

INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION
OF ASTACOLOGY
I.A.A.



NEWSLETTER

Vol. 1, No. 2

Simontorp, S-270 35 BLENTARP, Sweden

October, 1977

INTRODUCTION - Response to our opening Newsletter was gratifying and the membership is stirring to its possibilities. You are invited to submit letters to the editor, commentaries on specific topics, accounts of local programs of general interest, information queries, and the like. Our objective is e-x-p-a-n-d-e-d communication and the Newsletter's success largely depends on your participation.

John C. Mason
President/Newsletter Editor, I.A.A.
Pacific Biological Station
Nanaimo, B. C. Canada

PUBLICATIONS COMMITTEE AND RELATED WORKING GROUPS - A Publications Committee is near completion consisting of 16 members of IAA, one pair for each of eight areas of speciality: general ecology and behavior, aquaculture, diseases and parasites, physiology, fishery exploitation and population dynamics, systematics and zoogeography, toxicology and food science, and general biology. Each of these eight pairs will be responsible for the formation and operation of a Working Group in their area of speciality. As soon as the remaining few appointments are made and reviewed by the Executive Board, names and addresses of committee members will be given in the Newsletter. Committee responsibilities will involve editorial and publication matters, and coordination of the Working Groups. Once underway, the general membership will be invited to associate with the Working Group(s) of their choice and to GET INVOLVED in the identification of, and posturing to, prioritized problems facing those in each area of speciality.

TRANSPLANTATION COMMITTEE - Ten members have accepted appointment to this committee reflecting diverse and appropriate areas of expertise and activities relevant to this committee: Magnus Fürst (Sweden), Jay Huner (USA), Alain Vey (France), Miguel Spitzky (Austria), Kai Westman (Finland), Torgny Unestam (Sweden), Horton Hobbs, Jr. (USA), Jim Avault (USA), Walter Momot (Canada), Kenneth Bowler (UK). I will chair this committee which, following review, will produce an advisory policy aimed at avoiding unnecessary risks and do justice to the objectives of our Association as a responsible, international coalition of conservationists. Jay Huner (Southern University, Baton Rouge, La.) has consented to serve as assistant-chairman.

AIBS Meeting at Michigan State Univ. last August - Alan Covich organized a symposium for the Crustacean Section on the theme: regulation of crayfish distribution and abundance. Nine papers were given and followed by stimulating discussion. Titles and summaries in English will be available shortly.

FROM CALIFORNIA - The developing fishery for P. leniusculus in the Sacramento River delta is growing rapidly, according to Charles Goldman (Davis). Almost the entire catch is cooked and frozen for the Swedish market and the state fishery agency - California Fish and Game Commission - is undertaking a detailed study of the fishery. Dr. Goldman has organized a new study on the population dynamics in the delta in conjunction with Calif. F&G, in addition to a study on the extent and development of plague in natural populations of this species in California. Jane Rundquist is winding up her doctorate on crayfish physiology.

++++How about Lake Tahoe for the 1980 meetings?++++

SCANDINAVIAN CHAPTER - A workshop meeting at Lake Erken, near Stockholm, took place during 13-15 September, organized by Magnus Fürst (Drottningholm). Three main topics were considered: introduction of P. leniusculus, nature and degree of susceptibility to plague; population estimation and measuring catch/effort, development of standard methods; acidification and damage to crayfish populations. Cooperative research is developing between Sweden and Finland - sharing the research burden and avoiding unnecessary duplication of effort. Summaries of the papers in English will be available shortly.

PUBLICATION OF THE 1976 PROCEEDINGS - Latest word has it that the printing press is soon to roll. A nice Christmas present for us all!

RECENT TRANSPLANTATIONS - Five thousand live P. leniusculus from the Pitt River, B. C., Canada were recently shipped to Kumla, Sweden to the experimental culture station of Ytong AB, under the watchful eyes of Björn Idestrom, the company's Aquaculture Manager. This shipment replaced one made last year which succumbed to copper poisoning in the closed culture system. Copper ions leaking from the water heating system apparently interacted with plague resistance capacity - synergistic stresses - to trigger a mass mortality. Better luck this time, Björn! Both shipments arrived in excellent health, there being no transport mortality following the 1976 shipment, and only seven animals died during the recent shipment.

