chitinozoan *news* 30

Commission Internationale de Microflore du Paléozoïque

Subcommission on Chitinozoans

Chitinozoan Newsletter 30
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Edited by
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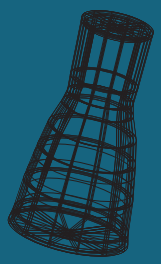
Online at
http://www.cimp.ulg.ac.be/archnews.html



Welcome from the new president.

Worldwide, we are a small group of scientists studying the chitinozoans. But over the last 50 years, our community showed that our microfossil group can be very well used for detailed biostratigraphical work. In Ordovician and Silurian, our group nowadays is considered as the third standard group for its standard biozonation. It is the fossil group that can span the bridge between the biozonation with conodonts in carbonate rocks and the biozonation with graptolites in siliciclastic rocks. In areas of the world where hydrocarbons are extracted from Ordovician to Devonian rocks, chitinozoans are intensively used for accurate local biozonation. Much of the advancement in knowledge on chitinozoans and the acceptance of the group as the third biozonation to be used in Ordovician and Silurian was achieved by Florentin Paris during more than 40 years of intensive work in the CNRS at University of Rennes. Florentin retired in November in 2010 (or had to retire). He will continue his work at his home in Rennes and Crozon. Meanwhile it is the task of the other chitinozoans workers to continue the good work where chitinozoans prove to be a useful tool and also to look for other applications of the study of our microfossil group, e.g. using chitinozoans as indicators of oceanic water mass properties.

Jacques

Editorial

This is the 2010 newsletter, compiled at the University of Lille1 in France. Many thanks to all who have contributed and apologies for being very late in distributing this. Jacques and myself were involved in the organisation of the 2010 *Palaeontological Association* Annual Meeting in December last year, so all the usually December activities were pushed forward by months, including the compilation of this newsletter.

I join Jacques in acknowledging Florentin's tremendous work on chitinozoans, at the occasion of his retirement. If chitinozoans are well-known and well-used at the moment, it certainly is to a large degree Florentin's accomplishment. On a personal level, I have learned a lot from Florentin, and I would like to take the opportunity to thank him for this.

During the course of the coming year, Jacques and myself will be evaluating this subcommission's communication

to the membership. Our small group unfortunately is decreasing in number, so a newsletter may no longer be the most efficient means of keeping in touch. Of course, we will be asking the membership's opinion before making any changes. Another issue concerns our subcommission's e-mail list, which is hopelessly out-of-date. I will be in touch via e-mail (oh, the irony) with all of you to see if we can fix this elegantly. So far for all the technical announcements - I hope you will enjoy our 30th newsletter.

Thijs

Future meetings

AASP - The Palynology Society, 44th Annual Meeting, Southampton 2011

Sunday September 4th to Wednesday September 7th, 2011

National Oceanography Centre, University of Southampton, England

Conference website: www.southampton.ac.uk/aasp2011

This year's AASP Annual Meeting will be held at the National Oceanography Centre, University of Southampton, England, and will be a joint meeting with The Palynology Group of The Micropalaeontological Society. The National Oceanography Centre, a collaboration between the Natural Environment Research Council and the University of Southampton is the largest institution of its kind in Europe, a £50m purpose-built centre which opened in 1995.

Southampton is located centrally on the south coast of England, and is within easy reach of both Heathrow and Gatwick airports (both around an hour and a half away). Southampton Airport (www.southamptonairport.com) is a hub for the European regional airline Flybe (ww.flybe.com), with direct connections to many European Cities. The city is just over an hour from London by train and the Eurostar Terminal from Europe.

The AASP meeting will run consecutively after Dino 9 at the University of Liverpool (http://pcwww.liv.ac.uk/~dino9).

Deadlines: for pre-registration, abstract submission and field trip bookings - 1st August 2011.

Online pre-registration, abstract submission and fieldtrip booking will be available by the beginning of April 2011.

See full circular at the back of this newsletter for all details !!!

