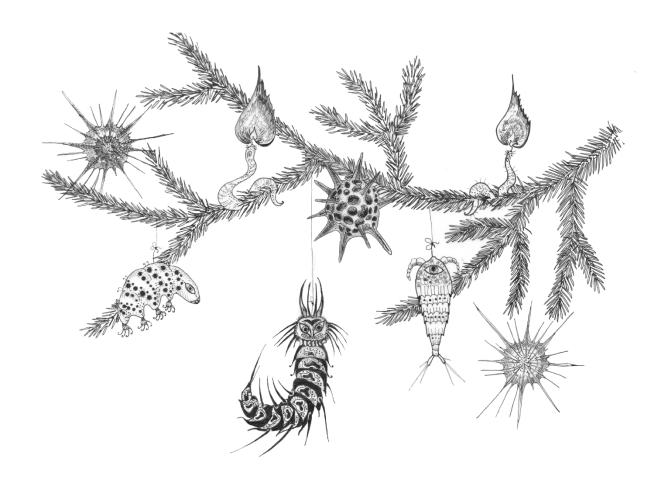
PSAMMONALIA

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





Composed and Printed at Lab. of Coastal Benthic Ecology P.P. Shirshov Institute of Oceanology RAS



DONT FORGET TO RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP IN IAM! THE APPLICATION CAN BE FOUND AT:

http://www.meiofauna.org/appform.html

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Editorial

Dear Colleagues, members of International Association of Meiobenthologists and all who are interested in microscopic creatures,

I'm glad to send you my warmest seasonal greetings and wish you every success in life and science in New Year!

The last year was rich by events and activities in meiobenthic science. Several conferences devoted to various groups of meiofauna held in different places gave us a good opportunity to see each other again and share results of new researches. Many expeditions, coastal, marine and freshwater gathered new data and replenished our collections. Many new papers were printed out since June, electronic resource grew up and new conferences are proposed for the coming months. Some information on each of these topics you can found on following pages.

I'm glad to welcome new members of Association and wish you to enjoy your studies on these nice microscopic animals and also wish you fruitful contacts with your colleagues. I would be glad if IAM and our communication tools will help you on this way.

Concerning IAM routine, we are working on the webpage and mailing list. The number of mistakes was fixed, and I have to express my gratitude to Jeff Baguley and Board Members for significant improvement of list of members. However, some gaps and mistakes are exist there and I still would like to have information about any incorrectness. It appears also, that in some cases messages from "Psammonalia" mailbox may lost because of spam filters of users. Please, check it.

All previous issues of PLAMMONALIA are available at:

http://www.meiofauna.org/psammona.html
I have to thank all of members of

Association who help me with preparation of this issue.

Happy New Year!

Yours

Vadim Mokievsky

Upcoming conferences

17th MEIOFAUNA CONFERENCE SeventhIMCO

7-12th July 2019 (Évora, Portugal)



From the 7th till the 12th July 2019, the University of Évora, the Marine and Environmental Sciences Centre (MARE) and the International Association of Meiobenthologists (IAM) will organize the 17th edition of the Meiofauna Conference (SeventhIMCO) to be held at Évora, Portugal.

The conference aims to discuss and to the advance of contribute the understanding on the current state of meiofauna diversity and its interactions in marine and freshwater systems. It will be a dynamic conference focused on innovative research topics and providing a set of interesting keynote sessions, contributed talks and posters and thematic workshops addressing meiofauna across a wide range of relevant research challenges, namely analytical methods, conservation, ecosystem and services. interaction marine and freshwater ecology, frontiers areas policies.

At present, we are developing a program of inspirational speakers and will announce more details in the webpage very soon.

Please share this event with your global network using your newsletters, websites and social media.

We hope to see you in Évora!

