

THE MARINE BIOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION OF THE UNITED KINGDOM

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The Association is a registered charity and was founded in 1884 to promote accurate researches leading to the advancement of zoological and botanical science and to increase our knowledge of the food, life, conditions and habits of British fish. The work of the Association is controlled by the Council elected annually by its subscribing members.

The Marine Biological Association, under the direction of its Council, has undertaken research in all branches of marine science and many of the results have been published in this Journal. An account of the history of the first hundred years of the Association and Journal may be found in Volume 67 (pp. 463 and 465). Summaries of the activities and research of the Association are given annually in the Report of the Council, sent to members in April, and to other subscribers with a later issue of the *JMBA*.

Since its foundation the Association has been supported by grants from Research Councils and by subscriptions and donations from private members, universities, learned societies, the Fishmongers' Company and other public bodies.

The Plymouth Laboratory was opened in June 1888 and, since that date, considerable additions have been made to the buildings, including a library, resource centre, extensive laboratory accommodation and seawater facilities.

In 1988 an agreement was reached between the MBA Council and the Natural Environment Research Council (NERC) to merge a large part of the Plymouth Laboratory with the NERC's Institute for Marine Science which had been in Plymouth since 1971. This new institute was called the Plymouth Marine Laboratory (PML) based at both Citadel Hill and West Hoe sites. In 2001 the MBA and PML re-established separate identities funded by Grants-in-aid from NERC. The Association and the research programme are based entirely at the Citadel Hill Laboratory. The building is shared with SAHFOS (Sir Alister Hardy Foundation for Ocean Science). The research organizations are part of the Plymouth Partnership

which includes PML, the University of Plymouth and the NMA (National Marine Aquarium). Active collaboration and shared resources mutually enhance the marine research programmes of the participants.

The Marine Biological Association retains the lease of the building on Citadel Hill and continues as a very active scientific learned society with a large international membership. The MBA manages a research programme carried out by research fellows (partly funded by NERC) together with scientific visitors, publishes an International Journal, Annual Report, Newsletters and organizes scientific meetings.

Subscriptions can be paid by cash/cheque, direct debit from a UK bank account or credit card. *Subscriptions are reduced by £5 per annum if paying by direct debit.

Members of the Association have the following rights and privileges: they elect the Officers and Council annually; they are entitled to receive the Journal of the Association at the members' rate; they receive the biannual Newsletter; they have the option to apply to the Director for research facilities at the laboratory; and they have access to the resources in the library at Plymouth during working hours. Corporate members have significant additional rights and privileges, details of which can be supplied on request. Student members do not have voting rights. The Commissioners of Inland Revenue have approved the Association for the purposes of Section 16, Finance Act, 1958, and that the whole of the annual subscriptions paid by a member who qualifies for relief under the section will be allowable as a deduction from his emoluments assessable to income tax.

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CONTENTS

ECOLOGY

- MARTINETTO, P., PALOMO, G., BRUSCHETTI, M. & IRIBARNE, O. Similar effects on sediment structure and infaunal community of two competitive intertidal soft-bottom burrowing crab species 1385
- CASTIGLIONI, D.S., OLIVEIRA, P.J.A., SILVA, J.S. & COELHO, P.A. Population dynamics of *Sesarma rectum* (Crustacea: Brachyura: Grapsidae) in the Ariquindá River mangrove, north-east of Brazil 1395
- TRIGG, C., HARRIES, D., LYNDON, A. & MOORE, C.G. Community composition and diversity of two *Limaria hians* (Mollusca: Limacea) beds on the west coast of Scotland 1403
- GORDILLO, S., MARTINELLI, J., CÁRDENAS, J. & BAYER, M.S. Testing ecological and environmental changes during the last 6000 years: a multiproxy approach based on the bivalve *Tawera gayi* from southern South America 1413
- HANNACHI, I., DRIRA, Z., BEL HASSEN, M., HAMZA, A., AYADI, H. & ALEYA, L. Species composition and spatial distribution of abundances and biomass of phytoplankton and ciliates during summer stratification in the Gulf of Hammamet (Tunisia) 1429

DIET, REPRODUCTION AND DEVELOPMENT

- PAN, M., PIERCE, G.J., CUNNINGHAM, C.O. & HAY, S.J. Seasonal and interannual variation of decapod larval abundance from two coastal locations in Scotland, UK 1443
- GEBAUER, P., FREIRE, M., BARRIA, A. & PASCHKE, K. Effect of conspecifics density on the settlement of *Petrolisthes laevigatus* (Decapoda: Porcellanidae) 1453
- WATTS, A.J.R., MCCAFFERTY, D.J., NEWTON, J. & BAILEY, D.M. Does seabird carrion contribute to the diet of the shore crab *Carcinus maenas* on the Isle of May, Scotland? An isotopic perspective 1459
- RIFI, M., LE PENNEC, G., BEN SALEM, M. & BEN SOUISSI, J. Reproductive strategy of the invasive cockle *Fulvia fragilis* in the Bay of Tunis (Tunisia) 1465
- MCPHERSON, L.R., GANIAS, K. & MARSHALL, C.T. Inaccuracies in routinely collected Atlantic herring (*Clupea harengus*) maturity data and correction using a gonadosomatic index model 1477

MORPHOLOGY AND ULTRASTRUCTURE

- DI, G.L., ZHANG, Z.X., KE, C.H., GUO, J.R., XUE, M., NI, J.B. & WANG, D.X. Morphological characterization of the haemocytes of the ivory snail, *Babylonia areolata* (Neogastropoda: Buccinidae) 1489
- CYRAN, N., KLEPAL, W. & VON BYERN, J. Ultrastructural characterization of the adhesive organ of *Idiosepius biserialis* and *Idiosepius pygmaeus* (Mollusca: Cephalopoda) 1499

TAXONOMY

- RIBEIRO, S.M. & MURICY, G. Taxonomic revision of Brazilian *Tethya* (Porifera: Hadromerida) with description of four new species 1511
- ELÍAS, R. & RIVERO, M.S. A new species of Cirratulidae (Polychaeta) with characteristics of three genera, and a key to the species around Mar del Plata (south-western Atlantic) 1529
- QUINTEIRO, J., RODRÍGUEZ-CASTRO, J., LÓPEZ, P., LÓPEZ-JURADO, L.F., GONZÁLEZ-HENRÍQUEZ, N. & REY-MÉNDEZ, M. Morphological and molecular characterization of a new species of Atlantic stalked barnacle (Scalpelliformes: Pollicipedidae) from the Cape Verde Islands 1537
- IVANKO, V.N., DEFAYE, D., SEGONZAC, M., KHRIPOUNOFF, A., SARRAZIN, J. & FERRARI, F.D. A new species of *Exrima*, synonymy of four species of *Aphotopontius*, *Stygiopontius* and *Rhogobius*, and record of first copepodid stage of Dirivultidae (Copepoda: Siphonostomatoida) from deep-sea hydrothermal vents of the East Pacific Rise (13°N) 1547
- ANDRADE, B.G., COSTA, P.M.S. & PIMENTA, A.D. Taxonomic review of the genus *Opaliopsis* (Gastropoda: Nystiellidae) from Brazil, with description of a new species 1561

TECHNIQUES

- HEANEY, S.A., MALOY, A.P. & SLATER, J.W. Evaluation of fixatives and autofluorescence reduction treatments for marine bivalve larvae 1567