

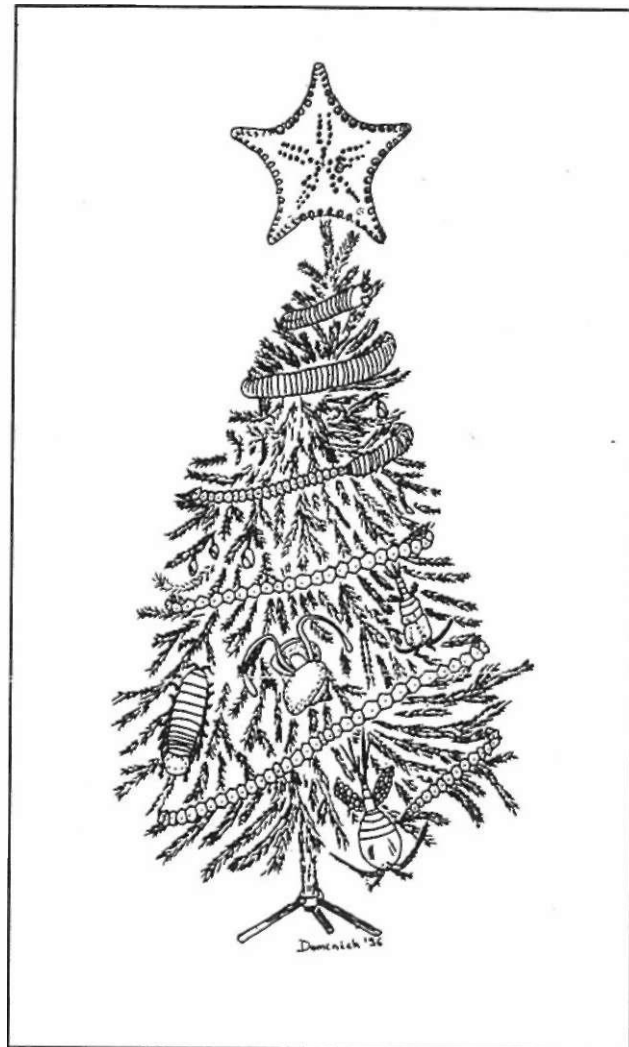
PSAMMONALIA

Newsletter of the
International Association of Meiobenthologists



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

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International Association of Meiobenthologists - Founded 1966

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IN MEMORIAM**Bettye W. Dudley**

Bettye W. Dudley, long-time meiofauna researcher, and assistant to Bruce Coull at the University of South Carolina died November 2, 1996. Bettye ran the meiofauna laboratory at the University of South Carolina from 1973 until 1993, when she retired from the University. She continued to work after her retirement just to help out. What a wonderful woman. She was the mentor, trainer and "mother" to all the students who passed thru the lab over the past 20 years - they always remember Bettye. Up until the end Bettye remembered them by sending a card on their birthday or on the birth of a child or on their wedding anniversary. Bettye won the award for identifying the most meiofauna taxa on the T-shirt at the 6th International Meiofauna meeting in Tampa. She organised the third International meeting in Columbia, SC and attended the 4th meeting in Gent. She was a wonderful spirit, who even though trained as a chemist, loved her "little beasties". Anyone who met Bettye was happier ! The University of South Carolina meiofauna family will greatly miss her as will the international family of meiobenthologists.

Bruce, C. Coull
4 November 1996

EDITORIAL

For me personally last months (until this morning) were very busy in writing proposals and finding ways to get meiofauna work (and other marine research) financed. So I will keep this editorial extremely short and you will find more interesting news in the rest of the issue. Guest editorials are also very welcome !

M. Vincx

ANNOUNCEMENTS**XIMCO 1998**

No doubt all of you will by now have the dates of 27 -31 July 1998 firmly in your diaries for the Tenth International Meiofauna Conference, which will be held in Plymouth, England. Full details of registration etc. will appear in the May 1997 issue of Psammonalia.

