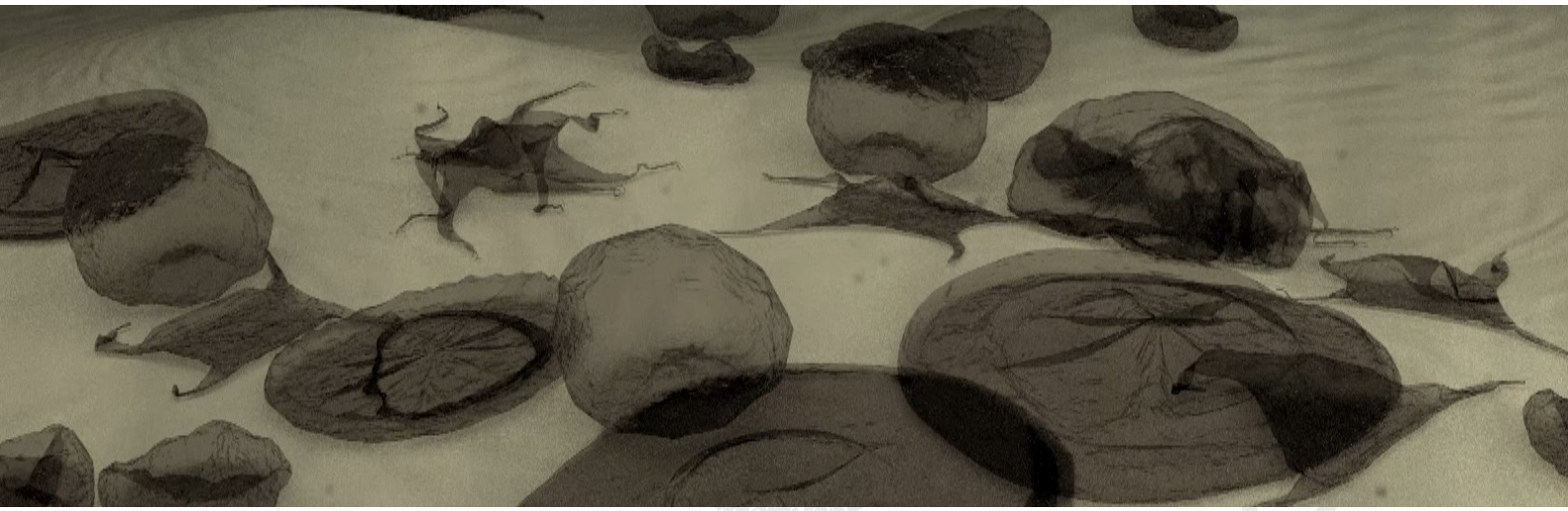
CIMP
COMMISSION INTERNATIONALE DE LA MICROFLORE DU PALÉOZOÏQUE

NEWSLETTER 92
FEBRUARY 2022



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COMMISSION INTERNATIONALE DE MICROFLORE DU PALÉOZOÏQUE

Thanks to all members who contributed to this newsletter!

Cover photo: 3D model of palynomorph deposition.
Credit: Filipe Barreira (LNEG)

CIMP

CIMP is an international federation of palynologists focused in Palaeozoic palynology, and membership is open to all individuals involved in this field of expertise. The commission aims to advance knowledge in Paleozoic palynology and related subjects by the promotion of international co-operation and meetings between scientists of all regions and countries.

To this end the CIMP arranges symposia and working groups which deal with various stratigraphical and taxonomic problems in Palaeozoic palynology. For more information on membership and activities, please see:

https://cimp.weebly.com/

PRESIDENT'S LETTER

Dear CIMP fellows,

This is the last message I will write to you as president of CIMP. The four years term is over this summer. It has been a very challenging time. Challenging on large scale, facing a global pandemic - that is still not finished - with all its effects in business, research and all the rest. Many of you got affected and suffered from it the one or the other way. But also challenging on a personal level, shaking my life around and leading me to the biggest change in my work life ever. So it fits very well to leave the office now and make way for the next one to lead and push CIMP through the coming years.

I'm looking forward for the 'News From The Membership' in the coming newsletter to learn how you went through these challenging times. Hopefully you took the opportunity to contribute to the newsletter to let us know what's going on.

Hartmut Jäger
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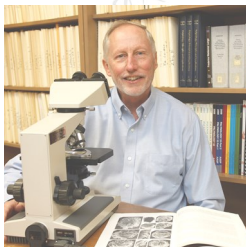
While the pandemic slows down business comes back and your research activities can be continued step by step. Beside the virtual meetings, conferences start to be organized as live meetings again, giving the opportunity to meet with colleagues in person. Let's hope it will also support the revival and continuation of research collaborations, developing joint projects and meeting with colleagues in the field and in the laboratories, bringing us back to a vital interacting scientific community.

When I started as president I had some goals for my term. Some are achieved or at least moved forward, others are still waiting to be done, e.g. the CIMP homepage. It is essential to have an attractive, informative, updated homepage, to get recognized from the rest of the scientific community and interested laymen. Therefore it is on the agenda for some years already. Hopefully at least we can start updating the homepage in a modern format until summer. Again I want to encourage all of you to get involved in this with your ideas. Check out our homepage (https://cimp.weebly.com/) and give us your comments. What should be kept, what should be changed, what could be deleted? What is missing, what should be improved? What about the design and organization of the homepage? Your comments are highly appreciated. Please send them to our general secretary Gilda Lopes (cimp.palynology@gmail.com).

Another issue is the CIMP group on Facebook - *CIMP - The Power of Palaeozoic Palynology*. Several new members have joint in interested in our field of research, not only Palaeozoic palynologists. Like every year I want to encourage to join this group too, if you are in Facebook. Let's make it a vital and valuable communication platform for Palaeozoic palynology. It has many options to communicate, exchanging ideas, discussing questions, exchanging pictures and all sorts of data & materials (including papers), getting support from the experienced fellows in your specific field of research and to develop new collaborations. It also could be a place to present the scientific community the wonderful world of Palaeozoic palynology and its huge research potential in earth science.