Siluria revisited – Meeting of the International Subcommission on Silurian Stratigraphy

Ludlow, England, 11-13 July 2011-05-23

The Silurian System is the focus of a considerable amount of research interest at present encompassing climate change, extinction and radiation events, isotope excursions, hydrocarbon source rock generation and much more, all of which need to be underpinned by detailed stratigraphical, sedimentological, geochemical and palaeontological studies and accurate radiometric dating. The aim of the conference is to enable researchers to present their recent research on the Silurian System; the field trips are intended to enable a new generation of workers on the Silurian System to visit the GSSPs for those series and stage boundaries that occur in Wales and the Welsh Borders and to visit other sites that have been the subject of recent published and unpublished study.

Deadlines for submission of abstracts and registration have now passed. Contact David Loydell for further information: david.loydell@port.ac.uk

Fourth International Palaeontological Congress.

To be held from September 28th to October 3rd, 2014 in Mendoza, Argentina

Also see meetings related the IGCP591 in the next rubric!

New IGCP Project: IGCP 591

The Early to Middle Paleozoic Revolution

Bridging the Gap between the Great Ordovician Biodiversification Event and the Devonian Terrestrial Revolution

International Geoscience Programme (IGCP) Project 591

The Early Ordovician to Early Devonian interval contains several of the most significant paleoclimate and paleobiological events in Earth history. This interval of Earth history also contains the acme and amelioration of the Early Paleozoic Ice Age, which provides an important historical analogue for researchers of modern global change. Additionally, this interval contains the roots of the invasion of life onto land. The Earth did not go quietly into the Middle Paleozoic and the primary research objective of IGCP 591 – 'The Early to Middle Paleozoic Revolution' is to investigate this dynamic and important interval in the history and evolution of life and our planet.

IGCP 591 is designed to allow the Early to Middle Paleozoic global community an opportunity to build on the momentum gained by the highly successful IGCP projects 410 and 503 by providing a regular venue in which to continue their research and dialogue so effectively begun during those projects. We are pleased to announce the commencement of this project with the 2011 Meetings and Field Excursions of the International Subcommissions on Ordovician and Silurian Stratigraphy in Madrid, Spain, and Ludlow, England, respectively.

A host of IGCP 591 related field trips and symposia have already been scheduled, but we would love to hear of anyone interested in hosting further activities. Below we have included the tentative work plan for the project over the next five years. As with all IGCP projects, a small amount of funds are made available each year to help researchers from developing countries, students, and early career researchers attend project activities. Annual meetings are the primary objective of financial support and the majority of funds available will be directed toward attendance at the annual meeting each year. We look forward to IGCP 591 getting underway, and thank everyone in the community who emailed their support for the project.

PROJECT YEAR 1 – 2011 – IMPROVING BIO- & CHRONOSTRATIGRAPHIC CORRELATION

Joint meetings held with the Ordovician and Silurian Subcommissions

2011 – Madrid: SOS meeting and field excursion (Portugal, Ciudad Real, Iberian Range)

2011 – Ludlow: SSS meeting and field excursion (Wales, Welsh Borderlands, West Midlands)

[Special Volumes – Spanish Geological Survey (Ord.)/Bulletin of Geosciences (Sil.)]

Associated Symposia and/or Field Trips

Riga, Latvia (Aug. 28-Sept. 1): 8th Baltic Stratigraphic Conference & IGCP 591 regional field meeting (Luksevics)

Minneapolis: GSA National Meeting (Oct. 9-12), Ordovician Post-Meeting Field Trip (Oct. 12-15) and IGCP 591 regional field excursion (Sandbian-Katian of the US Midcontinent (MN, WI, IA, IL) (McLaughlin,Witzke, Emsbo, Sell, Emerson)

Group photo at the Madrid ISOS meeting (June 2011)

PROJECT YEAR 2 – 2012 – GLOBAL SEA LEVEL & SEQUENCE STRATIGRAPHY

Annual Meeting - USA – Cincinnati (Cramer & Brett)

Pre – Katian-Wenlock - Southern Appalachian Basin (KY, OH, IN)
Post – Wenlock-Lochkovian - Illinois Basin/ Michigan Basin (IL, IN, MI)
[Special Volume – Stratigraphy]

