

PSAMMONALIA

The Newsletter of the
International Association of Meiobenthologists



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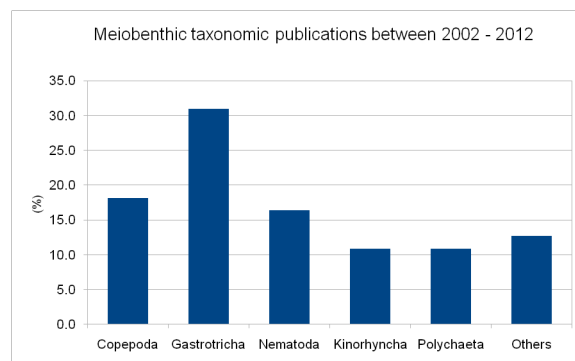
Editorial

Dear colleagues,

It was with great sadness that I learn earlier this fall that Jeanne Renaud-Mornant, one of the pioneering scientists of our community, passed away on Tuesday the 18th of September 2012, at the age of 87. Guy Boucher and Pierre Lasserre as well as Veronica Fonseca Genevois, who knew her very well, wrote a tribute to her, which you can read further down this issue. I did not know her personally, but I feel as if I did. For me, she was one of these few legendary names I came across repeatedly, when, as a new MSc student, started reading and collecting my first meiofauna papers. My thoughts are with her family and friends.

Many of you have already received the 1st circular of our next conference which I have attached again with this issue. The warm message from Wonchoel Lee, the place itself, but also the so far scheduled activities promise us an exciting and fruitful meeting. Wonchoel's effort to support young taxonomists in particular is, in my opinion, quite important considering the current crisis in biodiversity and the general decline of taxonomists. Despite the dramatic rise in complaints from the scientific community, taxonomists are increasingly faced with decreasing funding opportunities and a lower interest of high impact journals in publishing taxonomic research. This unfortunate situation results further in a continuous decline in the number of students being trained in taxonomy and it seems as if we are trapped in a vicious circle. Moreover, my personal experience from meetings and conferences I have attended or from putting Psammonalia's recent literature together, suggest that most meiofauna research

is increasingly restricted to a fairly small number of meiobenthic taxa, primarily nematodes and copepods. This is certainly not surprising since these two groups alone comprise more than 90–95 % of meiofauna. Indeed, a quick search through the meiofauna literature published during the last decade using Thomson's Reuters Web of Science proves it.



From the more than 1100 papers published since 2002, roughly 45 % is dealing with nematodes and about 30 % with copepods while only a tiny 5 % is dealing with taxonomy. So, I cannot help but wonder, is it all about nematodes and copepods? Well, I shouldn't be surprised, really. Back in 1991, when I first came to Crete to work on meiofauna, Tassos Eleftheriou and Derek Murison, who was also in Crete at that time, strongly suggested to choose nematodes as my target group, simply because they are the dominant taxon. OK, also because of the close friendship between Tasso and Richard Warwick as well as Melanie Austen who would provide me with the necessary training; but you get how it goes. On the other hand, a big surprise came from the analysis of the tiny 5 % of taxonomic papers (see the graph), which showed that the effort was more homogeneously spread among the different taxa. In my opinion, this means that taxonomists are still there, and

that it is on us to find ways to recruit young scientists into taxonomy and get the society to be concerned about it.

The cover page of this issue came as a result of discussions we had within the editorial group on ways of improving *Psammonalia* and the communication among members of IAM. This matter has been a recurring subject thanks to the minimum-to-almost-absent contributions from our members. Indeed, almost all previous editors of *Psammonalia* have asked themselves, and the community, on how to change this situation. One result of these, rather philosophical, discussions, was to convert the newsletter to an electronic form, following, more or less, the new era of modern computers and internet. But this already happened some years ago, during Keith's term around 2005. So, the question today is — is it really enough? So far, the way we have been collecting contributions here in Heraklion, was by asking colleagues to send us a small report every time an interesting meeting, workshop etc. was taking place and we knew of somebody having taken part. Unfortunately, I am almost certain that many more events, with a potential interest for our community have passed unnoticed. The small experience we have had so far says that if you ask someone for a contribution, you will most likely get it. Thus, it seems that the problem is not so much of getting contributions but knowing what and when something is going on. When we discussed this problem during our editorial meetings, one idea that came up right from the start, particularly from the more junior members of the team, is to use modern ways of communication such as Twitter, Facebook and the likes. While I was completely against the idea at the beginning, it seems that these are not meant for private use only any more. An increasing number of business companies, R&D projects, governmental bodies, societies already use them. Should we use them too? Personally, I don't like them and I don't use them. However, after realizing that everybody else knew something I missed, on more than one occasions (e.g. a project video production, a publication, an important event of a society), I have to admit that social media might be useful. In any case, I am pretty sure that many colleagues amongst us have already formed such bad habits, i.e. having a facebook window permanently open somewhere in a corner of their giant 25 inch monitor.

