

Symposia of The Zoological Society of London

The Biology of Cephalopods

edited by Marion Nixon and J. B. Messenger

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The 38th Symposium of the Zoological Society of London was held in honour of Professor J. Z. Young, whose extensive work on the nervous system of cephalopods has achieved world-wide acclaim. The meeting brought together many of the leading researchers in the field of cephalopod biology, and the papers they presented, recorded in this volume, together comprise one of the most important and comprehensive works available on the biology of these highly organized molluscs. The book covers many different aspects of the subject, incorporating a great deal of previously unpublished material. Emphasis is placed on neurobiology, and Professor Young himself has contributed a fascinating survey of brains of many rare cephalopods including *Vampyroteuthis infernalis*, *Spirula spirula*, and a cirroteuthid. There are papers on the giant fibre system, the giant axon, neurochemistry, memory and the prey-capture system of *Sepia*. Other papers cover evolution, systematics, distribution, light organs, vision, extra-ocular photoreceptors, bioluminescence, statocysts, sucker surfaces, reproduction and haemocyanin. Research topics that were omitted from the symposium have been briefly reviewed, with full references, in the introduction.

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The journal will be published quarterly from January 1978 at £18.00 (U.K.), £22.00 (overseas), \$50.00 (U.S.A. and Canada) per annum post free.

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The *Journal of Fish Diseases* will be free of page charges and there is no restriction on the length of papers. All contributions will be reviewed by the editors without delay and those selected for inclusion in the journal will be published as rapidly as possible. Intending contributors should submit papers or obtain further information from Dr R. J. Roberts, University of Stirling, Scotland.

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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.

Professor T. H. Huxley took the chair at the initial meeting held in the rooms of the Royal Society and was elected the first President. Among those present were Sir John Lubbock (afterwards Lord Avebury), Sir Joseph Hooker, Professor H. N. Moseley, Mr G. J. Romanes, and Sir E. Ray Lankester who, after Professor Huxley, was for many years president of the Association. It was decided to build a laboratory at Plymouth, where a rich and varied fauna is found.

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, modernized in 1959, opened to the public.

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 come from Government funds, and since 1965 the Laboratory has been grant-aided through the Natural Environment Research Council.

The Marine Biological Association, under the direction of its Council, undertakes research in all branches of marine science and the main results are published in this journal. Accounts of the laboratory and aquarium are to be found in Vol. 27 (p. 761), Vol. 39 (p. 391) and Vol. 43 (p. 281), and 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.

The laboratory is open throughout the year and its work is carried out by a fully qualified research staff under the supervision of the Director. The names of the members of the staff will be found on the inner page of the front cover. Accommodation is available for British and foreign scientific workers who wish to carry out independent research in all branches of marine science. Arrangements are made for courses for advanced students, and marine animals and plants are supplied to educational institutions.

Work at sea is undertaken by three research vessels and by a motor boat, and these also collect the specimens required in the laboratory.

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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 subscription 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.

All correspondence should be addressed to the Director, The Laboratory, Citadel Hill, Plymouth PL1 2PB.

CONTENTS

	PAGE
FREEMAN, R. F. H. and SHUTTLEWORTH, T. J. Distribution of intracellular solutes in <i>Arenicola marina</i> (Polychaeta) equilibrated to diluted sea water	889
SHUMWAY, S. E. and DAVENPORT, J. Some aspects of the physiology of <i>Arenicola marina</i> (Polychaeta) exposed to fluctuating salinities	907
HEPPER, B. T. The fishery for crawfish, <i>Palinurus elephas</i> , off the coast of Cornwall	925
SHEADER, M. Breeding and marsupial development in laboratory-maintained <i>Parathemisto gaudichaudi</i> (Amphipoda)	943
SHEADER, M. Production and population dynamics of <i>Ampelisca tenuicornis</i> (Amphipoda) with notes on the biology of its parasite <i>Sphaeronella longipes</i> (Copepoda)	955
WALKER, G. Observations by scanning electron microscope (S.E.M.) on the oviducal gland sacs of <i>Balanus balanoides</i> at egg-laying	969
MAUCHLINE, J. The integumental sensilla and glands of pelagic Crustacea.	973
CHENG, L. and BIRCH, M. C. Terrestrial insects at sea	995
FRETTER, V. and MANLY, R. Algal associations of <i>Tricolia pullus</i> , <i>Lacuna vineta</i> and <i>Cerithiopsis tubercularis</i> (Gastropoda) with special reference to the settlement of their larvae	999
HELM, M. M. Mixed algal feeding of <i>Ostrea edulis</i> larvae with <i>Isochrysis galbana</i> and <i>Tetraselmis suecica</i>	1019
DE BURGH, M. E., WEST, A. B. and JEAL, F. Absorption of L-alanine and other dissolved nutrients by the spines of <i>Paracentrotus lividus</i> (Echinoidea)	1031
BLAKE, R. W. On ostraciiform locomotion	1047
TYTLER, P. and BLAXTER, J. H. S. The effect of swimbladder deflation on pressure sensitivity in the saithe <i>Pollachius virens</i>	1057
PINGREE, R. D., MADDOCK, L. and BUTLER, E. I. The influence of biological activity and physical stability in determining the chemical distributions of inorganic phosphate, silicate and nitrate	1065
HOLLIGAN, P. M. and HARBOUR, D. S. The vertical distribution and succession of phytoplankton in the western English Channel in 1975 and 1976	1075
DIGBY, P. S. B. Growth and calcification in the coralline algae, <i>Clathromorphum circumscriptum</i> and <i>Corallina officinalis</i> , and the significance of pH in relation to precipitation	1095
DIGBY, P. S. B. Photosynthesis and respiration in the coralline algae, <i>Clathromorphum circumscriptum</i> and <i>Corallina officinalis</i> , and the metabolic basis of calcification	1111
GREEN, J. C. and HIBBERD, D. J. The ultrastructure and taxonomy of <i>Diacronema vlkianum</i> (Prymnesiophyceae) with special reference to the haptonema and flagellar apparatus	1125
MCLACHLAN, J., VAN DER MEER, J. P. and BIRD, N. L. Chromosome numbers of <i>Gracilaria foliifera</i> and <i>Gracilaria</i> sp. (Rhodophyta) and attempted hybridizations	1137
ANNOUNCEMENT	1143
ABSTRACTS OF MEMOIRS	1145
BOOK NOTICES	1149
REPORT OF THE COUNCIL FOR 1976-77	1151
BALANCE SHEET 1976-77	1195

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