



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

## IOP NEWSLETTER 91

**April 2010**

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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 2010) the latest by June 15<sup>th</sup>, 2010.**

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: Johanna Eder-Kovar (Germany)

Conference/Congress Member: Harufumi Nishida (Japan)

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

## LETTER FROM THE SECRETARY

### Note from the Secretary

Dear colleagues and friends,

first of all I apologize for the late edition of this issue of the IOP-Newsletter which was largely due to staff change in my office. Though this issue is late, the next will appear within the regular time frame, which is end of June.

Some of you may have recognized in the former issues that the contributions from the different regions are not at all balanced. Since 2008 I (or Jutta Eymann, on my behalf respectively) have regularly sent reminders to the regional representatives to be dispatched further to the individual members. Many thanks to the regional representatives who forwarded these mails to the members in their regions! However, in some regions the members did not obtain these mails. To overcome this problem I propose to adapt this system: I would like to remind all members that the newsletter appears periodically and regularly, end of February, end of June, end of October. Thus the **deadline for submission of contributions is the 15<sup>th</sup> of the respective month of publication (February, June, October)**. Please, **note these dates in your calendar** and keep in mind that the information potential of the Newsletter depends on your contributions.

Meanwhile the Newsletter includes a schedule of forthcoming meetings which is updated regularly. This is very nice offering all of us easy and quick access to essential information that eases for us to plan future participations. I would like to encourage you to supply me actively with meeting announcements. Additionally, it would also be nice if we could include more often short reports on meetings and conferences. So, I would like to thank all of you already in advance for further support to make the IOP-Newsletter an effective tool!

This issue includes some sad as well as some enjoyable news:

With great sorrow we report on the death of two famous palaeobotanists in St. Petersburg, Russia: Sergey Zhilin and Armen Takhtajan.

David L. Dilcher has been awarded the IOP Honorary Membership! My personal congratulation to you, Dave!

Now I wish all of you to enjoy this issue! I am convinced it yields valuable information!

Johanna Eder  
Secretary

## UPCOMING MEETINGS

### **27<sup>th</sup> annual Midcontinent Paleobotanical Colloquium (MPC)**

**(Frostburg State University (FSU), Frostburg, western Maryland, USA; weekend May 28-30, 2010)**

Please see for details Newsletter 89, July 2009.

<http://www.frostburg.edu/27thMPC/>

### **Third International Palaeontological Congress IPC 3 2010**

**(Imperial College and Natural History Museum, London, UK, June 28 - July 3, 2010)**

Please see for details Newsletter 88, Feb 2009.

<http://palass.org>

### **8<sup>th</sup> European Palaeobotany – Palynology Conference (EPPC)**

**(Hungarian Natural History Museum, Budapest, Hungary, July 6-10, 2010)**

Please see for details <http://www.eppc2010.org>.

### **2010 3<sup>rd</sup> International Metasequoia Symposium**

**(Osaka Museum of Natural History, Japan August 3-8, 2010)**

<http://www.mus-nh.city.osaka.jp/english/index.html>

**7th International Triassic Field Workshop  
(Pan-European Correlation of the Triassic)  
Dolomites; Field trip to the World Heritage  
Site of the Tethian Triassic  
(September 5–10, 2010, Dolomites, Southern  
Alps, Italy)**

Contact: Evelyn Kustatscher  
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Bindergasse/Via Bottai 1, I-39100 Bozen/Bolzano  
e-mail: Evelyn.Kustatscher@naturmuseum.it  
tel. 0039 0471 412963 - fax 0039 0471 412969  
The first circular is available under  
<http://trias.geodolomiti.net/> where you are also  
invited to register.

