CIMP
COMMISSION INTERNATIONALE DE LA MICROFLORE DU PALÉOZOÏQUE

NEWSLETTER 84
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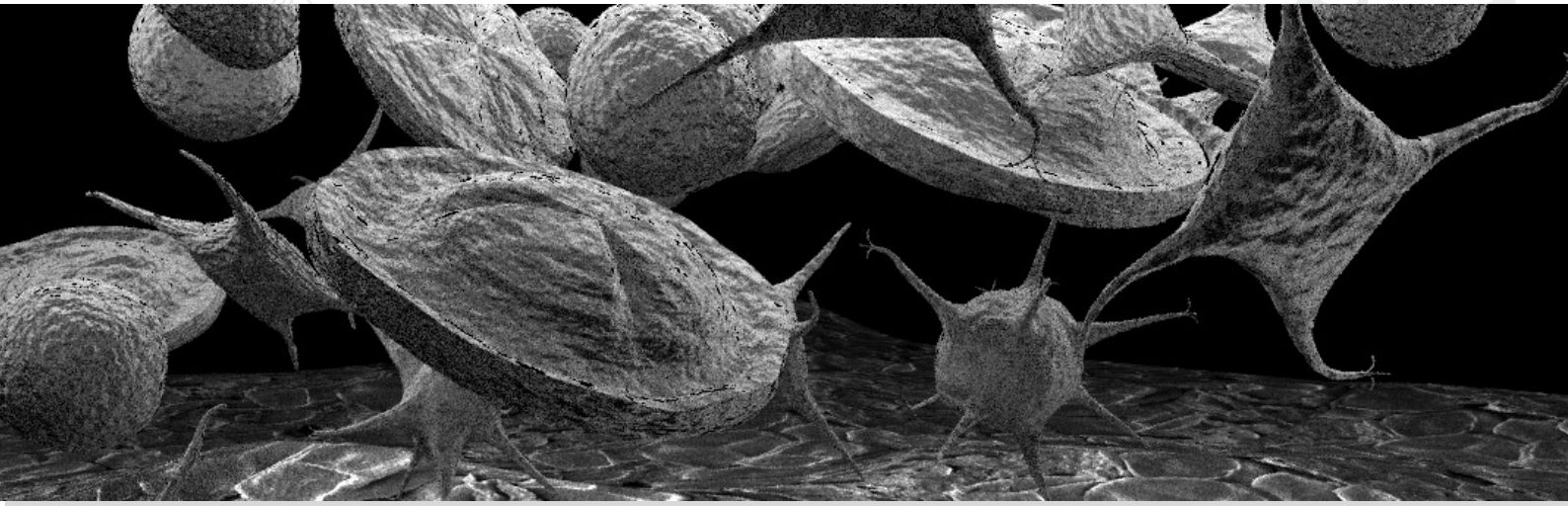

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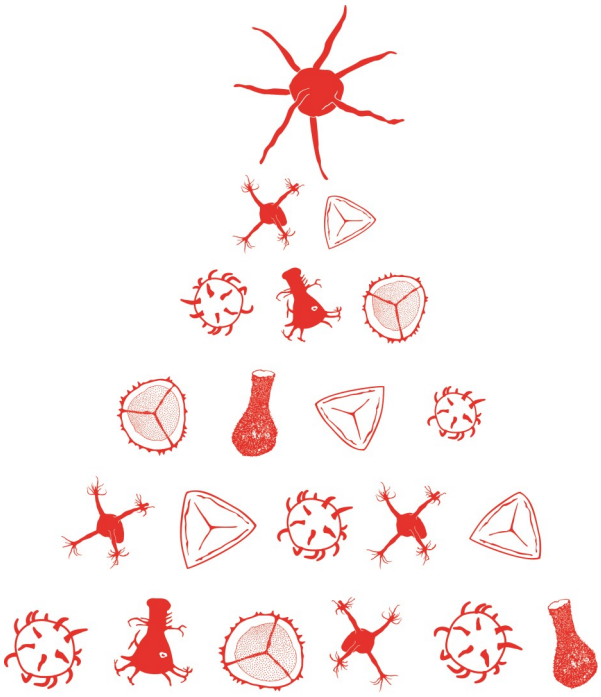
COMMISSION INTERNATIONALE DE MICROFLORE DU PALÉOZOÏQUE

Thanks to all members who contributed to this newsletter!

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



Merry Christmas and Happy New CIMP year!

PRESIDENT'S LETTER

Greetings CIMP Members:

We hope you like the new format of having the main CIMP Newsletter in the spring, and a shorter, reduced version at the end of the year.

There are a number of issues I want to address, some of which I covered in my Keynote talk on "The Future of CIMP" at the Bergen, Norway meeting this past September.

First of all, for those of you who weren't able to attend that meeting, special thanks go to the on-site organizers Drs. Gunn Mangerud and Gilda Lopes for their excellent planning and execution of a very successful CIMP meeting (see their report on page 6 of this newsletter). Thirty-seven participants from 14 different countries were welcomed by Dr. Mangerud to start off the meeting on Thursday, September 17, 2015. She then turned the meeting over to Prof. Hans Arne Nakrem, who gave an excellent and beautifully illustrated Keynote talk on the Palaeozoic of Norway. This was followed by a number of talks the rest of the day and on Friday, September 18, 2015 concerning various aspects of Precambrian and Palaeozoic palynology. In addition to the two keynote talks and 26 oral presentations, seven posters were on display during the two days of the conference.

The 2015 Bergen CIMP meeting concluded with the always popular conference dinner, which this year was held at Restaurent Fløien, Fløien Moun-

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tain and, in addition to a delicious dinner, offered a spectacular view of the Bergen region. There was also a pre-conference field trip in the Oslo region, led by Professor Hans Arne Nakrem from the Natural History Museum of Oslo, and a post-conference trip to the Finse glacier, led by Professor Nesje.

A complete report on the Bergen meeting can be found in the latest issue of PALYNOS, including a group photo of the conference participants and a photo from each of the two field trips. The 2015 issue of PALYNOS should be available shortly at the following website:

www.geo.arizona.edu/palynology/ifps.html.

UPCOMING MEETINGS

Speaking of meetings, CIMP will have a presence at international meetings for the next three years. Although CIMP won't have a formal meeting in 2016, we will be sponsoring two sessions at the XIV International Palynological Congress/X International Organisation of Palaeobotany Conference in Salvador-Bahia, Brazil (October 23–28, 2016). One session, organized by Marco Vecoli and Charles Wellman and jointly sponsored by CIMP/Aramco is tentatively titled "Precambrian to Palaeozoic palynolostratigraphy of Gondwana: the state-of-the-art," and the second session, sponsored by CIMP and organized by myself is tentatively titled "New frontiers and classic studies in Palaeozoic palynology and palynostratigraphy."

In addition to our participation at the IPC/IOP meeting in Brazil, Dr. Amalia Spina is helping to organize the International Congress on Palaeozoic Stratigraphy of Gondwana in Perugia, Italy (April 14–16, 2016), in which CIMP is one of the sponsors (see Dr. Spina's report on this meeting on page xx in this newsletter).

Circulars with additional information regarding both meetings are available on the CIMP website at cimp.weebly.com. Hopefully, many of our CIMP members will be able to attend one or both meetings.

In 2017, there will be a co-sponsored meeting of AASP-CIMP-TMS in Keyworth, Nottingham, England from September 3–7, 2017 (see initial report of this meeting on page xx of this newsletter). This meeting is jointly organized by the three aforementioned societies. The first circular for this meeting can be found on the CIMP, AASP, and TMS websites, all of which will contain updates as organization progresses.

In 2018, CIMP will also have a presence at the European Palaeobotany and Palynology Conference, which will be held in University College Dublin, Ireland from August 12–19, 2018. Dr. Geoff Clayton is part of the Organizing Committee for that meeting, and CIMP will have at least one dedicated session as well as holding our business meeting, in which we will elect new officers for the forthcoming four years.

MEMBERSHIP AND DUES

In order for CIMP to remain viable and relevant to the Palaeozoic palynologic community, we must have an active and engaged membership. We currently have approximately 200 members on our mailing list, but unfortunately, many members have not paid their dues for a number of years. There most certainly are various reasons for members to fall in arrears. However, we need a membership that financially supports our organization and I encourage all members to try and bring their membership up-to-date, or at least make a New Year Resolution to pay their 2016 dues now, or no later than January, 2016.

Dues are only 10 € per year and can be paid via PayPal on the CIMP website with a 0.50 € transaction fee. Remember that students and retirees are exempt from dues.

What do you get for your 10 € yearly dues? CIMP is a member of the International Federation of Palynological Societies (IFPS), and as such, we are assessed a yearly per member dues fee for our affiliation.

We also help underwrite our dedicated meetings, especially when the organizers are not able to recover all of the costs associated with running a meeting through sponsorships or grants. I am sure most members fondly remember past CIMP meetings and how valuable they were to them. We were fortunate that registration fees and other support paid for the cost of this year's Bergen, Norway meeting, but that has not always been the case.

We also help offset travel costs for students to attend CIMP meetings or sessions at other palynologic/paleontologic meetings and present their research results at these meetings. I'll have more to say about this in the next section.

