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International Association of Meiobenthologists

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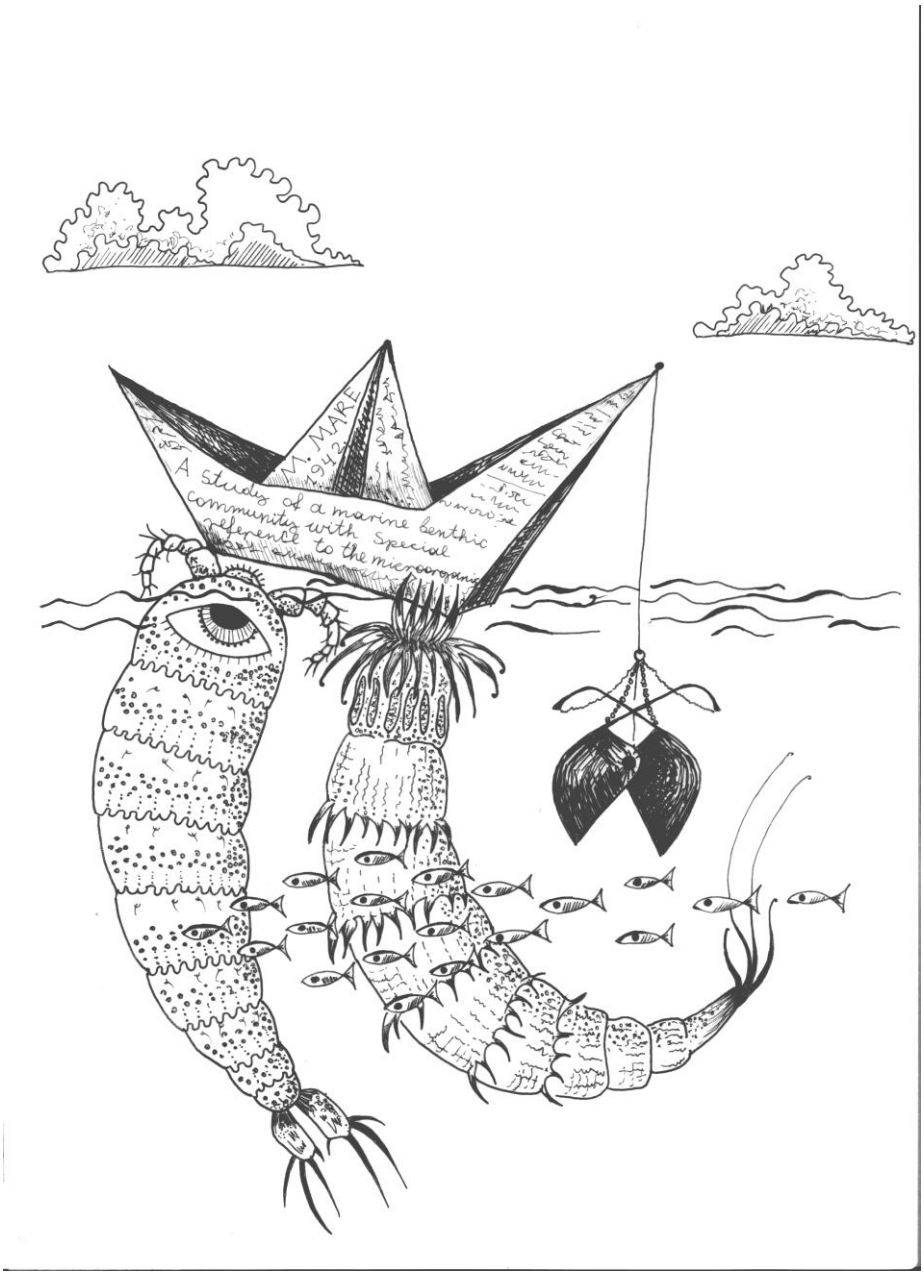

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- 2014-2016 Wochoel Lee

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Editorial

Dear meiobenthologists,

My summer field season began suddenly and was rather intensive. It caused unexpected delay with distribution of this issue, which was almost complete in June. I am sorry for this inconvenience, but I hope that this season was interesting and successful for all of your as well. I believe, these summer expeditions gave you many new interesting facts and observations and you are able to share this discoveries with colleagues during the 17th Meiofauna Conference in Evora. Please, visit the web-site of the Conference (p. 4) made by conference team and keep important dates in your schedule.

