

PSAMMONALIA

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Time is going around



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

Editor: Yoshihisa Shirayama
email address : Yshira@seto.kyoto-u.ac.jp

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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.

EDITORIAL BOARD

Motohiro Shimanaga, Yoshihisa Shirayama



EDITORIAL

Dear members.

First of all, I must apologize for such a long delay publishing my last issue of *Psammonalia*.

ELIMCO was very successful. You can imagine it from the happy faces of the participants in the following page. Please see the meeting report prepared by Paul for detail of the meeting.

This issue was ready to dispatch right at the date of tragedy in New York on 11th September. I judged it is better to revise this issue slightly to fit this situation and also it seems better sending the issue after circumstance becomes stable.

In October, then anthrax problem occurred. The post office of my town recommended me not to send *Psammonalia* in a normal envelop with thick staff that obviously shows something suspicious is inside. The problem could be overcome if I used large envelops but it costs me too much.

After the christmas and new year rush of mails, now the post office of a very small town agreed to accept hundreds of thick envelops addressed internationally.

Above are the reasons for the delay of issuing my last issue of *Psammonalia*. I apologize for this, and beg your kind understanding for it.

I always thank my job as a scientist of natural history, because we all can collaborate friendly overcoming the difference of his/her religions. We do not work for peace from the political points of view, but our science to understand the nature life in the sea should contribute making human society more fruitful. If your relatives or friends met the accident (I believe none of our association was injured by it), please accept my sincerest condolence.

ELIMCO A SUCCESS!

The Eleventh International Meiofauna Conference was held July 14 - 20 on the Campus of Boston University, in Boston, Massachusetts, USA. The meeting was attended by 95 scientists plus 15 guests. There were many young faces, 28 of the attendees were students. The meeting had a strong international flavour with attendees coming from 16 countries (USA 35, Belgium 11, UK 11, Germany 7, Brazil 6, Italy 6, Australia 3, Greece 3, Japan 3, Spain 3, Austria 2, Netherlands 2, Ukraine 2, Mexico 1, Poland 1, and Switzerland 1). A total of 65 oral and 33 poster presentations were given. The silent auction during the poster session reaped \$360 to benefit the Swedmark Student Travel Fund. The meeting was capped by a very successful tour and banquet held in the tavern at Old Sturbridge Village, a historical park. As in the past, the banquet ended with a limerick contest that kept attendees laughing for quite awhile. Success of the conference was due to many people, but especially: John Fleeger (Program

organization and book), Keith Walters (web site and abstracts), Dave Volz (logo design), Joan Bernhard (T-shirts), and Carrol Simanek (registration). A special thanks go to our hosts at Boston University, especially Karen Ryan Shaffer who coordinated events on campus. See you at TWIMCO!

Paul Montagna, Conference Organizer.

Business meeting report

In the business meeting held in ELIMCO, followings were decided.

As the next cabinet of IAM, John Lamshead of Natural History Museum, London, was elected as President from 2002 to 2004. Treasurers will not change, i.e. Ann Vanreusel will continue to be the main treasurer and Bob Feller will continue the assistant treasure mainly care of North American members.

For the executive committee, following the constitution, Yoshihisa Shirayama will be the past chairperson. The term of Teresa Radziejewska and Gunner Arlt expires at the end of 2001, and Thais-N. Corbisier and Antonio Todaro were agreed to be new executive committee members. David Thistle and Guy Boucher will continue to be the executive committee member until end of 2004.

Regarding Swedmark Fund, Mel Austen will join the managers of the fund with Richard Warwick and Mike Gee. The account of the fund will stay in UK. As reported 360 USD were raised during ELIMCO.

Keith Walter kindly agreed to continue the task as the webmaster of IAM. To encourage being a member of IAM, it was decided that uploading of *Psammonalia* to our website will be 1 year later than the publishing date.

Twelfth International Meiofauna Conference

The executive committee meeting held during ELIMCO decided to have our next meiofauna conference in Ravenna, Italy. Only outline of the conference is fixed so far as shown below, and details will be announced in the coming *Psammonalia*.

Date

July 4 (SUN) to 10? 11-17? 18-24? 25-31? 2004

Place

Ravenna, Italy (mid-sized northern Italian city on the Adriatic coast. 2 hr drive from Venice)

Organizing Committee

Vigto Ugo Ceccherelli (Univ. Of Bologna at Ravenna)

Antonio Todaro (Univ. of Modena)



Group Photo of Elimco

Limericks

Following limericks were presented during ELIMCO.

Bob Feller

A man with a flash we call Joe
Took pictures all during the show
He sat way up front
So as to be very blunt
While he watched us all quiver and glow

Marleen De Troch

Conference Criteria
Selection of conference site
is for pubs, strolls and quality bites.
Ravenna will be
the choice. So let's see:
Can Italians even do focussed sllides?

Olav Giere

Meiofauna power
As tiny as Belgium may be,
in meiobenthology
the greatest they are!

with works near and far.
How come? Well, their boss is a 'she'!

