



# NEWSLETTER

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Officers Ossi V. LINDQVIST (President) University of Kuopio, P.O.B. 138 - SF 70101 Kuopio 10, Finland. Tel. 971-162521 ; A. Stellan KARLSSON (President-Elect.) Simontorp, S 270 35 Blentarp, Sweden. Tel. 0416-13080 ; Pierre J. LAURENT (Secretary-Treasurer) I.N.R.A. F 74203 Thonon, France. Tel. 50-71 49 55.

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The Fifth Crayfish Symposium will take place in California in 1981. The exact dates in the spring -- of the Symposium will be announced shortly. The Co-ordinator of the event is Dr. Charles Goldman of the University of California.

Dr A. Stellan Karlsson reports that the Organizing Committee for the 6 th Symposium has been formed in Sweden. It has presently four members with Prof. Per Brinck chairing. Dr Karlsson is the secretary, and the other members are Dr Tiit Kauri and Ms Maja Sjöström-Abrahamsson. Later the Committee will expand to included member from other Scandinavian countries. The dates for the Symposium are not finally settled, but they will be about 10-15 August 1984 at the University of Lund, Sweden.

The U.S.L. Crawfish research Center (CRC). Dr. Don Gooch gives the following report of the activities of this recently founded research establishment.

The U.S.L. Crawfish Research Center (CRC) was begun in 1975, and in spite of low and intermittent funding during the first years has grown steadily into a rather well known source for crawfish information and research in Louisiana.

We now have appr. 50 acres of land dedicated to crawfish research. This includes 30 acre crawfish pond (*P. clarkii*) which follows a design recommended by us to the industry. The design allows for complete water circulation, a crop of rice and 2 cares of catfish (in a semi-raceway). We recommend re-circulating as much as possible instead of continually pumping in fresh (underground well) water.

We use a fishing method developed by the CRC and are checking in excess of 300 crawfish traps/hour (30 acres/hour). Using mid-season figures and prices (1 lb/trap a \$ 50/lb) this means that two men in a specialized boat are grossing \$ 150/hour and are being paid 10 % of the gross - or \$ 7.50/hr/man. Using the old (walking) method farmers give 60-80 % of their gross for fishermen to do the harvesting.

We have an additional 20 acres for use in determining the combination of forages for use in ponds which culture only crawfish instead of rice and crawfish.

We have continued our hatchery studies at the U.S.L. and will be stocking our first hatchery-reared crawfish next spring or at the latest next September.

Our commercial-sized crawfish-catfish-rice pond will be a teaching-demonstration pond and will be made available to interested individuals and groups from Louisiana, U.S. and other countries - so that anyone can observe such activities as flooding, draining (how & why & when), harvesting (daily during the season), trap making, etc. and on-going research projects.

We have taught a Crawfish Farm Management course to farmers for the last 5 years and have offered Animal Husbandry 380 to university-level biology and agriculture students twice during that time period. As you can see we try to concentrate on applied-type research and activities.

Our information pamphlets are non-technical, easy to read and are aimed at individuals within the industry.

(The address of this Research Center is : The University of Southwestern Louisiana, Lafayette, Louisiana 70504).

Crawfish Producers Meeting. 10 communications was presented to this event sponsored by the Louisiana Crawfish Farmers Association, the Louisiana Cooperative Extension Service and the Louisiana Sea Grant Program.

For more informations contact President John E. Thibaut Louisiana Crawfish Farmers Association, Route 1, Box 489, Napoleonville, Louisiana 70390 U.S.A.

LSU Crawfish Researches are in progress. Among the studies recently completed : forage of crawfish by Mike Miltner. Forages and organic manures for crawfish by Barnes Johnson - Rice/crawfish double cropping by Yew-Hu Chien - Insects and Crawfish by John Witzig.

Among the new studies now underway, we found : Effects of rice pesticides on crawfish - Forages and supplemental feeds for crawfish - water quality. Several studies one planned : Crawfish bait. Harvesting methods. Forages for crawfish. Rice/Crawfish/soybeans. Rice pesticides.

For more informations take contact with Prof. James W. Avault, Jr. LSU Baton Rouge Louisiana 70803 U.S.A.

