



Echinoderm conferences and symposia: a concise history and bibliography

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Abstract

For fifty years, the community of echinoderm researchers has held meetings, symposia, conferences, and workshops dealing with their primary objects of research, that is sea stars, sea urchins, and allies. Over the years, a bewildering amount of literature has been published in the course of these gatherings, making it sometimes difficult for the echinoderm novice to see the woods for the trees. In order to facilitate future historic and bibliographic research, we provide a concise summary of echinoderm meetings from 1963 to 2012, together with a detailed list of publications related to these events. This list includes conference proceedings and abstracts compilations complete with ISBN or ISSN numbers. The historical background of several echinoderm conferences is described, and we present information about lesser-known meetings, held for example in the Soviet Union, France, or Japan. In addition, an overview of the evolution of echinoderm conference logos is provided. Finally, we briefly discuss the future of echinoderm conferences and their proceedings.

Key words: Echinodermata, IEC, ECE, bibliography, history of science

Introduction

Since the first symposium dedicated specifically to echinoderms in 1963, members of the echinoderm community have come together to discuss matters related to their favourite group of organisms, the marine spiny-skinned animals (Deuterostomia: Echinodermata). As anyone working in this field will have experienced, a considerable amount of our knowledge of echinoderms has been published in conference proceedings or as collected abstracts. According to John M. Lawrence (pers. comm.), the publication of conference proceedings from independent symposia as well as national and international conference series has resulted in a “central, large compilation of echinoderm literature that in turn has led to an increase in research on echinoderms in the second half of the 20th century” (see David *et al.* 2010 for statistics).

Unfortunately, this wealth of valuable information is usually not available online and must be retrieved by more traditional ways, that is by searching libraries and flipping through thousands of pages. Having gone through this arduous process ourselves many times, we decided that it would have made life considerably easier had we known before which conferences and meetings had actually resulted

TABLE 1. Chronological overview of conference series dedicated specifically to echinoderms. However, the first meeting on echinoderm biology was held in 1963 as an independent symposium during the 16th International Congress of Zoology in Washington, DC.

Conference name	Period
Vsesoyuznyi Kollokvium po Iglokozhim (VKI)	1971–1987
International Echinoderm Conference (IEC)	1972–present
European Conference on Echinoderms (ECE)	1979–present
Séminaire International sur les Échinodermes (SIE)	1980–1988
North American Echinoderm Conference (NAEC)	1989–present
Florida Echinoderms Festival (FEF)	1991–1999
Rossiyskaya Konferenciya po Iglokozhim (RKI)	1997–present
Kyokuhi-Doubutsu Kenkyuu Shuukai (KKS)	1999–present
Arbeitsreffen deutschsprachiger Echinodermenforscher (ADE)	2001–present
Congreso Latinoamericano de Equinodermos (CLE)	2011–present

in the publication of a proceedings volume, and what the publication's exact citation was. We have therefore amassed information on echinoderm meetings held from 1963 to 2012 (Table 1), together with a concise bibliography of conference proceedings. Where available, we provide ISBN or ISSN numbers, hoping that this compilation will serve the echinoderm enthusiast as a valuable reference. In addition to this, we have accumulated the official logos of many echinoderm meetings and are able to present their evolution through time. Finally, we also hope that the list of conferences presented here will inspire members of the echinoderm community to continue the tradition of meetings that have been interrupted in the past or to even start an entirely new series of echinoderm conferences.

International Echinoderm Conference (IEC)

The international echinoderm conferences are held at intervals of roughly three years, as agreed upon on the very first meeting at the Smithsonian Institution in Washington, DC. At that conference in 1972, it was also agreed that the conference venue would rotate between the Americas, Europe-Africa, and Austral-Asia so that individuals from different geographical areas would have an increased opportunity to attend. The regional conferences in Europe and North America (see below) were to be held in the intervening years. Nichols (1994) provides detailed statistics of IECs from 1972 to 1993. The first IEC in 1972 was in fact unofficially preceded by an independent meeting in 1966 in London (see below), where the decision to convene on a regular basis was made. The conference language at the IEC is English. Figure 1 depicts IEC logos from 1981 to 2012. The 15th International Echinoderm Conference will be held in Quintana Roo, Mexico and will be organized by Francisco A. Solís Marín.

1st International Echinoderm Conference

Washington, DC, USA, 6–8 September 1972

Organized by David L. Pawson and Maureen E. Downey

Proceedings or abstracts volume: none published.

2nd International Echinoderm Conference

Rovinj, Yugoslavia, 26 September–1 October 1975

Organized by Dušan Zavodnik, Mirjana Hrs-Brenko, Mirjana Krajnović-Ozretić, Zdravko Števc̆ić, and Nevenka Zavodnik

Proceedings volume: Zavodnik, D. (Ed.) (1978) Proceedings of the Second Echinoderms Conference. *Thalassia Jugoslavica*, 12, 1–380, ISSN 0495-4025

3rd International Echinoderm Conference

Sydney, Australia, 12–17 March 1978

Organized by Frank W. E. Rowe

Proceedings volume: Rowe, F.W.E. (Ed.) (1982) Papers from the Echinoderm Conference. *Australian Museum Memoir*, 16, 1–216, ISSN 0067-1967

4th International Echinoderm Conference

St. Petersburg, Florida, USA, 14–17 September 1981

Organized by John M. Lawrence

Proceedings volume: Lawrence, J.M. (Ed.) (1982) *Echinoderms: Proceedings of the International Conference, Tampa Bay, 14–17 September 1981*. A. A. Balkema, Rotterdam, 529 pp., ISBN 978-90-6191-228-6

Proceedings volume: Jangoux, M. & Lawrence, J.M. (Eds.) (1983) *Echinoderm Studies 1*. A. A. Balkema, Rotterdam, 203 pp., ISBN 978-90-6191-290-3

5th International Echinoderm Conference

Galway, Ireland, 24–29 September 1984

Organized by Brendan F. Keegan and Brendan D. S. O'Connor

Proceedings volume: Keegan, B.F. & O'Connor, B.D.S. (Eds.) (1985) *Echinodermata: Proceedings of the Fifth International Echinoderm Conference, Galway, Ireland, 24–29 September 1984*. A. A. Balkema, Rotterdam, 662 pp., ISBN 978-90-6191-596-6

6th International Echinoderm Conference

Victoria, British Columbia, Canada, 23–28 August 1987

Organized by Robert D. Burke, Philip V. Mladenov, Philip Lambert, and Ronald L. Parsley

Proceedings volume: Burke, R.D., Mladenov, P.V., Lambert, P. & Parsley, R.L. (Eds.) (1988) *Echinoderm Biology. Proceedings of the Sixth International Echinoderm Conference, Victoria, Canada, 23–27 August 1987*. A. A. Balkema, Rotterdam/Brookfield, 818 pp., ISBN 978-90-6191-755-7

7th International Echinoderm Conference

Atami, Japan, 9–14 September 1990

Organized by Tomio Yanagisawa, Ikuo Yasumasu, Chitaru Oguro, Norio Suzuki, and Tatsuo Motokawa

Proceedings volume: Yanagisawa, T., Yasumasu, I., Oguro, C., Suzuki, N. & Motokawa, T. (Eds.) (1991) *Biology of Echinodermata. Proceedings of the Seventh International Echinoderm Conference, Atami, Japan, 9–14 September 1990*. A. A. Balkema, Rotterdam, 590 pp., ISBN 978-90-5410-010-2

