

27 QUEEN STREET ☼ EDINBURGH ☼ EH2 1JX
0131-225 5551 ☼ MONCKTON@MAIL.COM ☼ 07814 556423
FROM: THE VISCOUNT MONCKTON OF BRECHLEY

20 January 2014

Martin Rasmussen, Esq.,
Copernicus Publications.

martin.rasmussen@copernicus.org
publications@copernicus.org

Dear Mr. Rasmussen,

**Closure and reopening of the learned journal
*Pattern Recognition in Physics***

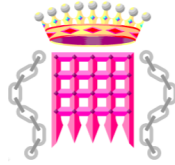
My kind friend Professor Niklas Mörner of Stockholm, who in close to 50 years has published approaching 600 papers in the reviewed and general scientific literature, is an internationally-renowned expert on sea level and is one of the most gifted instructors of students I have ever had the pleasure to work with, has copied me in on your sad and, indeed, bizarre decision to bring to an end the excellent learned journal *Pattern Recognition in Physics*, less than a year after its first publication in March 2013.

Professor Mörner, who is usually the most genial and even-tempered of scientists, is plainly furious not so much at your decision to axe this promising journal, which was already galloping towards the forward frontiers of research in the physical sciences, as at the extraordinary reason you have given for your decision.

The Professor, who is highly active in the worldwide scientific community, attended the Fifth Space Climate Conference in Oulu in June 2013 and realized that the hypothesis that the relative positions of the major planets of the solar system may influence solar activity in accordance with a detectable pattern was now ready to be elevated to a theory. In his own specialism, sea-level rise, the question was of more than purely academic significance, since the influence of the major planets not only influences the Sun but causes perceptible variations in the period of the Earth's rotation (i.e. the length of the day) and hence, via the Coriolis force over time, in global sea level.

Accordingly, Professor Mörner, on learning that the hypothesis about the connection between variations in the positions of the major planets and in solar activity was gaining recognition, realized that the topic was an ideal instance of pattern recognition in astrophysics. He proposed to the editor of the new Copernicus journal *Pattern Recognition in Physics* that a special issue should be devoted to the subject so that a collection of papers could examine the issue from every angle and, as the ancient Chinese philosophers used to say, "in the round". The editor, understandably, leapt at the opportunity with expressions of delight, and invited Professor Mörner to edit the special issue. No one more competent or suitable guest editor could have been chosen.

The Professor considered that a 2013 publication date would be valuable, though that would leave him just a few months to produce the special issue. What he describes as "a very, very intensive editorial work" started at once. To save time, some of the 19 authors of the 12 papers – all of them pre-eminent in their various fields – reviewed contributions



from other authors, though additional reviewers were of course also consulted. The process of peer review was thorough and meticulous. In no way does the reviewing of one author's paper by another constitute a "conflict of interest" in terms of your rules for reviewers. However, if you had considered that that process had in any way breached your editorial guidelines for peer review, you had – of course – the fullest opportunity to draw any defects to the attention of the guest editors, who had been entirely open in disclosing that some papers had been reviewed by authors of other papers that were to appear in the same issue. You would have been able to take the simple step that I propose to take: invite additional outside reviewers to look at the submitted papers.

Professor Mörner was not at any time informed that you had any concerns about the review process until he received the second of two emails from you, both dated 17 January, peremptorily announcing the closure of the journal. In the first email, you did not mention any problems with the review process at all. For that, of course, was not the real reason why you closed the journal. The real reason was that you disagreed on religious grounds with one of the conclusions on which the 19 authors had collectively agreed.

The special issue, justifiably described by the Professor as a "breakthrough", was published by your firm in 2013. In the Professor's view – and he has had more experience than almost anyone – the quality of the 12 papers was excellent.

