

PSAMMONALIA

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International Association of Meiobenthologists



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EDITORIAL

Meetings

It seems like there are lot's of meetings to attend lately. It is difficult to choose among the many interesting offerings. The two most common formats are meetings for specialists and meetings for generalists. Specialty meetings are fun. They are small, you already know, or want to meet, everyone in attendance. Unfortunately, specialty meetings can be esoteric and not reflect the main lines of interest in current research. General meetings are broad and offer the most up to date information on areas that we may not normally follow through the literature. General meetings provide an opportunity to expand our horizons, but can be large and impersonal. No one has the time or resources to attend even a small portion of every interesting meeting every year.

This is an interesting year for me, because I have discovered "meeting competition." I am organizing a large general meeting, the 13th Biennial International Conference of the Estuarine Research Federation (ERF). I am also helping to publicize and encourage attendance at the Ninth International Meiofauna Conference (NIMCO). I classify NIMCO as a meeting of specialists. As you can imagine, I am a bit overwhelmed with meetings and meeting planning this year. The competition among meetings for attendees is an increasingly large problem. For example, I rescheduled the ERF meeting to avoid conflicting with a large aquatic toxicology meeting.

Lumpers versus Splitters

Many IAM members have a keen, if not professional, interest in taxonomy and systematics. This group of people is easily classified into "lumpers" and "splitters." Splitters, see morphological variation as a cause for a new species designation. Lumpers, (myself included) always look for the similarity among individuals so that a specimen can be put into an existing taxa. It is a lot like the anecdote about a half-glass of water: Is it half-full or half-empty? It just depends on ones point of view.

I have often wondered if we could determine how much morphological variability is necessary to label something a new species? It seems that there must be a genetic basis for morphological variability. A recent study on fruit flies

by Lai *et al.*¹ supplies new insight into the value of using morphological variability as a species characteristic. Many IAM members may have missed this article, and the main points bear repeating. Lai *et al.* studied the association between quantitative genetic variation in sensory bristle number and molecular variation at a neurogenic locus in *Drosophila melanogaster*. They found that 10% of the genetic variation in abdominal bristle number could be attributed to variation at that one locus. This is not consistent with the infinitesimal model (many loci, each having small effects on traits), which would support the "splitter" point of view. It means that if a few loci account for a substantial fraction of genetic variation in a morphological trait, then allelic effects at these loci must be large, which supports the "lumper" point of view. Although I start from a bias as a "lumper", I am now convinced that we should be very careful describing new species based small variations in the numbers of spines, spinules, or setae.

Dues and Membership

Since the mailing list was included in the last issue, I have received many interesting letters from people surprised that they have been dropped from our membership list. I included the list so that members could ensure that colleagues not receiving *Psammonalia* are notified about the upcoming triennial conference in France. I am also sending copies of *Psammonalia* to people whom have been dropped from the membership list during the last two years. This is your opportunity to reapply for membership, just fill out the membership form found in this issue. Don't forget to renew memberships either, this is the last issue you will receive if your membership expires in 1994. If you live in the US or Canada, you may want to renew membership now for a three year period, before it is too late!

Bob Feller, the Treasurer, has investigated the possibility of having our membership pay annual dues using credit cards, and is afraid it is out of the question. First, we are too small an organization with too little cash flow each year to make it cost effective. There are a variety of fees (\$175 application, \$30 monthly maintenance, and 30 cents for each transaction), the scanning machine cost of \$385 a piece, and the charge of 2.95% that clearly would cost us

¹Lai, C., R.F. Lyman, A.D. Long, C.H. Langley, T.F.C. Mackay. 1994. Naturally occurring variation in bristle number and DNA polymorphisms at the *scabrous* locus of *Drosophila melanogaster*. *Science* 266:1697-1702.

nearly one-third of our dues each year! In addition, I was told that since members would not be making transactions as if they were direct sales, we would be considered a high-risk account by any financial organization willing to establish an account. I estimate we would have to raise dues 50% (from \$10 to \$15)