Unfortunately, the web-site of the Association is still broken. You may use Facebook page of the Association as an alternative source of information, until our site will be repair. The FB page is visible by link:

https://www.facebook.com/InternationalAssociationofMeiobenthologists/

even if you are not registered in Facebook.

Some other news related to meiobenthos researches and Association life you will found on the pages below.

Yours sincerely

Vadim Mokievsky

Upcoming conferences

17th MEIOFAUNA CONFERENCE SeventhIMCO

7-12th July 2019 (Évora, Portugal)

Dear all,

The organizing committee of the 17th International Meiofauna Conference (*SeventIMCO*) would like to invite you to participate in the Conference.

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

The conference intends to be dynamic and innovative by providing a diverse set of keynote presentations, and oral and poster presentations addressing a range of challenges meiofaunal research is facing in the 21st century, and by providing ample opportunity to meet and exchange ideas with other scientists in related disciplines.

The program includes inspirational speakers, and the broad themes that will be discussed during the conference include:

1. Advances in taxonomy, phylogeny and biogeography;

2. Meiofauna biodiversity patterns and ecosystem interactions (including Freshwater, Estuarine Coastal and Ocean, Deep sea and Frontiers ecosystems);

3. Meiofauna in a changing world: meiofauna response to natural and anthropogenic pressures;

4. Methodologic advances in meiofaunal studies: New tools and analytical and experimental approaches;

5. Meiofauna and Science communication to Society.

You can find more information at the Conference website: http://www.seventimco.uevora.pt/index.php .
Updates will be regularly performed.

You may contact us through the e-mail: *17imc2019@uevora.pt*

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

We hope to see you in Evora!

Helena Adão and Ana Sofia Alves

Conference Overview

The International Meiofauna Conference is the major assembly for scientists to present and share advances in meiofaunal research. Since 1969, leading meiofauna specialists from around the world have been meeting every 3 years to exchange ideas and experiences in diverse fields of Meiofauna research. Conference participants include researchers from many scientific backgrounds (e.g. taxonomists, ecologists, modellers, etc.) and different levels of experience (e.g. students, early career scientists and senior scientists).

Meiofauna play important roles in freshwater, estuarine and marine ecosystems. Complex interactions between meiofauna and their environment, including other organisms, create an intricate web of relationships that collectively affect a range of ecosystem processes, including those that are valued by society. Scientists are

increasingly challenged to translate findings from empirical studies into evidence that supports ecosystem management. The 17th International Meiofauna Conference (SeventIMCO) addresses this challenge by encouraging scientists to think beyond and across disciplines and ecosystems, to embrace innovative technologies and approaches, and to consider the impact and uptake of their research findings beyond the scientific community. In light of the UN's 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda, participants are particularly encouraged to consider and discuss the contribution meiofauna studies can make to support management decisions regarding the sustainable use of the oceans, seas and freshwater ecosystems.

We are presently in contact with the Ecological Indicators Journal (www.journals.elsevier.com/ecological-indicators) aiming at the publication of a special issue arising from the results of the SeventIMCO.

Important Dates

31-01-2019	**Abstract Submission Deadline**
07-03-2019	**Notification of Acceptance**
02-05-2019	**Author Registration Deadline**
02-05-2019	**Early Bird Registration**

On behalf of the SeventhIMCO Organizing Committee

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
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After the conference

IçIMCo, the 16th International Meiofauna Conference

The issue of the "Journal of Experimental Marine Biology and Ecology" is published now. It contains materials were presented on the 16th International Meiofauna Conference on Crete, Greece.
The volume is edited by Nikolaos Lampadariou, Jeroen Ingels, Michaela Schratzberger and David Thistle
Journal of Experimental Marine Biology and Ecology
Volume 502, Pages 1-226 (May 2018)
Available on-line at: https://www.sciencedirect.com/journal/journal-of-experimental-marine-biology-and-ecology/vol/501/suppl/C