Associated Symposia and/or Field Trips

Vienna, Austria (Apr. 7-12): EGU general assembly (Žigaitė)

Dayton, Ohio, USA (Apr. 22-24): GSA North Central meeting, IGCP 591/596/Pander Society Symposium (Kleffner, Bauer)

Brisbane, Australia (Aug. 6-10): IGC general assembly, Symposium 3.5 in technical program, Theme 3 (Histon, Tewari, & Melchin)

PROJECT YEAR 3 – 2013 – BIOLOGICAL & CHEMICAL INDICATORS OF CLIMATE EVENTS

Annual Meeting – Sweden 2013 – Lund: (Calner) (Eriksson)

Pre – Katian-Wenlock – Mainland Sweden & Norway

Post – Llandovery-Ludlow – Gotland

Planned Associated Symposia and/or Field Trips

Mendoza, Argentina: ICoS meeting and IGCP 591 regional field meeting (Albanesi)

PROJECT YEAR 4 – 2014 – EVOLUTIONARY PALEOECOLOGY AND PALEOBIOGEOGRAPHY

Annual Meeting – Lithuania, Vilnius (Žigaitė) (Radzevičius)

Planned Associated Symposia and/or Field Trips

Nanjing, China: IGCP 591 regional field meeting (Zhan)

Mendoza, Argentina: International Paleontological Congress and IGCP 591 regional meeting (Albanesi)

PROJECT YEAR 5 – 2015 – OCEANOGRAPHIC AND CLIMATE MODELING

Annual Meeting – France 2015 – Lille: (Vandenbroucke) (Verniers)

Planned Associated Symposia and/or Field Trips

Anticosti Island, Canada: IGCP 591 regional field meeting (Jin & Desrochers)

The project website (igcp591.org) is now available online. Please check it regularly for updates about upcoming meetings, travel assistance, and any other details regarding IGCP 591 as more information becomes available. We hope to see many of you at these events over the next five years.

IGCP 591 – The Early to Middle Paleozoic Revolution

Bradley D. Cramer (Kansas, USA)
Živilė Žigaitė (Vilnius, Lithuania)
Thijs R.A. Vandenbroucke (Lille, France)
Kathleen Histon (Modena, Italy)
Renbin Zhan (Nanjing, China)
Guillermo L. Albanesi (Córdoba, Argentina)
Michael J. Melchin (St. Francis Xavier, Canada)
Mikael Calner (Lund, Sweden)

Sa'id Al Hajri (Saudi Aramco)

I am finalizing a paper on the Pridoli chitinozoans from Northwestern Saudi Arabia, together with, amongst others Jacques Verniers.

Anthony Buther (University of Portsmouth)

I am continuing to work closely with David Loydell on integrated chitinozoan and graptolite biostratigraphical projects - the main project at present being on an interesting section in the American midwest. We also have one PhD student undertaking a project focussing on some little-studied Silurian sections in Wales, and we also potentially have two further students starting next year on similar biostratigraphical projects.

In 2010 I published a paper on Early Silurian chitinozoans from northeastern and western Illinois (Butcher et al. 2010), within which one new species was erected, *Fungochitina illinoisensis* Butcher, 2010. As the species was only recovered from one sample, its true biostratigraphical value has yet to be ascertained. The paper also records very well-preserved 3-D specimens of *Angochitina hansonica*, only recorded previously from sections in Nevada (Soufiane & Achab 2000b). Papers on melanosclerites from the same strata in Illinois (Trampisch and Butcher 2010), and also on the sequence stratigraphy of the type Wenlock area (Ray and Butcher 2010) were also published.

As well as my current work on the chitinozoans from the section in the USA, chitinozoan data recovered from fifty samples of a North African exploration well are currently being prepared for submission.

Aside from chitinozoan studies, I have taken on extra teaching, with one subject being palaeobotany - I am therefore 'expanding my horizons' in this field, with special respect to early land plant evolution and palynology.