**Carpathian Balkan Geological Association  
(CBGA) XIX International Congress 2010  
(HELEXPO “Nikolaos Germanos” International  
Congress Centre, Thessaloniki, Northern  
Greece, September 23-26, 2010)**

Please see for details Newsletter 88, Feb 2009.  
[www.cbga2010.org](http://www.cbga2010.org)

**Seventh Readings Commemorating A. N.  
Kryshtofovich  
Komarov Botanical Institute, Saint-Petersburg,  
Russia, October 26 – 27, 2010**

The Organizing Committee is pleased to invite you to participate in the next Readings Commemorating A. N. Kryshtofovich. Afrikan Nikolaevich Kryshtofovich (1885 – 1953) was an outstanding Russian palaeobotanist and the founder of the Palaeobotanical Laboratory in Komarov Botanical Institute. The periodicity of the Readings is once in three years. The coming Readings will focus on new research concerning the systematics and the evolution of fossil plants as well as palaeogeography and palaeoclimatology from the Palaeozoic to the Neogene. The official conference language is Russian.

**Deadline for abstracts 31<sup>st</sup> of May, 2010/**

Please, contact Natalia Nosova at [kryshsto@gmail.com](mailto:kryshsto@gmail.com) for further information on the conference

**IBC 2011 - XVIII International Botanical  
Congress, Melbourne, Australia  
23-30 July 2011**

The next IBC to be held in Australia promises a highly interesting and broad scientific program. The field trips will lead to very different ecosystems all over Australia. Here are only some key dates:

- Call of symposia closes 9 April 2010
- Registration open April 2010
- Call for abstracts 1 September 2010
- Close call for abstracts 1 December 2010
- Early bird registration close 1 February 2011
- Deadline for registration by presenters 1 February 2011
- Accommodation Booking Deadline June 2011
- Nomenclature Section 18 – 22 July 2011

Detailed information is available under  
<http://www.ibc2011.com/Default.htm>

**Invitation to the IPC/IOPC 2012 in Tokyo**

Please see for details Newsletter 87, Oct 2008.  
<http://wwwsoc.nii.ac.jp/psj3/ipc13japan/IPC-IOPC/index.html>

**AWARDS**

**David L. Dilcher has been awarded IOP  
Honorary Membership**

We are delighted to announce that Dr. David L. Dilcher has been awarded Honorary Membership in the International Organisation of Palaeobotany the result of a recent vote by the Executive. David is one of our “founding fathers” and has been a consistently active influence in molding the organization throughout its history. Over the past 50 years David has conducted one of the most productive and influential paleobotanical research programs of our time. Working primarily at Indiana University and the University of Florida, David revolutionized our understanding of flowering plant

evolution and has made important contributions to diverse facets of plant palaeontology through extensive international collaborations. Please help us welcome David to the life-time members of IOP. According to the nomination proposal:

“David Dilcher is one of the few surviving “founding fathers” of IOP. He has been a continuously active proponent for, supporter of, and contributor to the formal establishment and ongoing development of IOP for more than 50 years. In addition to being an extremely productive and influential contributor to the development of modern plant paleontology, particularly angiosperm paleobotany, David has worked tirelessly to promote international cooperation and collaboration among workers, and has generated some of the most influential and thought provoking contributions of our lifetime. For those of us who are too young to have participated in the early development of the Organisation, IOP Newsletter No. 4 (August, 1977) reveals that David served as the first North American Regional Representative beginning in 1977. He is among our most eminent and revered colleagues, and is most deserving of the status of Honorary Member of the International Organisation of Palaeobotany.”

Our heartiest congratulations David!

Gar W. Rothwell, Ohio University, USA  
Thomas N. Taylor, University of Kansas, USA

### **Internationally acclaimed Indian palaeobotanists decorated with the Palaeobotanical Society Diamond Jubilee Award**

Palaeobotanical Society, Lucknow, India conferred the **Palaeobotanical Society Diamond Jubilee Award** with a Gold Medal and Citation to the foundation members of the Society and to members who have contributed significantly to the progress of palaeobotanical research and the Society.

Renowned senior scientist of the country and favourer of the Society, Dr. Nitya Anand, Fellow of the Indian National Science Academy, Indian

Academy of Sciences and National Academy of Sciences, India presented the award on 23<sup>rd</sup> November 2009. The celebration was organized in the Auditorium of Birbal Sahni Institute of Palaeobotany, Lucknow, India. Numerous senior and junior palaeobotanists attended to get a glimpse and dialogue with foundation members of the Society and the institute.

