



**Southern California Association of
Marine Invertebrate Taxonomists**

3720 Stephen White Drive
San Pedro, California 90731

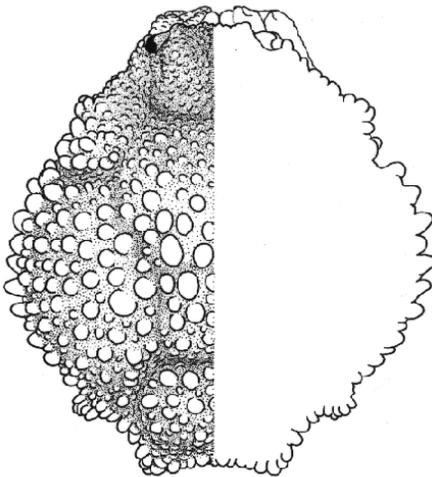
January, 1998

SCAMIT Newsletter

Vol. 16, No.9

NEXT MEETING:	Trawl Invertebrate Identification
GUEST SPEAKER:	Dr. Jim Allen (SCCWRP)
DATE:	Thursday, February 19, 1998
TIME:	9:30AM - 3:30PM
LOCATION:	SCCWRP 7171 Fenwick Lane, Westminster, CA 92683

FEBRUARY 19 MEETING



Carapace of *Randallia bulligera*
(from Hendrickx, 1997)

We switch from preparation for the release of Edition 3 of the SCAMIT list to preparation for the upcoming Regional Monitoring effort. We are beginning early so that time will be available for preparation of field aids for invertebrate (and also fish identification in the field. Such preparation forms the subject matter of our 19 February Meeting where Dr. Jim Allen of SCCWRP will present his ideas on the subject and try to focus our efforts on field ID problem areas (and solutions to these problems) prior to the summer trawl sampling. If time permits we will also attempt to address potential problem areas in the processing of benthic samples as revealed by our experiences in the SCBPP. Come if you can, we need a spectrum of opinion and experience.

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SCAMIT Newsletter is not deemed to be a valid publication for formal taxonomic purposes.

J. D. THOMAS REPRINTS

Long time SCAMIT supporter Dr. J. D. Thomas has elected to have us serve as reprint distributor of his Taxonomic Atlas of the Benthic Fauna of the Santa Maria Basin and Western Santa Barbara Channel amphipod section on the west coast. This formed the majority of Vol. 12 of that serial publication, but several smaller contributions were also included. Jim has sent us both reprints of his portion of Vol. 12 (with co-author Linda McCann), and copies of the entire Volume 12 for distribution to interested parties. Readers should note that this is the original printing of Volume 12; a revised version is available for sale from the Santa Barbara Museum of Natural History.

These reprints are available for the cost of postage on a first-come first-serve basis. Anyone interested in receiving one or the other (please specify reprint or entire Vol. 12) can write, phone, or E-mail the secretary or vice-president. They will respond with the cost of postage (based on destination). Once we receive the postage charge the item will be shipped to you (or can be picked up free at any meeting). We thank Dr. Thomas for making these available to west coast workers in this fashion. Those interested in other reprints should contact him directly at thomasjd@ocean.nova.edu.

NEW LITERATURE

The Atlantic species of the bivalve genus *Dacrydium* were reviewed by Salas and Gofas (1997). Although none of the included species occur in our area, the review itself is helpful in dealing with Pacific members of the genus. Character evaluations, and discussions of phylogeny are augmented by fine micrographs of hinge and protoconch structure in the treated taxa.

A most peculiar color pattern typifies a new species of nemertean described from the french side of the English Channel (Vernet 1997). My immediate response was that this animal is an escapee from the regeneration and somatic mosaic experiments of

other European workers. The striking aspect here is a profound bilateral asymmetry in coloration, with one side of the animal light, and the other dark. While color disparity is often seen between dorsal and ventral faces in nemerteans, one between left and right halves of the animal - with a distinct dividing line between the two areas middorsally - has not been described previously. Fortunately, suspicions of escaped experimental animals are allayed by the presence of morphological characters which separate this taxon from related congeners. This new species appears similar in internal details to some local lineid species, and we should consider if the genus *Myoisophagos*, in which it is placed, might be appropriate for them.