So, do you have any opinion or personal experience on this matter? Do you think that this could be a way to collect news and views for our newsletter on what's going on on our small meiofauna world?

This issue came out a bit late and just on time before the end of 2012; so I would like to take this opportunity and wish you all a very relaxing holiday time and a happy and healthy new year!

by Nikos Lampadariou

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Tribute to Jeanne Renaud-Mornant



Jeanne Renaud-Mornant, honorary director of research at the French National Center for Scientific Research, died on the 18th of September 2012. She was born in 1925 and began her career working on meiofauna at the Marine Station of Arcachon in 1951. Her first contributions on the quantitative distribution of interstitial fauna in beach sediments were published under the name Renaud-Debyser. In 1953, she got a two year Fulbright Grant to work at Miami University, and then in Bimini (The Bahamas). In her PHD, published in 1961, she provided detailed analysis of the interstitial system of sandy beaches and of meiofauna assemblages. It was a time of pioneering meiofaunal studies and

she developed close contacts with the Smithsonian Institution and many European colleagues. Cooperating with the French school of Professor Delamare Deboutville, she quivered a vast zoological and ecological knowledge of different groups of meiofauna. In 1967, she became head of the national collections of marine worms (minor meiofauna groups, nematodes, polychaetes, oligochaetes,...) at the National Museum of Natural History in Paris. In 1969, she organized a team on meiofauna systematic and ecology with the nematologists Guy Boucher (second student of Jeanne) and Nicole Gourbault. She published 116 papers on ultrastructure, taxonomy, phylogeny, ecophysiology, and ecology of interstitial fauna. She was an excellent zoologist able to identify most of the meiofauna taxa. She described a new genus and three new species of the fascinating group Mystacocarida and provided new ultrastructural data. She also published papers on amphipods, gastrotichs and nematodes. Her international impact was mainly due to her contribution to Tardigrada phylogeny. She described many new species and genera and even subfamilies and families (Tanarctinae, Coromarctinae, Euclavarctinae). A brilliant observer and illustrator, she described her discoveries with extraordinary precision. In 1986, Jeanne was the first to identify the “ghost larvae” of the new phylum Loricifera erected by Kristensen (1983), a discovery which allowed the Danish scientist in 1992 to describe 3 types of larval cycle in Tardigrada. The scientific contribution of Jeanne has been significant in meiofauna inventory and biogeography of many of the biotopes of the world ocean. She also worked on meiofauna ecophysiology with her first student Pierre Lasserre in order to evaluate the metabolic contribution of meiofauna to ecosystem processes (micro-respirometry by the cartesian diver method). At the International level, Jeanne contributed to the organization of the First International Symposium on Meiofauna (1969) at the Sorting Centre of Tunis, a meeting sponsored by the Government of Tunisia and the Smithsonian Institution. In 1974, in cooperation with Pierre Lasserre, she organized a symposium on meiofauna ecophysiology at the Marine Station of Arcachon. JRM was President of the International Association of Meibenthologists in 1976-1977 and editor of *Psammonalia*. Jeanne trained many French and foreign students and young scientists. In 1976, she organized a meiofauna course sponsored by the Academy of Sciences of Brasil. Brazilian scientists created in 1982 the Fauna Psammica Laboratory in the Department of Biology of the Federal University of Rio. She was the supervisor of the PhD of Veronica da Fonseca-Genevois (1983-1987) in Paris and

taught Eduarda Larrazabal, both of them becoming Professors in Brasil. In 2007, Brazilian Scientists organized the 13th Meiofauna Symposium and dedicated the meeting to Jeanne Renaud Mornant to honour her major contribution to the development of Brazilian meibenthology. Jeanne was particularly kind with young scientists and never hesitated to give them good advice and help them develop their potential. Many students, French, Spanish, Tunisian, Polish, Danish,...and so on, have acknowledged her help by naming multiple new meiofauna taxa with the family name of Jeanne (Renaudcygartidae, Renaudarctus,...). She retired in 1998, and spent her free time to different artistic activities, traveled with her husband along European and North American canals on their boat named “Tardigradez” but unfortunately became blind at the end of her life. JRM had a major involvement for understanding the “blackholez” of marine biodiversity of interstitial organisms. Her students and colleagues appreciate her significant contribution to the zoology and ecology of these zoological groups that are so difficult to observe and identify but nevertheless so important in helping us to understand evolution and the functioning of sediment geochemical cycles.