The following persons were awarded:

**Prof K.R. Surange:** age of 90 years, student of Prof. Sahni, founding member of the Society, worked with Prof Sahni, served the Society as its Secretary for 15 years i. e. from 1953 to 1968. He was the Director of Birbal Sahni Institute of Palaeobotany from 1951 to 1980 and contributed significantly towards the knowledge of the Carboniferous flora of Europe and Glossopteris flora of Gondwana.

**Dr R. N. Lakhanpal:** age of 85 years, foundation member of the Society, served the Society as its President in 1983, Vice President during 1978-79 and chief editor from 1970-1973. He is a well known Tertiary palaeobotanist. His contribution towards the knowledge of the history of modern plants is very significant.

**Prof B. S. Trivedi:** age of 86 years, foundation member of the Society, served the Society as President during 1981-82, as Vice President from 1975 -1976, contributed significantly towards the knowledge of the fossil flora of central India, he was head of the Botany Department of Lucknow University.

**Dr M N. Bose:** Former Director of the Birbal Sahni Institute of Palaeobotany, served the Society as Vice President in 1984, secretary from 1978-1980, contributed significantly towards the knowledge of Mesozoic palaeobotany.

**Dr H. P. Singh:** Renowned palynologist, served the Society as President from 1992-1994, as secretary from 1983-1988, and as treasurer from 1989-1991.

**Dr R S Tiwari:** Former Director of the Birbal Sahni Institute of Palaeobotany, rendered outstanding services by utilizing palynological data for the correlation of coal seams, served the Society

as Secretary from 1992-1994 and as Chief Editor from 1981-1984.

**Dr N C Mehrotra:** Distinguished palynologist and palynostratigrapher of the country, worked on the age correlation of petroliferous rocks of India, presently President of the Society and Director of the Birbal Sahni Institute of Palaeobotany.

**Prof C. L. Verma:** Worked intensively on the Deccan Intertrappean flora of central India, served the Society as President from 2001-2003 and Vice President from 1998-2000.

**Dr N. Awasthi:** Well known Tertiary palaeobotanist, served the Society as Vice President from 1995-97 and as Chief Editor from 1989-1994.

**Dr S. C. Srivastava:** Gondwana palynologist, served the Society as Secretary from 1989 -1991, Chief Editor from 1995-2000.

**Dr A. K. Srivastava:** Distinguished Gondwana palaeobotanist, initiated research on insect-plant relationship in the fossil flora of India, served the Society as Chief Editor from 2001-2006 and for the last three years as Secretary.

**Dr R. K. Saxena:** Tertiary palynologist, served the Society as secretary from 2001-2006, currently serving the as Treasurer.

**Dr Jayasri Banerji:** Contributed significantly towards the knowledge of the Mesozoic flora, served the Society as Vice President from 2001-2006.

**A.K. Srivastava**

Secretary, Palaeobotanical Society  
Lucknow, INDIA

## **OTHER ITEMS OF INTEREST**

### **Invitation to join The Paleobotanical Section of The Botanical Society of America**

Among other things, The Paleobotanical Section of The Botanical Society of America was established to stress the importance of fossil plants in relation to botanical and geological problems, and to maintain close contacts between botanists and geologists concerned with palaeobotanical research and teaching. We would like to invite all of our

colleagues in the International Organisation of Paleobotany to join us.

Regular membership in the Section is through the Botanical Society of America, but we have an Associate membership category specifically for our international and geological colleagues. Associate members have the privileges associated with attending and participating in the programs of the Section. They receive newsletters, programs, and other incidental materials. Associate members may serve on all committees except the nominating committee, but cannot vote for officers or hold office in the Section. Associate Emeritus Members are ten year or more members of the Section who have retired.

Please consider joining us in The Paleobotanical Section of The Botanical Society of America. Dues are \$16.00 per year for full Associate Members and \$8.00 for Associate Emeritus Members. If you are interested, please send the completed application form (attached below) and check to:

Mike Dunn

Secretary/Treasurer, Paleobotanical Section of BSA.