Although 2022 is still not back to normal, the opportunities for our research activities will increase. Make the best out of it. I'm sure there is a lot of interesting research in Palaeozoic palynology possible to be done this year. Stay healthy and save until we meet again at the one or the other occasion. I'm looking forward to get in touch with you again.

Best wishes
Hartmut



Reed Wicander
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PAST PRESIDENT'S LETTER

Once again Covid-19 disrupted my plans to spend my usual winter (January–May) in Brisbane, working with Geoff Playford. Nonetheless, our paper "Acritarchs and prasinophytes from the Lower Devonian (Lochkovian) Ross Formation, Tennessee, USA: stratigraphic and paleogeographic distribution" was published in Palynology. If you do not have access to the journal, but would like a pdf of the paper, please contact me and I will be happy to send you one on behalf of Geoff and myself.

As I mentioned in last year's Newsletter, we will be following up this study with an examination of the chitinozoans, scolecodonts, and miospores from the same samples as our microphytoplankton paper. If the borders open up to tourists again, this study will be primarily conducted at The University of Queensland. Stay tuned for

Gilda Lopes
cimp.palynology@gmail.com

further details.

I did spend 2021 in a major revision of my physical geology textbook, including almost 100% replacement of photos with all new high-resolution ones, as well as completely updating the text. Physical Geology: Investigating Earth is due to go to press in mid-April.

As you are aware, elections for Board positions are coming up. As per our Constitution, I must step down from my position of Past-President after serving my four-year term. I would just like to say that I enjoyed my term as President and Past-President and my interactions with the Board during this time. I look forward to continuing to be an active member of CIMP.

That is how I spent 2021. Hopefully, things will be better in 2022 and we can return to in-person meetings in the near future.

Publication:

Wicander, R. & Playford, G., 2021. Acritarchs and prasinophytes from the Lower Devonian (Lochkovian) Ross Formation, Tennessee, USA: stratigraphic and paleogeographic distribution. Palynology. DOI: https://doi.org/10.1080/01916122.2021.1980917

GENERAL SECRETARY'S LETTER

Dear CIMP Members,

Another year and another amazing Newsletter! I hope this issue can bring you great readings!

I want to acknowledge all the members that took their time to write a contribution. In 2023, if you don't have time to write something up, please just send us a list of the papers published throughout the year. This small gesture will help us all!

In the present newsletter you will find important information about the member's activities throughout this last and rough year, among other issues.

I would also like to acknowledge Filipe Barreira (LNEG's designer) for all his support with the newsletter layout.

Best regards,

Gilda Lopes

CIMP NEWSLETTER GUIDELINES

The CIMP Newsletter is released once a year by the Commission Internationale de Microflore du Paléozoïque, and welcomes contributions from both members and non-members. You are invited to submit items related to CIMP members' fields of study that might include technical notes, meeting reports and reviews, book reviews, and other news related to Paleozoic palynology. Articles are preferred in Microsoft Word or plain text formats, and high resolution photos and other illustrations are welcomed.

All contributions should be sent by email to the Newsletter Editor, Gilda Lopes, at:

cimp.palynology@gmail.com

CIMP SUBSCRIPTION RATES

CIMP has an annual subscription regime. We encourage you to check your annual status and make your payment!

Subscriptions are set at:

Professionals

10€ per year (+ 0.50€ of charge whatever for how many years you pay your fees)

Students and retired members:

FREE

Information on methods of payment can be found at: **http://cimp.weebly.com/membership.html**.

It is easy, but why pay? Simple - you can help CIMP members (mainly students) to participate in meetings and conferences. You also may help in offsetting the costs of organizing social events during meetings, and participate in discussions between CIMP members. Your annual CIMP member dues also provide the fees for the CIMP subscription to IFPS (International Federation of Palynological Societies).

Thank you!

CIMP BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2022 ELECTIONS

Dear Membership,

During the first half of 2022 CIMP is electing a new Board. Most of the positions will be open for election and any member is eligible to stand in the election if they comply with the following criteria:

1. Candidates have to have a research record in Palaeozoic palynology.

2. Candidates should be actively involved in CIMP for a certain time (e.g., contributing to CIMP newsletters, CIMP sessions in conferences).

3.Candidates should have some research experience.

The posts up for election will be:

- President
- General Secretary
- Treasurer
- Director at Large

Nominations should be sent by **March 31st, 2022,** and include a photo of the candidate, a brief biography, the research interests, and a paragraph explaining why you are applying to the position.

Please consider whether you would like to run in the election for any of the positions. Feel free to contact CIMP General Secretary at cimp.palynology@gmail.com, or any of the board members about this issue.

NEWS FROM THE MEMBERSHIP

Ahmed Maher
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In 2020 I came to Japan in November 2019 merits to the Egypt-Japan Education Partnership (EJEP), to study subsurface Paleozoic sediments of Egypt, at the Botanical Gardens of the Osaka City University. Afterward, I could integrate the Graduate School of Science and Technology of Shizuoka University in April 2021. The city of Shizuoka is located near Mount Fuji and it is legendary, in Japan, for its mild climate allowing the production of green tea. For my Ph.D., I began working on Paleozoic sediments of Japan. The Japanese archipelago has a very complex geological structure, and details about its paleogeography until the Mesozoic is still not clear. Furthermore, only a few pioneer palaeobotanical works about micro-and macrofossils exist. My study aims at clarifying the Paleozoic ecosystems of Japan in terms of paleopalynology and correlating the results with those known for eastern Pangea. Field research was delayed because of the pandemic situation, but I finally could go to the field for one week in Northeast Japan in December 2021. Some plant macrofossils and marine strata yielding plant debris were reported from this area, and my objective for this first preliminary research was to identify localities best suited for a palynological study. Thus, I collected samples from the reported plant localities. However, I mainly focused on shallow marine strata yielding stratigraphical markers as trilobites and fusulinids. This field research was a wonderful experience to discover the Silurian to Permian geology of this region. Also, it was a great opportunity to learn about its present-day vegetation. Moreover, I could experience wonderful snow for the first time in my life! Starting to investigate the Paleozoic of Japan is a very challenging issue, but the first preliminary results are very promising and exciting. I plan to go again to this region and explore other Paleozoic areas during the Summer of 2022.

