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Newsletter of the
International Association of Meiobenthologists

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See You in Boston!!



ELIMCO
BOSTON
2001

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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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Motohiro Shimanaga, Yoshihisa Shirayama



EDITORIAL

Dear members.

ELIMCO comes soon. I am certainly looking forward to seeing my acquaintances there. I also am looking forward to extend my knowledge regarding recent progress in meiobenthology. I especially would like to discuss with new members about their new findings. Yes, meiofauna conference is such an exciting meeting to go.

One of interesting events in ELIMCO is raffles. It is nice to get T-shirts, mags and some other souvenirs from famous marine laboratories or universities even though we do not have chance to visit there. If the prize is rarer, of course it is more exciting. I ask participants to bring some souvenirs for the raffle, because the income of the raffle will go to the Swedmark Fund, and if prizes are more interesting, we can sell more raffles.

This time, we could provide Swedmark Travel Award to 5 participants of ELIMCO. Isn't it great? May we provide more grants for the next meiofauna conference based on the money raised in the raffles.

I thank members of IAM encouraging me to overcome the conflicts with new society. I do not have any contact from the new society person so far. I believe our association is robust enough, and all we have to do is doing our own research and other association activities as active as we can.

ELIMCO NEWS

The abstract deadline has past for the upcoming 11th International Meiofauna Conference (ELIMCO) to be held in Boston, Massachusetts, USA, July 16-20, 2001. The venue, Boston, will provide everyone with an opportunity to visit a fun city in the US known for great food and evening entertainment. Being one of the oldest cities in the US, Boston also has historical significance, which will lend added interest to your visit. Make your airline registrations well in advance also. Air travel in the US was very difficult last summer, with many delays and canceled flights, so if given a choice book the earlier flight or come a day earlier. Book flights early and include a Saturday night stay-over for the best prices. They will likely increase dramatically very soon (if they haven't already).

Please send in all conference fees as soon as possible. All conference, housing and meal fees must be paid to Boston University one month prior to the conference, which is June 13. You may not pay fees on site. This has been a great inconvenience to delegates because it requires paying for services in advance that are usually paid for at time of service. Many have had difficulty obtaining a travel advance in April for a conference in July. Extra fee

forms are attached to the end of the newsletter. Fees are sent to Mary Garrett. You must submit all fees by June 13, 2001.

The program this year looks to be an interesting one, constructed around several topical themes. The number of oral presentations in each session are: 16 for Ecotoxicology session, 10 for experimental models session, 7 for the how many species session, 5 for the meiofaunamicrobial interactions session, 6 for the food web session, and 23 for the regional diversity session, making a total of 67. A total of 34 poster presentations were submitted. The poster session and reception will be held Tuesday. Posters will be assigned a 4' x 4' (or 122 cm x 122 cm) space. You can use all or part of this space. The posters are most easily attached to the poster board with a velcro strip. The complete program will be finished by the end of May and be available electronically on the IAM website: <http://www.mtsu.edu/meio/meeting.html>. Authors will be notified by e-mail when the presentation is scheduled.

Guests should go to Shelton Hall, 91 Bay State Road (<http://www.bu.edu/visit/maps/>) at Boston University. You may check into Shelton on July 14. Check in time begins at 3:00 PM and checkout time is prior to 11:00 AM. You must be out of your room by 11:00 AM.

You can go from the Airport to BU by taxi, shuttle or the Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority (MBTA) train. The train is the cheapest, but you will have to walk and carry luggage. There is a train station in the Airport. The "T" station is on the Blue Line: <http://www.mbta.com/>. Take the Blue Line to Government Center, transfer to the Green Line (either the Boston College or Cleveland Circle branch) and get off at Kenmore Square (Boston Map). Shelton Hall is about 3 blocks from Kenmore Square. West on Commonwealth (same direction as train), north (right) on Deerfield, east (right) on Bay State Road.

Early arrivals (July 12 and 13 only) will have to check into Warren Towers (700 Commonwealth Avenue) and move to Shelton Hall on July 14th. Warren Towers is not air conditioned, the bathrooms are communal, and the rate is \$40/person/night.

The conference will start with a social, mixer on Sunday evening in the George Sherman Union, Faculty Dining Room. The general sessions, beginning on Monday, will be held in the School of Management Auditorium. The poster session on Tuesday will be held in the George Sherman Union, Metcalf Hall. The conference close-out party and dinner will be a field trip to Old Sturbridge Village on Friday evening.

