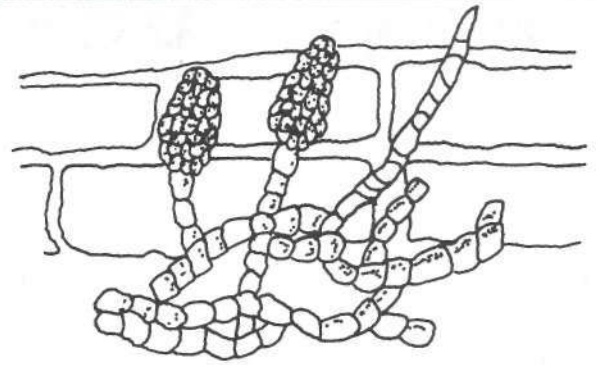


British Phycological Society Newsletter



Editorial

Deadlines!!!! It is becoming more and more important that deadlines for inclusions in the newsletter are met. This is especially so now we include advertisements where the advertisers expect a professional approach to such matters. So, please, if you have any news, go to any conferences, discover any new, earth shattering scientific truths, don't wait to be asked - write! With that moan is over, I would like to give some praise and take this opportunity to thank Leslie Alexander for her algal drawings

which have graced the last two issues of the newsletter. If there are any of you out there with similar drawings, I should like to see them for possible inclusion in future issues. From my memories of Newcastle, Paul Broady should have a good selection, so send them in Paul!. Finally, another word to potential contributors: Please note my new address (on the back page!).

New Publications

Ellis and Solander's 'Zoophytes', 1786

by P.F.S.Cornelius and John W. Wells Bulletin of the British Museum (Natural History) Historical series Vol 16 No 1. pp 17-87. 1988.

This fascinating paper was brought to my attention by Linda Irvine who thought it might otherwise go unnoticed by phycologists. The authors trace the history of the specimens depicted in the plates of 'Zoophytes' and give the background to the publication of this important work and the authors involved. To anyone interested in the history of science and of their own subject, especially if they are bibliophiles as well, this paper makes fascinating reading. 'Zoophytes' is important, not only because it was one of the first published works to correctly describe those animals whose colonies bear a superficial resemblance to plants (hydroids, corals, sea fans etc.) as animals rather than plants, but also it is one of the first publications to record and describe coralline algae (which were also classed as 'zoophytes'). John Ellis (1710-1776) was a much respected 'amateur' naturalist of the eighteenth century whose collections, and standing in the scientific community based in the earliest years of the British Museum's 'Department of Natural and Artificial productions', was of great importance. Set against the quality of both popular and scientific texts of the time, this and the previous book by Ellis (*An Essay towards a natural history of corallines, and other marine productions* 1755) set

new standards in taxonomy. In fact Linnaeus remarked that Ellis was 'the mainsupport of natural history in England' and that he (Linnaeus) had 'derived more information through (Ellis's) various assistance, than from any other person'. Daniel Solander (1733-1782) originally came to England following a request by Ellis for Linnaeus to nominate a student to visit England and promulgate the Linnaean binomial system and views on classification. Solander arrived in 1760 and took a post in the British Museum in 1763. He accompanied Sir Joseph Banks on James Cook's first circum-global expedition (1768-1771) and several other expeditions. Solander was a close colleague of Banks for the rest of his life and, working at the British Museum, was one of the first salaried biologists in Britain. The authors of the paper go into great and most interesting detail of the evolution of the book (which was published after the deaths of both Ellis and Solander), about the degree to which each contributed to its authorship and even some detective work on the watermarks of the paper on which the engravings were printed. To anyone who has studied Ellis's original books (as, thanks to an introduction to the Newcastle Literary and Philosophical Society by Gavin Hardy, I have been able) will have noted the quality of both the scientific content and engraving and will find this paper most interesting reading. As a strong proponent of a historical component in all science courses, I can thoroughly recommend this paper.

