

The Phycologist

The Newsletter of the British Phycological Society.

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EDITORIAL

This is a somewhat slimmer version of the newsletter than the Society has become accustomed to. It includes a call for papers/posters for the winter meeting and application forms for student travel grants and an application form for the Manton and Poster Prizes. The new format is necessary because *The Phycologist* goes to press without a permanent editor. *The Phycologist* plays an important role in communication within the BPS. The Council of the BPS apologises for any breakdown in communications that may have occurred in this transition period.

Marine Algal Mapping Scheme

The British Phycological Society's Marine Algal Mapping Scheme has been in progress since the beginning of the 1970s and resulted in the publication of a Provisional Atlas in the mid-1980s. It is now time to have a final push, to get all the records assembled, and to publish a definitive Atlas. Could I, therefore, urgently request EVERYONE with records of the marine macroalgae of Britain and Ireland to send them to me by the end of 1998 (but the sooner the better!). New record cards are in preparation, and if you would let me know how many you require I will forward these to you as soon as they are available. If you have any old recording cards (i.e. with 1970s nomenclature) I am happy to accept these completed as well. If you have records on any other pieces of paper, on disk, or whatever, I can process these too. (In other words, don't be put off from submitting any data that you possess). I hope that you have a happy and busy time on the shore!

Dr. F.G. Hardy, Department of Marine Sciences and Coastal Management, Ridley Building, University of Newcastle, Newcastle upon Tyne, NE1 7RU.

Early life history of three distinguished lady phycologists.

The time scale is 74-78 years ago. Four senior botanists were involved. F.O. Bower was Regius Professor of Botany at Glasgow University; W.H. Lang was Barker Professor of Cryptogamic Botany at Manchester University; R.J. Harvey-Gibson was Professor of Botany at Liverpool University and Dame Helen Gwynne-Vaughan, Head of Department and from 1921 Professor of Botany at Birkbeck College, London. Bower was senior, all powerful botanically in Scotland, and more than ready to extend his power base south of the border when occasion demanded. On 21 March 1921 Harvey-Gibson wrote to Bower, informing him that he had just sent in his notice of resignation from the Liverpool chair on reaching retirement age, and asking whether Bower had any suggestions regarding a suitable successor. Bower certainly had. On receiving Harvey-Gibson's letter he had immediately started to organise his lecturer, J. McLean Thompson, as a potential candidate for the Chair. Thompson was to be the successful candidate later in the year. However, four days after his first letter, Harvey-Gibson had again written to Bower, asking whether there would be any vacancy at Glasgow for a Miss M. Knight, then 29 years of age, who had specialised on the algae and in plant physiology, and who was "... An able cytologist and artist and an admirable teacher", and whose cytological study of the *Ectocarpales* was nearly ready for publication. Miss Knight did not wish to remain at Liverpool with Harvey-Gibson's pending retirement. There was no vacancy in Glasgow, and with Bower's moves on behalf of McLean Thompson this second letter could have led to a difficult situation. On 1 October 1921 Thompson wrote to Bower describing his first impressions of the Department of Liverpool - "Small labs - none big enough for 100 students"; and of his staff "... 3 lady Assistants - Miss Knight (Algae), Miss Blackwell (fungi) and Miss Fry (just begun) - I would welcome some male colleagues!".

As is well known, Miss Knight remained at Liverpool, pursuing her meticulous researches, in association with the Port Erin Marine Station, on life histories and cytology of filamentous brown algae, and building up a research school whose members included a number of those who were to become distinguished founder members of the British Phycological Society. Her first paper, "The life history and cytology of *Pylaiella littoralis*" was published in 1923 in the *Transactions of the Royal Society of Edinburgh*, a choice of

journal probably influenced by Bower, President of the Royal Society of Edinburgh 1991-1924.