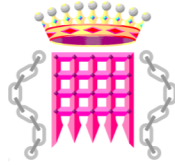
Professor Mörner tells me that the key general conclusion, co-authored by the 19 researchers of undoubted eminence, was to the effect that the planetary beat indeed influences solar variability, whereupon two further conclusions followed: first, the central conclusion that the long-considered hypothesis had now been elevated to a firm theory and perhaps even to a paradigm; and secondly, a subsidiary conclusion that extrapolation of the thus-explained pattern of solar variability over the coming century "sheds serious doubts on the issue of a continued, even accelerated, warming as claimed by the IPCC project".

Professor Mörner's professional opinion – with which one may legitimately agree or disagree, but only on scientific and not on religious grounds – is that this last conclusion is a logical, necessary and scientific result properly following from all 12 papers published in the special issue, though in the context of the overall finding it was a subsidiary conclusion or corollary, and was expressed as such.

With this necessary background, I now turn to your stated (and real) reasons for attempting to bring *Pattern Recognition in Physics* to an end. Aside from your suggestion of "nepotism" in the review process (which is such obvious, desperate nonsense that I shall speak no more of it), the reasons you give for your shameful decision are merely restatements of a single, monstrous pretext in varying forms.

I quote you verbatim, enumerating four passages selected from your two emails of 17 January 2014 to Professor Mörner, arranged in accordance with the sequence of events you describe:

1. "Copernicus Publications started publishing the journal *Pattern Recognition in Physics* (PRP) in March 2013. The journal idea was brought to Copernicus' attention and **was taken rather critically in the beginning, since the**



designated Editors-in-Chief were mentioned in the context of the debates of climate skeptics.” And why should taking part in scientific debate debar an editor?

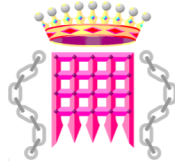
2. “Before the journal was launched, we had a long discussion regarding its topics. The aim of the journal was to publish articles about patterns recognized in the full spectrum of physical disciplines. **PRP was never meant to be a platform for climate skeptics.**” It should be a platform for science, wherever it leads.
3. “Recently, a special issue was compiled entitled "Pattern in solar variability, their planetary origin and terrestrial impacts". Besides papers dealing with the observed patterns in the heliosphere, the special issue editors ultimately submitted their conclusions in which they **“doubt the continued, even accelerated, warming as claimed by the IPCC project”** (*Pattern Recogn. Phys.*, 1, 205–206, 2013).” On what scientific ground, *if any*, do you dare to dispute their scientific conclusion?
4. “While processing the press release for the special issue “Patterns in solar variability, their planetary origin and terrestrial impacts”, we read through the general conclusions paper published on 16 December 2013. **We were alarmed by the authors’ second implication stating “This sheds serious doubts on the issue of a continued, even accelerated, warming as claimed by the IPCC project”.** And why were you alarmed? What scientific reason for alarm was there?

There is only one reasonable conclusion to be drawn from the above passages, all taken from your two emails of 17 January 2014 to Professor Mörner: that personally you have – for whatever reason – adopted so fervent a position on the catastrophist side of the climate science debate that you (or, more probably, the shadowy figures behind you) are regrettably intolerant even of the mildest, passing question – however well supported scientifically by the very latest evidence from outside the climate sciences – as to whether the IPCC’s previous predictions of very rapid and potentially catastrophic global warming may perhaps be incorrect, at least in the medium term.

So, how much of the special issue was devoted to the question of global warming? Here is a summary of the issue’s contents:

Preface: nothing on climate, except in the reviews of the individual papers.

Paper 1: Scafetta concludes that "the solar system works as a resonator characterized by a specific harmonic planetary structure that also synchronizes the Sun’s activity and the Earth’s climate". His cycle extrapolation gives low sunspot cycles for the period 2010 to 2050. He gives predictions over the present century both for the "solar-astronomical model alone" and for the volcanic-anthropogenic model. He makes no criticism of the IPCC or of climate science. His prediction – at least in the short term – is in line with the IPCC’s latest *Assessment Report*, whose final draft, like his own prediction, approximately halves the warming it had earlier predicted. I shall provide evidence for this later.