R.Edyvean

The Ralph A. Lewin Page

Over the last six months I have had quite a saga involving the prolific author of verse and scientific discourse from the Scripps Institution of Oceanography. First more news about the book we are all trying to find - 'THE BIOLOGY OF ALGAE AND DIVERSE OTHER VERSES' (by R.A.Lewin) Despite my hinting to the author for a free (even autographed!) copy, he was obviously not to be diverted from the prospect of additional royalties and instead sent me a publicity leaflet from the Boxwood Press (183 Ocean View Blvd. Pacific Grove, California 93950). This leaflet not only told me that the price for 'The Biology of Algae and diverse other verses' was \$9.95 but also available by the same author is 'THE BIOLOGY OF WOMEN AND OTHER VERSES' For \$5.95! The leaflet also asked for \$1.50 shipping cost for the first copy and 35c for each additional copy plus 6% sales tax if I was a California resident.

Not being too sure if \$1.50 would provide enough shipping to get 'The biology of Algae and diverse other verses' to me (let alone 'The biology of Women ...' for an extra 35c) I decided to send an expedition across the Atlantic to track down the tome....

Well, admittedly Spokane and a brief stop in Seattle may not cover the best of University bookshops but (and my agent was a pillar of the University of Newcastle-upon-Tyne Library and knew what to look for) not a copy was to be found, and it's not listed in 'Books in print' on either side of the Atlantic. My agent returned not too much the worst for wear, except for vowing never to go camping again and muttering about a large bear too close for comfort... but I was still tomeless.

Undeterred I arranged another expedition, this time to Denver, surely the centre of the the known universe of books, and eagerly awaited his report - I still await. However, in the meantime I received another envelope from Ralph Lewin, again with a leaflet describing the virtues of 'The Biology of the Algae and diverse other verses' and mentioning 'The Biology of Women and other verses'. On this copy was written in black felt tip - 'ALSO AT BLACKWELL'S OXFORD'.

I telephoned.

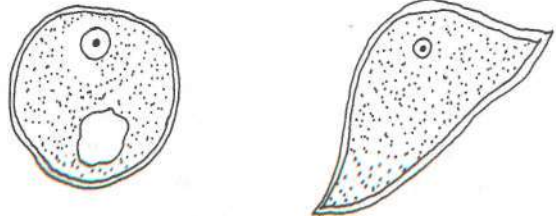
They are most helpful at Blackwell's, polite, trusting and always ready to try to sort out one's problems. I gathered that 'The Biology of the Algae and diverse other verses' is on the shelves in both the Biology and Verse departments at £6.65 (including p&p in the UK - ask for code N 4251). Apparently a certain R.A.Lewin (possibly connected to the author) had entered the establishment and persuaded them to take several copies off his hands.

So, the final truth; the author had crossed the Atlantic (or Pacific depending on which way round he went) carrying copies of 'The Biology of the Algae and diverse other verses' into the UK..... AND NOT SENT ME ONE! (Hence I refuse to review it, or devote precious column centimetres to bringing it to your attention).

I have now sent the following telex to my agent in Denver: -

'Have got algae, must have women'

PS. To sooth my ruffled editorial feelings Ralph did send me several pieces for inclusion in the newsletter (including an original verse-see below) - which is more that most of you have done for this issue!



L.ALEXANDER

TOXIC BLOOMS

Toxic blooms, toxic blooms
Vie with smog and sonic booms.
Bigger, thicker, redder tides
Taint the seas with plankticides.
Toll the tocsins! Tides of doom!
Woe to us the bloody bloom!

Neurotoxicants attack
Herrings in the Skagerrak,
Decimating fishes that that
Used to throng the Kattegat,
Dooming fish to dismal fates:
Death by dinoflagellates.

