That sieve and core
May teach us no more,
But may lead us deep into temptation.

It is my humble prognostication:
To study these wonders of creation,
We must drop the grab
And head to the lab,
And come up with some grand innovation!

Bring forth the centrifugation!
Wheel out the liquid scintillation,

Micropipettes,
And the latest osmettes,
Boot up the video animation!

To divine fact from fabrication,
And separate truth from exaggeration:
Avoid any anticipation,
Perish fancy or expectation!
Grind up the entire copepod nation!

The result, by some estimation,
The sad truth, in one proclamation:
We've all been had.
Meiofauna are bad,
They follow no regimentation!

T. SHIRLEY

PUBLICATION'S PROGRESS

OR

IS A PH.D. IN THE LAB WORTH A PARADOX IN THE FIELD?

There was a man from Alaska, Tom Shirley by name.
As an author, oh the words he did tame!
He wrote and he wrote with only himself to blame:
Even ecological poetry came with no trace of shame.

As a man of many talents, Tom sought his gain;
The invertebrate phyla became his domain.
Though his publications on priapulid, glaucothoe of
crab and holothuroid will long remain,
Sedimentation and copepid are his latest refrain!

Alas Tom, refereed journals are no way to claim
fortune and fame, not when meiobenthology is so newly
acclaimed.

Your writing deserves fanfare and fine regalia.
Thus your first collection of verse will appear
in the next Psammonalia!

J. FLEEGER

NEWS FROM THE MEMBERS

From Ulrich Ehlers :

The proceedings of the "Fifth International Symposium on the Biology of the Free-living and Symbiotic Plathelminthes" held at Goettingen, FRG, in August 1987, have been published in "Progress in Zoology / Fortschritte der Zoologie", Volume 36, at the end of 1988, pp 1-528.

This volume contains 76 contributions which might be of interest to meiobenthologists. Selected references appear in the Recent Literature section of this number of Psammonalia.

From A.F. van der Wal and R.G.M. de Goede: Nematodes in Natural Systems:

A status report of a workshop held at the Department of Nematology, Agricultural University Wageningen, The Netherlands, December 16-18, 1987. Edited by A.F. van der Wal and R.G.M. de Goede. 1988. 57pp has recently been published. Selected references appear in the Recent Literature section of this number

of Psammonalia.

The status report can be ordered at: Centraal Magazijn, De Dreijen 4, 6703 BC Wageningen, number 06 24 5811. The price is DFL 10.15 incl. porto: Algemene Bank Nederland, Wageningen, in the name of 'College van Bestuur L.U. Wageningen', number 06 24 5811.

From Tom Chandler: The Benthic Ecology Meetings were held on March 17-19 in Maryland, hosted by the Chesapeake Biological Laboratory. Fourteen papers dealing with meiofauna were given. Authors and titles include:

Bauer, J.E. and L.O. Lopes; Microbial and meiofaunal population and trophic dynamics in sediments of a San Francisco Bay salt-marsh slough.

Bell, Susan S.; Seagrass understory: An alternative habitat for meiofaunal copepods.

Carman, Kevin R.; Microbial and meiofaunal uptake of labeled substrates in situ determined by autoradiography and kinetics of incorporation
Chandler, G. Thomas; Amensalistic interactions among meiofauna of German Wattenmeer mudflats.

Zhang, Zhi Nan; Meiobenthic communities of the Huanghe Delta and Gulf of Bohai, China.

Corliss, Bruce; Functional morphology of deep-sea benthic foraminifera.

Decho, Alan & David J. W. Moriarty; Does utilization of bacterial exopolymer secretions occur by marine animals- yes & no & why?: Preliminary evidence.

Decker, Cynthia; Food patch selection by a species of harpacticoid copepod.

Lonsdale, Darcy J. and Dobbs, Fred C.; Problems with copepod culture: Insight into population dynamics?

Meyer, Harry A.; Response of harpacticoid copepods to accumulation of detritus from seagrass blades: A field experiment with *Metis Holothuriae*.

Shirayama, Yoshihisa; Energy budget of deep-sea nematodes.