On behalf of the SeventhIMCO Organizing Committee

Helena Adão

e-mail: hadao@uevora.pt

University of Évora and MARE- Marine and

Environmental Sciences Centre http://www.mare-centre.pt/en

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

e-mail:17imc2019@uevora.pt

14th International Symposium on Tardigrada 30 July - 03 August, 2018

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

Information about the Symposium is available at the website:

https://www.tardigrada2018.org

Please note that the deadline for Early Registration and Abstract submission is 30 March 2018. Late Registration is open until 1 June 2018. Information about registration and abstract preparation etc. can be found at the Symposium website.

We are looking forward to seeing you at the Copenhagen Symposium in 2018!

Please forward this message to anyone who might be interested.

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

Nadja Møbjerg

International Crustacean Congress May 22-25, 2018

International Crustacean Congress (ICC9) that will take place May 22-25, 2018, in Washington DC, USA. The Congress hosted by the Smithsonian Institution and the Renaissance Hotel. This will be the first time that an ICC has been held within the United States and the first time to be hosted by the Smithsonian Institution. The ICC 9 meeting is also co-hosted by The Crustacean Society and is dedicated to dissemination of all aspects of crustacean biology to local and international audiences.

For registration, early bird deadline is January 15. Abstract deadline is March 1.

For detailed information, please visit the ICC9 website:

http://www.birenheide.com/ICC2018/index.php

European Society of Nematologists Conference 2018 9-13th September, Ghent, Belgium

Main topics of the Conference are:

- Systematics (Taxonomy, Morphology, Phylogeny, Barcoding)
- Ecology
- Management
- Biocontrol (including entomoparasitic nematodes)
- Plant-nematode interactions
- Animal parasites
- Model organisms

Deadline abstract submission applicants student bursaries 15/03/2018.

Early registration 15/05/2018.

Deadline abstract submission 15/05/2018

Information avalable at:

https://www.esn-online.org/conference

Ocean Sciences Meeting in Portland, Oregon.

Session: Benthic Meiofauna Structure, Pattern, and Function in Ocean Basins February 13, 2018

Special session proposed for meiofauna

Session will be in Oregon Convention Center - Poster Hall at Tuesday, February 13, 2018 04:00 PM - 06:00 PM In this topical session, submissions are solicited in the area of benthic meiofauna community structure, their biogeography across ocean basins as well studies investigating specific role of benthic meiofauna in marine ecosystems including biogeochemical cycling. In particular, submissions are welcome in the emerging areas of benthic meiofauna research that incorporates new tools and techniques including next generation sequencing. Session is organized by Holly M. Bik Riverside). (University of California, Punyasloke Bhadury (Indian Institute of Science Education and Research, Kolkata) and Jeroen Ingels (Florida State University).

Other information and list of papers of the session are here:

https://agu.confex.com/agu/os18/meetingapp.cgi/Session/28611

General information about the **Ocean Sciences Meeting is here:** https://osm.agu.org/2018/

Registration Deadline: 10 February Housing Deadline: 17 January 2018

After the conference: participants' brief notes

Fourth International Congress on Invertebrate Morphology

The large-scale Congress took place at M.V. Lomonosov Moscow State University, Moscow from August 18 to 23, 2017. Among many other thematic sessions in the symposia structure, the special session "Minute metazoans: Little pigeons can carry great messages" was devoted to micrometazoans and partly to tiny meiobenthic organisms fitting in the scope of Psammonalia. Katrine Worsaae and oth. (Denmark) gave a lecture "A meiofauna perspective on nervous system evolution" emphasizing that meiofauna lineages may constitute sister clades to the major groups of Bilateria: Xenacoelomorpha as sister to other bilaterians, Scalidophora – to remaining ecdysozoans, Gnathifera - to remaining spiralians and thus necessity for a comparative approach and reconstruction of ancestry using phylogenetic tools. Three communications concerned free-living nematodes. Vladimir Yushin (Russia) and oth. ("Male gametes and evolution in nematodes ...") particularly accentuated problems of incongruence of morphology to certain nematode lineages and enigmatic phenomenon of spern dimorphism in some taxa. Myriam Clayes (Belgium) and oth. showed an easy-to-use and low-cost method of self-pressurised rapid freezing; this method tested on free-living nematodes preserves finely all the cell structures. Izabela B. Poprawa and oth. (Poland) reported on oogenesis in a parthenogenetic eutardigrade.