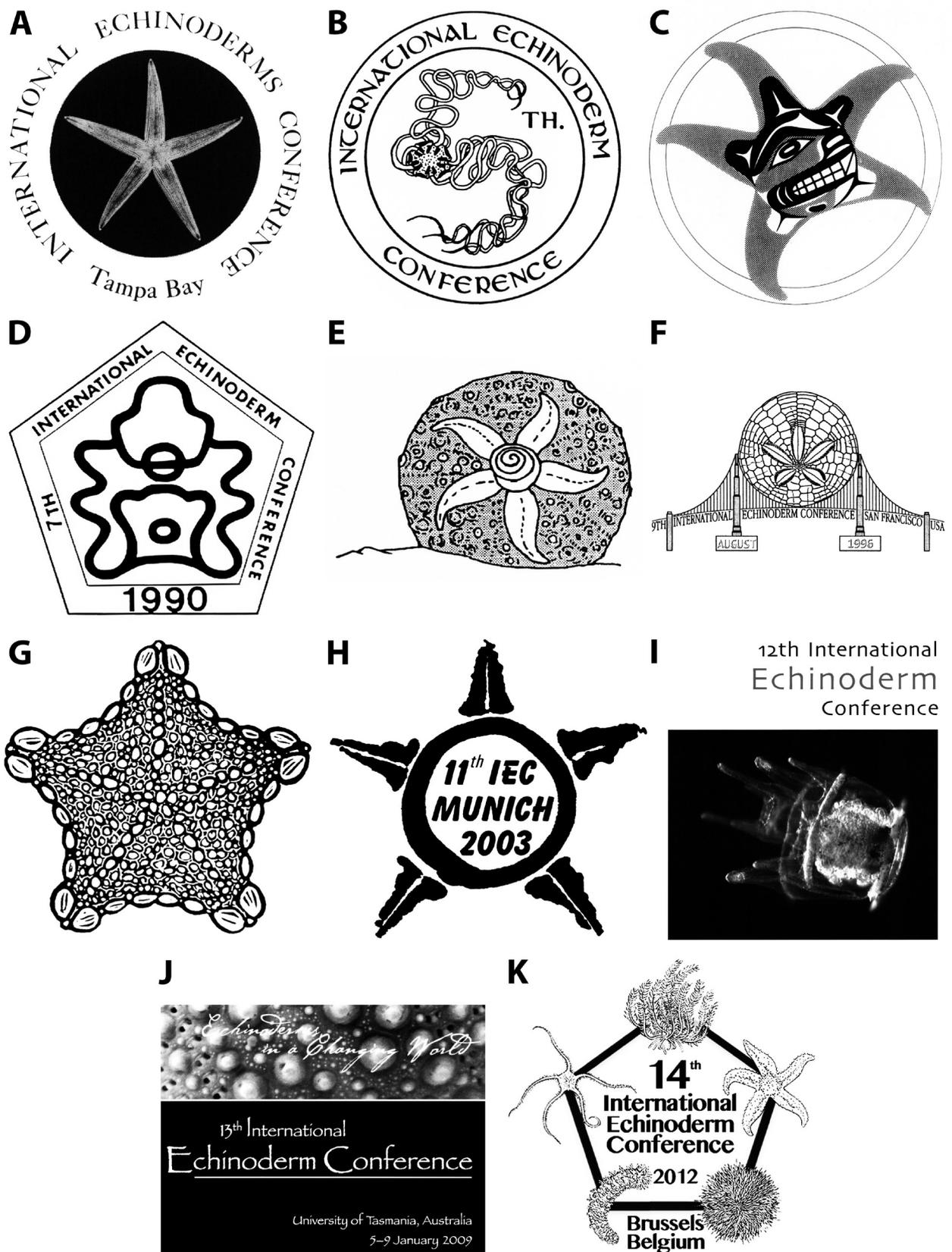


FIGURE 1. Evolution of conference logos of the International Echinoderm Conference (IEC) from 1981 to 2012. The first and second IECs (Washington, DC, 1972 and Rovinj, 1975) did not have logos and the logo of the third IEC (Sydney, 1978) is presumably lost (Frank W.E. Rowe, pers. comm.). (A) 4th IEC, St. Petersburg, Florida, 1981. (B) 5th IEC, Galway, 1984. (C) 6th IEC, Victoria, British Columbia, 1987. (D) 7th IEC, Atami, 1990. (E) 8th IEC, Dijon, 1993. (F) 9th IEC, San Francisco, California, 1996. (G) 10th IEC, Dunedin, 2000. (H) 11th IEC, Munich, 2003. (I) 12th IEC, Durham, New Hampshire, 2006. (J) 13th IEC, Hobart, Tasmania, 2009. (K) 14th IEC, Brussels, 2012.

8th International Echinoderm Conference

Dijon, France, 6–10 September 1993

Organized by Bruno David, Alain Guille, Jean-Pierre Féral, and Michel Roux

Proceedings volume: David, B., Guille, A., Féral, J.-P. & Roux, M. (Eds.) (1994) *Echinoderms through Time. Proceedings of the Eighth International Echinoderm Conference, Dijon, France, 6–10 September 1993*. A. A. Balkema, Rotterdam/Brookfield, 940 pp., ISBN 978-90-5410-514-5

9th International Echinoderm Conference

San Francisco, California, USA, 5–9 August 1996

Organized by Richard J. Mooi and Malcolm Telford

Proceedings volume: Mooi, R. & Telford, M. (Eds.) (1998) *Echinoderms: San Francisco. Proceedings of the Ninth International Echinoderm Conference, San Francisco, California, USA, 5–9 August 1996*. A. A. Balkema, Rotterdam/Brookfield, 923 pp., ISBN 978-90-5410-929-7

10th International Echinoderm Conference

Dunedin, New Zealand, 31 January–4 February 2000

Organized by Michael Barker

Proceedings volume: Barker, M. (Ed.) (2001) *Echinoderms 2000. Proceedings of the Tenth International Echinoderm Conference, Dunedin, New Zealand, 31 January–4 February 2000*. A. A. Balkema, Lisse/Abingdon/Exton/Tokyo, 590 pp., ISBN 978-90-265-1868-3

11th International Echinoderm Conference

Munich, Germany, 6–10 October 2003

Organized by Thomas Heinzeller

Proceedings volume: Heinzeller, T. & Nebelsick, J.H. (Eds.) (2004) *Echinoderms: München. Proceedings of the Eleventh International Echinoderm Conference, Munich, Germany, 6–10 October 2003*. A. A. Balkema, Leiden/London/New York/Philadelphia/Singapore, 633 pp., ISBN 978-0-415-36481-2

12th International Echinoderm Conference

Durham, New Hampshire, USA, 7–11 August 2006

Organized by Larry G. Harris

Proceedings volume: Harris, L.G., Böttger, S.A., Walker, C.W. & Lesser, M.P. (Eds.) (2010) *Echinoderms: Durham. Proceedings of the Twelfth International Echinoderm Conference, Durham, New Hampshire, USA, 7–11 August 2006*. CRC Press, Boca Raton/London/New York/Leiden, 679 pp., ISBN 978-0-415-40819-6

13th International Echinoderm Conference

Hobart, Tasmania, Australia, 5–9 January 2009

Organized by Craig Johnson, Michael Barker, Maria Byrne, John Keesing, Tim O'Hara, and Mary Sewell

Proceedings volume: Johnson, C. (Ed.) (2013) *Echinoderms in a Changing World. Proceedings of the Thirteenth International Echinoderm Conference, Hobart, Tasmania, Australia, 5–9 January 2009*. Taylor & Francis Group, London, 340 pp., ISBN 978-1-138-00010-0

14th International Echinoderm Conference

Brussels, Belgium, 20–24 August 2012

Organized by Philippe Dubois, Igor Eeckhaut, Jérôme Mallefet, Patrick Flammang, Chantal De Ridder, and Michel Jangoux

Proceedings volume (in preparation): *Cahiers de Biologie Marine*, ISSN 0007-9723

European Conference On Echinoderms (ECE)

Apart from the IEC, a number of regional echinoderm meetings have been held on a regular basis as well. The largest of these is the ECE, initiated by Michel Jangoux as the “Colloquium on Echinoderms” in 1979 in Brussels, Belgium. The European conferences usually alternate with the IECs and have grown to become large international conferences with participants from North America, Africa, as well as Asia and the Pacific region. Conference language at the ECE is English. Figure 2 depicts ECE logos from 1979 to 2010. The 8th European Conference on Echinoderms will be held in 2014 in Portsmouth, UK and will be organized by Andrew S. Gale.

1st Colloquium on Echinoderms

Brussels, Belgium, 3–8 September 1979

Organized by Michel Jangoux

Proceedings volume: Jangoux, M. (Ed.) (1980) *Echinoderms: Present and Past. Proceedings of the First European Echinoderm Conference, Brussels, Belgium, 3–8 September 1979*. A. A. Balkema, Rotterdam, 428 pp., ISBN 978-90-6191-077-0

2nd European Colloquium on Echinoderms

Brussels, Belgium, 18–21 September 1989

Organized by Chantal De Ridder

Proceedings volume: De Ridder, C., Dubois, P., Lahaye, M.C. & Jangoux, M. (Eds.) (1990) *Echinoderm Research. Proceedings of the Second European Conference on Echinoderms, Brussels, Belgium, 18–21 September 1989*. A. A. Balkema, Rotterdam, 343 pp., ISBN 978-90-6191-141-8

3rd Colloquium on Echinoderms

Lecce, Italy, 9–12 September 1991

Organized by Lidia Scalera-Liaci and Calogero Canicatti

Proceedings volume: Scalera-Liaci, L. & Canicatti, C. (Eds.) (1992) *Echinoderm Research 1991. Proceedings of the Third European Conference on Echinoderms, Lecce, Italy, 9–12 September 1991*. A. A. Balkema, Rotterdam, 253 pp., ISBN 978-90-5410-049-2