An evaluation of the distribution, behavior and reproductive success of alternate male morphs of the amphipod *Jassa marmorata* was conducted by Clark (1997). She found that both the loud braggarts (major males with enlarged "thumbs") and the mild mannered (minor males lacking "thumb" enlargement) had equivalent reproductive success, although not necessarily at the same time. Each approach is considered an environmentally stable alternative strategy.

Behavioral differences in frequency of fighting, display, and attempted eviction of intruding males between the two morphs were marked. The major morph devoted more energy to assertive behavior, while minor males never fought and only seldom displayed or attempted to displace other minor males.

The recently reported use of ecdysteroid hormones as a deterrent to crab predation on pycnogonids (Tomaschko 1994) has now been more thoroughly examined (Tomaschko 1997). The author details the structure of the chemicals involved, describes their activity and application, and the mechanism of action in the decapod. He also mentions recent experimental trials in his lab which indicate unpalatability of two other species of pycnogonids to cancrroid crabs. Our local *Ammotheilla biunguiculata* was tested, and found to have an as yet undetermined chemical feeding deterrent.

Since ecdysteroids are also essential to the normal growth of the pycnogonids themselves (being used, as their name suggests, in cuticle shedding) the management of the hormone within the animal is of interest. Tomaschko also reports that other researchers have found ecdysteroids at high levels in at least one non-arthropod, suggesting that they may be manufactured and used for defense by animals not otherwise needing them.

Major revisions of two genera of stegocephalid amphipods from the Atlantic and Mediterranean (Berge & Vader 1997a, b) have recently been published. Although restricted to species from out of our area they provide useful ancillary treatments for Pacific species of both genera. Both occur in our general area, but being predominantly pelagic and from waters deeper than sampled by local agencies, they do not occur in our species lists.

The latest issue of the *Bulletin of the Southern California Academy of Sciences* contains several articles of interest to SCAMIT members. Martin & Velarde (1997) redescribe the xanthid crab *Pilumnoides rotundus* based on a specimen taken off Pt. Loma in 1994 during the Southern California Bight Pilot Project. The specimen forms the northernmost record of this rare species.

On a less appealing note Perkins and Gartman (1997) discuss the host-parasite relationship between the parasitic copepod *PhrEXOcephalus cincinnatus* and the Pacific Sanddab (*Citharichthys sordidus*). This eye-parasite is probably the only copepod fish parasite for which occurrence data from local monitoring is reliable. Others, even the flukes which parasitize California Halibut, are too inconspicuous to be reliably recorded in monitoring data not specifically targeted at parasites.

The question of increase or decrease of parasite prevalence in areas of wastewater discharge remains, as the increases noted by the authors conflict with the decreases noted by Mearns & Sherwood (1977). Although nearly all records list Pacific Sanddab as host species, Perkins & Gartman report occurrences on other fishes.

Diener et al (1997) compared performance of two different remote sampling devices, the modified Van Veen Grab and the Clamshell Box Corer (CBC). While the first is the standard "weapon of choice" (or rather "weapon of permit") for all southern California POTW monitoring programs the authors conclude that the CBC is better at some things and as an overall benthic sampling device.

The CBC, in the test sample set used as the basis of the report, had better penetration in sandy sediments, had fewer unproductive deployments, and captured greater numbers of individuals and species than the Van Veen. The authors did not address the minimal vessel requirements for use of the device, but do seem to indicate that it can be used from smaller vessels than the USNEL Box Corer whose best features it sought to emulate.