As I stated earlier, to remain viable and relevant, CIMP needs an active membership and new members. We welcomed a number of new student members this past year, as well as new professional members. We need to continue this trend in the years ahead. However, because we pay a yearly per member fee for our affiliation with IFPS, we need to make sure our membership numbers are accurate. If you are no longer interested in receiving our newsletters and emails, please let our General Secretary, Zélia Pereira (zelia.pereira@lneg.pt), know and she will remove you from our mailing list. We hope, nonetheless, that you will remain a member and that you find good value in maintaining your membership.

We are definitely more than "a biostratigraphic and taxonomic" society these days, and the composition of the membership and type of research our members are conducting and presenting at scientific conferences, reflects the diversity of interests and collaborative research efforts of our members. So, if you have colleagues that you think might benefit from becoming a member of CIMP, especially students beginning their careers, encourage them to consider joining CIMP.

I especially urge, and extend an invitation to current members to become more active and involved in our society. We all benefit from an enthusiastic, active, and engaged membership.

PROPOSED NEW INITITIVES

We currently have ~4,000 € in our treasury. In addition to IFPS yearly dues and support for meetings, we have in the past provided travel grants to students to attend and present the results of their research at various scientific meetings. We supported three student at the Bergen meeting with 100 € travel grants. They were: Alexander Askew, University of Sheffield, UK; Dmitriy Mamontov, Moscow State University, Russia; and Emma Reeves, University of Southampton, UK.

Students are the future of our science and we should help support them in attending various international meetings to present their research results. This benefits them in gaining confidence in making presentations, allows for them to receive feedback and constructive criticism of their research, and perhaps most importantly, provides the opportunity to network and meet other professionals early in their career, and become known to the palynologic community.

Thus, I am proposing two initiatives to help our student members. Student support in the past has been on an *ad hoc* basis. I would like to set up a permanent fund and establish a committee whose charge would be to award yearly student grants. What I propose is the following:

1. CIMP establish a permanent yearly fund of 800 € to help offset the cost of attending a scientific meeting. This fund would distribute up to 150 € per student to help offset the cost of attending and presenting their research results, either as an oral presentation or a poster display. To be eligible for an award, a student would have to provide a written request for funding that would explain why they want to present at a particular meeting, a budget, and the signature of their advisor. Applications would be made to a permanent three-person committee of CIMP, who would decide on the dispersal of funds.

2. A certificate and a 50 € award to the best student oral presentation and best student poster at a CIMP meeting, such as was held at Bergen, Norway this year, at the upcoming meeting in Keyworth, England in 2017, and at the 2018 EPPC meeting in Dublin, Ireland where CIMP will hold its business meeting and election of new officers. A three-person committee will determine the winners, following pre-established guidelines for such awards.

I would like to try these two initiatives during the next three year time-period to see how successful they are and whether they should be a permanent part of CIMP. For those who would like to help make sure we will have sufficient funds for these awards, donations above the annual dues can be 'earmarked' as "student support" in an attachment when you pay your dues online. These funds will go into a separate fund to help support these student initiatives.

Any comments concerning these initiatives can be directed to either myself and/or the entire board (President, Treasurer, General Secretary) as well as the entire membership at large. I will begin to draw up some guidelines for these two initiatives and present them to the general membership as either a separate 'message from the President' or in the Spring Newsletter.

FINAL COMMENTS

I know this was a particularly long President's column, but there was a lot to cover. We thank all those who contributed to this Newsletter and will be asking for your contributions for the expanded Spring Newsletter in the not too distant future.

I have a few more ideas I'd like CIMP to consider and implement, but will save those for a later date. I think supporting the next generation of palynologists via student support is the most important item for CIMP to consider.

As always, your comments, suggestions, and ideas are most welcome, and I wish the entire membership a 'Happy Holiday' and I hope to see many of you at a meeting next year.

Reed Wicander
President

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GENERAL SECRETARY'S LETTER

Dear Colleagues,

In the spirit of the Holidays and New Years resolutions that I present to you the fall number for the CIMP Newsletter! This newsletter offers the latest news of our activities. Our main resolution for the next year is to improve and motivate the CIMP membership to be more active and more participatory. Please do not forget to pay your fees, as our President Reed Wicander mentions "there are numerous student activities dependent on that".

You will find in the following sections: CIMP news and information, new members and new student information, news about our members research and projects, and photographs and a report on this year's meeting (CIMP 2015 Bergen). Thanks to Gilda and Gunn for the report and photos.

You will also find announcements of future meetings. We hope to see many of you at these! Regrettably, we report the very sad news that CIMP lost a few members and friends during this past year. It is with sadness that I invite you to read the Obituaries section.

Finally, I would like to show my gratitude to all of you who have contributed to the present newsletter and to Filipe Barreira, the LNEG's designer, for all his support with the newsletter.

Please keep sending us your information! Submissions for the next extended Spring Newsletter are already very welcome. If you have any comments or suggestions to improve the newsletter, please do not hesitate to email us. We welcome your imput.

Happy Holidays!
Zélia Pereira

TREASURER NOTE

A quick reminding from the treasurer. Please continue support CIMP by paying your subscriptions. You can pay your subscription by using PayPal or ask me (pfernandes@ualg.pt) the details of CIMP bank account for bank transfer.
Paulo Fernandes

WEBMASTER NOTE

Christian Cesari
Christian can be contacted at the following email address: **andry.cesari@laposte.net**

UPCOMING MEETINGS

THE 50TH ANNUAL MEETING OF AASP – THE PALYNOLOGICAL SOCIETY

THE GOLDEN ANNIVERSARY MEETING HELD JOINTLY WITH CIMP AND THE MICROPALAEONTOLOGICAL SOCIETY PALYNOLOGY GROUP NOTTINGHAM, UK – 3rd–7th SEPTEMBER 2017

Find the first circular and subsequent circulars at http://cimp.weebly.com' after 'NOTTINGHAM, UK – 3RD-7TH SEPTEMBER 2017

Convenors:
James B. Riding (BGS)
Jan A.I. Hennissen (BGS)
Maria Wilson (BGS)
Matthew J. Pound (Northumbria University, representing TMS)
Reed Wicander (CMU, Mount Pleasant, USA, representing CIMP)

FIRST CIRCULAR

The 50th annual meeting of AASP – The Palynological Society will be held at the British Geological Survey (BGS), Keyworth, Nottingham NG12 5GG between the 3rd and 7th of September 2017. This will be the seventh time our yearly meeting has been held in Europe, and only the third occasion it has been in the UK.

This conference is to be held jointly with CIMP and The Micropalaeontological Society (TMS) Palynology Group. The team of convenors look forward to welcoming you to the headquarters of BGS for this three-day meeting with the opportunity to participate in two one-day field trips to widely geologically contrasting areas of the East Midlands of England. We hope to make this annual meeting extra special because it is the 50th such event! This announcement is the first one, and the convenors will begin planning in earnest during early 2016.

The basic plan is detailed below; the fine details will be fleshed out during the months to come. We intend to offer participants a designated conference hotel in central Nottingham. Other accommodation, of course, will be in plentiful supply. BGS HQ is located at Keyworth which is ca. 7 km south of downtown so we will run a return bus service each day so that delegates can travel easily between the conference hotel and the BGS office. Other public transport solutions are also available! Morning tea, lunch and afternoon coffee will be all included in the registration package.

Delegates have the opportunity of going on a one-day pre-conference field excursion to the stunning Peak District of Derbyshire to examine Carboniferous carbonate and siliciclastic.

14TH INTERNATIONAL PALYNOLOGICAL CONGRESS (2016)

Find the first circular and subsequent circulars at http://cimp.weebly.com

JOINT MEETING TSOP - AASP – ICCP Houston, Texas USA (2016)

Find the third circular and subsequent circulars at http://cimp.weebly.com

ICPSG – INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS ON "PALAEOZOIC STRATIGRAPHY OF GONDWANA"
April 14-16, 2016 – Perugia, Italy

Find the second circular and registration at http://cimp.weebly.com

As already announced we will be having a CIMP session at the International Congress on "Palaeozoic Stratigraphy of Gondwana" to be held in Perugia (Italy) on April 14-16 2016. The aim of the Congress is to provide a focal point for the exchange of potential new information, provide tools for interpretation of the siliciclastic and carbonate successions cropping out in the Gondwana area, along with the various multidisciplinary (palaeontological-sedimentological-geochemical-tectonic) approaches used in addressing these topics, as well as the environmental conditions that prevailed at the time. Now, I'm pleased to announce that the Review of Palaeobotany and Palynology is interested to publish a Special Issue on this theme that

would involve not only the symposium's contributions, but also all other colleagues working on the micro and macroflora from the Palaeozoic Gondwana successions. In this context, the intention of this volume should be:

- to compile the studies on Palaeozoic successions of Gondwana regions (e.g. Iran, Iraq, Kuwait, Arabian Plate, Oman, parts of India, Australia, South America and North Africa);
- to exchange the scientific information on Gondwana Palaeozoic successions;
- to evaluate the recent outcomes from Palaeozoic Successions of Iran;
- to introduce biozonal schemes and correlation charts for Palaeozoic of Gondwana to be utilised as guidelines in future exploration.