4th European Conference on Echinoderms

London, UK, 10–13 April 1995

Organized by Roland H. Emson, Andrew B. Smith, and Andrew C. Campbell

Proceedings volume: Emson, R.H., Smith, A.B. & Campbell, A.C. (Eds.) (1995) *Echinoderm Research 1995. Proceedings of the Fourth European Echinoderms Colloquium, London, United Kingdom, 10–13 April 1995*. A. A. Balkema, Rotterdam/Brookfield, 341 pp., ISBN 978-90-5410-596-1

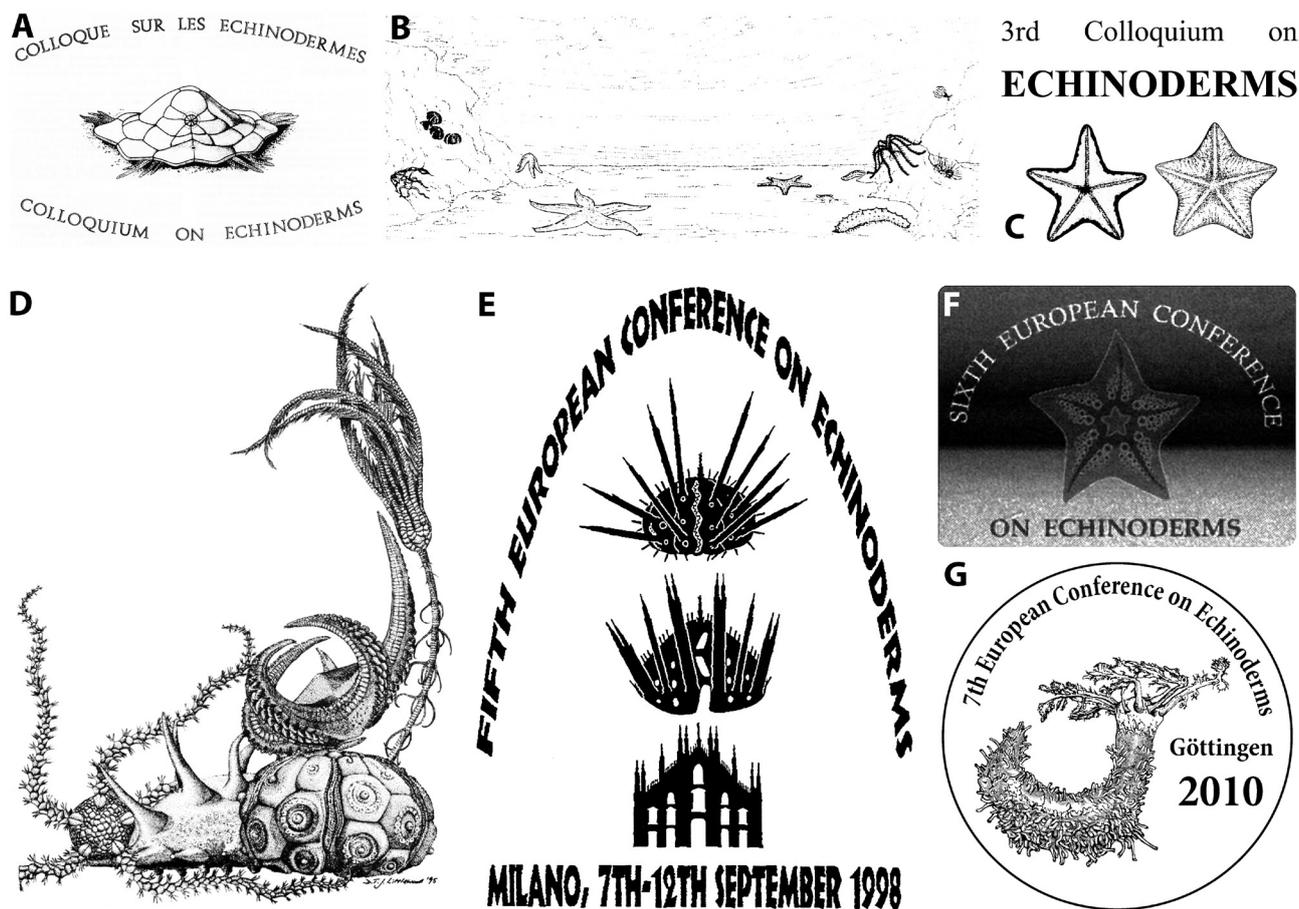


FIGURE 2. Evolution of conference logos of the European Conference on Echinoderms (ECE) from 1979 to 2010. (A) 1st ECE, Brussels, 1979. (B) 2nd ECE, Brussels, 1989. (C) 3rd ECE, Lecce, 1991. (D) 4th ECE, London, 1995. (E) 5th ECE, Milan, 1998. (F) 6th ECE, Banyuls-sur-mer, 2001. (G) 7th ECE, Göttingen, 2010.

5th European Conference on Echinoderms

Milan, Italy, 7–12 September 1998

Organized by Maria Daniela Candia Carnevali and Francesco Bonasoro

Proceedings volume: Candia Carnevali, M.D. & Bonasoro, F. (Eds.) (1999) *Echinoderm Research 1998. Proceedings of the Fifth European Conference on Echinoderms, Milan, Italy, 7–12 September 1998*. A. A. Balkema, Rotterdam/Brookfield, 550 pp., ISBN 978-90-5809-102-4

6th European Conference on Echinoderm Research

Banyuls-sur-mer, France, 3–7 September 2001

Organized by Jean-Pierre Féral and Bruno David

Proceedings volume: Féral, J.-P. & David, B. (Eds.) (2003) *Echinoderm Research 2001. Proceedings of the Sixth European Conference on Echinoderm Research, Banyuls-sur-mer, France, 3–7 September 2001*. A. A. Balkema, Lisse/Abingdon/Exton/Tokyo, 337 pp., ISBN 978-90-5809-528-2

7th European Conference on Echinoderms

Göttingen, Germany, 2–9 October 2010

Organized by Mike Reich

Abstracts volume: Reich, M., Reitner, J., Roden, V. & Thuy, B. (Eds.) (2010) *Echinoderm Research 2010. 7th European Conference on Echinoderms, Göttingen, Germany, October 2010*. Univer-

sitätsdrucke Göttingen (Universitätsverlag Göttingen), 145 pp., ISBN 978-3-941875-98-5
Proceedings volume: Kroh, A. & Reich, M. (Eds.) (2012) Echinoderm Research 2010. Proceedings of the Seventh European Conference on Echinoderms, Göttingen, Germany, 2–9 October 2010. *Zoosymposia*, 7, xii+316 pp., ISSN 1178-9905, ISBN 978-1-77557-034-9 [this volume]

North American Echinoderm Conference (NAEC)

In 1966, a group of North American echinoderm paleontologists came together for an informal meeting that was initiated and hosted by N. Gary Lane during the Annual Meeting of the Geological Society of America in San Francisco. Lane (1997) gives a short historical account of the “Friends of the Echinoderms” meetings held every year since then. Similar gatherings of echinoderm researchers occurred at the Annual Meeting of the American Society of Zoologists in the 1970s and 1980s (Lawrence 1998). However, no proceedings or abstracts volumes have been published following these events. The more formal North American Echinoderm Conference actually started out as “Friends of Echinoderms Conference and Workshop” in 1989 and has remained smaller than the European meeting. The conference title was changed on the third meeting, “because some university administrators did not think a ‘Friends’ meeting could have academic and scientific respectability” (Lawrence 2001). The conference language at the NAEC is English. Figure 3 depicts NAEC logos from 1989 to 2011. The 7th North American Echinoderm Conference will be held in 2014 in Pensacola, Florida, USA and will be organized by Christopher M. Pomory.

1st Friends of Echinoderms Conference and Workshop

Dauphin Island, Alabama, USA, 1–3 June 1989

Organized by James B. McClintock, Stephen Watts, and Tom Hopkins

Proceedings or abstracts volume: none published.

2nd Friends of Echinoderms Meeting

Fort Pierce, Florida, USA, 10–11 July 1992

Organized by Craig Young, Sid Bosch, and John M. Lawrence

Proceedings or abstracts volume: none published.

