

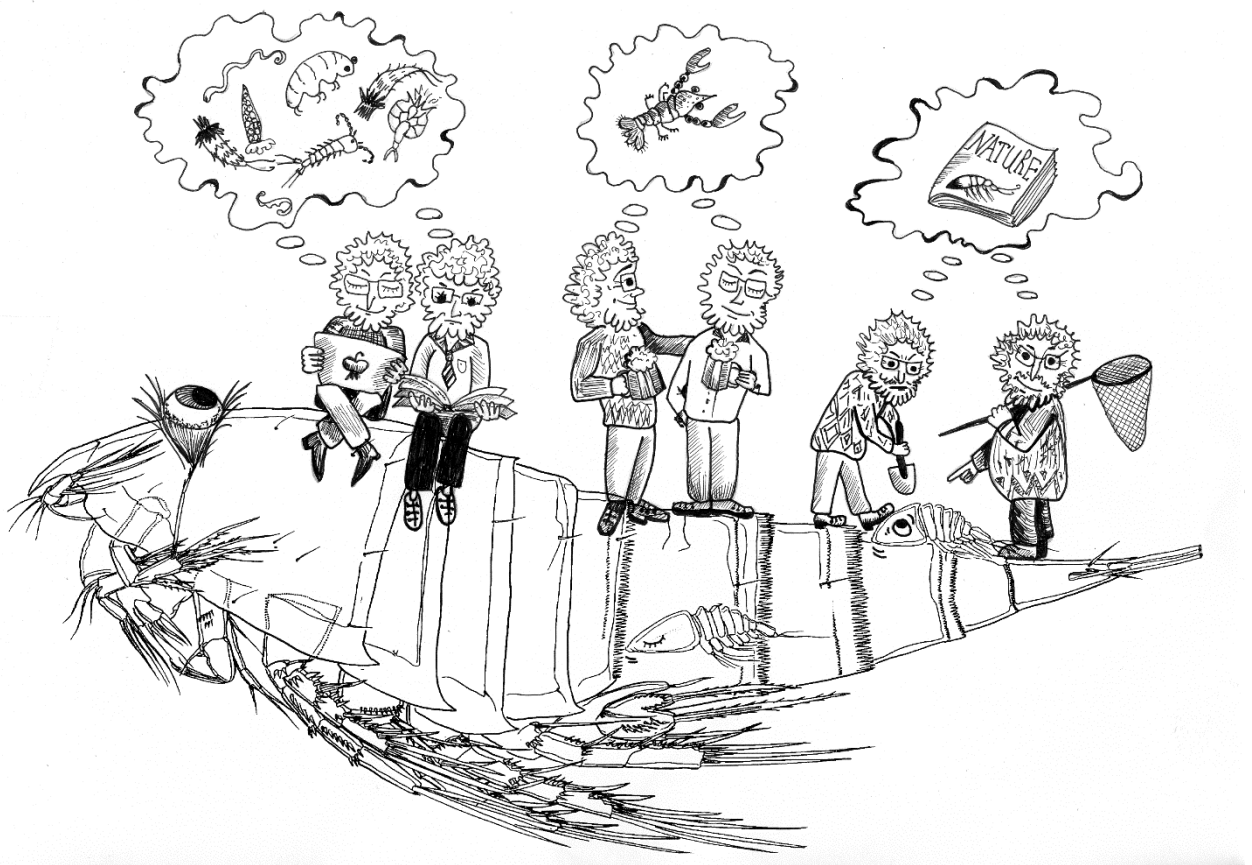
## PSAMMONALIA

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

Number 167, June 2017



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Lab. of Coastal Benthic Ecology  
P.P. Shirshov Institute of Oceanology RAS



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THE APPLICATION CAN BE FOUND AT:

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## Editorial

Dear colleagues,

I am glad to present you a new issue of *Psammonalia*. Electronic resources and a number of on-line services become more popular and fast ways for information exchange, but it still has sense to keep the Newsletter as a traditional platform for communication between IAM members.

