



**International Organisation of Palaeobotany**  
(Homepage: [www.palaeobotany.org](http://www.palaeobotany.org))

## IOP NEWSLETTER 97

**February 2012**

---

### CONTENTS

---

|  |   |
|--|---|
| ELECTION OF THE NEW IOP EXECUTIVE.....                         | 2 |
| RECALL FOR PROPOSALS TO HOST IOPC X, 2016 .....                | 2 |
| NEWS ON THE REGISTRATION FOR IOPC IX.....                      | 2 |
| RECALL: MIKE BOULTER STUDENT TRAVEL<br>AWARDS FOR IOPC IX..... | 3 |
| IFPS STUDENT TRAVEL GRANTS FOR IOPC IX.....                    | 3 |
| SUBSCRIPTION CHANGES (2012) FOR IOP MEMBERSHIP.....            | 3 |
| ACCESS TO IOP NEWSLETTERS ON THE WEBSITE.....                  | 4 |
| UPCOMING MEETINGS .....  | 4 |
| SCIENTIFIC NOTE.....   | 6 |
| CHANGES OF ADDRESS.....  | 7 |

---

The views expressed in the newsletter are those of its correspondents, and do not necessarily reflect the policy of IOP.

**Please send us your contributions for the next edition of our newsletter (June 2012) the latest by May 31<sup>st</sup>, 2012.**

President: Gar Rothwell (USA)

Vice Presidents: Ruben Cuneo (Argentina), Carole Gee (Germany), Edith Taylor (USA)

Members at Large: David Ferguson (Austria), Lena Golovneva (Russia), Sun Ge (China)

Secretary/Treasurer/Newsletter editor: Johanna Eder-Kovar (Germany)

Conference/Congress Member: Harufumi Nishida (Japan)

*IOP Logo: The evolution of plant architecture (© by A. R. Hemsley)*

Dear colleagues and friends,

We are just entering the hottest phase in the preparation of the **9th International Organisation of Palaeobotany Conference (August 23–30, 2012, Chuo University, Tokyo)**. The following paragraphs are dedicated to all the preparations to make this conference a successful event. All members can actively contribute by participating in Tokyo, by encouraging colleagues and students to participate, by nominating candidates for the IOP executive committee, by supporting the regional representatives and the secretary with relevant news and, last but not least, by updating your membership.

The next newsletter which will appear in June will include the slate of candidates and the electronical election of the Executive Committee will be announced.

A couple of weeks ago, the online IOP membership subscription has been modified to simplify the administration for both the members and the secretary (see p. 3).

Finally, I would like to thank personally Mrs. Ute Knörr who assisted me in assembling the newsletter during the last two years. Unfortunately, her contract ends soon and cannot be prolonged. Many thanks, Ute, and all my best wishes for your future!

Take the time to read through this issue and to plan carefully your conference participation.

With kind regards

Johanna Eder

## **ELECTION OF THE NEW IOP EXECUTIVE**

The time is rapidly approaching for election of a new IOP executive. According to the IOP statutes <http://www.palaeobotany.org/modules.php?name=iop&sec=about&page=5>, “The election of officers should take place at each General Assembly during the International Organisation of Palaeobotany Conference.....”. To afford all members the

opportunity to participate in the election, voting will be primarily by electronic means through the IOP web site. Those wishing to send a paper ballot may do so. Instructions for voting will be included with the call for balloting, which will appear in **IOP Newsletter 98 (June 2012)**. A final tally of votes will be made and the new officers will be announced at the General Assembly during the IOPC in Tokyo this August.

Since the nominations for candidates are not numerous **the deadline for nominations is extended until April 15<sup>th</sup>**.

A slate of candidates will be published in the forthcoming newsletter.

## **RECALL FOR PROPOSALS TO HOST IOPC X, 2016**

Herewith we repeat the call for proposals to host IOPC X in 2016. So far only one proposal has been submitted by Prof. Bob Gastaldo, Colby College Maine. Proposals are still welcome and may be submitted as e-mail attachments and/or mailed to the Secretary: Johanna Eder, Secretary IOP, State Museum Natural History Stuttgart, Rosenstein 1, 70191 Stuttgart, Germany or [<Johanna.eder>>at<<smns-bw.de>](mailto:Johanna.eder@smns-bw.de). In Tokyo the General Assembly will vote on the invitations to host IOPC X.

