



International Organization For Dew Utilization

(Non - Profit Organization)

N°3 - 20/09/2001

OPUR NEWSLETTER

ALREADY SEPTEMBER

It is already September and summer has passed by. However our OPUR members have much to write about, some emotions to share, news to announce, dew measurements data. Dew is a very interesting and important subject, as demonstrated by OPUR activities over the summer. As usual, we welcome your comments and contributions.

GROWING SCIENTIFIC INTEREST IN ATMOSPHERIC WATER

The Second International Conference on Fog and Fog Collection (St John'S, Newfoundland, Canada, 15 - 20 July 2001), had a special session on dew research.

OPUR was there with a poster presentation. Three Association members made several presentations and spoke about the scientific actions of OPUR. They noted a growing interest from scientists (physicists, chemists, biologists or hydrologists), ecological organizations and social institutions of developing countries regarding dew as an alternate water source or as indicator of air pollution. This growth in dew research has now made it possible to introduce the term "dew" into the title of the next Fog Conference, thus attracting more people interested in atmospheric condensation phenomena.

The film "The Aerial Fountains of Feodosia" on OPUR research in Crimea (Ukraine) was shown during the conference and initiated many questions and discussions (so much, that an additional presentation was needed).

A large quantity of OPUR posters was distributed, and the Association Secretariat has already received numerous requests for membership. Many contacts were established and some projects will soon start. To be continued...

OPUR

26, chemin des Poissonniers, F-33600 Pessac (France)
ph/fax : 33 (0) 5 57 26 83 92; email: dbeyens@cea.fr
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OUR THANKS TO P. ADMIRAT

One of the our members, Mr. P. Admirat, made a very generous donation to our Association of 1525 Euro. The gift was much appreciated by the Organization and all the members. This is perhaps the beginning of a good tradition!

Part of this money has been used to print the OPUR prospectus in French and English and thus greatly facilitated dew scientists to contact OPUR.

RESULTS OF THE DEW COLLECTOR IN AJACCIO (CORSICA)

The condenser in Vignola shows promising results ! Its 30 m² surface was capable, under good conditions, to produce nearly 12 water L per day. The average quantity was 3.5 L/d.

The following parameters were investigated: suspended solids, pH, concentration of SO₄⁻, Cl⁻, K⁺, Ca⁺⁺ ions. Only Cl⁻ and SO₄⁻ ions were sometimes found significant. Correlation with wind velocity and wind direction shows that Cl is due to sea spray and SO₄⁻ to the combustion of fuel by an electrical plant located in the Ajaccio Gulf. The pH \cong 6, a value acceptable from the point of view of drinking water standards.

With regard to the cost of producing such water, possibilities to lower the costs are under consideration, in particular by constructing the condenser directly on the ground level and/or using cheap local materials for the construction of the frame.

«GUIDE DU ROUTARD» IN THE POCKET!

The «Guide du Routard» (famous French tourist guide) promised its complete collection to person(s) who would discover the secret of "Sainte Tombe" at Arles-sur-Tech (Languedoc - Roussillon, France). This apparently sealed Tomb produces water from ... nothing (?!), and in sufficient quantities to provide some water to the many Pilgrims who visit the Tomb.

OPUR has been interested in this phenomenon for several years. A series of scientific experiments was organized at the Tomb site. The mystery was explained by three of our members, D. Beysens, M. Muselli and A. Junca. They demonstrated that the "holy liquid" came from the atmospheric water (rain + condensation of water vapor from air).

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OPUR stresses that the production of water in the Tomb is made possible thanks to the "miraculous" coincidence of various extraordinary physical and meteorological conditions, plus the exceptional location of the Tomb. (For more information, see: D. Beysens, M. Muselli, J.-P. Ferrari, A. Junca, Water production in an ancient sarcophagus at Arles-sur-Tech (France), Atmospheric Research, 57, 2001, 201-212 - available on our site).

In July of this year, the team of the «Guide du Routard» graciously offered to OPUR its 2001 collection. Any member of Association can benefit from it, contact the Secretary for more details.

THE OPUR SITE WEB IN ACTION

Since the startup of our web site, OPUR has received many emails concerning our Organization. All messages are characterized by a keen interest in our activities and a unanimous approval of our objectives. The efficiency of the web media is quite evident.

SCIENTIFIC ART OR ARTISTIC SCIENCE ?

We received some news from P. Admirat. His message states that we will soon be able to look at his research....or perhaps art creations?. But we prefer to let him speak for himself:

" Macroscopic dew drops (d # mm) meeting in a surprising position on the end of the finest grass blade??? I will project a photo-safari for "dew drops" this winter, when I will have ALL my time".

ARTISTIC DEW EXHIBITION OF J.-P. RUIZ AND C. PEYRONNET (S^t. SETIERS, JULY - AUGUST 2001)

Who can speak about his exhibition better than the artist himself? We present below an extract of his letter:

"The exhibition was a great success and people were very interested by the installation and by the pictures. I often heard this comment: "Now, I will see dew differently!"

Cedric Peyronnet, compositor, created a musical composition about dew for each picture, in total 10 compositions, making a unique

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creation. During the exhibition, he installed a small loudspeaker above every picture. When someone approached a picture, he/she would hear the entire melody.

Explanation of dew paintings:

I powdered my artists' canvas (one meter X one meter): dimension of the condenser having been used into 2000, with the colored grounds ... of Corrèze ... which bring matters, textures in the forms of points, small heaps.

...Each morning, at 5 o'clock, I transported my artists' canvas in the meadows and I let the dew settle and dilute the glues and pigments. It was a creation of the painting by dew... "

We invite you to discover some of his creations:



Another interesting aspect, thanks to the exhibition, was a result of J.-P. Ruiz meticulous preparatory work. He performed a series of dew measurements in his garden.... And obtained a record quantity of dew! During the night of the 24th January 2000, he obtained 0.467 mm of dew per night (the equivalent of 15 L per day for our condenser in Corsica!) Who can do better?.

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J.PH. CHASSANY "TRAPS" THE DEW

J.Ph. Chassany proposed us some interesting and shrewd means for detecting (trapping) dew. He carried out several tests using different materials (such as paper soaked in ferrous sulfate solution, dried and powdered with tannin, or URGO Algoplaque or collargol on a glass plate), exposed to dew. When drying, these materials keep traces (spots) of the drops. The density of these spots is proportional to the quantity of dew.

NEW CONTACTS, NEW PROJECTS...

Soon, OPUR will probably discover new horizons in its scientific activity. The possibility of build dew condensers in South America and Andalusia would allow us to accumulate invaluable comparative data on condensation conditions in various climatic and geographical areas. An unexpected contact with the Central University of Venezuela and the Autonomous University of Madrid was obtained through one of our members, Anne Dejoan, who benefited from her holidays to start scientific contacts.

*The Editor :
I. Mylymuk*

For any additional information on the subjects of this bulletin, please contact the OPUR Secretary.

I.Mylymuk,
Secretary of OPUR