Paper 2: Tattersall concentrates on the planetary–solar interaction and has nothing to say about the climate issue.

Paper 3: Jelbring concentrates on the planetary–solar interaction and has nothing to say about the climate issue.

Paper 4: Mörner concentrates on the possible planetary-solar-terrestrial interaction. He anticipates the recurrence of a Solar Grand Minimum around 2030-2050, in line with the final report of the INTAS project on Geomagnetism & Climate, 2003.

Paper 5: Solheim concentrates on the planetary-solar-terrestrial interaction and mentions “an expected grand solar minimum this century” as a direct outcome of his cycle analyses.

Paper 6: Tattersall concentrates on the planetary–solar interaction and has nothing to say about the climate issue.

Paper 7: Wilson provides a new Jupiter-Earth-Venus model (which received practical confirmation in Paper 14) and predicts decreasing tangential torque to 2085.

Paper 8: Jelbring concentrates on celestial commensurability and has nothing to say about the climate issue.

Paper 9: Chervatova & Heida concentrate on the cyclic behavior – owing to the planetary beat – of the Sun’s motion around the centre of mass of the solar system, suggesting that the pattern in 1980-2045 will be similar to that observed from 1840-1905.

Paper 10: Scafetta & Willson examine the cyclic behaviour in the solar system in detail and conclude that “solar activity is likely modulated by planetary gravitational and electromagnetic forces acting on the Sun”.

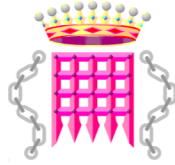
Paper 11: Solheim concentrates on variations in solar-cycle length and concludes that “a deep minimum of solar activity...is also to be expected in the early part of this century”.

Paper 12: Salvador presents a mathematical model of the sunspot cycle over the past millennium with an extrapolation over the present century: “The model forecasts that a pronounced grand solar minimum will persist from the start of cycle 25 in 2018 out to 2060.”

General conclusions: Some 19 prominent scientists conclude that the projected decline in solar activity “sheds serious doubts on the issue of a continued, even accelerated, warming as claimed by the IPCC project”.

Epilogue: Mörner & Scafetta note that to date a 2012 temperature prediction by Scafetta has proven correct, and also mention the models by Wilson and Salvador and the general conclusion.

Now, the most striking thing about this list of contents, in the present context, is just how little the climate features in it. It is scarcely mentioned, and then only in passing



and in perfectly sensible and scientifically justifiable terms. There is no skepticism about climate expressed anywhere in the entire special issue. Your authors have concluded that solar activity will decline in the short term and that predictions of continued or accelerated warming must in consequence be doubted. And that is that.

On examining this list, and on having read some of the papers with much interest, I agree with Professor Mörner that the conclusion to which you object follows indirectly from all of the papers and directly from the continuing decline in solar activity adumbrated in papers 1, 4, 5, 7, 9, 11 and 12.

Does your authors' conclusion mean that the IPCC has been wrong? Yes, it does, to the extent that the IPCC has undervalued the potential impact of the decline in solar activity on terrestrial temperature, so that the warming to be expected in the coming decades may well be less than it had formerly predicted. Your authors' conclusion does not, of course, challenge the greenhouse theory itself, which is well established.

In reaching the decision I now call upon you to reverse, you may not have been aware of some relevant factors.

First, mainstream solar physicists have themselves been predicting an imminent and sharp decline in solar activity. A physicist at NASA contacted me about this as far back as 2006, pointing out that there had been a recently-unprecedented slowing to walking pace of the magnetic convection currents beneath the solar surface. When a solar cycle is much prolonged, as the last one was, records of previous solar cycles show that subsequent cycles tend to be pronouncedly inactive. What is interesting, therefore, about the papers you have tried to kill is that they posit an admittedly unexplained link between cyclical variability in the planetary orbits and cyclical variability in solar activity, which in turn may have an impact on the climate.