3rd North American Echinoderms Meeting

Wallops Island, Virginia, USA, 16–19 August 1998

Organized by Thomas S. Klinger

Abstracts volume: *Gulf of Mexico Science*, 16, 109–125, 1998, ISSN 1087-688X

4th North American Echinoderm Conference

Walpole, Maine, USA, 22–26 August 2001

Organized by Emma Creaser

Abstracts volume: *Gulf of Mexico Science*, 19, 165–193, 2001, ISSN 1087-688X

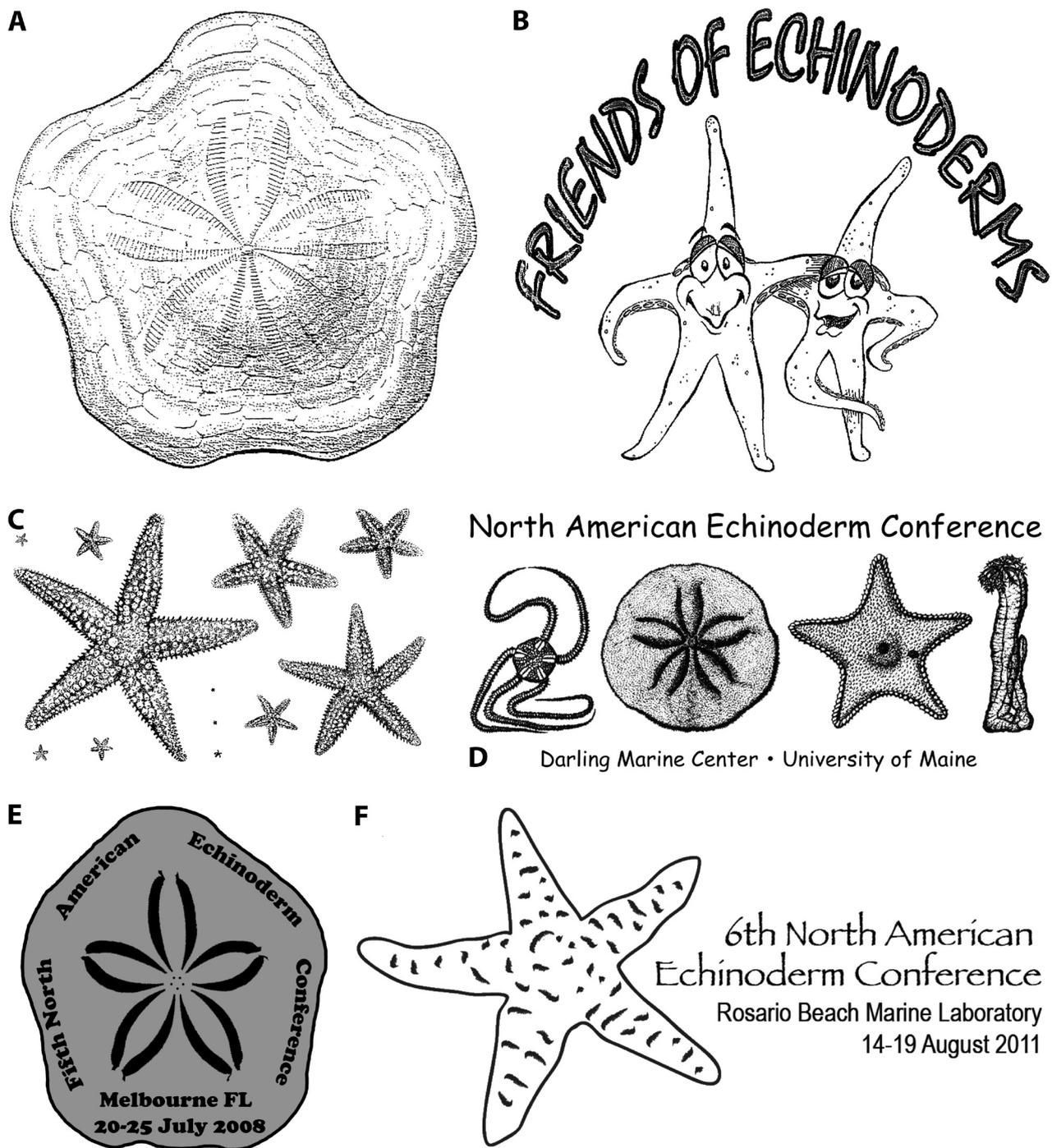


FIGURE 3. Evolution of conference logos of the North American Echinoderm Conference (NAEC) from 1989 to 2011. (A) 1st NAEC, Dauphin Island, Alabama, 1989. (B) 2nd NAEC, Fort Pierce, Florida, 1992. (C) 3rd NAEC, Wallops Island, Virginia, 1998. (D) 4th NAEC, Walpole, Maine, 2001. (E) 5th NAEC, Melbourne, Florida, 2008. (F) 6th NAEC, Anacortes, Washington, 2011.

5th North American Echinoderm Conference

Melbourne, Florida, USA, 20–25 July 2008

Organized by Richard L. Turner and James B. McClintock

Abstracts volume: *Gulf of Mexico Science*, 26, 136–170, 2009, ISSN 1087-688X

6th North American Echinoderm Conference

Anacortes, Washington, USA, 14–19 August 2011

Organized by Jim Nestler

Abstracts volume: *Gulf of Mexico Science*, 29, 131–158, 2012, ISSN 1087-688X

Vsesoyuznyi Kollokvium po Iglokozhim (VKI)

Largely unknown to the Western scientific community, Soviet echinoderm researchers have held a number of international conferences dedicated specifically to echinoderms, the first of which actually preceded the first IEC held in 1972. The name of this series of meetings can best be translated into “All-Union Colloquium on Echinoderms”. Although this meeting was discontinued after the fall of the Soviet Union, Russian echinoderm scientists continue to meet on a regular basis (see below). Conference language at the VKI was Russian. Figure 4 depicts selected logos of the VKI. The publications listed here are available for interlibrary loan at the Library of the Faculty of Geoscience and Geography, Georg-August Universität Göttingen, Germany. We would like to express our sincere gratitude to Sergeij V. Rozhnov and Andrej N. Solovjev for kindly donating copies of these volumes.

I. Vsesoyuznyi Kollokvium po Iglokozhim

Moscow, Russia, USSR, April 1971

Organized by Yuriy A. Arendt and Andrej N. Solovjev

Proceedings volume: Arendt, Y.A. & Solovjev, A.N. (Eds.) (1971) *The First All-Union Colloquium on Echinoderms*. Paleontological Institute, Academy of Sciences of the USSR, Moskva, 42 pp., no ISBN/ISSN [in Russian]

II. Vsesoyuznyi Kollokvium po Iglokozhim (jointly held with the Soviet-Japanese Symposium on the Biology of Marine Molluscs and Echinoderms)

Nakhodka, Russia, USSR, 6–10 September 1974

Organized by Evgenij V. Krasnov, Yuriy A. Arendt, Andrej V. Zhirmunsky, Andrej N. Solovjev, and Josef C. Shapiro

Abstracts volume: Krasnov, E.V., Arendt, Y.A., Zhirmunsky, A.V., Solovjev, A.N. & Shapiro, J.C. (Eds.) (1974) *The Biology of Marine Molluscs and Echinoderms. Materials of the Soviet-Japanese Symposium*. Far East Science Centre, Academy of Sciences of the USSR, Vladivostok, 68 pp., no ISBN/ISSN [in English]

Extended abstracts volume: Krasnov, E.V., Arendt, Y.A., Zhirmunsky, A.V. & Solovjev, A.N. (Eds.) (1974) *Materials of the Soviet-Japanese Symposium “Biology of Marine Molluscs and Echinoderms”*. Far East Science Centre, Academy of Sciences of the USSR, Vladivostok, 170 pp., no ISBN/ISSN [in Russian]

III. Vsesoyuznyi Kollokvium po Iglokozhim

Leningrad, Russia, USSR, November 1976

Organized by Zoja I. Baranova

Proceedings volume: Baranova, Z.I. (Ed.) (1977) *Systematics, Evolution, Biology, and Distribution*

of recent and fossil Echinoderms. Materials of the Third All-Union Colloquium on Echinoderms. Zoological Institute, Academy of Sciences of the USSR, Leningrad, 76 pp., no ISBN/ISSN [in Russian]

IV. Vsesoyuznyi Kollokvium po Iglokozhim

Borzhom, Georgia, USSR, 10–14 September 1979

Organized by Georgij S. Gongadze

Proceedings volume: Gongadze, G.S. (Ed.) (1979) *Materials of the Fourth All-Union Colloquium on Echinoderms.* State Institute, Academy of Sciences of the USSR, Tbilisi, 221 pp., no ISBN/ISSN [in Russian]

V. Vsesoyuznyi Kollokvium po Iglokozhim

Lviv, Ukraine, USSR, 29 October–2 November 1983

Organized by Vladimir A. Ginda

Abstracts volume: Ginda, V.A. (Ed.) (1983) *Comparative Morphology, Evolution, and Distribution of recent and fossil Echinoderms. Abstracts of the Fifth All-Union Symposium on Echinoderms.* Soviet-Ukrainian Paleontological Museum, Academy of Sciences of the USSR, Lviv, 79 pp., no ISBN/ISSN [in Russian]

VI. Vsesoyuznyi Kollokvium po Iglokozhim

Tallinn, Estonia, USSR, 21–23 April 1987

Organized by Dmitrij L. Kaljo

Abstracts volume: Kaljo, D.L. (Ed.) (1987) *Problems of Phylogeny and Systematics of Echinoderms. Abstracts of the Sixth All-Union Symposium on Echinoderms.* Geological Institute, Academy of Sciences of the USSR, Tallinn, 99 pp., no ISBN/ISSN [in Russian]