Because field research needs good communication and teamwork, and the Paleontological and palynological national congresses are mostly in Japanese, I had a chance to start learning the Japanese language at Shizuoka University. Also, I take part in seminars and field courses of the Geological Department. I am enjoying studying Paleozoic Palynology, while eyewitness the unique flora and culture here in Japan, with the supervision of my Japanese and French commission. I am happy to be a member of CIMP. Many thanks to G. Lopes for her active communication with CIMP- members studying all over the world.

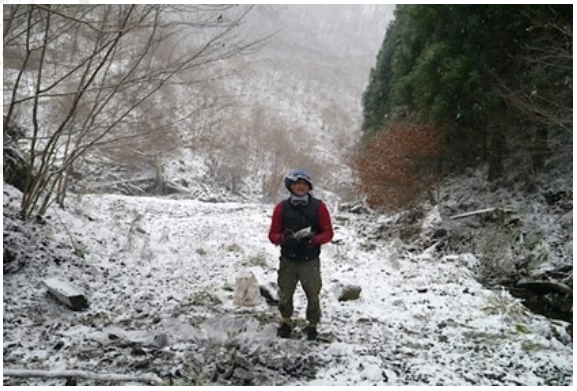

Image 1: Ahmed Maher, Paleozoic Field trip under the snow, Northeast Japan, December 2021.

Charlie Wellman
University of Sheffield
Sheffield, UK

In 2021 we commenced new 3-year NERC-funded Standard Research Grant studying the Devonian sequences of Northern

Spain. In September the field campaign began with palynological and geochemical sampling by myself, David Bond, John Marshall and Spanish colleagues from the University of Oviedo (Javier Sanz-López and Silvia Blanco-Ferrerra). We are delighted to announce that Gilda Lopes will be starting a 2.5 year postdoc in Sheffield working on this material. Other fieldwork in the Lower Old Red Sandstone of Scotland was able to go ahead but, unfortunately, it seems that a planned fieldtrip to continue work on the Cape Supergroup in South Africa may be in jeopardy.

Publications:

DAVIES, N. S., BERRY, C. M., MARSHALL, J. E. A., WELLMAN, C. H. & LINDEMANN, F.J. 2021. The Devonian Landscape Factory: plant-sediment interactions in the Old Red Sandstone of Svalbard and the rise of vegetation as a biogeomorphic agent. Journal of the Geological Society 178, jgs2020-225.

GIBSON, M. E. & WELLMAN, C. H. 2021. The use of spore-pollen assemblages to reconstruct vegetation changes in the Permian (Lopingian) Zechsten deposits of northeast England. Review of Palaeobotany and Palynology 288, 104399.

STROTHER, P. K. BRASIER, M. D., WACEY, D., TIMPE, L., SAUNDERS, M. & WELLMAN, C. H. 2021. A possible billion-year-old holozoan with differentiated multicellularity. Current Biology 31, 2658-2665.

STROTHER, P. K. & WELLMAN, C. H. 2021. The Nonesuch Formation Lagerstätte: a rare window into freshwater life one billion years ago. Journal of the Geological Society 178, jgs2020-123.

WELLMAN, C. H. & BALL, A. C. 2021. Early land plant phytodebris. 309-320 in MARRET, F., O'KEEFE, J., OSTERLOFF, P., POUND, M. & SHUMILOVSKIKH, L. (eds) Applications of Non-Pollen Palynomorphs: from palaeoenvironmental reconstruction to biostratigraphy. Geological Society, London, Special Publications 511, 309-320.

Duncan McLean & David Bodman
MB Stratigraphy Limited
UK

Work on the biozonation of the Carboniferous of the British Isles is ongoing. The text is finalised and the figures are well on the way to completion. Plates to do!

When covid-19 regulations relaxed we managed to get a day in the field to visit the type section of the Cadeby Formation at Cadeby Quarry near Doncaster. This was to improve our understanding of the stratigraphical relationships between the claystones that we had sampled earlier and the dolomite reefs. This involved a good deal of manual digging, but was worthwhile. The section is unusual in many ways but particularly because the Permian claystones are so poorly lithified. They were sampled using a sharp knife (see photograph). Mike Stephenson (Stephenson Geoscience Consulting Limited) is currently working on the well-preserved miospores that were recovered.

A single paper describing the nature of coals in platform carbonate sequences at the Asbian-Brigantian boundary, Cefn Mawr, North Wales was published in 2021, and we did contribute to the AASP Annual Conference.

Publications:

GIBSON, M.E. & BODMAN, D.J., 2021. Evaporite palynology: a case study of the Permian (Lopingian) Zechstein Sea. AASP-

TPS Annual Meeting online August 2021, Abstracts, 106.
McLEAN, D., INGRAMS, S., BODMAN, D.J. & BOOTH, M., 2021. Early Carboniferous (Asbian-Brigantian, Mississippian) miospore stratigraphy from the coast of Northumberland, UK. AASP-TPS Annual Meeting online August 2021, Abstracts, 108.

DEL STROTHER, P., GIZE, A., HOLLIS, C. & McLEAN, D., 2021. Bituminous coals on emergent surfaces in an Asbian, Lower Carboniferous, limestone succession on the North Wales carbonate platform and implications for palaeoclimate. Proceedings of the Yorkshire Geological Society, 63, 2020-006. DOI: 10.1144/pygs2020-006

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2021 was a busy year with a variety of consulting projects dealing with biostratigraphy topics, not restricted to paleozoic palynology. Training, mostly online, was also an important part of the work during the year. 2022 is shaping up to be the year of the Permian for me, with projects from the North Sea, Middle East and Namibia, in addition to other smaller projects dealing with Devonian and Carboniferous stratigraphy. On the evaporite palynology front, I've been spreading the word in conferences (FORCE and TMS) and I'm happy to say it's gaining some momentum, with several academic institutions using it (and also diatoms) independently, as well as some commercial projects. One of the case studies - the Wieliczka salt mine - is in press, to be published in the AAPG bulletin and hopefully I will find some time during the year to publish the other case studies.

