

Where science resides:  
The Prince-Bishops Palace in Münster.  
Photo: Westfälischer Hansebund e.V.



FIRST CIRCULAR



*Thalassia  
westfalica* H. v. d. W.

# EUROPEAN PALAEOBOTANY AND PALYNOLOGY CONFERENCE MÜNSTER

20.–24. September 2026



Universität  
Münster

LWL-Museum für Naturkunde  
Westfälisches Landesmuseum mit Planetarium

**LWL**  
Für die Menschen.  
Für Westfalen-Lippe.

The XII European Palaeobotany and Palynology Conference 2026 will be co-hosted by the Palaeobotany Research Group and the Geomuseum of the University of Münster, and the LWL-Museum of Natural History, Münster, Germany.

Münster is a beautiful medium-sized city in the heart of the Münsterland Cretaceous Basin, steeped in more than 1,200 years of history. The city spawned the Anabaptist Rebellion during the Protestant Reformation in 1534, and hosted the signing of the Treaty of Westphalia, ending the Thirty Years' War in Europe in 1648. Münster is the cultural centre of Westphalia and a famous “bicycle capital” of Germany.

Science has always shaped the image of the city. As one of the largest academic locations in Germany, it has around 65,000 students at nine universities and colleges. With more than 43,000 students and over 120 fields of study in 15 departments, the University of Münster is Germany's fifth largest university and one of the foremost centres of German intellectual life.

The LWL-Museum of Natural History was founded in 1892 at the behest of volunteer naturalists from the Münster area. The museum is beautifully located next to Münster's zoological garden and presents in changing exhibitions the natural history of Westphalia. It is today one of the most visited museums in North Rhine-Westphalia.



The Palaeobotany Research Group was founded in 1968 by Winfried Remy, a student of Walter Gothan in Berlin. As an enthusiastic couple with special interest in Palaeozoic plants, Winfried and Renate Remy established Münster as a renowned centre of palaeobotanical research that received international recognition especially for the pioneering work on Rhynie Chert gametophytes. This research scope was broadened further when Hans Kerp was appointed professor for palaeobotany upon Remy's retirement in 1991. Throughout his intensely productive and successful career, Hans further expanded Münster's palaeobotanical expertise, not the least through his fruitful mentorship that spawned abundant academic offspring.

Today, it is a diverse team of palaeobotanists spread across three scientific institutions – the LWL-Museum of Natural History, the Geomuseum of the University of Münster, and the Palaeobotany Research Group at the Faculty of Geosciences of the University of Münster – that invites you cordially to be part of the XII EPPC 2026 in Münster.

MEET THE HOSTS



Benjamin Bomfleur  
Head of the Palaeobotany Research Group  
University of Münster  
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Christian Pott  
Head of the Palaeontology Department  
and Curator of Palaeobotany  
LWL-Museum of Natural History  
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Haytham El-Atfy  
Research associate  
University of Münster  
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Steffen Trümper  
Curator of Geology and Palaeontology  
Geomuseum of the  
University of Münster  
(steffen.truemper@uni-muenster.de)