Beside the lists fresh literature, we will try to keep you informed about new electronic resources that can be useful in our studies. In this issue we provide direct links to some of them. Among them, I'm glad to announce the Facebook group for International Association of Meiobenthologists created by Jeroen Inglis. It is a good addition to IAM website. The last had been updated recently and together with Jeffry Baguley we will try to keep it in order. For that I need help from all the members of Association: the list of members is out of date now. Please, check your personal information there and, in case of any corrections, send it me directly or as a replay to this *Psammonalia*. If you do not found your name there, please, send me all the fields (Institution, address, e-mail) you like to have on the site.

This issue starts with the information from Helena Adão on the preparation of the next out meeting. As it was decided in Greece, next conference will be in Portugal. Helena and her colleagues start already the preparation and keep us informed.

Yours

*Vadim Mokievsky*

## Upcoming conferences



### **17<sup>th</sup> International Conference on Meiofauna**

**University of Évora, Évora, Portugal, 7-12th July 2019**

The International Conference on Meiofauna is a unique event that has become the major assembly to share the progress on meiofaunal research. It is an opportunity to exchange ideas and experiences between researchers worldwide and immersed in diversified levels of scientific experience ranging from young master students to experienced senior researchers creating an extraordinary week to advance our understanding about the ecological role of these microscopic motile fauna of aquatic sediments.

The 17<sup>th</sup> International Conference on Meiofauna will be held at University of Évora, Portugal, in July 7-12<sup>th</sup> 2019. This meeting aims to discuss and advance the understanding of the current state of Meiofauna diversity and their interactions in marine and freshwater ecosystems. The conference intends to be dynamic and innovative, by providing a set of Keynote sessions, contributed talks and posters and thematic workshops addressing Meiofauna across a wide range of relevant research challenges such as analytical methods, conservation, ecosystem interactions and services, marine and freshwater ecology, frontiers areas and policy.

We would like to invite you to save the date for the 7-12th July 2019 and join us at Évora, in the perfect forum to present and discuss the developments, innovations and discoveries of your research on Meiofauna. In addition Évora is a very special city, belonging to the

*Most Ancient European Towns Network* where you can breathe history in each corner. Since 1986 it was classified by UNESCO as “Heritage City of the World” and it is located 120 km from Lisbon.

*Helena Adão*

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University of Évora and MARE- Marine and Environmental Sciences Centre

<http://www.mare-centre.pt/en>

<http://www.evora-portugal.com/index.html>

### **14<sup>th</sup> International Symposium on Tardigrada**

We are pleased to announce that the 14th International Symposium on Tardigrada will be held in Copenhagen, Denmark, 30 July - 03 August 2018.

Tardigrade Symposia take place every three years and represent a unique opportunity for researchers, students and other tardigrade enthusiasts from all over the world to get together, discuss and promote research and scientific ideas on all aspects of tardigrade biology. Tardigrade Symposia represent the greatest scientific forum on tardigrades and the 14th International Symposium will give a good option for an up-to-date perspective on a range of topics related to these enigmatic animals. Please inform colleagues and students of this opportunity.

An official website with detailed information on the symposium will be available in the fall of 2017. Further information will also be posted in the December issue of *Psammonalia*.

We look forward to seeing you in Copenhagen in July-August 2018.

On behalf of the Organizing Committee,  
Chair of Tardigrada 2018,

*Nadja Møbjerg*

## V Scalidophora Workshop

The V Scalidophora Workshop to be held at the Centre for Marine Studies, Federal University of Paraná (CEM/UFPR, <http://www.cem.ufpr.br/portal/>), during one week. The Centre for Marine Studies is in Pontal do Sul, a small town belonging to Pontal do Paraná, State of Paraná, South of Brazil.