Publications:

MACHADO, G., CASAS-GALLEGO, M., BOUTAROUINE, M., BURLIGA, S. & FERNANDES, P., 2021. Palynology of evaporites: case studies and a bright future ahead. The Micropalaeontological Society Annual Conference. 18-19 November 2021, Prague, Czech Republic

MACHADO, G., CASAS-GALLEGO, M., BOUTAROUINE, M., BURLIGA, S. & FERNANDES, P., 2021. Salt Biostratigraphy: unlocking a highway of data from evaporites. FORCE Webinar: Multiproxy biostratigraphy: Recent and future advances in the application and technologies. October, Norway.

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Last year, even with covid forbidding us from going to our second field campaign in Mozambique, it was a great year in terms of lab and microscope work! 2021 was my last year officially working in the Mozambique Permian/Triassic project, which ends this year. There are still two handfuls of papers in preparation, so stay tuned! In February 2022, I moved to Sheffield and started working with Charlie Wellman on his Devonian project.

Publications:

LOPES, G., PEREIRA, Z., FERNANDES, P., MENDES, M., MARQUES, J. & JORGE, R.C.G.S., 2021. Late Permian palaeoenvironmental evolution of the Matinde Formation in the Muarádzi Sub-basin, Moatize-Minjova Basin, Mozambique. Journal of African Earth

Sciences, 176, 104138.

LOPES, G., PEREIRA, Z., FERNANDES, P., MARQUES, J., MENDES, M. & GÖTZ, A.E. 2021. Permian stratigraphy and palynology of the Lower Karoo Group in Mozambique – a 2020 perspective, Newsletters on Stratigraphy. DOI: 10.1127/nos/2021/0618.

MANGERUD, G., LOPES, G. & BUJAK, J., 2021. Carboniferous palynoevents in the circum-Arctic region. Journal of Atlantic Geology, 57, 41-55. DOI: https://doi.org/10.4138/atlgeol.2021.003.

LOPES, G., PEREIRA, Z., FERNANDES, P., MENDES, M., MARQUES, J. & JORGE, R.C.G.S. (2021). The Late Permian in the Muarádzi Sub-basin, Moatize-Minjova Basin, Mozambique – multidisciplinary palaeoenvironmental characterization. The Palynological Society – TPS 53rd Annual Meeting Abstract Book, p. 138.

LOPES, G., PEREIRA, Z., FERNANDES, P., MENDES, M., MARQUES, J. & JORGE, R.C.G.S., 2021. Multidisciplinary palaeoenvironmental characterisation of the late Permian Matinde Formation, Mozambique. EGU General Assembly 2021, EGU21-1128. DOI: https://doi.org/10.5194/egusphere-egu21-1128.

Hartmut Jäger
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Last year I wrote that 2020 was the total disaster, the worst year of my career. Unfortunately, 2021 was not much better businesswise. So I decided to make a major change in my work live, finding a new way to earn my living in the future. Last September I started my new life as a teacher at a private secondary school, teaching chemistry, geography and physics. I always loved teaching, giving lectures and courses. So I made it my main business now. But I will continue with science as a side business, mainly focused on courses and scientific collaborations. Also Industry projects will be done, if they are really interesting and are not to much to handle as a side job. It is a really big change in my life, but it is a really good change.

I started to go through the shelfs and put out the old unfinished stuff, to get it finished. Actually, I'm working again on the manuscript on the Lower Carboniferous palynology of Rügen Island (Baltic Sea) compared to the surrounding areas. It stuck in my computer for so long, now it's time to get it out and finished.

I also got out the samples from a well located in the Rhenish Massif. The sample set covers the middle Devonian to late Mississippian with a special focus on the D/C boundary. Step by step it will be studied, completing the knowledge about the palynology around the D/C boundary in Germany. More samples, already processed, waiting to get studied, taken from the middle to upper Devonian in Germany, which is poorly studied in palynology so far. So the Devonian in Germany might become an additional research focus for the future.

Beside the Palaeozoic, I'm involved in some projects on palaeoenvironments and palaeoclimates in the Mesozoic and the Proterozoic, based on palynology. And of course I continue with the International Course of Organofacies Analysis, palynology in the widest sense. Although I gave up my geological business as main business I might get more time for real geology and palynology in the future than the last 15 years. I'm looking forward to it.

Publication:

JÄGER, H. (in press). Palynology of the Late Carboniferous cap rocks of the Brilon Reef Complex. - Geologisches Jahrbuch, Reihe A, Hannover.

Hareshwar N. Sinha
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Hazaribag, India

For me, 2021 was not a good year for Paleozoic research. My student started working on acritarchs on the samples collected from the Lower Paleozoic succession of SPITI Tethys Himalaya, India. We got interesting results, the assemblage was dominated by *Veryhachium trispinosum* Group. However, due to Covid 2019, we could not continue this work as we could not revisit the field for cross verification. I am attaching a plate with specimens of *V. trispinosum* that we recovered from the Lower Palaeozoic succession of Spiti Tethys Himalaya. I hope you enjoy it!

One paper on acritarchs from the Ordovician/Silurian succession of the Tethys Himalaya of the Kumaon region has recently been published in the Journal of Geological Society of India.

Publications:

SINHA, H.N., 2022. Characterization of Ordovician-Silurian acritarchs from the Kumaon Tethys Himalaya, Pithoragarh District, Uttarakhand, India. J. Geol. Soc. India, 98, 113-124.