Les écrevisses du lac Naivaska (Kenya). Au cours d'une toute récente réunion internationale consacrée à la limnologie africaine à Nairobi, , une communication a été présentée par Litterick, Gaudet, Kalff et Melack sur la limnologie du lac Naivaska (la publication doit être éditée prochainement par l'Association Internationale de Limnologie). Dans ce travail est relaté l'introduction, en 1970, de *Procambarus clarkii* Girard, très rapidement suivie de son exploitation commerciale en 1975. Actuellement la population d'écrevisse semble stabilisée et confinée à la rive orientale du lac, plus propice que la rive occidentale. D'une densité de 67.000 écrevisses à l'hectare sur la rive est en 1976, le peuplement a régressé à 15.000 individus par hectare en 1978. Les écrevisses ont une distribution strictement littorale et semblent plus fécondes qu'en Louisiane (459 oeufs par femelles au lieu de 313). *Procambarus clarkii* paie un lourd tribut à la prédation des oiseaux et des poissons tels *Micropterus salmoides* Lacépède, mais elle pille 10 à 40 % de la pêche effectuée à l'aide de filets maillants. Les recherches se poursuivent.

Some recent crayfish literature

- CHAISEMARTIN, C. 1979. Illustration chez *Austropotamobius pallipes pallipes* Le. des effets d'un facteur trophique : le taux des protéines de la ration. *Annls Limnol.* 15 (2) : 113-121. Même texte avec figures supplémentaires dans *Piscic. Fr.* 56 : 18-24.
- CHAMBERS, C.L. & J.F. PAYNE & M.L. KENNEDY. 1979. Geographic variation in the dwarf crayfish, *Cambarellus puer* Hobbs (Decapoda, Cambaridae). *Crustaceana* 36 (1) : 39-55.
- CUKERZIS, J. et TERENTJEW, A. 1979. Acclimatation de *Pacifastacus leniusculus* Dana *Piscic. Fr.* 56 : 13-16.
- JESTIN, J.M. 1979. Dynamique saisonnière de la répartition de l'écrevisse américaine *Orconectes limosus* dans le lac de Créteil. *Piscic. Fr.* 56 : 47-48.
- LAURENT, P.J. et FOREST, J. 1979. Données sur les écrevisses qu'on peut rencontrer en France. *Piscic. Fr.* 56 : 25-41.
- LAURENT, P.J. 1979. Premiers résultats des introductions expérimentales en eaux closes de *Pacifastacus leniusculus* Dana. *Piscic. Fr.* 56 : 51-57.
- LYON, N. 1979. La gastronomie de l'écrevisse. *Piscic. Fr.* 56 : 62-63.
- MORRISSY, N.M. 1974. The ecology of marron *Cherax tenuimanus* (Smith) introduced into some farm dams near Boscabel in the Great Southern area of the Wheatbelt Region of Western Australia. *Fish. Bull. West. Austr.* 12 : 1-55.
- MORRISSY, N.M. 1974. Spawning variation and its relationship to growth rate and density in the marron *Cherax tenuimanus* (Smith). *Fish. Res. Bull. West. Austr.* 16 : 1-32.
- MORRISSY, N.M. 1976. Aquaculture of marron, part I. Site selection and the potential of marron for aquaculture. *Fish. Res. Bull. West. Austr.* 17 (1) : 1-27.
- MORRISSY, N.M. 1976. Aquaculture of marron, part 2. Breeding and early rearing. *Fish. Res. Bull. West. Austr.* 17 (2) : 1-32.
- MORRISSY, N.M. 1978. The amateur marron fishery in Western Australia. *Fish. Res. Bull. West. Austr.* 21 : 1-44.
- MORRISSY, N.M. 1978. The past and present distribution of marron in Western Australia. *Fish. Res. Bull. West. Austr.* 22 : 1-38.
- MORRISSY, N.M. 1979. Experimental pond production of marron, *Cherax tenuimanus* (Smith) (Decapoda : Parastacidae). *Aquaculture* 16 : 319-44.
- (For reprints, the address of Dr Morrissy is : Western Australian Marine Research Laboratories, Box 20, P.O. North Beach, W.A. 6020).
- PAYNE, J.F. 1978. Aspects of the life histories of selected species of North American Crayfishes. *Fisheries* 3, 6 : 5-7.
- TESSIER, A. 1979. L'Ecrevisse : élevage et production naturelle. *Piscic. Fr.* 56 : 5-8.
- VEY, A. 1979. Aspects fondamentaux et pratiques des recherches actuelles sur les maladies des écrevisses. *Piscic. Fr.* 56 : 41-45.
- (to get the journal "La Pisciculture Française" n° 56 "Spécial écrevisses" write to 11 rue Milton - 75009 Paris - France. Price 15 French Francs).

The first cookery book devoted solely to crustaceans.

Ms. Lesley Morrissy has produced a beautiful book entitled "Western Australian Crayfish Cookery", which contains over 60 recipes. Included are such delicacies as "Ecrevisses à la Bordelaise", "Devilleed crayfish" and "Marinated marron and mushroom salad". Copies of the book are available from Claire Dane Publishers, P.O. Box 139, Scarborough, Western Australia 6019. The price is \$ 6.

Best wishes for another successful Crayfish Year 1980 !