The workshop will be organised by Maikon Di Domenico and André Garraffoni (UNICAMP). We are planning one day with lectures to introduce the Scalidophoran phyla for the local students, and invited graduate students in Zoology. During the rest of the workshop, we are planning sampling, lab work, and oral presentations.

The Workshop is planned for summer 2018 or early winter 2019. The exact dates will be announced later.

*Maikon Di Domenico*

## 10<sup>th</sup> Symposium for European Freshwater Science

The 10<sup>th</sup> Symposium for European Freshwater Science (SEFS10) will be held early July in Olomouc (Czech Republic). SEFS had hosted two special freshwater sessions for meiobenthologists so far - Indeed, first ever was in Ghent for FourtIMCO in 2010! - but, then in Girona for SEFS7 in 2011, and in Geneva for SEFS9 in 2015, we had the unique opportunity to capture the attention of some bored limnologists with our outstanding special session! Although no freshwater meiofauna session is scheduled for the upcoming SEFS, cheap and delicious Czech beers and aquatic activities will probably attract some meiobenthologists..

*Nabil Majdi*

## 4<sup>th</sup> World Conference on Marine Biodiversity

May 13-16, 2018 Montréal, Québec, Canada

The World Conference on Marine Biodiversity (WCMB) has become the major

focal assembly to share research outcomes, management and policy issues, and discussions on the role of biodiversity in sustaining ocean ecosystems. Arranged on a 3 - 4 year cycle, prior WCMB meetings (Valencia, Spain; Aberdeen, Scotland; Qingdao, China) have each attracted leading specialists from around the world, and catalyzed numerous sidebar sessions on marine biodiversity issues.

The 4<sup>th</sup> World Conference on Marine Biodiversity will be held at the Palais des congrès de Montréal, Québec, Canada, from May 13-16, 2018. This meeting will bring together scientists, practitioners, and policy makers to discuss and advance our understanding of the importance and current state of biodiversity in the marine environment. Through a mix of keynote sessions, contributed talks and posters, and bookable venues for focused meetings, the conference program will address marine biodiversity across a deliberately wide range of relevant sectors. Participation will be encouraged from the broadest possible range of stakeholder groups from academics to industry.

<http://www.wcmb2018.org/>

Important dates:

Registration opening – May 1, 2017

Abstract submission opening – May 1, 2017

Abstract submission deadline – October 1, 2017

## Carlo Heip Award in Marine Biodiversity

The Carlo Heip Award in Marine Biodiversity was inaugurated in recognition of Carlo Heip's leadership in marine biodiversity research and founding of the 'World Conference on Marine Biodiversity':

<http://www.wcmb2018.org/carlo-heip-award.html>

In 1982-83 Carlo Heip was a Chairman of Association of Meiobenthologists.



**Twelfth International Symposium of the Russian Society of Nematologists  
“Nematodes and other Ecdysozoa under the growing ecological footprint on ecosystems”**

July 30— August 6, 2017, Nizhni Novgorod, Russian Federation

[https://www.zin.ru/conferences/2017\\_Ecdysozoa/index\\_en.html](https://www.zin.ru/conferences/2017_Ecdysozoa/index_en.html)

Russian researchers in Nematology and Ecdysozoa invite you to take a part in Twelfth International Symposium of the Russian Society of Nematologists «The nematodes and other Ecdysozoa under the growing ecological footprint on ecosystems"» which will be held in the period July 30-August 6, 2017 in the center of Nizhni Novgorod city, which is called Russian “Volga capital” . A wide spectrum of scientific issues will be considered in the course of the meeting. The symposium will provide nematologists the possibility to share their views on the recent progress in nematology, present their results as oral talks or poster presentations. One of the goals of this meeting is the strengthening of the professional links between Russian and international community of nematologists. Within the frames of this scientific meeting, a workshop on the Ecdysozoa role in ecosystems: research perspectives” will be organized to facilitate the opinion exchanges on the new methods to study the environmental changes using nematodes and other ecdysozoans. The symposium will be held at the facilities of the Lobachevsky State University, main university of Nizhni Novgorod, at Volga River.