I invite you to participate to this volume.

If you are interested to contribute, please send me a provisional title, a list of co-authors and a short summary of the contribution that you wish to submit before January 15 th, 2016. This should allow me to make a formal proposal to the chief-editors of the journal by late January/early February. I propose that all manuscripts be submitted after the Perugia meeting, as soon as possible, but not later than June 2016. The review process usually takes a few months, but papers would appear online as soon as they are accepted.

I'm looking forward to your participation and hope to hear from you soon.
With very best wishes,

Amalia Spina

MEETINGS REPORT

GENERAL CIMP 2015 MEETING

The General CIMP Meeting 2015 was held at the University of Bergen, Norway, in September. The beautiful and historic city of Bergen provided our participants with good weather and also a lot of nice people! Thirty seven colleagues registered for this meeting and a two-day technical session at the university provided the participants with high quality presentations and interesting discussions.

The social dinner took place in one of the most iconic restaurants in Bergen, located on top of Mount Floyen. The funicular took us to the top and enabled everyone to enjoy the beautiful view of Bergen and the outer islands towards the North Sea. A pre-meeting field trip to the Oslo Graben, was led by Prof. Hans Arne Nakrem from the Natural History Museum University of Oslo. The excursion allowed the participants to see some of the most beautiful Palaeozoic outcrops in the Oslo Graben, and also included a nice lunch-stop at the seashore at one of the localities. The post-meeting field trip, led by Prof. Atle Nesje from the University of Bergen, took place in the Finse area. This is the highest point on the railway between Oslo and Bergen so on our way there, the beautiful scenery with typical Norwegian landscapes and waterfalls could be enjoyed from the train. After dressing up for rain and cold weather we had a great hike through a beautiful mountainous landscape where several aspects of contemporaneous glacial morphologies could be studied. A main goal was to reach the glacier

CIMP 2015, Bergen

front and that was what we did! It was the first time to see a glacier close-up for many of our participants so that was a nice achievement! It was certainly a pleasure to receive you all here in Bergen and we hope you all had a great time here!

NOTE: The abstract book from this conference is available at the CIMP webpage: http://cimp.weebly.com/uploads/6/4/0/5/6405206/cimp2015_abstract_book.pdf

Gilda Lopes and Gunn Mangerud

CIMP 2015
Bergen,
Field trip

CIMP 2015
Bergen,
Field trip

NEW MEMBERS

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MEMBER ACTIVITIES

Anthony Butcher,
University of Portsmouth (UK)

My first PhD student, Rhian Llewellyn, successfully defended her thesis entitled 'Palynology through the early Wenlock Ireviken Event' this August. Her project involved a detailed study of chitinozoans and acritarchs from Buttington Brick Pit (Wales, UK), tying their biostratigraphy and environmental indications to the carbon isotope curve and graptolite biostratigraphy - data from the thesis are being prepared for publication. Grateful thanks go to Jacques Verniers, who kindly acted as Rhian's external examiner just prior to his retirement.

My current research projects include high-resolution chitinozoan biostratigraphy of the potential base-Aeronian GSSP section at Hlásná Třebaň (Czech Republic, with Petr Štorch), and an (embarassingly long-running) analysis of the chitinozoans from the Measley Ridge section (Ohio, USA, with Mark Kleffner). Conference presentations/discussions in the Czech Republic and Norway this year have kindled potential new collaborations, with new projects in the pipeline. Myself and David Loydell continue to extol the virtues of Palaeozoic palynology and biostratigraphy to our students here at Portsmouth, and we have a range of interesting undergraduate and postgraduate projects underway.

I continue working on Palaeozoic palynology of Argentina and other Gondwanan basins.

Claudia Rubinstein,

Argentina

I am currently leading two research projects dealing with marine and terrestrial palynomorphs (marine phytoplankton, chitinozoans, cryptospores and trilete spores) from the Lower-Middle Palaeozoic of western Argentina, mainly focused on high resolution biostratigraphy, diversity trends, paleobiogeography, palaeoenvironments and palaeoclimates. Susana de la Puente (Ordovician and Silurian chitinozoans), Victoria García Muro (Silurian and Devonian acritarchs and miospores) and Cristian Solano Rodriguez (Ordovician acritarchs and miospores) form part of our Palaeozoic Palynology Team. Cristian Solano Rodriguez has started his PhD project in 2015 under my supervision and the co-supervision of Susana de la Puente, in IANIGLA, CCT CONICET Mendoza. He is currently working on the Tremadocian-Floian boundary of the Central Andean Basin, northwestern Argentina.

Publications:

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Rubinstein, C. V., de la Puente, G. S., Delabroye, A., Astini, R. A., 2015. The palynological record across the Ordovician/Silurian boundary in the Cordillera Oriental, Central Andean Basin, northwestern Argentina. Review of Palaeobotany and Palynology.http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.revpalbo.2015.06.011.

De la Puente, G. S., Rubinstein, C. V., Vaccari, N. E. , Paris, F., 2015. Latest Ordovician-earliest Silurian chitinozoans from Puna, western Gondwana. Statigraphy 12 (2). Leslie, S.A., Goldman, D., Ordorff, R.C. (eds.),12th International Symposium on the Ordovician System, Short papers and abstracts, p. 127-128.

Rubinstein, C. V., de la Puente, G. S., Delabroye, A., Astini, R. A., 2015. Late Ordovician-Early Silurian palynomorphs from the Cordillera Oriental, Central Andean Basin, northwestern Argentina: a contribution to the advent of vascular plants in South America. 2015 GSA Annual Meeting and Annual Meeting of AASP- The Palynological Society, Baltimore, Maryland, USA. Geological Society of America Abstracts with Programs. Vol. 47, No. 7., p. 144. https://gsa.confex.com/gsa/2015AM/webprogram/Paper261994.html; https://gsa.confex.com/gsa/2015AM/webprogram/uploadlistall.html

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https://gsa.confex.com/gsa/2015AM/webprogram/Paper262002.html;
https://gsa.confex.com/gsa/2015AM/webprogram/uploadlistall.html

Geoff Warrington, DSc., CGeol., FGS.
Honorary Visiting Fellow,
Geology Department,
University of Leicester, UK.

The Permian in the British Isles

Preparation of a revised edition of '*A correlation of Permian rocks in the British Isles'* (Smith *et al*., 1974. Geological Society, London, Special Report No. 5) was begun by its senior author, Denys Smith, who contributed so much to our knowledge of the Zechstein succession in eastern and northeastern England (McLean, 2008. *Proc. Yorks. Geol. Soc.*, **57** (2), 131-132). He had prepared revisions of parts of the account, including those on the boundaries of the Permian in the British Isles and on successions in the Zechstein and Bakevellia provinces, western Scotland and offshore areas. Sadly, illness prevented him from completing this work and he died in 2007.

The writer was privileged to be asked to complete this revision and has contributed sections on the international standard and successions in southern and central England, and is expanding and updating other parts and incorporating recent literature. This work involves a review of the palaeontology of Permian successions in the British Isles and contiguous offshore areas, including palynological records which the writer is also compiling for a separate account for *Spores and Pollen of Great Britain*, a proposed TMS (The Micropalaeontological Society) Special Publication.

A chronological list of the writer's contributions (as author or co-author) that include reference to the palynology of Permian successions in the British Isles is given below.

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Edwards, R.A., Warrington, G., Scrivener, R.C., Jones, N.S., Haslam, H.W. & Ault, L. 1997. The Exeter Group, south Devon, England: a contribution to the early post-Variscan stratigraphy of northwest Europe. *Geological Magazine*, **134** (2), 177-197.

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Holliday, D.W., Warrington, G., Brookfield, M.E., McMillan, A.A. & Holloway, S. 2001. Permo-Triassic rocks in boreholes in the Annan-Canonbie area, Dumfries and Galloway, southern Scotland. *Scottish Journal of Geology*, **37** (2), 97-113.

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The Devonian-Carboniferous boundary in Saoura Wadi Southwestern Sahara Algeria

Within the intention of using the miospores for dating the sequences, good numbers of samples were collected and macerated. Palynomorphs are moderately well preserved, though it contains some mature forms. Dispersed microfossils (spores and phytodebris) with surface ornamentation or with smooth surface topography, sculptured and smooth miospores, tubes, tracheids, and rear possible animal remains recovered from Marhouma out grouped studied sections. The Argils de Marhouma sediments, characterize by fine grained turbidite successions forming the lower part of the formation, bearing much butter preserved and more varied miospores. The upper part of the formation starts with a transgressive muddy deltaic system consist of green clay, thin sandstone and olistoliths, embraces miospores and some phytoplankone coined Strunian period. Upstream muddy and sandstone layers with abundant, moderately well preserved miospores emerged Tournaisian time. It appears that the distribution of palynomorphs is effected by fluctuation of tectonic instability. The age of these sediments were invented by the presence of Spelaeotriletes *lepidophytes, Vallatisporites pusillites, Grandispora balteata, Umbellasphaericum devonicum Retusotriletes incohatus, Leiotriletes struniensis, Grandispara cornata, Spelaeotriletes uncata* well known biozonal miospores. Thus the dating of the Marhouma succession was based on well established spore zones. The miospore zonational scheme appears to be the most effective and suitable method of dating these deposits, as the conodont prior was found to date this sediment, unfortunately, the dating was not precise. Therefore dating these sediments was the main goal; also it is necessary to define accurately sedimentary events within the Marhouma Formation. Therefore a comprehensive study was necessary to determine miospores morphological changes as an evolutionary heredity. The results of this study will be published latter.

