

# IOP NEWSLETTER

## 1 1976

### INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION OF PALAEOBOTANY

PRESIDENT JAMES M SCHOPF COLUMBUS OHIO USA

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EDITOR HANS TRALAU THE SWEDISH MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY 104 05 STOCKHOLM SWEDEN

## Editor's note

Dear Friends,

During the XII INTERNATIONAL BOTANICAL CONGRESS one of the meetings of the IOP at Gorki House of Scientists in Leningrad in July last year decided, that the organization should publish a newsletter. The Secretary General, newly elected at the same occasion, was asked to act as the editor. In this place I need not give any further details about the agenda of the meeting, as this is done by our former Secretary General below. However, it seems proper to me to dwell upon the newsletter matter.

There was a general feeling, that there is a need for an international newsletter covering palaeobotany the world over. As you all know, there is a limited number of regional palaeobotanical newsletters serving areas such as Central-Europe or South America, or those confining themselves to angiosperms or to palynology. The aim of this newsletter is not to compete with any of them, but to constitute a real international link among palaeobotanists, needless to say palaeopalynologists included.

I would like to call this first newsletter a compromise, formed as it is of the present material and the general intent of the editor, and I do hope, that the correspondents will be more numerous in the future. Several correspondents have been elected already during the Leningrad meeting, many have later offered their co-operation. So I hope that the following newsletters will contain more information than the present one.

The headings of the chapters in this newsletter, however, I hope will be found again also in most of the following news-

letters. For instance, although reviews of books can be found in several journals deposited in palaeobotanical libraries, palaeobotanical publications of general interest have a given place in this newsletter. Requests for material and, even more current project lists seem to constitute an important part of a newsletter. I hope that this part of the newsletter will become a main source of information and its most important part. Furthermore there are plans for a WORLD DIRECTORY OF PALAEOBOTANY. Forms, which accompany this newsletter will be used as a base of information for this directory, if filled in properly and returned in good time. Sooner or later we will also have to discuss the problem of a periodical palaeobotanical bibliography, since the World Report will no longer be published owing to lack of financial support and too few customers.

When I accepted to act as the newsletter's editor in Leningrad in July last year, I promised that the first newsletter would be sent out within two months or so. Though I was weary and unwell I did not know the real condition of my health situation at that time, which was worse than I ever expected. Alas, this is the reason why the first number of this newsletter is so unduly delayed and I think that I should inform the readers about this fact. Now, however, I hope to receive innumerable contributions for the following issues from the newsletter correspondents and I also wish to express my gratitude for the communications sent for this newsletter.

HANS TRALAU

## Organizational news

REPORT ON MEETINGS OF THE INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION OF PALAEOBOTANY DURING THE INTERNATIONAL BOTANICAL CONGRESS, LENINGRAD, JULY, 1975.

I am writing in my capacity as retiring secretary of the IOP to summarize the decisions taken at two meetings of the IOP during the 12th International Botanical Congress in Leningrad.

Prior to the meeting, the retiring President, Prof. H. P. BANKS (Cornell) and I had circulated some 100 American (BANKS) and 30 European (CHALONER) palaeobotanists with a call for nominations for a new executive committee, and with an explanation of some of the problems facing the IOP. An agenda for the Leningrad meeting was published in *Taxon* (1975), 24 (3), pp 396-397 shortly before the Congress.

Unfortunately Prof. H. P. BANKS had to return to the USA for personal reasons, before the IOP meeting scheduled for the evening of 6 July. The meeting was convened in the Gorki House of Scientists, and was attended by some 50 palaeobotanists. The Executive Committee was represented only by ED. BOUREAU, A. TAKHTAJAN and W. G. CHALONER. J. CANRIGHT took the chair, acting on behalf of, and at the request of, Prof. H. P. BANKS.

Proceedings were conducted in English, with translation into Russian.