Swedmark Travel Fund

As you know, the Swedmark Travel Fund has been set up to help support colleagues who are in financial need to attend the triennial conference. The fund is set up so that only the interest or income can be used as a disbursement. Unfortunately, the corpus of the fund is small and interest rates are low. We have made only about \$US 100 during the last three years. This is not enough money to support anyone's travel. So we will not be making this money available for travel to the 1995 meeting. I encourage those in a position to do so, to make a contribution to the fund, so that it can achieve its stated purpose.

NIMCO '95 NEWS

Alain DINET and the NIMCO Organizing Committee² are pleased to announce that the next IAM Conference will be held at the "Palais des Congrès" of Perpignan (France) on July 3-7, 1995. Registration of participants is scheduled on Monday 3rd between 8:30 a.m. and 10:30 a.m. just before the Conference opening. The ceremony will be followed by a welcoming "apéritif". Other social activities include an excursion on Wednesday, July 5, and a conference baquet on Friday, July 7.

Final Call for Contributions

Open sessions for participant contributions will be offered in the following topics: marine meiofauna, freshwater meiofauna, deep-sea meiofauna, pollution and biodiversity. Special sessions and/or informal workshops will be organized:

1. The importance of meiofauna in aquatic ecosystems — Special Session. Paul Montagna, The University of Texas Marine Science Institute, P.O. Box 1267, Port Aransas, TX 78373, USA; Phone: (1) 512 749 6779;

²Francis de Bovée, Jean-Yves Bodiou, Nicole Coineau, Philippe Albert, Santiago Villora MORENO (Laboratoire Arago, Banyuls-sur-Mer), Laurence Guidi-Guilvard (Observatoire Océanologique de Villefranche-sur-Mer).

Fax: (1) 512 749 6777; E-mail: paul@utmsi.zo.utexas.edu

2. Feeding biology, gardening, and structuring of biocenoses by meiofauna — Special session. Hans-Uwe Dahms, Universität Oldenburg, Fachbereich 7, Biologie Postfach 2503, 26111 Oldenburg, Germany; Phone: (49) 441 798 3369; Fax: (49) 441 798 3250; E-mail: hudahms@hrzl.(pcnet.)uni-oldenburg.de
3. Heterochrony and the evolution of meiofauna — Special symposium. Rony Huys, The Natural History Museum, Cromwell Road, London SW7 5BD, U.K.; Phone: (44) 71 938 9186; Fax: (44) 71 938 9158; E-mail: RJH@NIIM.AC.UK
4. The relationship between sediment geochemistry and meiofauna distribution — Workshop. Magda Vincx, Marine Biology Center, University of Gent, Ledeganckstraat 35, 9000 Gent, Belgium; Phone: (32) 9 2645210; Fax: (31) 9 2645344; E-mail: magda.vincx@rug.ac.be
5. Symposium on aquatic nematodes, myth or reality — Workshop. Nicole Gourbault, Museum national d'Histoire naturelle, LBIM, 57, Rue Cuvier, 75005 Paris; Phone (33) 1 40 79 31 12; Fax: (33) 1 40 31 09; E-mail: gourbault@mnhn.fr

People interested in these topics should mention it in the pre-registration form. They should also contact the topic coordinator (see names above) in order to make suggestions and/or to formalize their contribution. Special sessions (parallel to the general sessions) will be scheduled according to these responses. The poster session will run all along the Conference in the hall of the Palais des Congrès just by the Conference rooms.

A maximum of 30 min. will be assigned to each presentation including discussion. The Conference language will be English. However, according to the French law, speakers may use French. French speakers should provide the text of their communication to the Organizing Committee so that a translation can be provided. The following audio-visual equipment will be available: slide and overhead projectors and video PAL/SECAM projector. Special needs should be mentioned in the pre-registration form. Contributions should be proposed to the Organizing Committee before March 15, 1995. They will be reviewed and authors will be notified of their acceptance by April 15.

