



**Southern California Association of
Marine Invertebrate Taxonomists**

3720 Stephen White Drive
San Pedro, California 90731

October 1989

Vol. 8, No. 6

NEXT MEETING: Sampling Standards Meeting

GUEST SPEAKERS: Representatives of SCAMIT agencies

DATE: Monday, November 13, 1989, 9:30 AM

LOCATION: Cabrillo Marine Museum
3720 Stephen White Drive
San Pedro, CA 92009

MINUTES FROM MEETING ON OCTOBER 10, 1989

Paraonidae Workshop: Larry Lovell, private consultant and Vice-president of SCAMIT, hosted a paraonid (Polychaeta) workshop on 10 October 1989 at the home of MEC (Marine Ecological Consultants) in Carlsbad. Four work stations were set up with dissecting and compound microscopes with 14 species of commonly occurring southern California paraonids at each station. Copies of a key to the genera were provided by Larry. It was discovered at the workshop that counts of branchia are not as taxonomically useful as originally thought. Their range is variable with age: increased number of branchia directly correlated with increased age. In addition, branchial shape is variable; consequently, this character was not included in the key. The most reliable taxonomic character is the modified setae, but appropriate body segments need to be intact for the neuropodial setae. These generally begin ten setigers posterior to the end of the branchia. The workshop was well received by the participants. The key to the genera has been submitted for publication in the Proceedings of the Third International Conference held at California State University, Long Beach during 6-12 August 1989. It will be available for distribution after publication. SCAMIT thanks Larry

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

for an excellent job, and also gratefully acknowledges MEC for welcoming us into their new home.

Sampling Standards: The National Academy of Sciences and the Southern California Bight Review Committee are both interested in standardizing sampling techniques. SCAMIT will host a meeting concerning the standardization of benthic sampling techniques at the Cabrillo Marine Museum on 13 November 1989. The meeting will be held in the large lecture hall at the Museum, and will consist of 11 talks with each speaker given a 20-minute time slot. A general discussion will follow the end of the presentations. All agencies and consulting firms are invited to attend. RSVP as soon as possible to President Ron Velarde (619) 226-0164. A recommendation for the standardization will be written and presented to the National Academy of Sciences as a result of this SCAMIT meeting.

Holothuroidea Workshop: On 8 December of this year, Mary Bergen will host a SCAMIT workshop on the southern California Holothuroidea at the Cabrillo Marine Museum. Be sure to have slides of holothuroid ossicles and tube feet already prepared before the start of the workshop.

SCAMIT Christmas Party: This year's Christmas party will be held at the Cabrillo Marine Museum on 9 December from 5:00 - 10:00 P.M. The main dish and drinks will be provided by SCAMIT, but it's potluck on the side dishes and desserts. There will also be a surprise visit from the man in red, Big John Claus, for the kiddies and for us adults who never grew up. We need volunteers to help set up and clean up. RSVP to Larry Lovell, Ron Velarde, or Mas Dojiri, also indicate side dishes or desserts and whether or not you can help with the party.

Southern California Academy of Sciences Meeting: SCAMIT received a letter from Dr. Camm Swift notifying us that the 1990's meeting of the SCAS will be held at California State University, Dominguez Hills. A suggestion was made that SCAMIT actively participate at the meetings.

Caprellid Amphipods: Dr. Ichiro Takeuchi, a postdoctoral fellow at the University of Tokyo, recently visited the Biology Laboratory of the Hyperion Treatment Plant, and conducted a mini-workshop on caprellid amphipods. Since the workshop was an impromptu event, having been arranged by Mas Dojiri at the last minute, only three SCAMIT members, Tony Phillips, Don Cadien, and Carol Paquette, were invited to attend. The workshop proved to be informative and successful. We thank Dr. Takeuchi for sharing his knowledge of caprellids with SCAMIT during his very hectic North American visit. We look forward to further communication and collaboration with him.

Job Opportunity: Five full time positions are now open for lab processors to help work up invertebrate samples from the Exxon-Valdez oil spill, Alaska, at the University of California, Davis. Interested people are referred to the attached job announcement.

Correspondence from Dr. E.L. Bousfield: A letter sent to Hans Kuck, Collection Manager, Los Angeles County Museum of Natural History, from Dr. Bousfield is attached to this newsletter. It informs SCAMIT of work presently being conducted by Dr. Bousfield's research group and others concerning the taxonomy of gammarid amphipods from the northeastern Pacific.

MMS/Santa Maria Basin Project and the fate of SCAMIT provisionals: SAIC was recently awarded the MMS/Santa Maria Basin Project. Although several SCAMIT members are in charge of some of the taxonomic investigations, others have expressed some concern for the SCAMIT provisional new species that they have previously studied. Leslie Harris, Allan Hancock Foundation, is in contact with officers at SAIC in San Diego to protect the interests of our members. Dr. Jim Blake, SAIC in Woods Hole, Massachusetts, informed Mas Dojiri through a telephone conversation that he welcomes the expertise of SCAMIT members. He promised to include a short note in the next newsletter outlining the participation of SCAMIT in this project. Also, he plans to visit the Los Angeles area to speak directly to SCAMIT members in order to discuss the possible role of our association. His travel schedule has not yet been solidified, but he hopes to address SCAMIT sometime before the end of this year, possibly during our November or December meeting.