Spies, Robert B.; Comparison of the effects of two organic matter sources on the colonization and growth of benthic fauna.

Steward, Charles C., G. Thomas Chandler, and Charles Lovell; Digestion and assimilation of bacterial biomass by meiobenthos.

Thistle, D. and J. E. Eckman; The effect of structure on the benthic copepods at a deep-sea site.

NEW MEMBERS

Maria Szymelfenig
University Gdansk, Oceanography Institute ul.Morska 9,
skr. pocz. 37, 84-150 Hel, POLAND

Interests: "Three years ago I started my work on meiofauna. Now, I prepare my dissertation 'Distribution of meiobenthos in the Gulf of Gdansk coastal zone'. I think that I'll have finished it in about one year"

Tania Zachariadou
Ministry of Industry, Energy and Technology, National Centre for Marine Research, Gr. 16604, Hellenikon, Athens GREECE

Interests: "I am a marine biologist and I am working at the National Center for Marine Research. I intend to be involved with meiofauna research and I am in touch with Prof. Eleftheriou of the Univ. Crete."

Corinne Ehrlich
SOSC, E-1107, Smithsonian Institution, Museum Support Center, Washington, D.C. 20560 USA

N. Shillabeer
Brixham Laboratory, Freshwater Quarry, Brixham TQ5 BBA, U.K.

Interests: "pollution monitoring. ICI Brixham Laboratory has some experience of monitoring macrofaunal communities, and is now beginning to monitor meiofaunal communities"

Ricardo Moreno-Osorio
Insitituto de Investifaciones Marinas, de Punta de Betin-INVEMAR, A.A. 1016, Santa Marta, Magdalena, COLUMBIA

Interests: "I'm working in the ecology of estuarine and freshwater meiobenthos"

CHANGE OF ADDRESS

L. R. G. Cannon
181 Jesmond Rd, Indooroopilly 4068, Brisbane QLD, AUSTRALIA

R. Deedee Kathman
10651 Blue Heron Road, Sidney B.C. V8L 3X9 CANADA

Docteur Laurent Villiers
Service Mixte de Controle Biologique, B.P. 16, 91311 Montlhery, FRANCE

MEETING ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Seventh International Echinoderm Conference will be held in Atami, Shizuoka, Japan on September 9 -14, 1990. We will cordially invite you to participate in the Conference.

The scientific program will consist of plenary lectures, oral and poster presentations of contributed papers. The session will be divided into the following areas:

Paleontology, Systematics and Evolution, Morphology, Physiology, Behavior, Ecology, Development, Reproduction, Molecular Biology, and Others.

For further information, contact:

Dr. Norio Suzuki
The Secretary of 7th IEC
Noto Marine Laboratory, Kanazawa University
Ogi, Uchiura, Ishikawa 927-05, JAPAN
Phone (0768)74-1151
Fax (0768)74-1644

SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENT

SEVENTH INTERNATIONAL MEIOFAUNA CONFERENCE
SVIMCO-89
Vienna, Austria from August 20-26, 1989
FIFTH ANNOUNCEMENT

The organizers are glad to report that 126 colleagues from 26 countries as well as 54 accompanying persons have already indicated their participation in SVIMCO-89. We have received announcements of 44 formal, 38 short and 23 poster contributions. **However, we are still missing abstracts to complete the program (an abstract is required also for short contributions and posters)!**

Two workshops will be organized: one by D. Danielopol on "The origin of groundwater fauna" and one by W. D. Hummon on "The use of computer technology in systematics and biogeography" (see notes). The final program of the meeting, including information on travel, arrival and checking-in will be sent to participants by the end of July. Nevertheless, registration and a social will be held on Sunday afternoon, August 20th. Friday, August 25th will conclude the presentations, after which a conference banquet will be held. The meeting desk will close at noon on Saturday, August 26th.

We have a great number of requests for financial support from participants and we try to do our best to distribute the money on a basis of fairness. The colleagues who have applied for support will be informed about the amount of money we will be able to provide by the end of May.

