

INDIAN OCEAN BIOLOGICAL CENTRE

THE DISTRIBUTION OF PLANKTON SAMPLES IN THE INTERNATIONAL COLLECTION

The Report of the Third Meeting of the Consultative Committee for the IOBC is contained in the IIOE Information Paper No. 14 (UNESCO/NS/IOC/INF-72, ANNEX II).

This additional information paper provides some details regarding the plankton samples received at the IOBC and their geographical distribution in the Indian Ocean.

On 31 May, 1965, a total of 1,646 samples had been received from participants in the IIOE, as follows:

	Samples		Samples
Australia	206	Portugal.....	0
France	0	South Africa	166
Germany (Fed. Rep.).....	95	Thailand.....	0
India.....	397	USSR.....	50
Indonesia.....	0	U.K.....	206
Japan.....	109	U.S.A.....	395
Pakistan	22		

The upper chart on the attached page shows the distribution of these samples. It is clear that the sampling south of the Equator was inadequate, except for coastal regions near Australia and South Africa. Although the northern regions are well represented, the Consultative Committee (p.6 of the Third Report) concluded that there had been insufficient repetition of sampling to permit an analysis of seasonal variation.

The Consultative Committee made a strong plea for additional sampling in order to improve the temporal coverage in the north and to fill the geographical gaps in the south. It is hoped that these requirements will be borne in mind whenever research ships pass through the poorly sampled areas during and after the conclusion of the IIOE, and that nations will continue to donate standard samples to the IOBC at Ernakulam.

At the IOBC, the samples are sorted into 80 major taxonomic groups. The distribution of 830 samples which had been sorted at 31 May, 1965 is shown in the lower chart attached. At 1 October, 1965, the total number of samples in the Collection had increased to 1,795, of which 1,100 had been sorted. More detailed analysis of the sorted fractions has been started as a first step towards a study of the biogeography of the plankton in the Indian Ocean. For this it is hoped to enlist the collaboration of specialists throughout the world.

R.S. Glover, Chairman,
Consultative Committee
for the Indian Ocean
Biological Centre

Edinburgh
21 October 1965

Rules for the loan and analysis of samples from the International
Collections at IOBC

The International Collections consist of plankton samples taken from the research ships of various countries participating in the International Indian Ocean Expedition. Most of the samples were taken in the upper 200m with the Indian Ocean Standard Net, according to a standard procedure. It is envisaged that the Collection will be augmented by further samples taken after the end of the IIOE.

The primary aim of research on the International Collections will be the investigation of the distribution, abundance, and factors governing the plankton in the Indian Ocean. This investigation will of necessity be based on taxonomic studies. The Consultative Committee of IOBC will invite experts to collaborate in the study of the material which will be pre-sorted by the staff of IOBC according to a standard procedure. Work on the various systematic groups may be done either at IOBC or in other scientific institutions to which material will be lent. Although the study will be primarily biogeographical and taxonomic, material will also be released for related studies. Any loan of material is subject to the following rules and conditions:

- (1) Samples will normally be lent to institutions only, rather than to individuals. Requests for samples should be made to the Curator of IOBC in an approved form containing a description of the proposed research project and naming the scientist who will be responsible for the material and the work which may be carried out by himself or by others under his supervision and guidance. The proportion of time which these individuals will devote to the work should also be indicated.
- (2) When requesting the samples, the institution should give an estimate of the time needed for working up the samples. Once a year, a progress report should be given. Whenever the study is likely to last for more than two years, the Curator of the IOBC may ask that fractions of the samples already studied be returned to the Centre. The Consultative Committee will review the progress reports each year and reserve the right to withdraw the material in the case of undue delay or unsatisfactory treatment of the samples.
- (3) Institutions interested in a specific systematic group should be willing to work up all the samples of that group as collected during the IIOE and delivered to the International Collections. In general, team work on a national or international basis would be appreciated, as it may ensure speedier results, appropriate checking, and further training in taxonomy and systematics.

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- (4) After the material has been studied, it should be returned, properly labelled, to the IOBC, where it will be kept for further studies and as a reference collection. If the institution wishes to retain specimens, it should apply for permission to the IOBC. While every encouragement will be given to individuals to publish their own results, a final report should be submitted to the Centre, containing the following information for each sample: number of specimens of each species, the size, sex and developmental stage of each specimen with notes on morphological anomalies and infestations.
 - (5) In the case of new species, holotypes should be submitted to the Zoological Survey of India (Indian Museum). Paratypes should be given to IOBC and the Consultative Committee will formulate rules for their deposition. One or more paratypes will be retained in IOBC and will normally not be lent outside the Centre.
 - (6) Publication of the results should be in one of the four official UNESCO languages, or should contain a summary in one of these languages. The source of the material should be acknowledged and, if possible, five reprints should be delivered to the IOBC.
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