Magdalena Rost-Roszkowska and (Poland) described a variety of functions of midgut epithelium in eutardigrades – not only absorbtion, accumulation secretion. reserve material but also defense against external factors. Nataliya Budaeva and Conrad Helm (Norway) reported enigmatic Charlie Chaplin annelids of the Histriobdellidae living as commensals on lobsters – using a variety of approaches, the authors found histriobdellids close to some taxa within Eunicida. Several presentations were devoted to structural peculiarities of microarthropods: wing apparatus and fight as well as head morphology of tiniest beetles (Alexey Polilov and oth., Margarita Yavorskaya and oth., Russia), brain structure of tiny dipterans (Anastasia Makarova and Polilov, Russia). Alexandra Alexev Petrunina and Gregory Kolbasov (Russia) described anatomy of Tantulocarida, smallest ectoparasitizing crustaceans microscopic marine host crustaceans; the authors suggest that so-called honeycomblike structure filling in the anterior part of the male cephalothorax represent actually a male gonad. Yoko Matsumura and oth. (Germany) presented a very fine study on biomechanics of a hyper-elongated structure of a beetle intromittent organ. The presentations demonstrated a high diversity of methods allowing to solve problems concerning functional morphology, physiology, life cycles and phylogenetic relationships of a broad range of micrometazoans.

Alexei Tchesunov

Twelfth International Symposium of the Russian Society of Nematologists "Nematodes and other Ecdysozoa under the growing ecological footprint on ecosystem"

The Symposium has been held on July 30 – August 6, 2017 at N.I. Lobachevsky University in Nizhni Novgorod, a pictorial large city on Volga River, formerly considered as a "third capital of Russia". The total number of participants was 90 persons, at that twelve participants were from abroad. All the presentations were held either in English with subsequent comments in

Russian or in Russian with explicit comments English. and remarks in Most communications concerned zoo-, phyto- and entomoparasitic as well as terrestrial nematodes but a few lectures and poster presentations dealt with marine free-living nematodes. Thus, Nguyen Dinh Tu and oth. (Hanoi) presented a study on impact of a typhoon on nematode communities in coastal mangrove zone in Vietnam. Maria Fedyaeva and Darja Portnova (Moscow) had an oral presentation on distribution of nematode diversity across the shelf of the Arctic Laptev Sea. For me, the most interesting detail in this study turned out to be finding of numerous Cryonema sp. juveniles in bottom sediments: Cryonema species until recently were known to be only associated with long-term and seasonal Arctic sea ice. Alexei Tchesunov and Vadim Mokievsky (Moscow) gave a lecture on nematode assemblages and tardigrades within bioclastic carbonate sand on summit plateau of the giant isolated seamount Great Meteor in the north-east Atlantic Ocean. Nematode diversity and taxonomic composition generally resembles those of coastal coarse sands but portions of some taxa are increased while other taxa are lowered or absent. Thus, an unusually diversity of the predatory genus Latronema (Selachinematidae) was revealed. Eight morphologically distinct new Latronema species share some structural features in common (stoma armature reduction) that enables to hypothesize their endemic speciation. Maria Fedyaeva presented a wide study of the intestine ultrastructure in a number of marine free-living nematode species in order to test an expectation that the midgut characters might be linked with the feeding type of species. The most variable structure among species proves to be extracellular coating over microvillar brush, a gycocalyx - its thickness and structural complexity may be connected with diet: species ingesting coarse sediment particles (e.g. Daptonema spp.) tend to have more thick multilayered glycocalyx than those swallowing fine particles or piercing and sucking protists or multicellular organisms. Among poster presentations, the poster of Nic Smol (Ghent) and oth. "An introductory

guide to NeMys ..." drew the most vivid attention of participants.

