IOP NEWSLETTER 74

August 2003

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

DO WE WANT JOINT IOPC & IPC MEETINGS IN 2008?

Over the past several years there has been considerable discussion about the desirability of holding joint or adjacent international paleobotany and palynology conferences. While some have spoken forcefully for continuing this practice, others have pointed out that only a small percentage of the participants at either conference attend both. Madeline Harley, Secretary/Treasurer IFPS, has suggested that each organization pole the membership to develop guidelines for future policies. If you wish to voice your opinion on this issue, please e-mail the Secretary of IOP (rothwell@ohio.edu) with your choice of whether or not to coordinate the organization of future meetings. Please send your e-mail under the heading of "Coordinated Meetings?" by November 20, 2003. The results of this informal poll will be considered in our organization and scheduling of future international conferences.

STUDENT FUNDING FOR IOPC-VII IN BARALOCHE

Students: join us in attending the International Organization of Palaeobotany Conference in Bariloche, Argentina, next March 21-26, 2004. There is a Grad Student Grant program to waive the registration fee, provide US$500 toward your travel and 30% discount on field trips. The following information is copied from the Conference website. Also, see the main site at www.iopc2004.org

"The Student Grant-in-aid Program has been developed for the VII International Organization of Paleobotany Conference. The purpose of the program is to help paleobotany graduate students from all over the world to attend the Conference by partially subsidizing the expenses to be incurred for this purpose. Depending on final funding, a minimum of ten up to twenty graduate students will be granted funds through this program. For each recipient, the VII IOPC Organizing Committee will:

- waive the registration fee for the Congress
- provide an amount in cash in the sum of USD 500,-
- provide a 30% discount in the participation on any of the field trips
- a 20% discount in the accommodation package.

Eligibility

The objective of the Student Grant Program is to enable paleobotany graduate students from as many regions of the world as possible to attend the VII IOPC.

All applicants will be judged by the following criteria:

- quality of his/her scientific presentation to the Conference
- quality of his/her scientific qualifications (published papers and abstracts, participation in previous international meetings, grants received, etc.) "

EXTENSION OF PRE-REGISTRATION DEADLINE FOR IOPC-VII

Due to the great volume of recently received e-mails requesting an extension of the pre-registration deadline, the VII IOPC Organizing Committee has decided to extend it until August 31st.

So far, more than 200 pre-registrations have been received, expressing a willingness to attend the meeting next March in Bariloche. We hope you will be one of them.

Beginning in September, the final registration form will be available through the meeting web page.
Please do not hesitate to contact us at info@iopc2004.org.

VII IOPC Informer

SECOND CALL FOR NOMINATIONS FOR IOP OFFICERS

As of 1993, the IOP Constitution Article 7 calls for elections of Executive Officers to be held at IOP Conferences. The next election of IOP officers will be at the General Council Meeting during IOPC-VII in Baraloche, Argentina, March 21-26, 2004.

At Qunhuangdo, China in 2000, the following were elected for two terms of office:

Vice Presidents: Fairon-Demaret (Belgium), Z. Kavzek (Czech Republic), Sun Ge (China.

Members at Large: Collinson (UK), Drinnan (Australia), Manchester (USA).

The President, Secretary and Congress Member must be elected at Bariloche. Of these posts, the Constitution allows that only the Secretary is eligible for re-election: Gar Rothwell offers himself for re-election.

Nominations for President and Secretary must be made to the Secretary, in writing, before December 1st 2003. Both mailed and e-mailed nominations will be accepted from members in good standing.

NEW REPRESENTATIVE FOR NORTHERN EUROPE SECTION

We are delighted to announce that Ian Glassp ool has accepted the position of IOP Representative for the Northern Europe Region. We thank Jason Hilton, outgoing Representative for the Northern Europe Region, for his contribution and wish him well. Contact information for Ian is as follows:

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CALL FOR REVISIONS IN IOP STATUTES AND BY-LAWS

It has now been over 15 years since the last revision of the IOP Statutes and By-Laws. During this time there have been continuous changes associated with the growth of IOP, technological innovations, with geopolitical changes, etc. As a result, an update of the IOP Statures and By-Laws is being undertaken. A copy of the current Statutes and By-Laws is posted on the recent IOP Newsletter page on the web. The URL for this page is http://oak.cats.ohiou.edu/~rothwell/IOP-Newsletters/index.htm Please consult this document, and forward any suggestions for revisions to the Secretary at rothwell@ohio.edu A draft of the proposed revised Statutes and By-Laws will be printed in a forthcoming IOP Newsletter, and will be voted on at the IOPC in Bariloche in the spring of 2004.