Husain Shabbar
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I am thrilled to say that I received my Ph.D. in Geology in December 2021; the title of my thesis is "Palaeobiodiversity of Ordovician-Silurian Periods of Spiti Basin, Himachal Pradesh, North-Western

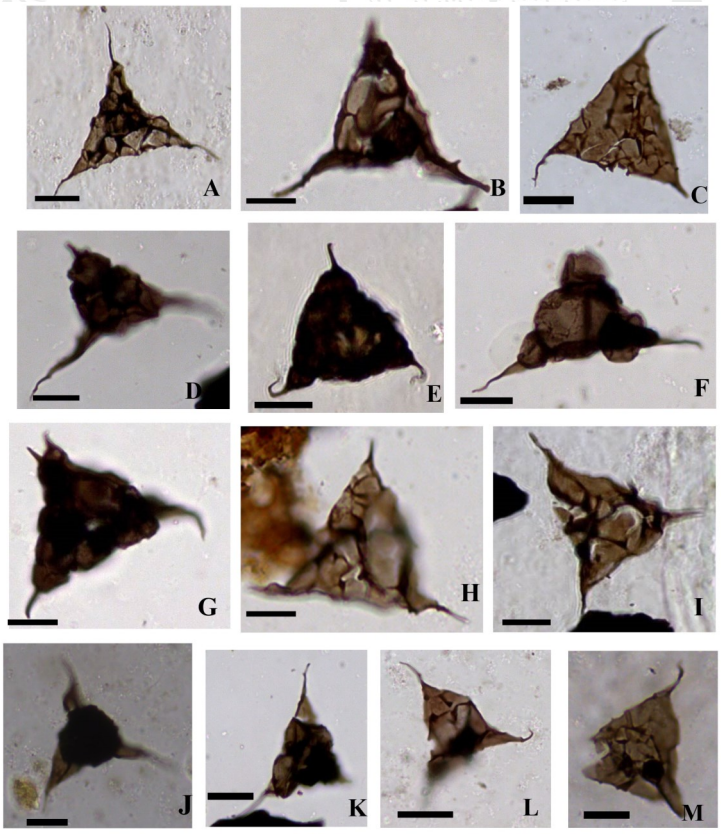

Image 2: *V. trispinosum* from the Lower Palaeozoic succession of Spiti Tethys Himalaya. (Courtesy of H.N. Sinha)

Himalaya, India: Palaeoclimatic and Palaeoecological Implications" supervised by Prof. Shreerup Goswami, Head of the Department of Earth Sciences, Sambalpur University and Dr. (Mrs) Anju Saxena, Scientist "E" of Gondwana Palaeobiology Lab, Birbal Sahni Institute of Palaeosciences (BSIP), India. My doctorate work involves probing for evidence of early terrestrialisation of plants, undertaking the macrofossils and microfossils studies of the Ordovician-Silurian flora and fauna and their comparisons with the known floras and faunas of contemporaneous sequences in other parts of the world. Reconstruction of the palaeobiodiversity, the evolutionary perspective, and palaeoenvironmental changes of the area during the Ordovician-Silurian periods were also focus points of my work. I have documented and described single taxa of gastropod and several species of brachiopods, tentaculites, calcareous marine macroalgae, cryptospores, acritarchs, chitinozoans, and melanosclerites for the first time, from the Ordovician sediments of Tethyan Himalaya, India. The discovery of cryptospores, phytodebris-, tracheid-, and cuticle-like sheets erected India as the new site after Saudi Arabia, the Czech Republic, and Argentina to yield Middle Ordovician signatures of early land plants. Furthermore, India has now become a new low-latitudinal Gondwanan site after the Canning Basin of Australia to contain the earliest chitinozoans. I have also erected two new species and one new genus of Ordovician marine macroalgae. My doctorate work also resolves the long-debated lower age limit of the Takche Formation and delineates the putative boundary between Ordovician and Silurian strata exposed in the Spiti, Tethyan Himalaya. I am presently working as Principal Investigator in Gondwana Palaeobiology Lab at BSIP for a project funded by the Paleontological Society, USA. The main objective of the project is to reassess the biological affinity of the problematic and most debatable carbonaceous club-shaped impressions reported from Ordovician of Spiti, Tethyan Himalaya. I am also working on palynostratigraphy of the Carboniferous strata of Spiti, Tethys Himalaya, India, with Dr (Mrs) Anju Saxena of BSIP. I am actively seeking a scientist/postdoctoral position in Early-Middle Palaeozoic palaeontology and palynology or related fields. So please get in touch if you have any positions available.

Publications:

SHABBAR, H., SAXENA, A., GUPTA, S., SINGH, K.J. & GOSWAMI, S., 2021. The first record of Cornulitids tubeworms from the ?early Late Ordovician of Spiti, Tethyan Himalaya, India. Historical Biology, 1- 12.

SUYASH, G., SAXENA, A., SHABBAR, H., MURTHY, S., SINGH, K.J., BALI, R. (Revision submitted). First record of Late Carboniferous palynoassemblage from Ganmachidam Formation, Spiti valley: implication to age assessment and extent of Glossopterid elements in Tethyan realm. Geological Journal.

SHABBAR, H., SAXENA, A., TINN, O., GUPTA, S. & SINGH, K.J.. New non-calcified siphonous warm-water marine macroalgae from Ordovician strata of Spiti, Tethys Himalaya, India. (ready to be communicated)

SHABBAR, H., SAXENA, A. & GUPTA, S. (In prep). Melanosclerites from the Takche Formation (Darriwilian- ?Llandovery), Takche, Spiti, Tethys Himalaya, India.

SHABBAR, H., SAXENA, A., PARCHA, S.K., GUPTA, S., SINGH, K.J. & GOSWAMI, S. (In prep). Middle-Late Ordovician shallow

marine Ichnofossils of the Takche Formation, Takche, Tethys Himalaya, India: palaeoenvironmental and palaeoecological implications.

