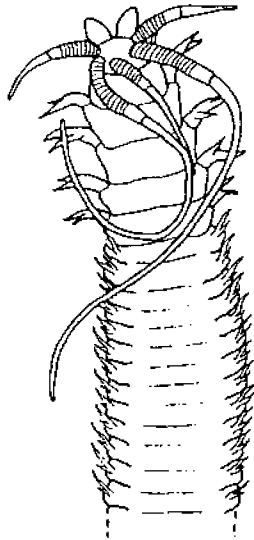


March, 1995

Vol. 13, No.11

<b>NEXT MEETING:</b>	SCBPP Problem Non-polychaete and Polychaete Species
<b>GUEST SPEAKER:</b>	none
<b>DATE:</b>	April 10 and April 24
<b>TIME:</b>	9:30am - 3:30pm
<b>LOCATION:</b>	See below



(from Banse and Hobson, 1974)

#### APRIL 10 & 24 MEETINGS

In March there will be two meetings on SCBPP problem species. One for non-polychaete species on Monday, April 10th at the Natural History Museum of Los Angeles County and one for polychaetes on Monday, April 24th at the City of San Diego's Marine Biology Lab. A map has been included with this newsletter for San Diego's lab. The non-polychaete meeting will be addressing problems in the amphipod families Isaeidae, Aoridae, Ischyroceridae, and Bateidae; reporting on progress since the March meeting, and continuing to problems unaddressed then. The polychaete meeting will be focusing on the families Cossuridae, Cirratulidae, Capitellidae, Maldanidae,

Syllidae, Owenidae, Sphaerodoridae and Terebellidae. Please bring your specimens, voucher sheets, and any literature that may be pertinent to your specimens to the meetings.

### SCAMIT ELECTION

The election of SCAMIT officers for 1995-96 is now completed. Twenty ballots were received. There were no write-in's; reelection of the serving officers was unanimous. We thank you voters, and hope that you will continue to vote in future elections. We also hope that non-voters will participate in the future, although it is hard to get involved in an election when only a single choice is offered. The solution to that is, of course, for more members to allow themselves to be nominated, and to accept positions as officers.

Several respondents used the opportunity to provide feedback and suggestions for future meeting topics. Among the suggestions were; the polychaete family Lumbrineridae; the impact of El Niño, and physical oceanographic changes in general, on environmental monitoring; and the amphipod family Ischyroceridae. We have already acted on the last suggestion, addressing the genus *Ischyrocerus* during our March 13 meeting.

### NEW LITERATURE

The journal, *Actes de la 4ème Conférence internationale des Polychètes*, from the 4th International Polychaete Conference held in Angers, France in 1992 is currently available in either English or French. Larry Lovell gave the price at the time he ordered during the March 13 meeting. Since his purchase, decline in the value of the dollar has led to a somewhat higher current price. Purchase price has most recently been quoted as \$90.30 + \$17.75 handling and postage (sea mail). Air mail shipping would be an additional charge.

It is unclear if the quoted price is subject to modification through exchange fluctuation. To order please contact:

Universal Book Services  
Dr. W. Backhuys  
P.O. Box 321  
2300 A.H. Leiden  
The Netherlands  
Tel: [31] (71) 17 02 08  
Fax: [31] (71) 17 18 56

A new publication of interest to members has just become available: *Pacific Coast Crabs and Shrimp* by Gregory C. Jensen. Caridean and penaeid shrimp are included, as are both brachyuran and anomuran crabs. Coverage is restricted to shallow-water species (100 ft. or less) with smaller species also omitted. Over 160 species occurring from southeast Alaska to the Mexican border are discussed and depicted in a color photograph (most in situ). It is available from Sea Challengers for \$21.95 +tax, and shipping.

Sea Challengers  
4 Sommerset Rise, Monterey  
California, 93940

Also, Larry Lovell's spionid paper, *Pseudatherospio fauchaldi*, a new genus and species of Spionidae (Polychaeta, Annelida) from southern California, USA, is now available as a reprint. A copy may be requested from him.

### RETIREMENT

Recently, Larry Lovell had a phone conversation with Dr. Minoru Imajima who informed him that he had retired last year from the National Science Museum in Tokyo. However, he is still involved in polychaete research and may be able to obtain specimens from the museums collections. Larry will be writing to him soon and confirming this.

### NEW CATALOG

BioQuip's new 1995 catalog is now available. BioQuip is located in Gardena at 17803 LaSalle Ave. Phone # (310) 324-0620. For members that live outside the Los Angeles area there is also a sister store called College Biological Supply in Escondido that carries many of the same products as BioQuip, just not so many entomological supplies.