Alexei Tchesunov

Conference "Crustacea: diversity, ecology and evolution" in Moscow and creation of the Russian Crustacean Society

A conference "Crustacea: diversity, ecology and evolution" was held at A.N. Severtsov Institute of Ecology and Evolution, Moscow, Russia on October 30th to November 2nd of 2017 as the A.N. Severtsov Institute of Ecology and Evolution of Russian Academy of Sciences. More than 100 investigators met in Moscow, and 72 researchers from 16 different towns of Russia and also Norway and Belarus presented 15 plenary lectures, 40 oral presentations and 42 posters grouped five sections: (1) Taxonomy, zoogeography, faunistics: recent approaches to taxonomic revisions and inventories of the biodiversity; (2) Morphology, anatomy, embryology and physiology; (3) Ecology and Palaeolimnology, behaviour; (4) palaeontology and evolutionary reconstructions; (5) Recent methods of the crustacean investigations: achievements, problems and perspectives. This conference was mainly aimed at an involving junior biologists in crustacean studies. Special prizes were awarded to junior scientists for the best oral communications and the best posters. The Organization Committee also assigned a special prize to two students of a primary and secondary school in the town of Blagoveshchensk (Amur Area) for their poster "Triopsids, living fossils from the water bodies of the Amur Area".

We were happy to explore that investigators from several regional Russian institutes and universities are conducting projects of a high international rank in several directions of carcinological research. But we need to note that many regional Russian scientific organizations, with a good potential for crustacean studies, have problems with quality of their publication, access to recent literature and recent methods of scientific work. And scientists from large cities of Russia have a chance to help them. At the conference. the voluntary Russian

Crustacean Society was proposed, with the aim to create a Russian Crustacean Society associated with the Russian Academy of Sciences. The coordinators of such efforts are A.A. Kotov, I.N. Marin (A.N. Severtsov Institute of Ecology and Evolution, Moscow), N.V. Aladin (Zoological Institure, St.-Petersburg). G.A. Kolbasov. Ivanenko (M.V. Lomonosov Moscow State University, Moscow), V.A. Spiridonov (P.P. Shirshov Institute of Oceanology, Moscow), V.V. Takhteev (Irkutsk State University. Irkutsk) and I.S. Turbanov (Inland Water Biology Institute, Borok). Our final aim is to create the Russian Crustacean Society with a legal judicial status in Russia, being a noncommercial "Interregional public association without creation of a legal entity" with the following objectives:

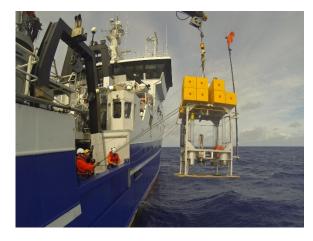
- Overcoming (1) a disunity of carcinologists dealing with different groups by different methods in different Regions of Russia by exchanging of information (i.e. by specially created Web portal www.crustacea.ru, organization of conferences and workshops;
- (2) Help in the planning and conducting of carcinological investigations, publication of results and introduction of fundamental results of the Society members for practical use;
- 3) Popularization of the crustaceans as objects of any scientific works, attraction of junior scientists to the crustacean problems;
- 4) Informing about possible fund sources for scientific activity in carcinology;
- 5) Promotion of a cooperation with crustacean investigators from other countries. Resolving any questions concerning the association with the Russian Academy of Sciences (and administrative formalities concerned such association) is addressed to Dr. A.A. Kotov. Corresponding Member of the Russian Academy of Sciences.

In May of 2018 a next National Conference on the Crustacea will be organized at the Inland Water Biology Institute, Borok, Yaroslavl Area. This conference will be at the same time a 1st Congress of the Russian Crustacean Society where it will be created as a legal non-commercial public organization, also its chapter will be adopted and its authority for the time before the next Congress will be elected.

Alexey Kotov

Expedition

Studying the meiofauna of the world's deepest environments



University of Southern Denmark's profiler lander being retrieved from the depths of the Kermadec Trench by NIWA's research vessel *Tangaroa*.