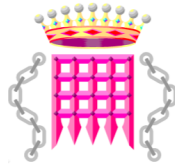
Secondly, though you may consider it implausible that the gravitational influence of the great planets on the Sun could be at all significant, for gravity attenuates as the square of the distance between two mutually-attracting astronomical bodies, it is possible that very small influences exercised over very long timescales may establish harmonics – they have been called “the music of the spheres” - that might have detectable effects.

Thirdly, it is now known that small influences can exercise disproportionately large influences over time in any object – such as the solar system – that exhibits chaotic behaviour. You may care to read Edward N. Lorenz's landmark paper of 1963 (in a climate journal) that founded chaos theory, and also Sir James Lighthill's paper of 1998 on chaos in the oscillation of a pendulum. It is not altogether impossible, therefore, that – for instance – the 60-year planetary cycles mentioned by Scafetta and the 60-year cycle of the Pacific and other ocean oscillations may be more than merely coincidental.

I do not know whether any of these three points may eventually be proven, but there is evidence for all three of them in the literature.

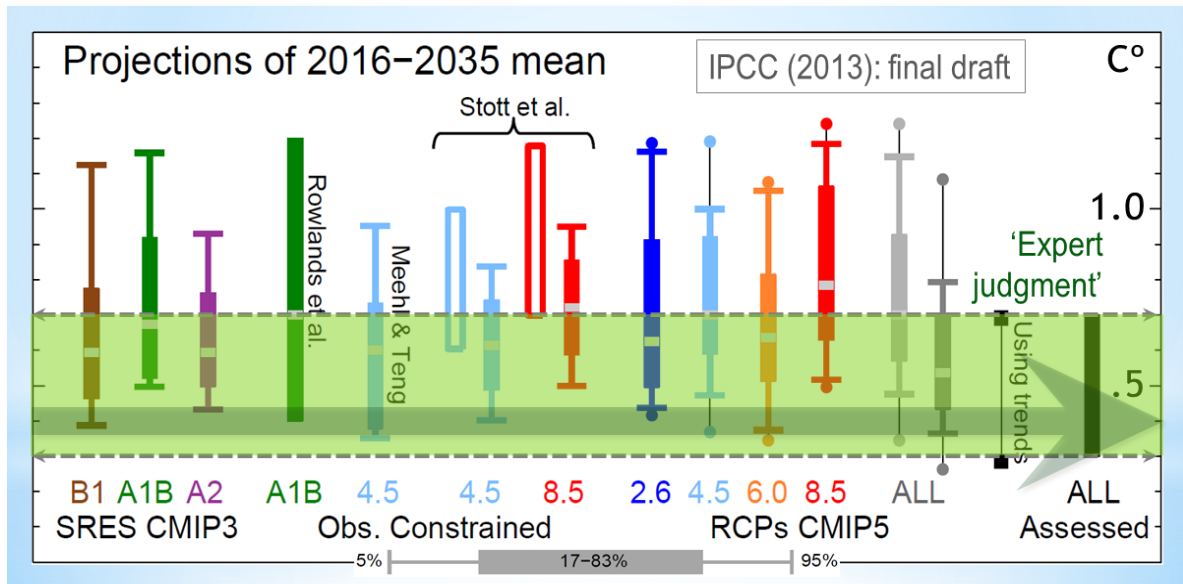
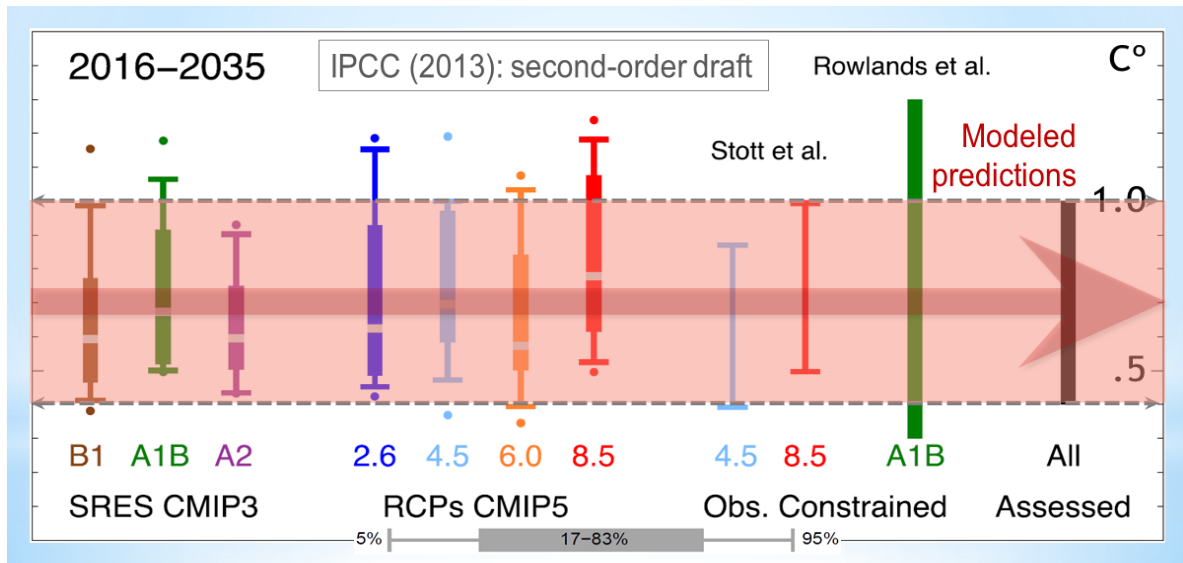
Fourthly – and this may well come to you as a great surprise - the IPCC itself, though it still predicts a “continued” warming, is now, in effect, no longer predicting an “accelerated” warming for at least the next 30 years.