Susana de la Puente (IANIGLA-CCT CONICET, Mendoza, Argentina)

In 2010 and 2011, I have continued with the postdoctoral fellowship (CONICET) on chitinozoans of the Silurian successions from northwestern Argentina, focusing on the assemblages of the Ordovician-Silurian boundary interval, under the direction of Dr. Claudia Rubinstein in the Palaeopalynology Unit at IANIGLA-CCT, CONICET Mendoza.

Currently I am working on a two month CONICET grant until the end of March 2011 with Thijs Vandenbroucke at the University of Lille (Université de Lille 1). This grant is part of my postdoctoral fellowship and involves chitinozoan studies of the Upper Ordovician-Silurian levels from the Sierras Subandinas, in the eastern part of the Central Andean Basin of Argentina.

I have been awarded a job as a scientific researcher of the National Council of Scientific and Technical Research (CONICET) of Argentina where I will continue working on chitinozoans.

New event: It is a pleasure to communicate that the proposal by Claudia Rubinstein, Beatriz Waisfeld and Claudia Marsicano to organize the Fourth International Palaeontological Congress in Mendoza, Argentina in 2014 has been accepted. It will be held from September 28th to October 3rd, 2014. Therefore, I will be actively involved in the organization in the next years.

Mercedes di Pasquo (CICYTTP - CONICET, Diamante, Entre Ríos, Argentina)

Since 2010 I am working at the CICYTTP - CONICET, Diamante, Entre Ríos, Argentina. See more information about this place on the website: http://www.cicyttp.org.ar. I keep on working mainly on Silurian to Permian Palynofloras (and megafloras) from Bolivia, Argentina and related areas. If you want to know more about my work please go to the websites: http://www.cicyttp.org.ar/mdipascuo.htm and http://palino.com.ar (to download her pdf´s you will need to use: username= palino, password= palino2005).

Bach. Sol Noetinger is close to defend her Ph.D on “Studies of palynoassemblages and megaflora from the Devonian of southern Tarija basin, Northern Argentina and southern Bolivia: age, correlation and palaeoenvironment of deposition”, under direction of Dr. Mercedes di Pasquo at the University of Buenos Aires. She recovered and studied several chitinozoan species and we are extending the study of palynofloras to the Silurian deposits from the Zenta range, Jujuy Province, Argentina. Chitinozoans are discussed in a number of our publications and abstracts listed elsewhere in this newsletter.

Olle Hints (Institute of Geology, Tallinn University of Technology)

I continue to work on Ordovician-Silurian organic-walled microfossils, primarily scolecodonts, but also chitinozoans. In recent years my interests have been related particularly to abundance and diversity patterns at various scales.

Together with Jaak Nõlvak and Mairy Tammekänd (both from Tallinn) we have an ongoing project on Darriwilian microfossils (chitinozoans, scolecodonts and conodonts). In 2010, a paper on chitinozoan dynamics in the Pakri section, NW Estonia, was published. Another project I am involved in deals with the Baltic Hirnantian microfossils, geochemistry and sedimentology. Additionally I have several papers on lower Silurian microfossils, including chitinozoans, under way.

Together with Jaak Nõlvak, we started to compile a data base of chitinozoan distribution in the Baltic area. Currently this is based on the published Estonian reference drill core sections and respective range charts. We have drawn new diversity curves and currently experimenting with CONOP9 quantitative stratigraphic software tool. The latter provides a composite sequence, which can be used as a high-resolution time scale, independent of formal chronostratigraphy. Some preliminary results of this study will be presented at the 11th ISOS in Spain, May 2011.

Apart from research, I am responsible for developing a database of Estonian geological collections, which also include information on published chitinozoan specimens, microfossil samples, drill cores, geological sites etc. This database is freely accessible online at http://sarv.gi.ee.

Viiu Nestor (Institute of Geology at Tallinn University of Technology)

I just finished my paper concerning the biostratigraphy of the East Baltic Pridolian chitinozoans. Further work is planned with Tarmo Kiipli (K-bentonites), Anne Põldvere (lithology) and Peep Männik (conodonts).