Abstracts

Abstracts in English should be typewritten according to the following format:

TITLE OF PRESENTATION (CAPITAL LETTERS)

A.B. First Author¹, C.D. Second Author²¹*Affiliation with Address of First Author*²*Affiliation with Address of Second Author*

The abstract should be single spaced, double spaced between the heading block and the text, Confine typed copy to an area 15 cm wide by 23 cm long. Use if possible 10 pt. Courier type face. Print the abstract with a good quality printer as the document is to be reproduced as received.

Accommodations

Hotels located in the immediate vicinity of the Palais des Congrès (i.e., 50 to 100 m range) will provide convenient and comfortable housing. Number of days, dates and preferences should be indicated in the registration form. Booking will be done by the Organizing Committee. These are two accommodation options, either a 2-star or a 3-star rating. Breakfast is included in the hotel fares. Lunches will be available at the cafeteria of the Palais des Congrès for a 50 FF fee. The program book package will suggest a number of restaurants for dinner (not organized by NIMCO).

Fees

The Conference fee will be 500 FF (currently, 1 FF = 0.18 \$ US) for active participants and 250 FF for students and accompanying persons. It includes a program book package, participation in social events, welcoming aperitif, cocktails and transportation to Banyuls-sur-Mer, symposium dinner (Friday 7th). Fees will be due at May 1st, 1995. A 100 FF late fee will be added for payment received after this deadline.

Excursion

An optional mid-symposium excursion to Carcassonne, the largest medieval site in Europe, will take place on Wednesday 5th. A financial contribution for transportation to the place (100 km away from Perpignan), will be asked of participants (50 FF per person). An alternative to the excursion will be a free day in Perpignan and vicinities, which offer a number of recreational activities. Information about these will be included in the program book.

Transportation to Perpignan

Perpignan is linked to Paris-Orly with four direct flights per day by AIR INTER. Duration of these flights is 1.25 hours. It is recommended that you fly into Paris-Orly to make these connections. Some international airlines do not have direct access to Paris-Orly and arrive at Paris-Roissy-Charles-de-Gaulle. In that case, plan a minimum of 2.5 hours delay (which includes about 1 hour of ground transportation by the AIR FRANCE shuttle service) to change to Paris-Orly Airport. Seasonal (summer) direct flights from London-Gatwick are operated on Saturday by BRITISH AIRWAYS. Perpignan airport (international code: PGF) is a 10 min. drive from downtown where the Palais des Congrès and hotels are located. Although the nearest airport to Perpignan with worldwide connections is Barcelona, no airline flights exist between these two cities. If you fly to Barcelona, you will need to go to Perpignan by rail with the "Intercities Talgo," a 3 hour trip. Don't try to take any other train than the direct "Talgo" unless you want to have an uncomfortable, 4 hour experience with a change at the French-Spanish border.

Deadlines

March 15, 1995: Submission of abstracts for contributions.

May 1, 1995: Registration, housing reservation, and payment of fees.

ANNOUNCEMENTS*Training Workshop*

Plymouth Marine Laboratory (PML), 27-31st March 1995. Statistical Analysis and Interpretation of Community Ecology Data, using PRIMER.

The workshop is designed for biologists who collect and need to analyze community data. The course material concentrates on a suite of statistical techniques exploited and developed at the Plymouth Marine Laboratory (PML) and incorporated in the PRIMER (Plymouth Routines in Multivariate Ecological Research) software package. As well as a lecture component the course includes practical sessions for participants to familiarize themselves with the PRIMER software which will be given to them under single-user licence (included in the course fee). During the workshop there will also be opportunities for the participants to analyze their own data using the statistical techniques and software described in the lectures. The workshop will be run by Drs. Bob Clarke, Richard Warwick, Martin Carr and Mel Austen who have

successfully run this course many times both at the Plymouth Marine Laboratory and abroad. The course fee of £890 (inclusive of VAT) includes the PRIMER software and full documentation.

