

JMBA



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VOLUME 70:1 FEBRUARY 1990



JOURNAL OF THE MARINE BIOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION OF THE UNITED KINGDOM

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JOURNAL OF THE MARINE BIOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION OF THE UNITED KINGDOM

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The *Journal of the Marine Biological Association* (ISSN: 0025-3154) is published quarterly. Four parts form a volume. The subscription price of Volume 70 to non-members of the Association is £134 within the UK and £147 outside the UK but excluding North America. Subscription price in the USA and Canada is US \$280. The above prices are payable in advance and include postage. Copies for the USA and Canada are air-freighted to New York to arrive with minimum delay. Single parts cost £37 (US \$77 in USA and Canada) plus postage. Subscriptions may be sent to any bookseller or to the publisher: Cambridge University Press, The Edinburgh Building, Shaftesbury Road, Cambridge CB2 2RU, or in USA and Canada, to Cambridge University Press, 40 West 20th Street, New York, NY 10011. Second class postage paid at New York, NY and at additional mailing offices. POSTMASTER: send address changes in the USA and Canada to *Journal of the Marine Biological Association*, Cambridge University Press, 110 Midland Avenue, Port Chester, NY 10573. All orders must be accompanied by payment.

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CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY PRESS

THE PITT BUILDING, TRUMPINGTON STREET, CAMBRIDGE CB2 1RP

40 WEST 20TH STREET, NEW YORK, NY 10011, USA

10 STAMFORD ROAD, OAKLEIGH, MELBOURNE 3166, AUSTRALIA

Printed in Great Britain by the University Press, Cambridge

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THE MARINE BIOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION OF THE UNITED KINGDOM

The Association was founded in 1884 to promote accurate researches leading to the advancement of zoological and botanical science and to an increase in our knowledge of the food, life, conditions and habits of British fishes. The work of the Association is controlled by a Council elected annually by its subscribing members.

The Plymouth Laboratory was opened in June 1888, and, since that date, considerable additions have been made to the buildings, including a library, lecture-hall, and extensive laboratory accommodation with up-to-date equipment. Additional sea-water reservoirs have also been built, and an aquarium which is open to the public.

The Marine Biological Association, under the direction of its Council, has undertaken research in all branches of marine science and many of the results have been published in this Journal. An account of the history of the first hundred years of the Association and Journal may be found in Volume 67 (pp. 463 and 465). Summaries of the activities and research of the Association are given annually in the Report of the Council in the November issue of the Journal.

Since its foundation the Association has been supported by subscriptions and donations from private members, universities, learned societies, the Fishmongers' Company and other public bodies. For some time past, however, the main financial support for the work of the Plymouth Laboratory has been grant-aided through the Natural Environment Research Council.

In 1988 an agreement was reached between the MBA Council and the Natural Environment Research Council to merge a large part of the Plymouth Laboratory with the NERC's Institute for Marine Environmental Research, which had been in Plymouth since 1971. The new laboratory is known as the Plymouth Marine Laboratory and consists of the staff of the two laboratories housed in both buildings. The research programme of the Plymouth Marine Laboratory includes both basic research into all aspects of the sea and marine animals and plants, and also multidisciplinary research on the more applied aspects of marine science, some of which is commissioned by government departments.

The Marine Biological Association still retains the lease of the building on Citadel Hill and continues as a scientific society publishing its own Journal, running the public Aquarium, organising scientific meetings and managing a small group of research fellows and scientific visitors.

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Members of the Association have the following rights and privileges; they elect annually the Officers and Council; they are entitled to receive the Journal of the Association at the Members' rate; they are admitted to view the laboratory at Plymouth; they have the first claim to rent a place in the laboratory for research, with use of tanks, boats, etc.; they have the opportunity of occupying a table for one week in each year free of charge; and they have access to the books in the library at Plymouth during working hours.

The Commissioners of Inland Revenue have approved the Association for the purposes of Section 16, Finance Act, 1958, and that the whole of the annual subscriptions paid by a member who qualifies for relief under the section will be allowable as a deduction from his emoluments assessable to income tax under Schedule E.

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