In development of this device Doug Diener (MEC) seems to have found a way to have the best of both worlds: a sampler small enough to use from the average monitoring vessel which maintains the undisturbed sediment surface provided by the USNEL box corer.

[Please note that all these papers have at least one author who is a SCAMIT member. Nice going!]

Ron Velarde circulated a paper revising the entoproct fauna of the eastern Pacific (Wasson 1997). The author examined historic collections from most of the Pacific coast as well as recent material from several locations between Puget Sound and San Diego. She describes a new taxon, and provides a new name for an unavailable one. Her examination covered not only characters of the adult colonies, but of the larvae as well. She found several species (often of several genera) typically live together intertwined in a common tuft.

We draw your attention to the winter 1997 (Vol. 10 # 4) number of the quarterly *Alolkoy* issued by the Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary. The issue is devoted to a consideration of El Niño and it's effects in the western portion of the Southern California Bight.

In an article on inshore marine effects (Engle 1997), a picture of the result of the echinoderm disease mentioned previously in the Newsletter can be viewed. It shows an *Asterina miniata* (bat star) on the bottom in the process of becoming only a pile of dermal ossicles. The accompanying text provides a nice introduction to the nearshore effects of El Niño warming, an effect only too noticeable in our own sampling.

Other interesting articles on the physical effects of El Niño storms (Crabtree 1997), effects on pinnipeds in the Channel Islands (DeLong & Melin 1997), and on invertebrate larval effects (Gaines 1977) are also offered along with a number of shorter articles. For Net fans there is a listing of nine El Niño related websites providing a variety of different levels of discussion of the phenomenon and its current status.

POLAR INVERTEBRATE RFPs

Those with an interest in or experience in working with the Antarctic fauna may find a recent request for proposals issued by the National Museum of Natural History worthy of a response. The RFP is intended to elicit proposals for basic collections research on the systematics, evolution or biogeography of polar organisms. Other smaller awards will be made to assist projects aimed at improvement of the curation of polar collections already acquired, or to assist in publication of research based on NMNH Antarctic collections. See the attached flyer for details.

MOLLUSK WORKERS LOST IN 1997

Although there are probably several others whom I am overlooking, there are two prominent San Diego area mollusk workers who left us in 1997. The first was Dr. Anthony D'Attilio, associated for many years with the San Diego Museum of Natural History, and coauthor (with Dr. George Radwin) of *Murex Shells of the World*. Tony was an expert on and specialist in muricoid gastropods. The January issue of the *Festivus* (Vol. XXX No. 1) is a

memorial to him, and provides additional information on his life and a bibliography of his many publications.

Paul Skoglund also died in 1997. I know much less about him, but he was deeply involved in the San Diego Shell Club for many years. He and his wife Carol Skoglund were among those who diligently investigated the mollusk fauna of the Gulf of California. He was particularly involved with small boat dredge sampling in the Gulf, and designed several devices to make such collecting easier. A very short announcement of his death is also to be found in the same issue of the *Festivus* cited above.

EXECUTIVE OFFICERS MEETING

On January 28th the four executive officers of SCAMIT met for a brief meeting to discuss several topics pertinent to the organization at the current time. Below is a summary of the major decisions that will effect the membership as a whole in the coming year.

Membership dues -

As of April 1998, which is the start of the fiscal year for SCAMIT, dues will stay \$15 per year for those receiving the Newsletter electronically. They will be increased to \$30 per year for those receiving a printed copy of the newsletter. Hardcopy will continue to be provided to institutional members at no increased cost.

The increased expense in the last few years to print and mail our monthly newsletter (due to its increased size) is the main reason for the increase in dues. The yearly cost to produce the newsletter is currently twice the income from dues. The officers also feel that increased dues for the hardcopy version of the newsletter may help encourage visitation to our website, which currently is underutilized by the membership. When the topic of a website first arose over a year ago there were no objections, and most members agreed that an electronic newsletter was the way to go. Recently, upon inquiring of several members why they were not utilizing the website as

an electronic Newsletter source, the main reasons were inertia and the convenience of printed copy. Those who must have a printed copy (I admit to preferring it myself - ed.) can obtain one free off the website as a downloadable document in PDF format.