On 23 March 1923 W.H. Lang wrote a letter to Bower which was mainly concerned with Chair vacancies and appointments (then, as now, a never failing topic of interest). Lang had recently visited the Liverpool Department, and had examined Miss Knight's preparations. These represented some 6-7 years of work, and Lang stated that Miss Knight had "fully mastered" the difficult techniques of fixing and staining. There was a footnote. Lang's department had recently acquired a new lady research student who had commenced working on the Charales. Lang proposed sending her to Port Erin, her visit timed to coincide with Miss Knight's time there - '.. it will be a good influence'. Lang's new research student was a Miss K.M. Drew, who in later years as Dr. K.M. Drew-Baker was to be the first president of the British Phycological Society, distinguished for her elegant studies on the cytology and life histories of red algae, of which her work on *Porphyra* spp. was to be of fundamental importance for cultivation methods in Japan. Miss Drew's first paper was published in *Annals of Botany* in 1924, under the title 'An abnormal pro-embryonic branch of *Chara vulgaris*', and her second in the same journal in 1926, namely, 'The 'leaf' of *Nitella opaca* Ag. and adventitious branch development from it'. Miss Knight's second paper, also in the *Transactions of the Royal Society of Edinburgh*, was published in 1929 under the title 'The life history and cytology of *Ectocarpus siliculosus*'.

A letter from Dame Helen Gwynne-Vaughan to Bower, dated 14 October and from its contents probably written in 1919, mainly included her views on the recent publication by A.H. Church of Oxford on *Thalasssiophyta and Subaerial Transmigration* (Botanical Memoir No. 3, Oxford University Press). The memoir embodied views on the origin of a land flora which ran counter to Bower's hypothesis as described in his book *Origin of a Land Flora* published in 1908. Both the public and private responses to Church's hypothesis make fascinating reading but are not of relevance here. Dame Helen's letter also included a footnote. Birkbeck College had just appointed a new Assistant Lecturer, freshly graduated from Bristol, a Miss L. Batten - 'She seems capable and keen and I am sure will make good'. Miss Batten's first paper, 'The genus *Polysphonia* Grev., a critical revision of the British species based on anatomy' was published in 1921 in the *Journal of the Linnean Society*. She was to marry Frank Newton, a distinguished cytologist working at the John Innes Horticultural Institute, who carried out fundamental research on chromosome activities in the meiosis of flowering plants. In due course Lily Newton became Professor of Botany at the University College of Wales, Aberystwyth. Her *Handbook of the British Seaweeds* was published in 1931. For all its later shortcomings with the advances made, the book was for many years the main pathway of seaweed identification for aspiring phycologists. In the same year Margery Knight, with Mary Parke, published *Manx Algae*, the first comprehensive algal flora for part of the British coastline which at the same time incorporated detailed seasonal data on life histories and reproductive phases. At the first Annual Meeting of the British Phycological Society held at Queen Mary College, London, in January 1953, Dr. K.M. Drew-Baker was elected President, and Dr. M. Knight and Professor L. Newton elected vice-presidents.

Professor A.D. Boney, 3 Myrtle Close, Dousland, Yelverton, Devon, PL20 6NZ

BPS WINTER MEETING 1997

The 1997 winter meeting will be held from 5-8 January at Royal Holloway, University of London. The local organisers are Eileen Cox, Harriet Jones, Jane Lewis and Elliot Shubert, with Professor John Dodge acting as a liaison within Royal Holloway. The theme of the conference is "Tracing large-scale and long-term environmental change using algae." The Founder's lecture will be given by Professor John D. Lodge. The Manton prize will be awarded for best student presentation. A prize will be awarded for best student poster. The time allotted to each paper will be 20 minutes, including discussion. Papers or posters are invited on any algal topic, but those related to the special sessions will be particularly welcome. Papers can be accepted only on the condition that they may be timetabled on any day of the meeting. Abstracts for the winter meeting should be prepared according to the following format.

R.J. GEIDER (Marine Biological Association of the United Kingdom, The Laboratory, Citadel Hill, Plymouth PL1 2PB; e-mail: rdg@wpo.nerc.ac.uk)

Please type the summary of your paper, incorporating the major results and conclusions using an upper limit of 250 words. Ensure that the names and institutions of authors are clearly stated. To facilitate preparation of the abstract booklet, you are requested to submit abstracts by e-mail to R.J. Geider at rdg@wpo.nerc.ac.uk. If it is not possible to submit via e-mail, then send two copies of your abstract together with a Word or WordPerfect file on diskette to R.J. Geider at the above address. **Abstracts must be received by 7 October.**

The programme for the Winter Meeting will be distributed together with registration forms in the November Issue of *The Phycologist*. The registration fees and costs of accommodation for the Winter meeting are anticipated to be as follows.

