

## CONTOURS AND DIRECTIONS OF FOURTIMCO AND PREDECESSORS – MEETING THE DEMANDS OR GOING ASTRAY OF FUTURE PERSPECTIVES?

Giere Olav

Zoological Institute, University of Hamburg, Martin-Luther-King-Platz 3,  
D-20146 Hamburg, Germany  
E-mail: olav.giere@zoologie.uni-hamburg.de

The 14th International Meiofauna Conference and its scientific presentations, grouped in various categories, are compared with previous conferences. Based on this analysis the question will be addressed whether present-day meiobenthos research is in the line with the perspectives initially outlined by Prof. Heip for general benthic research. Can we expect conformity in the progress of these two benthic research fields? Which are the advantages and perils of a close harmonization? Would, perhaps, a stronger concentration on microbiological interactions be more promising for a strong future meiobenthology?

Keywords: meiobenthological research directions: present, previous, future.