As with most things in life, convenience has a price. We have decided that those wanting a printed copy of the Newsletter must bear the cost of producing it. The officers realize that for a small minority of members the increase in dues may be a hardship and we are truly sorry for that. For the few members that don't have access to a computer and the Internet at work or home, public libraries are a great resource. If you bring any paper you need for printing, many libraries provide all you need for web access at no charge, or for a very nominal fee. The rest of us now have the option of receiving the Newsletter free electronically, or of paying the extra \$15 dollars per year required to cover the cost of its printing and mailing.

Website Improvements -

It was decided that SCAMIT would appoint its own webmaster so that more time could be devoted to improving the website and the Secretary relieved of responsibility for the site. While SCCWRP's webmaster Larry Cooper designed the original layout of our site and has been a big help we need to have our own designer/manager. We decided to add the list of SCAMIT members available for consulting work to the website. We will not post a complete membership list, only those members who would like the exposure. If you are currently listed as available for consulting, but do not want your address/telephone etc. listed please notify us. Treasurer Ann Dalkey has created a new database of member names and addresses which is much easier to update. SCAMIT will provide members receiving hard copy a new list each April, at the beginning of the new fiscal year. Members receiving the Newsletter electronically will be sent a current list via E-mail when their new membership year begins.

Newsletter Editor -

It was proposed that the editing of the newsletter be separated from the duties of the Vice President and an appointed position of Newsletter Editor be established. Don Cadien has volunteered to continue as Editor if SCAMIT can elect someone else to serve as Vice President. The duties of the Vice President would then include scheduling meetings, handling the election and planning the Christmas party. The officers realize at this time that finding someone to serve for the coming term might not be possible and this may have to wait until next year. If others are interested in acting as Newsletter Editor, they should contact an officer and announce their interest.

Edition 3 of the Taxa List -

It was decided that Edition 3 would only be available in a printed spiral bound version to SCAMIT members, and then at cost (as yet undetermined, but hopefully under \$10). As mentioned in previous newsletters the addition of synonymies to the list will increase its size by several times. SCAMIT has no incoming funds to support covering these production costs so we are forced to charge the membership. However, the list will be available *free* as a PDF document on the website where members may download it and print out a copy. Non-members will only be able to get the list off the website.

ELECTION

Nominations for new officers for the 1998-99 term were held at the January meetings. Three of the current officers have received and accepted nominations for their current positions. The secretary Cheryl Brantley will not be running for re-election. She needs to take a more behind-the-scenes role at SCAMIT for the coming year due to her obligations at CSDLAC. She hopes to encourage anyone else interested in the secretarial position and will help to make the transition period as smooth as possible. The officers have tried to reduce the responsibilities of the Secretary to make the position less demanding. The officers are actively seeking a

replacement for her position. Anyone interested should contact the Vice President as soon as possible. SCAMIT will still be accepting nominations for all positions until ballots are mailed with the next newsletter.

WEBSITE UPDATE

The biggest improvement to our website will be that SCAMIT will have a new Webmaster soon. Member Jay Shrake (KLI) will be taking over. Jay not only has experience creating webpages, but he has the resources and has generously volunteered his time. Jay has already created the very useful and attractive "Links to Other Environmental Resources" page. For those members that haven't seen this new page yet you definitely want to check it out. Jay has found a number of other websites for many invertebrate groups that SCAMIT deals with. We are sure that this page will also be added to in the future as Jay finds more interesting pages for us. If other members know of any sites that aren't on the list please pass along the URL's and we will incorporate them. With someone to take over the upkeep of the website the secretary will then be able to devote more time to the newsletter and the other secretarial duties, rather than trying to juggle both. We appreciate the efforts of SCCWRP's Webmaster Larry Cooper. Without them the website never would have gotten off the ground. Our website will continue under SCCWRP's site and Larry will still post our files to their ftp site for the time being. In the future SCAMIT may decide to have their own domain.

