

PSAMMONALIA

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This Newsletter is not part of the scientific literature for taxonomic purposes

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EDITORIAL

Random Samples

No, this editorial is not about sampling meiobenthos or statistics. It is about several topics rambling around in my mind, some related to one another, some just, well you know, random. Two events described in this issue are proof that meiofaunal research is still "alive and thriving": the announcement of the triennial conference, and publication of the first comprehensive textbook on meiofaunal ecology by Olav Giere.

In this issue is the first announcement for the upcoming triennial conference, which will be held in Perpignan, France. This will be the Ninth International Meiofauna Conference, hence NIMCO. As President, and Editor, I have been looking forward to this announcement since EIMCO. Why? Because, it marks the mid-point of my term! Just joking. (Or am I?) Seriously, the triennial conference galvanizes the Association. It is a time to come together, to renew old acquaintances, to make new friendships, and most important, to share enthusiasm for our common bond. The conference is an opportunity to push the frontiers of meiofauna research further. This is accomplished by organizing special sessions on current and ground breaking topics. Contributions from a wide variety of the membership is needed if this conference is to be successful. Contributions from younger members are especially important. These are the people who will be leading research in the future, and generally have the most energy. Alain Dinet will do his share by organizing the conference. However, only your participation can make this conference a big success. So, read his announcement, and most importantly, sign up to make a presentation, suggest a hot topic, or organize a session.

To date, books on meiofauna have been taxonomic treatises on specific taxa. Three compilations on meiobenthic taxa and methods have also been published¹. Major reviews on the ecology of the two dominant taxa, nematodes and harpacticoids, have also been recently written². However, Giere's new book (reviewed in this issue) is the first comprehensive synthesis on meiofaunal biology, and specifically meiofaunal ecology. The arrival of a book, which can be used as a textbook, on meiofaunal ecology heralds a new era. It will now be easier to develop a course on meiobenthology. It will now be easier to introduce new students or colleagues to meiobenthology. The book marks a maturation point in our field of study.

¹Hulings, N.C. (ed.) 1971. Proceedings of the First International Conference on Meiofauna. *Smithsonian Contributions to Zoology*, No. 76.

Hulings, N.C. and Gray, J.S. (eds.) 1971. A Manual for the Study of Meiofauna. *Smithsonian Contributions to Zoology*, No. 78.

Higgins, R.P. and Thiel, H. (eds.) 1988. Introduction to the Study of Meiofauna. Smithsonian Institution Press., but these have been largely field manuals or introductory guides.

²Heip, C., Vincx, M. and Vranken, G. 1985. The ecology of marine nematodes. *Oceanography and Marine Biology Annual Review*, 23:399-489.

Hicks, G.R.F. and Coull, B.C. 1983. The ecology of marine meiobenthic harpacticoid copepods. *Oceanography and Marine Biology Annual Review*, 21:67-175.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

First Announcement NIMCO 95

The Ninth International Meiofauna Conference will be held at the "Palais des Congrès" in Perpignan, France from July 3-7, 1995. The meeting planner is Dr. Alain Dinet of the Laboratoire Arago, Banyuls-sur-mer. Dr. Dinet is currently planning a meeting format that consists of oral presentations (30 minutes including discussion) and poster exhibitions. Sessions will focus on biodiversity, pollution, environmental monitoring, and groundwater, freshwater, estuarine and deep-sea meiofauna. A popular event at past meetings has been the mid-symposium excursion. Dr. Dinet is organizing a trip to Carcassonne, which is the largest medieval fortified city in Europe. Carcassonne is about 100 km from Perpignan.

Perpignan is a mid-size French city in the southern part of the country, 12 km inland from the Mediterranean Sea. There is easy access via direct air service from Paris and London. Worldwide connections are convenient via Barcelona, Spain, which is the nearest major city. Perpignan caters to conferences. The Conference Hall is in the center of town. Accommodations at moderate prices are available downtown near the Conference Hall. Current room rates range from 40-70 \$US (including taxes) per night for one or two persons. Perpignan, the ancient capital of the realm of Majorca, boasts 300 days of sunshine annually.

At this time, Dr. Dinet is soliciting input from IAM members for planning purposes. A form is included at the end of the newsletter for this purpose. Please fill it out and return it to Dr. Dinet by August 1, 1994. He would like to know what specific topics are of interest to the members for additional sessions or if any one like to organize a special session or symposium. The form has been produced so that it can be FAXed directly to Dr. Dinet.

Fifth International Polychaete Conference

The Conference will be held in Qingdao, PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA the 2nd-7th, of July, 1995. The conference is being hosted by the Chinese Society of Oceanography; Qindgao Assoc. for Science and Technology; and The Marine Ecology and Polychaete Lab. of the First Inst. of Oceanography, State Oceanic Adm. See the brochure at the end of the newsletter for full details.

BOOK REVIEW

Meiobenthology by Olav Giere, Springer-Verlag, Berlin (ISBN 3-540-56696-1), 328 pp., 102 Fig., 20 Tables, (1993). Price DM 128. Written in English, this book is also printed in New York, price \$US 80 (ISBN 0-387-56696-1). Table of Contents: 1) Introduction, 2) Habitat, Habitat Conditions and Their Study Methods, 3) Meiofauna Sampling and Processing, 4) Biological Characteristics of Meiofauna, 5) Meiofauna Taxa - A Systematic Account, 6) Phylogenetic Aspects in Meiobenthology, 7) Distributional Implications, 8) Meiofauna in Selected Biotopes, 9) Synecological Perspectives in Meiobenthology, 10) A Retrospect on Meiobenthology and an Outlook to Future Research. The science of all those small motile animals that live (often disregarded even by zoologists) in huge numbers in all aquatic sediments and play a key role in these ecosystems. This comprehensive treatise surveys the biotope conditions and introduces the meiobenthos in a systematic account. With emphasis placed on the ecological and systematic aspects, the book concludes with an analysis of the productive role and the position of the meiofauna in the food web. -From the book cover.

