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International Association of Meiobenthologists



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You may make your donations to the *Bertil Swedmark Fund* directly to the IAM bank account (account number 6586667) of the Lloyds Bank (Sort code 30-96-68), 8 Royale Parade Plymouth PL1 1HB, UK.

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Marleen De Troch, Tom Moens, Ann Vanreusel,
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IN MEMORIAM

PREBEN JENSEN
1942 - 1996



Our Danish colleague and friend, Dr. Preben Jensen died recently at the age of 53 years. Many of us have known Preben very well and it was his knowledge and especially his inexhaustible enthusiasm for marine free-living nematodes that we will remember. Each time again, talking with or writing to Preben was always a great pleasure because of his incredible interest and motivation for understanding marine biological problems. Preben had a very broad interest in marine biology and from his more than 50 publications in highly qualified international journals we have learned many new insights in the systematics as well as in the ecology of marine nematodes from many different habitats (salt marshes, shallow seas, deep sea and so on).

On the Meiofauna conference in Perpignan (July 1995), Preben was accompanied by his wife Tina. She found Preben's deep interest in his research very important and because of that she wants to maintain contact with colleagues who had known him. In Perpignan, Preben and Tina decided to go to the next Nematology meeting in Guadeloupe (July 1996), but

unfortunately Preben could not make it. Tina Jensen wants to keep contact with Preben's colleagues and therefore she went for a couple of days to the Third International Conference of Nematology in Guadeloupe this summer, unfortunately without Preben.

Beneath you will find the message that Tina Jensen send about Preben's death.

Gurre, 24 June 1996

We write with great sorrow that my husband, our father, and "Bonpa", marine biologist and nematologist, Preben Jensen, born 25 September 1942 in Kolding, Denmark, died quietly and without pain in his home in Gurre on 17 June 1996 after a long battle with cancer. He was for us a wonderful person, our "Big Bearded Bear". Preben had looked forward to the coming meeting in Guadeloupe, which we had hoped to attend, but fate had other plans. Although not biologists, we could not help being caught up in Preben's enthusiasm for his work and hope that others have had a similar experience. We miss him. Tina Jensen, Annelise and Birgitte, and grandchildren Tovesvej, 9, Gurre, DK-3000 Helsingor, Denmark

We wish Tina and her family all the strength and we hope that the knowledge that Preben is indeed very deep in our memories can support them.

Magda Vincx

EDITORIAL

About 30 persons replied to the questionnaire about the future of our newsletter. I'm very happy to tell that all of them wanted our journal to be kept as it is, but that of course the extension to internet is supported by nearly all of them. Only two wanted to reduce the membership fee in favour of not receiving the hard copy anymore and the saved money can be put in the Bertil Swedmark Fund. Surfing on the internet takes also a lot of time and most of us do not find the necessary free hours to spend long 'waiting' minutes for getting the information (like myself who wants to read *Psammonalia* at home in my easy-chair and not on my computer desk).

It is clear that we need to do a thorough discussion about membership and so on during the Plymouth meeting within two years. In the mean time we will follow both channels. Nick Schizas is willing to produce the future issues on the web side as well but on the next meeting we have then to decide about a new position in a person responsible for maintaining and updating the meiofauna site. At this moment in Gent we do not have the possibility yet to produce efficient web sites. But of course we will continue with the production of the paper issues and will send all the updated information to Nick.

With this questionnaire, more suggestions came from the members about the content of the newsletter. Information about Ph.D. topics and results, new projects (national or international) where meiofauna is involved, job announcements and so on are of course always very welcome to be included in the newsletter.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

International Senckenberg Conference

The Senckenberg Natural History Society is sponsoring a conference which aims at being a forum for institutions, working groups, and individual researchers in Europe to present their original systematic biology work both on global or European scale. Hence, this is not a meeting to assess what has been done, but for presenting science.

The conference will be held December 9-13 1996 in Frankfurt am Main (Germany).

Subjects covered:

- Systematic and taxonomy of all groups of organisms on a world-wide global or an European scale
- Phylogenetic analysis and problems
- Tools and techniques for systematic research
- Biogeography as one of the main applications of taxonomy

If you are interested to participate, you can contact the conference office

Secretary of the International Senckenberg Conference on Biodiversity

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32nd European Marine Biology Symposium

The 32nd European Marine Biology Symposium will be held in Lysekil, north of Göteborg, Sweden, from August 16 to 22 inclusive, 1997.