V.K. Nestor
2015 I finished the East Baltic Silurian chitinozoan biostratigraphic database. Now I am going to retire. The list of all my publications is attached.

Yan Liang,
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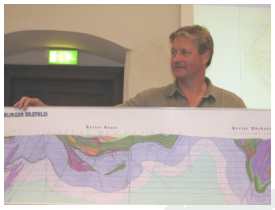
During the last three years, I've been working on the Early-Middle Ordovician chitinozoans of South China, which is the main content of my PhD thesis. This July, I have got my PhD diploma and stay at NIGPAS as an Assistant Research and continue my research on Ordovician chitinozoans. Recently, We are trying to get our works published out as soon as possible and wish there will be more stories to talk about in the next CIMP newsletter.

OBITUARIES

Unfortunately, we lost a number of palynologic colleagues this year and last. Three extended obituaries, honoring Dr. Thomas Heuse, Dr. Klaus-Hermann Lukas Eiserhardt, and Dr. Elżbieta Turnau follow. Dr. Alfred Traverse also passed away in 2015 and a Memoriam of him can be found in the latest AASP – The Palynological Society Newsletter, December 2015, Volume 48, Number 4, pages 10-11. A number of us received the sad news of the death of Dr. Gordon Wood on December 8, 2015. Because there was so little time from Gordon's passing to the compilation of this newsletter, only a short note on Gordon follows. An extended obituary for him will be in the next Newsletter.

OBITUARY FOR THOMAS HEUSE (1959-2014)



Thomas Heuse (1959-2014)

Thomas Heuse passed away July 10th 2014, after a battle of four years with cancer. He was born in the German Democratic Republic and trained as a 'classical' geologist and palaeontologist. His field work activities in Saxony and Thuringia allowed him to be appointed as a geologist at the Geological Survey of Thuringia.

Thomas defended his PhD on the microfossils (mostly acritarchs) from the Precambrian and Cambrian-Ordovician of the Schwartzburg Anticline in autumn, 1990 at the Geological Institute of the Technical University Bergakademie Freiberg near Dresden, under the supervision and guidance of Prof. Jörg Schneider. In his dissertation, Thomas discovered the oldest German acritarchs in the Neoproterozoic of the Altenfelder Formation and established the stratigraphy of the older parts of Saxo-Thuringian Germany.

Klaus-Hermann Lukas Eiserhardt (1953-2015)

Following the granting of his PhD, and the radical political changes in Germany, with the fall of the Berlin Wall in 1989, Thomas worked as an engineering geologist before investigating Lower Palaeozoic acritarchs during several post-doctoral studies at the Technical University of Berlin, which were financed by the *Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft*. During these studies, Thomas continued his investigations in the Lower Palaeozoic of central Germany, but he also, together with Prof. Bernd Erdtmann, studied the Lower Palaeozoic of Bolivia and Argentina. During this time, Thomas was the first to discover and describe chitinozoans from South America.

After the Berlin research period, Thomas occupied positions at the State Survey for Environment, Agriculture and Geology of Saxony (Geological Survey) and in the Natural History collections at Dresden, before obtaining a position at the Thuringian State Survey for Environment and Geology in 1999. He subsequently worked extensively on the mapping, at the scale 1:25000, of the geological map of Thuringia, for which acritarch investigations are very helpful, because these microfossils are very often the only fossils present in the poorly preserved sedimentary rocks of this area.

Thomas continued his acritarch research, and supervised a number of Master students, in the context of a better understanding of the regional geology of Thuringia and Saxony. He published a series of papers, many of which are well known by acritarch workers. The most cited papers are published in 'local' journals, such as the *Veröffentlichungen des Naturhistorischen Museums Schloss Bertholdsburg, Schleusingen*, which underlines the importance of his studies for acritarch research.

In 1999, Thomas accepted the chairmanship of the subcommission on Precambrian to Silurian stratigraphy of Germany. He was very active in the German Stratigraphical Commission, of which he was a Council Member from 2004 to 2011. He edited several issues on the stratigraphy of Germany, and also co-authored the Ordovician chapter of 'Geology of Central Europe' in the book series of the Geological Society of London.

Those who have known Thomas will miss him and his humour. We have all lost, much too early, an excellent specialist of the Saxo-Thuringian domain.

Dr. Thomas Servais
Dr. Harald Walter

OBITUARY FOR KLAUS-HERMANN LUKAS EISERHARDT (1953-2015)

Klaus-Hermann Lukas Eiserhardt was born in Hamburg, Germany, in 1953, where he attended school and entered the University, and where he spent most of his scientifical life.

During the late 1970s, Prof. E.T. Degens took a few students from Hamburg (including Klaus-Hermann) to do field work in the Rhenish Massif in order to restudy the Lower Palaeozoic Ebbe-Anticline (East of Cologne). Interestingly, half a century earlier, the pioneer of acritarch and chitinozoan studies, Alfred Eisenack, first described organic-walled microfossils from this part of Germany.

Klaus-Hermann, usually simply called "Klaus" by his colleagues and friends, never published on the acritarchs from the Ebbe-Anticline, but the field

work campaign in the Rhenish Massif changed his life in multiple ways. Not only was he exposed to the Lower Palaeozoic succession in that area, which became an important part of his scientific life, but it was also there that he met Elke Thombansen, one of his co-workers and co-authors, who later became his wife. Klaus and Elke married in 1982, the year when both defended their *Diplomarbeit* dealing with different aspects of the stratigraphy and tectonics of the Lower Palaeozoic Ebbe-Anticline in the Rhenish Massif. Their son, Wolf Lukas, was born in 1983, and was followed by their daughter, Dorothea, in 1990.

Like Alfred Eisenack, Klaus Eiserhardt was born and raised in the flatlands of northern Germany. It was a half a century after Eisenack, who collected erratic boulders on the shores of the Baltic Sea around his home-town Königsberg (now Kaliningrad, Russia), that Klaus started working on the erratic boulders that he found in northern Germany. Just as Eisenack did 50 years before him, Klaus also dissolved these rocks in acids, in particular the Öjlemyrflint-erratics, and published the descriptions of the beautifully preserved Late Ordovician acritarchs recovered from them in a series of papers during the 1980s. Many of the acritarchs were new, including new genera such as *Carinatosphaeridium*. Klaus also published the taxonomic revision of important taxa, such as the genus *Orthosphaeridium*. In addition, Klaus discussed the possible biological affinities of some acritarchs. For example, he asked the question whether *Palaeohystrichosphaeridium* gen. nov. might possibly be an Ordovician dinoflagellate (Eiserhardt, 1986). All of these studies culminated in the important 1992 monograph published in *Palaeontographica Abteilung B*.

In the early 1990s, Klaus began discussions with Olda Fatka (Prague, Czech Republic), Ivo Paalits (Tallinn, Estonia), Thomas Servais (Liège, Belgium) and others, regarding the taxonomy, morphological variability, and possible biological affinities of the acritarchs. One of the key elements of these discussions were the Lower Ordovician taxa that very closely resembled dinoflagellate cysts. In fact, it was Klaus Eiserhardt who created the term 'galeate' acritarchs. This term was first presented at the CIMP meeting in Sheffield in 1994, and is now universally accepted in the literature and discussions of acritarch taxonomy and evolution.

Klaus was very active at the University of Hamburg, and 'survived' during many years by contract funding, including from the *Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft*. Klaus was an outstanding specialist in the use of the Scanning Electron Microscope (SEM) and microanalyses (EDX, WDX), and as such, was employed for several years at Hamburg University. He scanned thousands of bryozoans for the late Ehrhard Voigt (1905-2004) and became the personal assistant in the last years of Professor Voigt (who is probably the palaeontologist with the longest publication record, spanning more than 70 years). With this background, Klaus naturally became a bryozoan specialist, and published a series of papers on that group as well.

In 1984, Klaus founded, together with the ostracod specialist Roger Schallreuter (1937-2013), the *Gesellschaft für Geschiebekunde*, an association of professionals and amateurs who collect and study erratic boulders. They both also founded the journals *Geschiebekunde Aktuell* in 1985 and *Archiv für Geschiebekunde* in 1987. Several of Klaus's acritarch publications are published in these journals. Klaus was, for many years, a member of the council of the association that established a large collection of erratics within the geological and palaeontological museum of the University of Hamburg.

Unfortunately, like many other German colleagues, Klaus never was appointed a permanent position at a research institution. However, he still continued as an independant scientist, and many of his publications are based on microphotographs taken on 'his' Olympus BH2 microscope. Nevertheless, Klaus opened his own engineering office (*Baubiologisches Büro Eiserhardt*) that specialised in consulting companies and citizens in all aspects of 'biological' housing.