Registration

BPS Members	30.00
non-members	35.00
late registration supplement	5.00

B&B (per person per night, single rooms only)

Basic (no wash-basin in room)	15.50
Intermediate (wash-basin in room)	22.00
En suite facilities	28.50

Meals

Lunches	7.00
Buffet (5 January)	Complimentary
Dinner (6 January)	9.50
Society Dinner (7 January)	25.00

IRENE MANTON PRIZE

The Irene Manton Prize is awarded by British Psychological Society for the best talk presented by a post-graduate student member of the society at the Winter Meeting. This prize recognises both the quality of the research and the effectiveness of the presentation (clarity, timing, visual impact, etc.). This prize is made available as a result of a donation from the Estate of Irene Manton to the British Psychological Society. To be considered for the Irene Manton Prize, a student must submit an application form together with the abstract of the paper to be presented at the Winter meeting.

POSTER PRIZE

A prize of £100 will be awarded for the best poster presented by a post-graduate student member of the society at the Winter Meeting. To be considered for the Poster Prize, a student must submit an application form together with the abstract of the paper to be presented at the Winter meeting.

STUDENT TRAVEL GRANT

Student members of the Society who are presenting talks or posters can apply for a travel grant to offset up to 1/2 of the cost of attending the winter meeting. Grants will be based on student rail fare between their home institution and the site of the Winter Meeting, although students may travel by other means. Reimbursement will be made by the Treasurer (Dr. J.A. Berges) at the Winter Meeting upon presentation of receipts for costs incurred. In order to be considered for a travel grant, an application must be made at the same time as submission of the abstract.

Submit applications to :Dr Richard J Geider, Secretary, BPS, MBA, Plymouth PL1 2PB

Application for Manton Prize, Poster Prize and Travel Grant (delete as necessary)

Student's Name: _____

Department: _____

University: _____

Postal Address: _____

Rail Fare: _____

This application will not be considered unless eligibility is confirmed by the PhD supervisor's signature.

PhD Supervisor: _____ Signature _____ Date _____

MEETING/COURSE ANNOUNCEMENTS

Advanced Phytoplankton Course - Taxonomy and Systematics

10-30 May 1998, Vico Equense (Naples), Italy

The 7th Advanced Phytoplankton Course, directed by G.R. Hasle (Oslo, Norway), is being organised by the Marine Botany Laboratory of the Stazione Zoologica 'A. Dohrn', Naples, Italy. The faculty also includes:

Marie-Joseph Chrétiennot-Dinet (Laboratoire Arago, Banyuls-sur-Mer, France)
Carina B. Lange (Scripps Institution of Oceanography, La Jolla, USA)
Jacob Larsen (IOC Science and Communication Centre of Harmful Algae, Copenhagen, Denmark)
Marina Montresor (Stazione Zoologica 'A. Dohrn', Naples, Italy)
Karen A. Steidinger (Florida Marine Research Institute, St Petersburg, USA)
Jahn Thronsen (University of Oslo, Norway)
Carmelo R. Tomas (Florida Marine Research Institute, St Petersburg, USA)
Adriana Zingone (Stazione Zoologica 'A. Dohrn', Naples, Italy)

The course will consist of training on specific recognition of marine planktonic algae, with emphasis on light microscopy and use of taxonomic literature. The aim of the course is to increase and update expertise in the identification of diatoms, dinoflagellates, coccolithophores and other phytoflagellates. Special attention will be given to species implicated in the formation of exceptional or harmful blooms. Participation is limited to 20 candidates with PhD, MSc degree or equivalent, and with documented experience in phytoplankton identification by microscopy. A good knowledge of the English language is necessary.

A registration fee of ITL 500,000 (US\$ 310) is required, which includes course tuition and material. Full board for the whole period is ITL 1,700,000-2,500,000 (US\$ 1,100- 1,600) depending on the accommodation. Applications have been made to different funding agencies for partial or total support of organisational expenses and student subsistence costs.

