

Note of the Secretary-general

This newsletter comes to you with two months delay, but still in late Spring.

With this issue we distribute the new Directory of the CIMP Membership. The list contains the names and addresses of the persons, who confirmed in 1994 and early 1995 their wish to be a CIMP member, several new members, the persons having paid their contribution recently (indicating their wish to be a member), the members of the Acritarchs and the Chitinozoa Subcommissions and several institutions, libraries, and some persons responsible for other palaeontological societies. The list is sorted alphabetically by country, by city, and then by name of the members. We added if they are member of the subcommission Chitinozoa or Acritarchs and if the members wanted to receive *Palynos* via CIMP. There are about 75 of them and I will arrange with the I.F.P.S. to distribute that journal with the next issue in december. In total the list contains around 270 members. The previous list of members used from 1991 to 1994 was between 500 and 550, but often letters came back "unknown, moved, etc". The new list reflects better the community of scientists interested in Palaeozoic to Early Mesozoic Palynology and related fields. If you are aware of mistakes, obvious CIMP members that are missing, please contact me, I will issue the corrections or additional members in the next Newsletters.

With this issue we also distribute the Acritarch Newsletter N° 7 to those member of that Subcommission. This group is very active now and shows at its best the activity of the CIMP as an "International Commission" to locate amongst others problems with the Taxonomy and by joining as many active workers as possible to suggest solutions to make our tool functioning better. The Chitinozoa Subcommission is also working actively, but decided to bring out only a Newsletter once a year in the fall.

Besides the "commission" work on resolving problems in taxonomy and systematics in the working group and the subcommissions, the CIMP organizes symposia to bring the specialists on Palaeozoic and Early Mesozoic palynologists *sensu lato* together (see agenda p.4).

In the last issue was announced that we wanted to distribute the CIMP Newsletter also by Email to those giving us their Email-addresses, but the response was rather poor. Meanwhile when I was following for a while the discussions on *Palaeonet* on the Network (e.g. on the origin of the Conodonts: Are those are ancestors?), and also when I observe that our Palynological sister organizations as AASP and CAP have already organized their Newsletter as a Web server, I wonder if CIMP should also seek the possibilities of getting a WWW station functioning, aside of the hard copy Newsletter.



Commission Internationale de Microflore du Paléozoïque

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C.I.M.P. annual subscription 1995.

Abstracts concerning the Palaeozoic of the **Second Symposium of African Palynology, Tervuren, Brussels, 6 to 10/03/95.**

**Spores, acritarch and chitinozoan stratigraphy from devonian (South East Algeria)
Biostratigraphie des spores, acritarches et chitinozoaires du devonien du Sahara oriental (Algérie)**

**ABDESSELAM F. - ROUGHI
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Research and Development Laboratory Sonatrach
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L'étude palynologique de dix sondages dans la synclise Illizi-Rhadamès (Sud-Est du Sahara algérien) a permis une biozonation : 8 biozones ont été définies à partir d'espèces-guides de Spores, d'Acritarches et de Chitinozoaires. Ces biozones sont comparées aux biozonations proposées par divers auteurs pour l'Afrique, l'Europe de l'Ouest et le continent des Vieux Grès Rouges. Notre biozonation aurait des affinités avec la biozonation de Richardson et Mac Gregor, 1986.

Deux lacunes sont mises en évidence : la lacune d'une partie de l'Emsien supérieur et l'Eifelien et celle du Frasnien et Famennien inférieur.

The palynologic study of ten drillings in Illizi-Rhadamès (South East of Algerian Sahara) have given new stratigraphic data. 8 biozones were defined from Spore, Acritarch and Chitinozoan; these biozones are compared with zonations suggested by several authors for North Africa, Western Europe and Old Red Sandstone Continent are dated from Emsian to Strunien. Two gaps are demonstrated : Late Emsian and Eifelien and upper Franian-lower Famennian.

Our biozonation would have affinities with the biozonation of Richardson and Mac Gregor, 1986.

Microplancton du silurien du bassin d'Illizi; biostratigraphie et paléogéographie du silurien du nord Gondwana

F. ABDESSELAM-ROUGHI

Research and Development Laboratory Sonatrach, avenue du 1^{er} Novembre - 35000 Boumerdes (Algeria)

L'analyse palynologique d'une coupe de terrain dans les Tassilis (Sahara Oriental) et trois (3) sondages dans le bassin d'Illizi a permis de reconnaître des séries Llandovery à Pridoli et d'avoir une corrélation Terrain-subsurface.