The IPCC's graph from the pre-final draft of the *Fifth Assessment Report* comparing its predictions with those of the models is shown above, together with its heavily-revised

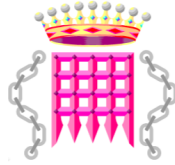


graph from the final, published draft, where you will see that it has substituted what it calls its “expert assessment” for the models’ extravagant predictions.

You will see just how drastic has been the IPCC’s downward revision of its previous projections: indeed, its current best estimate of near-term warming, at 0.13 C°/decade, is its lowest ever, by a comfortable margin. Inch by inch, the skeptics against whom you show such hateful prejudice are being shown to have been correct all along. For they, unlike the canting profiteers of doom, have no financial or other vested interest.



You must appreciate the gravity of what you have done. You have killed a learned journal in a field only peripherally connected with the climate because you have decided – or you have cravenly obeyed others unknown who have decided – to take a lamentably unscientific and aprioristic stance on the global warming question, a stance so uncompromising that you will not countenance even a single, passing question about whether the IPCC’s previous predictions are likely to prove correct, even though the



IPCC has itself now abandoned its former predictions. And you will not – indeed, cannot – offer a single shred of scientific justification for your viewpoint.

Your challenge to a surely temperately-expressed but serious and by no means illegitimate doubt about the IPCC's near-term predictions is not itself expressed in the usual scientific manner by a reviewed paper or comment responding to the scientific conclusion that – on no stated ground – you purport to dispute, but by a petulant and irresponsible decision to shut the entire journal down.

This decision of yours, taken without the slightest regard for the scientific method or for the usual canons of disciplined enquiry, logical discourse or peer review, is one too many of its kind. It is not acceptable. I do not propose to accept it or to tolerate it.

Let me tell you, therefore, what will happen next.

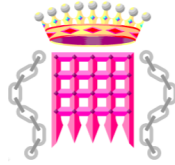
First, I shall give Copernicus seven days to reconsider its ludicrous decision to abort the journal for a nakedly political reason and without offering anything that even makes a serious pretense at being a scientific justification.