A voyage to the Kermadec Trench, the first of a series of expeditions exploring selected trenches of the Pacific Ocean, has recently been completed. This voyage is part of the HADES-ERC project, which will provide the first detailed, combined analysis of benthic diagenesis and microbial/meiofaunal ecology of some of the deepest oceanic trenches on Earth. Voyage leaders were Ronnie Glud from the University of Southern Denmark, and Ashley Rowden from NIWA.

During this voyage, a range of sophisticated autonomous landers as well as traditional sampling methods were used to sample meiofauna down to Scholl Deep, the deepest point of the Kermadec Trench. The team was able to obtain the deepest sediment samples ever retrieved using wire cable-deployed instruments: a boxcorer at 9994 m, and a multicorer at 9690 m. Preliminary results

suggest considerable degree heterogeneity in benthic metabolism along the deepest part of the trench axis (>9000 m), as well as clear evidence of turbidites, which likely have an influence on meiofaunal communities. Analyses of metazoan meiofauna from the trench, which will be led by Daniel Leduc at NIWA, will focus on community ecology, molecular sequencing and environmental DNA approaches, as well as food web biomarkers. Analyses of foraminiferans will be conducted by Hiroshi Kitazato (JAMSTEC). The next voyage, due to depart from Chile in March 2018 and led by Frank Wenzhöfer from Max Planck Institute, will explore the Atacama Trench with Daniela Zeppilli from Ifremer leading the sampling and analyses of metazoan meiofauna.

The research is primarily funded by a 5-year European Research Council Advanced Grant (ERC adG 2014 669947), with additional support from various national research programmes (including from NIWA).

Daniel Leduc

New members

Prof. Juan I. Cañete Research interests: benthic meiofaunal polychaetes, meroneustonic meiofauna (*Polygordius*, *Microsetella*)

I'm Chilean marine biologist. Mv professional title was obtained in the Catholic Chile University of North of (www.ucn.cl)and my Ms Sc. postgraduate studies was obtained in the University of Concepcion (www.udec.cl). In the first university my thesis was referred to the taxonomy, ecology and biogeography of benthic polychaetes from Easter island and in the second university my thesis was on the larval and early postlarval ecology of the edible squat-lobster Pleuroncodes monodon on the continental shelf of Concepcion Bay, central Chile. My interest on marine meiofauna began in 1997 when I participate the International Atacama Trench Expedition

(ATIE) at the team of Norberto Della Crocce, Chilean benthologist and oceanographer. In this cruise an important hotspot of deep-sea nematodes biodiversity was discovery (see some papers of Danovaro et al). Since 2010, I began to study the neustonic pelagic communities of the estuarine zone dominated by channels and fjords of the southern Chile. Some important discovery allow me to map the relationship between salinity and spatial distribution of some meiofaunistic Polygordius/Microsetella larvae along Puerto Montt (40°S) to Navarino Island (56°)coast, in this important biogeographic subantarctic province (sensu Spalding et al., 2007). I worked and studied in four Chilean universities:

1989-1991: Catholic University of North 1992-1994: University of Concepcion 1994-1998: University of Valparaiso 1999-to present: University of Magallanes (UMAG).

In the UMAG, now I teach on Invertebrate zoology, Vertebrate zoology (Protochordates), Environment Management, Integrated Management of Coastal Zone and Biological Oceanography. In the class I establish the role of marine benthic communities in studies of biodiversity and as environmental tool for monitoring pollution and marine benthic resources.

Through of the financial support of Chilean Agency of Sciences and Technology, this year I can to fund the visit of the member of International Association of Meiobenthologists, German meiobenthologist Dr. Andreas Schmidt-Rhaesa to work on meiobenthic communities located along Chilean sandy beach. In this initiative also participate meiobenthologists Matthew Lee and Javier Sellanes. The first is also member of IAM. We expect to build a South American scientific net to study the special features of the Chilean marine meiofauna. The first step of this will be the visit of my student Mrs. Tania Figueroa to the Laboratory of Andreas Schmidt-Rhaesa in December 2017. I hope follow searching financial support to increase the number of students and research on subantarctic and Chilean marine and estuarine biodiversity of meiofauna and ecosystem services provided by this interesting group.