If anybody is interested in participating in the workshop or knows of any colleagues or students who might be interested please contact me or any of the above named people directly and we will send you further information and an application form.

Melanie Austen Plymouth Marine Laboratory, Prospect Place, West Hoe, Plymouth PL1 3DH, UK.
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Summer field courses

Baruch Marine Field Laboratory, Georgetown, South Carolina.

Introduction to Meiofauna (3 credit hours), May 29 - June 23, 1995, Bruce Coull and Robert Higgins. Comprehensive overview of meiofauna biology and ecology. Lectures cover collection, processing and identification, role of meiofauna in ecosystem dynamics, their value as food for higher trophic levels and use in pollution assessment. Observe all meiofauna taxa and experiment with the local meiofauna in an ecological setting. Each student will conduct a research project on a topic of their choosing and present results in a concluding seminar.

Estuarine Fish Ecology (3 credit hours), July 10 - August 4, 1995, John Mark Dean and Marcel Reichort.

Contact Kitty Harper, Marine Science Program, University of South Carolina, Columbia SC 29208, USA.

University of Texas Marine Science Institute, Port Aransas, Texas.

Marine Botany (3 undergraduate credit hours), June 7 - July 14, 1995, Ken Dunton.

Aquatic Microbiology (3 undergraduate credit hours), June 7 - July 14, 1995, Ron Benner.

Marine Invertebrates (3 undergraduate credit hours), July 17 - August 21, 1995, Paul Montagna

Biology of Fishes (3 undergraduate credit hours), July 17 - August 21, 1995, Lee Fuiman.

Marine Research Training Cruise, (3 graduate credit

hours), July 17 - August 21, 1995, E. William Behrens.

Biological Oceanography (3 graduate credit hours), June 7 - August 3, 1995, Ed Buskey and Curtis Suttle.

Contact Summer Coordinator, UTMSI, P.O. Box 1267, Port Aransas, TX 78373, USA. Small scholarships are available.

Sixth International Conference on Copepoda

The Sixth International Conference on Copepoda will be held in Oldenburg (Germany) in the week from 29th July to 2nd August 1996. It will be organized by Arbeitsgruppe Zoomorphologie, Universität Oldenburg, and Alfred-Wegener-Institut für Polar- und Meeresforschung, Bremerhaven under the auspices of the World Association of Copepodologists (WAC). The following special symposia are being considered for special sessions:

1. Copepods as parasites of fishes. (convener: J.-s. Ho)
2. Role of copepods in freshwater ecosystems. (convener: G. Fryer)
3. Reproductive biology of copepods. (convener: F. Ferrari)
4. Life cycles of copepods. (convener: S.-I. Uye)

An application form is attached at the end of the newsletter. If you are interested in attending and wish to receive the second circular, please write to:

Sixth International Conference on Copepoda
Dr. Horst Kurt Schminke
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Gerlach's Meiofauna Library for Sale to Support the Swedmark Fund

Prof. Dr. Gerlach wants to sell his collection of reprints to benefit the Swedmark Fund. It is a treasure trove of the rare and scarce older literature, containing many papers published in the 1950's and 1960's. There are: 350 on meiofauna ecology, 80 on nematode ecology, 30 on harpacticoid ecology, 45 on methods, 65 on

foraminiferans, 13 on cnidarians, 30 on gnathostomulids, 105 on gastrotrichs, 9 on priapulids, 47 on kinorhynch, 103 on archiannelids and small polychaetes, 49 on tardigrades, 20 on mystacocarids, 75 on groundwater crustaceans and 25 on other groups, all together about 1000 titles. In addition, *Proceedings of the First International Meiofauna Conference* (1971) (Swedmark Memorial Volume) and Hulings & Gray, *Manual for the Study of Meiofauna* (1971). The minimum price is US \$1000. What is left over after freight has been paid will go to the Swedmark Fund (see *Psammonalia* 105 page 3). Therefore, feel free to offer more than the minimum price and support the Swedmark Fund.

