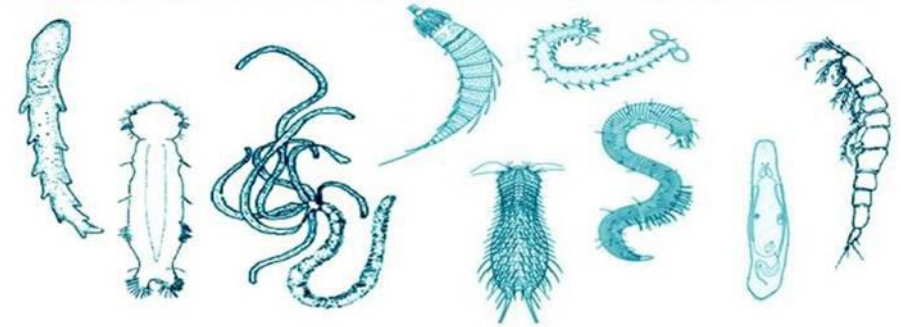


First Circular

ITW'02 Kochi International Training Workshop on Meiofauna February 06-09, 2018

EXPLORING THE TAXONOMY AND SYSTEMATICS OF BENTHOS



A lecture series combined with hands on training

Organiser

Department of Marine Biology,
Microbiology and Biochemistry
School of Marine Sciences

Cochin University of Science and Technology
Kochi 682016, Kerala, India

Co-Organiser

Department of Aquatic Biology &
Fisheries

University of Kerala, Karyavattom,
Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala 695581

Email: aquaticbiology@gmail.com

In collaboration with

The University of Texas, San Antonio,
One UTSA Circle, San Antonio,
TX 78249, USA



Organiser: The **Cochin University of Science and Technology (CUSAT)** was established in 1971, with the specific purpose of “development of higher education with particular emphasis on post-graduate studies and research in applied science, technology, industry and commerce”. The University is re-accredited with an ‘A’ grade by NAAC and has been positioned in the 86th place in 2017 by Academic Ranking in National Institutional Ranking Frame Work (NIRF) under MHRD. The university has also bagged a commendable position in the Times Higher Education World Rankings in 2017. Acknowledged to several well-established premier research institutions and the Southern Naval Command of Indian Navy. The University has strengthened its contacts and collaborative tie-ups with several other Universities and Institutions within India and abroad and is in the path of growth as a center for the generation of new knowledge in frontier areas of learning.

The **Department of Marine Biology, Microbiology and Biochemistry** has evolved as a lead institution in the country since its inception in 1958, has made seminal contributions in the field of monitoring and bio-prospecting of marine biodiversity and marine benthos, marine microbiology, marine ecology, fisheries (capture and culture), aquaculture (breeding of finfish and shellfish, environmental toxicology and arctic biology. The dept. offers regular graduate (MSc. in Marine Biology), MPhil. (Life sciences) and PhD. programs in marine biology. The dept. have several collaboration with national and international agencies in the core areas of research, of which marine benthic studies is a significant area supported by the Ministry of Earth sciences, Govt. of India.

About Co-Organiser: One of the oldest teaching-cum-research departments of the **University of Kerala, the Department of Aquatic Biology and Fisheries** was founded as Marine Biology Laboratory and Aquarium of the University of Travancore in the erstwhile princely state of Travancore (now southern part of Kerala) in 1938. Since then the Department has transformed itself in many ways. The department is currently offering M.Sc. (started in 1985), M.Phil.(started in 1978) and PhD courses in Aquatic Biology & Fisheries and proposed to start M.Phil. course in Marine Science and Technology. It serves as one of the centers of excellence in teaching and research in the fields of aquatic biology and fisheries and has substantially contributed towards human resource development in this field.

About Collaborator: The **University of Texas at San Antonio (UTSA)** is a state research university in San Antonio, United States. With over 28,000 students. Its three campuses with its main campus, is the largest university in San Antonio and the eighth-largest in the state of Texas. In 2012 and 2013, it was selected by Times Higher Education as one of the best universities in the world under 50 years old. UTSA is a member of the Oak Ridge Associated Universities, a consortium of the nation's major doctorate-level universities dedicated to collaboration and scientific advancement.



For correspondence:

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Organising Secretary, ITW'02,2018
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About the workshop

Marine ecosystem encompassing over 70 % of the earth's area, provides the vital supplies of food, biodiversity; maintaining the tropho- dynamics and other ecosystem services. Nowadays several extrinsic and intrinsic factors ranging from anthropogenic to climatic factors are getting affected or impacted possibly losing the critical resources transforming them to isolated stressed ecosystems. In this context, the benthic zone (bottom) of oceans is very relevant, maintaining the productivity, flow of organic matter and recycling for several organisms. Among benthic fauna, the meiofauna are considered as significant regulators of the ocean food webs, through the mineralization, remineralization and bioturbation processes of organic matter to the ocean depths, thus maintaining the benthic -pelagic energy transfer in the system. Benthic fauna residing inside and outside the sediment layers are classified as macrobenthos (>0.5 mm), meiobenthos (0.063 – 0.5 mm) and microbenthos (<0.063 mm) based on size. The nematodes (round worms) (0.1-2.5mm) comprising more than 70 % of the meiofauna, are extremely ubiquitous, along with crustaceans, protozoans, polychaetes, ostracods etc. in the benthic environment.

The Conference of Parties to Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) where India is also a signatory, has adopted a need for reducing biodiversity loss and to strengthen capacity building to achieve the targets. However, the decreasing number of taxonomists globally, especially in India, is one of the impediments to achieve the targets. Capacity building is required as a matter of urgency to overcome the present lack of taxonomists and systematics who are skilled in natural history and collections. In resonance with the CBD, this international training workshop (ITW'02) on marine meiobenthos to be organised by the Department of Marine Biology, Microbiology & Biochemistry, School of Marine Sciences, Cochin University of Science and Technology will provide a platform for marine biologists, zoologists and ecologists to understand, decode and tackle the problems in extraction, morpho-taxonomy in combination with molecular approaches, community structure of benthic meiofauna with focus on nematodes, Dr. Jyotsna Sharma, Senior faculty, University of Texas at San Antonio, USA and Fulbright visiting specialist in CUSAT will lead this international workshop (ITW02) based on the following goals.

Goals of the Workshop

Why taxonomy matters, principles and history of zoological nomenclature, collections, preservation and maintenance, literature sources, molecular analysis, functional morphology, practical identification skills and field craft.

Participant's fee

Scientists and faculty: Rs. 3500*

Research scholars and students: Rs. 1500*

International participants: USD 60*

*Selection will be based on the requirement and priorities of the candidate

*Course fee includes teaching materials, food and local field visit

Date to be remembered

Registration will start on **1st November 2017** and closes on **30th December 2017**.

Acceptance on the participation will be intimated by **15th January 2018**. Late registration will be charged additional fee.

For details log on to: www.cusat.ac.in

Course Director

Dr. Jyotsna Sharma

Senior Lecturer, Department of Biology,
University of Texas at San Antonio, USA



PATRONS

PROF. (DR.) J. Letha,

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And Ocean Studies

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Authority, Chennai

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Director, Zoological Survey of India, Kolkata

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Maliankara

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