In the meantime, the committee planning the scientific programme would like to solicit topic proposals for special sessions and workshops. We felt that it would be more helpful if the topics were framed in the form of specific questions rather than the more usual short titles that we have used in previous years. For example, instead of something like 'Meiofaunal Biodiversity' we might have the question 'Is the diversity of meiofauna higher in the tropics than in higher latitudes?'. Papers could then be contributed which might throw some light on the

question, and hopefully some kind of consensus conclusion could be arrived at in discussion. If you have any topics of this kind to suggest, please either e-mail them to ximco@plymouth.ac.uk or send them to:

Richard Warwick
Plymouth Marine Laboratory
Prospect Place, West Hoe.
Plymouth PL1 3DH,
UK

Second English Language International Nematology Symposium of the Russian Society of Nematologists

Moscow, Russia, August 23-29 1997

The second English Language International Nematology Symposium will be held in Moscow by special arrangement with Moscow State University and the Institute of Parasitology of the Russian Academy of Sciences. A wide range of specialist and broad-interest topics on plant, terrestrial, entomopathogenous and marine nematodes will be presented. The principal objectives of the Symposium are to facilitate scientific exchange and to enable participants to establish new contacts for future scientific collaboration.

The official language of the Symposium is English and all Abstracts and presentations will be in English. Simultaneous translation will not be provided.

Note: Full details will be published in September 1996 in the Russian Journal of Nematology Volume 4, Part 2. See also the Russian Journal of Nematology Home Page:
<http://www.scri.sari.ac.uk/rjn/rjn.htm>

For full details of cost, registration forms, etc, contact:

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Eighth Deep Sea Biology Symposium

Monterey, California, U.S.A., 22 September - 27 September, 1997

The 8th Deep Sea Biology Symposium (DSBS) has been moved to Monterey, California, in consideration of the one year delay required to host the event in Galway, as originally planned during the 7th Symposium at Crete. The 8th DSBS will be co-hosted by Monterey Bay Aquarium Research Institute (MBARI) and Monterey Bay Aquarium (MBA), and is tentatively scheduled for the 22th through the 27th of September, 1997. Monterey is a beautiful setting for the 8th DSBS, and we invite

all of the deep-sea scientific community to attend and enjoy the symposium, associated events, and leave a bit of time to explore the central California coast.

SYMPOSIUM FORMAT

The format for the DSBS will be similar to earlier meetings, including both oral and poster presentations concerning deep-sea organisms and ecosystems. We invite papers on any related topic, and are particularly interested in presentations relating to processes influencing the function and organization of deep-sea communities or populations. Themes of interest include, but are not limited to:

- Diversity, Adaptation, and Evolution of Deep-Sea Biota
- Pattern and Function of Deep-Sea Populations and Communities
- Source and Utilization of Carbon Inputs in Deep-Sea Systems
- Metabolic or Physiological Studies of Deep-Sea Biota
- Microbial Processes in Deep-Sea Habitats
- Deep-Sea Pelagic Community Studies
- Sedimentation and Diagenesis in Deep Ocean Habitats
- Reproduction in the Deep Sea
- Interdisciplinary Studies in Deep Ocean Settings (JGOFS, ...)
- Studies of Specialized Habitats (Seeps, Vents, Oxygen Min. Zone)

We invite suggestions for additional or alternative symposium topics. We will invite keynote speakers for each topic of the symposium, with the final selection of topics based upon abstract submissions. A compendium of abstracts will be printed for the symposium.

Hosting Organizations / DSBS Coordinators

*Monterey Bay Aquarium Research Institute / Drs. J.P. Barry
and B.H. Robison
Monterey Bay Aquarium
Drs. C. Harrold and R.E. Kochevar
P.O. Box 628, Moss Landing, CA 95039
U.S.A.
Tel.(408) 775-1726, Fax.(408) 775-1645,
email: barry@mbari.org
internet: <http://www.mbari.org/>*

Call for a New International Congress of Zoology

Dr. F.D. Por and Dr. R.M. Polymeni are looking for response concerning the feasibility of a New International Congress of Zoology, possibly to be convened in Athens, sometime during 1999 or 2000.