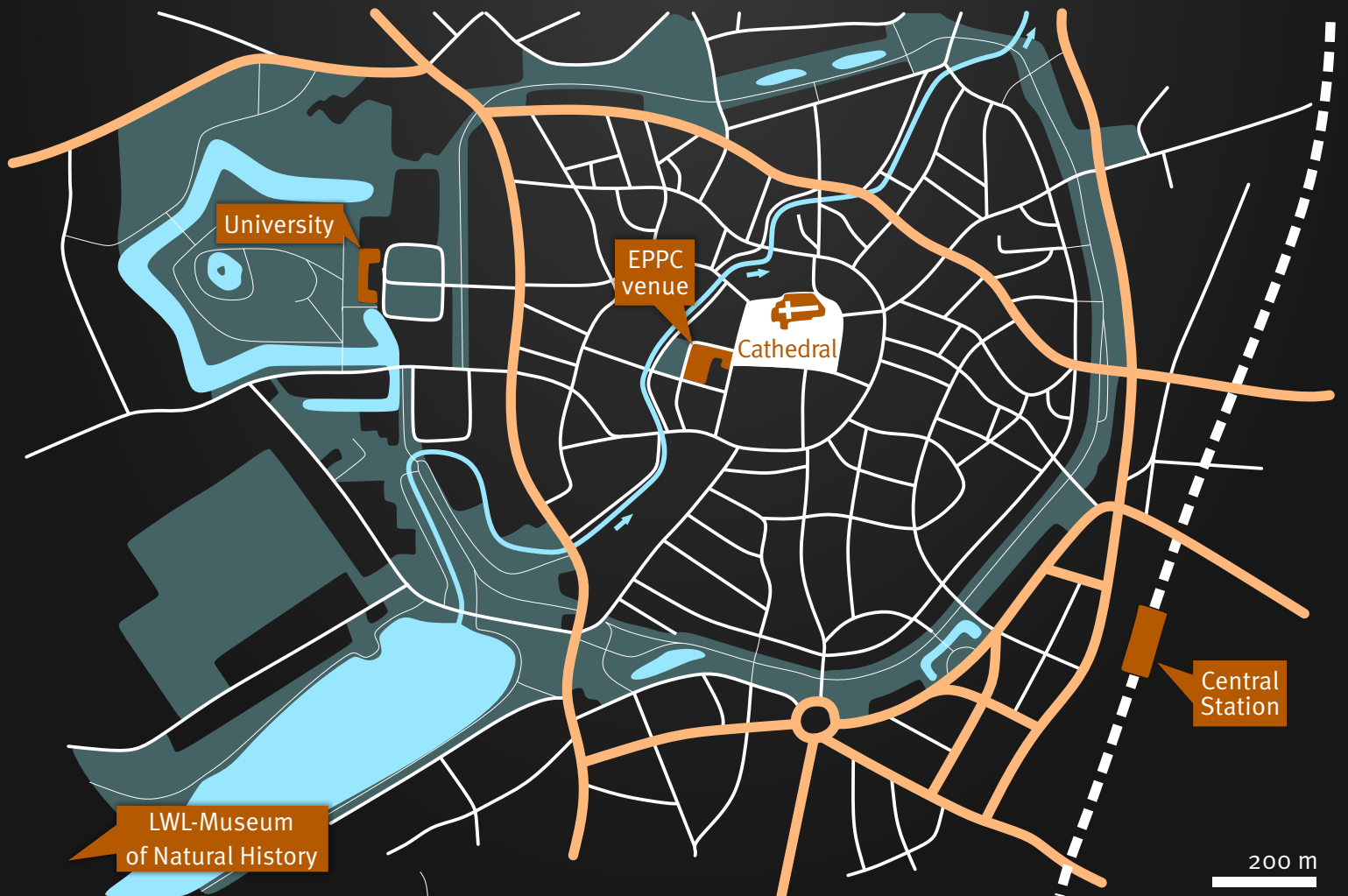


Michael Krings  
Curator of Palaeobotany  
Bavarian State Collection of Geology  
and Palaeontology, and professor LMU Munich  
(krings@snsb.de)



Philip Jardine  
Research associate  
University of Münster  
(jardine@uni-muenster.de)

The conference takes place at the Fürstenberghaus in the heart of the city, with the Münster cathedral and the famous city market at sight. This university building is named after Franz Friedrich Wilhelm von Fürstenberg, a late 18th century statesman known for his progressive politics. Due to its central position, many sights of the city are very close by. Münster's main railway station is just a 15-min walk away, while the international airports of Düsseldorf and Cologne are 1.5 hours from the city by train. A well organized public transport in Münster connects the different conference locations and hotels.



Deadline for submission: 1. September 2025

On the occasion of the XII EPPC 2026 it is our pleasure to invite proposals for symposia. We welcome submissions from every field of palaeobotany and palynology that:

- have a descriptive, catchy title,
- are of interest for a broad community,
- explain their purpose in a concise, meaningful abstract (100 words maximum),
- provide the names of chairpersons with affiliations and a list of possible speakers.

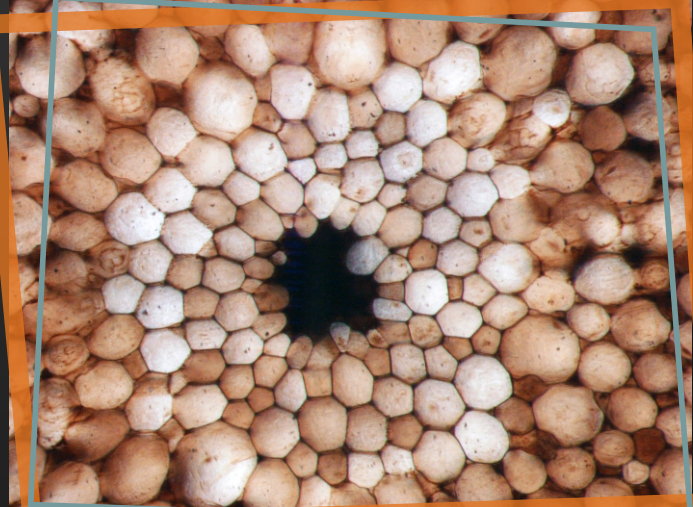
Please note that only one proposal per individual is accepted. The program committee will review the submissions and eventually suggest changes or merging of symposia due to the organisation of the whole conference. An example for a possible contribution is provided on the following page.