Department of Biological Sciences

Cameron University

Lawton, Oklahoma 73505

or phone or email me for more information

Ph: 580-581-2287

email: [michaeld@cameron.edu](mailto:michaeld@cameron.edu)

### **Dr. Edgardo Juan Romero designated Consultant Professor at the Buenos Aires University**

We are pleased to announce that Dr. Edgardo Juan Romero has been designated as Consultant Professor at the Buenos Aires University last December.

The process of evaluation required for a Consultant Professor degree considers not only the academic production and teaching career but also the independent acknowledgement of the scientific community, particularly of its most prominent members. That is why we thank all the support

letters received that have greatly helped to achieve this deserved academic acknowledgement.

Members of the Paleobotany and Palynology Laboratory,  
Department of Ecology, Genetics and Evolution  
Buenos Aires University

### **The 27th MPC calls for Intention Letter/ Email and Papers**

If you plan to come to the 27th Midcontinent Paleobotanical Colloquium, May 28-30, 2010, Frostburg, Maryland, USA, please email your intention to Hongqi Li at [hli@frostburg.edu](mailto:hli@frostburg.edu) as soon as possible, since he needs to know how many people may attend the conference so that he can prepare it better for you. If you will present your research on the conference, please submit your paper abstract to him, and register for the conference, before April 16, 2010 to receive a discount. Dr. Gar Rothwell will give a talk, "Contrasting the trees of life and death in the resolution of embryophyte phylogeny," at the banquet on Saturday, May 29, 2010. The field trip will be in a large newly strip-mined area with a lot of freshly exposed compressions and possibly some petrified fossil plants of Pennsylvanian. For more information and new updates of the conference, please visit the website <http://www.frostburg.edu/27thMPC/>.

### **Palynos – Newsletter of the International Federation of Palynological Societies, vol. 39/2**

is now available under  
<http://geo.arizona.edu/palynology/plns0310.pdf>

### **News from members**

Cyrille Prestianni got his PhD in September 2009 at the University of Liège. He joined the Montpellier group in October where he will stay until June 2010. He is working on a Devonian flora of presumed Emsian age from Central Morocco. His current address is

Dr. Cyrille Prestianni  
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France  
Tel: + 33 (0) 4 67 61 75 22  
E-mail: [cyrille.prestianni@cirad.fr](mailto:cyrille.prestianni@cirad.fr)

### **BOOK REVIEW**

#### **L. Yu. Budantsev, L. B. Golovneva, 2010. Fossil flora of the Arctic II. Paleogene flora of Spitsbergen. St.-Petersburg. (in Russian)**

This monograph aims to present an up-to-date account of the fossil plant remains from the Paleogene deposits of Spitsbergen, based on a re-examination of the rich collections of plant megafossils available at the Komarov Botanical Institute (St. Petersburg), Swedish Museum of Natural History (Stockholm), British Museum of Natural History (London), Geological Museum of Copenhagen University and Senckenberg Naturmuseum (Frankfurt).

The fossil flora of Spitsbergen was first described by O. Heer in his classical papers of the 19<sup>th</sup> century (Heer, 1868, 1870, 1876). In these papers, 82 species are described. The Paleogene flora of Spitsbergen consists of three floristic assemblages of different ages: the early Paleocene Barendsburg flora, the late Paleocene-early Eocene Storvola flora and, probably, the late Eocene Renardodden flora.

The taxonomical revision of the Spitsbergen Paleogene flora, and its comparison with other floras from early Tertiary sediments (in Greenland, Ellesmere Island, the British Isles, Alaska and Northeastern Asia) contributes to a more complete understanding of the evolution of the Arcto-Tertiary flora and of migration patterns in the Arctic region. The second part of this paper deals with advances in stratigraphy, palaeophytogeographic reconstructions, and paleobotanical inference of past vegetation and climate.