Please contact: Sebastian Gerlach, Institut für Meereskunde, Duesternbrooker Weg 20, D 24105 Kiel, Germany, Telefax (0) 431 565876, private telephone (0) 431 231724.

NEWS FROM MEMBERS

In Memoriam: Naja Vørs

Prof. David Patterson has sent us word and it is with deep regret that we have to inform you that Dr. Naja Vørs died recently as a result of an accident.

Tidbits

Anton Mclachlan will leave at the end of March for a two year contract in Oman. He is going to Oman to help start up a new college for marine sciences and fisheries. This will replace the existing fisheries department based at Sultan Qaboos University and have its own campus in the south of the Sultanate. He doesn't know all the details yet but, the idea is to present courses in marine science, marine engineering and technology and fisheries science. His family will be accompanying him and of course they are all very excited about this. He will be purely administration and management in the beginning but hopefully there, will be opportunities for research later. He still has two M.Sc. students looking at aspects of meiofauna ecology in coastal dunes. -*Good Luck, Anton!*

Judith Gobin has now returned to Trinidad. She is in the process of setting up a few projects at the laboratory, where "meiofauna is probably the least studied group." She is interested in keeping in contact with colleagues in Europe and in collaborating with anyone interested in Caribbean meiofauna.

Address changes

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Hanan Mitwally
Department of Oceanography
Faculty of Science, Alexandria University
Moharram Bey
21511 Alexandria, EGYPT

Hanan is a doctoral student just beginning to do research on meiofauna (general), *Gastroticha* (specific) along the Mediterranean coast of Egypt near Alexandria.

Salvador Francisco García-Martín
Biología, Departamento de Biología Animal
Biología Vegetal y Ecología Facultad de Ciencias Del Mar
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Tom Moens
University of Gent
Zoology Institute
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Interests : I'm conducting a study into the trophic position of marine nematodes. Both qualitative (through observations, culturing etc..) and quantitative (through radiotracer experiments, respiration measurements etc.) aspects are considered. I would very much welcome unpublished observations - data which may pertain at these topics.

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Interests : Ecological study of benthos (meio- and macrobenthos) of mangrove sediments, including : structural studies over time and space, dynamical studies on production and energy-budgets, dynamical studies on interactions in the benthic food web using field experiments.

Motohiro Shimanaga
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164 JAPAN

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Interests : I'm studying the meiobenthos along the Belgian coast. The relationship between meiobenthos and biogeochemical processes will be examined. Therefore densities of all meiofaunal taxa, biomass, species composition, bacterial densities and the characteristics of the sediment are measured in a detailed vertical profile. The integrated data set will lead to a better understanding of the specific life conditions of the meiofaunal nematodes.

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Interests : I'm studying the meiofauna of the continental slope of the Goban Spur (Celtic Sea). The aim of the study is to find changes in meiofaunal communities when bathymetric depth increases, and food input decreases. I'm particularly interested in changes in nematode communities (densities, biomass, size spectra and composition) in relation with changing abiotic variables along the continental slope and depth in the sediment.

Sandra Vanhove
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Tel 32 (0)9 264 52 15

Fax 32 (0)9 264 52 44

Interests : I'm preparing my Ph.D. on the role of meiofauna (and particularly nematodes) in the Antarctic. Two contrasting study areas are chosen: the deep-sea (shelf and slope of the Weddell Sea) and a low subtidal area off Signy Island (South Orkney Islands). Deep sea studies focus on the influence of changing benthic and pelagic properties along the bathymetric gradient on the density, biomass and diversity of the meiofauna. The marine environment of Signy Island, on the other hand, is characterized by a high seasonal pattern in the pelagic zone. Strong phytoplankton blooms in a very short summer period are followed by a very poor production period during the rest of the year. All levels of the Antarctic foodweb are strongly influenced by this phenomenon. The impact of this seasonal variation on meiofauna is being studied. Samples are taken fortnightly for 18 months. Meiofaunal distribution in the sediment profile, will be compared to distributions of potential food sources and other sediment properties.