MINUTES OF JANUARY 12 MEETING

Although (or perhaps because) the meeting was very sparsely attended, we managed to complete our task of review of the mollusk portion of the SCAMIT Ed. 3 list. We were aided by an evaluation of the chitons prepared by member Dr. Tim Stebbins (CSDMWWD). He provided us with a listing of those species on the Ed. 2 list which he considered valid, those he considered invalid, and why. He also

listed a number of taxa reported to occur in the geographic area which had not yet been reported in monitoring programs. Since he is aware of the contents of the as yet unpublished section of the Taxonomic Atlas series by Dr. Doug Eernisse dealing with the chitons, it is likely that his comments will be in consonance with that paper when it is published.

We had hoped to have the final mollusk volume of the Santa Maria Basin Taxonomic Atlas series available prior to the meeting, so the comments of the authors on aplacophores, scaphopods, cephalopods, chitons, and bivalves could be incorporated. We had also hoped that the Coan, Scott & Bernard monograph on California bivalves would make it out in time for inclusion of their synonymies in the Ed. 3 list. Alas, this is not to be the case. Final publication dates for these volumes are still looming, but not at a date certain. Ron Velarde had also found a mention of a new phylogeny of the gastropods by Haszprunar & Lindberg which unites the recent work on the phylogeny of various gastropod groups into a cohesive reexamination of the entire class. This was, however, not available in time for the meeting.

Three chiton species will be added to the list, all from sampling by CSDMWWD off Pt. Loma; *Lepidozona interstincta*, *Lepidozona scabricostata*, and *Callistochiton decoratus*. There may be additional species. Dr. Stebbins will be examining material from CSDLAC and CLAEMD which may yield species not yet reported.

In the gastropods several other newly taken species will be added. Both CLAEMD and CSDMWWD have taken specimens of the scissurellid *Anatoma crispata*, and the fissurellid *Puncturella cooperi* and the trochid *Solariella nuda* have been taken by CSDMWWD. The cerithid *Lirobittium fetellum* was taken by CLAEMD in Santa Monica Bay, as were specimens of *Scabrotrophon maltzani* and *Amphissa reticulata*; all to be added to the list. New records of the triviid *Trivia ritteri*, the muricid *Scabrotrophon grovesi*, and the turrid (now conid!) *Crockerella eriphyle* were reported off Pt. Loma.

Several opisthobranch species were also newly taken by CSDMWWD off Pt. Loma including *Acanthodoris lutea* and *Melibe leonina*. Only four newly taken species of bivalves were reported, all from off Pt. Loma - the glycymerid *Glycymeris septentrionalis*, the carditid *Cyclocardia crassidens*, the tellinid *Tellina meropsis*, and the mactrid *Mactromeris hemphilli*.

For the most part these additions are of species of rare occurrence in traditionally sampled areas. Off Pt. Loma, however, additional areas have been added to the monitoring undertaken by CSDMWWD in recent years, and a number of new taxa have been encountered as a result.

No additional scaphopods, aplacophores, or cephalopods were reportedly taken in the period since Ed. 2. Although there were some questions concerning dates of publication and/or authorship citation, there was little change suggested to the synonymies of the mollusks. For the most part necessary changes to nomenclature arising from the already released volume of the Taxonomic Atlas of the Benthic Fauna of the Santa Maria Basin were already included in the draft list prior to this review. Similarly, changes to bivalve nomenclature indicated in Coan and Scott (1997) were included in the draft.