There will be a raffle to benefit the Swedmark fund again. This has been so successful in the past, we are awarding the first five Swedmark travel awards. So, bring your meiofauna memorabilia for the raffle. The raffle will be held Tuesday during the poster session.

Program of ELIMCO

The sessions of ELIMCO will meet as follows:

Monday, July 16 - Two invited sessions will convene. How Many Species of Meiofauna Are There?, organized by Paul Montagna, and Meiofauna as Experimental Models, organized by Keith Walters.

Tuesday, July 17 - The Regional Diversity Session will meet as will some of the presentations submitted under the title General Session. The poster session is planned for Tuesday afternoon.

Thursday, July 19 - The remainder of the Regional Diversity and General Session will convene as will the Meiofaunal - Microbial Session and the Food Web presentations, both organized by Tom Moens.

Friday, July 20 - The Ecotoxicology Session, organized by Tom Chandler, will convene.

The detail is not fixed yet. When ready, the program will be posted on the IAM website.

Swedmark Fund statistics

The following is the statement of Accounts for the Bertil Swedmark Fund to 31st December 2000

Capital brought forward -	£4889.35
Donations from members	£0.00
Interest	£60.71
Balance carried forward	£4950.06

The interest accumulated over the last three years is as follows

July - December 1998 -	£49.46
Jan - Dec. 1999	£39.54
Jan - Dec. 2000	£60.71
Estimate for Jan - June 2001	£ 30 approx.
Total interest for interconference period approx	£180.

(From Mike Gee)

Congratulations!!!

Swedmark Travel Grant Awardees

On the basis of votes by the executive committee member of

IAM, the final decision for the awardee of Swedmark Travel Awards was made as follows.

Five participants of ELIMCO to be awarded are:

Joanna Rokicka-Praxmajer
 Andrea D. Nussbaumer
 Francisco Jose Victor de Castro
 Gunnar Gad
 Stephanie Gascon Garcia

Their registration fee will be covered by the award. See you soon.

Annual dues

Please pay your annual dues for the year 2001 immediately. Your payment status in May 2001 is shown on the address label of this issue. I also strongly recommend you to pay 3 years in advance when you attend ELIMCO so as to secure your subscription until our next conference in 2004 in somewhere as nice as Boston.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Meetings

Extremophile Research Theory and Techniques

The American Type Culture Collection, in collaboration with the National Science Foundation, George Mason University and the University of Maryland's Center of Marine Biotechnology, is sponsoring the fifth annual "Extremophile Research: Theory and Techniques" symposium and workshop. To be held July 23-26, 2001, at the Columbus Center in Baltimore, MD, this course provides introductory and intermediate level instruction in extremophile laboratory techniques, including growth, biochemistry and genetics, concentrating on the methanogenic, (hyper)thermophilic and halophilic Archaea.

For information about the course and for a listing of symposium and workshop schedules please visit <http://www.ib3.gmu.edu/educate/extreme/extremo.html>

Funding from the National Science Foundation provides a limited number of stipends for graduate students, postdoctoral fellows and faculty from small colleges and universities, and are awarded on a first-come, first-serve basis so early application is desirable.

Please direct requests for information to Ms. Glenda Wilson (gwilson1@gmu.edu).

**6th INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE OF THE
AQUATIC ECOSYSTEM HEALTH AND
MANAGEMENT SOCIETY (AEHMS)**

**AQUATIC ECOSYSTEM HEALTH: BAROMETER OF
INTEGRITY AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT**

**November 4-7, 2001
Amsterdam, The Netherlands**

The global concepts of sustainable development demand for scientific progress to be integrated with the realities of environmental management, legislation, and policy making. Aquatic ecosystem management is a key element in this endeavour for sustainability, since water quality is an important prerequisite for human health and development. The health and integrity of aquatic ecosystems should therefore, not only be regarded as important in its own right, but can also be seen as an indicator, or barometer, of success, in accomplishing our future goals.

A group of international experts in the fields of ecotoxicology, applied ecotechnology for quality assessment, ecology, limnology, oceanography, conservation, restoration, modeling and mathematics will convene to exchange current knowledge, criteria and strategies used for the assessment of aquatic ecosystem health. We hope the conference will be a focal point for the new century, in exploring the challenges for integrated concepts of aquatic ecosystem health, research and management, on resilience and sustainability, and environmental management strategies at national and international levels.