R.A.Lewin

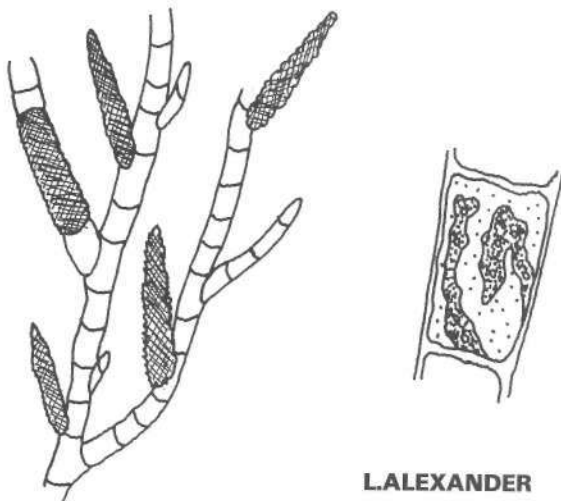
Oxford/Hexland

sponsor

poster session

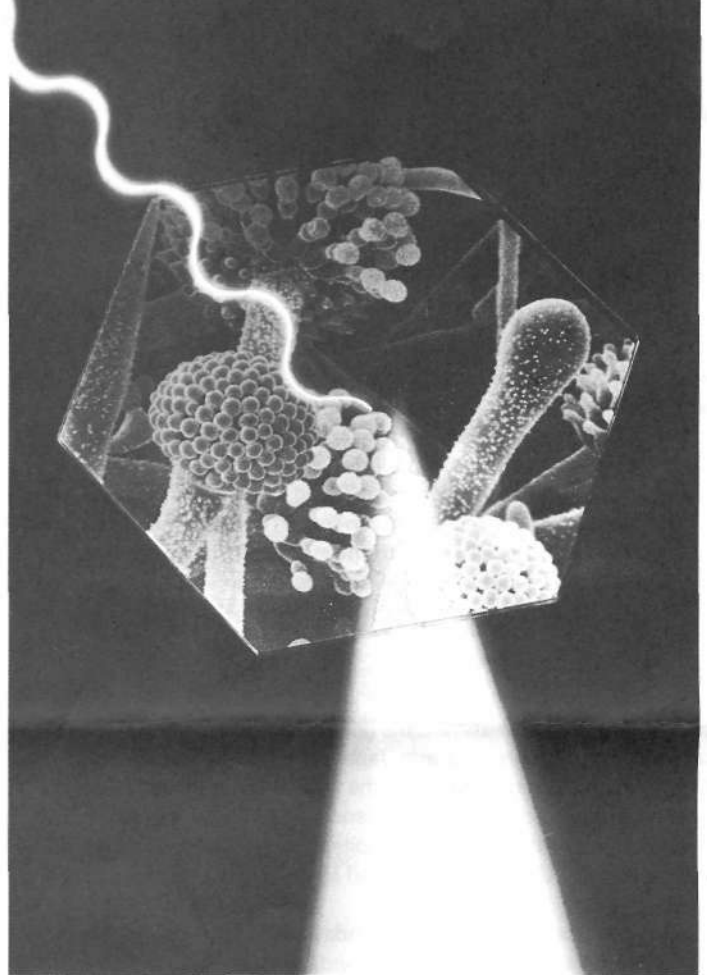
The current format of the Winter meetings is proving a great success, especially the increasing importance of the poster session on the first evening. This allows, and encourages, everyone to arrive on the day before the formal sessions and to start the meeting with an enjoyable scientific/social gathering. The 1989 meeting poster session, at the Ranmoor Hall residence of the University of Sheffield, was this year sponsored by Oxford/Hexland, suppliers of Electron Microscope technology. Their support enabled us to lay on a buffet supper to accompany the poster session and they produced an excellent display of their equipment and its potential in the field of phycology. Of particular interest to many were their cryopreparation and cryotransfer systems which allow rapid study of fully hydrated frozen samples.

With this support, and the large number of posters on display (23, and the numbers increase each year), the evening poster session is now firmly established as an excellent start to the meeting. The layout of the meeting enables a very full timetable to be fitted into a short time slot and keeps the costs down. Such value for money is getting rarer these days and I hope we can ensure that the meeting never becomes too expensive for the majority of British (and overseas visitor) phycologists.



L.ALEXANDER

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Conference Reports

The Third International Phycological Congress

A highlight of this year's phycological calendar was the Third International Phycological Congress held from the 14-20th of August at Monash University, Melbourne, Australia. Adopted was the successful formula used on previous occasions for organising such congresses. A fifty-nine membered International Organising Committee was appointed with Robin South as its chairman and the UK represented by David Irvine, Chris Happey-Wood, Trevor Norton and Brian Whitton. The Success of the Australian meeting owed much to the efforts of this committee as well as to the Executive Committee and congress Secretariat co-convened by Margaret Clayton and Bill Woelkerling.