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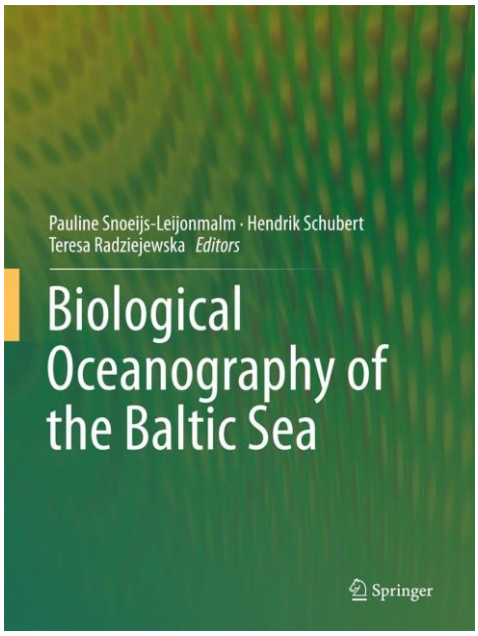
New book



Dear Fellow Meiobenthologists,

I would like to point your attention to a book, published last year (2017) by Springer, of which we, the three editors (Pauline Snoeijs-Leijonmalm of the University of Stockholm, Sweden, Hendrik Schubert of the University of Rostock, Germany, and myself, Teresa Radziejewska of the University of Szczecin, Poland) are very happy and proud. Conceived as a textbook for students, with contributions from more than 90 authors of the 18 chapters, the "Biological Oceanography of the Baltic Sea" (https://www.springer.com/cn/book/9789400706675) is a comprehensive monograph that covers (nearly) all aspects of life in the world's largest brackish water body. Of relevance to the meiobenthologists will hopefully be those chapters in which meiofauna is specifically mentioned and/or treated more extensively. Information on the meiobenthic species richness (albeit based on data collected until 2010) is provided in Chapter 4 ("Patterns of biodiversity") by Pauli Snoeijs-Leijonmalm; the chapter also contains a text box dealing briefly with functional diversity in the meiobenthos and another text box highlighting (and illustrating) some of the Baltic's meiofaunal organisms (including foraminifers). In Chapter 7 ("Physiological adaptations"), Hendrik Schubert, Irena Telesh, Mikko Nikinmaa and Sergei Skarlato mention replacement of the macro- by the meiobenthos as one of the effects of hypoxia in the Baltic Sea. When describing the deep soft bottoms and their communities in the Baltic Sea (Chapter 10, "Deep soft seabeds"), Urszula Janas, Erik Bonsdorff, Jan Warzocha and Teresa Radziejewska include information on the meiofauna as an important (and in some areas major) component of those communities. Chapter 11 ("The phytobenthic zone") by Hans Kautsky, Georg Martin and Pauline Snoeijs-Leijonmalm mentions the presence of meiofaunal organisms inhabiting, together with diatoms, sand fields at wave-exposed coasts in the Bothnian Bay (in the northern part of the Baltic Sea). The most extensive coverage of the meiofauna is provided by Chapter 12 ("Sandy coasts") by Teresa Radziejewska, Jonne Kotta and Lech Kotwicki which characterizes meiobenthic communities inhabiting sandy coasts and the shallow sublittoral (near-shore zone), highlighting adaptations to the interstitial mode of life, abundance and diversity as well as ecological roles of the interstitial meiofauna, its involvements in the food webs and responses to anthropogenic impacts.

Certainly, many more aspects of the meio-science should have been included. As always, there were publication volume

constraints …. And there is a lot we still simply do not know. When you leaf through the book, you will doubtless find there is much more to be learned and discover about the meiobenthos in the Baltic Sea. Why not give it a try?

Teresa Radziejewska

Collections

Nematode collection in the Zoological Museum in Hamburg

The Zoological Museum in Hamburg, now part of the Centrum für Naturkunde (Center for Natural History) of the University in Hamburg houses a large and important collection of free living marine nematodes. The collection includes at least 4000 slides, including about 250 type specimens. Most of the type species are listed under "www.cenak.uni-hamburg.de/sammlungen/zoologie/wirbellose1/nematoda.html".