DIVISION OF ENVIRONMENTAL STUDIES

DAVIS, CALIFORNIA 95616

20 October 1989

Dear Colleagues,

I am writing to inform you of a research project I have initiated recently and announce some job openings that I anticipate filling in the very near future. I have accepted a P.I. position to conduct the biological impact assessment of the Exxon-Valdez Alaska oil spill on intertidal and shallow subtidal communities, especially in south-central Alaska in the region of the Shelikof Strait and Kodiak Island. This past summer we conducted field sampling in oiled and unoled regions and will be processing a vast number of benthic samples to determine impacts on these communities.

This project is expected to last at least 2-3 years, although the specific hiring periods for personnel involved in the project will likely run on a year-to-year basis. I anticipate hiring about 8-10 personnel on this project, mostly Post-Graduate Researchers (from UCD or elsewhere), and some graduate students and undergraduates from UCD. Salaries for the PGRs are anticipated to be in the mid \$20K range. There may also be some opportunity for graduate research directly on this project, but because of the uncertain nature of the funding, this would have to be evaluated on a case-by-case basis. I am anxious to receive applications from persons interested in full-time positions in residence at Davis. Responsibilities include, but will not be limited to: rough taxonomic sorting from benthic scrapings and sediment core samples, routine laboratory work, data entry into microcomputer and some data analysis. Most computer work will be done on Macintosh computers.

I have enclosed a flyer to announce these positions and would appreciate your help in posting this and/or copies of this flyer at strategic locations at your institution. If you or your students have further interest or would like more information on these positions, please contact me directly at my office (916) 752-9035 or FAX (916) 752-3350.

I would like to receive a C.V. or Resume, including a cover letter identifying strengths specifically in invertebrate zoology, ecology and computers. Please FAX or send this information to:

Thomas H. Suchanek
Division of Environmental Studies
University of California
Davis, CA 95616

Thank you for your help in finding well qualified personnel to conduct this research.

Most sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Tom".

Thomas H. Suchanek

JOBS !!!

10/17/89

NOW

IN

MARINE INVERTEBRATE
ZOOLOGY/ECOLOGY

**LABORATORY PROCESSING OF INVERTEBRATE SAMPLES
FROM THE EXXON-VALDEZ OIL SPILL, ALASKA**

**ANTICIPATE IMMEDIATE HIRING
OF 5 LAB PROCESSORS**

***** (FULL TIME POSITIONS) *****

POSITIONS ALSO AVAILABLE FOR:

- > GRADUATE STUDENTS**
- > UNDERGRADUATES**

DUTIES INCLUDE:

- 1. Rough Sample Sorting**
- 2. Identification of Major Taxonomic Groups**
- 3. Data Entry on Micro-computers**
- 4. Preliminary Data Analysis**
- 5. QA/QC Procedures**
- 6. Potential for Alaskan Field Work (summer 1990)**

FOR DETAILS CONTACT: (immediately)

**Dr. Thomas H. Suchanek
Division of Environmental Studies
University of California
Davis, CA 95616
Tel: (916) 752-9035, FAX (916) 752-3350**

October 3, 1989

Dr. Hans G. Kuck
Invertebrate Zoology
National History Museum
of Los Angeles County
900 Exposition Boulevard
Los Angeles, CA.
90007

Dear Dr. Kuck:

I was most interested to read of the successful workshop on amphipod crustaceans held jointly at the Cabrillo and LAC Museums last June 5-7. Dr. Jerry Barnard's vast expertise in this discipline especially in the south-central California region, was undoubtedly stimulating to all delegates.

It was good to see that some reference was made to the work of my amphipod research group on north-eastern Pacific coastal marine waters and elsewhere. Work on all species of amphipods from Alaska to central California is nearing completion and will encompass more than 700 species, about 60 families, superfamilies and the three major suborders. You are aware of our previously published reports on Gammaroidea, various Corophioidea, Talitroidea, Anneliscoidea, and Lysianassoidea of the 1982-83 NMNS PINS series, and perhaps more recent work on crangonyctids, and pontoporeiids and amphipod fish parasites, in other journals. However, your workshop participants may not be aware that work on about 25 other west coast family groups will appear in print during the next two years including full revisions of Phoxocephalidae, Melitidae, Hyalidae, Pleustidae, Calliopidae, Pontogeneiidae, Oedicerotidae and others that are dominant in the inshore benthos. This series of scientific papers has attracted contributors from around the world, including Jim Lowry (Australian Museum), Gordan Karaman (Yugoslavia), Jim Thomas (Florida), P.C. Moore (Great Britain), Moroshi Morino (Japan), as well as from Canadian museums including Kathleen Conlan, Norma Jarrett, Ed Hendrycks, John Dickinson, and Patrick Shaw. Nearly 300 species, many genera, and several subfamilies will have been described as new to science, all phylogenetically classified. Regrettably, much of it will probably appear subsequent to the opus magnus of Barnard and Karaman now being considered for publication by the Australian museum, and may render it largely