The first weekend of the Congress was taken up with the registration in the Union Building of just over 400 delegates from 35 countries. Outside Australia the greatest number of registrants came from North America and Japan followed by the Federal Republic of Germany, India and the UK. The organisers must have been well pleased with the attendance which was only 100 less than the previous congress despite the southern hemisphere venue, and the UK was represented by 15 active participants.

The opening ceremony on the Monday was performed in the Alexander Theatre, close to the Rotunda Lecture Theatre Complex where all the formal sessions were held. Following the awakening of our senses with a futuristic video sequence set to the celebrated opening fanfare of Richard Strauss' "Also Sprach Zarathustra" we were welcomed by Professor L. Endersbee, the Pro Vice-Chancellor of Monash University, and the meeting was formally opened by Professor W. Edwyn Isaac. Diana Walker then presented a plenary lecture on the ecology of the fascinating tidal bay, known as Shark Bay, with its famous stromalites. This was the first of four plenary lectures given each day before the formal sessions. The second by P.A. Broady was titled 'A continent for algae - Antarctica', F.J.R. Taylor followed with 'Evolution of marine phytoplankton' and, on the last morning, J.T.O. Kirk spoke on 'Light and algae'. There was no plenary lecture on the Wednesday, the day of the mid-congress tours.

After the plenary lecture the remainder of each morning was devoted to four simultaneous symposial sessions followed in the afternoon by up to 13 sessions of shorter contributed papers

arranged, as far as possible, under themes. The organising committee had endeavoured to ensure that the symposia covered a diverse range of topics of current interest to phycologists. In all about 138 papers were read and over 50 posters presented. Posters were divided into seven groups based on subject areas and these were presented at specified times during the Tuesday afternoon. The British Phycological Society took the opportunity of mounting a display in the Union Hall where the poster session was held.

The Wednesday was a much appreciated rest day with delegates and accompanying members whisked away by buses on the mid-congress tours. Five tours were organised and not all were to places of immediate phycological interest (e.g. Yarra Valley wineries!). One tour was to Port Phillip Heads and Queenscliff, two localities figuring prominently in Australia's phycological history, as in the 1850's they were visited by William Henry Harvey. This tour was led by Sophie Ducker who, on the previous Sunday evening, had given us a fascinating talk on the travels of this eminent phycologist in Australia.

Most evenings were taken up with workshops, informal meetings, films, slideshows, a scientific video session and a special lecture by Ed Drew titled 'The seven veils of Halimea'. A memorable evening was Tuesday with the ASPAD (Australian Society for Phycology and Aquatic Botany) dinner and, more especially, the Bush Dance that followed it. This was the one occasion during the meeting when well-known and less well-known phycologists could loose some of their inhibitions assisted by 'the amber nectar' and good Australian wine. The laquaciousness of some of the afternoon speakers might well owe much to the generous quantities of wine served with lunch.

The banquet and closing ceremony was held in the great Hall of the National Gallery in Melbourne. It was an opportunity for thanking those on the organising committees and at all levels who had helped to make the Congress such a memorable event. Margret Clayton and Bill woelkerling were singled out for especial praise for the tireless efforts they had made to ensure the smooth running and success of the meeting. For many the banquet provided the opportunity of making our farewells and promises to try and meet again at the next congress in 1991.

Second International Phytoflagellate Workshop

&

The Third International Desmid Symposium

Following the most enjoyable 3rd Phycological Congress in Melbourne a group of some 25 phycologists, some with families, flew through the mists to the cooler climes of Tasmania to attend two post-Congress meetings, the Second International Phytoflagellate Workshop and the Third International Desmid Symposium held between the 20 and 27 August. After glimpsing the attractive waterfronts of Hobart we were driven in two minibuses to the venue of the meetings, Bronte Park Highland village, situated at approx 1000m in central Tasmania. The meetings ran concurrently, with sessions for papers on flagellates and desmids. The three excursions included a grand tour of the central Tasmanian Lakes, a morning on lake St. Clair with diversions to study the rainforest and bush vegetation and a long, spectacular, drive to the west coast of Tasmania at Strahan. This third excursion through the World Heritage area, gave some insight into the appalling effects of mining round Queenstown on the vegetation and environment, a visit to Ocean beach and, for the more adventurous, a flight by sea plane round the Frenchmans Cap National park, down the Franklin River, landing on the Gordon river (an experience to be recommended to anyone, just to experience the tranquility) and finally back over the penal settlement of Sarah Island, Hells Gates, a stretch of

water to be avoided by all but the most intrepid sailor, to land back in Macquarie harbour.