Symposium topics:

- Nematode Communities and Their Role as Efficient Bioindicators of Ecosystem Changes;
- Modern Views on Origin and Phylogeny of Nematoda and Molting Pseudocoelomates (Ecdysozoa);

- Structure of Nematodes and Molting Pseudocoelomates ;
- Physiology and Biochemistry of Roundworms and Ecdysozoans;
- Host-Parasite Relations, Vectors, Infection Refugia
- Invasive and Quarantine Species
- Control and Management of Nematodes
- New Techniques to study Ecdysozoans

**After the conference: special issues**

**Special issue of *Zoological Journal of the Linnean Society* dedicated to 13<sup>th</sup> International Symposium on Tardigrada (23-26 June 2015 - Modena, Italy)**

The 13<sup>th</sup> International Symposium on Tardigrada (23-26 June 2015 - Modena, Italy) was organized by the “Università di Modena e Reggio Emilia, Italy“, the “Società dei Naturalisti e Matematici di Modena, Italy“, and the “Museo di Storia Naturale” of Verona (Italy). The symposium returned to Modena 30 years after the 4<sup>th</sup> International Symposium on Tardigrada in 1985, organized by Professor Roberto Bertolani. The proceedings of the 13<sup>th</sup> International Symposium on Tardigrada contain 23 peer-reviewed papers, published as an issue of the *Zoological Journal of the Linnean Society* (2016, volume 178, number 4, 726-930) comprehensive of the broad spectrum of oral and poster presentations discussed during the Symposium. In this issue, although focused on tardigrades, the themes are diversified and engaging. They cover a wide range of research performed on tardigrades such as taxonomy, phylogeny, biogeography, ecology, reproductive and developmental biology, biochemistry, adaptive strategies, and genetics. We hope that the reader of this volume discovers evidence of the vast research activities on water bears, expands worldwide interest in tardigrades, which are increasingly used as a model organism in biology, and invites you to collaborate and contribute to the biology of tardigrades.

Finally, this special issue of the *Zoological Journal of the Linnean Society* is dedicated to Professor Roberto Bertolani in the year of his retirement from academic activity.

*Lorena Rebecchi and Diane Nelson*  
(The Guest Editors)

### **Proceedings of the Fourth International Scalidophora Workshop**

In September 2015 the Fourth International Scalidophora Workshop was celebrated in Ferrol, Spain. The workshop offered a week to collect and discuss kinorhynchs, priapulids and loriciferans, and to share novel research results. The results were communicated through 19 oral presentations during the meeting, and in support to the workshop, *Zoologischer Anzeiger – A Journal of Comparative Zoology* offered to dedicate a special volume for presentations communicated at the workshop.

One year later this resulted in a volume with eleven contributed papers covering taxonomy, morphology and ecology of the scalidophoran taxa, plus a foreword from the workshop organizer and special volume guest editor Fernando Pardos (<http://www.sciencedirect.com/science/journal/00445231/265>). The special volume is the first of its kind for Scalidophora, but we hope that more will follow in the future, and that this volume will help to make our small but friendly and dynamic Scalidophora society grow. At the workshop in Ferrol we had 22 participants, but we wish to see even more people when Maikon Di Domenico in July 2019 invites you all to Brazil for the Fifth International Scalidophora Workshop.

*Martin V. Sørensen*

### **Education**



The International MSc programme in Nematology at Ghent University was created in 1992 as “Postgraduate International Nematology Course – PINC” and sponsored mainly by grants offered by the Belgian government to students from Developing Countries. This course is globally unique in its kind, offering a dynamic, interactive and multidisciplinary approach, attracting students from across the world. From the start the majority of students were interested in plant parasitic nematodes. However, the marine group of scientists at Ghent University was internationally renowned for its expertise in taxonomy and ecology of marine nematodes and as such the programme had 2 options: the “Nematology applied to Agro-ecosystems” and the “Nematology applied to Natural ecosystems”, the latter including courses as *Systematics of free-living aquatic nematodes*, *Systematics of free-living terrestrial nematodes*, *Ecology of free-living aquatic nematodes*, *Structural and functional biodiversity*, *Biomonitoring*.