## **NEWS ON THE REGISTRATION FOR IOPC IX**

Online registration for the joint meeting of the 13th International Palynological Congress (IPC XIII) and 9th International Organization of Palaeobotany Conference (IOPC IX) in Tokyo (August 23-30) is now open:

[https://apollon.nta.co.jp/IPC\\_IOPC2012-er/](https://apollon.nta.co.jp/IPC_IOPC2012-er/)

Early registration fee (**payment by April 30<sup>th</sup>**) is 30,000 JPY (20,000 JPY for students) and normal

fee (payment from May 1<sup>st</sup> to May 31<sup>st</sup>) is 35,000 JPY (25,000 JPY for students).

The conference website provides the symposia list:

<http://www.psj3.org/ipc-iopc2012/ScienceProgram.html>

Registration for field trips is also open and information on schedule and costs will be available on the conference website.

## **RECALL: MIKE BOULTER STUDENT TRAVEL AWARDS FOR IOPC IX**

The International Organisation of Palaeobotany offers several travel awards to help student IOP members defray the cost of presenting their research at IOPC IX in Tokyo, Japan. Awards will be in the amount of US \$500.00 and will be presented to students following their presentation at IOPC IX. Students who do not attend the conference and/or do not make the presentation indicated in the application are not eligible for funds.

The deadline for applications has been prolonged until March 31<sup>st</sup>.

Applications are to be sent to the Secretary/Treasurer of IOP via e-mail attachment,

[johanna.eder@smns-bw.de](mailto:johanna.eder@smns-bw.de), and must include the following items:

1. A 1-2 page application letter indicating the title of the abstract that has been accepted with the student as the senior (presenting) author.
2. A copy of the accepted abstract.
3. A budget that includes a listing of costs for attending the conference and sources of funding that have been secured for all costs except the IOP Student Travel award.

## **IFPS STUDENT TRAVEL GRANTS FOR IOPC IX**

The IFPS has agreed to support student participation at the upcoming XIII IPC to be held in Tokyo, Japan in August 2012. Funding will be awarded to

Masters and Ph.D. students presenting palynological results at IPC XIII (oral or poster). The IFPS board will review and evaluate all applications according to the quality of the submitted abstracts and the scientific merits of the candidates. Thus IFPS intends to sponsor approximately 20 students with a \$500 (US dollars) contribution towards the cost of attending the conference.

Students wishing to apply should e-mail (preferably as a pdf) a covering letter (no more than one page), a Short-CV (maximum one page) along with their talk/poster abstract to Charles Wellman (IFPS Secretary-Treasurer:

[c.wellman@sheffield.ac.uk](mailto:c.wellman@sheffield.ac.uk)). The covering letter should briefly explain which IFPS affiliated organisation the student is a member of, other sources of funding for conference attendance (secured or being sought), and why the additional funding is necessary. Awards will be presented at the conference. Applications should arrive **before 31st March 2012**.

## **SUBRIPTION CHANGES (2012) FOR IOP MEMBERSHIP**

**Dear Member,**

As you may already be aware there have been some changes to the membership subscription period which have coincided with a newly revamped online payment system.

The main change to your membership is the introduction of a fixed membership period which runs from the **1<sup>st</sup> January** to the **31<sup>st</sup> December** each year. The reason for the change is to facilitate our administration of memberships within the IOP, with the added benefit of giving all members a single easily remembered date for renewals.

In order to setup the new system we have updated all members' end subscription dates to the nearest "1<sup>st</sup> January" date (forward in time). For instance:

| Old Subscription End Date | New Subscription End Date |
|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| 2011-03-25                | 2012-01-01                |
| 2011-07-01                | 2012-01-01                |
| 2015-02-02                | 2016-01-01                |

As you can see we have deliberately updated the subscription end dates in such a way that no member loses any already paid membership subscription.