The free PDF copy of this book is available at <http://files.mail.ru/W5ZJDB>

**L. Golovneva**

**Fossil Plants of the Horseshoe Canyon Formation of Drumheller, Alberta, by Kevin R. Aulenback. University of Calgary Press, Calgary, Alberta, Canada. 376 pp. US \$34.95**

How good it would be if having a book made you feel as if you have a real human guide with you when you go out in the field? "Identification guide to the Fossil Plants of the Horseshoe Canyon Formation of Drumheller, Alberta" is the right answer for everyone who wants to know about fossil plants, especially from the Horseshoe Canyon Formation of Drumheller, Alberta, Canada, one of the world's prominent fossil sites where at least 17 dinosaur genera and scores of other vertebrate, invertebrate, and plant fossils have been discovered. Kevin Aulenback has done a great job in writing this book from his 20 years of experience as a fossil collector and preparator.

The book begins by presenting the geology of the Upper Cretaceous Horseshoe Canyon Formation, then explains the different types of fossilized plants. Previously described as well as new, undescribed fossil plants and their affinities in presented in sequence by phylogenetic position with very nice and colorful photographs of different plant organs such as pollen, leaves, and fruits, for both modern and fossil plants.

In addition to the general information about geology and classification of fossil plants from the Horseshoe Canyon Formation, Aulenback also points to the problems in the interpretation of fossil specimens, and considers the interaction of dinosaurs and plants. He has also added helpful information through an extensive glossary and references. Suggested readings at the end of his book provide the reader with additional information and more details as to the site and the fossil content. This book is not only for paleobotanists, but for those, including beginners, who are interested in learning more about plant fossils, especially in an

understanding of the Horseshoe Canyon Formation flora.

The photographs help the reader to see the numerous specimens closely in detailed anatomical structure. These details provide a better idea of the various fossil plants that have been discovered. In many ways it is like bringing the readers to the site. This book provides a better understanding of the link between fossil plants and their ecological setting. Aulenback has even mentioned the reconstruction of past environments of the site based on the paleoflora and fauna. It would be better if there were an illustration of the reconstructed environment so the readers may see clearer an image how the past environment looked like. The size of the book is not so small, but not too big. It is convenient to carry in the field with you.

The photographs do not have scale bars associated with the specimens, although sizes for the macrofossils are frequently provided within the text. Magnifications would be useful for comparative purposes, especially in the case of light and scanning electron microscopy (SEM). Knowing the size of the specimen is often helpful for identification. For example, some pollen of different genera have very similar shapes and it can be difficult to separate them without size information. Although none of the pollen or spore photographs have scale bars, the reader could obtain size data for the palynomorphs through Srivastava (1970) and the references therein\*.

This book is more than just a field guide. If you are interested and fascinated by plant fossils, you won't be disappointed in being the owner of this very well written and illustrated book.

Nareerat Boonchai, Doctoral student, Jilin University.

\*Srivastava, S.K. 1970. Pollen biostratigraphy and paleoecology of the Edmonton Formation (Maastrichtian), Alberta, Canada. *Paleogeography, Paleoclimatology, Paleoecology* 7: 221-276.

## OBITUARIES

### In memoriam Armen Leonovich Takhtajan

November 13<sup>th</sup>, 2009: In St. Petersburg, Russia, at the age of 99, the recognised botanist, palaeobotanist, and evolutionary biologist Armen Leonovich Takhtajan passed away. More than half of his long life and big part of his fruitful scientific career, he spent in St. Petersburg.

Armen Takhtajan was born on June, 10<sup>th</sup> 1910 as son of an Armenian intellectual family in the town of Shushi (Nagorno Karabakh). (At that time Shushi was a cultural and commercial centre in Armenia within the Russian Empire.) After his first education in Tbilisi he learned and studied in Yerevan as well as in Tbilisi and later he lived and worked in Armenia and in Russia.

