BOOK REVIEWS

International Polychaete Conference

The book presents the proceedings of the 4th International Polychaete Conference held from July 27 to August 1 (1992) at the UUniversité Catholique de L’Ouest, in Angers (France). During the 6 day conference, 200 members from 32 countries shared the results of their studies, which are among the most interesting research work currently conducted on Polychaeta. A total of 71 oral communication and 101 posters were presented at the Conference. All them are included in the Proceedings: 107 as abstracts and 55 as complete papers. The selection of publishable papers came from the work of 75 international reviewers from 15 countries on a total of 79 submitted papers. The book is made up of 8 main chapters, which were also the topics of the Conference: Cytology, Physiology, Development and Reproduction (7 papers), Genetics and Morphology (8 papers), Phylogenetic and Taxonomy (19 papers), Ecology and Biogeography (29 papers) and Culture and Valorization (2 papers). The book is compiled by a Preface of the editors, detailed lists of members of the Conference and reviewers, and short obituary dedicated to P. Fauvel (1866-1959), Dean of the Université Catholique de L’Ouest, R.J. Smith (1916-1993), P.V. Ushakov (1903-1992) and D.P. Wilson (1902-1991), who were all famous polychaetologists.

As it has been pointed out by the editors in the Preface, “such an international Conference should not be restricted to ecology and taxonomy, but should also consider the group as a biological model, and include applied research such as zootechny for polychaete farming or research for active molecules”, and this is also valid for the Proceedings. Thus, in addition to the interest of the more classical, taxonomic approach (10 species and 2 genera new to science are described), the book emphasizes the relevance of Polychaetes as a subject of a wide range of other scientific approaches. I would underline the studies describing both spatial elements of distribution and temporal dynamics by means of a more or less sophisticated statistical analyses (from monospecific populations to large ecosystems); the functional interpretations of morphological, behavioral and life-history features; and the use of cladistic analyses to assess the phylogeny of some Families. The two contributions on the commercial and applied use of Polychaetes and their potential for aquaculture based production are also remarkable, not only by their inherent interest but also for the enclosed suggestions on their future possibilities (i.e., needs for further studies and legislation to control indiscriminate collection, development of aquaculture to supply the increasing demand). The main economically interesting uses of polychaetes are as bait for sport or commercial fishing and food in aquaculture.

Although some papers are written in French, the language is mainly English. All papers have an English Abstract and a Résumé in French. The book is a thick hard-bound volume, carefully edited and well printed. The illustrations, be they diagrams, graphs, black and white photographs or scanning, transmission and optical micrographs, are abundant and generally of good quality. The result is a text that all polychaetologists should have in their libraries. The book, however, is recommended to scientists interested in any subject related to marine benthos, to marine ecologists and biogeographers and, indeed, to future polychaete farmers.

Blaires, 10 March 1995

Daniel Martin
Consejo Superior de Investigaciones Científicas
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SYMPOSIUM ANNOUNCEMENT

IX Simposio Iberico de Estudios del Bentos Marino

19 al 23 de febrero de 1996
Alcalá de Henares (Madrid), España

Comisión Organizadora: Dr. José M. Vélez y Dr. Juan Junoy. Departamento de Biología Animal, Universidad de Alcalá de Henares.

Comité Científico:
Dr. Jesús Benito (Universidad Complutense de Madrid)
Dr. Jerónimo Corral (Instituto Español de Oceanografía)
Dr. Tomás Gallardo (Universidad Complutense de Madrid)
Dr. Pedro García Corrales (Universidad de Alcalá de Henares)
Dr. Juan Junoy (Universidad de Alcalá de Henares)
Dr. Guillermo San Martín (Universidad Autónoma de Madrid)
Dr. José Templado (Museo Nacional de Ciencias Naturales)
Dr. José M. Vélez (Universidad de Alcalá de Henares)

Idiomas: español y portugués.

Contribuciones Científicas (Tópicos): Cualquier aspecto relacionado con el estudio del bentos marino. Se admitirán ponencias orales (20 min.) sobre temas de interés general, y ponencias en forma de panel.

Fechas límite: Inscripción y envío de resúmenes: 15 de octubre de 1995. Los manuscritos de las ponencias (orales o en panel) enviados antes del 23 de febrero de 1996 serán publicados, tras su aceptación por dos evaluadores designados por el Consejo Editorial, en un volumen de las Publicaciones Especiales del Instituto Español de Oceanografía. Las instrucciones para los autores serán enviadas en la segunda circular, en junio de 1995.

Cuota: 19.000 ptas. (estudiantes, 9.500 ptas.)

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