



Preface

The Ninth International Polychaete Conference (IPC) was held 12–17 August 2007 in Portland, Maine, USA, at the Conference Center of the Holiday Inn by the Sea. Kevin Eckelbarger and Linda Healy of the Darling Marine Center, University of Maine, Walpole, Maine, and James Blake and Nancy Maciolek of AECOM (formerly ENSR) Environment’s Marine & Coastal Center in Woods Hole, Massachusetts, organized and planned the activities for the Conference. Dan Dauer of Old Dominion University, Norfolk, Virginia, organized the judging for student awards and identified proposals for future conferences.

Participants

Approximately 166 participants, including 43 students and representing 30 countries, registered for the meeting.

Country	Number of Participants	Country	Number of Participants
USA	55	Greece	2
Germany	13	Norway	2
Brazil	12	Poland	2
UK	10	Republic of Korea	2
Australia	8	Argentina	1
Italy	7	Belgium	1
Denmark	6	Croatia	1
Mexico	6	Estonia	1
Russia	6	France	1
Spain	6	Indonesia	1
Sweden	6	Israel	1
Canada	4	Japan	1
Chile	3	Netherlands	1
New Zealand	3	South Africa	1
China	2	Venezuela	1

Program

The program consisted of oral and poster presentations, special evening workshops and discussions, mid-conference excursions, and a banquet featuring an after-dinner speaker.

Seventy oral and 115 posters were presented over a four-day period. Presentations were grouped into themes such as systematics, biodiversity, morphology, and ecology. Highlights included videos shown by Katrine Worsaae and Greg Rouse of a minute *Diurodrilus* that lacks setae, appendages, parapodia, and nuchal organs. Jason Williams and Lara Orensky showed videos of *Dipolydora commensalis* isolated from hermit crabs in which the short “specialized” palps become long and thin in the absence of the hermit crab host. Greg Rouse presented a review of unusual Histriobdellidae and their crustacean hosts. Stanley Rice demonstrated that North American populations of *Polydora*

cornuta consisted of at least three reproductively and genetically isolated sibling species. Several oral and poster presentations by Brigitte Ebbe, Guillermo Mendosa, and Daniel Thornhill described the morphology and genetics of dorvilleids that are associated with methane seeps and sulfide habitats. Kristian Fauchald & Robin Wilson and Teresa Aquado & Guillermo San Martin presented phylogenetic analyses of the Polynoidae and Syllidae, respectively, based on morphological data.

Special evening sessions included a workshop on digital illustration presented by Jason Williams, videos illustrating the crawling and swimming behavior of polychaetes by Albrecht Fischer, and a description of the new “Encyclopedia of Life” project by David Patterson.

The banquet featured an after-dinner presentation by James Carlton entitled “Ship-Worms: Global Humans and Global Polychaetes.” Student awards for oral and poster presentations were made at the banquet. Kelly Dorgan was awarded first prize for an oral presentation by a student for her talk on burrowing by crack propagation; her co-author was Pete Jumars. Natalya Budaeva won first prize for a poster presentation by a student for her poster on a new species of *Diopatra* from Belize, coauthored with Kristian Fauchald. Don Reish, a former President of the International Polychaetology Association (IPA), received a lifetime achievement award.

Mid-Conference Excursions

An overnight collecting trip to the Lowes Cove mud flats near the Darling Marine Center was led by Sara Lindsay; dredging cruises on the Damariscotta River were aboard the University’s research vessel, the R/V *Ira C*. Samples from the field were sorted and identified at the Center, where stereo- and compound microscopes were available along with running seawater, sample jars, and preservatives. Numerous species of polychaetes were obtained and preserved for morphological and molecular analysis.

Other activities included a tour of the Maine Maritime Museum and shopping at the world-famous factory outlet stores, including L.L. Bean, in Freeport. After all participants were back from the daytime excursions, a cruise on Casco Bay on the M/V *Bay Mist* was followed by a traditional Maine lobster and clam bake on Peaks Island.

Business Functions

The IPA held its triennial Executive Committee Meeting on Monday afternoon. A wide variety of issues were discussed, including the proposed site of the Tenth IPC in 2010 and the need to establish the position of Vice President, stimulated by the absence of the current President, Guillermo San Martin, at the present meeting. In the absence of the President, Dan Dauer, U.S. representative to the IPA, served as acting President. Ruth Barnich, Secretary, recorded the minutes of the meeting. Establishment of the position of Vice President required that the Constitution be amended; this suggestion was introduced at the open Business Meeting on Friday. Maria Cristina Gambi discussed her proposal for hosting the Tenth IPC in Lecce, Italy, in 2010. There were no other proposals. Other discussions involved the need for information exchange between the triennial conference teams in order to describe problems and pitfalls and the type of journal needed to publish the proceedings. Kristian Fauchald suggested that if the *Zootaxa* outlet, *Zoosymposia*, proved successful for the Proceedings of the Ninth IPC, it would provide a convenient long-term solution to publish future proceedings. The annual Business Meeting was held on Friday afternoon after all paper sessions were completed. Dan Dauer served as host for the meeting. A constitutional amendment that would establish the position of Vice President was adopted, to take effect at the Tenth IPC; the Vice President will replace the President in the event he/she is unable to complete the term or is unable to attend the triennial meeting. It was also agreed that the Vice President would have other functions at the request of the President. Maria Cristina Gambi presented her proposal to host the Tenth IPC in

Lecce, Italy, in 2010. The motion was approved by acclamation. James Blake was nominated and elected to serve as President of the IPA for 2008–2010.

Publication of the Proceedings in *Zoosymposia*, Volume 2

Forty-seven manuscripts were submitted for publication in the Proceedings of the Ninth IPC. Of these, 35 were accepted after peer review. Other manuscripts were either not accepted or required more revision than the authors were able or willing to do in the time available. Four obituaries published in this volume were submitted by invitation.

In addition to review and copyediting by the volume editors, the following individuals reviewed manuscripts and are thanked for their time and effort: Christos Arvanitidis, Bodil Bluhm, Susan Chambers, Dan Dauer, Harlan Dean, Brigitte Ebbe, Kevin Eckelbarger, Danny Eibye-Jacobsen, Kristian Fauchald, Albrecht Fischer, Kirk Fitzhugh, Maria Cristina Gambi, David George, Adriana Giangrande, Judy Grassle, Michael Hadfield, Ken Halanych, Falk Huettmann, Pat Hutchings, Pete Jumars, Margherita Licciano, Andrew Mackie, Damhnait McHugh, Joseph Pawlik, Vasily Radashevsky, Geoff Read, Stanley Rice, Greg Rouse, Sergio Salazar-Vallejo, Cinthya Santos, Elaine Seaver, Elin Sigvaldadóttir, Harry ten Hove, Kay Tweeten, Wilfried Westheide, Stephanie Wilson, and Katrine Worsaae.

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