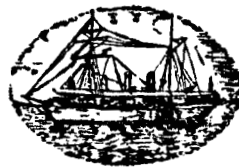
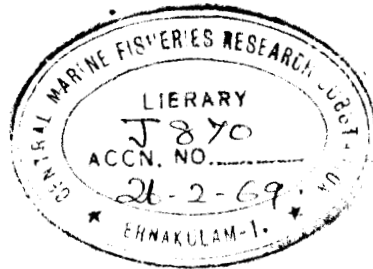


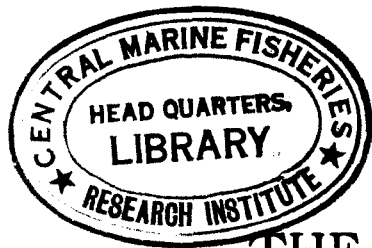
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SYMPOSIUM ON
CORALS AND CORAL REEFS

12-16 JANUARY 1969
MANDAPAM CAMP

SOUVENIR



THE MARINE BIOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION OF INDIA

A DECADE OF SERVICE TO SCIENCE

By

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THE Marine Biological Association of India, established in December 1958 with the chief aim of promoting the cause of marine sciences in the Indian region, completed ten years of useful service to science in December 1968. The present total membership of about 1 000 is nearly double that at the inception of the Association. Perhaps this is one of the few scientific bodies that has such a large membership of individuals and institutions spread over about 50 countries. It may also be unique in the sense that few organisations would have supported themselves on their own resources. This fortunately the Marine Biological Association of India has been able to do for the past ten years. The present status the Association enjoys amongst scientific bodies in the country and abroad is largely due to the continued interest and co-operation of its members. In this regard the scientific staff of the Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute have greatly helped in stabilizing the Association by their co-operation and work in honorary capacity.

The past ten years have no doubt been a test for the Association for survival. It had to steer through odds at several stages and has successfully tided over difficult circumstances to a more sound position financially and otherwise. However, there is no room for complacency, for the present commitments and the future expansion programmes are far too heavy and would drain the available meagre resources. It is hoped that, as in the past ten years, it will be possible to progress in years to come, of course not without the enthusiasm and zeal of its members, scientists, institutions and the public.

What has been achieved by the Association is too well-known to be repeated here and I am sure it will be gratifying to all members, especially those from the foundation of the Association, to look back and realise that a young Association as this could do such praise-worthy work to put India on the map of marine sciences in general and fishery science in particular. However, a brief review of the work of the Association for the past ten years is given below to serve as a record.

The Marine Biological Association of India had several objectives to fulfil right from the beginning and the most important ones have been to publish the *Journal of the Marine Biological Association of India*, conduct symposia on specific subjects, issue occasional memoirs and monographs, and institute fellowships and studentships. It gives pride to note that these have been already realised to some extent. The *Journal of the Marine Biological Association of India* is now recognised as one of the premier journals on marine biological sciences in the world, its very large circulation and demand standing as a testimony for this fact. Nine volumes have been published till to date. A second and significant achievement to the credit of the Association lies in the organising of symposia periodically. The first one on Scombroid Fishes was held at Mandapam Camp in 1962. The proceedings comprise four parts, of which three were issued and the fourth is in press. The second symposium on Crustacea was held at Ernakulam (Cochin) in 1965. The proceedings of this symposium are being published in six parts, of which five have already been issued. The third symposium on Mollusca was held at Ernakulam (Cochin) in 1968, the proceedings of which are now in press and are expected to be issued in a suitable number of parts. The proceedings of the first two symposia contain valuable contributions on two economically very important groups of marine animals which are found all over the world and hence remain useful works of reference. They have been well received and are in great demand from several parts of the world. The proceedings of the third symposium, also on another important group of marine animals, are of the same nature as the ones preceding it. All three symposia

were largely attended by scientists from within the country and from abroad. The Association, in this respect, made yet another landmark in the history of marine sciences in India, for few symposia held in this country are at par with these.

Furthermore, two memoirs, the first on the Ribbon-fishes of India and the second on the Dinophyceae of Indian Seas, I. Genus *Ceratium* Schrank were published by the Association in 1967 and 1968 respectively and rank as the most exhaustive accounts on specific subjects.

The Association has now come to a stage when it is able to provide some financial assistance in the form of loan scholarships. Beginning with 1968, two such scholarships are offered to qualified members for prosecuting post-graduate studies. One of them was actually awarded during the year. It is hoped to increase this number in course of time as funds permit. In addition to the service to science, the Association has been able to contribute its mite to the nation's economy by bringing in foreign exchange.

The foregoing is in brief what has happened in the years gone by. The future programmes are as ambitious as the ones already accomplished. Most immediate of these is the holding of the fourth symposium on Corals and Coral Reefs at Mandapam Camp in January 1969, in which connection the present souvenir is published. The response is quite encouraging and a number of scientists and specialists from India and abroad are expected to participate. The proceedings of this symposium will, as usual, be published.

The first two memoirs already issued will be followed by a few others on Goat-fishes, Corals, Sponges, and Echinoderms of India, which are now in various stages of preparation. As already announced, the fifth in the series of symposia by the Association on "Indian Ocean and Adjacent Seas—their origin, science and resources" to be held at Cochin (India) during January 12-18, 1971 is expected to be one of the biggest ever held in the field of marine sciences, [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] This is mainly intended to draw a large number of scientists from all parts

of the world to meet, discuss and exchange views on the latest trends in research and knowledge on marine sciences in Indian Ocean region. It will be of special significance to the countries bordering Indian Ocean and adjacent seas, especially for India.

The Association has a plan to construct its own building to house its Office, Library and Conference Hall. The permanent Laboratories of the Association which would ultimately provide facilities for independent research work for scientists from within and outside the country are being planned to set up on the lines of the Naples Zoological Station or the Laboratory of the Marine Biological Association of United Kingdom, Plymouth, with laboratory facilities for different aspects of marine work, library, running sea-water aquarium, reference museum etc.

Having achieved its aims in a humble way during the past ten years of existence, the Marine Biological Association of India will not spare any efforts to further the cause of marine sciences in India by sponsoring and aiding expeditions at the appropriate time and also institute suitable prizes for outstanding contributions in the field of marine sciences by research workers in India. A great deal of the realisation of future plans depends on the interest of members and public to co-operate and subscribe generously to the Association for organising marine biological studies of fundamental and applied nature which have a bearing on the economy of the country and also to help diffuse and spread the vast amount of knowledge gathered in this field of science to all countries of the world through the services of this young Association which is already held in esteem in the country and abroad. It is hoped that as days pass by, the activities of the Association will be better known in the country and elsewhere, attain greater strength, carry out more efficient work covering a wider field and thereby contribute to the development of marine biological sciences in India. Ten years hence should witness great progress and growth of the Marine Biological Association of India.