Une comparaison avec la biozonation britannique de Downie (1984) et les travaux de Cramer (1971) confirme que les Acritarches du Paléozoïque sont distribués selon des Paléolatitudes et des Paléoclimats.

The palynological study of cross-section in Tassilis (Oriental sahara) and three (3) wells in Illizi basin have shown the Llandovery to Pridoli Formations and a correlation between outcrop and subsurface.

A comparison between the british biozonation Downie (1984) and work established by Cramer (1971) suggests that Paleozoic Acritarchs are distributed toward Paleolatitude and Paleoclimate.

HF FATALITY

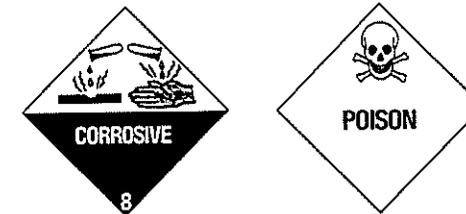
A splash of lethal acid recently killed the employee of a small Mosman Park laboratory in Western Australia. The victim, aged 37, died an agonizing death after he accidentally splashed about 100ml of a 70 percent solution of hydrofluoric acid on his leg on October 28.

The victim apparently jumped into a swimming pool in a vain bid to neutralize the virulent chemical.

He had the leg amputated but the acid poisoned his blood and he died on Saturday in Fremantle Hospital. The acid has to come in contact with only 2 percent of the body to be fatal. A permit is needed from the Health Department (in Western Australia) to use the acid and it is a condition that a neutralizing agent, calcium gluconate gel, be kept on site.

According to a health expert, the victim would have had little chance of surviving a hydrofluoric acid spill as big as the one that killed him, even if every precautionary measure had been taken.

[Synopsis of a report "Man in acid death agony" by Jeremy Chitty, which appeared in The West Australian, November 17, p. 3.—Article supplied by David Goodman.]



TREATMENT OF HF BURNS

HF is one of the strongest of inorganic acids. It differs from other acids in that the fluoride ion readily penetrates the skin causing destruction of deep tissue layers and even bone. Unlike other acids, which are rapidly neutralized, this process may continue for days. One of the problems with recognition of HF burns is that contact with concentrations less than 50% HF may not produce clinical symptoms for 1 to 8 hours, and with concentrations less than 20% the latent period may be up to 24 hours.

Burns may be treated by injecting milliliter quantities of 10% aqueous calcium gluconate into the subcutaneous tissue of the burned area (at a rate of 0.5 ml per square cm. of burned area). However, it appears that calcium gluconate injection is not necessary in the majority of cases. Instead, the injured part may be soaked in an iced aqueous solution of Hyamine. This solution should be available at all times in the first aid cabinet; it is prepared by dissolving 2g of Hyamine in a liter of distilled water). The soaking may be done either by immersion of the injured part or by the continual application of iced compresses. There is a lag period with HF between the time of contact and the beginning of tissue damage so there should be no cause for panic.

Hyamine is a high molecular weight quaternary ammonium compound. It is thought to work by penetrating the skin and forming an insoluble complex with the fluoride ion, thereby preventing further damage.

Burns to the eye must be immediately washed with copious amounts of cold water followed by installation of pontocaine drops to relieve pain. Cortisporin, or similar agent, is then used and a consultation with an ophthalmologist is recommended.

Exposure to HF fumes can also cause serious problems, in particular, pulmonary edema. Prompt and prolonged administration of oxygen can alleviate or prevent this problem from occurring.

[Extracted from the Ontario Geological Survey laboratory safety manual, p. 123-125. Is your laboratory equipped to deal effectively with an HF accident? Why not check your first aid cabinet now!—Ed.]

First call for papers/posters

for the

7th International Workshop on Plant Taphonomy

Netherlands Institute for Sea Research, NIOZ
Texel, The Netherlands, 11 November 1995

The 7th in the series of International Workshops on Plant Taphonomy, which originated in Antwerp in 1989, will be held as a one day meeting in Texel, the Netherlands, on Saturday, November 11th, 1995.