Walter Momot of Lakehead University, Thunder Bay, Ontario, Canada visited Vancouver Island following the Amer. Fisheries Society meetings held in Vancouver in September. Walter took back with him a live collection of P. leniusculus juveniles from the Cowichan River in preparation for laboratory studies on behavioral interactions of this species with the native Orconectes virilis.

FROM AUSTRIA - Miguel Spitzzy celebrated his baccalaureate this year by spending several months at Louisiana State learning the intricacies of crawfish culture à la Sud from Jim Avault's aquaculture team. Taking the long way home, Miguel visited several countries in Africa, also Spain, where American crayfish have been introduced for aquacultural purposes. These peregrinations should hold him in good stead in his expanding aquaculture activities.

By the way, an interesting article on P. leniusculus in Germany and Austria appeared in Der Spiegel (June 6, p. 89) including an account of Walter Scheel's visit to Finland, his introduction to P. leniusculus at a banquet at the presidential palace with Kekkonen, and his long-standing friendship with Reinhard Spitzzy whose work with P. l. in Austria is well-reviewed.

Another North American Meeting - The annual meeting of the Assoc. of Southern Biologists is reported in the ASB Bull. 24(2), April, 1977. Section of Crustacean Biology saw 14 of 19 papers given dealing with crayfish biology in southern U.S.

TWO INTERESTING POPULAR ARTICLES - One by Jay Huner with magnificent color plates by Raymond Bouchard entitled "Ditch bugs" in: The Bayou Sportsman 2(2): 10-13, 1977. This is a short survey of the common crayfishes in Louisiana. Other article by A. Stellan Karlsson, "The Freshwater Crayfish" in Fish Farming International 4(2)8-15. Taken from a talk given at the Second Fish Farming Congress in London, 1976. Includes a short description of the IAA and its activities.

LOUISIANA RE-VISITED- Jay Huner writes that he is studying commercial crayfish ponds of about 4 ha., especially bird predation and dynamics of predatory insects. Wading birds eat crayfish but not extensively and, although predatory aquatic insects are very abundant in his ponds, their relation to crayfish production is not yet clear. In his laboratory, dietary requirements of P. clarki are less than 22% in his closed culture system.

FROM FINLAND - Dr. Mikkola from the Department of Zoology at Kuopio is embarking on a leave of absence to Kenya where he will be researching the populations of P. clarki in Lake Naivasha in particular. This crayfish has become very abundant in many parts of the lake and offers some unique opportunities on a number of ecological themes relating to fishery management.

TWO SCIENTIFIC BULLETINS AVAILABLE - One by Magnus Fürst, "The crayfish, A. astacus and P. leniusculus in Sweden 1976" Information from Sötvattens-Laboratoriët, Drottningholm. 32 p. In Swedish with English summary. Another by S.K. Johnson "Crawfish and Freshwater Shrimp Diseases". Write for free single copies to: Dept. of Marine Resources Information, Center for Marine Resources, Texas A&M University, College Station, Texas. 77843. Request publication TAMU-SG-77-605. A good introductory booklet to the general subject.

STATUS OF THE MEMBERSHIP - Now is the time for all good men to come to the aid of the IAA. Please renew your membership should you presently be in arrears. If each member would endeavor to introduce just three potential members to the existence and aims of the IAA, we would enjoy a most successful year of recruitment. A young organization needs lots of tender loving care if it is to flourish - including nourishment. There will be special recognition given to persons showing superior effectiveness in gathering new members - given at the Thonon meetings next summer - so lets get with it and keep Stellan Karlsson busy. I would like to see a sustained membership drive at the grassroots level until next summer. New members and their recruiters will be listed in the forthcoming Newsletters along with the special interests of the new members. Write to the Secretary for copies of the IAA brochure, for extra copies of the Newsletters, and for membership registration forms if you need extras.