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Jacques Verniers and Jan Mortier are putting the last hand on the publication of Jan's Ph.D. (2014) to be published in the Memoirs of the Geological Survey of Belgium. It will contain an extensive study on the uppermost Ordovician and Silurian of many sections plus their chitinozoans in the Belgian Condroz Inlier.

MORTIER, J., VANMEIRHAEGHE, J., HARPER, D., STORCH, P., ZALASIEWICZ, J., VAN DEN HAUTE, P., DECKERS, J., MESTDAGH, J., PILLE, T. & VERNIERS, J.. Stratigraphy and biostratigraphy with chitinozoans of the uppermost Ordovician and Silurian of the Condroz Inlier. (to be submitted: January 2022)

A publication appeared with a redating of the Cambrian formations in Belgium using the acritarch studies by Michel Vanguestaine.

HERBOSCH, A. 2021. Stratigraphic correlations between the Brabant Massif and the Stavelot, Rocroi & Givonne inliers (Belgium) and geological implications. Geologica Belgica, 24, 137-157.

Jiří Bek
Department of Palaeobiology and Palaeoecology, Institute of Geology
Academy of Sciences of the Czech Republic
Prague, Czech Republic

Publications:

BEK, J., OPLUŠTIL, S., PŠENIČKA, J. & VOTOČKOVÁ-FROJDOVÁ, J., 2021. Quantitative relationship of spore and plant assemblages from the Radnice Member, Middle Pennsylvanian of the Czech Republic: preliminary results. Geological Quarterly, 65(4), 1-12.

LIBERTÍN, M., BEK, J., WANG, J., OPLUŠTIL, S., PŠENIČKA, J. & VOTOČKOVÁ-FROJDOVÁ, J., 2021. New data about three sphenophylls and their spores from the volcanic tuff of Wuda, Taiyuan Formation, earliest Permian, China. Review of Palaeobotany and Palynology, 294, 104484.

FROJDOVÁ, J., WANG, J., PŠENIČKA, J. BEK, J., OPLUŠTIL, S., LIBERTÍN, M., 2021. A new leptosporangiate fern *Oligosporangiopteris zhongxiangii* gen. and sp. nov. from the lowermost Permian of Inner Mongolia, China – morphology, anatomy and reproductive organs. Review of Palaeobotany and Palynology, 294, 104479.

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JOHN MARSHALL
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It is hard to know what has happened in

2020-21. I have had a year in Southampton but have also been Programme Leader for the Geology degrees so life has been a total whirl of organising a degree, reorganising a degree and quite a lot of local student fieldwork. We got as far as the Devonian once which was a grand day out. The good news is that I have finished as Programme Leader so will get more time for research from now.

The highlight from this year was Per Ahlberg from Uppsala being awarded an ERC to study early tetrapods (the important ones in the Devonian) and I am a core participant. This will support our return to East Greenland and work with colleagues (including Olga Tel'nova) from Syktyvkar in Komi, Russia increasing our understanding of the environment and ages of the tetrapods.

I am also a Co-I on a new NERC grant to study the Silurian and Devonian palynology of the Cantabrian sections in northern Spain. This is led by Charlie Wellman from Sheffield and includes David Bond (Hull) on the stable isotopes and geochemical indicators of extinction. Our start was delayed by a year but we began fieldwork in September 2021. This will go through the sections first studied by Fritz Cramer but up to the D-C boundary. We have a new post-doc in Sheffield called Gilda Lopes!

Our first paper was published from our 2018 expedition around the coast of northern Spitsbergen that took us through the entire Silurian and Devonian stratigraphic sequence. This is the part of the project led by Neil Davies (Cambridge) looking at how the sediment system responds to the evolving palaeo-equatorial vegetation.

Former PhD student Jon Lakin has also published his detailed account of the stratigraphy, sedimentology and palynology of a D-C boundary section in Bolivia that tracks the termination of the terminal Devonian glacial cycle.

Conference attendance has been virtual including GSA, the Palaeontological Association Annual Meeting, TMS and AASP. We also had a successful online meeting with our colleagues in Syktyvkar on *Trigger Factors of the Evolution of the Organic World*.

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MAURICE STREEL
EDDy Lab/Palaeopalynology,
University of Liège
Liège, Belgium

Maurice Streel is still a collaborator at the University of Liège, Belgium, working (at home !) on the miospores of the Upper Devonian and the transition to the Carboniferous System. Three contributions: one on the Frasnian from northern France and West Belgium being published in Geologica Belgica 2021 (vol, 24), another one on the Western and Central European available sections useful for the miospore study of the Devonian/Carboniferous Boundary (DCB), published in the Subcommission on Devonian Stratigraphy (SDS) Newsletter 35 - 2020, a third-one with V. Avchimovitch and M.

Image 3: A group photograph made available by Ken Higgs recalls a small palynological/taxonomic workshop end of last century, as was hold most years since 1987. These meetings had forged important contacts and friendships with eastern European colleagues. From right to left: Ken Higgs, Violetta Avchimovitch, Stanislas Loboziak, Maurice Streel.

Oshurkova on the palynostratigraphy of the middle to uppermost Famennian from New York State and Pennsylvania compared to palynozones from Belarus and Belgium, published in the (SDS) Newsletter 36- 2021.

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I In October I left the British Geological Survey after 23 years of service to set up my own consultancy company Stephenson Geoscience Consulting. This is mainly so that I can concentrate a bit more on science and a bit less on management! I'm aiming particularly to develop consulting and collaboration in Middle East Palaeozoic palynology and stratigraphy. On this I'm an expert with around 100 commercial reports and 40 peer-reviewed papers purely on Middle-Eastern palynology, as well as a portfolio of more than 110 peer-reviewed papers overall. To view these papers click here. My particular expertise is pre-Khuff palynology including regional correlation projects in the Al Khlata, Gharif, Misfar, Jauf, Unayzah and Khuff formations, biostratigraphic data reviews, sampling strategies and high resolution field biostratigraphy. Recent published research has included work on the stratotype of the Sakmarian Stage in the Urals, research in the Negev desert on the Avdat and Makhtesh Qatan boreholes, research in Jordan on the Permian-Triassic of the Al Mamalih area, research on shales in the Craven Basin, the Raman spectroscopy of shale, the exine ultrastructure of *Pretricolpipollenites bharadwajii* from the Permian of Jordan, and the palynostratigraphy of the Permian Faraghan Formation in the Zagros Basin.