We also want to have some fun, so in order to relax from the dense scientific program we have scheduled a full day excursion on Thursday, August 24th to the Biological Station in Lunz/See (in the mountainous area of Lower Austria) in connection with a trip to the scenic Wachau-Valley of the river Danube.

For accompanying persons, a special Vienna-sightseeing program (half day) will be organized daily, Mon., August 21st to Wed., August 23rd (see note).

We are looking forward to an interesting and enjoyable meeting and to seeing you all in Vienna.

Dan Danielopol, Rudi Novak, Jorg Ott and
Fritz Schiemer

SVIMCO-89 Notes:

Workshop "On the Origin of Groundwater Fauna", Dan Danielopol

Forty meiobenthologists dealing with marine and/or freshwater fauna have indicated their participation in the workshop. We intend to have the papers referring to the workshop's subject presented within the framework of the common session, followed by a separate 2-3 hour discussion of the workshop participants on Tue., 22 08 89, in the afternoon. This discussion should be an informal and non-polemic

activity; we do not plan to publish its content. I suggest we go through the following challenging topics: 1) Environmental changes vs. biological properties of the fauna in the colonization of the groundwaters; 2) Are there new insights necessary to understand interstitial habitats in the marine littoral which play a role in the migration towards inland groundwaters; 3) What kind of information can we use from the recent investigations on the fauna living in the riverine bed sediments (the hyporheal) for evolutionary and/or ecological explanations of the origin of the groundwater animals; 4) New faunistic investigations on subterranean fauna are needed; extensive vs. intensive explorations - how, where and whom shall we look for? Please note that these are rough suggestions and discussions on other topics related to our main subject are welcome.

Dan Danielopol

Workshop "Use of Computer Aided Drafting and Drawing (CADD) Programs in Systematics and Biogeography: A Demonstration", Bill Hummon

Bill Hummon will demonstrate CADD programs on his computer. The plan for the workshop is to provide a forum for the use of computers in research (related to visual analysis), and to allow workers the opportunity to exchange ideas on what they are doing or to learn what they can do with computers in regards to visual data. Bill will demonstrate software (some programs are low priced, \$150-600 but they do range to \$2500-4500), and his hardware (in general, computers do not need to be particularly advanced, an 8086-type PC computer or equivalent can be outfitted with a 20 MB hard disk, an 8087 math co-processing chip, a mouse and a low-cost CADD program for about \$600; of course more sophisticated hardware can do more). Many activities are possible with CADD programs; systematists can draw animals and range maps, ecologists can use the images to convert area or volume measures to weights, and perhaps everyone may someday enhance or facilitate even mundane sample sorting. Hummon's demonstration entails illustration, however the workshop will allow other meiobenthologists to discuss their use of computers and to make it easier for the novice to become aware of the possibilities and get started themselves. A block of time (2-3 hours) will be devoted to a demonstration and discussion. Bill encourages anyone interested to bring software or hardware to demonstrate (**please bring your ideas and experiences!**) but suggests that if you do, bring proof of purchase information or documentation of the use of the computers at SVIMCO from the meeting organizers (a request to Rudi Novak for a letter perhaps).

Sightseeing program for accompanying persons: This program includes a tour through Vienna, with visits to interesting and important cultural places (1st day); a visit to Schonbrunn Castle (Summer Residence of the Austrian Habsburg Emperors; 2nd day); and to Belvedere Castle (Summer Residence of Prince Eugen of Savoy with its famous Gallery of Austrian painters including Glimt and Schiele; 3rd day). All tours are guided (in English). Costs are AS 300 - US \$24) for the entire program (including bus transport, entrances, guide); single days can also be booked. Please indicate participation preferably before the conference (by the end of July).