Jaak Nõlvak (Institute of Geology at Tallinn Technical University).

I continue my work on Ordovician chitinozoans. We finished with Y.GRAHN an updated view on the chitinozoans from Sweden. With D. GOLDMAN we concentrate on the graptoloids and chitinozoans from the Mid Ordovician from Latvia. New chitinozoan material from the Ordovician and Silurian boundary beds from the sections of the East Baltic, also material from Ordovician erratics from western Finland are under preparation together with A. UUTELA.

Elise Porez (University of Lille1, France)

I am Elise POREZ and I am a student in 5th year in the University of Lille1 (France). At the moment, I am completing a six-month project on the chititnozoans from the late Ordovician in the

laboratory of Palaeontology of Lile1.

This exercise focuses on the Ordovician period and more particularly on the youngest stage of the Ordovician, i.e., the Hirnantian Stage (-445.6 to -443.7 million years) which encompassed the first of the "big five" mass extinctions of the Phanerozoic. The objective is to investigate chitinozoans from samples from a newly discovered section in Hafren-Forest (Wales). This section has the advantage over others in the area in that it records a continuous deposition of mudstones. These mudstones present distinct sedimentary facies alternations marking oxygenated and anoxic sea floor conditions.

This study aims to investigate if and how chitinozoans assemblages are influenced by these changing conditions. In addition, the presence of chitinozoans should permit us to realize a biozonal scheme and may allow correlations between our section and far-away sections on various Ordovician palaeocontinents.

Helga Priewalder (Geological Survey of Austria)

The permanent slides in the collection of F.H. CRAMER, which has been housed at the Geological Survey of Austria (GBA) since 1990, were examined for CRAMER's 46 chitinozoan holotypes. 21 were recovered, of two species only paratypes were found (the rest is undiscoverable and therefore considered as lost). Of these, colour photographs were made and published in 2010 (see publications section) in combination with the originally published data of the type-figures, the indications of the type-strata and -localities, the collection numbers of the cases in which the slides are stored at the GBA, the slide numbers and the England finder data of the types. Furthermore, information is provided about whether rock material and/or organic residues of the type-samples are available.

Florentin Paris (Rennes University1, France).

Retirement time arrived for me, and I left my office in Rennes University for more than 4 months now. However, I am still working on chitinozoans and I am completing several manuscripts, especially those on chitinozoans from the Ordovician-Silurian boundary beds of northern Gondwana (Mauritania, Libya, Saudi Arabia).

I am also completing the database "CHITINOSamples" recording all my palynological samples (c.a. 18000 core and field samples) stored in the collections of the University of Rennes. These rock samples are from all the continents (except from Antarctica) and range from the Early Ordovician to the latest Devonian. This database will be accessible soon through Internet. The palynological slides containing the chitinozoans I studied during my career are also stored in these collections. They are registered in the database "CHITINO_IGR". All this material will be available for comparison upon request addressed to the curator of the collections of Geosciences at the University of Rennes 1 (<jean.plaine@univ-rennes1.fr>).

I am presently working on a system of help for chitinozoan identification. This system will be coupled with the CHITNOVOSP database, which is already available (see the corresponding flyer in the present issue of Chitinozoan Newsletter).

Because I am not planning to attend future palynological meetings, I would like to wish the best to the colleagues and friends I had the privilege to mix with during more than 40 years. You can reach me by using my new E-mail address: <florentin.paris@orange.fr>

H N Sinha (Vinoba Bhave University, India)

In India, the Lower Palaeozoic succession is confined along the Tethyan Himalaya. The sedimentary sequence is exposed in a hostile terrain and generally available at 15,000 feet MSL. Field work and rock sample collection is difficult and risky. A detailed field work and sample collection was made for chitinozoans study in the Garhwal Himalaya. The findings were presented during the Poland Conference last year. I am presently interested to continue the same work in other sections of the Tethys Himalaya for continental and intercontinental correlation. For this purpose I have submitted a major project to Government of India and I hope I will be called by the expert committee very soon. I am sending two photographs of trace fossils which I recovered from the Shiala Formation during my last field work in the Tethyan Garhwal Himalaya (see next page). These forms are rare and confined in silty shales.