The Proceedings were opened by our recording the passing of a number of members of the IOP since the Seattle Congress. The meeting stood briefly in tribute to: Dr. ISABEL COOKSON (Australia), Prof. RALF W. CHANEY (USA), Dr. EMILY DIX (Britain), Dr. JACQUES DANZÉ (France), Prof. ALFRED EISENACK (Germany), Prof. GUNNAR ERDTMAN (Sweden), Dr. JEAN HUARD (France), Prof. J. HARLAN JOHNSON (USA), Prof. SHIGERU MIKI (Japan), Prof. R. POTONIÉ (Germany), Prof. W. SZAFER (Poland), Dr. A. TOURATANOVA-KETOVA (Poland), Prof. JOHN WALTON (Britain) and Prof. H. WEYLAND (Germany).

The meeting went on to consider a report submitted by the President. CHALONER introduced this by summarizing BANKS' letter, circulated to IOP members. CANRIGHT then read BANKS' proposals for action, drawn up in Leningrad. These, briefly, proposed a new executive composed of named regional representatives of national or regional bodies, and proposed institution of a Newsletter, to be published in *Taxon* with a subscription (independent of IAPT membership) of approximately \$ 10 per annum.

Heated discussion followed, ranging over the purpose of IOP, the problems of the high cost of IAPT membership (in subscribing to *Taxon*), the cost of the *World Report of Palaeobotany*, and possible solutions to the problem. The meeting was evidently not prepared to accept a single solution to these problems linked to a slate of executive members.

The meeting finally voted to adjourn, and an informal discussion ensued, under the chairmanship of CHALONER. An ad hoc working party was then nominated and duly elected to propose, at some future meeting of IOP, (a) a slate of executive candidates and (b) proposals for future activities of IOP.

The formal meeting of IOP was then reconvened, formally adopted the proposals of the informal meeting, and adjourned.

The ad hoc working party, consisting of ED. BOUREAU, W.G. CHALONER, N.F. HUGHES, I. LEMOIGNE, S. MEYEN, H. TRALAU and J.M. SCHOPF, met on 7 July, and drew up proposals subsequently presented as their unanimous report to a further meeting of IOP.

The IOP met at a second and final meeting at the Gorki House of Scientists on 8 July. A somewhat smaller group of members were present.

The ad hoc committee had proposed an executive committee of ten members (see appendix). This was adopted nem con. One of the prime functions of IOP has been the continued production of the World Report. Although supported by an IUBS subvention, this had not covered the cost of production which had, in effect, been subsidised by IAPT. The small circulation had necessitated a high subscription rate, even for IAPT members. Many palaeobotanists were not, in any case, members of IAPT. IAPT are no longer able to continue this subsidy, and the MS for the next part of the World Report prepared by BOUREAU has no immediate prospect of being published. The ad hoc committee had therefore been concerned to propose some process whereby members of IOP might at least gain access to available regional bibliographies of palaeobotany.

The ad hoc committee accordingly proposed that a primary function of the IOP executive should be to arrange the circulation of a duplicated Newsletter to be distributed by the incoming secretary, HANS TRALAU. To cover costs of this production a levy of \$4 (US) would be called for. TRALAU subsequently expressed the hope that an initial newsletter

would be circulated free of charge in order to solicit contributions and to stimulate circulation of subsequent parts.

The newsletter should contain any information on regional bibliographies, from whom they could be obtained, and their price. It should also give notice of any future meetings of palaeobotanical interest and brief reports on those recently held. It might also carry reviews of relevant publications, and any other short items of interest to palaeobotanists.

It was hoped that members of the executive would act both as regional 'reporters' for this Newsletter, and also to solicit help from colleagues within their region in giving as full a coverage of palaeobotanical matters as possible. The ad hoc committee had proposed executive members with this pattern of activity in mind.

The various problems enumerated in pre-Congress circulars (particularly, the matters of affiliation to other international bodies, and the possible revision of the statutes of IOP) were referred to the new executive.

A motion of thanks to Prof. BOUREAU for his tireless and enthusiastic work in the production of the World Report over the years since the Paris Congress was passed with acclamation.

WILLIAM G. CHALONER

Department of Botany  
Birkbeck College  
Malet Street  
LONDON WC1  
England

(This report has also been submitted to IUBS.)