Venue

The Royal Tropical Institute, Amsterdam, The Netherlands.

Organisers and host

Aquatic Ecosystem Health and Management Society (AEHMS)

The Institute for Inland Water Management and Waste Water Treatment / RIZA The Netherlands

Society for Toxicology (NVT), section environmental toxicology.

Participants

Environmental chemists, modelers, toxicologists, hydrologists, geologists, ecologists, limnologists, oceanographers, biologists, fisheries scientists; fresh water and marine policy makers, natural resource managers, sociologists, economists, other environmental practitioners and interested public.

Aims and objectives:

- • Clear understanding of the health status of aquatic ecosystems, their performance and their capacity to support human activities dependent on resources and functions derived from these systems

- • Promotion of dual approaches for the assessment of aquatic ecosystem health, involving laboratory based techniques, such as bioassays and biomarkers, and ecosystem studies, using both theoretical and field-based observations

- • Incorporation of the two (bottom-up and top-down) approaches into integrated decision making frameworks for risk assessment

- • Promotion of state-of-the-art technologies in assessing and managing aquatic systems, with emphasis on damage prevention and with the inclusion of possible environmental cures (recovery, remediation and restoration)

Publication avenues

Papers presented at the conference are invited for submission to AEHMS for publication subject to peer review. Based on the nature, quality and the number of manuscripts received AEHMS will channel various papers in the following publication avenues:

- • Special issue of Aquatic Ecosystem Health and Management (AEHM) for publication of selected conceptual, interpretive and interdisciplinary papers

- • Peer reviewed book on specific themes given below such as advanced bioassay techniques and their management applications, integrating technologies in applied ecosystem management under the Ecovision World Monograph Series.

Manuscript submission

Manuscripts should be submitted to Dr. M. Munawar, Chief editor, before the end of the conference. Instructions to authors for the preparation of manuscripts can be obtained by visiting the AEHMS website <http://www.aehms.org/> or contacting the editorial office at: munawarm@dfo-mpo.gc.ca

Local Arrangements Committee

Dr. A.A.M. Gerritsen Co-chair, Institute for Inland Water Management Waste Water Treatment / RIZA, Lelystad, The Netherlands

Dr. J.L. Maas-Diepeveen Co-chair, RIZA, Lelystad, The Netherlands

Programme Outline

- • Keynote speakers will give invited talks on recent research and theoretical concepts.

- • The John R. Valleryne Lecture, dedicated to his contributions in incorporating the concept of the ecosystem approach into environmental management, will be presented by a leading scientist in the field of environmental management.

- • Further oral presentations will be selected by the Scientific Committee from the abstracts submitted.

- • There will be at least 2 parallel sessions. Integrative sessions will be plenary.

- • Poster sessions are intended to offer informative opportunities for further in depth discussions. Poster

presentations will be summarised by session chairs and presented to the participants.

Call for abstracts

Participants are invited to submit an (extended) abstract of 2 pages (max.) including tables/figures to the Conference Secretariat before June 15, 2001 indicating their preference for oral or poster presentations. It should be single spaced, typed on 8.5x11 in or A4 paper in 11 font-size. Notification of acceptance (oral or poster presentation) will be announced by July 30, 2001 with a request for one or more of the authors to register. Your e-mail submission is highly appreciated.

Conference secretariat
CAOS

W.G. Plein 475, 1054 SH Amsterdam, The Netherlands Tel.:
+ 31 20 589 32 32 Fax: + 31 20 589 32 30

Studying Opportunity

MareLac

We would like to announce the start of a MSc Course Advanced studies in marine and lacustrine sciences at Ghent University. Collaboration between research groups in Biology, Geology, Applied Biological Science, Civil Engineering and Law at the University of Ghent and experts from other institutes and research groups outside the University of Ghent, mainly in the field of chemistry, biogeochemistry, physical oceanography, modelling and fishery has evoked the need for a multidisciplinary educational approach of different marine and lacustrine systems in order to train students to get a more integrated fundamental and applied knowledge of the marine and lacustrine environment in all its aspects. The programme will cover one year (from 1st October to 31 June) and is given in English. The first semester will cover all courses selected from the four modules as indicated in the programme table. The second semester covers a dissertation in one of the optional fields linked to the collaborating research groups.