> Prof. Juan I. Cañete University of Magallanes Punta Arenas – Chile

Tania Figueroa Delgado Research interests: benthic macrofauna, meiofauna, neuston and marine pollution.

I'am a Chilean marine biologist. I obtained my professional title in the University of Magallanes in Punta Arenas, Chile; my pregraduate thesis was about marine pollution, specifically in how the heavy metals affect the expression of the gene of protein in the Antarctic sea urchin Sterechinus neumayeri, I obtained a scholarship to work in the Antarctic with the INACH (Chilean Antarctic Institute). After that, I worked in other research institute implementing a molecular biology lab and finally I returned to Universidad de Magallanes, were now I work as a research assistant with the professor Ivan Cañete. This year I started to study again to obtain my master degree in the program of this university (Magister en Ciencias con mención enmanejo conservación de recursos naturales subantárticos), and now I am developing a thesis project about the composition and abundance of marine meiofauna in the Magallanes region; meiofauna has not been studied much in this region.

> Tania Figueroa Delgado Lic.en Ciencias del Mar Bióloga Marina

Dr. Nigel J. Marley (UK, Plymouth)

Interests: Returning to the Association after many years mostly due to health issues. Still mainly working on Tardigrada from all environments but also interested in all meiofauna. Currently focusing on developing integrated diagnostic keys and nomenclature lists of names.

Dr. John Moverley Australia, Camberwell Research interests: Papua New Guinea deep sea meiofauna communities. José Cerca de Oliveira (Norway, Oslo)

I am interested in the evolutionary history of meiofauna and invertebrates in general. This includes studying intraspecific (demographic history, selection - broadly population and interspecific genomics) (clade diversification speciation) and levels. Additionally, I am interested at patterns of molecular and genome evolution (e.g. genomic architecture). To study these, I employ population genomic tools such as RAD-seq and genome assembly. Following these interests I am currently a PhD at the University of Oslo, under Torsten Struck. I am quantifying genomic and morphological divergence in a complex of cryptic meiofaunal annelids (Stygocapitella *subterranea*) and delving into evolutionary history of this complex.

José Cerca de Oliveira

Remembering Bill Hummon (1932-2017)



Bill Hummon at St. John Island in 2011, continuing research on the Caribbean gastrotrichs (see Hummon W. D. 2010. Marine Gastrotricha of the Caribbean Sea: a review and new descriptions. Bulletin of Marine Science, 86: 661-708.

It is with a deep sorrow and a feeling of big loss that we are writing this note to commemorate our friend, mentor, teacher and collaborator, William (Bill) Dale Hummon who died at home in Athens, Ohio (USA), on January 1, 2017.

He was born on July 27, 1932, in Akron, Ohio, the son of Dale Levi Hummon and Lorena May Payne Hummon. On December 24, 1958 he married Julia Margaret (Meg) Raper at her family home in Oakton, Virginia. They have two daughters, Julia Margaret Hummon of Honolulu, Hawaii, and Cheryl Hummon of Salem, Oregon.

After earning a BA in Philosophy at the University of Montana, Missoula (1955), Bill was a conscientious objector to military service, and served as an attendant at Apple Creek State Hospital in Ohio in lieu of military service (1955-58). He then returned to the University of Montana for a BS in wildlife biology (1960), and an MA in Teaching of Biology (1961). Subsequently, Bill received a PhD in Zoology at the University of Massachusetts, Amherst (1969), where he conducted seminal research on marine gastrotrichs of New England, described in his thesis "Distributional ecology of marine interstitial Gastrotricha from Woods Hole, Massachusetts, with comments taxonomic on previously described species". His Ph.D. research marked the beginning of a life-long dedication to the Gastrotricha, that enigmatic group of beautiful meiofaunal invertebrates that have captured the attention of zoologists worldwide, and continue to inspire scientists in their quests to understand some of the greatest mysteries of animal evolution. Bill went on to become an inspiring professor of marine biology and zoology at Ohio University, Athens in 1969 (until his retirement in 2002). During his tenure, he was a recipient of several fellowships and scholarships which made it possible to him to travel to and work in England, Scotland and Egypt. Bill's impact on the discipline grew with each passing year; he supervised eleven MS students, two Ph.D. students, three postdoctoral researchers, and produced 110 publications on invertebrate morphology, taxonomy, ecology, ecotoxicology, and the philosophy of science. Bill was active in several scientific societies, acted as President the International Association Meiobenthologists (IAM, 1978-79) and was

elected a Fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science.