Topics are:

1. Recruitment and colonisation
2. Physical and chemical forcing on marine biological systems

You can respond to this first announcement by mail or e-mail:

EMBS
 Kristineberg Marine Research Station
 S-450 34 Fiskebäckskil
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 embs.science@kmf.gu.se

<http://www.kmf.gu.se/embs.htm>

Workshop of the ESF Network in Systematic Biology

A workshop on "New directions in Systematics", will be

organized in October 1997 in Crete (Greece). The Network's last workshop will be broadly based, involving ecologists, conservation biologist, systematics and, possibly, representatives of European research organisations and funding agencies to discuss the future directions of systematic biology research and its distribution to understanding biodiversity. Areas of rapidly advancing scientific interest in systematics will be selected for discussion at the workshop by the organising committee; participants will also be invited to propose important topics for discussion.

The primary objective will be to identify the scientific foci of a proposal for a Programme in Systematic Biology, which will be submitted to the ESF in 1998.

To view the Network's www pages, go to:

<http://www.nhm.ac.uk/esf/>

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Fourth International Crustacean Congress

The fourth International Crustacean Congress-ICC4 will take place on Monday 20 through Friday 24 July 1998 in Amsterdam, The Netherlands. The Congress is organized by the "Stichting Crustacea".

The allover theme of this congress will be: **Crustacea in the Biodiversity Crisis**.

Papers on all aspects of all groups of crustaceans may be submitted. Both invited lectures and contributed papers will be organized according to the following subthemes:

- Systematics, Evolution, Phylogeny and Palaeontology
- Development, Larval Biology and Life Histories
- Ecology and Behaviour
- Physiology, Biochemistry, Genetics and Molecular Biology
- Fisheries, Aquaculture, Pollution and Toxicology

Additional information can be obtained at the ICC4 secretariat:

ICC 4
 c/o Wil van Zijl
 University of Amsterdam
 Vakgroep SEP
 P.O. Box 94766
 HL-1090 GT Amsterdam
 The Netherlands

NEWS FROM MEMBERS

Tom Moens, Marine Biology Section, Gent, Belgium. I am currently evaluating some methodological aspects of radioactive tracer methodology to quantify meiofauna grazing on bacteria, and is also trying out some non-radioactive alternatives. The most important one there, *i.e.* the use of fluorescently labelled

microparticles or bacteria, is giving me problems due to background (auto)fluorescence. It is already known that nematode autofluorescence is mainly in the same spectrum as FITC which I use, but should disappear or at least become less important when nematodes are dead. Depending on the nematode species or even individuals observed, in my samples this autofluorescence can either cause problems to recognize ingested particles or even (most of the time) make it completely impossible.

The method I use to make the nematodes transparent before epifluorescence microscopy is the traditional method by Seinhorst and/or De Grisse, and finally embeds the nematodes in glycerin. I have already noticed that this procedure aggravates my problems.

Has anyone experienced similar troubles in similar trials, and, hopefully, found a suitable alternative (with respect to the method of fixation or to the fluorescent marker dye used)? I would greatly appreciate any comments!

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The email address in the members list is not correct. His correct address is: sirayama@ori.u-tokyo.ac.jp

NEW MEMBERS

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RECENT LITERATURE

-NOTE: The entire January-February 1996 issue of the Zoological Journal of the Linnean Society, Vol. 11, Part 1-2 is on Tardigrade Biology. All the papers have not been listed

separately.

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QUIZ

What happened? Was the previous Quiz-question too difficult, was the subject not biologically founded enough, was it too boring or had people too much work ?? Whatever reason, it remains a fact that nobody tried to answer our Quiz of issue 112. Well, no harm done, I will just have to try even harder to tickle the curiosity of the IAM members. Or perhaps one of you can think of an intriguing problem to be presented in one of our next issues. All ideas are welcome and well appreciated.

For the Quiz-question of issue 112 I wanted you to recognize and reflect on an enlarged part of this issue's cover (# 113). You could see part of a surfboard and leg surfing on a sea of 1's and 0's, presenting the idea that *Psammonalia* can now also be found 'surfing' on the world-wide Internet web.

Due to a 'summer recess' (in fact due to a temporal lack of inspiration) we do not present a new Quiz-question in this month's issue. I hope however to be back in November.

Again we are eager to receive any of your witty ideas or reactions.

Send your email reflections to :
Dominick.Verschelde@rug.ac.be



THANKS

This issue was also made possible due to the help and effort of the following members :

Joan Bernhard, Tapas Chatterjee, Bruce Coull, Nicole Gourbault, Alex V. Tchesunov, Dieter Walossek and every member who filled out and send in her / his questionnaire of issue 112.

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.

Membership is open to any person who is actively interested in the study of meiofauna. Annual membership dues are 300 Belgian francs (\$ 10 US) and you may pay up to 3 years in advance, i.e. 900 BEF (\$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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For **all other members** : dues can be paid in Belgian francs. Make (euro)checks payable to Ann Vanreusel. If possible make use of the creditcard transaction possibilities. Send dues and applications to : Dr. Ann Vanreusel, Marine Biology Section , Ledeganckstraat 35, B-9000 Gent , BELGIUM

Interests: _____

(*) New members please introduce yourself in 10 lines