You will find more info on <http://allserv.rug.ac.be/~avreusel/MscMarelac> or contact Ann Vanreusel (Marine Biology section, Ghent University, KL Ledeganckstraat 35 B-9000 Gent, ann.vanreusel@rug.ac.be)

New Book

Meiofauna Marina

Call for Papers

Dear Meiofauna-Researchers,

We are announcing a new journal, Meiofauna Marina. It continues the journal Microfauna Marina (Vol. 1-11, 1984-1997) and invites papers on all aspects of permanent or temporary marine meiofauna, especially those dealing with their taxonomy, biogeography, ecology, morphology and

ultrastructure. It also extends to brackish water meiofauna. Manuscripts on the evolution of marine meiofauna are also welcome. Publication of larger reviews or special volumes are possible, but need to be requested for. Meiofauna Marina will be published once a year. All contributions undergo a thorough process of peer-review. Editor in chief is Prof. Dr. Thomas Bartolomaeus, managing editor is Dr. Andreas Schmidt-Rhaesa (both University of Bielefeld, Germany).

For detailed information, such as the international editorial board and the instructions for the authors, please refer to the web page of the journal:

www.uni-bielefeld.de/biologie/M+S/meiofauna/
(Please note: soon the address will be changed to "<http://www.meiofauna.de>).

The first issue of Meiofauna Marina is planned for December 2001! Please submit manuscripts as soon as possible. We are looking forward to receive your contributions.

Best wishes,

Andreas Schmidt-Rhaesa and Thomas Bartolomaeus
Editors of Meiofauna Marina
<a.schmidt-rhaesa@biologie.uni-bielefeld.de>

New Journal

ZOOTAXA

ISSN 1175-5326 (Print Edition)

ISSN 1175-5334 (Online Edition)

a rapid international journal for animal taxonomists

- Zootaxa publishes quality zootaxonomic papers without restriction on the length of each paper or monograph
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- Subscription to online versions are reduced for authors and other individuals

<http://www.mapress.com/zootaxa/>

Interesting websites

The Marine Biology Web Page

The Marine Biology Web Page (MBWEB) is a resource for students that includes lists of marine labs, summer courses, internships, and lists of references in a variety of subject areas. If you have a reference list to contribute or a link to a web page with references, I would be glad to have it. Also, I welcome links to marine programs, marine labs, summer courses, etc., although I may have you listed already. Check it out please:

<http://life.bio.sunysb.edu/marinebio/mbweb.html>

Thanks,

Jeff Levinton

Finding Reprint Authors' E-Mail Addresses

Eric Cowdrey and I have put together a web page that makes it relatively easy to find the e-mail addresses of academic colleagues, for the purpose of requesting reprints:

<http://www.umanitoba.ca/faculties/medicine/radiology/search/searchindex.html>

There are no advertizements or costs. If you use it, please let us know of omissions, corrections, or improvements you'd like, and forward it to your colleagues.

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For more information, please contact your member services team at <mailto:memberservices@thescientificworld.com>.

(Editor's comment: This is really a great site. I tried this site and found more than 200 articles with a keyword of meiobenthos.)

Welcome New Members

Cassian Edwards

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Hello. My name is Cassian Edwards and I am a PhD candidate in the School of Biological Sciences at Queen Mary and Westfield College, University of London. Myproject is entitled "Decomposition of macroalgal biomass on an algal dominated Caribbean coral reef: interactions with the benthos". Fieldwork is conducted at the Discovery Bay Marine Laboratory in Jamaica, where, in the last 20 (or so) years, reef shave undergone a "phase-shift" from coral to algal dominance. My thesis is concerned with the interaction between fragmented decomposing algae and the benthos in the shallow backreef/lagoon area. I am particularly interested in the structure of benthic meiofaunal communities. By using a nested hierachial sampling design, both in time and space, it is my intention to establish how these communities are affected by the breakdown of algal biomass at different temporal and spatial scales, as well as sessing the extent to which meiofauna influence the decomposition process *in situ*.

Ilse De Mesel

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As a PhD-student, I'm doing experimental research on the relationship between nematode species diversity and the decomposition rate of organic matter. Also the interactions between the nematodes and the bacteria associated with the organic matter are studied. Laboratory and field experiments will be done.