BOOK REVIEW

Stuchlik L., Ziembinska-Tworzydlo M., Kohlman-Adamska A., Grabowska I., Wazynska H., Sadowska A. Atlas of pollen and spores of the Polish Neogene. Vol. 2 – Gymnosperms Red. L. Stuchlik, W. Szafer Institute of Botany, Polish Academy of Sciences, Cracow, 2002, pp.237, 9 figures, 1 table, 82 plates, A4. Price 48 USD. ISBN 83-85444-92-0.

One year after publishing the first volume of the Atlas of Pollen and Spores of the Polish Neogene – vol. 1 - Spores (2001) we were given the second volume of this Atlas with descriptions and illustrations of fossil pollen grains of gymnosperms found in the Neogene sediments of Poland. Numerous taxa were described and many names of genera and species of sporomorphs were validly published according to rules of the International Code of Botanical Nomenclature (2000). It is significant progress in the Tertiary palinology now

in comparison with 1970s when W. Krutsch, the outstanding German palynologist published 'Atlas der mittel- und jungertiären dispersen Sporen- und Pollen- sowie der Mikroplanktonformen des nördlichen Mitteleuropas'. A big part of the names used in the Krutsch's atlas could not be in agreement with the nomenclature rules which are valid now.

The text arrangement in the second volume of the Atlas is the same like in the first one. Morphological types of the sporomorphs of the gymnosperms are discussed and illustrated by schematic and readable drawings in the introduction part. A list and situation of localities, from which material for palynological investigations was obtained, is published. The stratigraphical table of the Neogene of Poland is a very important supplement of that volume. All the investigated profiles are marked at the table against a background of the chrono- and litostratigraphic scheme of the northern Paratethyds and the Polish Lowland.

The systematical part contains descriptions of 100 taxa including the most numerous from the family Pinaceae (10 genera with 55 species), two genera with 6 species from the family Podocarpaceae, 1 genus with 10 taxa from the family Sciadopityaceae, 5 genera with 20 species from the Taxidiaceae-Taxaceae-Cupressaceae group, 1 genus *Cycadopites* from Cycadaceae and 4 species, which are new combinations, from the genus *Distachyapites* from Ephedraceae. Genera *Cathayapollis* Ziembiñska-Tworzyd³o with 10 taxa which are new combinations, and *Taiwaniapollis* Ziembiñska-Tworzyd³o with one species, described first time, are new from scientific point of view. Diagnosis for genera *Cunninghamiaepollenites*, *Cupressacites*, *Inaperturopollenites* and *Distachyopites* were completed. One new species was added in each of three genera: *Keteleeriapollenites*, *Sciadopityspollenites* and *Sequoiapollenites*; and two new species were created in the genus *Cupressacites*. Five new combinations in the genus *Pinuspollenites*, four new combinations in the genus *Distachyapites* and one new combination in the genus *Zonalopollenites* were described. Also new species in genera *Sciadopityspollenites* (1), *Cupressacites* (2) and *Sequoiapollenites* (1) were described.

Type species for each described genus were indicated. Various informations, remarks and list of synonyms were given for each genus. Detailed descriptions, botanical affinities, geographical distribution of comparable extant plants, stratigraphic distribution of fossil sporomorphs and its distribution in Poland are given in this book. Each species is included to an adequate palaeofloristic element. Taxa of an arctotertiary element (86) prevail between the gymnospermous taxa. A palaeotropical element is represented only by taxa from family Podocarpaceae (7) and Cycadaceae (1)

Nomenclatural problems are discussed in remarks mainly.

The first description of sporomorphs similar to pollen grains of the contemporary genus *Taiwania* Hataya from the family Taxodiaceae for the European Neogene is worth of noticing. *Taiwania* Hataya occurs in southern China and in Taiwan. Macroscopic remains of this genus are distinguished recently in fossil Tertiary floras of Europe as just as remains of *Cathaya* Chun & Kuong endemic plants from south-eastern China. Fossil pollen grains similar to pollen grains of *Cathaya* were earlier described as *Pinus haploxylon* type in the most cases.

