



Preface: Systematics and Taxonomy of Harpacticoid Copepods—A Commemorative Volume in Honour of Prof. John J.B. Wells

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John Berkeley James Wells was one of the greatest copepodologists in the post-World War II era and arguably the world's pre-eminent expert on harpacticoid copepods since Karl Lang. It would be difficult to overstate the legacy he left for others interested in his research field and in citizen science. Although some of us were aware of John's deteriorating condition, his death at age 83 on 12 November 2018 from motor neurone disease still came as a shock to his many friends and colleagues all over the world. Within a month of receiving the very sad news of his passing, a group of fellow copepodologists—friends and colleagues—conferred through e-mail and agreed that a Commemorative Issue of a scientific periodical should be published to honour John's great contribution to copepod systematics. Since his *magnum opus* was published in *Zootaxa* (Wells 2007) it was swiftly agreed upon that a memorial issue in this journal would be a fitting tribute. After consultation with Zhi-Qiang Zhang, Chief Editor and Founder of *Zootaxa*, invitations were sent out to John's friends and collaborators over his lifetime as well as to other colleagues who are currently active in the field of harpacticoid systematics and biodiversity. Thirty-six colleagues from 15 countries accepted their invitations. The current volume compiles 17 contributed papers, in addition to a tribute to John's life and career and an appreciation of his contributions to harpacticoid diversity and systematics which begin the issue. Although John was one of the great modern authorities of harpacticoid taxonomy, he also conducted research on marine benthic cyclopoids, not only documenting records from sandy beaches (Wells 1961, 1963a, 1963b, 1964, 1965, 1967, 1978; Wells & McKenzie 1973) but also describing new genera and species (Wells 1967). In recognition of his less well-known contributions to the taxonomy of cyclopinid copepods this volume also includes a contributed paper on this group of marine interstitial copepods.



On behalf of the contributors to this memorial issue and the entire copepod research community I take great pleasure in presenting this compilation of scientific papers on benthic copepods to John's widow, Margery, and their two sons, David and Stephen. I would like to thank Eduardo Suárez-Morales for his editorial assistance, and the following reviewers for their dedicated efforts and time spent on reviewing and improving the quality of the manuscripts: Maria Cristina Bruno, Paulo H.S. Corgosinho, Lesya Garlitska, Santiago Gaviria, Kai Horst George, Hendrik Gheerardyn, Samuel Gómez, Tomislav Karanovic, Süphan Karaytuğ, Terue Kihara, Jong Guk Kim, Jimin Lee, Wonchoel Lee, Annabel Mathiske, Serdar Sak, Nikolaos Schizas, Michele Sciberras, Serdar Sönmez, Gritta Veit-Köhler and Santi Watirogram.

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