MINUTES OF JANUARY 26 MEETING

This meeting was a continuation of the December meeting. Those few members present managed to review the second half of the polychaete list for edition 3 of the SCAMIT Taxa list, which is nearing completion. Most of the time spent on the list has been for the additions of the synonymies, which will, hopefully, be very useful to members and others using the list. A great deal of effort has been put into deciding on the particular format for the authorities of these synonymies. We not only want to make sure they are accurate, but also convey the most information. Several new species names have been added to the list mostly by San Diego biologists due to the shallow environment they encounter in their monitoring efforts for the International Treatment Plant. These include:

Phyllodocidae

Lugia uschakovi Blake 1992
Protomystides sp.

Aphroditidae

Aphrodita negligens Moore 1905

Syllidae

Syllis (Syllis) spongiphila Verrill 1885

Nereididae

Neanthes acuminata Ehlers 1868

Nephtyidae

Nephtys simoni Perkins 1980

Eunicidae

Eunice multicylindri Shisko 1981
Eunice multipectinata Moore 1911

We will also be adding Pettibone's (1993) *Malmgreniella* species, *M. liei*, *M. bansei*, *M. maccinitiei*, *M. nigralba*, and *M. sanpedroensis*, even though many SCAMIT members still have taxonomic problems with this group. SCAMIT will try to schedule a future meeting on this topic where members may compare their own specimens with each others and try to fit them more closely with Pettibone's descriptions.

CORRECTIONS

Two changes need to be made to the minutes of the December 8th meeting that appeared in the last newsletter. After more thought by some of the members at the meeting it was decided that SCAMIT would accept Maciolek's (1985) synonymy of *Prionospio lobulata* with *Prionospio ehlersi* and not alter the list. Although the holotype of Fauchald's *P. lobulata* has been examined by SCAMIT members and found to be in poor condition, to *not* agree with the published synonymy would require examination of paratype material. Until that is done SCAMIT will accept the synonymy and leave *P. ehlersi* on the list.

Another change to the polychaete portion of the list that was reported in the December newsletter has also been found to be incorrect. It regards the maldanid, *Petaloclymene pacifica* Green (1997). In the last issue we reported that the local animal referred to as *Euclymene grossa newporti* was actually Karen Green's new species. This turns out not to be true. The report last month was based only on staining patterns, which are similar for the two animals. However, upon comparing the illustrations and descriptions for the pygidiums of these two species they are clearly different. *E. grossa newporti* Berkeley & Berkeley 1941 has a pygidium encircled by 20 lobes as illustrated by Hartman in her Atlas (1969), while Green's *P. pacifica* only has crenellations. It is easy to understand how this mistake was made since often these maldanids are found in samples without their posterior ends. However, this is a good example of how taxonomic identifications based solely on staining patterns can lead one astray. In Edition 3 *E. grossa newporti* will be left on the list, and not included as a synonym for *Petaloclymene pacifica*.

MY LIFE AS A BIOLOGIST By Donald J. Reish

Chapter 4: High School and New Environments

I entered Corvallis High School in my sophomore year. The two subjects I remember the most were accounting and biology. I've commented on my initial interest in accounting, but after I took the course, I knew it wasn't for me as a profession. I remember a great deal about my high school biology class from Miss Patton. She was a very dynamic teacher, excellent in leading and redirecting discussions, and strong on class discipline. Both direction and discipline (learned from her example) were important tools when I taught high school biology. I ran into Miss Patton when I was working on my masters. She remembered me, but she no longer taught biology; she had transferred to teaching math. I thought it was a shame at the time. Her class was a traditional biology class with many drawings required. I never managed an A...it was

always B+. I continued to deliver papers through the year. Bob and I became close friends.

We lived in a duplex, and the man who lived in the other side taught me how to play chess and cribbage. I then taught Miles, John and Bob chess and we had a chess conference. I don't recall who won, but it probably wasn't me. They didn't care for cribbage. We started our football games in the ninth grade. John and I always stood Bob and Miles, and always used the pass-run option play. I do not recall who won these games. Our last game was after WWII when Bob and I were working on a masters and the other two were undergrads (they had been in the Navy; Bob and I were 4F). A couple of years before John died, he wrote me that his wife threw out the old football.