Yvette Vermeulen
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Interests : Study of the meiobenthic community of tropical mangrove sediments (Gazi Bay, Kenya) with emphasis on the nematodes; density, biomass, species composition, temporal variation, vertical distributions.

Dominiek Verschelde
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Zoology Institute
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Fax 32 (0)9 264 52 44

Interests : morphology, taxonomy, and systematics of marine nematodes. I'm making a morphological, systematic study of the Desmodoroidea (Nematoda; Desmodoridae, Epsilonematidae, Draconematidae) (Ph.D. research). I'm interested in receiving material from all over the world of to cooperate with anyone on this subject.

Zhang Zhinan
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PEOPLES REPUBLIC OF CHINA

RECENT LITERATURE

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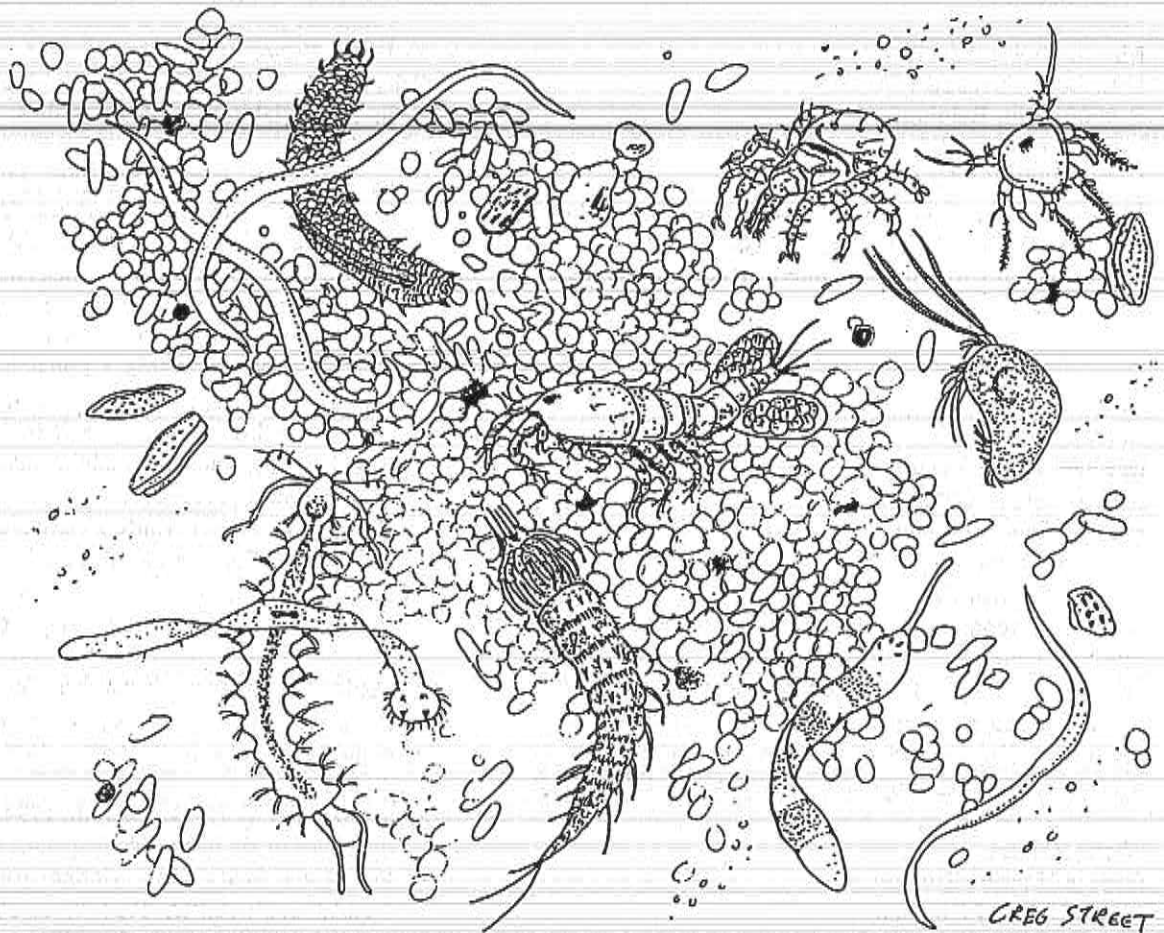
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International Association of Meiobenthologists