Unfortunately the number of students following the “Natural Ecosystem” module was always much lower (fluctuating between 1 – 9) than the number of students interested in plant parasitic nematodes (fluctuating between 7 – 25).

Recently the programme was changed to attract more students while focusing on the importance of nematodes in environmental aspect and is currently called the **International Master of Science in Agro- and Environmental Nematology - IMAGEN**. Since the past years only 1 or 2

students had chosen the option “Natural Ecosystems”, the courses linked to that option are no longer included on a yearly base. This year however, we received some international requests for help in “Identification of aquatic nematodes”, consequently **the possibility of organizing an “Identification course of aquatic nematodes” as an elective course within the master programme has been discussed and currently the idea is to let it happen in autumn 2018 during 2 weeks.**

**This course will be open not only for master and PhD students from Ghent University, but also for students from other (educational) institutes. Please let us know if you are interested to join this course; then we can look for sponsoring and work out the details. More information on this course is published on the website:**

<http://www.pinc.ugent.be/index.asp?p=2540&a=2540>.

The MSc Nematology at Ghent University fulfills the needs at an international level for training and delivering highly qualified nematologists, with a multidisciplinary knowledge in all fields of nematology and related sciences.

Key objectives of the programme include: (1) disseminate knowledge of nematode effects on crops and their role in disease complexes; (2) transfer of information to implement sustainable farming practices and improve agricultural productivity under rapidly changing environmental and climate conditions; (3) facilitate the use of nematodes as biological control agents; (4) advance the knowledge of nematodes in their role as ecosystem service providers.

For more detailed information about the course programme, application procedure and grant possibilities: [www.pinc.ugent.be](http://www.pinc.ugent.be)

*Nic Smol*

## **Upcoming project**

Heated effluents from industrial water-cooling systems increase locally the temperature of rivers or other water bodies in which they are discharged. It is important to understand how far temperature differences can affect ecological processes and communities, especially as increasing water abstraction in catchments and heat waves may enhance the magnitude of thermal pollution. A new project named River Ecosystems under Thermal Stress (RivEcoThermS) funded by the French national company “Electricité de France” (EDF) will start in May 2017 for 2 years to better understand the effects of water warming on food webs and communities dwelling in river sediment and biofilms. A set of laboratory experiments will investigate effects of temperature on metabolism and trophic relationships between free-living nematodes and benthivorous fishes. To investigate ecological responses of complex meiofaunal communities, an experiment will be performed in the field at a pilot site along a gradient of thermal stress at the outlet of the water-cooling system of Golfech nuclear power plant (Southwestern France, discharge in Garonne River). This project involves collaborators in France and Germany with expertise in microbe, meiofauna and fish ecology. For further information and discussion, feel free to contact Dr. Nabil Majdi: [nabil.majdi@uni-bielefeld.de](mailto:nabil.majdi@uni-bielefeld.de); two 6-mo positions for MSc. students: One in Toulouse and one in Bielefeld will be associated with this project in 2018.

*Nabil Majdi*

## **New members**

*Dana Hrivova*

Brno, Czech Republic

[323984@mail.muni.cz](mailto:323984@mail.muni.cz)

Interests: Harpacticoida, Freshwater ecology, Marine crustaceans

Hallo,

My name is Dana Hrivova and I am PhD student at Masaryk University, Brno, CZ. During Master study, which I finished last



year, I visited Finland for ETRASMUS, where I were supposed to train determination of harpacticoids supervised by professor Jouko Sarvala. Now I study ecological factors influencing harpacticoid assemblages of spring fens and connected streams in Western Carpathians. My specialization is Canthocamptidae family, but I try to determine marine species in free time. There are samples from the North and Mediterranean seas waiting for my attention. Taking samples on vacations and learning to determine any harpacticoid species is one of my hobbies. Also understanding ecology and behavior of these microscopic animals is my intention. I think copepods generally show a great potential for research. As regards the immediate future I am going to work on first manuscript and I would like to gain more detailed information on Czech - Slovak harpacticoid fauna.