Worldwide, Armen Takhtajan is recognised as a famous expert of plant systematics. But not to all specialists he is familiar as palaeobotanist. In the 1930-ies during a journey to St. Petersburg (Leningrad at that time) he met the palaeobotanists I.V. Palibin, A.V. Yarmolenko, and K.K. Shaparenko. Later, in Armenia and Georgia, he took part in several palaeobotanical expeditions. Already at that time Armen Leonovich argued that the understanding of the phylogeny of higher plants necessarily requires comparative morphology and related disciplines, as well as palaeobotanical investigations. In 1943 he founded the Department of Evolutionary Morphology and Palaeobotany at the Botanical Institute of the Armenian Academy of Sciences in Yerevan. This was the beginning of systematic palaeobotanical research in Armenia. Soon, he published numerous botanical and palaeobotanical papers. In 1948 the totalitarian Soviet regime recognized in the academic an “enemy” of the socialist system. He lost his position as Director of the Botanical Institute of the Armenian Academy of Sciences, as well as the chair at the Department for Higher Plants at the Biological Faculty of the Armenian University and the presidentship in the Armenian Geographical Society. At this time he left Armenia which saved him from ineluctable detention and unanticipated prosecution. In Moscow and later in Leningrad he started again to devote himself to science. In 1949

he got already a chair at the Faculty of Biology and Agrology of the University of Leningrad. In 1950 he published *Phylogenetic system of higher plants. Flowering plants: origin and dispersal* followed 1954 in Russian and later was published in English (1969), in German (1973), and in Danish (1976).

In 1954, soon after the death of the famous palaeobotanist A.N. Kryshtofovich, Armen Leonovich became head of the Palaeobotanical Department of the Komarov Botanical Institute which he led successfully for more than 30 years until 1987. Soon he also became director of the institute teaching also at the Leningrad University. Working in Leningrad he became member of the Academies of Sciences of the Armenian SSR and the Soviet SSR. Besides this, he was awarded member of the Indian Palaeobotanical Society and received many Soviet and international awards.

The time Armen Leonovich spent in Armenia he studied fossil floras of different ages, always ready to support and develop further the palaeobotanical school in Armenia. He supervised the PhD thesis of Nata Gokhtuni about the Sarmatian flora of Hrazdan near Yerevan, which has been discovered by A. Takhtajan. In 2005 he donated his huge library to the Armenian Academy of Sciences. Fortunately, in 2008 Armen Leonovich promoted the foundation of the Palaeobotanical Museum in the Institute of Botany in Yerevan supported by the “Volkswagenstiftung”. The first collections of fossil plants made by A.L. Takhtajan, the collections of N. Gokhtuni as well as of Sergey Zhilin, and their joint student Ivan Gabrielyan are essential collections of the museum.

Certainly Armen Leonovich performed most of his investigations in St. Petersburg. Continuing the tradition of his predecessors in palaeobotany of the former Russian Empire and the following Soviet Union - M.D. Zalesski, S. W. Meyen, I.V. Palibin, V.N. Sukachev, A.N. Kryshtofovich, and others – he gradually developed the direction in palaeobotany in the Soviet Union and especially the taxonomical school essential for taxonomical investigations of fossil floras as well as for the study of selected systematic groups and the understanding of phylogeny (Zhilin, S. 1998. Academic scientific school of St. Petersburg).

Though Armen Takhtajan's phylogenetic system recently has been superseded by the work of the Angiosperm Phylogeny Group, his influence will never be forgotten.

Armen Takhtajan also edited two palaeobotanical volumes of *Osnovy paleontologii*, volumes 14 and 15 (in 1963), five volumes of *Paleobotaniki* (Trudy Botanitsheskogo Instituta Akademii Nauk SSSR, ser. VIII (1956-1967)).

As Director of the Komarov Botanical Institute he organized the publication of "*Iskopaemie tsvetkovie rastenia SSSR*" (*Fossil flowering plants of the SSSR*) and edited its first two volumes (1974, 1982). Armen Takhtajan described numerous new fossil plant species and several new species have been named in honour of him.

Though Armen Leonovich reached the age of 99, his long dream to write a book on the system of fossil flowering plants remained unfulfilled - so he confessed to his friends only three years ago.

Armen Takhtajan was buried in the Armenian part of the Smolensk cemetery in St. Petersburg. We will keep him in good commemoration.

Ivan Gabrielyan (Yerevan), Johanna Kovar-Eder (Stuttgart)

### In memoriam Sergey Glebovich Zhilin

Sergey Glebovich Zhilin, Russian palaeobotanist of the Komarov Botanical Institute in St. Petersburg passed away in a Cordial Clinic on February 3, 2009, at the age of 77. Sergey had severe health problems that got worse over the past months.