This book provides a general overview of the field of meiobenthology. There are eight chapters, which can be grouped in three parts. The first part, covering chapters 1-4, is an introduction to meiofauna, sampling strategies and procedures, and meiofaunal habitats and adaptations. The second part, covering two chapters, is a systematic

account of meiofaunal taxa. The third part of the book, covering four chapters, is dedicated to the ecology of freshwater and marine meiofauna. Other introductory books and sampling guides have been previously published that cover most of the material in the first six chapters. However, the figures of representative types of meiofauna from each taxa distinguish this systematic account. The most important and original contribution is found in the third part of the book. Certainly, there have been review papers on most topics in the last four chapters. But, this is the first time that the entire scope of the field has been summarized and synthesized. The book provides an ecological framework for the study of meiofauna. This is a great step forward.

Each chapter in the book is broken down into subchapters. The end of each subchapter contains a list of readings for more detailed or in depth discussion of the subject. I love these lists of the "classics." The subchapters are also organized around illustrative figures and tables. The text flows well. The organization of the book provides a easy access for students and scientists new to meiofaunal research to the literature of the field. As we all know, the meiofauna literature is very dispersed, because of it's international nature. The organization of the book makes it very readable.

If it seems like this book is aimed at a student audience, it is because it is derived from lecture notes that Dr. Giere has developed over many years. However, as a "mature" worker in the field I found that all chapters contained some information that I had not been aware of. I was particularly interested in the first chapter on the history of meiofaunal research. It is very fascinating, and contains information that is difficult to come by. The final chapter is also a good summary of "where we are" and "where we are going."

NEWS FROM MEMBERS

Tidbits

Thais Navajas Corbisier writes he has two graduate students, as well as three training students, looking at the ecology of sublittoral meiofauna. The work is going on in the two small bays and along the continental shelf of the North coast of São Paulo Department, SE Brasil. Personally, he is interested in taxonomy and ecology of Nematoda of those areas. He intends to do a training "séjour" with Dr. Nicole Goubault at the Muséum National d'Histoire Naturelle, in Paris, from April to July, 1994. He is also participating in the study

coordinated by Dr. Gee on meiofauna global diversity and deployed the ASUs in Ubatuba, north coast of São Paulo, in November, 93. He is very interested in receiving literature on meiofauna from tropical areas.

Helena Adão is a new member of the association from Portugal. Helena is studying meiofaunal ecology and is working on meiofauna from sediments in seagrass habitats: *Zostera nolti*. Helena would like contact with other meiobenthologists working with this subject. My apologies to Helena for the incorrect spelling of the university. See the Address changes below for the correct spelling and address of Helena.

Onno Groß has started his Ph. D. work with living deep-sea foraminifera from the Mediterranean Sea and North Atlantic under the Guidance of Prof. Ch. Hemleben. Surprisingly a lot of meiobenthic animals are still alive after a pressure release of 100-200 bar and it is fascinating to see cysts of polychaetes, copepods, nematodes and protozoans develop. He has installed a time lapse video system to follow migration and behavior of foraminifera or as an example to document the movement of an unknown *Desmoscolecida*. He would greatly appreciate information from anyone who also works with microvideosystems (PC-storage, optics, image analyzing etc.) or would like to exchange his experience in this field with other colleagues.

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Andy Gooday
Preben Jensen
Jan Reid
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INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF MEIOBENTHOLOGISTS

APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP OR RENEWAL

The International Association of Meiobenthologists is a non-profit scientific society representing meiobenthologists in all aquatic disciplines. The Association is dedicated to the dissemination of information by publishing a quarterly newsletter and sponsoring a triennial International Conference. The newsletter, *Psammonalia*, is published mid-month in February, May, August and November. The next International Conference will be July 3-7, 1995.

Membership is open to any person who is actively interested in the study of meiofauna. Annual membership dues are \$10 US and you may pay up to 3 years in advance, i.e., \$30. New members will receive *Psammonalia* beginning with the February issue of the current year. If you are able, please add extra money to be contributed to the Bertil Swedmark Fund, which is used to help students or others who wish to attend the triennial International Conference.

Please check appropriate box:

- New member Renewing member

Name	_____	E-mail network	_____
Address	_____	E-mail address	_____
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\$US _____ enclosed for ____ years membership at \$10/year.

\$US _____ enclosed to contribute to the Bertil Swedmark Fund.

\$US _____ TOTAL

Dues must be paid in US dollars. Make checks payable to the International Association of Meiobenthologists (or IAM). Send dues and applications to:

Dr. Robert Feller
 Belle W. Baruch Institute
 Univ. of South Carolina
 Columbia, SC 29208 USA

Interests: _____

NIMCO 95, JULY 3-7, 1995, Perpignan, FRANCE

TO:

Alain DINET
NIMCO 95
Laboratoire Arago
66650 BANYULS-SUR-MER, France

Telephone: (33) 68 88 73 44, FAX: (33) 68 88 73 95

NIMCO 95 PRELIMINARY QUESTIONNAIRE

FROM:

Name: _____ Title: _____

Address: _____

Telephone: _____

FAX: _____

E-mail: _____

I plan to attend NIMCO and I shall be accompanied by ____ persons.

I intend to make an oral presentation.

I intend to present a poster.

Preliminary title or subject: _____

I am interested in a free visit to Carcassonne.

I am interested in a guided tour of Carcassonne and vicinities.

I would prefer a free day in Perpignan.