## REPORT TO THE IAPT COMMITTEE FOR FOSSIL PLANTS

The Committee met in Leningrad as scheduled during the nomenclatural sessions, 30 June-4 July, 1975 in the Gorky Hall of Scientists, an old grand-ducal palace on the Neva River, near the Winter Palace. Unfortunately, a rather small number of members of the Committee were able to attend its sessions (Drs. MEYEN, SNIGIREVSKAYA, FAEGRI, SCHOPF, and TRAVERSE). However, in keeping with tradition (since 1950) of the Committee, palaeobotanists other than Committee members were permitted to attend as observers (Drs. KRASILOV, ZHILIN, and PICH SERMOLLI). The range of opinions expressed by Committee members and observers represented most poles of opinion on all of the subjects discussed.

In general, the final report of the Committee was in accord with the report published by your secretary in Taxon (24: 2/3:387-394, May, 1975). Several additional matters were taken up in the final report, however. The appendix to this report presents a xerox copy of the final report submitted at Leningrad, including the preliminary statement published in Taxon.

The two most significant changes in the present Code that your Committee successfully recommended to the Bureau of Nomenclature were: 1) The emendation of Art. 42, as proposed by JAN JANSONIUS, to eliminate the special requirement that for fossil plants (post 1 Jan., 1953) a combined specific-generic description of a monotypic genus must be referred to the genus (not the species). Elimination of this former proviso of the Code brings fossil plant nomenclature into line with botanical nomenclature in general, which has been the aim of your Committee at least since the Paris Congress of 1954. Since the new wording is retroactive, names of a few genera published with a combined generic-specific description since 1 Jan., 1953, not validly published per 1972 ICBN, will now be validly published. 2) Elimination from the Code (e.g., Article 3) of the concept of "organ-genus". This concept has been the source of constant debate and the cause of frequent suggestions for modification of the code. At this congress there were three proposals for changes in the definition of organ-genus vs. form-genus. Since the Seattle Congress your secretary has perhaps received as much correspondence touching more or less on this subject as on all others combined. It was agreed in Leningrad that this matter is really taxonomic, not nomenclatural, and that its removal from the Code will facilitate discussion of the more essential questions of natural relationship and bring palaeobotanical definitions in the Code

more closely in line with those of botany at large.<sup>1</sup> We were fortunate in having with us in Leningrad one of the original framers of the organ-genus concept (J.M. SCHOPF), who could interpret its history for us. Another member (K. FAEGRI) of the Committee who has published ideas on the matter framed the wording of the actual proposal we brought to the floor of the nomenclatural sessions.

The Committee has been reorganized for its work between now and the 13th International Botanical Congress, scheduled for Sydney, Australia, in 1981. W.G. CHALONER has agreed to become chairman. ALFRED TRAVERSE continues as secretary. J.M. SCHOPF, who has served as chairman from 1964-1975, will fortunately remain on the Committee in an "elder states-man" role. The IAPT nominating Committee added to the previous Committee Drs. KRASILOV and MCHEDLISHVILI. Dr. BOLKHOVITINA, as you all know, has died. Appendix 2 is a list of the present Committee, pending formal acceptance of invitations extended by the Rapporteur-General (FRANS STAFLEU).

It is to be hoped that a larger percentage of our members can attend the Sydney Congress than made it to Leningrad. It will remain true, of course, that most of our regular Committee business is transacted by mail.

It will be noted that some names proposed for conservation have been held over for consideration between now and 1981. In general, the Committee seems to favor a conservative policy on conservation, perhaps agreeing that, for example, a change of names required by homonymy is in most cases not so general a nuisance as further extension of the list of Nomina conservanda in the ICBN.

Perhaps Committee members can help to spread the word

<sup>1</sup> For those who wish to continue to speak of organ-genera, the definition given in McVAUGH, et al. (An annotated glossary of botanical nomenclature, Regnum Vegetabile vol. 56, 1968, p. 20) still holds and serves to emphasize that our change at Leningrad was not as dramatic as appears at first glance:

Organ genus. A genus of fossil plants, assignable to a family, of which the characters are derived principally from a single organ. Since organ genera are assignable to a family, they do not differ fundamentally from genera as ordinarily construed; but see form-genus (Art. 3).