Over 43 illustrious years, he worked with gastrotrichs, copepods, crayfish, insects, rotifers and tardigrades, and described 2 families, 6 genera, and 105 species of gastrotrichs along the way. Bill's focus on marine Gastrotricha allowed him the rare (and envious) opportunity to travel across some of the most historic and beautiful coastal landscapes of the Azores, Belgium, France, Germany, Greece, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Poland, Portugal, the United Kingdom, the Caribbean, and Central and South America. And while his quest to understand gastrotrichs almost always had a global component, this did not mean he ignored his own backyard. Bill's research on fauna of the east and west coasts of the United States remains some of his most influential taxonomic work on the phylum, and even included studies of the effects of pollutants, such as DDT and mine acids, on freshwater species. But whether Bill was traversing the USA in his mobile lab (his vehicle full of portable microscopes and equipment) or traveling across vast oceans and seas, he always kept one eye on the sand and one eye on the microscope.

Bill's importance to gastrotrich research went well beyond his influential publications on systematics and ecology. He also highlighted the very real and very practical problem of conserving type specimens for natural history museums, which is nothing short of impossible when dealing with soft-bodied meiofauna. Bill's hand-drawn illustrations of species always made identification relatively easy for the uninitiated, but without good physical specimens in museum collections, one could never be sure if the animal found on one beach was the same as that on another. Nowadays, molecular sequencing is the preferred choice for species synonymy (and differentiation), but this requires a dedicated lab, skills, and most importantly, funding, which can be in short supply for those who work on meiofauna. Bill's solution to this dilemma predated the molecular revolution and in fact was much simpler, and importantly, globally accessible (free of

charge) via the Internet. He provided the first video recording (SVHS format) of a new taxon, Prostobuccantia broca Evans & Hummon, 1991, which was deposited in the National Museum of Natural History, Washington, DC (USNM 235577). Since then, Bill has made innumerable video recordings (in digital format) of new and known species from across the globe, and provided his followers hours (and gigabytes) of video data, photographic images, GPS coordinates, maps, and taxon lists that remain as influential as any DNA barcode. Originally posted on a dedicated server, Bill's works are now part of the Gastrotricha World Portal (http://www.gastrotricha.unimore.it/moviega llery.htm).

As well as being a dedicated and involved scientist whom we admired and learned from, Bill was – to us also a great, close and supportive friend, appreciative of good conversation over a dram of single malt, fond of music (and cats), and ready to bring people together.

Bill's influence on our scientific understanding and appreciation of Gastrotricha and the meiofauna in general cannot be overstated. He inspired scientists across the globe, many of whom have never had the chance to meet this extraordinary man, yet, will continue to learn from him well into the 21st century and beyond. Bill's legacy will live in the annals of scientific discovery, and in the fond memories of those who knew him and who will never forget him.

M. Antonio Todaro Maria Balsamo John Fleeger Teresa Radziejewska Rick Hochberg

A list of Bill's publication can be found at http://www.gastrotricha.unimore.it/news.ht m

Electronic resources

Meiobenthic groups within the World Register of Marine Species

The aim of a World Register of Marine Species (WoRMS) is to provide an authoritative and comprehensive list of names of marine organisms, including information on synonymy. While the highest priority goes to valid names, other names in use are included so that this register can serve as a guide to interpret taxonomic literature. Next to taxonomy, the system can also store distribution information, literature, attributes or traits, specimen information including type localities and images.