Although Klaus was busy with his engineering office, he continued to be connected to geology and palaeontology. Since 1992, he became a member of the Stratigraphical Commission of Germany, und became very active in the Precambrian to Silurian Subcommission of which he was also its president. Klaus was also a member for many years of AASP, APP (Arbeitskreis Paläobotanik und Palynology), and many other associations, including CIMP. He kept in contact with several acritarch workers and tried to stay current with the field.

In 2001, Klaus published a paper on the enigmatic ichnofossil *Tomaculum*. One of the co-authors of this paper was his son Wolf. It was this paper that began Wolf's own scientific record as a plant ecologist and biogeographer, and who now also publishes on fossil plants, thus following in the footsteps of his father Klaus.

We all miss Klaus, his scientifical precision ('Always return to the holotype' !), his immense palaeonto-

logical knowledge, his humour, his enormous culture in arts and music, and, of course, his friendship.

Dr. Thomas Servais (Lille)

Elżbieta Turnau (1933 - 2015)
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OBITUARY FOR PROFESSOR ELŻBIETA TURNAU (APRIL 22, 1933 - JUNE 23, 2015)

Professor Elżbieta Turnau died after a short illness on June 23, 2015. She was 82. Characteristically, Professor Turnau continued to remain professionally active in the Institute of Geological Sciences Polish Academy of Sciences, Research Centre in Kraków, up until a few weeks before her death.
Professor Turnau was a widely respected Upper Palaeozoic palynostratigrapher who gained international acclaim for her detailed palynological studies of the entire Devonian and Carboniferous, both in Poland and Europe. During her long career at the Kraków Research Centre laboratory, she published approximately 100 papers, and gave numerous oral presentations at various international conferences. She was also an author of many 'in-house' scientific company papers for various Polish industries.

The published record of Professor Elżbieta Turnau, as both sole author and co-author of many professional publications can be divided into four main groups. These are: 1. miospore zonation of the Devonian and Carboniferous; 2. correlation of miospore assemblages; 3. taxonomy of miospores; and 4. megaspores

Elżbieta Turnau was born into a manorial (landowners) family on April 22, 1933 in Moszczany, in southeastern Poland. Her ancestors were connected with agriculture for years, but also were interested in art (literature, paintings, music) and education (especially agricultural education). A major influence throughout Elżbieta's Turnau's life was her close family ties, which included her father's sister Maria Turnau-Morawska who was a professor of petrology and mineralogy at Warsaw University, and a cousin who was a botanist at Jagiellonian University in Kraków.

From 1951 to 1956 Elżbieta Turnau studied at Jagiellonian University in Kraków in the Department of Biology and Earth Sciences, where her specialization was botany. She obtained an Msc degree in 1956 based on her thesis on the Carboniferous flora from boreholes. This thesis served as the basis for Elżbieta's interest in paleobotany, palynology, and geology. After finishing her studies, she began her career in the Institute of Geological Sciences PAS in Krakow, where she worked to the end of her life. At first, she was a secretary and librarian of the Institute, but after six years she started her own investigations on the microflora from the coals of the Carpatian flysh.

She earned a PhD in 1966 from the Department of Biology and Earth Sciences, Jagiellonian University. Her thesis topic was "Age and origin of coal clasts in Outer Carpathian flysh (concerning on the redeposition of miospores)." In the same year, she was continuously employed in the Krakow branch of the Institute as a researcher.

Elzbieta Turnau also spent time in Holland (Heerlen, Utrecht) continuing her palynologic research following the awarding of her PhD. Her work there and the papers that resulted from that research involved the spore zonation of uppermost Devonian and Lower Carboniferous deposits of Western Pomerania and the correlation of Upper Devonian and Carboniferous deposits of Western Pomerania based on miospores and was the basis in obtaining the habilitation.

In 1992 she was awarded the title Professor of Earth Sciences from the President of Poland. Although Elżbieta Turnau retired from the Institute in 2005, she continued working there right up until a few weeks before her death.

Professor Elżbieta Turnau was very active in the "scientific life" of Poland and other countries. She was a member of many different scientific organizations and societies. A partial list of these includes the Polish Botanical Society, Polish Geological Society, Commission Internationale de Microflore du Paléozoique (CIMP), Micropalaeontological Society, and the American Association of Stratigraphic Palynologists.

Professor Turnau was a corresponding member of the Devonian Stratigraphy Subcommission of IUGS (International Union of Geological Sciences), and the Carboniferous Stratigraphy Subcommission of IUGS. She was also a member of the editorial staff of the journals Review of Palaeobotany and Palynology (1997– 2004), Acta Palaeobotanica (1986-2015), and Studia Geologica Polonica (2004-2015).

Since the 1970s, Professor Turnau effectively cooperated with many palynological research centres, including the Natural History Museum, London, British Geological Survey, Nottingham, and Trinity College, Dublin. After 1989, she was also associated with Belorusskij naučno-issledovatelskim geologorazvedočnym institutem (BelNIGRI) Minsku (Bielaruss) and Vserossijskim naučno-issledovatelskim geologičeskim neftjanoj institutem (VNIGNI) in Moscow (Rossija). As a re-

sult of these co-operations, she was given many awards (by the President of the Polish Academy of Sciences and Geological Society of Poland) and numerous papers were published as a result of these collaborations.

Professor Turnau was a very modest person and did not seek publicity for her accomplishments. In fact, her patience and even-temperament was legendary. She was very kind, friendly, and, most especially discreet - an important attribute during pre-Solidarity and the "Solidarity" time period in Poland.

From 1976-1980, Elżbieta Turnau was a distributor of papers KSS KOR (Polish underground association, which was illegal at that time according to the socialistic government authorities). During the time of martial law that was imposed in Poland in 1981, Elżbieta Turnau was indispensable to the Malopolska Region of Solidarity. She registered payments using a special code. She coded the name of the payer as a spore name in Latin. The sum payment was coded as a spore diameter. All of that data was written on an index card for an individual borehole (among different real spores occurring in that borehole). She also made available her own home for an underground printing office and to hide people that were connected with the opposition. For that activity, she was arrested.

Professor Elżbieta Turnau led an exemplary life, both scientifically and politically. She will be greatly missed by all those who knew her, yet we have all benefited from her devotion to the science of palynology and for her courageous activities during the time of "Solidarity" in Poland.

Dr. Monika Masiak
Dr. Marzena Stempien-Sałek

The list of the most important publications.

ARKHANGELSKAYA A. D., TURNAU E. 2003. New dispersed seed-megaspores from mid-Givetian of European Russia. *Review of Palaeobotany and Palynology* 127: 45–58.
AVKHIMOVITCH V. I., TURNAU E., CLAYTON G. 1993. Correlation of uppermost Devonian and Lower Carboniferous miospore zonations of Byelorussia, Poland and western Europe. *Annales de la Société Géologique de Belgique* 115: 453–458.
CLAYTON G., TURNAU E. 1990. Correlation of the Tournaisian miospore zonations of Poland and the British Isles. *Annales Societatis Geologorum Poloniae* 60: 45–58.
CLAYTON G., LOBOZIAK S., STREEL M., TURNAU E., UTTING J. 1991. Palynological events in the Mississippian (Lower Carboniferous) of Europe, North Africa and North America. *Courier Forschunginstitut Senckenberg* 130: 79–84.
DYBOVA-JACHOWICZ S., JACHOWICZ A., KARCZEWSKA J., LACHKAR G., LOBOZIAK S., PIERART P., TURNAU E., ŻOŁDANI Z. 1979. Note préliminaire sur la révision des mégaspores à gula du Carbonifére. Les principes de la classifi cation. *Acta Palaeontologica Polonica* 24: 411–422.
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RACKI G., TURNAU E. 2000. Devonian stage boundaries in Poland. *Courier Forschungsinstitut Senckenberg* 225: 145–158.
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TURNAU E. 1975. Microflora of the Famennian and Tournaisian deposits from boreholes of Northern Poland. *Acta Geologica Polonica* 25: 505–528.
TURNAU E. 1977. The age of coal fragments from the Cretaceous deposits in the outer Carpathians, determined on microspores. In: M. D. MUIR & W. A. S. SARJEANT (red.), part I, Spores and pollen. In: R. W. FAIRBRIDGE (red.), *Benchmark Papers in Geology*, vol. 47.
TURNAU E., 1978. Spore zonation of uppermost Devonian and Lower Carboniferous of Western Pomerania. *Mededelingen Rijks Geologische Dienst* 30 (1): 3–34.
TURNAU E., 1996. Miospore stratigraphy of Middle Devoniandeposits from Western Pomerania. *Review of Palaeobotany and Palynology* 93: 107–125.
TURNAU E., 2014. Floral change during the Taghanic Crisis: Spore data from the Middle Devonian of northern and south-eastern Poland. *Review of Palaeobotany and Palynology* 200: 108-121.
TURNAU E., AVKHIMOVITCH V. I., BYVSCHEVA T. V., CLAYTON G., HIGGS K. T., OWENS B. 1994. Taxonomy and stratigraphical distribution of *Verrucosisporites nitidus* Playford, 1964 and related species. *Review of Palaeobotany and Palynology,* 81: 289-295.
TURNAU E., MIŁACZEWSKI L., WOOD G. D., 2005. Spore stratigraphy of Lower Devonian and Eifelian (?), alluvial and marginal marine deposits of the

Radom-Lublin area (Central Poland). *Annales Societatis Geologorum Poloniae* 75 (2): 121-137.
TURNAU E., NARKIEWICZ K., 2011. Biostratigraphical correlation of spore and conodont zonations within Givetian and ?Frasnian of the Lublin area (SE Poland). *Review of Palaeobotany and Palynology,* 164: 30-38.
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TURNAU E., ŻELAŹNIEWICZ A., FRANKE W. 2002. Middle to early late Visean onset of late orogenic sedimentation in the Intra-Sudetic Basin, West Sudetes: miospore evidence and tectonic implication. *Geologia Sudetica* 34: 9–16.
UCHMAN A., DRYGANT D., PASZKOWSKI M., PORĘBSKI S. J., TURNAU E. 2004. Early Devonian trace fossils in marine to nonmarine redbeds in Podolia, Ukraine: palaeoenvironmental implications. *Palaeogeography, Palaeoclimatology, Palaeoecology* 214: 67–83.