Katerina Sevastou

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I am currently a PhD student at the University of Crete (Greece), Department of Biology. The main object of my thesis is the study of the structure and dynamics of marine meiobenthic communities of sandy beaches,

emphasizing mainly on the biology, ecology and diversity of benthic copepods.

Peter Frenzel

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I am a PhD candidate at James Cook University, Townsville, Queensland, Australia. I am investigating the ecology of the nematode fauna of intertidal seagrass meadows associated with mangrove forests in tropical Queensland. I am looking at the fauna in both vertical and horizontal spatial scales at four sites, split evenly between the 'wet' and 'dry' tropics. The seagrass meadows comprise a mixture of short-bladed, colonising species, *Halophila ovalis* and *Halodule uninervis*, in sediments that are silty, very fine-sands to silty, muddy-sands. The community is dominated by representatives of the Linhomoeidae, Desmodoridae and Chromadoridae. The main thrust of this study is, hopefully, to discover how the community responds to changing physical factors (freshwater inputs, sediment erosion/accretion, floral dieback) over the course of a monsoon cycle. Biological factors are being investigated through a combination of field and microcosm experiments, specifically investigating the predation/disturbance impacts of juvenile fish and

gastropod molluscs.

Martin Vinther Sorensen

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My name is Martin Vinther Sorensen, and I work as a ph.d.-student at the Zoological Museum) University of Copenhagen, Denmark. I am interested in all aspects of taxonomy, morphology, phylogeny and cladistics. My main groups are Rotifera, Gnathostomulida and the newly described taxon Micrognathozoa, but I have also worked with Kinorhyncha, Priapulida and Loricifera. My ph.d.-thesis concerns the relationships within Gnathifera, with special reference to their jaws. Most of my morphological work is based on scanning electron microscopy of the jaws from Rotifera, Gnathostomulida and Micrognathozoa.

Gunnar Gad

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I have studied biology at the Carl von Ossietzky University and specialized in zoology, ecology and scientific illustration. working on taxonomy, functional morphology, biology, and ecology of Loricifera. I finished my master thesis (2000) on systematics, morphology and lifestyles of Loricifera in the deep sea. My Ph. D. deals with the phylogeny of Loricifera under the main aspects of morphology of Higgins-larvae (comparing with the taxa Kinorhyncha and Priapulida). Recently I am working with Loricifera, Epsilonematidae and Draconematidae from the Great Meteor Seamount (Atlantic); groundwater organisms from Eastfreasian islands (North Sea) and nematodes from Peruvian bathyal sediments (SE Pacific).

Address changes or New e-mail information

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RECENT LITERATURE

(To make this section as complete as possible, please do not forget sending literature information via e-mail to the editor when you publish papers.)

Brooks DR and McLennan DA (1999) Species: turning a conundrum into a research program. *Journal of Nematology*, 31(2):117-133.

Burgess, R. (2001) An improved protocol for separating meiofauna from sediments using colloidal silica sols. *Marine Ecology Progress Series*, 214: 161-165.

Burton, S. M.; Rundle, S. D.; Jones, M. B. (2001) The relationship between trace metal contamination and stream meiofauna. *Environmental Pollution*, 111: 159-167.

Chen Guo Tong and Vincx M (1999) Nematodes from the strait of Magellan and the Beagle Channel (Chile): the genus *Sabatieria* (Cobbesomatidae: Nematoda) with the description of *Sabatieria commansi* n. sp. *Hydrobiologia*, 405:95-116.

Clausen C. (2000) Gastrotricha Macrotrichida from the Tromso region, northern Norway. *Sarsia*, 85: 357-384.

De Troch, M., Gurdebeke, S., Fiers, F., Vincx, M. (2001) Zonation and structuring factors of meiofauna communities in a tropical seagrass bed (Gazi Bay, Kenya). *Journal of Sea Research*, 45: 45-61.

Esquivel A. (2000) First finding of a male *Aphanolaimus coomansi* (Tsalolichin, 1988) in tropical areas. *Nematropica*, 30(2):161-166.

Felix MA (1999) Evolution of developmental mechanisms in nematodes. *Journal of Experimental Zoology*, 285(1):3-18.

Ferris V R (1999) Species concepts do matter in nematology. *Journal of Nematology*, 31(2):93-94.

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