Ample opportunity arose to collect algal samples, particularly phytoplankton, during these excursions, and the organisers are to be congratulated for providing excellent microscopes in a temporary laboratory based in the chalet kitchen, and most important - time to study collections. more formal discussions included a session devoted to the biology of flagellates, a day of papers covering recent studies on desmids and posters including the fine structure of flagellates, particularly new genera from Tasmania.

Peter Tyler and his tireless associates are to be thanked for organising a most enjoyable informal meeting. Much information was gleaned about the algae, the overall ecology of Tasmania and man's impact on an environment vividly demonstrated. The staff at Bronte Park provided splendid accomodation for a group of phycologists with varying needs. Most of us learnt the art of keeping a eucalypt log fire alight!

Christine M. Happey-Wood UCNW Bangor

News from China

The Chinese Society of Phycology held its inaugural meeting and conference at Wuhan during 1979. 70 members, including three from overseas, attended the first meeting. Professor C.K. Tseng of the Institute of Oceanology, Academia Sinica, Qingdao, was elected President for the first term.

Since the first meeting, we have successfully held several meetings: at Chengdu, Sishuan Province in 1982, in Xiamon (Amoy) in Fujian Province in 1984. In 1982 the Society hosted a joint Symposium with American Phycologists led by Dr. R.C.Starr and Dr. A.Coleman. In June, 1983 the Society was one of the sponsors hosting the XIth International Seaweed Symposium in Qingdao.

In October 1985, the Second National Meeting and Conference of the Society was held in Xian. Over 250 participants attended.

Professor Shang-Hao, Li (S.H.Ley) of the Institute of Hydrobiology, Academia Sinica, Wuhan, was elected the new President of the Society. About 200 contributed papers and posters were presented at the meeting.

In November 1987, the annual meeting was held in Shengamen, Zhoushanqundao Archipelago. Over 200 members attended and 196 papers were presented. These covered a diverse range of topics from freshwater and marine algal taxonomy, physiology, ecology, biochemistry, genetics, algal culture and algal biotechnology. A workshop of Microalgal cultivation was also held. At present we have about 500 members.

Li Shang-Hao President of the Chinese Society of Phycology
Institute of Hydrobiology Academia Sinica Wuhan, Hubei
P.R.China

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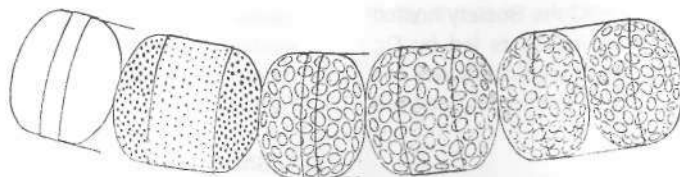
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Announcements

1989 GERALD.W.PRESCOTT AWARD

The Phycological Society of America will accept nominations for an award to be presented at the Annual Meeting of the Society in Toronto, Ontario, in August 1989. The Award will recognise the author(s) of a scholarly work devoted to phycology in the form of a book or monograph published in English. Edited volumes, individual book chapters, typical journal articles and the like will not be considered. Publications must have copyright dates of 1987 or 1988. Authors need not be members of the Phycological Society of America to have their publications nominated for the Award. The value of the Award for 1989 is expected to be \$500.

Nominations may be made by any member or non-member of the Phycological Society of America by submitting a brief letter

stating the strong points of the scholarly work and a copy of the book or monograph to be considered. It is acceptable, and in fact strongly encouraged, that authors nominate their own publications. Separate publications by the same author(s) may be nominated.

Nominations for the 1989 Award should be postmarked not later than April 1, 1989 and should be sent to: -

The Chairman, The Gerald W. Prescott Award Committee
Dr.J.Robert Waaland Department of Botany KB-15 University of Washington Seattle WA 98195 USA

For further information write to Robert Waaland or phone him on (206) 543-7098.