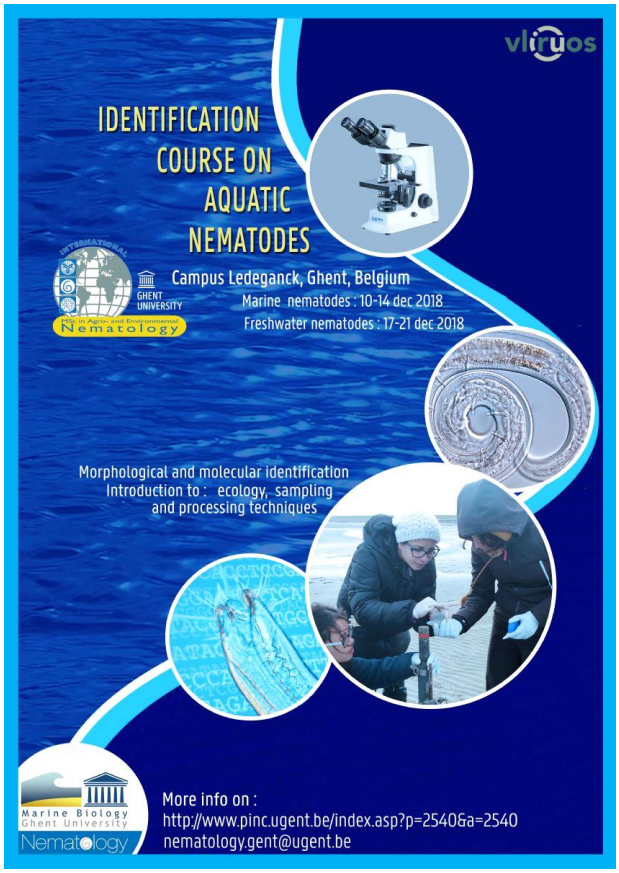
The collection includes mainly material studied by German researchers. It was founded by Sebastian Gerlach in the 1960s and continued by Franz Riemann until 2007. Although hosted originally in Bremerhaven, the Zoological Museum in Hamburg had been defined as the final home for the collection and was transferred there in 2007. Recently, Sievert Lorenzen added his material to the collection. The data of this material are in the progress of being digitalized, but are not yet included in the webpage given above. Besides collections from Gerlach, Riemann and Lorenzen, some material of other researchers, such as Rachor, Freudenhammer, Blome and others are present.

Besides the slides there is a reprint collection. Nematode researchers are welcome to visit the Museum or loan material.

Andreas Schmidt-Rhaesa,
Curator Invertebrates

Education

Identification Course on Aquatic Nematodes - 10-21 December 2018 - Ghent University (UGent)



Nowadays there are world-wide only a few taxonomists expert in marine and freshwater nematodes, although these groups are dominant in the sediments of oceans, estuaries, lakes and rivers. Their high abundance, diversity and adaptations to extreme habitats make them a very interesting group for ecological surveys. Due to increasing pollution and ecological awareness in many countries, identification of aquatic nematodes and their importance in the ecology of the benthos become relevant.

The Identification Course on Aquatic Nematodes is a 2-weeks training aiming to provide a high standard scientific and short training to enable participants a quick start into individual identification of marine

and/or freshwater nematodes. The first week is dedicated to marine nematodes (10-15 December), the second week to freshwater nematodes (16-21 December). Participants can register for 1 or 2 weeks.

This course provides an introduction to basic sampling and processing techniques, general morphology and ecology, and focuses on specific characteristics useful for the identification of marine and freshwater nematodes. The course consists of lectures, demonstrations by microscope and slide observations. The goal is to enable participants to identify nematodes to genus level.

This course is organised jointly by the Nematology Research Unit and Marine Biology research group and is part of the MSc course "International Master of Science in Agro- and Environmental Nematology" at Ghent University, Belgium.

Preliminary programme can be downloaded here.

Practical information

Tuition fee is € 500 per week, for non-UGent students (until PhD level) € 250 per week.

UGent students do not have to pay a tuition fee.