The most important part of each atlas are illustrations. All the taxa were illustrated by numerous, excellent photographs of pollen grains observed under light microscope and also in many cases under scanning electron microscope. E.g. difficult group Taxodiaceae-Taxaceae-Cupressaceae, and especially the genus *Sequoiapollenites*, were arranged due to observations under a high magnification of subtele structures of the sporomorph sculpture.

The volume contains a correctly composed index of names and beautiful illustration of

taxodiaceous forest from a natural locality in North Carolina on the cover.

One should hope for funds for that extraordinarily important work and expect elaborating and publishing the next volumes of the atlas with pollen grains of angiosperms. The expectation is the higher so it is lack of such an elaboration for Europe because the Krutsch's atlas has not been continued after publishing the volume on gymnosperms and part of angiosperms only. Hence, we wish to the authors not only the funds for a continuation their work but also energy and persistence in finishing this excellent work, very useful in many branches of science.

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ANNOUNCEMENT OF RECENT PUBLICATION, WITH COMMENTS

Courier Forschungsinstitut Senckenberg Volume 241 Wilde, Volker (ed.) 2003. Studies on fossil and extant plants and floras. Dedicated to Friedemann Schaarschmidt on the occasion of his 65th birthday. 334 p., 89 figs., 20 tabs., 36 pls. 2003. Euro 79.90 ISBN 3-510-61349-X.

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This volume, in honour of FRIEDEMANN SCHAARSCHMIDT, retired palaeobotanist at the Forschungsinstitut Senckenberg in Frankfurt am Main, contains 22 scientific papers. Of the latter most are palaeobotanical with four on Late Palaeozoic, six on Mesozoic and ten on Tertiary material. Seven of these papers are in German, the remainder in English. There are also two short papers (by Dieter Mai and Siegfried Rietschel) documenting Friedemann's scientific career.

The papers for the volume were in the hands of the editor for some years prior to publication. This is evident from the relatively few recent references in the bibliographies (almost all 1999 or earlier) and the date of March 1998 on the articles about Friedemann's career. In addition there have certainly been some problems with the publishers/printers (see below).

It is not my intention here to write a review but merely to bring this volume to your attention. Therefore I highlight a few papers that drew my own personal immediate interest and only briefly mention the others. David Ferguson reviews the literature on feeding behaviour and attempts to reconstruct food webs in and around Eocene Lake Messel. There is a wealth of information here and clearly the paper represents a huge amount of work. Sadly the value of the paper has been severely affected by problems during printing. The page layout used for some of the tables is bizarre and the link between numbered citations in tables and the bibliography has been lost. Zlatko Kvacek documents some fascinating complete Neogene aquatic plants and their ecology. With names like Elephantosotis you must surely want to see what these are like! Dave Dilcher and Chris Hill describe an impressive frond of a heterophyllous fern from the lower Cretaceous of Montsech. However, not everyone may agree with the use of the name Sphenopteris for this material . You will see the clear bias of my own interests showing through here but I would also mention an interesting new reconstruction of a Cooksonia by Stephan Schultka. You may all be surprised at the thalloid basal organisation. Elsewhere in the volume you will find palynostratigraphy (Devonian - Traverse; Triassic to Jurassic - Lund); exquisite Odontopteris cuticular anatomy (Kerp & Krings); Chinese

Permian floras (Guanlong & Yongdong); Triassic conifers (Grauvogel-Stamm et al); Jurassic Osmundacaulis (Herbst); Jurassic sphenophytes (Gee et al); Cretaceous and Tertiary leaf floras (Schrank & Ruffle; Walther); European Eocene Cedrelospermum (Wilde & Manchester); Eocene Leafcoals (Riegel et al); a bryophyte from the Bitterfeld amber (Grolle) Tertiary palynology (Anderle et al; Blumenstengel); Tertiary plant biomarkers (Otto); early Miocene leaf and diaspore assemblages (Kovar-Eder and Meller) and last, but by no means least, a typically thought provoking essay by Mike Boulter entitled "Against the plant fossil species". There is probably something in here of interest to almost all of us and the high quality of the scientific content makes this a fitting tribute to honour the career of our dear friend and colleague Friedemann Schaarschmidt.

Margaret Collinson
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OBITUARY

Professor Kazuo Asama, aged 85 passed away on Feb. 15, 2003, after a short illness of pneumonia. He has been one of the leading paleobotanists in Japan and was former the director of Geology and Paleontology Department of the National Science Museum, Tokyo.

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