Forthcoming Events

LIGHT AND LIFE IN THE SEA

A Symposium to be held at Plymouth Polytechnic 9-11 April 1989

The Symposium will include invited papers on the physics of light; the harvesting and utilisation of light by photosynthetic marine organisms; biological, chemical and applied aspects of bioluminescence; the reception of light by marine animals and their responses. In addition, participants are warmly invited to submit short communications and posters (time will be allowed in the programme for a 'poster Session'). The Symposium will also be the occasion of the first Leslie Cooper Memorial Lecture

when Professor J.E.Lovelock, FRS will speak on 'The Gaia Hypothesis'.

The Symposium is supported by the Challenger Society for Marine Science and it is intended that the Invited Papers will form the basis of a Symposium volume to be published by the Marine Biological Association.

For further details and circulars contact: -

Dr.J.C.Green The Laboratory Citadel Hill Plymouth PL1 2PB

FRESHWATER ALGAL TRAINING COURSE

A freshwater Algae training course field week is to be held between 29 June and 9 July 1989. The course will be held in Durham and run by Dr.J.W.G. Lund, with help from Dr.D.M.John (Natural History Museum), Dr.A.Pentecost (University of London, King's College) and Dr.B.A.Whitton (University of Durham).

The daily programme will consist of a lecture on a taxonomic or ecological topic, followed by a visit to field sites and subsequent study with microscope. Planned visits include nutrient-rich waters on the Magnesian Limestone, a species-rich

pond with probably the oldest U.K. record for a freshwater alga, peaty pools on the North York Moors, Malham Tarn and District, Sunbiggin Tarn and Moor and strange environments in the region of the old Pennine lead mines. The costs are £99 for bed, breakfast, lunch, dinner for the seven days.

Six £50 scholarships are available to help research students or amateur phycologists. Applications should be made to the local organizer by 1 April 1989.

Brian Whitton, Department of Biological Sciences Science Laboratories South Road Durham DH1 3LE

ANOTHER CALL FOR VANCOUVER

XIIIth INTERNATIONAL SEAWEED SYMPOSIUM

I have recently received full details of the Vancouver symposium to be held during August 1989. If you are interested and have not had details, further information can be obtained from: -

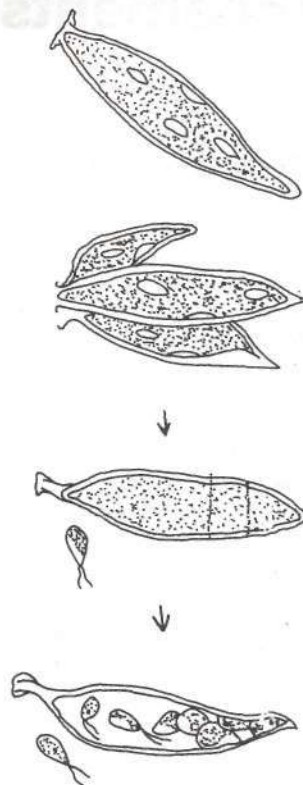
The Secretariat, XIIIth International Seaweed Symposium Suite 801 - 750 Jervis Street Vancouver B.C. CANADA V6E 2A9

PS. Your editor is prepared to send photocopies within the UK.

SALES AND WANTS

WANTS - BOOK

'Why big fierce animals are rare' by P.Colinvaux. Published by Princeton and Pelican 1978. Contact: - Dr.W.F.Farnham, School of Biological Sciences, Portsmouth Polytechnic, The Marine Laboratory, Ferry Road, Hayling Island. PO11 ODG



L.ALEXANDER

New Membership Secretary

Stop press to all members. Following the resignation of Maureen Callow after a six year stint we now have a new membership secretary, Lynne Terry .

Lynne's address for correspondence in relation to membership is:

Dr. L.A. Terry
52 Bruce Crescent
Ellon
Aberdeenshire AB4 9BW

I'm sure that all members would like to thank Maureen Callow for all her hard work and to wish Lynne well in the task she takes on.

Editorial address

R.G.J.Edyvean, Department of Chemical Engineering, The University of Leeds, Leeds. LS2 9JT.

N.B. COPY FOR INCLUSION IN NEXT ISSUE MUST REACH THE EDITOR BY MAY 1st 1989