### WET STORAGE PAPER PROBLEM

Leslie Harris (NHM-AHF) has found an alternative source for label paper that was reported about in a recent newsletter of the Society for the Preservation of Natural History Collections. The Bishop Museum in Hawaii has been using *Forbon* 10VF Tagstock for over 25 years. It is a tough, dense, waterproof paper that is a vulcanized fibre made from cotton and contains no plastic fibres or 'plastic infusion'. It can be written on and used in a dot matrix printer, but is probably too stiff for a laser printer. It is available through University Products. Also reported about in this same article was *Tyvek*, a polyethylene paper made by DuPont. This paper was also mentioned in the last SCAMIT newsletter. It does melt in some laser printers and the long term durability of this paper in alcohol is uncertain. For specific product information about *Tyvek* call (800) 448-9835.

### POLYCHAETE CONFERENCE

Attached to the newsletter is a news release from Dr. Pei-Yuan Qian of the Hong Kong University of Science & Technology about the upcoming International Polychaete Conference in July. This news release was obtained by Larry Lovell as E-mail thru Internet from the *Chaetozone* newsletter of America Online. It has been included in its entirety to assist those that will be attending the conference.

### EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

On 1 March an executive committee meeting was held at SCCWRP. All four officers were in attendance and were joined by member Dave Montagne.

The first topic discussed was life memberships. Several members have expressed an interest in obtaining a life membership. It was decided that it would be too difficult to determine a price for life memberships. We also don't know what the future holds for SCAMIT and might not be able to refund any money if something should happen. However, it was decided that members could pay for several years in advance if they preferred.

New SCAMIT brochures are currently being worked on by Treasurer, Ann Dalkey. They will hopefully be completed by the SCAS meetings. When they are finished we will include a new brochure for every member with the newsletter. These are for members to keep and refer to or pass on to potential new members.

The topic of indexing the newsletter by species name was also addressed at the meeting. All of the officers agreed this would be very helpful and has been done in the past with the first 4 volumes. SCAMIT is hoping to provide members with a past index for volumes 5-13 that would appear in volume 14. Also, we would hope to continue this index on a yearly basis.

It was decided at the meeting that back issues of the newsletter should be made available to those who wish to purchase them. If a whole volume is requested the prices are as follows:

Vols. 1 - 4 (compilation)	\$ 30.00
Vols. 5 - 7 (compilation)	\$ 15.00
Vols. 8 - 13	\$ 20.00/vol.

Single back issues of the newsletter may also be purchased at cost. Anyone interested in

obtaining these back issues should contact Ann Dalkey.

The main issue discussed at the executive meeting was the update of the SCAMIT Taxa List of Soft Bottom Macroinvertebrates, which was due out this month. It has been decided that the list should be updated after the SCBPP is finished in order to incorporate all the taxonomic changes from the project. Also included will be an SCBPP trawl-caught megafauna list with a separate index. This list has already been compiled by Dave Montagne (CSDLAC).

#### MINUTES FROM MARCH 13

Before starting on our discussion of amphipods we covered several other groups. The first was the seastar genus *Luidia*. This was reviewed and discussed prior to the trawl effort in August 1994, but examination of vouchers from the trawls has pointed out some difficulties. A key was provided in the handout produced by Don Cadien and distributed at the pre-trawl meeting last year. It has since been found to only be workable with fully adult specimens, and to give bad identifications when applied to smaller specimens. It will be replaced with a new key in a future newsletter.

The problems were related to application of paxillae shape in separation of species. All species, when young, have stellate paxillae. In the key, presence of stellate paxillae would lead to identification as *L. asthenosoma*, while presence of quadrate paxillae would lead to the other two species. In consequence, many small *Luidia* were incorrectly identified as *L. asthenosoma* during the SCBPP trawls. Most of these specimens were actually *L. armata*, but some were *L. foliolata*. All the available voucher and FID specimens have been reexamined, and attempts are underway to correct field identifications where possible. Small specimens of all three species were

examined during the meeting.

Megan Lilly (CSDMWWD) informed us that she will be undertaking close examination of trawl collected *Octopus*, and also videotaping them, in an effort to locate field marks for *Octopus veligero* (see discussion in last month's Newsletter).

She also notified us of a new facility established in Texas by R. T. Hanlon for cephalopod research. The National Center for Cephalopod Research (NCCR), located at the University of Texas Medical Branch at Galveston, offers everything necessary for experimental work on living cephalopods. Facilities include four different field vessels (up to a 51-ft trawler), both wet and dry laboratory space, aquaria, and office space for visitors. An extensive cross-referenced cephalopod library is available.

Three local squid species are available, *Lolliguncula brevis*, *Loligo plei*, and *Loligo pealei*. The squid *Sepioteuthis lessoniana* and the cuttlefish *Sepia officinalis* are cultured at the center, and are available year-round.

