



Organisation Pour l'Utilisation de la Rosée

(Association Loi de 1901)

N°6 - October 2002

OPUR NEWSLETTER

THE RETURN OF AUTUMN...

*The summer vacation has passed by so quickly...
But the return to work can be pleasant, especially
if interesting things await us such as producing dew, or ...letting our
enthusiasm for dew produce positive emotions!
So, dear colleagues, a wish for many dew droplets!*

OPUR IN ISRAEL

Daniel Beysens and Iryna Milimouk came to Israel in July 2002 to meet our Israeli correspondent, Simon Berkowicz (Hebrew University of Jerusalem, Minerva Arid Ecosystems Research Center). The goal of the research visit was to work on the installation of dew condensers in both the arid Negev and the sub-humid to humid higher elevated region in the north. The project will compare the data obtained from these climatically different places. The first site has an elevation of about 200 m above sea level and only 100 mm annual rainfall, whereas the second is above 1000 m elevation and with about 800 mm annual rainfall.

During the visit, D. Beysens and I. Milimouk also visited fog water collecting stations established by S. Berkowicz (in collaboration with Dr. R. Schemenauer, Environment Canada) last year in the northern Negev. He described the positive and interesting results, which is also good news for our dew recovery projects. The maximum fog water collected to date was almost 3 liters/m²/night.

During the trip, D. Beysens and I. Mylymuk visited and examined several potential sites to set up dew collectors, and also participated in the testing of mini dew condensers that were built by S. Berkowicz, in collaboration with D. Beysens, I. Milimouk and M. Muselli (University of Corsica).

The mini-condensers were 1 X 1 m, and the following volumes were collected even under poor dew atmospheric conditions; 75 ml the 16/07/2002, 85 ml the 17/07/2002 etc. The pH was measured - it is rather

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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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alkaline and slightly higher than 7. One week later the volume collected was 256 ml.



Road in the Negev desert, at the frontier with Egypt, driving towards our experimental site



Dew condenser in the Nizzana Educational Community Village (Negev - Israel)

THE MEDIA ARE INTERESTED IN US!

In June, OPUR was contacted by the TV journalists of M6 – Aquitaine, who were seeking subjects for their popular TV show, "6 minutes". They found OPUR on the Internet and considered the object of our Association to be fascinating! Following constructive talks, OPUR activity was filmed by the M6 Channel in our Head Office, including morning dew recovery and the chemical analyses.

The show appeared on June 13, 2002, at 20:40 (a prime time viewing audience) and led to many inquiries and phone calls.

Moreover, newspapers have also been enthusiastic to the issue of alternative water resources. The subject is very current (see the

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Johannesburg Summit) and the journalists - news driven - are increasingly interested in the processes related to ecology and resources that humanity will have in the XXIst century. The French magazines, such as the popular VSD and Ça m'intéresse, have prepared publications on OPUR. We hope to attract new numbers through these magazines...

(Any member of OPUR interested in the M6 show on OPUR can contact the OPUR Secretariat to borrow the video-cassette).

WE ARE CITED...

Recently, you can see in libraries and bookshops (at least in France!) an amusing and useful book by G. Charpak and H. Broch "Devenez sorciers, devenez savants" (Become wizards, become experts).

This book, covering subjects considered in the realm of the "supernatural", explains with elegance their completely natural occurrence. "All can be explained scientifically" - is the leitmotiv of the book. The authors apply it to examples of mysterious events that, when watched closely, were caused through "simple" natural phenomena.



And, among these solved mysteries, they cite the enigma of the Holy Tomb of Arles-sur-Tech (France). They wrote about the legend surrounding the "mysterious water" emitted by the tomb, the experiments carried out by OPUR members (D. Beysens, A. Junca and M. Muselli, helped by J.-P. Ferrari) and, finally, the explanation provided by these experiments. A simple explanation, not mysterious, but formidable given the combination of circumstances needed, permitted the formation of this "holy water".