The World Register of Marine Species (WoRMS) is available www.marinespecies.org. The text on the WoRMS pages is open-access under the terms of the Creative Commons Attribution License (CC-BY), which permits unrestricted use as long as the provided citation is used. Upon request by the editors-in-charge, a dedicated portal can be created for a taxonomic group - referred to as a Global Species Database – giving more visibility to their group and recognition to the involved editors. It also allows editors to elaborate more on their group and - in some cases -adedicated news feed and twitter messages. An overview of the available registers for phyla containing meiobenthic representatives

| Taxa | # species | uding fossil species) Portal | | |
|-------------------------------|-----------|--|--|--|
| | <u> </u> | | | |
| Cnidaria | 22 560 | through WoRMS | | |
| Platyhelminthes | 24 602 | http://www.marinespecies.org/turbellarians/ | | |
| Nemertea | 2 725 | http://www.marinespecies.org/nemertea/ | | |
| Gnathostomulida | 113 | through WoRMS | | |
| Kinorhyncha | 363 | through WoRMS | | |
| Loricifera | 28 | through WoRMS | | |
| Nematoda | 10 855 | http://nemys.ugent.be/ | | |
| Rotifera | 317 | through WoRMS | | |
| Gastrotricha | 1 069 | through WoRMS | | |
| Priapulida | 21 | through WoRMS | | |
| Sipuncula | 1 294 | through WoRMS | | |
| Annelida | 25 439 | through WoRMS (in part: http://www.marinespecies.org/polychaeta) | | |
| Arthropoda - Copepoda | 23 071 | http://www.marinespecies.org/copepoda/ | | |
| Arthropoda - Halacaroidea | 1462 | through WoRMS | | |
| Arthropoda - Ostracoda | 14 521 | http://www.marinespecies.org/ostracoda/ | | |
| Arthropoda - Mystacocarida | 14 | through WoRMS | | |
| Arthropoda - Tantulocarida | 42 | through WoRMS | | |
| Tardigrada | 1588 | http://www.marinespecies.org/tardigrada/ | | |
| Mollusca | 113 831 | http://www.molluscabase.org/ | | |
| Bryozoa | 8 169 | through WoRMS | | |
| Brachiopoda | 679 | through WoRMS | | |
| Echinodermata | 21 176 | through WoRMS (in part: http://www.marinespecies.org/echinoidea & http://www.marinespecies.org/asteroidea) | | |
| Chordata | 59 753 | through WoRMS | | |
| Sarcomastigota | 435 | through WoRMS | | |
| Ciliophora | 4 188 | through WoRMS | | |

is given in the table. Next to the marine representatives, editors can also document the non-marine taxa in their group, thereby creating a single entry-point for their crossenvironment group.

Within the attributes section of WoRMS, it is the goal to document the size class to which each species belongs, so a general filter can be applied to group e.g. all meiofaunal species across taxa. This is still a work in progress. In addition, it will be documented whether species belong to the benthos or the pelagos, taking into account the life stage.

Keeping WoRMS and its Clobal Species**

Keeping WoRMS and its Global Species Databases up-to-date is a continuous process. New information is entered daily by the taxonomic editors and by the members of our data management team. No database of this size is without errors and omissions. Although we cannot promise to make no errors, but we do promise to follow up and give feedback on any communications pointing out errors. All feedback is very welcome through info@marinespecies.org.

Leen Vandepitte

Recent Literature

Marine and general

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Forthcoming.

As a rule, the list of publications contains printed papers only, not "on-line first". As an exception, we put here the reference to important review, which will open the paper collection on a topic of great importance:

Zeppilli, D., Leduc, D., Fontanier, C. et al. "Characteristics of meiofauna in extreme marine ecosystems: a review" Marine Biodiversity (2017).

https://doi.org/10.1007/s12526-017-0815-z

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 newsletter and sponsoring a triennial International Conference. The newsletter, Psammonalia, is published in June and November-December. 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 first 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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(*) New members are encouraged to introduce yourself to members in a short bio (ca. 10 lines).