Proceedings volume: Kaljo, D.L. (Ed.) (1989) *Fossil and recent Echinoderm Researches.* Institute of Geology, Academy of Sciences of the USSR, Tallinn, 224 pp., no ISBN/ISSN [in Russian with English abstracts]

Rossiyskaya Konferenciya po Iglokozhim (RKI)

This series of meetings was first organized by the Paleontological Section of the Moscow Society of Naturalists and started out as symposia that were dedicated to the memory of renowned Soviet echinoderm researchers. Later, these meetings were held jointly with the P.P. Shirshov Institute of Oceanology, the A.V. Zhirmunsky Institute of Marine Biology, the Russian Paleontological Society, and the Russian Echinoderm Commission. The name of this series can best be translated into “Russian Echinoderm Conference”. A synopsis of the presentations is usually published in Russian language in the *Bulletin of the Moscow Society of Naturalists—Biological Series* (Bjulleten Moskovskogo Obscestva Ispytatelej Prirordy—Otdel Biologiceskij, ISSN 0027-1403). Conference language at the RKI is Russian. Figure 4 depicts the logo of the meeting held in 2011. At the time of publication the date for the next Rossiyskaya Konferenciya po Iglokozhim had not yet been scheduled.

Echinoderm Meeting of the Moscow Society of Naturalists (in memory of Natalja A. Poslavskaya)
Moscow, Russia, USSR, 24 March 1982

Echinoderm Meeting of the Moscow Society of Naturalists (dedicated to the 85th anniversary of Roman F. Hecker)
Moscow, Russia, USSR, 25 March 1985

Rossiyskaya Konferenciya po Iglokozhim
Moscow, Russia, CIS, 24 March 1997

Rossiyskaya Konferenciya po Iglokozhim (dedicated to the centenary of Roman F. Hecker)
Moscow, Russia, CIS, 19–20 April 2000

Rossiyskaya Konferenciya po Iglokozhim
Moscow, Russia, CIS, 5–6 April 2001

Rossiyskaya Konferenciya po Iglokozhim (dedicated to the centenary of Mikhail M. Moskvina)
Moscow, Russia, CIS, 16–17 March 2006

Rossiyskaya Konferenciya po Iglokozhim
Moscow, Russia, CIS, 7–8 February 2011

Congreso Latinoamericano de Equinodermos (CLE)

During the 12th IEC in Durham, New Hampshire, USA, a group of Latin American echinoderm researchers decided to start “La Red Latinoamericana de Equinodermos” (The Latin American Echinoderm Network) in order to boost echinoderm research in Latin America and to strengthen the relationship between scientists in this region. The first gathering of this newly established advocacy group was held in Argentina in 2011. Subsequent conferences are going to be held in-between the dates of the IEC and the NAEC. The title of the conference can best be translated as “Latin American Echinoderm Congress”. After the first meeting in 2011 it was decided to change the network’s name to “La Red Iberoamericana de Equinodermos” (The Ibero-American Echinoderm Network), in order to incorporate Spanish and Portuguese colleagues. However, the current conference name will not be changed. Conference languages at this meeting are Spanish, Portuguese, and English. Currently, no conference proceedings are planned. Figure 4 depicts the logo of the first CLE. The 2^o Congreso Latinoamericano de Equinodermos will be held in São Sebastião, Brazil and will be organized by José Roberto Machado Cunha da Silva.

1^o Congreso Latinoamericano de Equinodermos

Puerto Madryn, Argentina, 13–18 November 2011

Organized by Tamara Rubilar, Martin Brogger, and María Enriqueta Díaz de Vivar

Séminaire International sur les Échinodermes (SIE)

A number of conferences dedicated solely to echinoderms have been held in the 1980s in France. These meetings were intended to unite the community of echinoderm scientists with French mother tongue. The conference was discontinued after the sixth installment in 1988. The title of this meeting can best be translated into “International Seminar on Echinoderms”. Conference language was French. Figure 4 depicts selected SIE logos.

1^{er} Séminaire International sur les Échinodermes

Paris, France, 18–19 September 1980

Organized by Alain Guille

Proceedings or abstracts volume: none published.

2^{ème} Séminaire International sur les Échinodermes

Grenoble, France, 15–16 September 1982

Organized by Daniel Fournier

Proceedings or abstracts volume: none published.

3^{ème} Séminaire International sur les Échinodermes

Orléans, France, 21–23 September 1983

Organized by Jean-Guy Ferrand

Abstracts volume: *Symbioses*, 15, 1983, ISSN 0395-8957 [in French and English]

4^{ème} Séminaire International sur les Échinodermes

Saint-Aubin-sur-Mer, France, 18–20 September 1985

Organized by Pierre Le Gall

Proceedings or abstracts volume: none published.

5^{ème} Séminaire International sur les Échinodermes

Nantes, France, 22–25 September 1986

Organized by Catherine Cuenca

Proceedings volume: Cuenca, C. (Ed.) (1987) Actes du V^{ième} Séminaire International sur les Échinodermes. *Bulletin de la Société des Sciences Naturelles de l'Ouest de la France, Supplément Hors Série*, ISSN 0373-3025 [in French and English]

6^{ème} Séminaire International sur les Échinodermes

Ile des Embiez, France, 19–22 September 1988

Organized by Marie-Berthe Régis

Proceedings volume: Régis, M.-B. (Ed.) (1989) Actes du VI^{ième} Séminaire International sur les Échinodermes. *Vie Marine, Hors Série*, 10, ISSN 0223-422X [in French and English]

