

PSAMMONALIA

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International Association of Meiobenthologists

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Coastal Carolina University
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That time of year already?!

Happy Holidays!

The International Association of Meiobenthologists
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Editorial

The seasons turn and with frost dusting the Myrtle Beach palmettos we come to the last four per year issue of *Psammonalia*. Next year begins our new twice per year publication schedule and, consistent with the typical January 1 change in chairperson every 3 yrs., *Psammonalia* will be distributed in early and mid-year (ca. January and June). All past issues, with some exceptions, can be found on our website at: www.meiofauna.org/psammona.html

Speaking of our website, look for the new and improved version early in the New Year. The IAM website is undergoing a major face-lift being redesigned and reprogrammed so that it is more user-friendly, loads faster, and contains some of the latest bells and whistles to facilitate maintenance and provide critical information (e.g., an online, updatable and searchable membership listing). The template for the site currently is undergoing review by members of the Executive Committee and Board of Correspondents with completion of all pages and testing of links, etc. scheduled to be finished in early January.

CHECK IT OUT! Paulo Santos and the Organizing Committee have provided updated information on our July 2007 conference, THIRIMCO. A general schedule and registration form follows with more information including pre- and post-meeting tour packages located on the website at:

www.ufpe.br/thirimco

On a more philosophical note, I was sitting in the open faculty meeting for CCU's last presidential candidate the other day listening to his comments and it struck me what he said. Roughly paraphrased, he stated that CCU faculty were at the limit of their effective accomplishments. He lamented that the 64% increase in the student population experienced over the past 5 yrs. without a proportional increase in facilities and personnel combined with the typical CCU faculty load (e.g., 4 classes a semester, 50+ student advisees, publishing 1 scholarly paper a year, service and outreach to the local community) all were beginning to take a toll. Now, while I might debate whether CCU faculty as a whole were yoked to the same expectations, I can not gainsay that there is a general, pervasive sense of being "over-worked" not only among my colleagues but also among the US public in general. North Americans can be notorious workaholics, but even we seem to be feeling the pressure these days. Where is this coming from? Wasn't technology supposed to free us all from the 9 to 5, 40 hr. work week and provide us more leisure? Now I hear that the French are even considering increasing the number of hours in their very civilized work week. What's happened? Are our personal expectations (e.g., 2 SUV's in the garage, kid's days totally scripted from classes to soccer to ballet to...) filling the technological gains in work efficiency? I think not! Instead, more work seems to be filling any time gained by increases in productivity. Instead of added time to relax and enjoy a world drowning under more widgets and CO₂, we instead are expected to use the time

to produce more “stuff.” Where is the logic in that? I bring this up not solely as a philosophical musing designed to fill space, but for a very real reason: THIRIMCO approaches along with the demands to prepare talks/posters and find travel funds for ourselves and our students. THIRIMCO will be the second international conference, not to mention national and local meetings, I will try to attend in <12 mo. In an environment where time is the limiting commodity, what criteria should one use to determine which meetings to attend? IAM seemingly has moved beyond the “loose affiliation of colleagues” as originally conceived and the triennial conferences represent a unique opportunity to interact with an international collection of colleagues all focused on an insanely diverse group of organisms. Even so, are there ways to increase the reasons for attending our triennial meetings? Can we make our conference **the** one to attend without increasing stress levels? I for one am looking forward to 29 July to 3 August and just hope, given the inexorable demands of modern-day living, I make it through the next 6 mos.

Here’s hoping everyone has a great holiday season!

Cheers,
Keith

THIRIMCO



Dear meiobenthologists,

Please look at the Thirimco home-page <http://www.ufpe.br/thirimco> for more details about the Conference, to get forms and instructions for Abstract submission (deadline is May 1st 2007) and to find contacts for pre- or post-conference tourism packages (see: Location – Visiting Brazil).

Waiting to see you in Brazil!

Best wishes,
The Organizing Committee

See copy of registration form at end of newsletter!

CONFERENCE PROGRAM
Scientific Agenda and Social Events

Sunday 29 July	10:00 – 15:00 h	Registration Recife Palace Hotel
Sunday 29 July	15:30 – 22:30 h	Welcome, Olinda Tour, Dinner
Monday 30 July	08:00 – 18:00 h	Oral Sessions Recife Palace
Tuesday 31 July	08:00 – 18:00 h	Oral Sessions Recife Palace
Wednesday 1 August	08:00 – 16:00 h	Oral Sessions Recife Palace
Wednesday 1 August	16:00 – 18:00 h	Poster Session Recife Palace
Thursday 2 August	08:00 – 18:00 h	Oral Sessions Recife Palace
Thursday 2 August	14:00 – 15:00 h	Association Meeting Recife Palace
Thursday 2 August	19:30 – 23:00 h	Banquet Barbecue Restaurant
Friday 3 August	08:00 – 18:00 h	Porto de Galinhas Beach Excursion