by Guy Boucher & Pierre Lasserre

The legacy of Jeanne Renaud-Mornant in Brazil

Before the visit of Dr. Jeanne Renaud-Mornant in 1976, no one talked about meiofauna in Brazil. Only sporadic investigations had been performed on copepods and mystacocarids. After her teaching visit, universities in Rio de Janeiro developed meiofauna research. Professors Vera Abud Pacifico da Silva and Priscila Araci Grohmann from Federal University of Rio de Janeiro, who received Dr. Renaud-Mornant, acted as promoters of several graduate students. Private universities had also started meiofauna studies: Santa Ursula in Rio de Janeiro is an example, where Dr. Elaine Albuquerque coordinated an Oceanography post-graduate course in which meiofauna was a significant topic. In 1985, similar studies have begun on the Northeast of Brazil when Dr. Veronica da Fonseca-Genevois finished her Doctorat d’État with Dr. Renaud-Mornant at the National Museum of Natural History in Paris and Dr. François Ottmann from Nantes University. Dr. Paulo

Jorge Parreira dos Santos, Dr. Lilia Pereira de Souza Santos and Dr. André Morgado Esteves, all of them former students of Professor Abud, joined Dr. Fonseca Genevois at the Federal University of Pernambuco. Many students developed graduation monographies and thesis, among them Dr. Tania Nara Bezerra, Dr. Clélia Marcia de Rocha, Dr. Francisco Castro, Dr. Taciana Kramer de Oliveira Pinto, Dr. Zafira Almeida, Dr. Jorge Nunes, Dr. Goreti Sônia da Silva, Dr. Adriane Wandeness, Dr. Virag Venekey, Dr. Neyvan Rodrigues, Dr. Betânia Guilherme, Dr. Giovanni dos Santos, Dr. Tatiana Maria, and Dr. Cristina Silva. All of them are nowadays professors or researchers in public universities of north and north-east Brazil. Consequently, more than one hundred and fifty students had the opportunity to be trained to meiofauna and more than two hundred of papers, focused on taxonomy and ecology of copepods, nematodes, tardigrades, mystacocarids and cnidarians, were produced. This was the legacy of Jeanne Renaud Mornant in Brazil, certainly with a great impact to Meiobenthology in this country.

by Dr. Veronica Fonseca Genevois

Workshop - Taxonomy and diversity of marine meiofauna

Brazil 25/10/2012 – 08/11/2012

The workshop (WS) was held at the Centre of Marine Biology of the University of São Paulo (CEBIMar-USP), in Brazil, and counted 43 participants, among which graduate students, post-docs and professors (see group picture). The first two days were reserved for the talks of the invited speakers. Twelve talks were given, each covering a different taxon. The speakers were: Alvaro E. Migotto (Cnidarians), Judith Winston (Bryozoans and other micro-encrusting fauna), Jon Norenburg (Nemertea), Pedro A. Martinez (Copepoda), Rick Rochberg (Gastrotricha), Katrine Woorsae (Polychaeta), Martin Sorensen (Gnathifera, Scalidophora), Katharina Joerger (micro-gastropodes), Marco Curini-Galletti (Proseriata), Ernest Schockaert (Rhabdocoela), Matthew Hooge (Acoela), and I (Nematoda). The talks provided us with the state-of-the-art for each group, the most important morphological characteristics, and current systematic

classification. All talks were of an excellent level and stimulated interesting discussions.



The following twelve days were used for the practical work. The activities resumed into sampling, examining the material in the microscopes, and sharing a lot of information. More than 30 stations were sampled, covering different sediment types, from mud to shelly sediments, several water depths (0-15m) and habitat types (sandy beaches, sheltered bays, sublittoral, etc.). Hundreds of species were identified, photographed and filmed. Dozens of new species have been registered. Some major groups, like Tantulocarida, Gnathomulida and several meiofaunal molluscs, were for the first time recorded from our coast. This was not unexpected given the paucity of taxonomical studies along the Brazilian coast. The workshop closed with a brief presentation of each participant giving an overview of the major findings. Results of the workshop are now being organized for publication in a special issue in the Marine Biodiversity journal. The special issue however is neither restricted to findings from the workshop nor to the workshop participants. For this special issue we will consider all types of studies dealing with marine meiofauna from the Brazilian coast. The issue intends to fill the gap of knowledge that we have at the south-eastern Atlantic Coast. For further information on how to participate on the special issue, please access the link below or send me an email (gfonseca@usp.br). My thanks to all participants for the 15 days of intense but very pleasant work.