OBITUARY FOR GORDON D. WOOD (1949-2015)

Photo from Gordon Wood obituary, Schmidt Funeral Home – Grand Parkway, Katy, Texas.

Gordon Wood was born in Detroit, Michigan, U.S.A. He received his B.S. in Geology/Marine Biology from the University of Miami, Florida, an M.S. from the University of Michigan, and a Ph.D. from Michigan State University in palynology.

Gordon began his palynologic career at Amoco Production Company (now BP) in Houston in 1977 and retired in 1999. He continued doing palynological consulting with the IRF Group until his death.

Gordon was a prolific researcher and the author and co-author of numerous palynologic papers, mostly dealing with Paleozoic acritarch and chitinozoans. He was active in many professional societies, especially the American Association of Stratigraphic Palynologists – The Palynological Society, where he was a recipient of the AASP Distinguished Service Award in 1993. Gordon was always willing to help out wherever he could or whenever he was asked and helped organize meetings, chaired sessions, and presented papers.

Those of us fortunate enough to have known Gordon will always remember his sense of humor, which to the uninitiated could be a bit unsettling at times, and his generosity, both personally and professionally. I know I will miss his packages of bizarre articles he regularly culled from publications, and especially his always 'politically incorrect' Christmas and Birthday cards.

Dr. Reed Wicander

NEWS

Online access to the PALYNODATA database

Eugeny Karasev &Natalia Zavialova
(Paleontological Institute, Moscow, Russia)

One of the classic 20th century palynological databases, PALYNODATA, is available for free download from the Geological Survey of Canada as Open File 5793 at dx.doi.org/10.4095/225704. Recently, an online access to the database has been arranged at the web-site of Laboratory of Paleobotany of A.A.Borissiak Paleontological Institute, Moscow (http://paleobotany.ru/index.php?id=25).Originally, this database uses a DBMS Microsoft Access, that currently leads to several disadvantages. Thus, the access to PALYNODATA in its present form cannot be accomplished on the UNIX system; installation of the program under Windows 8 and 8.1 takes place with errors; some forms of the query results do not allow the user to copy data. We converted the database tables to the MySQL database format and arranged an open access on the web-site of our laboratory. To create the user interface, we used scripts downloaded from jQWidgets.com.

Additionally, we related this database and an archive of images of holotypes of some species of Paleozoic miospores. Photographs of holotypes of 382 Devonian and Carboniferous species of miospores were made (and later scanned) by Dr. Maurice Streel and his wife. In 2013, an archive with these images was disseminated among CIMP members for a free use for scientific purposes.

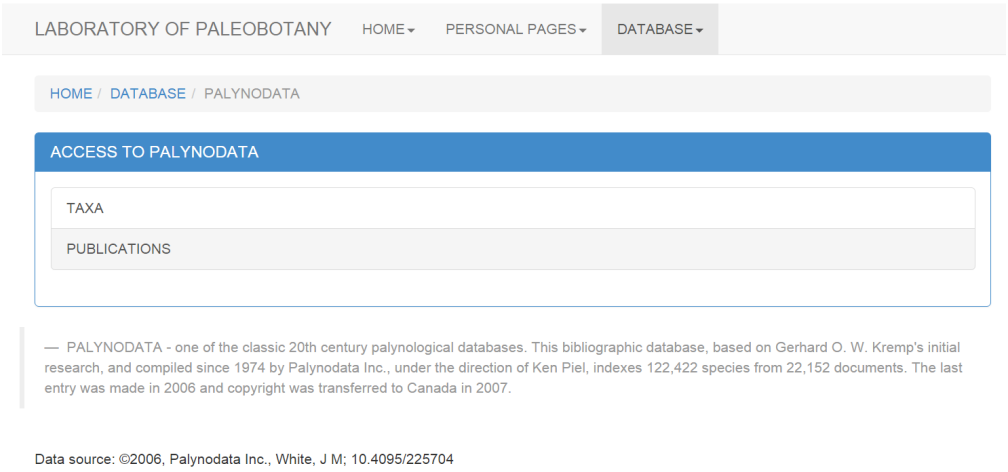
Currently, one can get the following information from on-line PALYNODATA:

- A list of species for a given genus.
- A list of papers which cite a given species and the information about its geographic and stratigraphic ranges.
- A list of species, which are mentioned in a given paper.
- An access to images of holotypes from the CIMP slide collection.

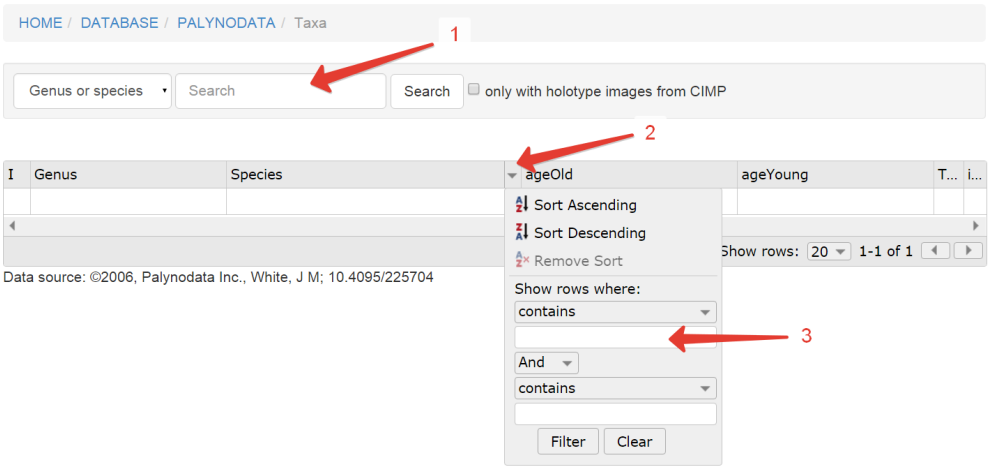
We hope that the on-line version of Palynodata will be a useful tool for palynologists.

Below are several screenshots to explain how the on-line version works.

Screenshot 1 shows how to choose a table to search a given taxon or a paper.



Screenshot 2 shows how to search via the main search menu (arrow 1) or via filters (arrow 3). The filter menu becomes visible if to press the triangle (arrow 2).



Screenshot 3 shows a page with references of a given taxon. The first column (arrow 1) shows the status of the taxon ("x" is the first description, and "i" is a synonym). If to press the bottom "about pub", one will see a list of taxa, which were mentioned in a given paper (arrow 2).

LABORATORY OF PALEOBOTANY HOME PERSONAL PAGES DATABASE

HOME / DATABASE / PALYNODATA / Taxa / Cycadopites magnus

Genus: Cycadopites
Species: Cycadopites magnus
— Number of citations: 30

Citations:

1 2

T..	Species	Geolocation	Year	First author	PUBLICATIONS	about...	ageYoung	ageOld	I...
X	Cycadopites magnus	Argentina(San Juan)	1965	Herbst,R.	Some sporomorphs from the Triassic of Argentina.	about pub		Norian	...
	Cycadopites magnus	USSR(Evenki Nat.Okrug)	1974	Hart,G.F.	Permian palynofloras and their bearing on Continental Drift. (In: Paleogeographic Provinces and Provinciality, Charles A. Ross, editor)	about pub	Early Tatarian	Kazanian	...
	Cycadopites magnus	Australia(Quee...	1974	de Jersey,N.J.	Palynology and age of the Callide Coal Measures.	about pub		Late Triassic	...
	Cycadopites magnus	Australia(W.A...	1976	Dolby,J.H.	Triassic palynology of the Carnarvon Basin, Western Australia.	about pub		Triassic	...
	Cycadopites magnus	Argentina(La Rioja)	1972	Stipanicic,P.N.	The Triassic Basin of Ischigualastovilla Union, San Juan and La Rioja Rioja Provinces, Argentina	about pub	Early Carnian	Late Ladinian	...

Screenshot 4 shows the list of species of a given genus; the icon in the column "I" (arrow 2) means that an image of the holotype of the species is available. If to press "Go to the list of original publications for all species of this genus" (arrow 1), one can see a list of papers where the species of the genus were published for the first time.