Applications must include complete mailing address and a condensed *curriculum vitae*. The applicant's experience relevant to the course as well as research interests should be briefly reported. Two recommendation letters are welcome.

More detailed and updated information, as well as the application form, may be found at the internet www address: <http://www.szn.it/~phyto98/phytcourse.html> or obtained on request to D. Marino, Head of the Marine Botany Laboratory, Stazione Zoologica 'A. Dohrn', Villa Comunale 80121 Naples, Italy. (Tel +39-81-5833271, email: phyto98@alpha.szn.it).

Applications, preferably sent by e-mail, must arrive not later than 15 October 1997. Acceptance will be notified before 15 December 1997.

6-8 October 1997 COST-49 Workshop in PORTO (Gandra), PORTUGAL

Title: "Applications of Flow Cytometry to Macroalgal Biology. An European Workshop"

Organizing Committee: Olga Maria Lage (IBMC and Dept. Botany, Univ. of Porto and Portuguese Association of Applied Algology - APAA), Filipe Sansonetty (IPATIMUP, Univ. of Porto and CESPU) and Isabel Sousa Pinto (Dept. Botany, Univ. of Porto and APAA)

Aims: Familiarise macroalgae phycologists with flow cytometry (theoretical concepts and practical demonstrations)

Further information: Olga Lage, Tel: 351-2-6099154; Fax: 351-2-6099157; Email: oslage@ncc.up.pt or Isabel Sousa Pinto, Tel: 351-2-6002153; Fax: 351-2-6092227; Email: ispinto@ciupl.ncc.up.pt

EPC 2 from 20-26 September 1999 and 8th ICAA from 26 September - 1 October 1999.

The Organizing committees of the Second European Phycological Congress (EPC 2) and the 8th International Conference on Applied Algology (8th ICAA) are pleased to announce that both meetings will be held in Montecatini Terme, Italy.

EPC 2 Secretariat: Prof. Francesco Cinelli; Dipartimento di Scienze dell'Uomo e dell'Ambiente; Universita di Pisa; Via A. Volta, 6; I-56126 Pisa, Italy.

Tel +39 50 23054; Fax + 39 50 49694; E-mail: cinelli@discat.unipi.it

8th ICAA Secretariat: Prof. Mario Tredici; Dipartimento di Scienze e Tecnologie; Alimentari e Microbiologiche; Universita di Firenze; P.le delle Cascine, 27; I-50144 Firenze, Italy.

Tel: +39 55 3288306; Fax: + 39 55 330431; E-mail: tredici@csma.fi.cnr.it

Book Sale (OR .. HELP, I need the shelf space) Due to reorganisation of my office, I am, somewhat reluctantly, parting with the following books and journals. I will donate 20% of the sale price to the BPS. Postage on any of the items will be negotiated with the buyer. Contact: Robert Edyvean, Department of Chemical and Process Engineering, The University of Sheffield, Mappin Street Sheffield S1 3JD: Tel 0114 2227506: Fax 0114 2227507: e-mail r.edyvean@sheffield.ac.uk

- Mrs. Alfred Gatty 1872 British Sea-Weeds (2 Volumes, 1872, Bell and Daldy) £75
- Pringsheim, E.G. 1946. Pure cultures of the algae. Cambridge University Press. £20
- Plymouth Marine Fauna, 3rd edition, 1957. Hardbound in cloth £16
- British Phycological Journal. Volumes 14-27 (1979-1992) - £70
- Diatom Research. Volumes 1-5 and volume 6 part 2 (1987-1990/91) £16
- Phycologia. Volumes 26, 27, 28 and 29 (not part 4 of 29) offers?
- Round and Chapman (eds) Progress in Phycological Research Volumes 3 (1984), 4(1986), 5 (1987), 6 (1988) and 11(1995) £5 each
- Woelkerling, W.J. 1988 The Coralline Red Algae. British Museum (Natural History/Oxford University press). £15
- Eales, N.B. 1939, The Littoral Fauna of Great Britain. Cambridge University Press. £10
- Journal of The Marine Biological Association of The U.K. Volumes 58-76. £65