The First International Congress of Zoology was held in Paris, in 1889. Seventy years later, the XVIth Congress in Washington recommended the discontinuation of the congresses because of the feeling that Zoology has split into too many unrelated specialized fields. Nonetheless a last XVIIth rump Congress was held in 1972 in Monte Carlo. The idea was advanced that the International Conference s on Systematic and Evolutionary Biology will replace the defunct Zoological Congresses at a higher level. After several meetings of the ICSEB, it became evident that they did not live-up this expectation.

We are ready to try to bring forward again, the rich and unifying aspects of Zoology and to reassert its general global, human and philosophical role. We are hoping for the approval and support of the zoological diaspora. The best encouragement will be to send us suggestions regarding the themes and the structure of the proposed New International Congress of Zoology. More important again, we need personal commitments to help organizing symposia, workshops and hints of possible funding sources. We shall need even at an early stage to establish an active and representative Action Committee. Understandably, we shall be able to appeal for funding only after having obtained convincing public support and after having a prestigious enough Committee in place.

Please contact:

*Dr. Rosa Polymeni
University of Athens
Department of Biology
15784 Athens
Greece
Tel.30.1.7284364 Fax. 30.1.7243325
e-mail: rpolime@atlas.uoa.gr*

Post-graduate training course in limnology

The institute of Limnology (Austrian Academy of Sciences) is organising a course in Limnology in Mondsee/Lunz as part of the Master's programme in 'Wetland Ecology and Limnology'. This new proposed programme will start in April 1996 and will be organised together with the International Institute for Infrastructural, Hydraulic and Environmental Engineering at Delft, The Netherlands and Makerere University at Kampala, Uganda.

Subjects of lectures and basic courses will include physical and chemical properties and processes in lakes and rivers; morphology, water movements, light and heat, geo- and biochemical cycles; fundamentals of water quality assessments

and control; groundwater ecology; composition and distribution of organism communities (bacteria, phyto- and zooplankton, macro- and microbenthos, fish) and their role and interactions in aquatic ecosystems; systematic and biological survey of principal taxa; approaches to the assessment of primary and secondary production...

For further information apply to the Austrian Diplomatic Mission for your country or contact:

Institute of Limnology
Dr. Franz Neidl
Gaisberg 116
A-5310 Mondsee
AUSTRIA
Phone: 06232-4079 Fax: 06232-3578
-3125
Telex: 11 26 28 oeaw a
e-mail: ilimnolmon@aon.at

Training Workshop on Statistical Analysis and Interpretation of Community Ecology Data

A Training Workshop on Statistical Analysis and Interpretation of Community Ecology Data, using PRIMER will take place at the Plymouth Marine Laboratory, 6-10 January 1997

The lecture component of this 5-day course will expound a framework for the data analysis and interpretation of community data, typically large matrices of counts (or biomass) of many species from samples taken at different sites or times. The lecture material concentrates on a suite of graphical and multivariate statistical techniques exploited and developed at the Plymouth Marine Laboratory (PML) over the last decade. Their utility in describing communities and identifying patterns of change, in natural or pollution impact situations, has been successfully demonstrated in a number of published PML papers, and will be familiar to many I. A. M. members. Many of the examples given in the course will be of meiofauna studies, though other marine faunal components will be discussed and the statistical methods are equally applicable to freshwater and terrestrial communities. The course lecturers are K R Clarke, R M Warwick, M R Carr, and P J Somerfield, all of the Plymouth Marine Laboratory.

Methodological lectures will be given principally by Bob Clarke, with interpretational aspects covered mainly by Richard Warwick and Paul Somerfield, and Martin Carr will describe the workshop software. A 144-page book - *Change in marine communities* - (Clarke and Warwick, 1994), which closely follows the structure of the course, will be distributed to participants at the start of the workshop. This will be supplemented by reprints for the most recent developments and a user manual for the software.