Changes to Renewal Date:

With the new system there is a single renewal date: **31<sup>st</sup> December** in any given year.

Renewals will be taken from the **1<sup>st</sup> October** each year for the following year, if you forget to renew by the **31<sup>st</sup> December** you can still renew for the current year up till the **31<sup>st</sup> September**. After **30<sup>th</sup> September** your renewal will be for the next full year and you will be asked to make an optional “catch-up payment” for the missing subscription dues. For instance:

| Subscription End Date | Date of Renewal | Result  |
|-----------------------|-----------------|---|
| 2012-01-01            | 2011-11-01      | Subscription end date becomes: 2013-01-01   |
| 2012-01-01            | 2012-04-01      | Subscription end date becomes: 2013-01-01   |
| 2012-01-01            | 2012-11-01      | Subscription end date becomes: 2014-01-01, <b>AND</b> a “catch-up payment” for 1 year is requested. |

Changes to New Memberships:

Although as an existing member you will not be joining the IOP for the first time we feel you should also be informed of the changes we have made with regard new memberships.

A person wishing to join the IOP may do so at any time during the year. If they join between the **1<sup>st</sup> January** and **31<sup>st</sup> May** they will receive membership for the current year; however if they join after the **1<sup>st</sup> June** they will receive the membership for the current year *PLUS* the full next year.

This is partly to encourage new members, but also to project an atmosphere of good value for money and fairness.

Some issues that may arise:

Due the scale of the changes made it is likely that some data errors have snuck into the membership database we hold online. We ask you to login into the online member’s area

(<http://www.palaeobotany.org/members/>) and check the data we hold. If you find your membership subscription end date is not correct please contact: [accounts@palaeobotany.org](mailto:accounts@palaeobotany.org)

We hope that you find these changes to be an improvement and simplify the whole membership renewals process.

**Yours Sincerely,**

Alan Spencer - *IOP Webmaster*

([webmaster@palaeobotany.org](mailto:webmaster@palaeobotany.org))

**ACCESS TO IOP NEWSLETTERS ON THE WEBSITE**

As of now there is a small change to the way IOP Newsletters can be viewed online. There is now an embedded pdf-reader which allows reading the newsletter directly on the website (rather than having to download the file and then open it). You will see the new links to the online viewer from the IOP Home Page and the Newsletter Archive.

**UPCOMING MEETINGS**

**21<sup>st</sup> INTERNATIONAL WORKSHOP ON PLANT TAPHONOMY**

**Natural History Museum Chemnitz, Germany (March 23-25, 2012)**

The purpose of this International Plant Taphonomy Meeting is to stimulate scientific research and to promote contacts among scientists engaged in the study of plant taphonomy including living and fossil plants of all geological periods. The meeting is open to all persons interested in the plant fossil record.

The official language for the meeting is English. As in the past, it is proposed to highlight certain themes

for round-table discussion. Working on our recently excavated material we would like to focus on petrified forests and T0 assemblages preserving ancient ecosystems. Nevertheless, in accordance with workshop tradition, oral and poster presentations on any topic of plant taphonomy are welcome. We therefore invite you to contribute to the workshop with either an oral or poster presentation on a taphonomic topic of your choice, or to just come and participate in the lively and intellectually stimulating discussions that take place at the workshop every year.

We look forward to seeing you at the 21st International Workshop on Plant Taphonomy in Chemnitz!

Please note **deadline for registration and abstract submission is February 23, 2012.**

If you have any questions with regard to the taphonomy meeting please do not hesitate to contact us.