ORGANIZATIONAL PIN - The Executive Board is presently looking over the various designs in order to select the most appropriate one(s) for the Association. The selections will then go to a manufacturer for comment on practicality and costing analysis.

THONON-LES-BAINS in AUGUST, 1978 - You will soon be getting the official announcements, proposed program, and pre-registration forms. Please get them back in the mail to Dr. Laurent before 1 December so that the organizing committee has sufficient time to provide a first-rate meeting. See you in Thonon next summer!

PARTIAL LIST OF SCIENTIFIC PUBLICATIONS ON CRAYFISH, 1976-77.

- Bouchard, R. W. and J. W. Bouchard. 1974. Orconectes saxatilis, a new species of crayfish from eastern Oklahoma. Proc. Biol. Soc. Wash. 88: 439-446.
- Bouchard, R. W. and H. H. Hobbs, Jr. 1976. A new subgenus and two new species of crayfishes of the genus Cambarus (Decapoda Cambaridae) from the southeastern United States. Smithsonian Contrib. Zoology. No. 224. 15 p.
- Bouchard, R. W. 1976. Crayfishes and Shrimps. p. 13-20. In: H. Boschund (ed.). Endangered and threatened plants and animals of Alabama. Bull. Alabama Mus. Nat. Hist. No. 2.
- Clark, W. H. and G. L. Ralston. 1976. First record of crayfish from Baja California, Mexico (Decapoda, Astacidae). Crustaceana 30: 106-107.
- Fitzpatrick, J. F. Jr. and B. A. Lang. 1976. A new dwarf crawfish (Decapoda, Cambaridae: Cambarellinae) from southwest Alabama and adjacent Mississippi. x)
- Hayes, W. A., II. 1977. Predator response postures of crayfish. I. The genus Procambarus (Decapoda, Cambaridae). The Southwest Naturalist 21: 443-449.
- Hobbs, H. H. Jr. 1977. The crayfish Bouchardina robisoni, a new genus and species (Decapoda, Cambaridae) from southern Arkansas. Proc. Biol. Soc. Wash. 89: 733-742
- Hobbs, H. H. Jr., H. H. Hobbs, III, and M. A. Daniels. 1977. A review of the troglobitic decapod crustaceans of the Americas. Smithsonian Contrib. Zool. No. 244. 183p.
- Hobbs, H. H. Jr. and D. S. Lee. 1976. A new troglobitic crayfish (Decapoda, Cambaridae) from peninsular Florida. Proc. Biol. Soc. Wash. 89: 383-392.
- Huner, J. V. 1976. Raising crawfish for food and fish bait: a new polyculture crop with fish. Fisheries Bull. 1: 7-9
- Huner, J. V. and J. W. Avault, Jr. 1976. Sequential pond flooding: a prospective management technique for extended production of bait-sized crawfish. Trans. Amer. Fish. Soc. 105: 637-642.
- Huner, J. V. 1977. Opportunities for crawfish in crustacean aquaculture. Feedstuffs. 49: 18-19.
- Johnson, S. K. 1977. Crawfish and Freshwater Shrimp Diseases. Texas A&M University, College Station, Texas (TAMU-SG-77-605).
- Momot, W. T. and H. Gowing. 1977. Response of the crayfish Orconectes virilis to exploitation. Jour. Fish. Res. Bd. Can. 34: 1212-1219.
- Stein, R. A. 1976. Sexual dimorphism in crayfish chelae: functional significance linked to reproductive activities. Can. Jour. Zool. 54: 220-227.
- Stein, R. A. and J. J. Magnuson. 1976. Behavioral response of crayfish to a fish predator. Ecology 57: 751-761.
- Stein, R. A. and M. L. Murphy. 1976. Changes in the proximate composition of crayfish with size, sex, and life history stage. Jour. Fish. Res. Bd. Can. 33: 2450-2458.
- Stein, R. A., M. L. Murphy, and J. J. Magnuson. 1977. External morphological changes associated with sexual maturity in the crayfish (Orconectes propinquus). Amer. Midl. Nat. 97: 495-502.

+++++What are you doing that the rest of us don't know about?+++++