Interspersed with the lectures, practical sessions will allow participants to follow through the ideas by analysing example community data sets from the published literature. The analyses will be performed on IBM-compatible PCs using the PRIMER package (Plymouth Routines In Multivariate Ecological

Research) - a series of linked programs developed for research purposes at the PML. Participants are also encouraged to bring to the workshop a trial community data set of their own. This should be digitally-held, as a rectangular species (rows) by samples (columns) matrix in Excel or simple comma- or space-separated ASCII format. A reasonable amount of time has been set aside in the programme for initial analyses of these data, using the techniques described in the lectures.

The workshop fee (#890, although academic and student discounts are available) includes a single-user licence for the PRIMER package.

Participants who wish to bring a portable PC to the workshop are welcome to do so, but should note that the package is for IBM-compatible PCs only (not Apple Macs) and runs under DOS. Around 520Kb of free core memory and 8.5 Mb of disk space are required. The software runs best on a 486 DX (or better) processor; on earlier machines (286, 386 or 486SX) a maths co-processor is highly desirable to obtain acceptable performance (several of the multivariate methods are computationally non-trivial).

The workshop is designed for biologists who collect and need to analyse community data of some form. Elementary acquaintance with PC operation is assumed, as is a rudimentary knowledge of standard statistical concepts of variation and hypothesis testing. No formal statistical background is necessary however; the multivariate methods are described from first principles and the advocated non-parametric approach lends itself to straightforward, non-technical explanations of how and why the methods work.

The workshop will take place at the Citadel Hill site of the PML.

Details are available from the course administrator, Dr. Paul Somerfield, who will be happy to answer any queries.

Plymouth Marine Laboratory, Prospect Place
West Hoe
Plymouth PL1 3DH
Phone: 01752 633100 Fax: 01752 633101
e-mail: P.Somerfield@pml.ac.uk

Short report on the 'Sixth International Conference on Copepoda'

This years copepod conference took place from July 29th to August 3rd, 1996 at the University of Oldenburg (Germany) hosted by the "The World Association of Copepodologists WAC- contact for membership applications: Dr. E. Suarez-Morales, El Colegio de la Frontera Sur-Chetumal, A.P. 424. Chetumal, 77000 Quintana Roo, Mexico; email: esuarez@xaway.ciqro.conacyt.mx).

This was the largest copepod conference since its inauguration in 1981 (Amsterdam): 250 participants from 40 countries presented 113 posters and 60 oral contributions (18 plenary talks and 42 contributed papers) on various aspects of the biology of copepods.

As expected from an animal group where the majority of taxa are

dwelling in the watercolumn-either free living or associated-most contributions tackled aspects of the Calanoida and Cyclopoida primarily. Restricting myself to oral contributions, we however had a special session for mainly meiobenthic harpacticoids: Biology of Harpacticoida. Here, Yuga Tadasugi presented a paper on the population biology of *Porcellidium* sp. from Tokyo Bay. Ahmed Ahnert demonstrated that freshwater *Potamocaris* sp. (Parastenocarididae) to be restricted to exposed sand banks of Southamerican river beds. Hydrothermal vent harpacticoids were shown by Sophie Conroy-Dalton, and Mike Gee demonstrated copepod communities from Malaysian mangrove leaf litter decay. Whereas the plenary talks usually had the broad scope of general biological phenomena of the copepods, were several meiobenthic copepod topics incorporated in other sessions. As for copepod reproductive biology, Frank Fiers gave a talk on female leg 4 development in the Laophontidae. Melissa Frey contributed on chemical signals influencing mating behaviour of *Coullana* spp., and Johannes Dürbaum reported about the function of sexual dimorphism in harpacticoid Podogenonta. Hans Dahms summarized trends in the life cycles of the Harpacticoida, and Rony Huys discussed disproportionate sex ratios in deep-sea harpacticoids and the status of deep-sea Ameiridae. Kai Vopel demonstrated adaptations of *Cletocamptus confluens* exposed to an microaerobic system. Much more new evidence from meiobenthic harpacticoids and cyclopoids was hidden in more general talks, as the one by Geoff Boxhall on the ontogeny and phylogeny of copepod antennules, or chemical mechanisms of copepod mate recognition by Darcy Lonsdale, or mating behaviour by Ed Buskey.

