

INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION  
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# NEWSLETTER

J.F. Payne and J. Huner, editors

**MEETING** -- The IAA meeting previously scheduled to be held in Winnipeg, Canada in August 1986 has been canceled. It appears that our next meeting will be held in Lausanne, Switzerland in August 1987. Further details will appear in the spring 1986 newsletter.

**IMPORTANT CHANGES** -- Address editorial correspondence to: Jay V. Huner, Center for Small Farm Research, College of Agriculture, Southern University, Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70813 USA. Address inquiries about membership and related matters to: James F. Payne, Department of Biology, Memphis State University, Memphis, Tennessee 38152 USA.

**MEMBERSHIP DUES** -- If you have not paid your dues for 1984-87, please do so at your earliest convenience. Dues are \$20 in U.S. currency payable to the International Association of Astacology. They should be forwarded to:

Dr. James F. Payne  
Department of Biology  
Memphis State University  
Memphis, Tennessee 38152 USA

**STATUS OF PROCEEDINGS OF THE LUND MEETING** -- In a recent letter to IAA President Elect James F. Payne, Professor Per Brinck who is editing the proceedings of our Lund meeting, informed Dr. Payne that the manuscripts are almost complete. He expects to mail proofs to authors in the near future.

**AUSTRALIAN CRAYFISH RESEARCH** -- SAFIC is the magazine of the South Australian Department of Fisheries and the South Australian Fishing Industry Council. The August/September 1985 (Vol. 9, No. 4) issue describes the new Aquaculture Centre to be built at Port Noarlunga and has a color plate of a handsome blue yabbie, Cherax destructor, on the cover. The centre is designed to cater to research into many native freshwater and marine species. One of the major species to be considered is the yabbie. This parastacid crayfish can grow to 60 g in 6 months with production of 1500 kg per ha when juveniles are stocked at 5-10 per meter square. Inquiries about yabbies and the Aquaculture Centre may be directed to: Dr. B. J. Mills, South Australian Department of Fisheries, P.O. Box 1625, Adelaide, South Australia 5001, Australia.

SUMMARY OF LOUISIANA CRAYFISH CULTURE TECHNIQUES -- Jay Huner has authored an article entitled "An Update on Crawfish Culture" that appeared in the July/August 1985 issue of Aquaculture Magazine. The article summarized the status of commercial culture of Procambarus spp. primarily in the southern USA. Louisiana dominates the industry with over 48,000 ha of shallow earthen ponds. New electrofishing systems are now in limited operation. These may well revolutionize the current trapping system. Soft-shelled crayfish are becoming a valuable food product in Louisiana. Quality control is being emphasized and the first major order for and delivery of crayfish meat has been made to a major national food service firm in Dallas, Texas. This is certain to lead to acceptance of crayfish products outside of Louisiana and enhance the industry throughout the country. Copies of the article are available from Jay at: Center for Small Farm Research, P.O. Box 11170, Southern University, Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70813 USA.

KAI WESTMAN AUTHORS CRAYFISH TEXT -- Kai Westman (Finnish Game and Fisheries Res. Inst., Fisheries Div., P.O.B. 193, SF-00130 Helsinki 13, Finland) and Viljo Nylund have authored a book entitled "Rapu ja Ravustus" which provides a timely and effective description of Finnish crayfish including biology, natural history, and exploitation. Written in Finnish, this book is beautifully illustrated and belongs on the bookshelf of any serious astacologist despite the absence of summaries in English. The book is available for approximately 146 Finnish marks (about \$25 US) from various Finnish sources including Stockman's Academic Book Store in Helsinki.

MC MAHON STUDIES PROCAMBARUS CLARKII IN LOUISIANA -- Brian McMahon (Univ. of Calgary, Calgary, Alberta, Canada) and a research associate spent parts of May and June at the University of New Orleans, New Orleans, Louisiana studying the physiological responses of Procambarus clarkii to aerial exposure. They were sponsored by and collaborated with Dr. Michael Poirrier who has studied similar matters with blue crabs, Callinectes sapidus. The fact that this warm water, burrowing crayfish has existed 4+ months in a humid atmosphere without free standing water led to Dr. McMahon's interest in comparing the physiological responses of this species to "non burrowing" species of Orconectes and Pacifastacus which he and co-workers have been studied. A summary of the results of this study would be forthcoming soon and will have both ecological and commercial implications.