All these materials are not without cost. Fees are \$250 for one or two days, \$800 per week, or \$3000 per month. Those wishing further information should contact the Center at

Marine Biomedical Institute  
National Resource Center for Cephalopods  
301 University Boulevard  
Galveston, Texas 77555-1163  
Phone: (409) 772-2133  
Fax: (409) 772-6993  
E-mail: hanlon@mbian.utmb.edu  
or forsythe@mbian.utmb.edu

John Ljubenkov showed us specimens of the unidentified pterobranch mentioned in last month's Newsletter. He also showed us two anemones recently taken, although not from SCBPP samples. The first was a cerianthid from 10m in Los Angeles Outer Harbor,

*Botruanthus benedeni*. This 1-1½ inch long form has a velvety purplish black column, and short tan tentacles without basal color spots. Internally it is characterized by presence of **botrucnids**, clusters of small grape shaped structures on the mesenteries. These are not present on very small specimens, but should be on at least a few of the mesenteries of sub-adult and adult specimens. One of the specimens had an internally budded second individual at it's base. This species was originally described from San Diego Bay (Torrey & Kleeberger, 1909).

John also presented specimens of *Halcampa crypta*, a very small species he has found in lagoons in northern San Diego County. Unlike *Halcampa decemtentaculata* from semi-exposed and exposed sandy subtidal areas, this estuarine animal never gets larger than 5mm in length.

After a brief recap of character selection in the genus *Photis*, we began discussion of species encountered in the SCBPP. The following were reported by the participants as being taken in SCBPP samples they had seen:

- Photis bifurcata* Barnard 1962
- Photis brevipes* Shoemaker 1942
- Photis californica* Barnard 1962
- Photis lacia* Barnard 1962
- Photis linearmanus* Conlan 1994
- Photis macrotica* Barnard 1962
- Photis parvidons* Conlan 1983
- Photis viuda* Barnard 1962
- Photis* sp C of SCAMIT
- Photis* sp LA1
- Photis* sp LA2
- Photis* sp OC1

*Photis* sp D of SCAMIT was again suggested as a senior synonym of *P. linearmanus*. Don Cadien is examining specimens identified as both in an attempt to confirm or refute this synonymy. He is also reexamining *Photis* sp LA 2, which bears a strong resemblance to *P. lacia*, and may only represent a variant pigmentation for that species.

Doug Diener (MEC) brought up the question of pigment pattern in the genus, and it's usefulness as a discriminatory character. He said his approach was that pattern was useful within a location or circumscribed area, but that it was not reliable for specimens from broadly separated locales. Carol Paquette (MBC) agreed with him. Don Cadien (CSDLAC) maintained that pigment patterns provide hypotheses of difference or identity which could be disproved by further morphological examination. He uses pigment for initial segregation of *Photis* species within a sample.

One group of specimens examined during the December 1994 amphipod workshop with Dr. Jim Thomas of the Smithsonian was reexamined during the meeting. When originally examined these specimens were considered only color variants of *Photis californica*. There proved to be several differences in morphology found during this reexamination which prompted erection of *Photis* sp OC1 as a provisional taxon for the specimens. They had, in addition to their speckled color pattern; a ♂ gnathopod 2 dactyl lacking distal swelling; a ♂ coxa 2 which was anterodistally produced, forming a rhombic rather than rectangular coxa; and a lack of the anterodistal process on article 2 of gnathopod 2 of the ♀.

The characteristic pigment pattern of dark purplish black lines dorsally on the first two segments of antenna one normally found on *P. californica* was replaced by scattered translucent brown spots/blotches on article one of antenna one. Article two in this form was without pigmentation. A voucher sheet on this species is being prepared by Doug Diener, and should be available for the April meeting.

Northeastern Pacific members of the genus *Ischyrocerus* were also discussed. Carol Paquette showed a specimen of her provisional taxon *Ischyrocerus* sp C of Paquette. This had a clear eye, without a dark core, like that of *I.*

*litotes*; third uropodal rami with numerous small teeth (also like *I. litotes*); and a ♂ gnathopod 2 like that of *I. claustris*.

This combination of characters seems to eliminate all known northeast Pacific species, including the two undescribed forms *Ischyrocerus sp A* and *Ischyrocerus sp B* of Barnard 1969. Although there is a slight possibility that the ♂ gnathopod 2 is within the range of variability of *I. litotes*, this is unlikely. Carol is preparing a voucher sheet for this species which should be ready for the April meeting. She has taken this form only off Goleta, in 75-90 feet of water.