HOME / DATABASE / PALYNODATA / Taxa / Species list of Reinschospora

Genus Reinschospora

— Go to the list of original publications for all species of this genus 1

2

Species list of Reinschospora:

I	Genus	Species	ageOld	ageYoung	T...	i...
	Reinschospora	Reinschospora punctata	Namurian	Stephanian		...
	Reinschospora	Reinschospora sp.2	Allegheny			...
	Reinschospora	Reinschospora granifer	Namurian A	Early Langsettian		...
	Reinschospora	Reinschospora	Paleozoic	Permian		...
	Reinschospora	Reinschospora jubata	Early Carboniferous	Westphalian D		...
	Reinschospora	Reinschospora sp.A	Desmoinesian			...
	Reinschospora	Reinschospora sp.3	Allegheny			...
	Reinschospora	Reinschospora bellitas	Paleozoic	Desmoinesian		...
	Reinschospora	Reinschospora cervicornuta	Visean	Westphalian D		...
	Reinschospora	Reinschospora fimbriata	Late Emsian	Westphalian D		...
	Reinschospora	Reinschospora servicornutus	Nd			...
	Reinschospora	Reinschospora kosankei	Visean	Westphalian D		...
	Reinschospora	Reinschospora sp.A Hacq.& Bars.,1957	Late Mississippian	Namurian A		...

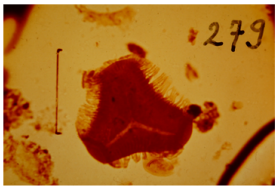
Screenshot 5 shows a page with the image of the holotype of *Reinschospora magnifica* from CIMP slide collection.

LABORATORY OF PALEOBOTANY HOME PERSONAL PAGES DATABASE

HOME / DATABASE / PALYNODATA / Citation of magnifica

Genus: Reinschospora
Species: magnifica
Citation type:
Source:Kosanke,R.M. 1950, Pennsylvanian spores of Illinois and their use in correlation.

Illustration from CIMP slide collection:



— Photographs of holotypes of miospores were made (and later scanned) by Dr. Maurice Streel and his wife. In 2013, an archive with these images was disseminated among CIMP members for a free use for scientific purposes.

CIMP FEES

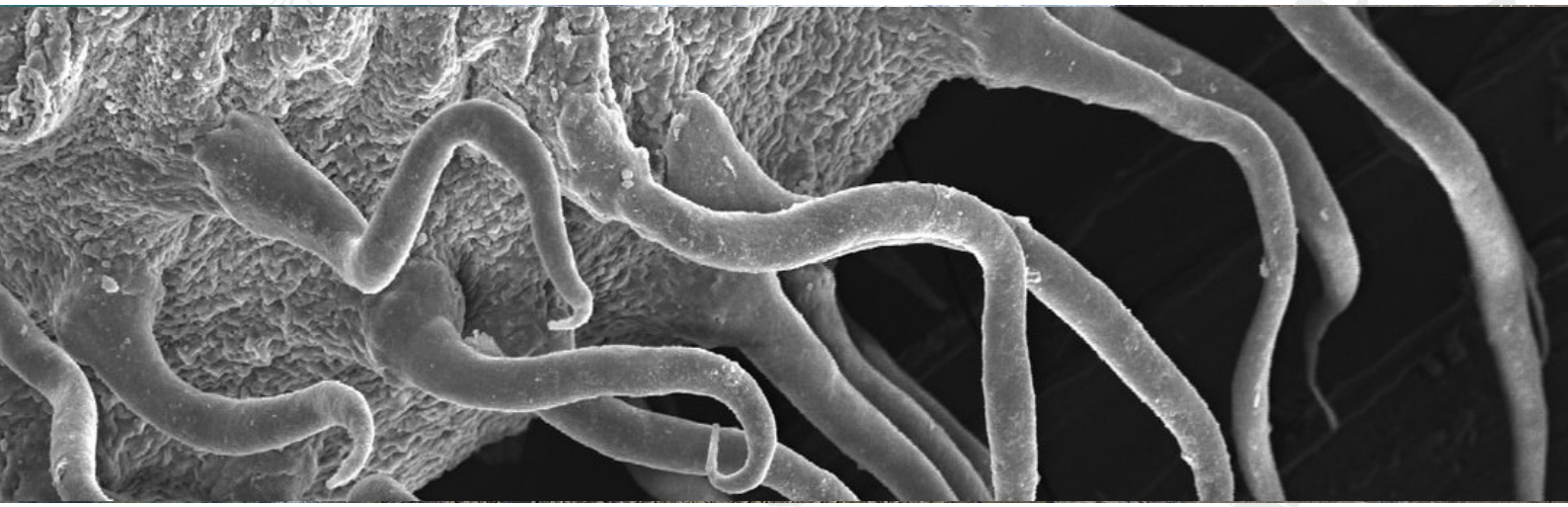
Please don't forget to pay your annual CIMP subscription. Information on methods of payment can be found at **http://cimp.weebly.com/membership.html**.

It is easy, but why pay? Simple - you may help CIMP members (mainly students) to participate in meetings and congresses. You also may help in offsetting the costs of organizing social events during meetings. You may also 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
COMMISSION INTERNATIONALE DE LA MICROFLORE DU PALÉOZOÏQUE

NEWSLETTER 84
DECEMBER 2015



COMMISSION INTERNATIONALE DE MICROFLORE DU PALÉOZOÏQUE
SUBCOMMISSION ON SPORES AND POLLEN

Thanks to all members who contributed to this newsletter!

Cover photo: Detailed of a megaspore ornamentation
Credit: F. de Ville de Goyet

President
Hartmut Jager

Secretary
Gilda Lopes

PRESIDENT'S LETTER

This year is on the final straight and 2016 is knocking on the door already. Its time to do a short inventory with this year's end CIMP newsletter. The CIMP highlight of the year surely was the CIMP meeting in Bergen, Norway in September. It was a typical CIMP meeting, relatively small, but full of interesting high-quality presentations. Cryptospore -spore-pollen presentations made about 50% of the program, presenting a very wide range of topics. To see, that the Palaeozoic pollen-spore research community is still quite vital and creative, was very positive. Thanks to all the contributors – well done! Also thanks to the local organizer team – you did a really great job! It was very good to meet you all to get updated, what's going on in our community. And it was the last time to meet Gordon Wood, who just passed away recently.

As one way to keep in touch after we got scattered all over the world again after the meeting in Bergen, I want to draw your attention to our CIMP Spore-Pollen Subcommission group on Facebook. For all of you being already a member of facebook – it is no shame to be there J - why not joining this group, to have the chance of actual and all-time communication about our dearly beloved Palaeozoic pollen and spores with other specialists. Newcomers are highly welcome. And all the ones already in the group, your active participation within the group is highly appreciated.

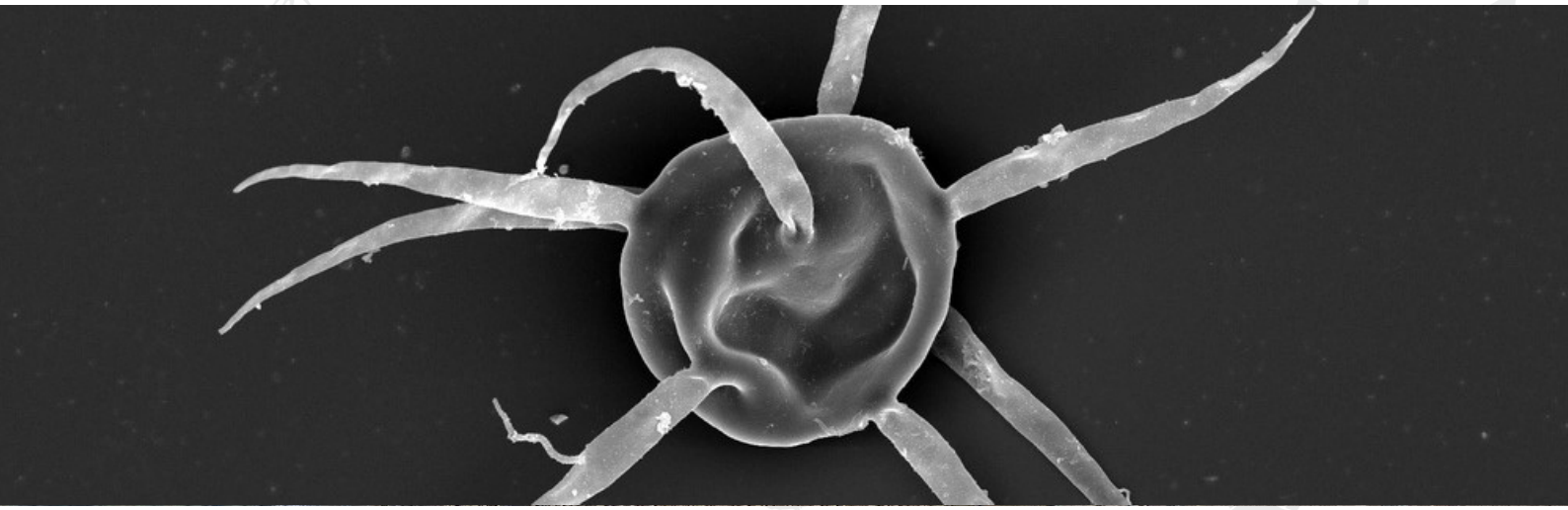
I also want to take the chance to renew the call for the list of new pollen-spore species, already done in the last CIMP newsletter. Not all of us have access to the different journals and might not be aware of all new species, which are described. Therefore I would like to send around a compilation of newly described species once a year, and I would like to start with it in 2016. So to all of you working on Palaeozoic pollen and spores and cryptospores, I really want to encourage you to send in your newly described, modified and emended species of the last five years. Please include the original descriptions and photo(s) of the type specimen and send it to me (jaeger@georesources.de) or Gilda (Gilda.Lopes@geo.uib.no). With copy and paste from your original manuscripts it should be not such a big job. Your participation is needed and highly appreciated. We are looking forward to your support.

