

## COURSE IN SUBLITTORAL MARINE ECOLOGY LUNDY, JULY 28—AUGUST 11

For two weeks in 1974, nine hardy students were exposed to just about every sort of weather Lundy has to offer and to just about every type of equipment and most of the methods available for carrying out basic ecological work underwater. The idea of the course was to train students in the techniques of working underwater and in the concepts of sublittoral ecology so that they will be able to plan ecological projects of their own without having to rely on trial-and-error. Keith Hiscock, Richard Hoare, Stewart Willis, David George, Ed Drew and Jim Atkinson were the lecturing staff. Operating from the laboratory in the old Hotel kitchen and from the beach diving hut, instruction was given in the use of techniques of descriptive biological survey, quantitative sampling, photography, and the use of suction samplers, a towed sledge, underwater tape recorders, SubCom wireless communication gear, grids and tapes for survey and mapping, resin casting for decapod burrows, profiling, mapping zonation and other techniques too numerous to mention here. The lectures covered the ecology of rock and soft substrate animal communities, plant communities, pollution and conservation, techniques of sampling, activity rhythms, etc. Lundy proved to be an excellent locality at which to run the course and, in spite of winds coming from every direction over the two weeks, it was possible to dive somewhere every day.

KEITH HISCOCK

## THE OCCURRENCE OF SOME TRACE METALS IN ORGANISMS COLLECTED FROM LUNDY

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### Introduction

In recent years the need has been recognised for more systematic information on the natural or background concentrations of various trace chemical elements in marine organisms, water and in sediments. This information is particularly needed for those chemical species which are being increasingly mobilised or introduced by man's activities on global or local scales. It was considered of interest to obtain some preliminary information on the concentration of mercury, together with some other trace metals, in typical organisms collected from Lundy, which represents a near-shore environment intermediate between coastal and oceanic conditions. These measurements also give background data against which subsequent changes in concentration can be assessed. The concentrations of copper in these organisms have been reported previously (Jones *et al.* 1973).

In the present work the concentrations of mercury, arsenic and cadmium were determined by neutron activation analysis. The methods of collection and analysis, together with a more detailed discussion of the results have been reported elsewhere (Jones, in press). Only a summary is given here.