Don Cadien is working on a key to the genus from the northeast Pacific using characters of the eye and coxae so that specimens which have lost uropods or gnathopods can be identified. It will include the following species of *Ischyrocerus*: *anguipes*, *litotes*, *pelagops*, *claustris*, *sp A*, *sp B*, *sp C*, and *serratus*.

Apparently none of the SCBPP collections have contained problem specimens of *Gammaropsis*. Doug Diener reported taking numerous *G. ociosa* from one or two western Santa Barbara Channel samples, but none of the other participants had encountered any *Gammaropsis* other than *G. thompsoni*. We will continue with *Photis*, and begin *Protomedeia*, *Ericthonius*, and bateiids at the next meeting.

## MINUTES FROM MARCH 20

This meeting was for SCBPP problem polychaete species. The families discussed included Trichobranchidae, Onuphidae, Ampharetidae, and Sabellidae. It was decided to review the Cossuridae family at the next meeting. So far most taxonomists have been finding cossurids with the distinct staining pattern of *Cossura sp. A* of Phillips in their SCBPP samples. Members should bring their cossurids to the next meeting with illustrations of their staining patterns for comparisons.

The only problem with the Trichobranchidae family brought up at the meeting is an intermediate form that seems to be between *Terebellides californica* and *T. reishi*. Larry Lovell has seen a few of these in SCBPP samples. Except for this somewhat intermediate form *T. californica* and *T. reishi* should be readily distinguishable. *Terebellides kobei* has been reported by San Diego and is a possibility for the SCBPP samples. Except for these 3 species the rest of the species on Larry's *Terebellides* table from the last newsletter are generally found north of Pt. Conception.

A majority of the day was spent examining specimens of the Onuphidae family. *Mooreonuphis segmentispadix* (Shisko 1981) has been reported from SCBPP station 1120 off of Oceanside at approx. 160 meters depth. It has subacicular hooks from setiger 15. Compound spinigers from setigers 5-15. Dark pigment was present in very wide (two-thirds of segment), evenly spaced bands on the dorsum.

A *Mooreonuphis sp.* from SCBPP sta. 1903 at 111 meters depth was reported by San Diego and examined at the meeting. It had branchiae beginning on the 10th setiger, subacicular hooks from the 10th setiger, and pseudocompound hooks in the first 5 setigers. This does not fit the description for *M. segmentispadix* because the subacicular hooks start earlier on the specimen and it has pseudocompound hooks in the first 5 setigers rather than 4. Also using Fauchald's 1982 key this *Mooreonuphis* does not key to anything else. Therefore, it is being left as a provisional.

Ron Velarde (CSDMWWD) provided members at the meeting with some revisions for Fauchald's 1982 key to the species of *Mooreonuphis*. To couplet 1 this line may be added: Branchiae begin on setiger 9 - 15, are pectinate posteriorly, and subacicular hooks from setiger 15 .....*M. segmentispadix*. To

couplet 9 this line may be added: Branchiae begin on setiger 14 - 16 .....*M. exigua*.

There is a 2nd form or color morph of *Mooreonuphis nebulosa* that appears in Point Loma's Onuphidae key from SCAMIT newsletter vol. 11 no. 2. We examined a specimen of this form from San Diego to notice how the pigment spots differed from the common form. This second form looks as if the two pigment spots on each segment have grown together and started to form a band. CSDLAC has never seen nor reported this 2nd form from their monitoring area off Palos Verdes and has not seen it in any of their SCBPP samples. However, both San Diego and Orange County have reported this 2nd form of *M. nebulosa*.

Another *Mooreonuphis* that was examined from San Diego was *M. stigmatis* from sta. 2001 near the Mexican border at 43 meters. Upon examination at the meeting this specimen turned out to be *Onuphis eremita parva*. It has simple branchiae from setiger 1 that is pectinate posteriorly, pseudocompound hooks tridentate in the first 4 setigers and dark pigmentation. However, it also had interramal papillae present in setigers 4 - 10. This is a characteristic that has been overlooked by many taxonomists in the past. On smaller specimens of *O. eremita parva* these papillae are not easily seen, but on larger animals it appears as a small lobe. Fauchald (1982) does mention this characteristic in his description of *O. eremita parva*. CSDLAC also had several specimens of *O. eremita parva* from shallow water off the San Gabriel River that were also confirmed at the meeting.

CSDLAC had a few provisional specimens thought to perhaps be *Onuphis geophiliformis*. They were from SCBPP sta. 1170 and 1191 off King Harbor and Palos Verdes Point in 83m and 177m of water. Although, this species was described from Japan both Leslie Harris (NHM-AHF) and Tony Phillips (HYP) have reported this species from the area. These

specimens from CSDLAC had branchiae beginning on setigers 3 and 4 and subacicular hooks from setiger 9 it was decided that they should be designated as *O. cf. geophiliformis* and a voucher sheet written up. Also San Diego had a similar specimen with branchiae beginning on setiger 3 and subacicular hooks from setiger 10.

