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VOL. 43, No. 1

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Jnl. of Marine Biology, 54, 2

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**March 1974** 

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- Jose Sarukhán. Studies on plant demography: Ranunculus repens L., R. bulbosus L. and R. acris L. II. Reproductive strategies and seed population dynamics.
- Alan Cooper and J. R. Etherington. The vegetation of carboniferous limestone soils in South Wales. I. Dolomitization, soil magnesium status and plant growth.
- R. S. Clymo and E. J. F. Reddaway. Growth rate of Sphagnum rubellum Wils on Pennine blanket bog.
- H. Godwin, D. R. Clowes and B. Huntley. Studies in the ecology of Wicken Fen. V. Development of fen carr.

Winifred Pennington (Mrs T. G. Tutin). Seston and sediment formation in five Lake District lakes.

- **A. J. Morton.** Ecological studies of a fixed dune grassland at Newborough Warren, Anglesey. I. The structure of the grassland.
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- S. R. A. Shamsi and F. H. Whitehead. Comparative eco-physiology of *Epilobium hirsutum* L. and *Lythrum salicaria*. L. I. General biology, distribution and germination.
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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.

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

## CONTENTS

HAYWARD, J. Studies on the growth of Stichococcus bacillaris Naeg in culture	. 261
LEADBEATER, B. S. C. and MANTON, I. Preliminary observations on the chemistry are biology of the lorica in a collared flagellate ( <i>Stephanoeca diplocostata</i> Ellis) .	nd . 269
INGRAM HENDEY, N. A revised check-list of British marine diatoms	. 277
SHELTON, R. G. J. Observations on the occurrence of an epizooic, blue-green alga on the chemoreceptor setae of the brown shrimp, <i>Crangon crangon</i> (L.).	he . 301
KINGSTON, PAUL. Some observations on the effects of temperature and salinity upon the growth of <i>Cardium edule</i> and <i>Cardium glaucum</i> larvae in the laboratory	he . 309
CORNER, E. D. S., HEAD, R. N., KILVINGTON, C. C. and MARSHALL, S. M., F.R.S. C the nutrition and metabolism of zooplankton. IX. Studies relating to the nutrition over-wintering <i>Calanus</i> .	On of . 319
DEMIR, NECLÂ and SOUTHWARD, A. J. The abundance and distribution of eggs and larv of teleost fishes off Plymouth in 1969 and 1970. Part 3. Eggs of pilchard (Sardina pi chardus Walbaum) and sprat (Sprattus sprattus (L.))	ae il- · 333
BOXSHALL, G. A. Infections with parasitic copepods in North Sea marine fishes .	· 355
STEVENS, J. D. The occurrence and significance of tooth cuts on the blue shark (Priora glauca L.) from British waters	<i>ice</i> • 373
HEWETT, C. J. Growth and moulting in the common lobster (Homarus vulgaris Milr Edwards)	ne- • 379
WILSON, DOUGLAS P. Sabellaria colonies at Duckpool, North Cornwall, 1971–1972, with note for May 1973	a • 393
NEWMAN, WILLIAM A. Two new deep-sea Cirripedia (Ascothoracica and Acrothoracica from the Atlantic.	) • 437
LEATHERLAND, T. M. and BURTON, J. D. The occurrence of some trace metals in coast organisms with particular reference to the solent region	al • 457
PINGREE, R. D., FORSTER, G. R. and MORRISON, G. K. Turbulent convergent tidal from	ts 469
HOLME, N. A. The biology of Loligo forbesi Steenstrup (Mollusca: Cephalopoda) in th Plymouth area	. 481
Abstracts of Memoirs	. 505
LIST OF BOOKS RECEIVED	. 507

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