The workshop will consist of a few short (15 mins) papers, more time and possibilities than in the past will be given for presenting posters (2-5 mins oral presentation in front of the poster). Like last year in Bonn, much time will be devoted to whole group discussion of more general topics. Any suggestion for topics as well as discussion leaders is welcome. Jan W. de Leeuw (NIOZ) has already accepted to lead a discussion on resistant biomacromolecules.

This circular is a first call for papers/posters. The organiser will decide what will be presented as paper, what as poster, but be prepared that most will have to be presented as poster because of time limitations. Presently no plans exist to publish the papers/posters presented at the workshop.

Participants of the workshop are suggested to arrive on Friday and leave on Sunday: they can stay for a reasonable bed and breakfast price in the NIOZ guesthouse "de Potvis". Lunch and dinner on Saturday will also be provided in the guesthouse. Prices all in (2 nights, 2 breakfasts, lunch and dinner on Saturday) will be approximately Dfl. 70.00)

Texel can be reached by ferry only. The ferry leaves Den Helder every hour (from 6.35 to 21.35h) and returns to Den Helder every hour from 6.05 to 21.05. Den Helder can be reached easily by public transport. There is a good train connection (every half hour) from Schiphol airport to Den Helder (change trains in Amsterdam-Sloterdijk). Those coming by train can travel via Amsterdam Central Station and from there take the train to Den Helder (every half hour). A bus connects the railway station in Den Helder with the ferry harbour. Texel can be reached by car (about Dfl 50.- return ticket), however, you don't need a car at Texel as the NIOZ and its guesthouse are located next to the ferry harbour.

The weather in November at Texel is usually rainy with strong winds (no umbrella's). So be prepared, don't complain if it happens to be sunny and nice. We plan to organise a nature walk in the dune area near the institute and/or a visit to the Marine Biogeochemistry department of J.W. de Leeuw c.s. (or other departments) at NIOZ on Sunday morning

Abstracts are due September 30th. Please limit your abstract to one A4 page, they will be collected in an Abstract volume distributed at the start of the workshop.

To receive the second circular, please return the form below **before September 1st** to Gerhard C. Cadée or Joke Hart, Netherlands Institute for Sea Research. P.O. Box 59, 1790 AB Den Burg, Texel, The Netherlands.
Tel. (31)2220-69300 Fax (31)2220-19674

Yes, I am interested in attending the 7th International Workshop on Plant Taphonomy, November 11th, 1995 at Texel.

Name (print)

Address (print)

Telephone number:

Fax number:

e-mail:

I will arrive on Friday 10 Saturday 11 (please check one)

I will leave on Saturday 11 Sunday 12 (please check one)

I want to stay in the NIOZ guesthouse the night of 10/11 and/or 11/12 November (please indicate)

I would like to present a poster/paper entitled: (print)

and promise to send an abstract before Sept. 30th, 1995 to Gerhard C. Cadée.

Signature

Please circulate this announcement

NINTH INTERNATIONAL PALYNOLOGICAL CONGRESS

The second circular has been distributed.

You are cordially invited to attend and participate in the Ninth International Palynological Congress (IX IPC). The congress will be held in Houston, Texas, USA, 23-28 June 1996. IX IPC is sponsored by the International Federation of Palynological Societies (IFPS) and hosted by the American Association of Stratigraphic Palynologists (AASP).

Opening ceremonies will be held on Sunday evening, 23 June 1996. Symposia and technical sessions will be held over five days, Monday through Friday, 24-28 June. All sessions will be held at the JW Marriott Hotel located on Westheimer Street by the Galleria Center in Houston. The official language for all presentations is English.

Following is a list of highlights of IX IPC. Details and the Call for Papers are included in the Second Circular, which is being distributed. Updates of information about IX IPC will be available in AASP Newsletter, in *Palynos*, and on the Internet (POLPAL and PALEONET).