*Dana Hrivova*

*Alexandra Kerbl*

Helsingor, Denmark

Interests: Meiofauna, Annelids, Polychaete, Dinophilus, Histology, Confocal microscopy.

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*Bronwen Currie*

Swakopmund, Namibia

Currie32@gmail.com

Interests: Meiobenthos in shallow OMZ

I am a marine biologist working in the northern Benguela off Namibia. There is a little known of the benthos and especially of the meiobenthos on the shelf and therefore I am keen to learn.

*Bronwen Currie*

## **PhD in Meiobenthology**

*Norliana Rosli* got her Ph.D. in Meiobenthology. Out congratulations for Norliana and her supervisor Daniel Leduc!



My name is Norliana Rosli, and I've just finished my PhD thesis entitled "Ecology of Meiofauna from the New Zealand Continental Margin" at the University of Otago and the National Institute of Water & Atmospheric Research (NIWA), New Zealand. I obtained my Masters degree in Aquatic Science from Universiti Malaysia Sarawak (Unimas) Malaysia, focusing on the taxonomy of free-living nematodes in Sarawak Coastal waters. I received my bachelor degree in Marine Biology at Universiti Malaysia Terengganu (UMT).

Currently, I'm working at the Sultan Idris Education University (UPSI), Malaysia, in the Biology Department. My interests are in meiofauna ecological studies and taxonomy, particularly nematodes. My current research aim is to describe nematode species in Malaysian coastal waters using a combination of morphology and molecular approaches, while updating species checklists for marine nematodes. This information can be used as a valuable tool for further research in understanding meiofauna ecology and risk assessment in Malaysian coastal waters.

*Norliana Rosli*

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## Electronic resources

*International Association of Meiobenthologists* is present now on Facebook. Jeroen Inglis made a group there and a number of subscribers exceeds 426 for the moment. It is fast and useful source, which already contains a number of interesting news and links:

<https://www.facebook.com/search/top/?q=international%20association%20of%20meiobenthologists>

*Nematodes in Twitter*: Alex Holovachov has started blog:

[https://twitter.com/Alex\\_Holovachov](https://twitter.com/Alex_Holovachov)

More than hundred twits related to nematodes and nematology are already there.

### *Tardigrada Register*

<http://www.tardigrada.net/register/>

The Tardigrada Newsletter & Register is a free, non-profit service created by tardigradologists for tardigradologists. The website comprises two independent sections - the Newsletter and the Register. The Newsletter was created in 2004 and its main purpose is to provide references and links to current papers describing tardigrade research. However, the service has also other sections that can be helpful both to tardigradologists and people from outside of the community: a section with directories of active tardigradologists, archived literature references published in the XXI century, a historical section on tardigrade symposia, a section with news relevant to the tardigrade research community, and several smaller sections (e.g. with a mailing list or free tardigrade graphics and general information on water bears).

The Register, created in 2012, is a younger section devoted entirely to tardigrade taxonomy. The main aim of the platform is to provide standardised new species descriptions with raw images and morphometric data as well as with linked DNA sequences and GPS coordinates. Moreover, the service offers standardised morphometric templates and links to museum collections throughout the world.

Dr. Łukasz Michalczyk

## Recent Literature

### *Marine and general*

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Araujo, T.Q. & Hochberg, R. (2017) First description of a gastrotrich with four scale types, including feathered biancres, a novel find for Gastrotricha. *Journal of the Marine Biological Association of the United Kingdom* 97: 269-275

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