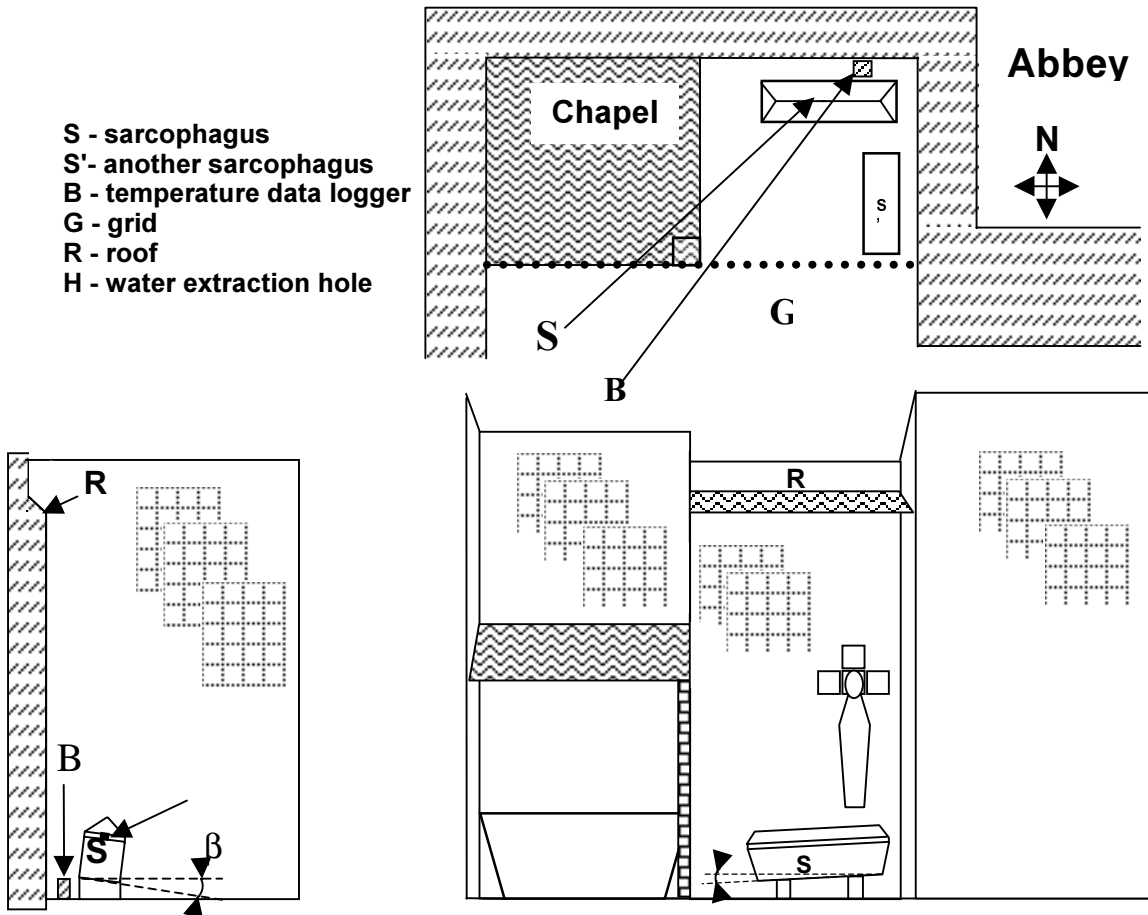
Anyone wishing to know more about this scientific adventure can read the article cited by Charpak and Broch, published by our members in Atmospheric Research in 2001; see:

<http://www.opur.u-bordeaux.fr/angl/Arles.pdf>

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Schematic view of the sarcophagus location (Arles-sur-Tech, France)

OUR COMMUNICATION...

OPUR could not even dream of such interest!

Because of our web site, OPUR receives more and more mail from different countries. People interested in dew, its "alchemy", alternative sources of water, problems of desertification and pollution or other ecological and artistic aspects of dew, contact us, ask for advice or information, and sometimes propose collaboration.

At present, we are in contact with people from many different countries in Africa and Europe, Canary Islands and Polynesia, Australia, American and Canadian scientists.

Some joint projects have already started!



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PROJECTS IN ETHIOPIA

OPUR is rich in new projects and new horizons...

The project of installing dew condensers in the North of Ethiopia has started.

Anne Dejoan met Ethiopian scientists, interested by our dew collectors, and had a profitable discussion with them. Following the discussion, a project will soon begin. A sample of our "OPUR foil" was sent to them recently and testing will start in October.

WE ARE LOOKING FOR CANDIDATES TO BE DEW CONDENSER OBSERVERS

The preliminary draft ROR 2003 of "Dew Mine" evaluation, was presented during the 3rd OPUR General Meeting (text available through the OPUR Secretariat). The first observation campaign on simplified dew condensers is envisaged for March 2003. Here is the tentative calendar:

October: network constitution (10 Observers)

November - December: fabrication of 10 simplified condensers, procedures of observation and transmission

January: material campaign

February: dew collectors installation

March: 30 days of observations

April: analysis of results

May: report to General Meeting

If this experiment interests you, please contact the OPUR Secretariat. BUT NOTE that the observations and measurements must be executed every day between 07 and 08 hours in the morning.

CHANGE IN OUR MEMBERSHIP PAYMENT SYSTEM

Due to difficulties related to membership fee contributions of our foreign members, OPUR has found a solution. We now have a special account that permits us to cash foreign cheques (in currencies other than the Euro) at a reasonable cost.

All our remote members can now send their contributions in a simpler way!

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OUR NEW MEMBERSHIPS!

**OPUR WELCOMES THE NEW MEMBERS THAT HAVE JOINED US SINCE
JANUARY 2002 !**

Here are their names and contact details:

Daniel HUYGHE
43, Résidence du Roc,
47200 Marmande (France)
tel/fax : 05 53 94 82 31 - email : daniel-huyghe@wanadoo.fr

Patrice Loubière
5, allée de la Pelouse, Rés. Équinoxe,
38100 Grenoble (France)
tel: 04 76 33 00 71 - email : patriceloubiere@wanadoo.fr

Elizabeth EMAILLET
C.E.A - Grenoble
17, rue des Martyrs
38054 Grenoble cedex 9 (France)
tel: 04 38 78 97 94, fax: 04 38 78 98 26 - email : Elizabeth.Emaillet@cea.fr

Ramchandra NARHE
CEA-ICMCB,
87, av. Dr A. Schweitzer,
33608 Pessac
France / India
email : narhe@icmcb.u-bordeaux.fr

Pierre RIGAUD
IRAMAT - Centre Ernest Babelon
3D, rue de la Férollerie,
45071 Orléans CEDEX 2 (France)
tel: 02 38 25 78 95, fax: 02 38 25 76 88 - email : rigaud@cnrs-orleans.fr

Lounes TADRIST
IUSTI, CNRS, Université de Provence
UMR 6595, 5, rue Enrico Fermi
Technopole de Château Gombert
13453 Marseille cedex 13 (France)
email : Lounes.Tadrist@polytech.univ-mrs.fr

*The Editor :
I. Milimouk*

For any additional information on the subjects referred to in this bulletin, please contact me.

I. Milimouk,
Secretary of OPUR

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