Positions

**Smithsonian Research
Training Program
28 May 2007 – 6 August 2007
Application Deadline:
1 February 2007**

The Research Training Program is a museum-based, in-residence program exclusively for currently enrolled, English proficient, college-level undergraduate students interested in a career in the biological, geological or anthropological sciences. Through a competitive review process approximately 20 outstanding students from around the world are selected each year to participate. Students partner with a Smithsonian scientist to investigate a natural history research topic as well as participate in a series of lectures, workshops, demonstrations, behind-the-scenes tours, and field trips that focused on exploring natural history science and developing the skills necessary to become effective researchers. Students, in collaboration with their Smithsonian research advisor, develop and test a scientific hypothesis and communicate the results through written manuscripts plus oral and poster presentations. Research is conducted in-residence at the Smithsonian's National Museum of Natural History in Washington, DC utilizing the vast research facilities and collection of the Museum including 127 million natural history specimens.

Comments RTP '06 participant Sheena Ketchum: *"The RTP lectures and tours provided me with a completely rounded and hands-on natural history*

education that is impossible to obtain anywhere else. Only here, and only through the RTP, over a course of ten weeks, could I have held a stone hand axe from Olduvai Gorge, touched a Mars meteorite, examined a 8,000 year-old skeleton from North America, played with a Clovis Point, worn a giant sapphire ring, held an atlatl, seen a coelacanth, picked up a piece of the world's mantle, seen specimens collected by historical figures such as: Theodore Roosevelt and Charles Darwin, had ¾ of a pound of gold thrown at me, ran my finger along the KT Boundary, smelled fossilized dung, seen the "Soap Man" and other mummies, examined Hopewellian beads made out of a meteorite, touched pieces of the Burgess Shale, seen countless type specimens, viewed the shrunken heads of the Jivaro, held a 4.56 billion-year-old meteorite, visited the rare books collection, seen a giant squid, experienced "museum time" first hand, as well as countless other experiences."

Participants are provided stipend (\$3,000), plus housing and travel. Detailed information and application materials are available electronically at: <http://www.nmnh.si.edu/rtp/> For more information contact:

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web: <http://www.nmnh.si.edu/rtp/> and
http://www.nmnh.si.edu/rtp/other_opps/

Mail to:
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Resources

Upogebiidae of the World (Decapoda, Thalassinidea) Katsushi Sakai

In this work, the composition of the family Upogebiidae is reassessed and the classification of its included taxa is critically reviewed. The material examined mainly originates from the collections of the Forschungsinstitut Senckenberg, Frankfurt am Main and the Zoological Museum of the University of Copenhagen, comprising samples from the Galathea Expedition 1950-1952, Dr. Th. Mortensen's expeditions, including the Java South African Expedition 1929-1930, and Dr.

G. Thorson's Persian expedition. In all, two subfamilies, 11 genera and 157 species are represented in this revision. The status of the various taxa recognized is placed in broader context of a re-evaluation of the contents of the infraorder Thalassinidea.

The contents of the book are not only of interest for systematists but also for ecologists and environmental biologists focusing on neritic and benthic biocoenoses, as these mud shrimps are important agents in bioturbation processes of the sea floor.

More information can be found at: www.brill.nl/default.aspx?partid=10&pid=25856

Life and work of Dr. Johannes Govertus de Man (1850-1930) A Crustacea & Nematoda specialist Gerrit Karssen

This book describes the life and work of Dr. Johannes Govertus de Man (1850-1930), a remarkable Dutch invertebrate zoologist. J.G. de Man worked on the systematics of both the Crustacea, in particular on Decapoda (i.e. crabs, crayfish, lobsters and shrimps), and the microscopically Nematoda or roundworms.

The biographic part describes his years of childhood and youth, student days and the time he was working at the National Museum of Natural History, Leiden, the Netherlands and the period after he resigned at the museum. Within appendices his publications, described Crustacea, Nematoda and other taxa, species named after de Man and the de Man archive is presented. A selection of his

drawings and a CD-ROM with his 1884 Nematoda monography is included.

More information can be found at: www.brill.nl/default.aspx?partid=10&pid=25515

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...and then there are those of us who actually make money out of publishing..

As Black As Hell

Written by [John Lamshead](#)

Illustrated by David Daniel

"For I have sworn thee fair and thought thee bright, who art as black as hell, as dark as night."
Sonnet 147, William Shakespeare





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