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PUBLICATIONS

Amphibians and Reptiles of the Sheffield Area by Derek Whiteley, illustrated by Jeremy Lee. Sheffield City Museums Information Sheet No. 17.

This information sheet is a summary of the present status and distribution of amphibians and reptiles in the Sheffield Area, based on surveys carried out by the City Museums during the period 1975-1977. Brief notes on the species accompany clear distribution maps, and attractive line drawings by Jeremy Lee enhance the publication. Price 5p (47p p+p).

The Things you brought in Annual Report (1978) of the Biological Records Unit and Interpretive Centre, Scunthorpe Museum.

This 26 page report prepared by Natural Sciences staff at Scunthorpe Museum outlines progress of the Records Unit and highlights events and records of interest received. Primarily produced for the local naturalist and fulfilling the important roles of any record centre in encouraging and directing biological recording, and disseminating information. No price given.

Mini Print Sets for Marine Life Identification. Underwater Conservation Programme, Underwater Conservation Society.

During 1977 and 1978 amateur and professional divers have been recording sublittoral animals and plants at different sites around Britain as part of the Underwater Conservation Programme. Consistently one of the major problems has been identification of the organisms since often sublittoral species are not illustrated in the current general field guides or the illustrations given bear little resemblance to the living organism.

To help overcome this problem of identification, coloured mini prints measuring 9cm x 6cm have been duplicated from slides of the commoner sublittoral organisms that were mostly taken underwater. Three mini print sets are available for selected projects in the Underwater Conservation Programme.

The Species Recording Scheme: 71 prints of common sublittoral animals and plants are combined with a text giving details of their key identification features, geographical distribution and the types of habitat and sea bed where they occur. The prints and text cost £8.

The Nudibranch Recording Scheme: Mini prints have been produced of 50 of the commoner species (and some problematical forms) of sea slugs. These prints were designed for use with the Linnean Society Synopsis 'British Opisthobranch Molluscs' by T. E. Thompson and G. H. Brown but the notes accompanying the prints explain several recent nomenclatural changes and new additions to the British fauna. It is hoped that photographs will also be of particular use to participants in the Conchological Society's marine census. The prints and notes cost £5.

The Sponge Project: Sponges are often difficult to identify from preserved specimens but the growth form and the colour of living sponges are often very distinctive. The sponge project aims to develop greater understanding of the nature, distribution and biology of the British sponges. A sponge guide is available and contains 42 mini prints of 26 species of British sponges together with a text on their identification and costs £4.50.

If you would like further details or to order any of the mini print sets then please contact Dr. Bob Earll, Zoology Department University of Manchester.

Porcupine Newsletter Vol. 1 No. 8

This issue of the newsletter includes reports from the Spring Seminar held at the Royal Scottish Museum on 31st March and 1st April 1979, the theme being 'Biological Frontiers'. Nine abstracts of papers presented are printed here, relating to the factors affecting the distribution of a variety of marine organisms, including deep water corals, fish and pogonophora. Copies of this issue, and other back numbers, are available price 70p (inc p+p) from Fred Woodward, South Shields Museum, Ocean Road, South Shields, Tyne and Wear.

REQUESTS

Microscope Wanted

Can any well equipped Museum loan a microscope to John Cooter, Keeper of Natural History at Hereford City Museums? Please contact John at Hereford 68121 ext. 207.

Skeletal material wanted

Rogan Jenkinson of Creswell Crags Visitor Centre is in the process of building up a comparative bone collection of modern and Pleistocene Northern European species. This collection will be used at this