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Dr. Hans Kuck
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obsolescent for the North American Pacific coast. For instance, west coast pleustids embrace 60+ species in nearly 40 genera and 10 subfamilies, mostly new to science. Fortunately, the entire amphipod fauna is to be summarized in a fully keyed and illustrated guide book that should appear by 1992 (3 years hence) and may be of value to your study group. You may wish to provide copies of this letter to your workshop participants (sample plate attached).

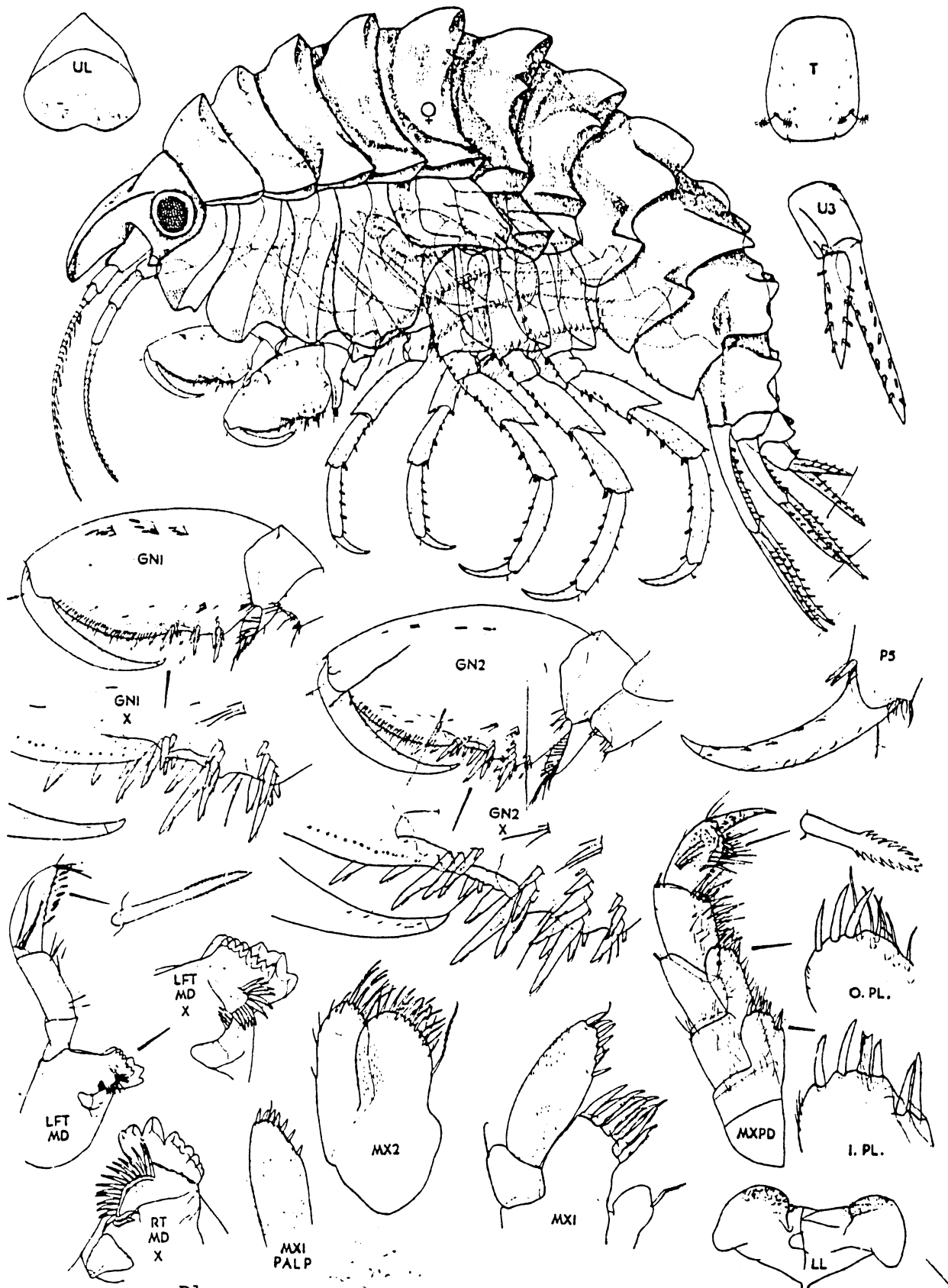
In the meantime we would be happy to exchange information and specimens that might be mutually helpful .

Yours sincerely,



E.L. Bousfield
Curator Emeritus

Encl:



Pleustes (Stimpson) Victoria
 region, V.I., B.C.
 ♀ br. II - 7.3 mm.