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 in Perpignan, France.

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.

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**Sixth International Conference on
Copepoda**

Oldenburg 1996

Preliminary Questionnaire

From:

Name: Title:

Address:

.....

.....

Telephone:

Fax:

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- I plan to attend the conference and I shall be accompanied by.....persons.
- I intend to make an oral presentation.
- I intend to present a poster.

Please return until **1st February 1995** to:

Dr. Horst Kurt Schminke
Universität Oldenburg
Arbeitsgruppe Zoomorphologie, FB 7
D-26111 Oldenburg, Germany

Ninth International Meiofauna Conference (NIMCO)
Perpignan, FRANCE
JULY 3-7, 1998

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DEADLINE MAY 1, 1995

Dr. Pr. Mr. Mrs. (Complete in BLOCK CAPITALS)

first name, *prénom* : _____ last name, *nom* : _____

mailing address, *adresse de correspondance* : _____

country, *pays* : _____

business phone, *téléphone*, : _____ fax, *télécopie* : _____

I would like to be scheduled to present an oral presentation a poster

In agreement with Dr. _____ I am already scheduled to give an oral

presentation in the following special session _____

Title: _____

• **CONFERENCE FEES**

- Active participant: 500 FF
- Student (Requires a confirmation letter): 300 FF
- Spouse and/or accompanying persons: _____ 250 FF # of persons: _____

Fees must be paid in FF currency or a check drawn from a French Bank, (no, credit cards).
 Fees can be paid upon registration at the Palais des Congrès of Perpignan (3 July, 1995).

• **MEALS**

I would like to have lunch at the Cafeteria of the Palais des Congrès on:

- July 3 July 4 July 6 July 7

Lunch tickets (50 FF each, not refundable) will be available on registrations at the
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(SEE REVERSE SIDE, *VOIR AU VERSO*)

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I would like to make the excursion to Carcassonne on Wednesday 5 of July 1995.

I prefer to have a free day in Perpignan

50 FF per person fee for transportation to Carcassonne will be added to the conference fee for trip participants.

N.B. The registration fee of 500 FF for active participants and 300 FF for students includes a documentation package, booklet with program and abstracts, participation to welcoming aperitif, cocktails and transportation to Banyuls-sur-Mer, symposium dinner on Friday, July 7. The 250 FF fee for accompanying persons only includes social events, such as the welcoming aperitif and symposium banquet on Friday, July 7.

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ABSTRACT EXAMPLE (CAPITAL LETTERS)
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66651 BANYULS-SUR-MER, FRANCE.

Ninth International Meiofauna Conference (NIMCO)
Perpignan, FRANCE
JULY 3-7, 1998

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• Please reserve accomodation according to the following times,

Veillez effectuer une réservation hôtelier selon les indications suivantes

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A = air conditioned, private bathroom with bath or shower, toilet, TV, mini-bar (**NN)

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(*) Range of prices for ONE person including breakfast and taxes

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• If double or twins name of roommate, *si chambre double, nom du second occupant*: _____

(SEE REVERSE SIDE, VOIR AU VERSO)

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