**Ronny Rössler**, Director Natural History Museum Chemnitz

#### Contact

[Registration](mailto:Registration@naturkunde-chemnitz.de)>>at<<[naturkunde-chemnitz.de](http://naturkunde-chemnitz.de)

#### Venue

Postal address: Das TIETZ, Museum für Naturkunde Chemnitz, Moritzstraße 20, D-09111 Chemnitz

Fon: 0049 371 4884551

Fax: 0049 371 4884597

For further details see

[http://www.naturkunde-chemnitz.de/index.php?pg=fk\\_programm2007&id=natur](http://www.naturkunde-chemnitz.de/index.php?pg=fk_programm2007&id=natur)

[www.naturkunde-chemnitz.de](http://www.naturkunde-chemnitz.de)

### **MIDCONTINENT PALEOBOTANICAL COLLOQUIUM (MPC-29), Yale University (May 11 to 13, 2012)**

In addition to the usual round of stimulating talks and posters, a full round of events are planned, including an opening reception, tours of Yale Peabody Museum and the Marsh Botanical Garden, the annual dinner and awards presentations, an

awesome and as yet unannounced keynote speaker, and an optional field trip to the track ways of Dinosaur State Park, a pillow basalt at the Triassic-Jurassic boundary, and Connecticut's own Petrified Forest (Hickey, Hu, and Skinner, 2011). And of course there will be plenty of time to hang out with colleagues and students. The link to the MPC-29 website (<http://peabody.yale.edu/mpc-29>) is still in the process of being constructed because some details of the budget and accommodations remain to be determined. However, the prices for this event will be in line with those of last year.

### **ANDREW SCOTT'S RETIREMENT CONFERENCE**

**(Friday September 14th 2012, Earth Sciences Department, Royal Holloway University of London)**

This will be a one-day conference with invited speakers mainly former students, Post-Docs and friends who have worked with Andrew. The three themes for the day are 'Fire'; 'Palaeobotany /Palynology' and 'Other', the latter including, for example, presentations on modern orchid speciation and plant biomechanics. There will be no registration fee for the conference.

It is hoped that a provisional programme will be available at the end of February and that will be made available on the IOP website and on the departmental web site.

Please inform **Margaret Collinson**

(e-mail: [M.collinson](mailto:M.collinson@es.rhul.ac.uk)>>at<<[es.rhul.ac.uk](http://es.rhul.ac.uk)) if you are planning to attend this meeting.

Attendees would need to make all their own arrangements for travel and accommodation.

### **II (X) INTERNATIONAL BOTANICAL CONFERENCE OF YOUNG SCIENTISTS ST.-PETERSBURG**

**Komarov Botanical Institute of Russian Academy of Sciences (BIN RAS) (St.-Petersburg, November 11-16, 2012)**

Young scientists, students and postgraduates are invited to participate in the II (X) International

Conference of Young Botanists in St.-Petersburg which will take place on 11 – 16 November 2012.

### Chairman of the Conference

Prof., Dr. V. Yarmishko, Director of BIN RAS, Vice-President of the Russian Botanical Society

### Scientific Program

The Scientific program of the Conference will include invited plenary lectures and selected session talks arranged in ten main sessions:

1. Systematics and phylogeny of vascular plants
2. Mycology, Algology, Lichenology and Bryology
3. Plant anatomy and morphology
4. Cell and molecular biology and metabolism of plants and fungi
5. Embryology and reproductive biology of plants.
6. Geobotany
7. Geography of vascular plants
8. Palaeobotany
9. Economic botany and introduction of plants
10. Environmental pollution and plant conservation

### Registration and Abstract submission

If you intend to participate, please fill in a registration form that is available on the website ([http://www.binran.ru/young\\_conf2e.htm](http://www.binran.ru/young_conf2e.htm)).

The second announcement will be posted on the Conference website and distributed by e-mail before **April 1, 2012**. It will include the guidelines for abstract submission, conditions for payment, the titles of plenary lectures and session talks, information about cultural program and accommodation. The deadline for abstract submission is **August 25, 2012**.

### Contacts

Organising Committee of the II (X) International Conference of Young Botanists in St. Petersburg  
Komarov Botanical Institute of RAS  
Professor Popov 2 str.  
197376, St. Petersburg, Russia  
tel.: +7 (812) 346 08 54  
E-mail: [molconf2012@binran.ru](mailto:molconf2012@binran.ru)  
[http://www.binran.ru/young\\_conf2.htm](http://www.binran.ru/young_conf2.htm)

All enquires to the Organising Committee should be done by e-mail.