2 bursaries of 500€ (incl. exemption tuition fee) are available to compensate travel costs for students from the VLIR-UOS eligible country list.

2 tuition fee waivers of 250€ per week are available for students from countries from the OESO-DAC list.

The tuition fee does not include accommodation. Some ideas for accommodation at Ghent:

- http://www.jeugdherbergen.be/nl/jeugdherbergen/in-de-stad/gent-de-draecke youth hostel in the city center
- http://monasterium.be/index.php?taal=eng - old monastery, in the city center, they have expensive rooms, but also a couple of basic rooms for a cheap price.
- http://www.hostel47.com/en/ nice hostel, nice location, but not near the train station or the campus
- http://www.bedandbreakfast-gent.be/ database with B&B's
- http://www.chamade.be/ decent hotel near the train station and the faculty, bit expensive 99€ per night breakfast incl.
- https://furnishedapartmentsgent.be/rentals/parkstudios/ fully furnished studios near to the campus and train station

Application procedure

Please use the online application form available here. You should register first with your e-mail address and choose a password. Once registered you will receive an e-mail (check your SPAM-box) with a link to the application form and a confirmation of your chosen password. Click the link and login with your e-mail address and your chosen password. Fill in the online application, follow the instructions and upload all required documents. Once you have completed the form, a submit button will appear in the upper right corner. After submission, you will receive an automatic e-mail containing an unique application number and the pdf of your application form.

Once you have registered for the course, you will receive an e-mail in due time containing the payment instructions. Payments can be done securely online (Visa, MasterCard, Bancontact).Once the tuition fee is paid, your reservation for the course is confirmed.

Deadline for registration is 1 December 2018. Deadline for scholarship application is 15 August 2018.

In case you have questions, you may contact us on nematology.gent@ugent.be

Venue

Nematology Research Unit, Campus Ledeganck, Ghent University, K.L. Ledeganckstraat 35, 9000 Ghent, Belgium

Teaching staff

Ann Vanreusel is head of the research group Marine Biology and is expert in meiobenthos ecology with a focus on nematodes in extreme marine environments including abyssal ecosystems, poly-metallic nodule areas, submarine canyons, cold water corals, cold seeps, polar deep-sea and Antarctic coastal systems.

Wim Bert is head of the Nematology Research Unit that focuses on taxonomy, phylogeny, morphology, and biology of nematodes from natural and agricultural ecosystems, including free-living, plant-parasitic, virus-vector, facultatively parasitic, and entomopathogenic nematodes.

Ursula Eisendle-Flöckner is head of Association Research Group Nematology of Salzburg University, Austria that focuses on the analysis of structural (taxonomy, morphometry) and functional (resource use, trophic position) aspects of free-living freshwater nematodes.

Nic Smol has a long-time experience in taxonomy and ecology of marine nematodes and was coordinator of the international MSc course in Nematology at Ghent University, where she taught many courses.

Tania Campinas Bezerra is a marine nematologist working at the marine research group and a graduate of the MSc in Nematology course at Ghent University. She is currently the main responsible for the NeMys database.

Nic Smol

Meiofauna Workshop at CUSAT (Cochin University of Science and Technology), Cochin, India

A workshop was organized by my host, Dr. S. Bijoy Nandan, Professor in Department of Marine Biology, Microbiology & Biochemistry, School of Marine Sciences during my visit to his lab on a Fulbright Specialist fellowship in Cochin, India, February 6-9, 2018. The lectures presented during the workshop are compiled in a training manual by Dr. Nandan and his student, Jayachandran. The workshop was attended by 35 participants who included students and researchers from different parts of India and one from Kuwait. The program included lectures by scientists including Dr. Baban Ingole (*Minor Meiofauna Phyla; Culture and Propagation of Meiofauna*), Dr. M. Minu (*Taxonomy and Ecology of Meiobenthic Foraminifera*), Dr. C. Annapurna (*Sampling and Processing of Meiofauna; Morphology and Taxonomy of Podocopan Ostracods) and Harpacticoid copepods*), Dr. A.K.U. Jaleel, (*Meiofaunal Polychaetes - Taxonomy and Ecology*), Dr. Hari Krishnan, (*Molecular Characterization and Metagenomic Studies of Meiobenthos*), Dr. S. Ajmal Khan and Dr. K. Ansari, (*Meiofaunal Ecology and Characterization with Special Reference to Functional Diversity and Sssemblage of Nematodes*) and Dr. Jyotsna Sharma (*Introduction to Meiofauna; Experiment Design and Sampling Strategies; Identification of marine nematodes; Importance of*

