

PROTIST WEB ALERT

Poetry and Pictures

This web alert deals with several disparate sites that are nevertheless connected by a commonality of love of the protists and technical excellence.

Poetry

(<http://www.poets.org/poets/poets.cfm?prmlID=101>).

Muriel Rukeyser, a visionary poet with a true social conscience who died in 1980, wrote a beautiful short poem entitled **The Conjugation of the Paramecium**. You can even hear the poet herself reading this poem if you have the Real Player installed on your computer

(<http://www.poets.org/poems/poems.cfm?prmlID=1546>)

This should be required reading for every student of the protists, especially molecular biologists like myself who often tend to forget they are working with the stuff of life.

Pictures

A young Dutch artist and Photographer, Wim van Egmond, has constructed a marvelous site with photomicrographs of many types of microorganisms (<http://www1.tip.nl/~t936927/home.html>). His subsites range from a Portfolio of Freshwater Organisms

(<http://www1.tip.nl/~t936927/folio/1/index.html>)

which has photos of *Stentor*, amoebae and *Paramecium*, rotifers, green algae, Copepods and even Tardigrades. Each organism has links to detailed descriptions, additional micrographs and even paintings by Lizzie Harper (e.g. ciliates at

[http://www.microscopy-](http://www.microscopy-uk.org.uk/mag/wimsmall/cilidr.html)

[uk.org.uk/mag/wimsmall/cilidr.html](http://www.microscopy-uk.org.uk/mag/wimsmall/cilidr.html), flagellates at

[http://www.microscopy-](http://www.microscopy-uk.org.uk/mag/wimsmall/flagdr.html)

[uk.org.uk/mag/wimsmall/flagdr.html](http://www.microscopy-uk.org.uk/mag/wimsmall/flagdr.html) and amoebae at

[http://www.microscopy-](http://www.microscopy-uk.org.uk/mag/wimsmall/sundr.html)

[uk.org.uk/mag/wimsmall/sundr.html](http://www.microscopy-uk.org.uk/mag/wimsmall/sundr.html)).

There is a similar site on Portfolio of Marine Organisms (<http://www1.tip.nl/~t936927/folio/2/index.html>)

which has micrographs of *Noctiluca*, Forams, Radiolaria and Peritrichs. Again, each organism has a link

to sites with detailed descriptions (e.g. radiolaria at [http://www.microscopy-](http://www.microscopy-uk.org.uk/mag/artjun99/bdradio.html)

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Van Egmond also provides some high quality drawings of microorganisms

(<http://www1.tip.nl/~t936927/drawings/1/index.html>).

A site entitled “The Smallest Page on the Web”

([http://www.microscopy-](http://www.microscopy-uk.org.uk/mag/wimsmall/smal1.html)

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provides another portal to the individual microorganism sites. At last but not least, there is an animated gif of a generic protozoan at The Amazing Protozoan Pet Trick site

(<http://www1.tip.nl/~t936927/propet.html>).

A very useful guide for the amateur protozoologist (including all molecular types!) searching for microscopic life in fresh water ponds

(<http://microscopy-uk.org.uk/pond/protozoa.html>)

is provided by Microscopy-UK organization

(<http://microscopy-uk.org.uk/>).

This organization (and Wim van Egmond) also founded The Institute for the Promotion of the Less than One Millimetre (sic!)

(<http://www.microscopy-uk.org.uk/mag/art98/milli.html>),

which has stereoscopic images of several microorganisms. But be sure to order your red and blue 3 D glasses

(http://www.studio3d.com/pages2/store_glasses.html) before viewing or you will get a bad headache!

Steve Durr, a photographer in London, has a really interesting site that describes his experiences with capturing micrographs of microorganisms from Epping Forest (<http://www.durr.demon.co.uk>). It is full of interesting and useful techniques on the practice of this technology and has many excellent micrographs.

Just to prove that web sites in English are not the only ones with interesting information on protists, the Dutch site of Jan Parmentier entitled “De Nederlandse Vereniging voor Microscopie” has more excellent micrographs of microorganisms (<http://www.euronet.nl/users/janpar/nvvm.html>).

Van Egmond is rapidly becoming a micrograph industry as he populates so many sites with great photos.

Fossil Algae

(http://members.tripod.com/bruno.granier/The_Archives.htm#Collections)

The International Fossil Algae Association provides a useful source of information on fossil algae. The “Library” subsite

http://members.tripod.com/bruno.granier/The_Library.htm)

provides several downloadable pdf files of classic and modern papers in this field (non-English papers included!). And the “Gallery” subsite

(http://members.tripod.com/bruno.granier/#The_Gallery.htm)

provides quite a few excellent photos of the actual fossils. The thumbnail images are clickable for high resolution.

A neat site if you can stand the continual intrusion of popup ads by Tripod!

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