Sergey Zhilin was born in Leningrad in 1932. He graduated from Leningrad State University as botanist and palaeobotanist in 1964. During his study he had got stratigraphical, palynological, and geological experience at the Geological Institute, working in several geological expeditions in Kazakhstan. On materials collected in the Turgai region in 1968 he defended his Ph. D. Thesis "*Oligocene Flora of Ustyurt*" under the academician Armen Takhtajan. In cooperation with colleagues many works in modern botany were produced. In particular, he was an editor and author of articles of a multi-volume edition of "*The Life of*



*Plants*". But lifelong Sergey Zhilin was involved in various aspects of palaeobotany. Initially, he continued his study of Kazakh Cretaceous and Tertiary floras. He organized expeditions and made very extensive collections (1965 - 1996). Sergey Zhilin significantly contributed to the study of fossil plants of the former USSR (Russia and Kazakhstan, as well as, in part, Armenia, Ukraine, and Abkhazia), as well as China. Since 1969, A. L. Takhtajan invited him to participate in the editorial and research work on "*Fossil flowering plants of the USSR*". Sergey Zhilin spent a lot of work identifying the generic names of fossil plants published in regional publications. More than 200, mainly Palaeozoic and Mesozoic, generic names have been published by him in a three-volume *Index Nominum Genericorum (Plantarum)*, 1979. Very important is his book "*Tertiary Flora of Ustyurt*" (1974), which summarized the first results of the study of the so-called "Turgai palaeofloras". Later Zhilin published two more books: "*The main stages of the temperate forest flora in the Oligocene - early Miocene of Kazakhstan*" (1984) and "*History of Development of the Temperate Forest Flora in Kazakhstan, U.S.S.R. from the Oligocene to the Early Miocene*" (published in New York 1989). The Turgai floristic complex was divided into five, faunistically well dated, phases of development (Zhilin, 1999, Zhilin, 2001), which allows comparing them with very accurately stratified palaeofloristic complexes established by V. P. Nikitin (1998) for Western Siberia. Sergey Zhilin

also found palaeogeographical and stratigraphical boundaries of the Turgai palaeoflora. In recent years, since 1990, he got especially interested in anatomy and ultrastructure of fossil plants, as well as of the idea to find fossil deoxyribonucleic acid remnants in fossil leaves that are 20-50 million years old. Professionally, Sergey Zhilin had served as an executive committee member for several societies, including the Botanical and Palaeontological Societies of Russia, the Palaeogene Committee, and member of the editorial board of the Botanical Journal.

Sergey Zhilin was a thoroughly educated man, very interested in many fields. He wrote a lot of biographical articles, traced the history of palaeobotanical schools in Russia and the botanical school of his teacher, Armen Takhtajan. Much he did for the protection and conservation of localities of fossil plants. In addition to palaeobotany, he wrote articles for onomastics, poems, he had extensive knowledge of literature, history, and the work of many artists. Communicating with him was always interesting and enriching. He died several days before his 78-th birthday. We will keep him in good commemoration.

Sergey Vikhulin (St. Petersburg)

## CHANGES OF ADDRESS

**David Dilcher** wrote: I have retired, changed my email address to [paleoleo@yahoo.com](mailto:paleoleo@yahoo.com), and moved out of the Florida Museum of Natural History and am working from home before moving to Bloomington, Indiana this May or June. My home address until we move to Indiana is 525 N.E. Blvd, Gainesville, FL 32601, USA. I was a professor of paleobotany at Indiana University for 24 years (1966 to 1990) and my wife and I have many friends and a farm in Indiana. We look forward to living there and I expect to associate with Indiana University, maintain some activity in paleobotany (especially unfinished projects and work in China) and work at my farm during the next several years.

Véronique Daviero and Bernard Gomez' new address is

5125, bâtiment Géode

Université Claude Bernard Lyon 1

2 rue Raphaël Dubois

69622 Villeurbanne cedex.

Tél: + 33 (0) 4 72 43 12 64

E-mail: [veronique.daviero@univ-lyon1.fr](mailto:veronique.daviero@univ-lyon1.fr);

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