

This Week's Citation Classic®

CC/NUMBER 45
NOVEMBER 10, 1986

Parke M & Dixon P S. Check-list of British marine algae—third revision.

J. Mar. Biol. Assn. UK 56:527-94, 1976.

[The Laboratory, Marine Biological Assn., Citadel Hill, Plymouth, UK and Dept. Ecology and Evolutionary Biology, Univ. California, Irvine, CA]

The checklist gives a listing of those marine algae recorded for British coasts and adjacent waters. It incorporates recent information on life histories and ultrastructure; the nomenclature is brought up-to-date, and it is presented in a form reflecting current taxonomic trends. [The SCI® indicates that this paper has been cited in over 225 publications.]

Mary Parke
Plymouth Laboratory
Marine Biological Association of the UK
Plymouth PL1 2PB
UK

August 19, 1986

As the title indicates, this was the third revision of a preliminary checklist of British marine algae first published in 1953.^{1,3} From my earliest days at the University of Liverpool and at the Port Erin Marine Laboratory on the Isle of Man, I had been interested in the ecology and systematics of the algae and had collaborated with Margery Knight on the production of *Manx Algae*, a work concerned with the seaweeds of that area.⁴

However, my interests expanded during the 1930s with our experiments on the raising of oysters and the discovery of a number of small photosynthetic flagellates that proved to be useful food organisms. Little taxonomic information was available on these species and a whole new field of scientific investigation was thus opened up to me; indeed, my work in this area was to continue for the next 50 years, mostly spent at the Laboratory of the Marine Biological Association in Plymouth.

The move to Plymouth occurred during World War II when I was also involved in the assessment of British seaweed populations for industrial exploitation as part of the "War Effort"; alginates were used in, amongst other things, the manufacture of camouflage netting! This work entailed some travelling around the coasts of the UK (a luxury at that time), and a considerable fund of information on seaweed growth and harvesting in different areas was acquired. Much of this information was new, many species were recorded for the first time, and it became apparent that it would be useful if this could be collated in a systematic way and if the taxonomy could be brought up-to-date. Thus, the checklist of 1953 was conceived.

During the next 20 years, there was a burst of new knowledge on all aspects of phycology, notably on the unicellular forms, brought about largely by the advent of electron microscopy as a routine research tool. In order to keep pace with this, revisions of the checklist were published in 1964, 1968, and finally in 1976 with the overall collaboration of P.S. Dixon together with other specialists, in particular, groups who might be prepared to continue the work—phycology was becoming too wide a field for one person!

The checklist has been useful to both research workers and teachers of phycology,⁵ and its success has been due, I think, to the vast amount of information that it encapsulates in a particularly concise and systematic fashion, combined with its international value occasioned by the cosmopolitan distribution of many components of the British marine algal flora. Indeed, the checklist has proved to be so valuable that workers in other parts of the world have been stimulated to produce similar checklists in the same style for their own areas.⁶⁻⁸

1. Parke M. A preliminary check-list of British marine algae. *J. Mar. Biol. Assn. UK* 32:497-520, 1953.
(Cited 40 times since 1955.)
2. Parke M & Dixon P S. A revised check-list of British marine algae. *J. Mar. Biol. Assn. UK* 44:499-542, 1964.
(Cited 70 times.)
3. ———. Check-list of British marine algae—second revision. *J. Mar. Biol. Assn. UK* 48:783-832, 1968.
(Cited 100 times.)
4. Knight M & Parke M W. *Manx algae: an algal survey of the south end of the Isle of Man*.
Liverpool: University Press of Liverpool, 1931. 155 p.
5. Tappan H. *The paleobiology of plant protists*. San Francisco: Freeman, 1980. 1028 p.
6. South G R. A checklist of marine algae of eastern Canada, second revision. *Can. J. Bot.* 62:680-704, 1984.
7. Yoshida T, Nakajima Y & Nakata Y. Preliminary check-list of marine benthic algae of Japan. I. Chlorophyceae and Phaeophyceae. *Jpn. J. Phycol.* 33:57-74, 1985.
8. ———. Preliminary check-list of marine benthic algae of Japan. II. Rhodophyceae. *Jpn. J. Phycol.* 33:249-71, 1985.