Magda Vincx

The beer and the chocolates for the Swedmark Raffle
were Belgian not Dutch!
To use meiofauna as toys in the future we will love so
much
But what about the price of a beer in US?
We really hope in Italy it will be less!
So we still can support the exotic campaigns we all want
as such.

David Thistle

To the Organizer
A meiofaunologist Paul,
A meeting prepared for us all.
To Boston we came,
Praising his name,
That marvelous, generous Paul.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Internet Forum for Meiobenthology

Dear All,

May I take this opportunity to inform you of a new internet forum related to all aspects of Meiofaunal Science. Known as "The Meiofauna Community", the site may be accessed by going to the following link

<http://pub82.ezboard.com/bthemeiofaunacommunity>

Currently the forum is hosted for free by EZBoard - www.ezboard.com - although pop-up adverts do appear. However, if the forum proves popular, these adverts can be banished for a small fee. Posts made to the forum are currently visible by anyone. However, in order to post questions / comments one needs to register for an Ezboard user account. Again this is free and may be obtained by going to the following web page:

http://www.ezboard.com/create_join.html

As yet I have not made this site "Public", i.e. I have not submitted it to any internet search engines or Email Listservers. Before doing so I would be most grateful if you would have a look at this site, and attempt to sign-up for a user account. Perhaps if successful you could also post your own question or comment. If you would like any alterations to be made, i.e. addition of forum categories, I would most appreciate it if you would let me know as soon as possible. Lastly, this is the first forum I have set-up. I am currently the only moderator. If anyone would like to volunteer to moderate the list with me I would like to hear from you!

If you have had any problems I suggest you use the following link:

<http://www1.ezboard.com/intl/aenglish/createlocal2.php3?boardName=themeiofaunacommunity&action=http://pub82.ezboard.com/bthemeiofaunacommunity.registerUser>

Regards,

Cassian Edwards

Queen Mary College - University of London, School of Biological Sciences

Email: c.edwards@qmw.ac.uk

Graduate student Opportunity

I would appreciate your bringing to the attention of any students looking for graduate-school opportunities in invertebrate biology some openings I have available in a project on systematics and biogeography of lower worms of the meiofauna. The first of three PhD-level Research Assistantships will be open for a student starting in June or September of 2002. Please direct interested students to the Web page at

<http://www.umesci.maine.edu/biology/grad/ratylor.htm>

Information about graduate programs in the Department of Biological Sciences at the University of Maine is available at

<http://www.umesci.maine.edu/biology/grad.htm>

Seth Tyler

Department of Biological Sciences, University of Maine

New book

The National Academy Press, publishers for the National Academy of Sciences, has recently released a fascinating book called, "Marine Protected Areas: Tools for Sustaining Ocean Ecosystems." In this new book, a distinguished panel compares conventional management of marine resources with proposals to augment these management strategies with a system of protected areas. The volume argues that implementation of marine protected areas should be incremental and adaptive, through the design of areas not only to conserve resources, but also to help us learn how to manage marine species more effectively. The publication is available online in full-text, free of charge at:

<http://www.nap.edu/catalog/9994.html>

Declining yields in many fisheries and decay of treasured marine habitats, such as coral reefs, has heightened interest in establishing a comprehensive system of marine protected areas - areas designated for special protection to enhance the management of marine resources. Therefore, there is an urgent need to evaluate how MPAs can be employed in the United States and internationally as tools to support specific conservation needs of marine and coastal waters.

The home page for the National Academy Press, where you can read over 2,000 books online, free of charge, can be found at:

<http://www.nap.edu>.

New electric journal

To disseminate taxonomic information world-wide, especially for countries/institutes with poor libraries, publication via the internet is the ideal medium. Taxonomic information is needed everywhere, and we hope that in future much of it will be available in any place of this planet wherever a PC is connected to the internet. To achieve this goal a new journal was founded that uses a normal peer-review system but publishes both electronically and on paper.

Organisms, Diversity and Evolution is published by the Gesellschaft für Biologische Systematik (GfBS) (Society for Systematic Biology) and the Urban & Fischer Verlag. The Journal consists of a printed version and an electronic supplement. It is devoted to the understanding of organismal diversity and addresses an international audience. Purely taxonomic papers are published in the electronic supplement by GfBS. Extended abstracts of these publications will be contained in the printed Journal. The electronic supplement will be available free of charge on the internet independent of the printed Journal to everybody interested.

Examples: see <http://www.senckenberg.uni-frankfurt.de/odes/>

To fulfill the rules of taxonomic nomenclature (botany/zooology) diagnoses appear in the printed version and CDs are deposited in major libraries. Furthermore, a

German institute responsible for the conservation of electronic data (Deutsche Bibliothek, Frankfurt) will take care of the electronic version to keep the format of stored information up to date.