by Gustavo Fonseca

<http://goo.gl/OZZOq>

Upcoming conferences

The following conferences might be of interest:

48th Annual European Marine Biology Symposium

19-23 August, 2013

National University of Ireland, Galway, Ireland

<http://goo.gl/MJ3w2>

The 48th Annual European Marine Biology Symposium will be hosted by Ryan Institute of the National University of Ireland in Galway, Ireland. The EMBS remains a traditional conference with a single main hall and no parallel sessions. The main aim of the conference is to bring together academic practitioners in marine biology for networking and the dissemination of basic research. It has always been an important venue for early stage researchers to communicate their work and meet with established workers from across Europe. The themes of the conference will reflect the main areas in which biology is developing at present as well as traditional research categories.

The themes for the EMBS are as follows:

1. Biodiversity and ecosystem function
2. Ocean acidification and biodiversity
3. Climate change
4. Evolution, systematics and developmental biology
5. Mapping habitats and determining ecological status
6. Sustainable management of the ocean
7. Biodiscovery and bioresources

Important deadlines:

- February 8, 2013 - Deadline for submission of abstracts
- June 1, 2013 - Early registration deadline
- August 10, 2013 - Registration Close

ASLO 2013 Aquatic Sciences Meeting Learning for the Future

17-22 February, 2013

New Orleans • Louisiana

<http://goo.gl/2ZC6F>



ASLO is returning to the Big Easy for the first time since 1990! The Aquatic Sciences Meeting will be held on February 17-22, 2013, at the Ernest N. Morial Convention Center in New Orleans, Louisiana. Situated at the junction between the Mississippi River and the Gulf, the city of New Orleans is an ideal location to celebrate aquatic sciences. Under the theme “Learning for the Future,” the meeting will bring together scientists, engineers, students, educators, policy makers and other stakeholders to learn from the past and look to the future of aquatic sciences.

6th International Congress of Nematology

4-9 May, 2014 Cape Town, South Africa

<http://www.6thicn.com/>

The 6th International Congress of Nematology will be hosted by the Nematology Society of Southern Africa (NSSA) during May 2014 in Cape Town, South Africa. The theme of the conference will be “Ensuring the future of nematology by encouraging student participation, relying on experience and empowering developing nations to ensure global food security”

SON 52nd Annual Meeting

14-17 July, 2013 Cleveland, Ohio

<http://www.nematologists.org/>

Start Making Plans for the upcoming Annual Meeting of the Society of Nematologists at Cleveland Ohio in July 2013!

Registration details to appear shortly ...

http://www

FiftIMCo

First Circular
2012 October

Fifteenth International Meiofauna Conference in KOREA

Preconference workshop : July 15th – 19th 2013 at Chonnam National University
Main conference : July 22nd – 26th 2013 at Hanyang University

Welcome to FiftIMCo

www.fiftimco.kr

**Welcome to
FiftIMCo**

**Registration
ToFiftIMCo**

Conference place

**Preconference
Workshop**

Wonchoel Lee

Organizer
Professor
Hanyang University, Seoul
wlee@hanyang.ac.kr



Dear Colleagues,

It is a great honor and pleasure to invite you to the 15th International Meiofauna Conference in Korea (FIFTIMCO). I would like to welcome all of you who are willing to participate with all my heart. FIFTIMCO is the very first meeting in Asia, since its beginnings in Tunisia in 1969. I would like to suggest "Biodiversity of Meiofauna" as a keyword for the meeting. Our knowledge of the taxonomy of meiofaunal taxa is still very limited in many Asian countries, including Korea, and we have an urgent need to improve this situation. You could say that many parts of this region are "black holes" in terms of biodiversity. In view of this situation, the local organizing committee would like to support young taxonomists and stimulate study on meiofauna taxonomy and biodiversity. To achieve this goal, we will establish a special award for young participants who are working on taxonomy and systematics of meiofauna. The local organizing committee will support at least ten awardees by funding the travel costs from their home country to Korea. In addition, a pre-conference workshop for training students interested in the study of meiofauna has also been organized. We hope that all these attempts will stimulate future generations to work on meiofauna. Of course, not only taxonomy but ecology, biology, and many other interesting subjects are welcome, and separate sessions will be suggested during the conference with a lot of help from IAM and the International Scientific Committee. Korea has more than five thousand years of history and a distinct and beautiful culture. I hope you will enjoy not only the scientific programs we will do together but also all the delicacy of Korean culture. The local organizing committee has prepared a warm welcome and an enjoyable meeting, and we hope to see you all in July 2013.