Symposia

- Aerobiology (M.K. O'Rourke, E. Levetin & M. Hjelmroos)
- Antarctic Palynology (A. McMinn & J.H. Wrenn)
- Archeological Palynology (O. Davis, J. Gish & K. Edwards)
- Aspects of Palynology of ODP (B. Tocher, S. Damassa & J. Firth)
- Biased Pollen Assemblages (M. Evron)
- CIMP Symposium on Paleozoic Palynology (R. Wicander)**
- Cryptospores and Origins of the Terrestrial Flora (P. Strother)
- Entomopalynology (G. Jones & V. Bryant)
- Forensic Palynology (D. Mildenhall)
- Intertropical Last Glacial-Holocene Climatic Change (H. Hooghiemstra)
- Last Interglacial/Glacial Transition: Patterns and Causes of Change (C. Whitlock)
- Melissopalynology (G. Jones)
- Modern Dinocysts: Distribution, Ecology and Taxonomy (J. Wrenn)
- Neogene-Quaternary Dinocysts (M.J. Head & J.H. Wrenn)
- Neogene Vegetation (R. Taggart)
- New Frontiers and Applications in Palynology (B. Boyd)
- Paleozoic Palynology (A. Cross)
- Palynology of Recent & Ancient Delta Systems (D. Pocknall & E. Williams)
- Palynology of Grasslands (S. Hall)
- Palynology of Key Boundary Sections (D. Nichols & D. Pocknall)
- Palynomorph Distribution Patterns and Their Interpretation (G. Williams, M. Boulter & R. Fensome)
- Phytoliths and Pollen (J. G. Jones & D. Piperno)
- Quaternary Palynostratigraphy of the Himalayas (C. Sharma & M. S. Chauhan)
- Role of Palynology in Hydrogeological and Environmental Studies (R. Van Pelt & J. Lucas-Clark)
- Survivorship Following Migration and Extinction Events (N. Frederiksen)

Field Trips

- A1. Cretaceous-Tertiary Boundary in the Raton Basin (F. Fleming)
- A2. Geology and Palynology of Wyoming (D. Nichols, D. Pocknall & R. Flores)
- A3. Palynology of Wetland Environments of the Southern U.S. (F. Rich, G. Chmura & R. Gastaldo)
- B1. Brazos River, Southeast Texas (J. Anderson, D. Pocknall)
- B2. Eocene Fossils of Whiskey Bridge (C. Cunningham)
- B3. K-T Boundary and Eocene Localities in Central Texas (J. Stein, J. Gennett & A. Raymond)
- B4. Palynology of the American Southwest (O. Davis)

Short Courses and Workshops

- Fourth Workshop on Neogene and Quaternary Dinoflagellates (M.J. Head & J.H. Wrenn)
- Short Course on Fungal Palynomorphs (W.C. Elsik)
- Workshop on Identification of Unknown Airborne Pollen and Spores (M.K. O'Rourke)

Details: Doug Nichols, Co-Secretary IX IPC,

Fax: 1/303-236.5690, E-MAIL: dnichols@greenwood.cr.usgs.gov

AGENDA OF PALYNOLOGICAL CONFERENCES, SYMPOSIA, WORKSHOPS 1994-1996:

1995 Aug. 28- Sept. 2, Krakow, Poland, **XIII International Congress on the Carboniferous-Permian**, Details: Sonia Dybova-Jachowicz, Państwowy Instytut Geologiczny, Oddział Górnolaski, 1 Królowej Jadwigi, 41-200 Sosnowiec, Poland. Phone: 48/32-66 20 36; Fax.: 48/32-66 55 22.

1995 Oct. 10-14, Ottawa, Ontario, Canada, **28th Annual Meeting of the American Association of Stratigraphic Palynologists**. Symposia, Technical Sessions, Posters, Field Trip. Details: Ms. Susan A. Jarzen, Canadian Museum of Nature, P.O. Box 3443, Station "D", Ottawa, Canada K1P 6P4, Fax: 1-613-954 4724.

1995 Nov. 11, Texel, The Netherlands, **7th International Workshop on Plant Taphonomy**. Workshop. Details Gerhard C. Cadée or Joke Hart, Netherlands Institute for Sea Research. P.O. Box 59, NL-1790 AB Den Burg, Texel, The Netherlands. tel.: 31/2220-69300; tel.: 31/2220-19674. (see this Newsletter for the First Circular).

1996 June 22-29, Houston, Texas, Ninth International Palynological Congress of the I.F.P.S., Symposia, Technical Sessions, Posters, Field trips. Details: Vaughn M. Bryant, Jr., Dep. Anthropology, Texas A. & M. University, College Station, Texas 77843-4352, Phone: 1-409-845 5242; Fax.: 1-409-845 4070. or John H. Wrenn, Center for Excellence in Palynology, Dep. Geology & Geophysics, Louisiana State University, Baton Rouge, LA 70803, U.S.A. Phone: 1-504-388 4683; Fax.: 1-504-388 2302.