that a major source of difficulty in handling proposals for conservation has been the form of presentation of such proposals. A standard format is shown in the Code (See 1972 ICBN, pp. 376-377), in which references are much condensed. This format for the proposed conserved name should appear in the proposal (which must be published in *Taxon*, preferably well before the next Congress). Proposals also must be painstakingly accurate in the detailed bibliographic information provided. Type designation for both the proposed conserved name, and for the name or names to be rejected must be included. Of course, the supporting argument for conservation must also be presented, but it is not sufficient merely to call attention to a name really or possibly in jeopardy. Proposals lacking required information invite rejection. Part of the reason for this attitude is certainly our Committee's experience--two of the conservation statements in our pre-

sent quite short list (viz., *Cordiaianthus* and *Glossopteris*) have recently been found to include errors in typification of the rejected names.

ALFRED TRAVERSE

Secretary

I.A.P.T. Committee for Fossil Plants

#### REPORT ON AN INFORMATIONAL MEETING ON THE INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR ANGIOSPERM PALAEOBOTANY HELD AT THE XII INTERNATIONAL BOTANICAL CONGRESS, LENINGRAD.

The meeting was called to order at 18:45 hrs., July 9, 1975 in the Tauride Palace with at least thirty-two attending and presided over by myself.

This was an informational meeting called to acquaint those interested in angiosperm palaeobotany with the fact that a formal group having these goals had been established at the "Second Colloquium on Palaeobotany and Palynology" in Mexico on September 27, 1974; and attempting to outline reasons for the Association and its goals (as outlined in the literature accompanying a "Preliminary Application for Membership" distributed during the Botanical Congress). I presented this information to the group; answered several questions concerned with the justification for a new special interest group; and urged those present to return their applications. No further substantive business was accomplished at this meeting however; particularly not those points for action outlined by Dr. WEBER in his letter to Dr. VASSILEV nor those outlined on p. 4-5 of Newsletter no. 1 of the Association, dated April, 1975.

In particular the Russian and East European participants emphasized the need for international recognition for the

Association by IOP, IUP, or the Botanical Congress before any discussion of dues or the appointment of regional correspondents could take place. They also cited the impossibility of transferring Ruble Bloc currencies out of the area. In addition several colleagues from Eastern European countries emphasized that they could not exchange any scientific information, except printed papers, with any individual or organization. Several indicated that this stricture extended to filling out and return of the preliminary membership application.

The meeting adjourned at 19:30 hours.

LEO J. HICKEY

Smithsonian Institution  
Washington DC 20560  
USA

## Forthcoming conferences etc.

### BOWLING GREEN GEOBOTANY CONFERENCE

This GEOBOTANY CONFERENCE will take place on February 21, 1976, at Bowling Green State University, Bowling Green, Ohio 43403. The theme of the meeting will be Geobotany, an integrating experience. Invited papers in the areas of palaeobotany, palynology, and ecology will be presented, in addition to papers submitted by interested participants. If you wish to be placed on the mailing list for further information, please notify:

Dr. ROBERT C. ROMANS, Department of Biological Sciences, Bowling Green State University, Bowling Green, Ohio 43403, USA.

MEETING OF EUROPEAN PALAEOBOTANISTS (Palaeobotanical group of the Linnean Society and the Arbeitskreis für Paläobotanik und Palynologie).

A "Meeting of European palaeobotanists" will take place in Bonn April, 5th-10th, 1976. There will be excursions on separate days to Devonian and Tertiary localities and contributed papers on two days. The papers should be of 30 minutes duration only. The meeting is being organized by the Palaeobotanical Group of the Linnean Society of London and the Arbeitskreis für Paläobotaniker Deutschlands; secretaries Dr. P.D.W. BARNARD, University of

Reading and Dr. F. SCHARSCHMIDT, Senckenberg Museum, Frankfurt a.M.

For further particulars please write to:

Dr. Professor H.-J. SCHWEITZER, 53 Bonn, Nussallee 8, Institute of Palaeontology, Western Germany.