Thijs Vandenbroucke (University of Lille1, France)

Thijs integrated the "Géosystèmes" research group of the University of Lille1 (France) as Chargé de Recherche of the French CNRS (www.cnrs.fr) in October 2009. His current research projects continue to test the potential of several methods for ground-truthing Ordovician climate models and hypotheses. The main focus stays on using the palaeobiogeography of planktonic chitinozoans and graptolites to ground-truth Ordovician climate model (GCM) predictions of ocean state. The results from well-defined time slices in the Upper Ordovician have been published in Pal. Pal. Pal. and PNAS last year (see publication lists), including a re-assessment of Hirnantian atmospheric CO_2 levels. Together with Mark Williams (University of Leicester), Howard Armstrong (Durham University) and Jan Zalasiewicz (University of Leicester), Thijs hosted a session at the IPC3 meeting in London (June 2010), entitled "Modelling the climate of Palaeozoic Earth". He also hosted the 54th Annual Meeting of the Palaeontological Association, together with Stephen Louwye and Jacques Verniers of Ghent University.

We are still trying to solve a few biostratigraphical problems, including the correlation difficulties at and around the *linearis* biozone level: this includes an ongoing study of the chitinozoans through the graptolitic Bornholm succession (Denmark, together with Arne Nielsen, Geological Museum, University of Copenhagen) and the Whitehouse Group on the Girvan Foreshore and inland sections (Scotland, together with Keith Ingham, Hunterian Museum). The results from Bornholm were presented during the recent ISOS meeting in Alcalá de Henares (Madrid, Spain) and will be submitted for publication soon. In Lille, Elise Porez has started an MSc research project on a Hirnantian section in central Wales and Susana De La Puente has just visited the department for a few months as a postdoc, to work with us on Late Ordovician - Early Silurian biostratigraphic problems in Argentina.

Next to the Ordovician projects, Thijs remains involved in several projects dealing with the Silurian System, most notably in a revision of the stratigraphy and facies architecture of the Llandovery type area in South Wales together with Jeremy Davies (BGS), Richard Waters (National Museum of Wales), Stewart Molyneux (BGS), Mark Williams, Jan Zalasiewicz, and Jacques Verniers.

Jacques Verniers (Ghent University)

Jacques Verniers (Belgium) – I try to finish the manuscript on the chitinozoans around the Silurian-Ordovician boundary in two boreholes (Rostanga and Lönstorp) in Scania (Sweden), provided by Arne Nielsen, in which Tania Koren made a detailed graptolite biozonation around the Ordovician-Silurian transition. With Thijs Vandenbroucke we are finishing the study with chitinozoans of the Type sections of the Llandovery. These results will be presented during our next meeting of the Silurian stratigraphical Subcommission in Ludlow UK in July 2011.

Together with Florentin Paris we will submit shortly the manuscript on chitinozoans from the Upper Ordovician from the Qusaiba borehole on the Arabian Peninsula. A diverse and well preserved fauna is present with several new species.

In 2010 I was pleased to have Wang Wenhui in our lab who studied a well dated section with

graptolites in South China and discovered a rich and diverse chitinozoan fauna. Together with Dr. Sinha (India) we finished an article on Upper Ordovician Chitinozoans from northern India. I was also happy to be in the jury of Nuno Vaz who defended with success his PhD on Ordovician and Silurian chitinozoans of Central Portugal.

Jan Mortier (Belgium) continues his PhD study on the lithostratigraphy, biostratigraphy with chitinozoans and palaeoenvironmental reconstruction with isotope studies on organic carbon of the Silurian of the Condroz Inlier (Belgium).

Two master's students are dating with chitinozoans the units they mapped and described in several logged sections. Steven Esselens is looking in the volcaniclastic beds and some macrofossil units near Hennuyères (Upper – Ordovician and lowermost Silurian, Brabant Massif, Belgium). Jef Deckers studies two sections near Huy-sous-Huy (Wenlock and Lower Ludlow, Condroz Inlier, Belgium).