Merry Christmas and the best wishes for 2016 from the spore-pollen subcommision

Hartmut Jäger & Gilda Lopes

CIMP
COMMISSION INTERNATIONALE DE LA MICROFLORE DU PALÉOZOÏQUE

NEWSLETTER 84
DECEMBER 2015



COMMISSION INTERNATIONALE DE MICROFLORE DU PALÉOZOÏQUE

SUBCOMMISSION ON ACRITARCHS

Thanks to all members who contributed to this newsletter!

Cover photo: Baltisphaeridium perclarum Loeblich & Tappan, 1978
Credit: Reed Wicander (CIMP WEB SITE)

President
Thomas Servais

Secretary
Gil Machado

PRESIDENT'S LETTER

In Remembrance of Thomas, Klaus, and Gordon

Reed Wicander (CIMP President) asked me, as Acritarch Subcommission chair, to write a few lines for the CIMP Newsletter before the fixed deadline of December 11, 2015. Of course, and as usual, such things are done at the last minute. So, here it is, Friday morning, December 11, 2015, when I finally write these few lines.

Earlier this week I worked on the obituaries of two acritarch workers and friends for the Newsletter. Both Thomas Heuse and Klaus-Hermann Eiserhardt passed away much too early, neither making it to their retirement. A brain tumour took both of them away from us. We were shocked, devastated, and sad. Thomas was in his mid-fifties, and Klaus was in his early sixties.

And if this wasn't bad enough, we received further shocking news that Gordon Wood passed away this week. Gordon was in the middle of his projects with us. A few weeks ago, he was still planning to work with Reed on Devonian acritarchs. After the CIMP meeting in Bergen, Norway, this past September, he was going to meet me in Brussels. I had promised Gordon to show him the battlefield of Waterloo, the place that ended the Napoleon wars two centuries ago. We also planned to drive to the Ardennes, not to see the classical outcrops (studied by Michel Vanguestaine, who left us some ten years ago, also much to early, and also because of a brain tumour), but the locations where Gordon's father fought during World War II. It was here that the Battle of the Bulge took place in World War II, and which my parents survived as kids, between the German and American bombings. If you visit these places, then you can understand that Syria is not that far away.

Three friends are now gone, and we are devastated, sad, and feel lost. But this day, Friday December 11, 2015, is another day, and life goes on. At the same time as we mourn the loss of three colleagues, two young scientists are defending their PhD dissertations, in two different locations, and both of which are focused on acritarchs. Heda Agic defends her dissertation on the "Palaeobiology and diversificaion of Proterozoic-Cambrian photosynthetic eukaryotes" at the University of Uppsala, Sweden, while Hendrik Nowak will present this afternoon at the University of Lille, France his dissertation on "The rise of animal life of the Cambro-Ordovician interval: contributions from palynology."

Despite our sadness, we celebrate the two opportunities to bring acritarch workers together, to discuss, to agree and disagree, to fight and to applaude, to think about new projects, to congratulate our colleagues, to enjoy a post-defense drink, and maybe a post-defense dinner, to exchange scientific ideas and personal matters, to laugh and ... to cry, because I am sure that today we will all remember in some way, Thomas, Klaus, and Gordon.

Thomas Servais, December 11, 2015

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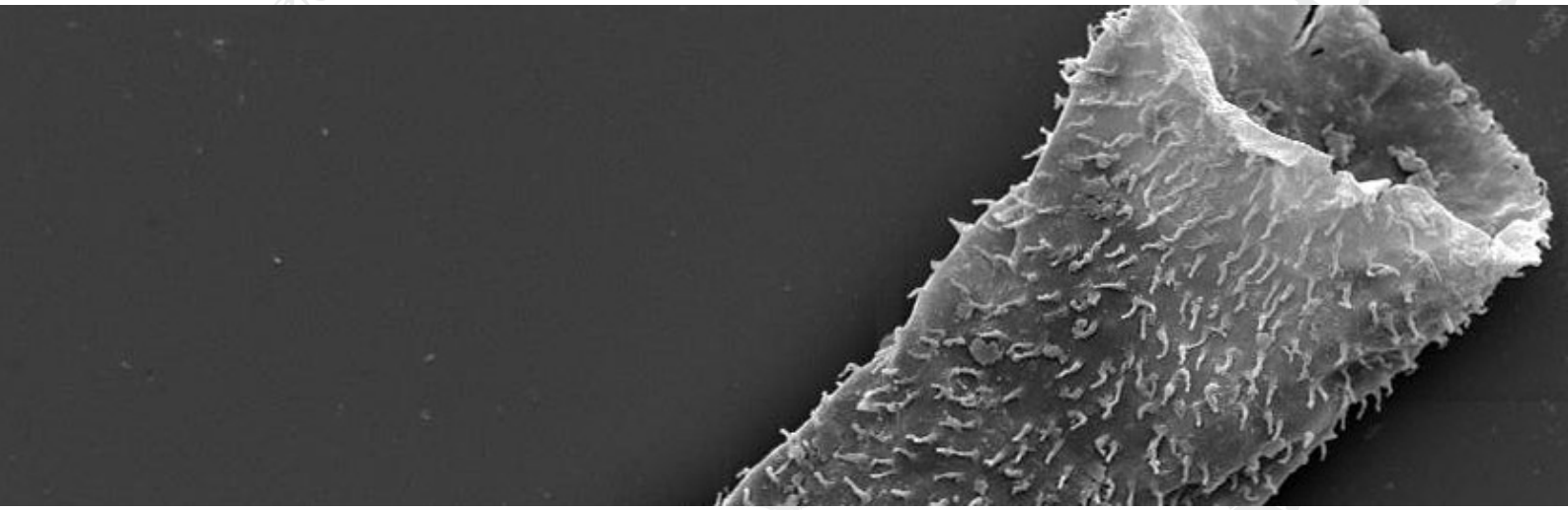
COMMISSION INTERNATIONALE DE LA MICROFLORE DU PALÉOZOÏQUE

NEWSLETTER 84
DECEMBER 2015



COMMISSION INTERNATIONALE DE MICROFLORE DU PALÉOZOÏQUE
SUBCOMMISSION ON CHITINOZOANS

Thanks to all members who contributed to this newsletter!

Cover photo: Detail of chitinozoan ornamentation
Credit: Wikipedia

President
Jacques Verniers

Secretary
Wenhui Wang

PRESIDENT'S LETTER

Dear Chitinozoa researchers,

At the last CIMP meeting in Bergen, Norway in September 2015 our small community was again able to communicate quite a lot of results on research involving chitinozoans. We could welcome Ahmed Al Shawareb, Antony Butcher, Hareshwar Sinha, Nuno Vaz, Marco Vecoli, Gordon Wood & myself. Fourteen talks or posters discussed our group. Amongst others: Late Ordovician chitinozoans from Saudi Arabia (Al Shawareb et al), Chitinozoans from a possible new GSSP candidate for the base of Aeronian in the Czech Republic (Butcher), the results of his PhD study on Upper Ordovician to Silurian chitinozoans of the Condroz Inlier, Belgium (Jan Mortier), more Upper Ordovician chitinozoans from the Himalayas in northern India (H.R. Sinha), chitinozoans of three Homerian and Gorstian sections in Wales (Thomas Steeman et al.), chitinozoans from the Middle Ordovician of Portugal (N. Vaz) and Silurian acritarchs and chitinozoans of the Cincinnati Arch Region, Mid-Continental U.S.A. (G. Wood).

It is very unfortunate that we heard early in December the sad news of the passing away of Gordon Wood who at the CIMP meeting in Bergen, presented eloquently and with modesty, as he always did, his beautiful and many pictures of well preserved acritarchs and chitinozoans from the Silurian from Illinois and Kentucky. The chitinozoan community has lost with him a very fine person and keen palynologist, who had so much unpublished material still to handle. We will miss him.

The Subcommission wants to be a platform to distribute our knowledge on chitinozoans to the active workers and also to the interested persons, for taxonomic discussion, and for dissemination of new results. As announced in the previous newsletter, as a help to all members of the Subcommission Chitinozoa we can send you any missing pdfs of chitinozoans articles to make your set of publications complete. Please contact the chairman or secretary. In the Spring edition we update the list of websites with information on chitinozoans. If you know about others (new) websites please mention them to Wenhui and me.

Jacques Verniers