Registration ToFiftIMCo

Only registered members may participate in the scientific sessions and attend social events offered by the Conference.

All participants are requested to read the following information carefully before completing the REGISTRATION FORM (this document will be available from January 2013 to February 2013). This format should be sent by mail or e-mail to the Conference Secretariat.

Registration Fees

	Jan - Feb, 2013	After Pre-registration, 2013
Participant	USD(\$) 600	USD(\$) 900
Student	USD(\$) 300	USD(\$) 450
Accompany	USD(\$) 300	USD(\$) 450

"We look forward to seeing you in Korea"

* Please attach a copy of scholar/university identification card when registering with student status

Registration fee for participants includes

- Lunch during the conference
- Morning and afternoon coffee break between scientific sessions during the conference
- Conference kit and materials, including Program Handbook and Abstract Book
- Access to all social programs, including the Welcome Reception and City Tour
- A conference souvenir

Payment

The Payment Methods and Registration Format will be posted in this site by January, 2013

Conference place

Where &When ?

Main conference

South Korea
Seoul
Hanyang University
July 22nd - 26th 2013

Preconference workshop

South Korea
Yeosu, JeollaNamdo
Chonnam National University
July 15th - 19th 2013



For further information on the conference, please contact us
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Pre-conference Workshop



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Dear Fellow Meiofaunists,

It gives me great pleasure to add my personal welcome to the 15th International Meiofauna Conference to those you have already registered, and especially to the Pre-conference Workshop, which I will be co-organising with Prof. Ho Young Soh. We have chosen a satellite campus of the Chonnam National University in the beautiful city of Yeosu as the venue for the workshop. This little city on the southern coast of South Korea embodies everything modern and vibrant about the Korean culture, and is currently home to the World Expo. Some of the boldest new architecture can be found here, alongside temples with foundations and designs several millennia old; and it all works! Nature is also amazing in Yeosu, with tens of pretty little bays and numerous islands, many of which are protected. This means that we have the freshest seafood for the plethora of traditional and fusion dishes that form the modern Korean cuisine. Most importantly, Yeosu is worlds apart from the megalopolis of Seoul, the home of the Meiofauna Conference, and so you will get to experience two different sides of Korea.

What did the copepod say when he met a nematode at 6000 m below sea level? I don't know ... but if you join our workshop, you just may be able to find out, as well as discover many other mysteries we study under the umbrella of meiofauna research. We will be announcing our program and list of tutors towards the end of 2012, but I would like to invite any and all fresh ideas at this stage. Just send me a casual email if you are planning to participate or if you desire to be a tutor. We all know that knowledge can be passed on in many different ways, and I would like to see some bright new ideas sparking in the heads of our participants. We will try to cover the most important groups and the majority of environments, and I can also tell you that we have some exciting awards lined up for you. Once we bring together some of the most prominent heavy-weights in the field with the most enthusiastic students, all that remains is to have fun. And fun we will have. Make the most of this unique opportunity.

Tutors

Prof. Akira Tsukagoshi, *Shizuoka University, Shizuoka, Japan*
 Prof. Andreas Schmidt-Rhaesa, *Zoological Museum, University of Hamburg, Germany*
 Prof. William (Bill) F. Humphreys, *Western Australian Museum, Perth, Australia*
 Prof. Ho Young Soh, *Chonnam National University, Yeosu, South Korea*
 Prof. Jeffrey Greer Baguley, *University of Nevada, Reno, NV, USA*
 Prof. Martin Vinther Sørensen, *Natural History Museum, Copenhagen, Denmark*
 Dr. Timothy John Ferrero, *Natural History Museum, London, UK*
 Prof. Tomislav Karanovic, *Hanyang University, Seoul, South Korea*
 Prof. Veronica da Fonsêca-Genevois, *Federal University of Pernambuco, Recife, Brasil*

The second circular with detailed information about the course is scheduled to be distributed in early Jan. 2013 and will be sent to people who answered the first one.

Recent Literature

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Memories ...



Meiofauna conference in Tunis (1969) organized by the Smithsonian Institution



Kristensen collecting Renardarctus in sandy beaches



Jeanne Renaud-Mornant with a spanish student J. Saiz Salinas



Jeanne Renaud-Mornant preparing the meiofauna exhibition at the Great Gallery of Evolution in the National Museum of Natural History Paris

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 actively is interested in the study of meiofauna. Annual membership dues are EU\$10 (US\$10) and payment for up to 3 years in advance is possible. New members will receive *Psammonalia* beginning with the February issue of the year joining. Additional contributions to the Bertil Swedmark Fund, used to support student attendance at the triennial conferences, is encouraged.

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