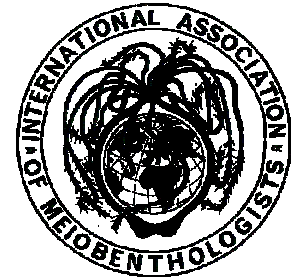


# PSAMMONALIA

The Newsletter of the  
**International Association of Meiobenthologists**

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**Seafood buffet, anyone?**

**The International Association of Meiobenthologists**  
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Jyotsna Sharma	Department of Biology, University of Texas at San Antonio, 6900 North Loop 1604 West, San Antonio, TX 78249-0661

## Editorial

The disease of “being behind” seems not to have a cure, or at least I’m not aware of one. With the New Year I was certain issue 148 of *Psammonalia*, especially on the new twice yearly schedule, would fly off my computer before the end of January. Well, here it is March and daylight savings time and I’m just now getting around to finishing the issue. Yes, in the intervening time there were numerous field research trips (or cruises for the oceanographer-types), the start of a new semester, arrival of a postdoc, and not a few minor disasters, but..... Ah well, just another in a long list of inevitables one must get used to along with failing eyesight, high cholesterol, aphasic memory, and a host of plights I attribute to the strangeness of modern day life.....couldn’t be age!

There are a few items I would like to highlight before continuing my editorial ramblings.

(1) Please note registration form and travel arrangement changes identified by the Local Arrangements Committee for THIRIMCO (more below). I would like to encourage everyone to make arrangements to attend THIRIMCO as soon as possible (and that includes me).

(2) We now have a new design for IAM’s website. The address is still [www.meiofauna.org](http://www.meiofauna.org) but the “look” is a major update. The change-over, however, has not been without a few glitches and not all the changes made to the old site were transported over to the new site. If you find any discrepancies please let me

know and I will endeavour to correct any omissions/commissions ASAP. Changes to the site include a YouTube video display on the home page, an online membership list that will become the official list facilitating updates and corrections, and a Google Groups page for encouraging discussions, postings, etc. from members. I would like to encourage all members to submit short video clips so we can continue to update and cycle the images on our homepage.

*Psammonalia* 148 is my last chance to wax philosophical before the June issue that likely will be taken up with conference matters. I would like to take the opportunity to offer up a suggestion to the membership. Currently there is an amazing array of scientific societies focused either in whole or part on different meiofaunal taxa (e.g., World Association of Copepodologists, Society of Nematologists, International Tardigrade Society, etc.). Individually, each society has its own membership and meeting schedule, provides appropriate services, and has a scientific impact consistent with history and membership and hopefully not the size of their organism. There is strength in numbers however, and an opportunity may exist to expand the exchange of information among meiofaunologists, increase the influence of scientists studying meiofauna, reduce conference and other conflicts, and transform IAM in the process. The model that might accomplish all of the above already exists; The Estuarine Research Federation (ERF). ERF has both regional affiliate societies (e.g., the Southeastern Estuarine Research Society, SEERS) and a national and

international presence. Every 2 yrs. the regional societies meet as part of a national conference, but in the intervening years the regional societies meet separately. Is there a possibility IAM could transform itself into an “ERF-like” structure, providing the framework for increased exchange among existing meiofaunal societies and possibly increased influence in the halls of power. The Triennial Conference could morph into a multi-society meeting providing the opportunity for cross-pollination among seldom-met colleagues and the opportunity for “small critter types” to present a unified front. Just a thought.....

Cheers,  
Keith

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## THIRIMCO



Dear participant,

The Local Organization Committee has changed the Final Registration Form! This was necessary because participants have had some problems with payments!

**SO, IF YOU ALREADY  
DOWNLOADED THE FINAL  
REGISTRATION FILE, PLEASE DO  
SO AGAIN!**

Hotel room prices on the THIRIMCO home-page initially were estimated in US\$. The arrangement was finalized so, NOW, we have final prices! Prices are in REAL (Brazil’s currency). See the end of

Psammonalia 148 for additional details. The travel agency can provide more information: ([eventos@martur.com.br](mailto:eventos@martur.com.br)).

Please, anytime you e-mail either Martur or Bureau de Eventos use the subject “THIRIMCO” or “MEIOFAUNA CONFERENCE”

Sincerely yours,

LOCAL COMMITTEE

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### Any Suggestions?



If anyone has a suggestion as to who or what the critter is in the frame above please drop Janet Gwyther a line (below). The full video will make an appearance on the IAM website just as soon as someone becomes facile in YouTube.

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Website: [www.PINC.UGent.be](http://www.PINC.UGent.be)

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## Address Changes/Updates

From Ilse DeMesel:

I am no longer working at the Marine Biology Section of the Ghent University. For research related matters concerning Antarctica, please contact Prof. Ann Vanreusel ([Ann.Vanreusel@Ugent.be](mailto:Ann.Vanreusel@Ugent.be)); reprint requests can be send to Guy Desmet ([Guy.Desmet@Ugent.be](mailto:Guy.Desmet@Ugent.be)). For other matters, please use my new e-mail address: [I.DeMesel@mumm.ac.be](mailto:I.DeMesel@mumm.ac.be) .

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## Recent Literature

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