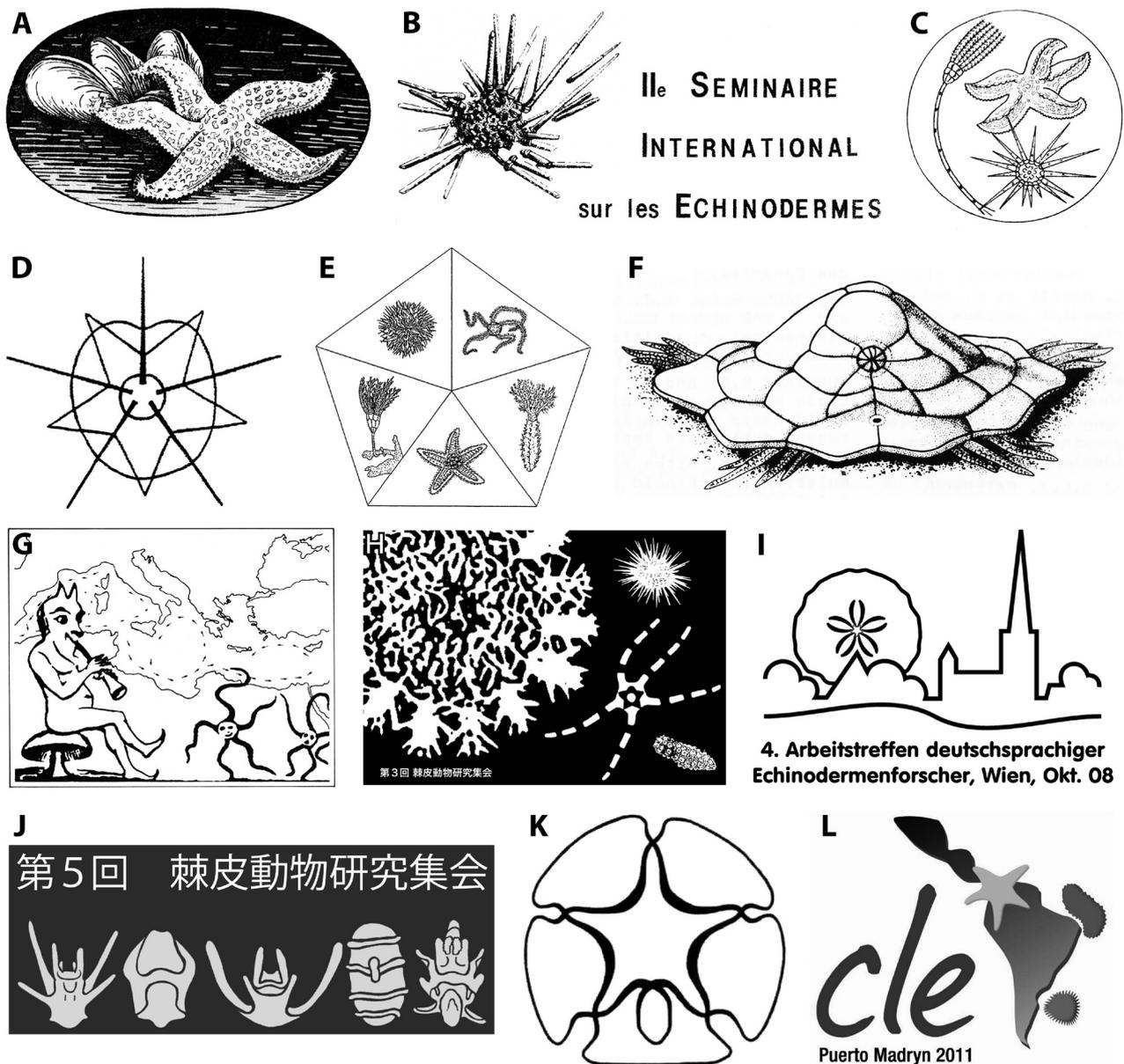


FIGURE 4. Evolution of conference logos from selected national and regional echinoderm meetings from 1974 to 2011. (A) 2nd VKI, Nakhodka, 1974. (B) 2nd SIE, Grenoble, 1982. (C) 5th VKI, Lviv, 1983. (D) 4th SIE, Saint-Aubin-sur-mer, 1985. (E) 5th SIE, Nantes, 1986. (F) 6th VKI, Tallinn, 1987. (G) 6th SIE, Ile des Embiez, 1988. (H) 3rd KKS, Tokyo, 2006. (I) 4th ADE, Vienna, 2008. (J) 5th KKS, Okinawa, 2008. (K) RKI, Moscow, 2011. (L) 1st CLE, Puerto Madryn, 2011.

Arbeitsreffen deutschsprachiger Echinodermenforscher (ADE)

Almost thirty years after the first IEC was held in 1972, echinoderm researchers with German mother tongue united in order to tie in with the long German history in echinoderm research. The participants at these meetings usually come from Germany, Austria, Switzerland, Luxembourg, and the Netherlands, but the meetings also attract the occasional “more international” attendee. The title of the conference can best be translated into “Workshop of German-speaking Echinoderm Researchers”. Conference languages are German and English. Figure 4 depicts the logo of the meeting held in 2008. At the time of publication the date for the next Arbeitsreffen deutschsprachiger Echinodermenforscher had not yet been scheduled.

1. Arbeitstreffen deutschsprachiger Echinodermenforscher

Greifswald, Germany, 11–13 May 2001

Organized by Mike Reich and Ingelore Hinz-Schallreuter

Abstracts & Proceedings volume: Reich, M. & Hinz-Schallreuter, I. (Eds.) (2001) 1. Arbeitstreffen deutschsprachiger Echinodermenforscher, Greifswald, 11. bis 13. Mai 2001. Arbeiten und Kurzfassungen der Vorträge und Poster. *Greifswalder Geowissenschaftliche Beiträge*, 9, 1–68, ISSN 0949-376X [in German and English]

2. Arbeitstreffen deutschsprachiger Echinodermenforscher

Berlin, Germany, 15–17 November 2002

Organized by Christian Neumann

Proceedings or abstracts volume: none published.

3. Arbeitstreffen deutschsprachiger Echinodermenforscher

Ingelfingen, Germany, 29–31 October 2004

Organized by Hans Hagdorn and Mike Reich

Abstracts & Proceedings volume: Reich, M., Hagdorn, H. & Reitner, J. (Eds.) (2004) *Stachelhäuter 2004. 3. Arbeitstreffen deutschsprachiger Echinodermenforscher in Ingelfingen, 29. bis 31. Oktober 2004. Arbeiten und Kurzfassungen der Vorträge und Poster*. Universitätsdrucke Göttingen (Universitätsverlag Göttingen), 78 pp., ISBN 978-3-930457-66-3 [in German and English]

4. Arbeitstreffen deutschsprachiger Echinodermenforscher

Vienna, Austria, 24–26 October 2008

Organized by Andreas Kroh and Brigitta Schmid

Proceedings or abstracts volume: none published.

Kyokuhi-Doubutsu Kenkyuu Shuukai (KKS)

This recently established series of meetings in Japan is rather informal and is aimed at free conversation about echinoderms. Since 2005 the event is held annually. The Japanese name of the conference can best be translated into “Echinoderm Research Symposium”. No proceedings or abstracts volumes have been published following these meetings. Conference language is Japanese. Figure 4 depicts selected KKS logos. At the time of publication the date of the next Kyokuhi-doubutsu Kenkyuu Shuukai had not yet been scheduled.

1. Kyokuhi-Doubutsu Kenkyuu Shuukai

Tokyo, Japan, 24 March 1999

Organized by Tatsuo Motokawa

2. Kyokuhi-Doubutsu Kenkyuu Shuukai

Tokyo, Japan, 15 June 2005

Organized by Toshihiko Fujita

3. Kyokuhi-Doubutsu Kenkyuu Shuukai

Tokyo, Japan, 22 November 2006

Organized by Toshihiko Fujita

4. Kyokuhi-Doubutsu Kenkyuu Shuukai

Tokyo, Japan, 8 December 2007

Organized by Tatsuo Oji

5. Kyokuhi-Doubutsu Kenkyuu Shuukai

Okinawa, Japan, 13 December 2008

Organized by Yoshihisa Fujita

6. Kyokuhi-Doubutsu Kenkyuu Shuukai

Tokyo, Japan, 12 December 2009

Organized by Tatsuo Motokawa

7. Kyokuhi-Doubutsu Kenkyuu Shuukai

Kanagawa, Japan, 11 December 2010

Organized by Akiya Hino and Ken'ichi Kanazawa

8. Kyokuhi-Doubutsu Kenkyuu Shuukai

Aichi, Japan, 10 December 2011

Organized by Tatsuo Oji

9. Kyokuhi-Doubutsu Kenkyuu Shuukai

Sendai, Japan, 8 December 2012

Organized by Yukio Agatsuma

Florida Echinoderms Festival (FEF)

The roots of this meeting go back to 1972 when John M. Lawrence and two of his graduate students met one day at the University of Florida Marine Laboratory at Seahorse Key “to tell each other about their work” (Lawrence 1998). Although the first meeting had been scheduled to take place close to the sea, the organizers decided to move the conference further inland in order to avoid the unpleasant side-effects of tropical storm Marco that had been scheduled for the exact dates of the meeting. This conference series was discontinued after the fifth meeting in 1999. No proceedings were published following these gatherings. Conference language was English.

1st Florida Echinoderms Festival

Gainesville, Florida, USA, 12 October 1990

Organized by Larry R. McEdward

2nd Florida Echinoderms Festival

St. Petersburg, Florida, USA, 18 November 1995

Organized by John Ferguson

3rd Florida Echinoderms Festival

Melbourne, Florida, USA, 3 April 1997

Organized by Richard L. Turner

4th Florida Echinoderms Festival

Jacksonville, Florida, USA, 25 October 1997

Organized by Lee-Ann Clements

5th Florida Echinoderms Festival

Tampa, Florida, USA, 20 February 1999

Organized by John M. Lawrence

Independent echinoderm meetings and symposia

In contrast to the above-mentioned conferences dedicated solely to echinoderm studies, a range of echinoderm symposia and meetings have been held during various other, larger conferences or even as entirely independent events. The results of these echinoderm meetings have sometimes been published in the form of articles or books.

Symposium on Physiology of Echinodermata (as part of the 16th International Congress of Zoology)

Washington, DC, USA, 26 August 1963

Organized by Richard A. Boolootian

Proceedings volume: Boolootian, R.A. (Ed.) (1966) *Physiology of Echinodermata*. Interscience, New York/London/Sydney, 822 pp., no ISBN/ISSN.