Another odd onuphid from CSDLAC that was examined at the meeting from SCBPP sta. 1214 at 104 meters was *O. iridescens* with a regenerated anterior end. This specimen had *O. iridescens*' characteristic iridescent sheen but with a small prostomium and smaller lobes on the parapodia in the first couple of setigers. This process of regeneration in onuphids often causes branchiae, cirri, antennae, setae and parapodia to not occur as long as or as far forward on the specimens as it would on normal, unregenerated onuphids. This may often lead the taxonomist astray when identifying onuphids to species level.

At the meeting a few problem SCBPP ampharetids were examined. San Diego had two specimens from sta. 1774 at 103m and sta. 1794 at 97m. These specimens had 15 thoracic setigers, of which 12 were uncinigerous, 12 - 13 abdominal setigers, small paleae, crenulated lower lip of the peristomium, pigment patch on the dorsal side of the prostomium, and 2 long lateral cirri on the pygidium. This is being left as a provisional for now. CSDLAC also had an odd ampharetid that seemed to be *Samytha californiensis* only with 16 thoracic setigers rather than 17 as described for *S. californiensis*. This specimen also had shorter branchiae and it was not inserted like *S. sexicirrata*.

Two other ampharetid species that have been confused in the past are *Sosane occidentalis* and *Sosanopsis sp. A*. This is mainly due to the confusion between paleae and flabellum. They are not the same. Paleae is the thick modified, golden setae and flabellum is thin and capillary-like and directed forward. These

may both occur on an ampharetid or each may occur by itself depending on the species.

The most unusual specimen examined at the meeting was a sabellid from CSDLAC. It occurred at two SCBPP stations 0115 and 1340. It lacked an anterior peristomial ring collar and ventral filamentous appendages. It has long curved thoracic uncini and a manubrium is present in abdominal uncini. It also has 3 pairs of radioles and 1 pair of eyes in the pygidium and prostomium. Dr. Kirk Fitzhugh (NHM-AHF) examined the specimens and determined that it was the species *Pseudofabriciola californica* that he had previously described from off of Santa Rosa Island (Fitzhugh, 1991). This finding represents the second occurrence of this sabellid in the area.

#### CORRECTION

In the last newsletter ("Stink Worms" Vol. 13[10]) we erroneously reported that bromophenols were detected in the *Pista fasciata* samples analyses. They were specifically **not** found. The chemists surmised that these volatile compounds had been lost during handling of the specimens, as bromophenols had been identified previously in other *Pista*. The editor apologizes for this error.

#### MEMBER FEEDBACK

Dear Editor:

I read with interest your January 1995 discussion of "fair use" and violations of copyright laws. Unfortunately, you misinterpreted the court action as a challenge to the use of single copies for personal use. This was not the case and was subsequently explained in a letter-to-the-editor of *Science* (Feb 10, 1995).

The letter explained that Texaco's practice of xeroxing copyrighted material was not "a single copy for personal use", but instead a systematic practice by the corporation to avoid purchasing multiple subscriptions of copyrighted journals. Additionally, these copies were not "personal use", but specifically for Texaco's commercial activities. The letter further explained that other corporations such as Exxon and Mobil had long established practices where royalty fees are paid to the Copyright Clearance Center.

It seems clear that neither authors or publishers are willing to forgive their legal copyright royalties as a subsidy to someone else's commercial activities. The true tone of these rights can be understood when one reads the Scandinavian University Press statement: "No part of this publication may be reproduced, stored in a retrieval system, or transmitted, in any form or by any means, electronic, mechanical, photocopying, recording, or otherwise, without the prior permission of Scandinavian University Press." Even locally, the Santa Barbara Museum of Natural History's prohibition states: "...may not be reproduced in whole or in part for any purpose whatever, without permission from the publisher" If in fact, publishers and authors wishing to forgo these rights, they can include authorization to copy in the frontpiece of each publication.

The "fair use" of copyrighted material still allows single copies for personal use. I'd send you a copy of the letter from *Science*, but don't want to pay the fee or violate the doctrine of fair use.

T. Parker (CSDLAC)



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**SCAMIT OFFICERS:**

If you need any other information concerning SCAMIT please feel free to contact any of the officers.