Wang Wenhui (Nanjing University, China)

In the past year, I worked on Late Tremadocian chitinozoan material from the Nanba Section (South China) at Ghent University. In this study, I am able to make a calibration between the earliest chitinozoan biozones versus graptolite biozones in Tremadocian. At the beginning of 2011, I have been looking at acritarchs from the same section. A diverse and moderately well preserved acritarch flora has been presented. This year, my continuing work will be on trying to establish cross correlated acritarch–chitinozoan-graptolite biozonations in the Late Tremadocian for the Jiangnan Slope region in the South China Terrane. My Ph. D thesis, due for 2012, is about the early diversification of graptolites and its paleoceanographic background. Acritarchs and chitinozoans will assist in seeking out the paleoceanographic background of that age.

Rustem R. Yakupov

I am working on Ordovician and Silurian biostratigraphy of the Southern Urals. My PhD thesis was published in the following paper:

Ordovocian chitinozoans from the Western slope of the South Urals (in russian)

Siberian Branch, Russian Academy of Sciences, News of Paleontology and Stratigraphy, Supplement to journal "Geologiya I Geofizika" Issue 12, 2009

http://www.ipgg.nsc.ru/Journals/News-Of-Paleontology-And-Stratigraphy/12/Lists/List/Attachments/2/12_1.pdf

New taxa

Fungochitina illinoisensis Butcher, 2010.

Euconochitina sheridani Al-Ghammari, Booth, Paris, 2010

Belonechitina ghabaensis Al-Ghammari, Booth, Paris, 2010

Cyathochitina giraffa Grahn & Nolvak 2010

Cyathochitina giraffa Hennissen *et al*. 2010

This double usage of *Cyathochitina giraffa* will be addressed in a forthcoming paper by Vandenbroucke *et al*. (in submission).

New publications

Ainsaar L., Kaljo D., Martma T., Meidla T., Männik P., Nõlvak J., Tinn, O. 2010. Middle and Upper Ordovician carbon isotope chemostratigraphy in Baltoscandia: a correlation standard and clues to environmental history. Palaeogeography, Palaeoclimatology, Palaeoecology, 294: 189-201.

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De La Puente G.S., 2010a. Quitinozoos del Floiano (Ordovícico Inferior) del área de Santa Victoria, Cordillera Oriental, noroeste argentino. Sistemática. Ameghiniana, 47 (2): 217-238.

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Grahn, Yngve and Nõlvak, Jaak. 2010. Swedish Ordovician Chitinozoa and biostratigraphy: a review and new data. Palaeontographica, Abt. B, Stuttgart, 283, 1-3: 5-71.

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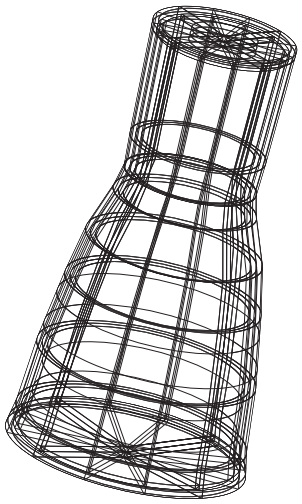


Sunday September 4th to Wednesday September 7th, 2011
National Oceanography Centre, University of Southampton, England

Conference website (live 1st April 2011): www.southampton.ac.uk/aasp2011

This year's AASP Annual Meeting will be held at the National Oceanography Centre, University of Southampton, England, and will be a joint meeting with *The Palynology Group* of *The Micropalaeontological Society*. The National Oceanography Centre, a collaboration between the Natural Environment Research Council and the University of Southampton is the largest institution of its kind in Europe, a £50m purpose-built centre which opened in 1995.

Southampton is located centrally on the south coast of England, and is within easy reach of both Heathrow and Gatwick airports (both around an hour and a half away). Southampton Airport (www.southamptonairport.com) is a hub for the European regional airline Flybe (ww.flybe.com), with direct connections to many European Cities. The city is just over an hour from London by train and the Eurostar Terminal from Europe.