The summer after my sophomore year my mother wanted to take additional music training in Portland. She taught piano lessons both in public school and privately at home. (Neither my brother nor I can play the piano; we heard too much of it at home to want to learn.) My brother was working at the cannery at the time, and my father was in Bend selling Fuller Brushes. My mother rented our place for the summer and went to Portland for lessons. I went to Bend for the summer to live with my Dad.

The bus trip to Bend passed through extensive lava beds as it crossed the Cascade Mountains. The bus driver stopped at the peak and gave us a lecture on the lava formations, etc. This odd geology fascinated me. My Dad lived in a men's boarding house, a common practice all over the United States in those days. You can see the remains of such large buildings in any industrial city. It was my first experience of seeing drunken men and "morning after" effects. I sold some Fuller Brushes during the summer, but I didn't really care for it. I made about a dollar per hour for it, which was good money in those days (Cokes were only a nickel; movies \$0.50). The best part of my summer in Bend was field trips with a church youth group. The minister liked geology, and we visited lava caves, lava cast forests, and obsidian fields.

The country surrounding Bend was dominated by Ponderosa pine and junipers. What a contrast to the Douglas fir forests of western Oregon! The pine forest had much less underbrush, and more open space than the dense fir forest. I used to spend time watching the red ants work these open spaces. Spending summer in a very different environment served to open my eyes to my surroundings. Over the years, I made many trips between Corvallis and Bend, and never got tired of looking at the change from one type of forest to the other.

I returned to Corvallis to enter my junior year in high school. The two subjects I remember most were typing and journalism. I think everyone should acquire typing skill, especially today with computers. I wasn't fast at typing but I was quite

accurate (not needing the current blessings of the computer backspace key). I liked working on the paper. I was being groomed to be the sports editor the next year. I helped write headlines and proof copy. It was an exciting time.

An event occurred a week before Christmas vacation which affected my life. Corvallis experienced a bad flu epidemic, and the high school was closed. At the same time my mother was considering having the daughter of a deceased friend live with us since she and her stepmother didn't get along. She was my age and not very attractive. I decided to go visit my Dad until school started in January. I visited Bend High School and decided to attend the second half of my junior year there. I would still go back to Corvallis High to be sports editor.

[Next time: Bend High School and the beginning of WWII]

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Please visit the SCAMIT Website at: <http://www.sccwrp.org/scamit/>

SCAMIT OFFICERS:

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

			e-mail address
President	Ron Velarde	(619)692-4903	rgv@sddpc.sannet.gov
Vice-President	Don Cadien	(310)830-2400 ext. 403	cbrantley@lacs.org
Secretary	Cheryl Brantley	(310)830-2400 ext. 403	cbrantley@lacs.org
Treasurer	Ann Dalkey	(310)648-5544	cam@san.ci.la.ca.us

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NMNH Department of Invertebrate Zoology Request For Proposals for Research Based on Collections of Polar Marine Invertebrates

November 1, 1997

The Office of Polar Programs at the National Science Foundation (NSF) has identified the National Museum of Natural History (NMNH) as a Center for Excellence for Polar Research. NSF has entered into a cooperative agreement with the Department of Invertebrate Zoology at NMNH to provide funding to support the archiving and management of the extensive collections of marine invertebrates collected during Antarctic research expeditions funded by NSF. The collections include preserved representatives of most major invertebrate groups. Virtually all of the material was initially fixed in formalin and is now stored, with the exception of the unsorted plankton and certain gelatinous taxa, in either ethanol or isopropanol. At present, we have no archived collections of frozen tissue or DNA extracts from polar organisms. Specific information about the processing status of our polar collections, and the availability of specific taxa is currently available on request from the Collections Manager, Department of Invertebrate Zoology, MRC-163, National Museum of Natural History, Smithsonian Institution, Washington, DC 20560. Collection information will also be accessible on the WWW after February 1, 1998.

