

NEREIS PARK NEWSLETTER

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Editorial

Dear members,
the location of the Third Nereis Park Conference has been chosen in January: it would be in Kristineberg Marine Station (Sweden), in August 2011. The Committee (Nereis Park Board plus past conference organizers) had to choose between three very excellent applications and would like to thank again each very active group for volunteering to host the conference.

Franck Gilbert, on behalf of the Committee

Do not miss it ! Register now !

PhD students are warmly encouraged to rapidly register to the course in Aquatic Microbial and Molecular Ecology this August. This course is very relevant for everyone studying bioturbation in sediments. Central issues on the course are in fact bioturbation and sediment biogeochemistry. Carbon, sulfur, nitrogen and iron cycles in Nereis-bioturbated sediment are studied.

Course Approach:

Theoretical and practical training in biogeochemistry and molecular techniques with emphasis on the ecology of marine microbial systems.

Time and place:

August 3 to 21, 2009, University of Southern Denmark, Odense.

For information and registration

Aquatic Microbial and Molecular Ecology

<http://www.ebkristensen.biology.sdu.dk/BB84/BB84-85.htm>

Instructors and contact persons:

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It looks like *Arenicola* seabeds, no? Which animal do you bet did this?

Recent works

Why does the area of seafloor covered by bioturbation traces would increases in the hypoxic area of the Estuary and Gulf of St. Lawrence, Canada?

We conducted a study in the deep waters of the Estuary and Gulf of St. Lawrence (EGSL), Canada, and found that the oxygen saturation of the bottom layer of water could explains 62% of the variability of the bioturbation traces found on the seafloor, surface and relief-traces combined (hereafter called "total-traces"). Moreover, our results indicate that the area of seafloor covered by total and surface-traces increases with decreasing oxygen concentration. While we did not find any significant differences in species richness between regions with different oxygen levels, we suggest that this increase in bioturbated area reflect a change in the community structure in the hypoxic area of the EGSL due to the decrease of oxygen. Species with higher tolerance to low-oxygen, mostly surface feeders and producing surface-traces (such as *Ophiura* sp.), would have replaced species with lower tolerance to low-oxygen, mostly suspension feeders and producing relief-traces.

The paper has recently been submitted to the journal "Estuarine, Coastal and Shelf Science" and we hope to announce you its publication in a few months.

Régnald Belley

Finding a PhD course = walking through a Labyrinth. Solution?

To obtain a PhD degree, most universities in Europe require students to complete postgraduate courses: PhD courses that are usually equivalent in total to about 30 ECTS. Often, these courses are very specialised and are offered at universities or institutes where the PhD student is not enrolled. Even more often, information about PhD courses is only advertised locally, and thereby commonly lost in the meander of university webpage. Therefore, as a PhD student, it is difficult to find the right course at the right place.

To make the information more accessible, I suggest gathering PhD courses into a single list that contains only long term information, i.e., name of the course, ECTS credits, location, course leader(s) and link to the course website. Therefore, I have recently created a list of PhD courses (see: <http://www.phdcourseslist.dk/List.htm>). To date, the list contains about 20 PhD courses in different fields of science in 4 countries within Europe (Denmark, Italy, Norway and The Netherlands), and has received more than 100 visitors.

PhD courses can be added by course leaders or by PhD students easily at <http://www.phdcourseslist.dk/> The data about the courses in PhD course list will be updated on a yearly basis.

I hope you will find this idea appealing, and that courses related to bioturbation will be highly represented!

Please forward the information to your colleagues and PhD students.

Matthieu Delefosse

Special thanks ...

to Matthieu and Régnald whom inputs allowed this newsletter to be published.