LOUISIANA CRAYFISH FARMERS' ASSOCIATION ANNOUNCES CHANGE -- In the past it was possible for non-members of the LCFA to obtain the quarterly magazine Crawfish Tales for \$7.50 per year. However, the LCFA Board of Directors has chosen to increase subscription rates for non-members to \$15 per year. Crawfish Tales provides the latest and most timely information about cultivation of crayfishes emphasizing Procambarus spp. More information may be obtained from the LCFA, P.O.Box 91544, Lafayette, Louisiana 70509 USA. The latest issue of Crawfish Tales (Vol. 4, No. 3, Sept. 1985) had 38 pages and featured several interesting articles including: "Canadian Crawfish"; "California Crawfish"; "Crawfish Markets in France"; "Thermal Effects on Pesticide Toxicity[to crawfish]"; and "Crawfish Purging Systems".

LOUISIANA CRAYFISH: PERSPECTIVES ON A NEW WORLD TRAVELER -- Opening in February 1986, the Lafayette (Louisiana USA) Natural History Museum will host an exhibition featuring Louisiana crayfishes. The exhibition will feature global history and production of crayfishes; Louisiana crayfish species; crayfish morphology, behavior, and life histories; and the Louisiana crayfish industry. The exhibition will remain in Lafayette until May 1986 when it will be converted to a traveling format with a proposed tour to include France, Belgium, and the USA. For more information, contact Ms. Gaywynn M. Gaude', exhibition curator, Lafayette Natural History Museum, 637 Girard Park Drive, Lafayette, Louisiana 70503 [Phone, area code 318, number 261-8350].

PROFESSOR TETSUYA SUKO, NOTED JAPANESE ASTACOLOGIST VISITS LOUISIANA -- Professor Tetsuya Suko, professor emeritus of biology, Saitama University, Saitama, Japan, visited Louisiana 17-20 September 1985, to participate in a Crawfish Workshop at Louisiana State University. Professor Suko is currently president of Saitama University and has spent a life time studying Procambarus clarkii in Japan. Following an introduction from New Orleans, Louisiana (USA) in the 1930's, the species spread throughout the main island of Japan by the early 1950's largely as a result of the release of pet crayfish. Numbers were quite high in the 1950's and early 1960's when the species created many problems by burrowing in irrigation structures. Heavy use of pesticides and loss of rice land to housing and industry have reduced numbers greatly. According to Professor Suko, the crayfish are now being accepted as a food item and are the subject of interest in commercial aquaculture. His visit to Louisiana permitted him to see first hand how the species is cultivated there. Professor Suko treated the workshop participants to a wonderful film on the biology of the red swamp crayfish which garnered an award for the best educational film in Japan several years ago. According to Professor Suko, the Japanese name for the red swamp crayfish is "ZARIGANI", meaning crab that goes backward.

RED SWAMP CRAYFISH IN OHIO (USA) -- Jim Norrocky (Route 1, Vickery, Ohio 43464 USA) has sent information about a small-scale commercial fisheries for the introduced Procambarus clarkii in marshes of Sandusky Bay on Lake Erie. Less than 500 kg was taken in 1985 but potential for greater harvests will be explored by fish and wildlife personnel from Ohio State University next year. The Ohio Sea Grant Program has, in fact, recently published a brief article about crayfish biology and exploitation. Further information may be obtained from Dr. David O. Kelch, District Specialist-Sea Grant, Ohio Co-operative Extension Service, Lorain County Extension Office, 1575 Lowell Street, Elyria, Ohio 44035 USA.