Nematodes in Environmental Biomonitoring). Dr. S. Ajmal Khan also led a practical exercise on *'Application of Analytical Tools in Meiobenthic Studies'*. The workshop also included a morning field trip on board the boat "Harisree" in Cochin estuary to demonstrate sampling and collection methods followed by an afternoon in the lab to demonstrate sorting, analysis and preparation of meiofaunal samples for identification.

The workshop was first of its kind conducted in India and provided an opportunity for many researchers to gain exposure to meiofauna research and understand the difficulties associated with it. The participants had an opportunity to network and interact with each other to learn about relevant research in India and elsewhere. It was also a forum for the participants to engage in scientific discussions and to share common research problems and goals. Many participants expressed their concern on the lack of taxonomic expertise of many meiofauna groups and the need for enhanced knowledge on their changing trophic character in the context of climate change and anthropogenic disturbances. While many of the issues that were discussed are universal to science, the camaraderie among the participants was evident as they shared problems of working with meiofauna.

Jyotsna Sharma

Expeditions

Chilean meiofauna

Chile is a paradise for meiobenthologists, and for marine biologists in general. With an endless Pacific coastline , a little bit of the Atlantic, close to Antarctica and including remote south Pacific islands like Easter Island. Despite such fascinating circumstances, the Chilean meiofauna remains largely unknown. All research up to date can be regarded only as fragmentary. There have been few investigations, mainly on harpacticoids and nematodes, but very few on flatworms and none at all on gastrotrichs, acoels, gnathostomulids, tardigrades or meiofaunal polychaetes, to name just a few groups. Matthew Lee from the Universidad de Los Lagos in Puerto Montt is one of the few, if not the only researcher in Chile concentrating on meiofauna and maintains the website "MeioChile" (meiochile.matthewlee.org) in attempt to collate the available information and ecourage other to work on the Chilean meiofauna.

South Chilean beach at San Juan, close to Punta Arenas

I have recently visited Chile to study meiofauna. This was made possible by the programme "Concurso Atracción de Capital Humano Avanzado del Extranjero", supported by the Chilean research agency CONICYT and organised by Juan Cañete at the Universidad Magellanes in Punta Arenas. The goal of my stay was to take a closer look at different sediments along the Magellan Strait close to Punta Arenas, the Puerto Montt region and the beaches close to Coquimbo in north-central Chile. The hosts were, as mentioned, Juan Cañete, Matthew Lee (Universidad de Los Lagos in Puerto Montt) and, Javier Sellanes (Universidad Catolica del Norte in

Coquimbo). A broad diversity of specimens across the common meiofaunal taxa were found with likely new species at least among polychaetes, flatworms and gastrotrichs. A closer look at the meiofaunal diversity by specialists for each group is desirable and would give any further meiofaunal research in this region a firm foundation.

An unidentified kalyptorhynch flatworm, very likely a new species. It was found at La Serena, close to the lighthouse (Faro)

Meiofaunal taxa can be used elegantly for a set of ecological and ecotoxicological questions. For example, the impact of mine tailings in Northern Chile on meiofauna has been shown by Matthew Lee in several publications. I hope that more researchers will visit Chile to carry out meiofauna research and that more students and researchers at Chilean universities will develop a fascination for this kind of research.

Andreas Schmidt-Rhaesa

New members

Dr. S. Bijoy Nandan
Professor and Head of Dept. of Marine biology, Microbiology & Biochemistry, School of Marine Sciences, Cochin University of Science & Technology
Kochi, Kerala, India

Research Interests: Benthic ecology, Meiofauna community studies, Marine ecology

Dr. Peter Bowler

Department of Ecology and Evolution
University of California, Irvin, USA

Research Interests: Benthic ecology

Recent Literature

Marine and general

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