Secondly, if after seven days I shall not have heard from you that the journal is to continue, I shall invite all of the contributors to the special edition to participate with me in a relaunch of *Pattern Recognition in Physics*, to take effect immediately. If you or Copernicus object to this course of action on copyright or any other grounds, you will no doubt be sure to let me know within the next seven days. Otherwise, you will be presumed to have forfeited all interest in producing the journal and you will leave the journal to me.

I shall invite Professor Mörner to be the lead editor. The journal will be published online and, I hope, may eventually be taken under the wing of one of the scientific publishing houses with which I have connections.

Thirdly, the first editorial in the relaunched journal will perforce have to address the reasons why Copernicus decided to try (unsuccessfully, as you will by now have realized) to kill the journal. You will come in for some justifiably severe personal criticism in this editorial, for on any view you have not behaved as a senior executive of a reputable scientific publishing house should have behaved. You have taken a corrupt, anti-scientific decision, inferentially because you believed (or perhaps were menaced into believing) that if you did not toe the Party Line on the climate you would be financially or socially disadvantaged.

Fourthly, as the editorial and the press release relaunching the journal will have to point out, you have also, through ignorance, put yourself outside the emerging mainstream of climate science. For, as far as global warming is concerned, that mainstream is now flowing in a far less catastrophist direction than ever before. As you have seen above, even the IPCC, after many strongly-worded representations from expert reviewers such as me, has been forced to abandon its former naïve and imprudent faith in the expensive computer models that have so relentlessly failed to predict global temperature with sufficient conservatism since the 1980s.



In the *Fifth Assessment Report*, between the pre-final draft reviewed by us and the final draft, the IPCC cut its best estimate of global warming by almost half, from 0.7 C° over the next 30 years to about 0.4 C°. That rate is equivalent to 0.13 C°/decade, or little more than a third of the 0.3 C°/decade near-term warming the IPCC had predicted in 1990.

In the past 30 years, 0.14 C° global warming per decade was measured, so the IPCC's new prediction of 0.13 C°/decade entails no "accelerated" global warming over the next 30 years. And that, as you will now realize, is in line with the scientific conclusion to which you object so strongly on partisan grounds that you have attempted (and failed) to shut down this promising new journal of rational thought.

Fifthly, if you are determined to allow a disgracefully narrow-minded and rankly partisan political view to dominate the editorial decision-making at Copernicus, I shall send out worldwide a warning that Copernicus is not henceforth to be regarded as a scientific publishing house at all, but merely as an arm of the international political and environmental-extremist academic cabal, unworthy to be considered a truly scientific publishing house at all. Copernicus will henceforth be boycotted by all serious scientists, who will snigger at it behind their hands, and will regard it as a publisher not of science but of children's comics.

Sixthly, if within seven days you have not notified Professor Mörner that your decision to attempt to stop the journal – a decision that is the modern equivalent of book-burning – has been rethought and withdrawn, copies of this letter will be circulated widely. This is not the early Middle Ages: it is the 21st century. Your attempt at scientific censorship will, therefore, be widely publicized and universally condemned (except among true-believers in the New Superstition, who on this as on all else will tend to put extremist politics before sound science).

For the time being, to spare your blushes, I am not circulating this letter beyond the recipients of Professor Mörner's email to me. After seven days, however, I shall without hesitation circulate it widely. I shall then be entitled to assume that neither you nor Copernicus have any objection to my taking over the journal without fee, whereupon it will be administered and edited on scientific principles only, and not on the basis of any mere superstitious, anti-scientific, catastrophist, Druidical credo.

Whether you like it or not, this is not the Dark Ages: it is the Age of Enlightenment and Reason. Get used to it, and withdraw your silly and intellectually immature decision to shut down *Pattern Recognition in Physics* on the most fatuously insubstantial ground ever advanced by even the most vicious of dictators as a pretext for suppressing the freedom to think and to write.

You should be thoroughly ashamed of yourself.

Yours faithfully,

Monckton of Brenchley

Viscount Monckton of Brenchley