### 37TH BIOLOGY COLLOQUIUM AT CORVALLIS, OREGON

The 37th Biology Colloquium is being sponsored by Oregon State University and will be held on April 23-24, 1976, in Corvallis. The purpose of the Colloquium is to interpret the fossil record in terms of evaluating plate tectonics and changing environments of the past. As in the past, Oregon State University will publish a Proceedings Volume on the Colloquium. Information circular No. 1 for the Colloquium has been mailed to selected individuals and copies are available on request.

For further information write to:

Professor JANE GRAY  
Department of Biology  
University of Oregon  
Eugene, Oregon 97403  
USA

## MEETING OF THE PALAEOBOTANICAL SECTION OF THE BOTANICAL SOCIETY OF AMERICA.

Meetings of the Palaeobotanical Section of the Botanical Society of America will be held with the Am. Inst. of Biol. Sci. (AIBS) May 30-June 4, 1976 at Tulane University, New Orleans. We will have 52 contributed papers on Palaeobotany over a broad spectrum of topics. Also we will co-sponsor a symposium "Taxonomic and morphological relationships of the Psilotaceae". A post meeting field trip to Tertiary localities in east Texas is planned.

The three day field trip departing 8:00 a.m., Thursday, 3 June, Tulane University, New Orleans, La., front of Student Union. Travel by air-conditioned bus to east Texas to collect plant fossils from Early Tertiary locality. Other plant bearing sites will also be visited. The trip will end at the Houston Airport on Saturday, 5 June. Individuals wishing to return to New Orleans with the bus may do so at no extra charge. Two nights will be spent in a motel and a box lunch will be available on the first day. Cost includes transportation, housing for two nights and a box lunch. Leaders: Dr. T. DELEVORYAS and Dr. C. P. DAGHLIAN, Dept. of Botany, University of Texas, Austin, Texas. Dr. D. DILCHER, Dept. of Plant Sciences, Indiana University, Bloomington, Indiana 47401. For further information and reservations contact Dr. DILCHER. Please enclose entire cost with reservation. Limit 46 people.

## NORTH AMERICAN PALEONTOLOGICAL CONVENTION II - SYMPOSIUM ON COMMUNITY PALEOECOLOGY

The Organizing Committee of the Second North American Paleontological Convention to be held in Lawrence, Kansas, August 8-10, 1977, has asked us to put together a Symposium on Community Paleoeecology. The Symposium is to be one of the two general interest sessions; there will be no concurrent sessions. It is scheduled for 8:30-12:00 p.m., Wednesday, August 10, and will be the final session of the Convention.

We have two intents: 1) To solicit papers from all active scientists working on topics in the area of Community Paleoeecology and closely allied subjects for inclusion in a published volume which will document the current status of work in Community Paleoeecology and be the principal reference on this topic, and 2) to select from among the contributors to the Volume those papers for oral presentation that we feel will provide as generally balanced a 3 1/2 hour program as possible. We anticipate oral presentations of approximately 20 minutes. Written manuscripts will be restricted to 30 pages, including estimated space for illustrations.

This Information Circular is being sent to all of those active contributors in the field of Community Paleoeecology with whom we are familiar. Suggestions for potential contributors are welcome.

W. B. N. BERRY, University of California  
Berkeley  
A. J. BOUCOT, Oregon State University  
Corvallis  
JANE GRAY, University of Oregon  
Eugene

For further information write to:

Professor JANE GRAY  
Department of Biology  
University of Oregon  
Eugene, Oregon 97403  
USA

## 10TH QUATERNARY RESEARCH CONGRESS

The Tenth International Congress of the International Union for Quaternary Research will take place in Birmingham, Great Britain, from August 16-24, 1977.

The Congress will be sponsored by the Royal Society. All correspondence and requests for information should be addressed to:

Dr. W. G. JARDINE  
Secretary-General X INQUA Congress  
Department of Geology  
University of Glasgow  
Glasgow G 12 8QQ Scotland  
Great Britain

## 4TH SYMPOSIUM ON RECENT AND FOSSIL MARINE DIATOMS

The Fourth Symposium on Recent and Fossil Marine Diatoms will be arranged by the Department of Marine Biology and Limnology, University of Oslo, Norway, 30 August - 3 September 1976. Scientists working in the fields of ecology, biostratigraphy, and taxonomy of marine diatoms are invited to attend and to present papers or demonstrate their work in a poster session. The size of the meeting and the number of papers included in the programme may have to be limited. The deadline for preliminary registration and submission of titles of contributed papers and demonstrations was 10 December 1975. For further information write to:

Dr. G. R. HASLE,  
Department of Marine Biology and Limnology,  
Section of Marine Botany,  
University of Oslo,  
P.O. Box 1069 Blindern,  
Oslo 3,  
Norway.