FRANCINE LAURE MARTIN (* Woluwe St. Lambert 11/26/37, + Bruxelles 12/16/95)

Francine Martin graduated in 1958 from the Free University of Brussels (ULB) with a degree in zoological science and also obtained her teaching diploma (B.Ed.). The following year she earned the "Certificate d'Ethnologie" from the Sorbonne, Paris.

From September 1959 to August 1964, she taught high school biology in Brussels. This experience was very gratifying for Francine, who always recalled with pleasure the positive relationship she had with her pupils.

In 1965, she returned to research at the "Institut Royal des Sciences Naturelles de Belgique", Brussels. Having begun her palynological research as early as 1966, Francine can rightly be considered a pioneer in this field. In 1968 she defended her Doctoral thesis "Les Acritarches de l'Ordovicien et du Silurien belges. Détermination et valeur stratigraphique" at the ULB. From then on, she dedicated her life to the study of Cambrian to Devonian acritarchs and to a lesser extent, chitinozoa.

From the start she showed a modern viewpoint, especially regarding the biostratigraphical potential of acritarchs, with an awareness, already expressed in the conclusions of her Ph.D. thesis, that "la biozation des Acritarches pourra un jour doubler celle des Graptolithes". Her papers, brilliant and often unconventional, always included accurate geological documentation, proving Francine's constant concern that scientific data and knowledge should be freely shared.

As a consequence of her scientific approach, taxonomic observation of the acritarchs was never a purely morphological enquiry of Dr. Martin. Her interest was focused more on the identification and the precise circumscription of the acritarchs as biostratigraphic markers, on the variability of their shape as a reflection of their state of preservation, on their stratigraphic and geographic distribution and on the detection of possible reworking.

From 1966 to 1974, Francine principally studied Ordovician and Silurian acritarchs from Belgium. Her papers on the Lower Ordovician acritarchs of the Montagne Noire, France (Martin, 1974) and on the Lower Silurian of Deerlijk, Belgium (Martin, 1973) are very representative of this period. They also reveal another of her areas of interest concerning acritarchs, namely, their palaeoecological value. In addition to her acritarch studies during this time, Francine also contributed to the study of chitinozoa with papers published in 1969 and 1975.

Francine investigated Silurian and Ordovician (and later also Devonian) palynomorphs from Belgium until 1985, but as early as 1975, began to broaden her geographic interests to regions outside the French-Belgian area, thus studying, for instance, Ordovician chitinozoa from Canada (Martin, 1975).

An important turning point in Dr. Martin's research occurred in 1978, when she decided to verify her belief in the biostratigraphic potential of acritarchs by using sedimentary successions independently dated by macrofossils and conodonts. She thus embarked on a series of important studies of the Lower Palaeozoic of Newfoundland (often in close collaboration with W.T. Dean for the trilobite-based stratigraphy) which allowed her first to define the characteristic acritarch assemblages of this stratigraphic interval and then to propose the first informal biozation extending from the Middle and Upper Cambrian up to the base of the Tremadoc (Martin, 1982). In 1988, this informal biozation became a refined acritarch biochronological zonation (Martin and Dean, 1988). Given the low provincial differentiation of Cambrian acritarchs, Francine's highly original scheme also proved very fruitful, as demonstrated by the essential confirmation of its validity and its application around the world. These important results led to her election in 1984 as a corresponding member of the IUGS Subcommittee on Cambrian Stratigraphy. In 1994, she applied the same acritarch zonation to the Cambrian of Wales (Young et al., 1994).