Benthic if not meiobenthic topics are covered by at least two other fields of copepod research: associate copepods of benthic invertebrates and bottom fish, and dormant life cycle stages of copepods in sediments (e.g. resting eggs, diapausing copepodids). Copepod dormancy was also the topic of a workshop taking place after the conference with one interesting prospectus: planktologists learnt to cooperate with meiobenthologists in the study of benthopelagic processes in general and to get some clues about the distribution and abundances of benthic diapausing stages.

Hans-U. Dahms
Oldenburg

UK Systematics Forum

The UK Systematics Forum, an initiative set up with the aim of promoting the coordination of UK systematics, published its *1994-95 Review* on Friday, 6th October.

Information on the UK Systematics Forum will shortly be available on the Internet, accessible from the Natural History Museum's Home Page (URL: <http://www.nhm.ac.uk/index.html>), or by contacting

E. Watson
UK Systematics Forum
c/o The Natural History Museum
Cromwell Road
London, SW7 5BD
e-mail: ew@nhm.ac.uk

Microfauna marina on Internet

Dr. Thomas Bartolomeus wrote us that the contents of the Microfauna marina, which appears annually and predominately contains publications from members of the II. Zoological Institute on different aspects on meiofaunal, is now available on the Internet. The page is in progress and will later contain abstracts of articles as well as information on the articles which are in press. The Internet address is:

<http://www.gwdg.de/~tbartol/morph/microfau/welcome.html>

For more information contact

Dr. Thomas Bartolomaeus
II. Zoologisches Institut und Zoologisches Museum
Berliner Str. 25
D-37073 Goettingen
Germany
Tel. ++49-551-395566 Fax. ++49-551-395448
e-mail: tbartol@gwdg.de

New catalogue of harpacticoid copepods

Philippe Bodin lets us know that the new version of his catalogue is now ready and he can send the computer disc (w.p. WORD6) to people who have sent him a cheque of 120 FF (made out in French francs and to his name). But he can also send the files by e-mail as (attachments) if it is preferred.

About the index, you must notice that pagination is wrong: first because of a modification of the presentation of the paragraphs after the pagination and, secondly, this pagination depends of the computer drivers, i.e. of each computer. But it is not a problem with WORD because it is so easy to search a word. The important thing is that scientific names are mentioned.

As a result of a meeting with F. Fiers in Brussels, A updated version in English is preparation for publication as a paper at the end of 1997, by the Belgian Royal Institute of Natural Sciences. This version will be available on computer disc as well. In order to avoid sending expenses the volume (around 300 pages!) will be presented at the next congresses such as the 4th International Congress in Amsterdam in July 1998.

Job announcement

Nicole Gourbault and Guy Boucher wrote us that there is a possibility that a position will be opened in their lab next year. It is a job for a biologist who likes to work on polychaetes / interstitial worms (curator of the Polychaetes Collection).

The putative candidate first has to registrate on the qualification list of the Museum of Paris, before applying for the job. It is compulsory!

The procedure is to send a CV and to fill in forms before the 15th of January.

If somebody is interested, please contact Nicole Gourbault very quickly to receive the application forms before the deadline.

Nicole Gourbault
 Biologie des Invertébrés marins
 Muséum national d'Histoire naturelle
 57 rue Cuvier, 73231 Paris Cedex 05
 e-mail: gourbault@mnhn.fr
 Tel. 33/1.40 79 31 12 - Fax. 33/1.40 79 31 09

RECENT LITERATURE

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QUIZ

Identify the worm with whom we decorated our Christmas tree, or maybe you can find every animal on our Christmas tree.

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



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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.

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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