The AASP meeting will run consecutively after *Dino 9* at the University of Liverpool (http://pcwww.liv.ac.uk/~dino9).

Costs (in UK pounds sterling): pre-registration will be £75, students £45. On-site registration will be £125, students £75.

Delegates will be responsible for booking their own accommodation for the conference, from the selection of student residences, hotels, etc., listed on the conference website.

Deadlines: for pre-registration, abstract submission and field trip bookings - 1st August 2011. Online pre-registration, abstract submission and fieldtrip booking will be available by the beginning of April 2011.

Technical Sessions. The two day technical program (Monday 5th- Tuesday 6th September) will accommodate more than 60 talks (in two concurrent sessions), including keynotes. Two themed sessions are currently planned, and suggestions for additional sessions are welcomed:

1. Industrial applications of palynology
2. Palaeozoic palynology symposium

Poster sessions will be convened during tea and coffee breaks.

Ice-breaker, Sunday 4th September: there will be a pre-conference welcome reception with refreshments and nibbles, followed by a keynote invited lecture.

Conference dinner, Tuesday 6th September.

The conference dinner will take place on board *HMS Warrior*, the second and largest iron-clad warship in the world, commissioned in 1861, and now berthed at Portsmouth Historic Naval Dockyard (www.hmswarrior.org). After being piped aboard and welcomed with a tot of rum, delegates will have dinner on tables placed between the cannon on the gundeck. There may be an opportunity to visit the *Mary Rose* Museum (Henry VIII's flagship raised from beneath the Solent) prior to the meal.

AASP Business Luncheon: this will take place on Tuesday 6th September at a local restaurant, and will cost approximately £20.

Field Trips. Two field trips are planned:

Field trip 1. Pre-conference: Isle of Wight, Sunday 4th September.

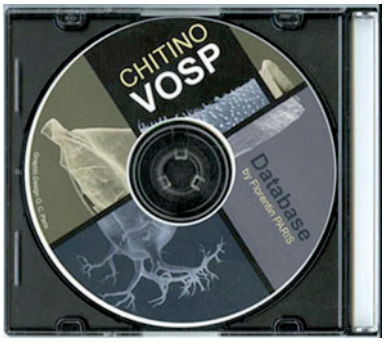
This trip will visit classic areas of English geology, ranging from non-marine Wealden (Cretaceous: Hauterivian/Barremian, which has yielded some of the earliest well-dated angiosperm pollen), through the marine middle Cretaceous (e.g. Atherfield Clay), to the Chalk and into the Paleogene succession of Whitecliff Bay (left: Eocene-Oligocene). These successions have been extensively studied in terms of their palynology.

Costs will be about £40, inclusive of transport, lunch and entrance fee to the *Sandown Dinosaur Museum*.

CHITINOVOSP, a database recording the chitinozoans species (by F. Paris)

A new version of CHITINOVOSP database exists now in English. This database recording all the chitinozoan species described since the first taxonomic paper on the group by Eisenack (1931) is available as a CD (see photo). It may be of some help for chitinozoans workers. It should be also useful for Palaeozoic palynologists not very familiar with the chitinozoan group, but wanting to have a broad idea on chitinozoans they encounter in their palynological preparations.

CHITINOVOSP runs on FileMaker Pro™ software. It includes an illustration of the holotype of most of the 1240 species and subspecies recorded so far in the group. It contains taxonomic information (species, sub-species, genus, updated generic assignment) and bibliographic data (author(s), year of description of the taxon and the related full reference, including the figure numbers of the type material). Other helpful data concerning the chronostratigraphy (range of the species by System, Series and Stages, as well as its FAD and LAD when accurately known) and the palaeogeographical location (locality/country and palaeoplate) of the recorded species are also provided. This database gives therefore an easy and immediate access to the main information concerning the chitinozoans.



Terms and condition of sale for academic researchers (500 €), or for industrial utilization (1500 €), can be obtained from "Creation Graphic" by E-mail: oliv-chang.paris@orange.fr

See also the web page:

http://www.geosciences.univ-rennes1.fr/spip.php?article1093

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