Please send your proposal via email to Christian Pott ([christian.pott@lwl.org](mailto:christian.pott@lwl.org))

CALL FOR SYMPOSIA



Leafy shoot of the sea grass *Thalassocharis westfalica* from the Campanian (Upper Cretaceous) of Stemwede-Haldem, Westphalia. Photo: LWL/Steinweg



Cross-section of a young axis of *Rhynia gwynne-vaughanii* from the Devonian Rhynie Chert. Photo: Kerp

## Greening at the brink – Palaeofloras and biotic crises

Mass extinctions have fundamentally shaped palaeocommunities and the course of evolution. Understanding the causes and effects of such drastic events is therefore crucial to understand biodiversity and biosphere/geosphere interactions both in the past and present. This symposium welcomes contributions that focus on palaeofloral and palynomorph records from biotic crises in Earth History. From Snowball Earth to the Ende-Cretaceous Mass Extinction – What can palaeo-botanical and palynological assemblages tell us about the drivers, extent and consequences of incisive phases in evolution? What are the potentials and limits of the fossil record, and what new tools and cross-discipline approaches can be used?

Chairpersons: ...

Possible contributors ...

CALL FOR SYMPOSIA



Several plants built up the peat-forming forests of Pennsylvanian tropical Pangaea. Photo: Geomuseum/Steinweg.

Meeting billions of years in the Geomuseum of the University of Münster



Chasing Carboniferous forests in the Piesberg Quarry



Walking the plank in the Venne Peat Bog



Unearthing Cenozoic coastal wetlands in the Rhineland

# CONFERENCE ACTIVITIES



Relaxing in Münster,  
the beautiful capital  
of Westphalia



Discovering Westphalian  
palaeontological treasures  
in the new State Exhibition of  
North Rhine-Westphalia 2026.  
Photo: LWL/Steinweg



Decoding nature  
in the LWL-Museum  
of Natural History.  
Photo: LWL/Steinweg



Immersing in Space in the  
modern planetarium of the  
LWL-Museum of Natural  
History Münster.  
Photo: LWL/Steinweg



# 1. September 2025

opening conference website – deadline for symposia submission

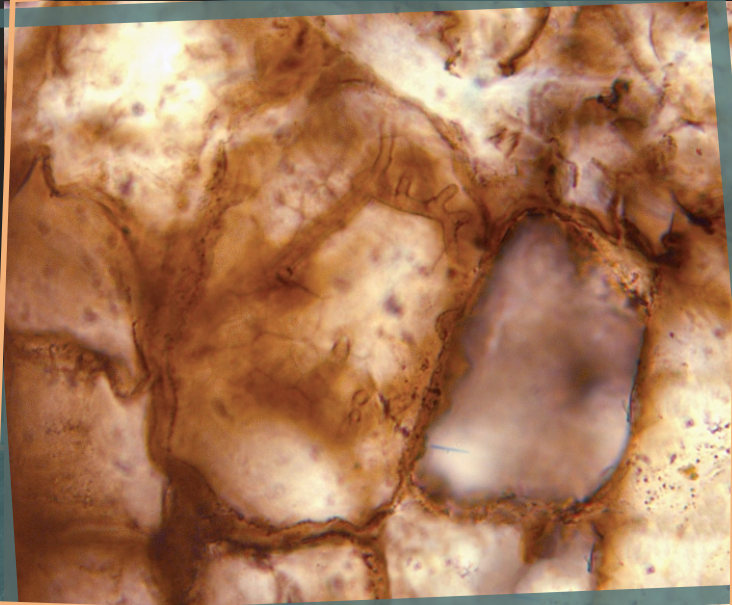
# 1. October 2025: second circular

registration fees – conference schedule – field trips – list of symposia

# 1. February 2026: third circular

information on hotels – public transport

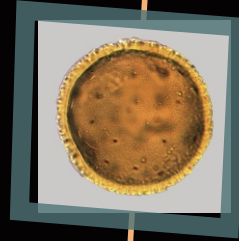
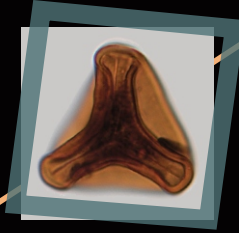
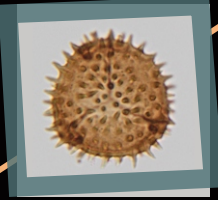
Permineralised fungal hyphae  
in extraxylary conifer cells,  
lower Permian, Germany.



Studying Carboniferous arborescent lycopsid plants in situ in a coal mine in Hattingen in the Ruhr Area, Germany. Photo: LWL/Steinweg

WHAT IS NEXT?

# SEE YOU IN MÜNSTER IN 2026



Palynomorphs from the  
Triletes- and Contorta beds.  
Rhaetian–Hettangian of  
Warburg-Bonenburg, Germany.  
Photos: Julia Gravendyck



Münster's city hall: signing location  
of the Treaty of Westphalia in 1648.