## MEETING OF THE PALAEOONTOLOGICAL SECTION AT THE 25TH INTERNATIONAL GEOLOGICAL CONGRESS

A meeting of the Palaeontological Section will take place during the 25th International Geological Congress, 16 - 25th August 1976, in Sydney, Australia. For further information please write to:

The Secretary-General  
Dr. A. RENWICK  
P.O. Box 1892  
Canberra City ACT 2601  
Australia

## 4TH INTERNATIONAL PALYNOLOGICAL CONFERENCE

The Fourth International Conference will be held at Lucknow, India, from December 29, 1976, to January 5, 1977. The first circular was issued in April, 1974. Those who wish to obtain this circular or any further information should write to:

The Secretary-General  
IV International Palynological Conference  
53, University Road  
Lucknow-226007, India

## 1977 CIMP MEETING

The General Assembly of CIMP (Commission Internationale de Microflora du Paleozoique) will be held at Leon, Spain, in the second half of September, 1977. The programme for the meeting will be announced in January, 1976. In addition to the scientific sessions, two excursions are planned: one to collect Cambrian through Mesozoic palyniferous localities in northern Spain, and a second, general interest excursion to Galacia, Asturias and Leon. The meeting and excursions are being organized by the Instituto de Investigaciones Palinologicas, Fundacion de la Caja de Ahorros y Mante de Piedad de Leon, Apartado 244, Leon, Apsin.

For further information write to:

Professor FRITZ H. CRAMER  
Instituto de Investigaciones Palinologicas  
Apartado 244  
Leon  
Spain

## Request for material

### ARAUCARIAN CONES

Fossil araucarian cones wanted for continued embryological studies. Please contact:

RUTH A. STOCKEY  
Department of Botany  
The Ohio State University  
1735 Neil Avenue  
Columbus Ohio 43210 USA

# Current projects

JOHN DOUGLAS, Supervising Geologist of the Geological Survey of Victoria has sent us the following report on current research work in Australia. We are grateful for this communication, though, as he says, "this is by no means a complete list of work, but, I hope, something useful". Thank you very much, Jack. You are welcome to complete the report later.

UNIVERSITY OF QUEENSLAND, Dept. of Geology:

CLINTON FOSTER continues his Ph.D. study on the Upper Permian palynology of the Theodore region, Bowen Basin, and is completing a systematic study of the miospores of the Blair Athol Coal Measures.

GEOFF. PLAYFORD is continuing detailed palynological study of Carboniferous sediments in the Canning, Carnarvon and Drummond Basins.

JOHN WEBB will shortly be commencing a Ph.D. project on the Ipswich flora of south-east Queensland. He currently has a short-term appointment in Borneo with Union Oil Corporation.

UNIVERSITY OF QUEENSLAND, Department of Botany:

CHRIS BELL is completing Ph.D. studies on aspects of Quaternary and modern palynology in south-east Queensland.

GEOLOGICAL SURVEY OF QUEENSLAND, Palynology Section:

NOEL DE JERSEY is continuing his work on the Triassic and early Jurassic of the Bowen Basin. His paper "Miospore zones in the Lower Mesozoic of the south-eastern Queensland" delivered at the recent Gondwana Symposium is now in press.

JOHN RIGBY continues work on the Galilee Basin. A paper (with HEINZ HEKEL as joint author) on the Permian palynology from G.S.Q. stratigraphic boreholes on the Springsure section of the Bowen Basin is in preparation.

UNIVERSITY OF NEW ENGLAND, Armidale, N.S.W.:

ROD GOULD continues his work collecting and sectioning Palaeozoic petrified plants, with some exciting discoveries in the Upper Devonian and Carboniferous; work on Permian petrified material from the Bowen Basin is supported by an ARGC grant. GREG. RETALLACK is studying the Triassic Dicroidium flora, including floral changes at the Permian-Triassic boundary, from the Sydney Basin.