President	Ron Velarde	(619)692-4903
Vice-President	Don Cadien	(310)830-2400 ext. 403
Secretary	Cheryl Brantley	(310)830-2400 ext. 403
Treasurer	Ann Dalkey	(310)648-5611

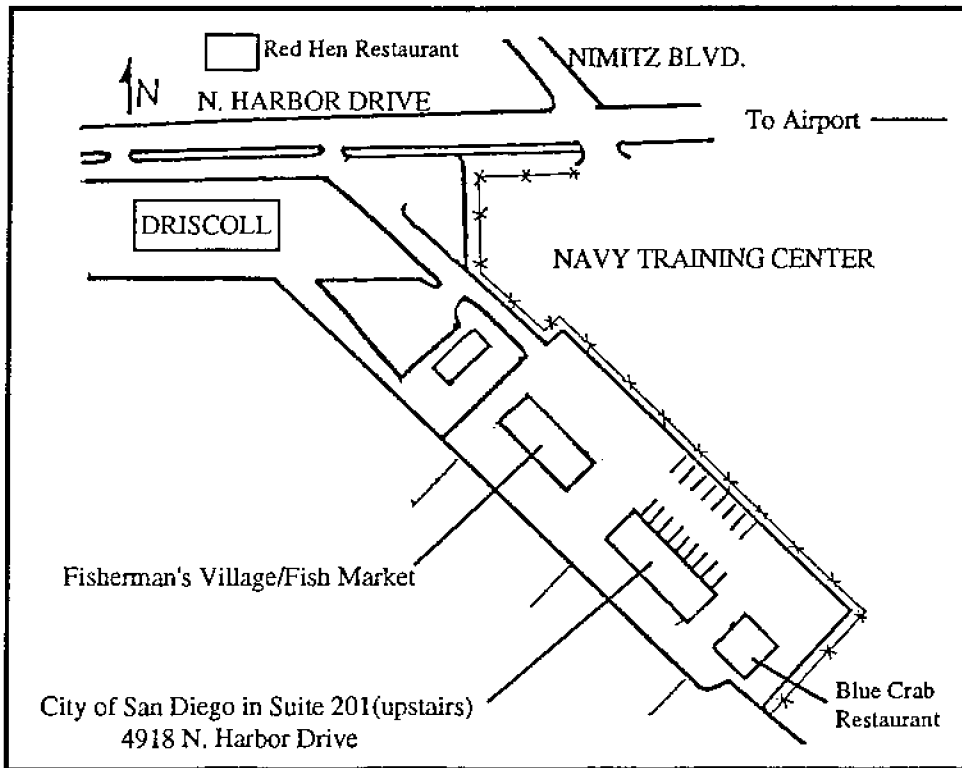
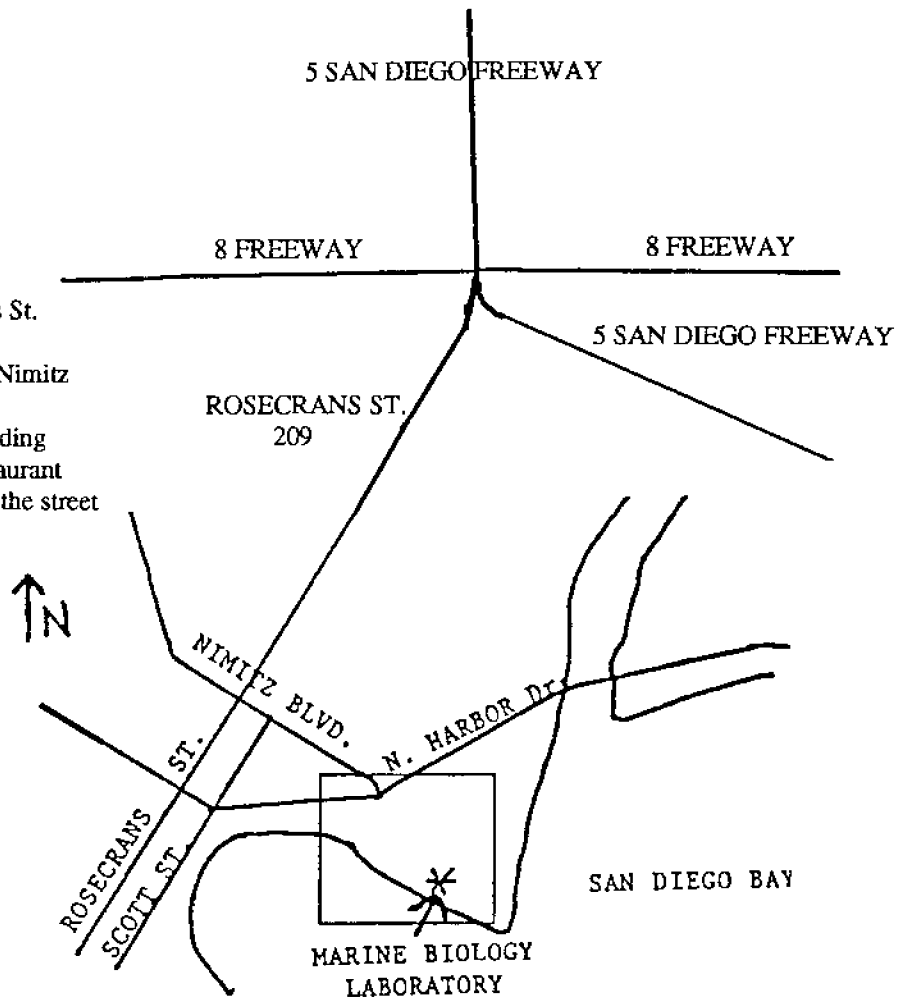
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Volumes 8 - 13 .....	\$ 20.00/vol.