THE CRAYFISHES AND SHRIMPS (DECAPODA) OF ILLINOIS -- This new publication is authored by Dr. Lawrence M. Page of the Illinois Natural History Survey. Limited numbers of the book are available free from the Chief, Illinois Natural History Survey, Natural Resources Building, 607 East Peabody Drive, Champaign, Illinois 61820 USA. Refer to Volume 33, Article 4, September 1985. This 119 page bulletin includes keys, descriptions, and life history notes about the two species of shrimps and 21 species of crayfishes found in the state of Illinois. It is especially well illustrated and a very valuable reference publication.

STATUS OF THE RED SWAMP CRAYFISH IN SWEDEN -- Participants at the Lund IAA meeting were informed that feral red swamp crayfish were thought to be present in Swedish waters. Dr. Stellan F. Hamrin (Dept. of Limnology, Box 65, S-221 00 Lund, Sweden) has investigated this and reports that he found three very large adults (two females and one male) in the summer of 1984 in a 400 meter square pond. These apparently originated from a stocking of 20-30 egg carrying females made in the summer of 1981. He reports that the pond has no inlet and no outlet and that no juveniles could be found nor was there any evidence of crayfish burrows or other signs of crayfish activity. No survey was made of the pond in the summer of 1985. None of the three crayfish caught by Dr. Hamrin carried the crayfish plague.

SOFT-SHELLED CRAYFISH PRODUCTION BULLETIN -- Soft-shelled crayfish are the highest priced crayfish products available whether used for fish bait or human food. A new bulletin entitled, "Producing Soft Crawfish: A Progress Report", will soon be available from the Louisiana Sea Grant Program. Cost will be modest (less than \$5) and inquiries may be directed to Sea Grant Publications, Center for Wetland Resources, Louisiana State University, Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70803 USA. Authors are D. D. Culley, M. Z. Said, and E. Rejmankova. Species are Procambarus a. acutus and P. clarkii.

LOUISIANA CRAWFISH FARMERS' ASSOCIATION HOLDS ANNUAL MEETING -- The LCFA held its annual meeting in Lafayette on 26 October 1985. Theme of the meeting was "producing crawfish more economically". The morning session dealt with marketing initiatives and market research. The afternoon session dealt with marketing initiatives and market research. Marketing initiatives have gotten good press coverage by going to the people directly. Topics included, Louisiana Crawfish Marketing Authority; National Marine Fisheries Service; Gulf and South Atlantic Fisheries Development Foundation; Louisiana Crawfish Tasting and Trade Show; and the Louisiana Seafood Promotion and Marketing Board. Two marketing studies were, "Use and Distribution of Louisiana Crawfish Products" by Dr. K. Roberts of the Louisiana Cooperative Extension Service (LCES) and "Factors Influencing Marketing Development in Southwest Louisiana" by Dr. L. Dellenbarger of Louisiana State University (LSU). Afternoon papers and presentors were, "Methods of Increasing Crawfish Production" by Dr. J. Avault of LSU; "Maximizing the Survival of Your Juvenile Recruitment" by Mr. A.P. Gaude' of the University of Southwestern Louisiana, Lafayette; "Alternative Forage Crops for Crawfish" by Dr. M. Brunson of LSU; Effects of Climate and Water Quality on Crawfish" by Mr. M. Araujo of LSU; "Genetics Development in Crawfish" by Dr. W. Wolters of LSU; "Rodent Control" by Dr. J. Fowler of LCES; "Wading Bird Predation" by Mr. R. Martin of LSU; "Catfish-Crawfish Multicropping" by Dr. J. Huner, Southern University, Baton Rouge. Mr. L. W. de la Bretonne, LCES, concluded the session with the topic "The Status of the Crawfish Industry in Louisiana". There is now 48,000+ ha of earthen crawfish ponds in Louisiana. Production was 37,000 metric tons in the 1983-84 season of which 56 % came from ponds. About 80 % of all crawfish is still consumed in Louisiana. See earlier article for details about the LCFA. Most presentations will be published in an upcoming issue of the association's quarterly magazine, Crawfish Tales.



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