CURRENT LITERATURE

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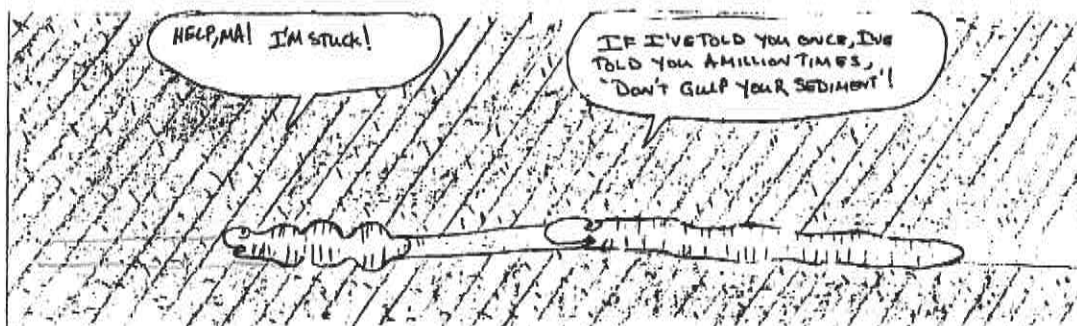
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BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCHES

Richard Warwick

My B.Sc and Ph.D are from the University of Exeter, where my thesis work concerned the distribution of free-living nematodes in the Exe estuary in relation to environmental factors. I was awarded a D.Sc from that University in 1964. My first real job was at the Dove Marine Laboratory of the University of Newcastle, where I broadened my horizons to encompass the macrofauna. I joined the Plymouth Marine Laboratory (then IMER) in 1972, became the head of a benthos group and am now Project Leader in Community Ecology, a unit of about 15 researchers. My research has become increasingly catholic: meiobenthos is still my primary interest, but not to the exclusion of everything else. My taxonomic work is now confined to the production, in collaboration with Howard Platt, of three nematode volumes in the Synopses of the British Fauna series (two published and one nearly finished), and my ecological work mainly concerns investigations of patterns of community structure and the processes which cause them (including the development of community level). I am an Associate Editor of the Journal of Experimental Marine Biology and Ecology, where I try to encourage and take a personal interest in high quality publications on meiobenthos, and am also on the boards of Mar. Ecol. Prog. Ser. and Est. cstl. shelf. Sci. I am 45 years old and live in the wilds of Cornwall with my wife, daughter, 3 horses, 2 cats etc.

Mike Gee

After graduating from the University of Keele and gaining a PhD in the Biology of Serpulid Polychaetes at University College, Swansea, I spent a number of years in East Africa studying the effect of the introduction of non-endemic predatory fish on the endemic cichlid species flock in Lake Victoria. I joined the Plymouth Marine Laboratory (then known as the Institute for Marine Environmental Research) at its inception in 1972 and spent the first five years of my tenure working on the life-cycle, biology and epidemiology of a cyclopid parasites and its role as a biological stressor of mussels. My interest in meiofauna developed relatively late in my career (not to be recommended as it accelerates the ageing process - hair turns grey, need stronger spectacles and more difficult to maintain a steady dissecting hand) when I teamed up with Richard Warwick to study the effect of fish and crustacean predation on benthic community structure and abundance. As we all know, harpacticoids are a significant feature of the diet of juvenile and other small fishes so it was inevitable (and complementary to Richards nematode interests) that I should concentrate on that group. Over the last few years I have published a number of papers on harpacticoid copepod taxonomy and on the effects of biological and environmental factors on the structure and functioning of meiofauna communities. At the moment we are looking at the benthic community responses to changes in habitat complexity and along latitudinal and depth gradients and in my spare time (Ha!) I am collaborating with other British and Belgian copepodologists to produce a Synopsis of British Harpacticoid Copepods.

Ballot for IAM elections (circle your choice)

For Chairperson (vote for one, please see biographical sketch)

Richard Warwick

For Treasurer (vote for one, please see biographical sketch)

Mike Gee

For Executive Committee (vote for two)

Marc Bergmans
Lab. Ekologie en Systematiek
Vrije Universiteit
Brussels BELGIUM

Margaret Palmer
Department Zoology
University Maryland USA

Eric Powell
Department Oceanography
Texas A&M University USA

Yoshihisa Shirayama
On leave from Ocean Research Institute
Tokyo JAPAN
(now at Smithsonian Institution
Washington, D.C. USA)

Return Ballots by November 1 to: John Fleeger, Chairperson IAM
Department of Zoology, LSU
Baton Rouge, LA 70803