Proposals are invited from scientists interested in working on USAP collections. Limited support, through three categories of awards, is available through a competitive Research Awards Program. Total funding for this program is \$30,000 for 1998. We expect to fund at least 3 and no more than 5 proposals this funding cycle. The actual numbers of awards made will depend on the funding request in the award recipients proposals. The three proposal categories are described below.

Collections-Based Research Awards are intended to fund original basic research into the systematics, evolution, and biogeography of polar organisms. Priority will be given to research projects that draw heavily on NMNH polar collections. Applicability of the proposed project to our understanding of the systematics of the invertebrate fauna collected in the current Palmer Long Term Environmental Research (LTER) studies may be a selective factor. Awards will be in amounts not to exceed \$10,000. Supported projects should be completed in 12-24 months, with stipends disbursed in four equal payments, each tied to the completion of specific milestones documented in progress reports. Publication of results in a peer-reviewed scientific journal should be the final product. The publication of species descriptions and taxonomic keys or other identification tools is encouraged.

Collection Improvement Awards are intended to fund projects that improve the curation level of the polar collections, and thus the accessibility of the specimens and/or specimen data. Such awards may be made for technical/specialized sorting and identification, taxonomic standardization, data enhancement, collection culling, etc. Expected results would be a fully identified and curated collection, or a completed data enhancement project. Proposals involving a site visit to NMNH to offer advice on the USAP plankton collection holdings appropriate for culling and disposal are encouraged. Awards will be in amounts not to exceed \$5,000, with an expectation that supported projects be completed within a period of 6-12 months. Stipends will be paid in three equal payments, each tied to the completion of specific milestones.

Incidental Awards will consist of smaller sums (maximum of \$500) intended to defray costs associated with the publication of collections-based Antarctic research (i.e., page charges, illustration expenses, typing expenses).

Depending on the taxonomic group under investigation, scientists may be expected to spend at least a portion of their research time at the Smithsonian Institution in order to glean the taxa they are working on from the collections. Researchers interested in using these collections, with or without financial support are requested to submit succinct proposals following the guidelines listed below:

1. Provide the name, title, organization, e-mail address, and curriculum vitae of the principal investigator
2. Provide the names, titles, and organizations of all individuals collaborating on the proposed research
3. Prepare a rigorous but brief (one- to two-page) proposal stating

- a. The proposal category (Collection Improvement, Collections-Based Research, or Incidental Award)
- b. A description of the research (if appropriate, its applicability to current Antarctic research activities)
- c. A list of the taxa of interest
- d. The expected results (e.g., monograph, revision, species description, taxonomic key)
- e. A timetable for completion with milestones to be used as basis for disbursements.
Also include the dates when research is to be conducted at NMNH. Prior arrangements must be made if research space is needed in the Department of Invertebrate Zoology
- f. A detailed budget including:
 - Travel costs to and from NMNH, Washington, DC
 - A modest stipend at a rate equivalent to a Smithsonian Post-Doctoral Fellowship (\$2,000 per month for the time spent at NMNH). This is included in the award
 - Research and expendable supplies, including supplies used in conjunction with histology, photography, etc. Curatorial supplies needed to prepare the material for cataloging will be provided and need not be budgeted. Newly identified material will be catalogued by NMNH staff at the completion of the research project.
 - Estimated publication costs, including page charges, illustration expenses, typing expenses, etc.

Submit 8 copies of the proposal to:
USAP Program Manager
Department of Invertebrate Zoology, MRC-163
National Museum of Natural History
Washington, DC 20560, USA

The deadline for receipt of proposals is March 15, 1998. An External Advisory Committee will review the proposals on the basis of merit and current Antarctic research needs. Successful applicants will be notified by July 15, 1998. Additional information may be obtained through the USAP Program Manager (gray.natasha@nmnh.si.edu) or the Collections Manager (bright.cheryl@nmnh.si.edu).