Symposium on Echinoderm Biology (sponsored by the Zoological Society of London)

London, UK, 25–26 May 1966

Organized by Norman Millott

Proceedings volume: Millott, N. (Ed.) (1967) *Echinoderm Biology. The Proceedings of a Symposium held at the Zoological Society of London on 25 and 26 May 1966. Symposia of the Zoological Society of London*, 20, 1–240, ISSN 0084-5612

Symposium on Echinoderm Development (as part of the Winter Meeting of the American Society of Zoologists)

Houston, Texas, USA, 20–23 December 1973

Organized by Fu-Shiang Chia and Arthur H. Whiteley

Proceedings volume: *American Zoologist*, 15, 483–835, ISSN 0003-1569

Meeting on Phylogeny and Evolutionary Biology of Echinoderms (in honour of Georges Ubaghs, Porter Kier, and Ailsa Clark)
London, UK, 15–16 December 1986
Organized by Andrew B. Smith and Christopher R. C. Paul
Proceedings volume: Paul, C.R.C. & Smith, A.B. (Eds.) (1988) *Echinoderm Phylogeny and Evolutionary Biology*. Clarendon Press, Oxford, 373 pp., ISBN 978-0-19-854491-3

Perspectivas de Estudios sobre Equinodermos en México (as part of the XIV Congreso Nacional de Zoología)
Guanajuato, México, 4–7 November 1997
Organized by Francisco A. Solís Marín
Abstracts volume: Anonymous (1997) *Memorias del XIV Congreso Nacional de Zoología*. Sociedad Mexicana de Zoología, México, no ISBN/ISSN

Symposium on Evolution of Starfishes: Morphology, Molecules, Development, and Paleobiology (as part of the Annual Meeting of the Society for Integrative and Comparative Biology)
Denver, Colorado, USA, 6–10 January 1999
Organized by Daniel B. Blake, Daniel A. Janies, and Richard J. Mooi
Proceedings volume: *Integrative and Comparative Biology*, 40, 311–392, 2000, ISSN 1540-7063

Journées Georges Ubaghs
Dijon, France, 30–31 January 2006
Organized by Bertrand Lefebvre, Bruno David, Elise Nardin, and Edouard Poty
Proceedings volume: *Annales de Paléontologie*, 93, 179–330, 2007, ISSN 0753-3969 [in French and English]

Echinoderm short courses of the Paleontological Society

Two shortcourses on echinoderms were hosted by The Paleontological Society during the Annual Meeting of The Geological Society of America in November 1980 (Atlanta, Georgia, USA—organized by Thomas W. Broadhead and Johnny A. Waters) as well as in April 1997 (Salt Lake City, Utah, USA—organized by Johnny A. Waters and Christopher G. Maples). Printed notes were published on both occasions. The conference language was English.

Broadhead, T.W. & Waters, J.A. (Eds.) (1980) Echinoderms: Notes for a short course. *University of Tennessee, Department of Geological Sciences, Studies in Geology*, 3, 1–235, ISBN 978-0-910249-01-0

Waters, J.A. & Maples, C.G. (Eds.) (1997) Geobiology of Echinoderms. *The Paleontological Society Papers*, 3, 1–355, ISSN 1089-3326

Meetings on echinoderm fisheries and aquaculture

From the 1970s on, a growing number of conferences and workshops have been dedicated specifically to echinoderm fisheries and aquaculture. Several of these meetings have resulted in the publication of sometimes extensive works on echinoderm biology. Our list is probably not exhaustive, because we have singled out only those meetings with traceable publications. Conference language during echinoderm aquaculture and fisheries meetings is usually English.

Workshop on the Relationship between Sea Urchin Grazing and Commercial Plant/Animal Harvesting

Halifax, Nova Scotia, Canada, 6–8 March 1979

Organized by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

Proceedings volume: Pringle, J.D., Sharp, G.J. & Caddy, J.F. (Eds.) (1980) Proceedings of the Workshop on the Relationship between Sea Urchin Grazing and Commercial Plant/Animal Harvesting. *Canadian Technical Report of Fisheries and Aquatic Sciences*, 954, 273 pp., ISSN 0706-6457

National Workshop on Beche-de-mer Processing

Dar-es-Salaam, Tanzania, 29 July–2 August 1985

Organized by the Ministry of Tourism, Marine, and Forestry of Tanzania

Proceedings volume: Sachithanathan, K., Osman, S.S., Mlay, M. & Schoemaker, R. (Eds.) (1985) Report on the National Workshop on Fish Handling in Zanzibar, United Republic of Tanzania and Report on the Tanzania/SWIOOP National Workshop on Beche-de-mer Processing. *SWIOOP Working Paper*, 22, 90 pp., no ISBN/ISSN

Colloque International sur *Paracentrotus lividus* et les Oursins Comestibles

Carry-le-Rouet, France, 21–22 February 1987

Organized by Charles F. Boudouresque

Proceedings volume: Boudouresque, C.F. (Ed.) (1987) *Actes du Colloque International sur Paracentrotus lividus et les Oursins Comestibles, Carry-le-Rouet 1987*. GIS Posidonie, Marseille, 433 pp., ISBN 978-2-905540-11-9 [in French and English]

Workshop on Pacific Inshore Fishery Resources

Nouméa, New Caledonia, France, 14–25 March 1988

Organized by the South Pacific Commission

Proceedings volume: Conand, C. (Ed.) (1988) Beche-de-mer in New Caledonia: Biology and Fishing. *SPC Working Paper*, 5, 12 pp., no ISBN/ISSN

National Workshop on Beche-de-mer

Cochin, India, 23–25 February 1989

Organized by the Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute of India

Proceedings volume: Rengarajan, K. & James, D.B. (Eds.) (1994) Proceedings of the National Workshop on Beche-de-mer. *Bulletin of the Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute*, 46, 113 pp., ISSN 0577-084X

Conference on Management and Enhancement of Sea Urchins and other Kelp Bed Resources
Bodega Bay, California, USA, 19–21 March 1992
Organized by Christopher M. Dewees
Proceedings volume: Dewees, C.M. (Ed.) (1992) The Management and Enhancement of Sea Urchins and other Kelp Bed Resources—a Pacific Rim perspective. *California Sea Grant College Report*, 28, 200 pp., no ISBN/ISSN

A Regional Management Plan for a Sustainable Sea Cucumber Fishery for Micronesia
Mangilao, Guam, USA, 3–5 March 1993
Organized by Robert H. Richmond
Proceedings volume: Richmond, R.H. (Ed.) (1996) Suggestions for the Management of Sea Cucumber Resources in Micronesia. Results of the Workshop “A Regional Management Plan for a Sustainable Sea Cucumber Fishery for Micronesia”. *University of Guam Marine Laboratory Technical Report*, 101, 69 pp., ISSN 0379-5403

Workshop on the Management and Biology of the Green Sea Urchin (*Strongylocentrotus droebachiensis*)
Boothbay Harbor, Maine, USA, 27–28 September 1994
Organized by Jessica Harris and H. Arnold Carr
Proceedings volume: Harris, J. & Carr, H.A. (Eds.) (1996) 1994 Workshop on the Management and Biology of the Green Sea Urchin (*Strongylocentrotus droebachiensis*). *Massachusetts Division of Marine Fisheries Publication*, 17785-127-100-1/96-3.57, 124 pp., no ISBN/ISSN

Sea Cucumber (Beche-de-mer) Fishery Management Workshop
Brisbane, Queensland, Australia, 8–9 December 1997
Organized by Sian B. Damschke
Proceedings volume: Damschke, S.B. (Ed.) (1997) *Sea Cucumber (Beche-de-mer) Fishery Management Workshop—Proceedings*. Queensland Fisheries Management Authority, Brisbane, 39 pp., ISBN 978-0-7242-7025-5

Session on Sea Urchin Aquaculture (as part of the International Triennial Conference and Exposition of the World Aquaculture Society)
Las Vegas, Nevada, USA, 15–19 February 1998
Organized by Charles W. Walker and Michael P. Lesser
Abstracts volume: *Journal of Shellfish Research*, 17, 311–342, 1999, ISSN 0730-8000

The Conservation of Sea Cucumbers in Malaysia: Their Taxonomy, Ecology, and Trade
Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, 25 February 1999
Organized by the Department of Agriculture of Malaysia
Proceedings volume: Baine, M. (Ed.) (1999) *The Conservation of Sea Cucumbers in Malaysia: Their Taxonomy, Ecology, and Trade. Proceedings of an International Conference*. Heriot-Watt University Press, Stromness, 82 pp., ISBN 978-0-9531575-3-2

Workshop on the Co-ordination of Research on the Green Sea Urchin in Atlantic Canada

Moncton, New Brunswick, Canada, 1–2 June 2000

Organized by the Centre de Recherche et de Développement des Produits Marins Inc.