## 4<sup>th</sup> INTERNATIONAL PALEONTOLOGICAL CONGRESS The history of life: a view from the Southern Hemisphere Mendoza, Argentina, September 28<sup>th</sup> – October 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2014

A first flyer can be downloaded from <http://www.vertpaleo.org/source/blog/assets/content/FLYER%20-%204%20IPC.pdf>

## 9<sup>th</sup> EUROPEAN PALAEOBOTANY PALYNOLOGY CONFERENCE (EPPC) 2014 (August 26-31, 2014, University of Padua)

The first invitation was already launched in IOP newsletter 95. More information will be available on the homepage:

<http://www.geoscienze.unipd.it/9th-european-palaeobotany-palynology-conference>.

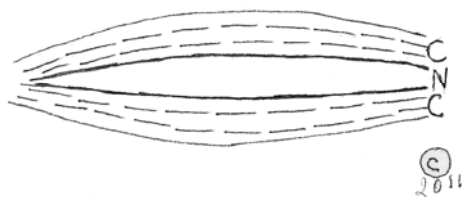
## SCIENTIFIC NOTE

### What is a coalified ovule?

**Erwin L. Zodrow**, Professor Emeritus and Curator  
Cape Breton University, Sydney, Nova Scotia,  
Canada, [Erwin\\_zodrow@cbu.ca](mailto:Erwin_zodrow@cbu.ca)

For the past three years I have been macerating a suite of well-preserved (7-9 cm long, 4-6 cm wide) coalified ovules (*Trigonocarpus grandis*) from the youngest strata (Cantabrian age) of the Sydney Coalfield, Canada. Maceration proceeded under strict control for the orderly dismantling of the symmetrical tissue layers that constitute the ovule, and real-time observations were during maceration. Apart from discovering a new preservation mode (D'Angelo and Zodrow, 2011), the information obtained is astounding, rivaling that from coal balls, and selectively summarized as follows. These ovules are oval in cross section, 700-1600 µm thick,

and complexly preserved as (1) vitrain layers, (2) cuticles, and (3) (non-coalified) nucellus-doublets and related tissues. The vitrain layers are treasure coves for all kinds of tissues, integumentary and robust nucellar cuticles are distinguishable by position and composed of long hydrocarbon chains (lipids, alkene/alkane normal series), and so are the nucelli (10-80  $\mu\text{m}$  thick). Some of my nucellar microphotographs (Nomarski phase-contrast) compare in detail with Zimmerman and Taylor (1970), thanks to preservation. Overall, the generic barrier *Pachytesta-Trigonocarpus*, preservation-based, is demonstrably chucked bringing to fruition decades (centuries?) of speculation (a formal proposal to unite would be proper). The original biomolecular structures of tissues not only dictated the diverse preservation modes but also chemical signals as obtained from infrared spectra, pyrolysis gas chromatography/mass spectrometry, and magnetic nuclear resonance experiments. Lipids are candidates for chemotaxonomy, and these ovules as oily “nuts” must have been great contributors to kerogen (oil genesis), considering the vast medullolean forests. Two manuscripts of details are in advanced stages for submission to journals. Figure 1 shows a cross-section sketch of a coalified ovule.



**Fig. 1 Coalified ovule. N=Nucellus; C=Cuticle.**

## References

D'Angelo, J.A., Zodrow, E.L., 2011. Sample forms of ovular preservation: Chemometric study of functional groups in *Trigonocarpus grandis* (Pennsylvanian seed fern, Canada). *Organic Geochemistry* 42, 1039-1054.

Zimmerman, R.P., Taylor, T.N., 1970. The ultrastructure of Paleozoic megaspores membranes. *Pollen et Spores* 12(3), 451-468.

## CHANGES OF ADDRESS

Please send the editorial office your new details if your address has changed:

[johanna.eder >>at<<smns-bw.de](mailto:johanna.eder@smns-bw.de)



IOP Logo: The evolution of plant architecture (by A. R. Hemsley). The copyright for this image belongs to the artist and is used here by permission. This image can be used for non-commercial, educational and personal purposes without charge, as long as the source is duly acknowledged. All other uses must seek permission of the copyright owner.