I also left the Chief Editor position at the *Review of Palaeobotany and Palynology* having done the (somewhat thankless) job for 12 years, but have retained my post as Vice-Chair of the Permian Sub Commission. I retain an honorary research position at the BGS, and Visiting Professorship positions at the universities of Nanjing, Leicester and Milan. I can be reached on my company email address mikepalyno@me.com, my BGS email address mhste@bgs.ac.uk, and on LinkedIn.

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I continue my work on biostratigraphy and paleobiogeography of the late Cambrian and Ordovician organic-walled marine microphytoplankton of northern Iran. I attended the IGCP 653/IGCP 735 virtual annual meeting in September 13-16, held in Lille, France. My abstract was entitled "Revision of selected morphotypes of Ordovician acritarchs from northeastern Iran". Ongoing studies are taxonomic revision of the some Early Ordovician acritarchs taxa".

Philippe Steemans
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We are writing a paper on the Emsian from Waxweiler (Germany) with Nisan Sariaslan, a PhD student from Bonn, Thomas Servais, Martin Langer and Borja Cascales-Miñana.
The second part of an old paper (Steemans et al., 2007) is in progress with Charlie Wellman and Pierre Breuer. It is never too late. This part is focused on the systematic.
Borja Cascales-Miñana, Manuel Juncal, José B. Diez, José I. Valenzuela-Rios, Rodolfo Gozalo, Thomas Servais, and myself, altogether are involved in a paper concerning land plants from the Upper Devonian of NE Spain.
Also, with Charlie Wellman, we have planned a paper on the Devonian from the NW Spain. And finally, we are organising a project with Thomas Servais on *Attritasporites* and *Virgatasporites* (see below).

Publications:

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http://hdl.handle.net/2268/259220

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I continue to work on chitinozoans and stratigraphy of Paleozoic basins from Argentina. I am also working on a project focusing on northern Patagonia Paleozoic.

IN MEMORIAM...

Roger Neves

By Duncan McLean

It is my sad duty to inform you that Roger Neves died on 29 April 2020. Many of you will have known Roger professionally and personally. An obituary will appear in the next newsletter.

John Richardson

By Maurice Streel

This year started as a sad one for Palynology with the loss of John Richardson. John was a pioneer in the contact with eastern Devonian palynologists through CIMP particularly at the Moscow Meeting in 1975. I have enclosed several documents which show his presence at CIMP Moscow meeting with other western Devonian palynologists.
An obituary will appear in the next newsletter.

CIMP DEVONIAN MEETING

Dr. J.B.RICHARDSON invites palynologists working on the Devonian System to attend a short CIMP meeting at King's College (London), as an introduction to the next General Assembly to be held in Moscow .

Any kind of contributions on Devonian Palynology will be welcomed. A part of the meeting should be devoted to working sessions on the taxonomy of certain Devonian genera .

Previously planned for December 1974, the meeting has been delayed until early January 1975 in order to allow us getting accomodation in the London University student homes. The exact dates (3-4 or 6-7 th of January 1975) will be decided later.

Image 4: CIMP Devonian Meeting invitation. (Courtesy of Maurice Streel)

Image 5: 11th CIMP General Assembly during the 8th International Congress on Carboniferous Geology and Stratigraphy at Moscow, September 1975. (Courtesy of Maurice Streel)

Image 6: Photograph 2 sketch with identification of the palynologists present, including John Richardson (number 11). (Courtesy of Maurice Streel)

RPP SPECIAL VOLUME:

REPRODUCTIVE ORGANS OF FOSSIL PLANTS AND THEIR IN SITU SPORES AND POLLEN

By Jiří Bek

Dear colleagues,

It is my pleasure to let you know about the possibility of sending manuscripts to a special volume to be published by Review of Palaeobotany and Palynology. This volume is entitled: Reproductive organs of fossil plants and their in situ spores and pollen: Aspects, trends, and perspectives.

You can send your contribution by the end of June 2022.

Check all about this volume that connects palynology and paleobotany at the following link:

https://www.sciencedirect.com/journal/review-of-palaeobotany-and-palynology/about/call-for-papers#reproductive-organs-of-fossil-plants-and-their-spores-and-pollen-aspects-trends-and-perspectives

We are looking forward to your contribution!

UPCOMING MEETINGS AND COURSES

International Course of Organofacies Analysis
ONLINE
11 - 15 April 2022

Due to ongoing restrictions according to the COVID global pandemic, the course is done online again – hopefully for the last time. This gives the opportunity to join the course for many scientists around the globe, which will never have the chance to attend this 5-days course in Germany.
The course is made for everyone interested in the understanding and interpretation of the whole range of organic matter in sedimentary rocks – from origin and distribution to preservation, maturation of organic matter and even hydrocarbon generation (see information below). It includes all ages from Proterozoic to Tertiary, but Palaeozoic palynology is a major focus. Normally the course is made of lectures in the morning and microscope exercises in the afternoon. Due to the online mode of the course the microscope exercises are done mainly by analyzing high-resolution composite microscope images on the participants computer screen. For improved analysis 2 images per sample are included: normal light and fluorescence light. Additional different case studies will be presented, demonstrating the application of the methods learned in the course.

1st Gondwana Devonian Symposium
Cuiába, Mato Grosso, Brazil
5 May 2022

The 1st Gondwana Devonian Symposium intends to bring to the participants lectures about the different points of the Devonian of the southern hemisphere. Thus, in addition to the South American Devonian, the South African and Australian Devonian will also be addressed in special lectures.
In the framework of the 27th Brazilian Congress of Paleontology, the 1st Gondwana Devonian Symposium will take place on May 5, 2022 in the city of Cuiabá, Brazil. The symposium will focus on “Calibrating the Devonian in South America” and will include lectures about Devonian of Gondwana. We invite all researchers interested to participate to send contributions in order to increase the knowledge about the Devonian of the Southern Hemisphere. A possible special volume in Journal of South American Earth Sciences will be announced soon.