Proceedings volume: Anonymous (2000) *Proceedings of the Workshop on the Co-ordination of Research on the Green Sea Urchin in Atlantic Canada, 1–2 June 2000, Université de Moncton*. CRDPM, Shippagan, no ISBN/ISSN

Advanced Workshop on Sea Urchin Aquaculture

Torregrande, Sardinia, Italy, 20 November–1 December 2000

Organized by Yukio Yokota, Silvana Vallerga, Giovanni Guidice, Valeria Matranga, Joe Hirano, Rosalba Murgia, and Maura Baroli

Proceedings volume: Yokota, Y., Matranga, V. & Smolenicka, Z. (Eds.) (2002) *The Sea Urchin: From Biology to Aquaculture*. A. A. Balkema, Lisse/Abingdon/Exton/Tokyo, 231 pp., ISBN 978-90-5809-379-0

International Conference on Sea-Urchin Fisheries and Aquaculture

Puerto Varas, Chile, 24–27 March 2003

Organized by John M. Lawrence and Oscar Guzmán

Proceedings volume: Lawrence, J.M. & Guzmán, O. (Eds.) (2004) *Sea Urchins: Fisheries and Ecology. Proceedings of the International Conference on Sea-Urchin Fisheries and Aquaculture*. CRC Press, Lancaster, 439 pp., ISBN 978-0-8493-1929-7

International Workshop on Advances in Sea Cucumber Aquaculture and Management

Dalian, China, 14–18 October 2003

Organized by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

Abstracts volume: *Beche-de-mer Information Bulletin*, 19, 3–22, 2004, ISSN 1025-4943

Proceedings volume: Lovatelli, A., Conand, C., Purcell, S., Uthicke, S., Hamel, J.F. & Mercier, A. (Eds.) (2004) *Advances in Sea Cucumber Aquaculture and Management. FAO Fisheries and Aquaculture Technical Paper*, 463, 425 pp., ISBN 978-92-5-105163-4

CITES Workshop on the Conservation of Sea Cucumbers in the Families Holothuriidae and Stichopodidae

Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, 1–3 March 2004

Organized by the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora

Proceedings volume: Bruckner, A.W. (Ed.) (2006) *The Proceedings of the CITES Workshop on the Conservation of Sea Cucumbers in the Families Holothuriidae and Stichopodidae. NOAA Technical Memorandum NMFS-OPRK*, 34, 244 pp., no ISBN/ISSN

Start-up Workshop of the Regional Sea Cucumber project

Mombasa, Kenya, 26–29 January 2006

Organized by the Western Indian Ocean Marine Science Association

Proceedings volume: Muthiga, N. & Conand, C. (Eds.) (2006) *Regional Sea Cucumber Project: Proceedings of the Start-up Workshop, Mombasa, Kenya, 26–29 January 2006*. WIOMSA, MASMA publication, 20 pp., no ISBN/ISSN

Papua New Guinea, Pacific Islands, and Northern Australia Sea Cucumber Fisheries Management Workshop

Motupore Island, Papua New Guinea, 20–23 March 2006

Organized by Kim Friedman, Warwick Nash, and Barney Smith

Proceedings volume: Friedman, K., Purcell, S., Bell, J. & Hair, C. (Eds.) (2008) Sea Cucumber Fisheries: A Manager's Toolbox. *ACIAR Monograph Series*, 135, 34 pp., ISBN 978-1-921531-16-3

International Workshop on the Sustainable Use and Management of Sea Cucumber Fisheries

Puerto Ayora, Galapagos, Ecuador, 19–23 November 2007

Organized by the Food and Agricultural Organization of the United Nations and the Charles Darwin Institute

Proceedings volume: Toral-Grande, V., Lovatelli, A. & Vasconcellos, M. (Eds.) (2008) Sea Cucumbers. A Global Review of Fisheries and Trade. *FAO Fisheries and Aquaculture Technical Paper*, 516, 317 pp., ISBN 978-92-5-106079-7

Proceedings Volume: Purcell, S.W. (2010) *Putting into Practice an Ecosystem Approach to Managing Sea Cucumber Fisheries*. Food and Agricultural Organization of the United Nations, Rome, 81 pp., ISBN 978-92-5-106660-7

Proceedings volume: Purcell, S.W., Lovatelli, A., Vasconcellos, M. & Ye, Y. (Eds.) (2010) Managing sea cucumber fisheries with an ecosystem approach. *FAO Fisheries and Aquaculture Technical Paper*, 520, 157 pp., ISBN 978-92-5-106489-4

ACIAR-SPC Asia-Pacific Tropical Sea Cucumber Aquaculture Symposium

Nouméa, New Caledonia, 15–17 February 2011

Organized by the Australian Centre for International Agricultural Research in collaboration with the Secretariat of the Pacific Community

Proceedings volume: Hair, C.A., Pickering, T.D. & Mills, D.J. (Eds.) (2012) Asia-Pacific Tropical Sea Cucumber Aquaculture. Proceedings of an International Symposium held in Nouméa, New Caledonia, 15–17 February 2011. *ACIAR Proceedings*, 136, 209 pp., ISBN 978-1-921962-34-9

Sea Cucumber Fisheries: An Ecosystem Approach to Management in the Pacific (SCEAM Pacific)

Nadi, Fiji, 15–18 November 2011

Organized by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

Proceedings volume: FAO (2012) Report on the Workshop on Sea Cucumber Fisheries: An Ecosystem Approach to Management in the Pacific (SCEAM Pacific). Nadi, Fiji, 15–18 November 2011. *FAO Fisheries and Aquaculture Report*, 1003, 44 pp., ISBN 978-92-5-107196-0

Echinoderm conferences and proceedings — *quo vadis?*

In the course of assembling the historical data presented here, we have been surprised to learn how many conferences and symposia have been held in the five decades since the first meeting specifically dedicated to echinoderms was organized in Washington, DC in 1963. However, a quick look at the worldwide hotspots of echinoderm gatherings (Fig. 5) reveals that vast territories remain yet to

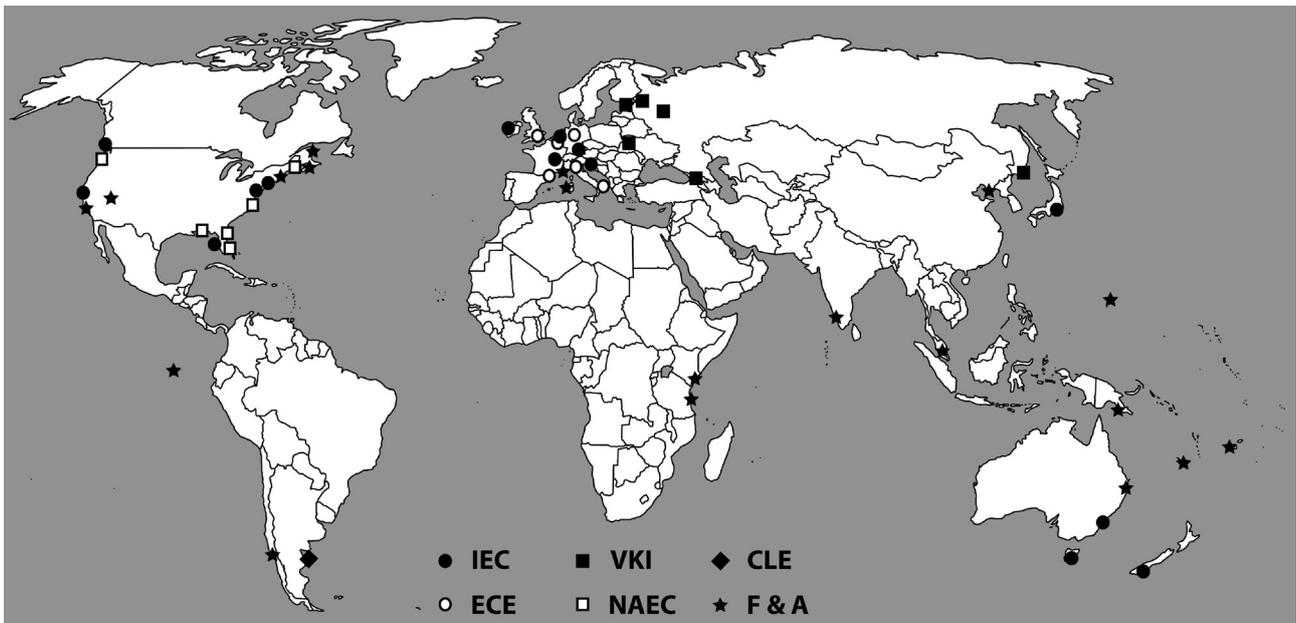


FIGURE 5. Geographical distribution of international (IEC) and regional (CLE, ECE, NAEC, VKI) echinoderm conferences as well as meetings on echinoderm fisheries and aquaculture (F & A) from 1971 to 2012.

be discovered by echinoderm convenors. It is therefore about time that one of the next IEC meetings should be held in Africa, Arabia, or mainland Asia!

In contrast to these considerations, there is an astonishing national and regional activity, with active meetings in Japan, Russia, Germany, and the United States. Certainly, these meetings primarily reflect the worldwide density of echinoderm researchers, making a successful call for a meeting in Antarctica presumably rather unlikely. However, as the recent example of the now firmly established Congreso Latinoamericano de Equinodermos in South America shows, new and flourishing traditions could be started anytime.

A last point we feel worthy of discussion is the form of publication of abstracts and research articles that are related to echinoderm conferences. In our view, it is critical for the future visibility, accessibility, and rapid dissemination of echinoderm-related publications that they be available not only through libraries, but also electronically via the Internet—if possible, at no cost to the reader. This important transition is exemplified by the publication of the 14th IEC's and the 7th ECE's proceedings in scientific journals (*Cahiers de Biologie Marine* and *Zoosymposia*, respectively), instead of in the traditional book format. In addition, in order to facilitate scientific communication, future conference proceedings, whether derived from national, regional, or international conferences, should be published in English.

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