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CITY OF SAN DIEGO'S MARINE BIOLOGY LABORATORY

From North, take 5 South to Rosecrans St.  
 (209)  
 Turn left on N. Harbor Dr. (light after Nimitz  
 Blvd.)  
 The entrance will be after Driscoll building  
 (America III), look for Blue Crab Restaurant  
 sign; the Red Hen Restaurant is across the street



City of San Diego in Suite 201 (upstairs)  
 4918 N. Harbor Drive

Dear Polychaete Scientists,

There are only four months left before the July meeting in Qingdao. I would like to report to you that everything for the conference preparation proceeds as planned and the organisation committee is going to run at its full speed from now on. I will be [have been] in Qingdao from February 26 to March 6 to work closely with Professor Baoling Wu as well as the Chairman of the Science Council of Qingdao city (one of the local hosts). If you have any particular concerns about the conference organisation, please don't hesitate to contact me directly. I would appreciate your inputs very much.

The Conference will run between July 2-7 and post-conference tours start on July 8. Please disregard the weekday names in the 2nd Circular -- July 2 will be Sunday of course and July 7 will be Friday!

Recently, I have received a lot of requests about travel in China and post-conference tour booking. Although I have tried my best to accommodate each request, I think the following information may help other friends.

1. Many friends found difficulties in booking domestic flights in China through their travel agent. I suggest that all of you should contact the office of China Travel in your country, which is the best information source. Also, China Travel will be able to help you to book your flights in China (connect from Beijing (or Shanghai) to Qingdao. The transportation for your post-conference tours (flights or trains) will be taken care of by us.
2. If you have booked for the post-conference tours, your tour will start on July 8 (right after the conference) and end on the last day of your tour. So, if you want to book your flights, you can decide your own departure day (on last day of your tour). If you wish to stay in China longer, you should inform us so that we can help you to make special arrangements for your hotel. By now, we have about 40 people booked for tour 4 (Qingdao-Xian-Beijing) and about 10 people booked for tour 2 (Qingdao-Shanghai-Hangzhou-Shanghai). The number is going to increase as we are receiving late registrations every day.
3. For those of you who have not been able to submit your abstract before the deadline, please send me your abstract directly through e-mail (boqianpy@usthk.ust.hk) or fax (my fax number is 0852-2358-1559) immediately.

*From Chaetozone Newsletter - Email*

4. For many of you who have neither paid your deposit nor returned the registration form to us, please cooperate with us. It will help us to plan the conference tremendously. It may be very difficult for us to book your hotel or tours in summer as Qingdao is the summer resort of China, and all sorts of accommodation and the flights in or out of Qingdao will be booked by tourists long before the summer.

5. Receipts of your deposit will be ready for you to pick up on registration day at the registration desk.

NEWS RELEASE NO. 2, 13 March, from the Secretary General.

In my recent trip to Qingdao, China, I have held several meetings with local hosts of the conference, particularly with the Director and Deputy Director of the First Institute of Oceanography, SOA (Professor Wu's home institute), and Chairman and Vice Chairman of Science Council of Qingdao City (another host). After many discussions, we have appointed two deputy secretary generals (Deputy Director of the First Institute of Oceanography, and Deputy Chairman of Science Council of Qingdao City), and seven secretaries to form the whole secretariat of the conference. Each of those will be responsible for certain tasks of the conference (including meeting venues, accommodation, tours, and so on). The deputy secretary general will directly report to me the progress of all aspects and I will go back to Qingdao in May to check the preparations.

In the recent meetings, we have made the following decisions which will affect each of the participants:

1. In the reception evening, the conference will provide buffet dinner (original plan is for a light meal). The reception will be in Huanghai hotel where most of the participants are going to stay. It is totally free (including drinks).

2. The conference banquet will be held in Baidaguang Convention Centre (used to be the meeting venue for Chinese government leaders) with 10 courses of Chinese dishes. All the participants will attend free of charges (we decided not to ask you to pay for it). It is still scheduled on the last day of the conference.