For further information see: <http://www.urbanfischer.de/journals/ode/>

Prof. Dr. J. W. Waegele

Lehrstuhl fuer Spezielle Zoologie, Ruhr-Universitaet Bochum

Interesting websites

Marine biology students web site

The Marine Biology Web Page (MBWEB) page is updating its listings for summer courses, internships and related activities for 2002. If you have a new listing that is not already on the page, please contact me with a short description and a web page address. MBWEB gets about 4000 visits a month.

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

Thanks, Jeff Levinton

Department of Ecology and Evolution, State University of New York

Address changes or New e-mail information

Tom Artois tom.artois@uc.ac.be

Mitchell J. Weiss weissmj@rcn.com

Katerina Sevastou sevastou@biology.uoc.gr

Keith R. Walters kwalt@coastal.edu

Rick Hochberg

Queensland Museum, Worms Section

South Brisbane, Queensland 4101, AUSTRALIA

E-Mail: Turbanella@hotmail.com

Kai Horst George

Fundacion Otway Chile

Pasaje Cope Austral 1359, P.O. Box 444, Punta Arenas/Chile

e-mail: senotway@ctcinternet.cl

Thomas Gabor Buchholz

University of Vienna, Institute of Ecology and Conservation Biology, Marine Biology

Althanstr. 14, A - 1090 Wien / Vienna, Austria

Tel.: ++43 +1 4277 54456

FAX : ++43 +1 4277 9542

thomas.buchholz@gmx.net

<http://www.univie.ac.at/marine-biology>

Cecilia Lopez-Canovas

Instituto de Oceanologia.

Ave Ira No 18406 e/ 184 y 186. Reparto Flores. Playa.

CP 12100. Ciudad de la Habana. Cuba.

E-mail: ecomar@oceanio.inf.cu

Ragnar Elmgren

Department of Systems Ecology, Stockholm University,

SE-10691 Stockholm, Sweden

Phone +46 - 8 16 40 16

Fax: +46 - 8 15 84 17

E-mail: ragnar.elmgren@ecology.su.se

Congratulations for your degree!!

Dr. Tom Artois

Dept. SBG, Universitaire Campus Gebouw D

The thesis consists of three chapters, preceded by a General Introduction. In the Introduction a short historical overview of taxonomical research on Polycystididae is presented. This is followed by an introduction on phylogenetic nomenclature and the reasons are presented why we consider it more suited for the representation of the results of a cladistic analysis. In the rest of thesis the rules of the so-called PhyloCode (<http://www.ohio.edu/phylocode>) are strictly followed. For the formation of species names I used a type of hyphenated uninomen, as was presented in Artois (2001).

Chapter I deals with the morphological characters used in the cladistic analysis. It starts with a short introduction in which we elaborate the terms character and homology, and motivate our choice of the Inapplicable Data Coding using unordered characters of equal weights. After this introduction the 77 morphological characters used in the analysis are discussed.

Chapter II presents all 190 species of Polycystididae, of which 157 are included in the analysis. Of these 190 species, 59 species are new to science or were described by us in recent papers. Preceding the chapter proper there is a short introduction on species concepts with a motivation of our choice of the Phylogenetic Species Concept sensu Nixon & Wheeler (1990).

Chapter III deals with the analysis proper. First of all an overview is given of methods used in modern cladistics, and pro's and con's of different methods are discussed (e.g. methods of search for most parsimonious trees, a-posteriori character weighting, rooting and character polarisation, measures of clade support, measures of character fit). The data matrix is analysed in several separate analyses (using equal weights, using implied weighting, using successive weighting with the unit rescaled consistency index or the unit consistency index as a weighting factor). We motivate our choice of the results of the successive weighting scheme using the unit rescaled consistency index as a weighting factor. This analysis resulted in three equally parsimonious trees (L=66,5; CI=0,54; CIadjusted=0,49; RI=0,84; RC=0,46). These trees are discussed and a taxonomy is proposed.

RECENT LITERATURE

The information in this issue consists of only those sent to me from authors. I strongly recommend you to use pupAlert service at <http://www.thescientificworld.com/> that will provide you new literature information frequently free of charge.

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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 10 euro (\$ 10 US) and you may pay up to 3 years in advance, i.e. 30 euro (\$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 boxes:

- New member (*)
 Renewing member 10 euro or \$10
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 Regular membership 10 euro or \$10
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For **North American members** : dues can be paid in US dollars. Make checks payable to Intl. Assoc. of Meiobenthologists. Send dues and applications to: Dr. Robert Feller, Belle W. Baruch Institute, Univ. of South Carolina, Columbia, SC 29208 USA

For **all other members** : dues can be paid in euro.. Make (euro)checks payable to Ann Vanreusel. If possible make use of the credit card transaction possibilities. Send dues and applications to : Dr. Ann Vanreusel, Marine Biology Section, Ledeganckstraat 35, B-9000 Gent , BELGIUM

(*) New members please introduce yourself in 10 lines International Association of Meiobenthologists