GEOLOGICAL SURVEY OF TASMANIA:

ROBIN HELBY reports the presence of well-preserved and diverse Early Stage 2 microfloras from the Andersons Creek (Beaconsfield) Borehole. They are associated with a faunizone 1 Streptorhynchus - Cyrtella assemblage, and are identical with the microfloras associated with the elongata zone at Cranky Corner. ELIZABETH KEMP reports another probable Stage 1 microflora from the Wynyard Tillite together with rare specimens of the acritarch Veryhachium, and is currently processing samples from a number of other localities.

GEOLOGICAL SURVEY OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA:

WAYNE K. HARRIS is continuing studies on environmental parameters affecting the distribution of dinoflagellate cysts in the southern Australian early Tertiary. He delivered a paper on this theme to the Specialists Group meeting in Hobart.

Papers published recently:

"Tertiary non-marine dinoflagellate cyst assemblage from Australia", Spec. Publ. Geol. Soc. Aust. 4: 159-66.

"Palynology of Paleocene sediments at Site 214, Ninetyeast Ridge", Init. Repts. Deep Sea Drilling Project 22: 503-519.

"The Lower Tertiary Eyre Formation of the southwestern Great Artesian Basin", J. Geol. Soc. Aust. 21: 17-52 (with H. WOPFNER and R.A. CALLEN), and

"S.A.G. Cootanoorina No. 1 Well. Upper Palaeozoic and Lower Cretaceous micropalaeontology". S. Aust. Dept. Mines Rept. Investig. 40 (with B. McGOWRAN).

UNIVERSITY OF ADELAIDE, Department of Botany:

In addition to R. T. LANGE and E. M. WOLLASTON, who continue to supervise post-graduate research in palaeobotany, the Department has gained further strength with the appointment of D. C. CHRISTOPHEL. D. C. CHRISTOPHEL took his Ph.D. in the University of Alberta, Canada, with a thesis entitled: "An investigation of the fossil floras of the Smoky Tower Locality, Alberta", and was appointed lecturer to succeed Miss C. M. EARDLEY, the former systematist, who has retired. D. C. CHRISTOPHEL is working on the palaeogeography of Athrotaxis and its relationship to northern-hemisphere Taxodiaceae.

C. E. OFFLER, Department of Geology, University of Newcastle, continues her work on the conifer leaf cuticles from the Maslin flora (Eocene, S.A.), in association with R. T. LANGE.

W. K. HARVEY has submitted his M. Sc. thesis on cuticle analysis of the Maslin Bay Fossil Flora.

P. H. SMITH is concluding his study of fossil female cones of Casuarina.

D. T. BLACKBURN gained his Honours degree with a thesis entitled: "The macromorphological leaf spectrum of the Maslin Eocene Flora" and has gained a university scholarship for higher-degree study on the same subject under the supervision of CHRISTOPHEL and LANGE. A paper on his Honours work is in preparation.

I. R. MOSEL is finishing his M. Sc. thesis work on Springfield Basin coal measure flora.

UNIVERSITY OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA, Department of Geology:

BASIL BALME continues work on the Permian-Triassic floras of Greenland and has a large manuscript prepared (with JANCIS DOLBY) on Triassic palynology of the Northwest Shelf of Western Australia.

DIRK HOS continues studies on palynology of the lower Tertiary of southwestern Australia including the Plantagenet Group and outliers on the shield.

## Letters to the editor

Dear Hans,

Of course I am glad to join the Newsletter venture. I have noticed that in other fields, this kind of medium has proved itself in many ways. And I am sure that especially for those researchers tucked away in remote places the letter will be especially useful. I would appreciate if desiderata and conundrums (i. e. interesting fossils of dubious taxonomy) would be placed on public view for "consultation".

To be sure, the price fixed for the letter seems very high indeed - but I hope that it will justify itself.

Good luck, and all the best

JACOB LORCH

Botany Department  
The Hebrew University of Jerusalem  
Jerusalem  
Israel