Dr. Martin was also aware that the time was not yet right for a serious attempt at an acritarch-based biozation for the Ordovician, owing to an often confused taxonomy and scanty and frequently contradictory data on the stratigraphic and palaeogeographic distribution of its many species. This was particularly true because this group is characterized by a strong provincialism for this chronological interval. All her work on the Ordovician (acritarchs and sometimes also chitinozoa) between 1978 and 1994 had the same goal: recognition and precise definition of possible Ordovician biostratigraphic markers in the North American Province (Canada; 1980-1984), Australia (1982), northern China (1988) and in the area that Francine herself (1982) defined as the Perigondwana Province, an area which incorporates and places in a more modern palaeogeographic picture, the "Mediterranean Province" of previous authors. In this way, Dr. Martin came to study the Perigondwanian acritarch

assemblages of Newfoundland, Argentina and Turkey. In 1990, she became a corresponding member of the IUGS Subcommittee on Ordovician Stratigraphy. In addition to her biostratigraphic acritarch studies, Francine was also particularly interested in the problem of defining palynologically the Cambrian-Ordovician boundary. This interest is evident in the work carried out in Alberta, Canada (Dean and Martin, 1982; Martin, 1992) and in northern China (1984) during her active participation in the Dayangcha International Conference on the Cambrian-Ordovician Boundary.

Throughout her scientific life, Francine Martin also studied the acritarchs of the Silurian, publishing papers from 1966 to 1990. Most of her Silurian studies were centred in Belgium, but they also included Argentina, Austria, Norway, Canada and England. She followed much the same approach that she used in her Ordovician studies, namely determining the characteristics of the various palynological assemblages, the identification of the most important taxa in the assemblages and their stratigraphic and geographic distribution. The result was the recognition in 1989 of six informal acritarch "groups" between the Rhuddanian and Pridoli, which correlated approximately to the corresponding graptolite biozones (Martin, 1989). Her election as a titular member of the IUGS Subcommittee on Silurian Stratigraphy from 1974 to 1992, as Secretary of the same subcommittee from 1974 to 1984 and as a corresponding member since 1992, all testify to the importance of these studies.

Dr. Martin had a lifelong interest in the problem of the Ordovician-Silurian boundary, reflected in her being a corresponding member of the IUGS Ordovician-Silurian Boundary Working Group from 1979 to 1985. The experience she gained in this field is very clearly expressed in her 1988 10-page paper on Late Ordovician and Early Silurian acritarchs (Martin, 1988).

During the years 1981 to 1985, Francine conducted research on the Devonian of Belgium. The results of her work focused mainly on the Frasnian-Famennian boundary interval and are summarized in her 1994 paper "Acritarchs: a review".

The wide ranging and multifaceted scientific experience of Francine Martin is well illustrated by one of her last works "Acritarchs: a review" (Martin, 1994). In that paper, she addressing also the non-specialists and summarizes for specialists, through examples from the Precambrian, the Precambrian-Cambrian, Cambrian-Ordovician and Frasnian-Famennian boundary, the role of acritarchs as a biostratigraphic tool. This was one of Francine's favourite works and one that all of her friends cherish, because it reflects two characteristic traits of her personal style: scientific precision and readability.

Marco Tongiorgi and Anna Di Milia, Pisa, Italy (from AASP Newsletter, april 1995)

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C.I.M.P. WORKING GROUPS AND SUBCOMMISSIONS

Vallatisporites Working Group

Contact person: Bernard Owens, British Geological Survey,
Keyworth, Nottinghamshire, NG12 5GG, U.K.

"Lycospora" First Occurrence Working Group

Contact person: Elzbieta Turneau, Instytut Nauk Geologicznych,
Polska Akademia Nauk, Ul. Senacka 1/3, 31-002 Krakow, Poland.

Upper Devonian "Grandispora" Working Group

Contact person: Ken Higgs, Department of Geology,
University College Cork, Cork, Ireland.

Reworked Palynomorphs Working Group

Contact person: Philippe Steemans, Lab. ass. de Paléontologie,
Université de Liège, 7 Place du Vingt-Aôut, B-4000 Liège, Belgium

Acritarch Subcommission

Chairman: Stuart Molyneux, British Geological Survey,
Keyworth, Nottinghamshire, NG12 5GG, U.K.
Secretary: Thomas Servais, Lab. ass. de Paléontologie,
Université de Liège, 7 Place du Vingt-Aôut, B-4000 Liège, Belgium

Chitinozoa Subcommission

Chairman: Florentin Paris, CNRS - URA 1364, Université de Rennes 1, Campus de
Beaulieu F35042 RENNES Cedex France.
Secretary: Stuart Sutherland, Centre for Palynological Studies, University of Sheffield,
Mappin Street, Sheffield S1 3JD, U.K.

The Executive Committee of the C.I.M.P.

(since the last CIMP General Assembly, North Sea 1990 Symposium, Nottingham, U.K.)

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