3. After my visit to the university dormitories and guest house, I found that those rooms in the university are very good in terms of internal conditions and facilities, however, there are some inconveniences such as no hot-water supply after 8:30, no IDD phone, and no laundries. Also, it may be difficult for you to find a place for dinner. Then, I visited about 10 hotels near the university to see whether we can find a place in the price range but with much better service and more convenient. I went

o Huanghai Hotel and had a number of negotiations with their manager. After hours of bargaining, I have been able to obtain 15 rooms in Huanghai Hotel for those who have registered for the university guest house. The 15 rooms will be on a lower level of the hotel (2nd-4th floors and without a good view), each room with 2 or 3 beds, IDD phone, TV, washroom with bathtub. In a word, a standard hotel room. The price will be USD 35 including breakfast. For those of you who have registered for the Beihai Hotel, you will also move to Huanghai Hotel. With unchanged price, you will have your standard rooms at the level of 5-9th floor of the hotel (much better than in Beihai Hotel). For those of you who have originally signed for the Huanghai Hotel, you will have rooms at 10th-21st floor level with much better views. Also, in your room, you have your own minibar. Huanghai is 3-star hotel with excellent service in all aspects. To experience the hotel's service, I actually moved to that hotel and stayed there for three nights. I tried their buffet breakfast, lunch, and dinners, used their IDD, haircut shop, bar and coffee shops, and duty-free shops. It appears that they are all quite good. There are four restaurants in the hotel serving different styles of Chinese food. The hotel (street address is 75 the First Yanan Road, 2 km away from the downtown area) is about 3-4 minute walking distance from the first bathing beach and faces the largest park in the city (Zhangshan Park) and about 7-8 minutes to Qingdao Aquarium, also about 5 minutes walk to Huiquan Hotel (4-star) where the rest of participants are going to stay.

4. All the participants will have breakfast in their hotels (we have tried to include the breakfast in your price and the conference will provide you with lunch (free of charges).

5. So far, about 120 overseas people have indicated that they definitely will come to the conference, but about 80 have paid their registration fee and booked their post-conference trips (the number may have changed in the last 7 days as the conference receives late registration forms every day). It is very difficult for the conference to plan the tours, banquet, reception, and accommodation as we need the actual number for these. Please do not expect to walk into Qingdao and get a hotel room, as Qingdao's hotel rooms will be fully booked up long before the summer starts. It will also be very difficult for us to arrange your post-conference trip.

6. The third circular and conference program will be separate this time. In fact, I am working on the third circular which will cover information on poster preparation, conference publication, slides, travelling information in Qingdao and so on. I expect that this will be sent to you in early April. The conference program and abstracts will be prepared and printed out in May. However, to save money and time, and also your effort to bring the program back to Qingdao, I will have the program and abstracts included in your registration package, which you will pick up

at the registration desk in Huanghai Hotel. However, a computer copy of the program will be available in May. Whoever wants to know the details about your presentation can contact me in May and I shall be able to forward you a computer copy of the program. (I have received about 75 abstracts so far). All the abstracts received have been reviewed. My technician is retyping the text (some can be scanned but a lot can't) and the editorial work on the abstracts from East European Countries will be done by myself with some help from my postdoc (native Canadian).

7. Due to the above changes, I have decided to extend the deadline of abstract submission to the first week of April. Please send me your abstract directly through the e-mail or fax (0852-2358-1559).

8. Eighty percent of the people who have registered have signed for the post-conference trips. Half of them have chosen trip four, ten have chosen the Shanghai-Hangzhou trip, and about twelve have chosen the Beijing trip. Only three have chosen the Hainan Island trip.

9. For spouses and children, the conference will have a special program for them for the whole week so that they can have chance to learn about Chinese culture. The program will include visiting factories (silk factory, beer factory,...), hospitals, daycares and schools as well as farms, boating, sightseeing, and of course, shopping in free-markets or department stores. Details of this program will be available in May.

10. Pick-up service from airport and train station will be provided for July 1 and 2. Please forward your flight number and arrival time (train number and arrival time) to us as early as possible. The person who will be in charge of your registration and pick-up will be: Professor M. Y. Zhu, Chairman, the Department of Marine Biology, The First Institute of Oceanography, State Oceanic Administration, Qingdao, China. He can be reached by fax: (86)-532-2867468 or by mail at the following address: 3A Hongdao Zhi Road, P. O. Box 98, P. C. 266003, Qingdao, China. Please contact him directly.

Thanks for your cooperation and we wish to meet you in Qingdao.

Pei-Yuan Qian  
Secretary General, the Fifth Polychaete conference

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