Check for more information at the following link:
https://sites.google.com/view/1stgds/registration

11th European Palaeobotany and Palynology Conference
Stockholm, Sweden
19–22 June, 2022

The 11th European Palaeobotany and Palynology Conference to be held 19-22 June 2022 jointly at the Swedish Museum of Natural History and Stockholm University, Stockholm, Sweden. The conference will be held as a physical meeting to provide palynologists and palaeobotanists an opportunity to discuss their research and meet one another four years after the previous EPPC. In addition to the symposia and workshops, several options for pre- and post-conference excursions are available. The organizing team of Swedish palynologists and palaeobotanists invite you to spend midsummer week in Stockholm, present your latest results, and enjoy the sights, sounds and flavours of Sweden.
We hope you enjoy your stay!

Vivi Vajda
Chair of the Organizing Committee

Important dates
Opening of Registrations: 1st November, 2021
Deadline for registration, abstract submission, and fieldtrip bookings: 1st April, 2022
Registration for conference dinner: 1st April, 2022

Check for more information at the following link:
https://jirango.com/cms/web/4b67cbd5?lang=eng&fbclid=IwAR3jUlD6-ETmh0odYTk3b9vEoLkVH_aknIJe1vpvlz_lpk5duXkYDw9FW_w

The Palaeontological Association Annual Meeting

Cork, Ireland

18th to 24th July 2022

The Annual Meeting of the Palaeontological Association will be held at University College Cork (UCC). The organizing committee is chaired by Prof. Maria McNamara, with help from Dr Chris Mays and other members of the School of Biological, Earth and Environmental Sciences at UCC.

The meeting will begin with various events targeted at the general public on Monday 18th July and an early career researcher event on Tuesday 19th July. Workshops, laboratory tours and the symposium will take place on Wednesday the 20th of July, followed by the core scientific sessions on Thursday the 21st and Friday the 22nd July. There will be a two-day post-conference fieldtrip on Saturday the 23rd and Sunday the 24th July. All scientific sessions, workshops and the symposium will take place on the university's main campus on Western Road, Cork.

The Palaeontological Association and the meeting organisers are committed to hosting a safe in-person meeting. Excepting a limited number of presenters from Low- and Middle Income Countries, delegates should plan to attend in-person; virtual attendance is limited to very specific circumstances and is not supported by interactive online platforms for communications and discussion.

Check for more information at the following link:
https://www.palass.org/meetings-events/annual-meeting/2022/annual-meeting-2022-cork-ireland-overview

53rd AASP-The Palynological Society Annual Meeting

Manizales, Colombia

7th to 11th August 2022

The annual meeting of the AASP-TSP will be held in Colombia for the first time and for the second time in South America. This meeting will have a hybrid format (in-person/online) and will also include the participation of the Latin American Society of Paleobotany and Palynology (ALPP), and the Online Pollen Catalogs Network (RCPoL).

Deadline to propose sessions: Feb. 15, 2022
Abstracts submission: Jan. 15. 2022 – Apr. 15, 2022

Early registration: Jan. 15, 2022 – Mar. 31, 2022
Regular registration: Apr. 1, 2022 – Aug. 1, 2022

Check for more information at the following link:
https://palynology.org/54th-annual-meeting-of-aasp-the-palynological-society-manizales-colombia-august-7th-11th-2022-54-encuentro-anual-de-la-sociedad-palinologica-de-aasp-tps-manizales-colombia-agosto-7/

6TH INTERNATIONAL PALAEONTOLOGICAL CONGRESS
KHON KAEN, THAILAND
7 TO 11 NOVEMBER 2022

We are planning the 6th International Palaeontological Congress which will be held in Thailand from the 7th to the 11th November 2022 plus fieldtrips and we are now inviting symposium suggestions. We aim to assemble an exciting and highly informative programme. These symposia may run for one or more days and subjects may be on all aspects of our science and its connections to biology and earth and planetary science, from the Archean to the Holocene and cover work from all continents. Suggestions for interdisciplinary, 'cutting-edge' and new technology symposia are particularly welcome. Please include the contact details of suggested conveners and co-conveners with a short description of the proposed symposium. We have also proposed some tentative symposia and we are open to suggestions for suitable conveners. We will include sessions of IGCP 700 Carbonate Build-ups in South East Asia and other IGCP projects in the programme and fieldtrips.
The symposia suggestions will be considered by our scientific committee and, in order to limit the number of concurrent sessions, not all suggestions will be included and some may be combined.

For more information, visit our website:
https://ipc6.msu.ac.th/scientific-sessions/

XV International Palynological Congress & XI International Organization of Palaeobotany Conference

Prague, Czech Republic

Postponed to May 25th–31st, 2024

Dear colleagues,

Unfortunately, we need to advise you that we are cancelling the XVth International Palynological Congress/XIth International Organization of Palaeobotany Conference 200 Years of Palaeobotany event, which was due to be held in Prague, May 1st–7th, 2021. Reviewing the various levels of Coronavirus infections and processes implemented by various European countries, we simply do not believe that the situation will have improved enough to allow for travel and for a physical meeting that can safeguard all attendees. Attendees' safety is our priority, and we have therefore made the decision to move the event to May 25th–31st, 2024.

The date has also been chosen on the basis of the decision by our parent organizations (IFPS and IOP), and the fact that the on-line European Palaeobotany and Palynology Conference in Stockholm will take place in 2022. These conferences are held biannually, and alternate between the European and World events. Our current World one we have cancelled altogether, the next European one will be in 2022, and our next World conference will be in 2024.

Thank you for staying with us!

Check for more information at the following link:
http://www.prague2020.cz/index.php