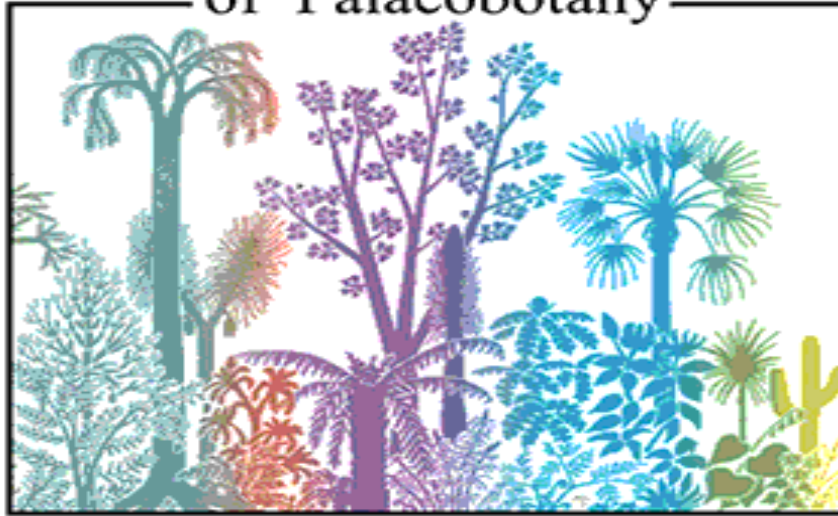


International Organisation of Palaeobotany



IOP NEWSLETTER 132

October 2023

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!! Re-produced and updated: IOP Circular September 2023

Letter from the president

Dear Colleagues,

With our next IOP Conference only about six months hence, now is a good time to take advantage of early registration rates and to reserve time in your schedule to join us in Prague, Czech Republic, May 27 to 31, 2024. **Registration and abstract submission sites are scheduled to open October 16. Details, including procedures for student travel grant applications, were sent recently as an IOP Circular in September 2023, and are reproduced here in this newsletter.** Deadlines are rapidly approaching: **abstract submission – January 17 2024; early registration deadline – December 20 2023.**

Another important opportunity arises next summer as well: the **20th International Botanical Congress Madrid, Spain, July 21st to 27th, 2024 (deadline for abstract submission: November 30, 2023)**. Our organisation actually had its beginning as palaeobotanical group at IBC; it was founded after the 8th IBC in Paris in 1954. Traditionally, we have had a good turnout of international palaeobotanists at this IBC conferences. The current list of symposia includes ten for which palaeobotany is a key component. Besides, IOP members always organized informal meetings such as dinners for the palaeobotanical community during these congresses (e.g., see meeting report from 19th IBC 2017 in IOP Newsletter 114).

I thank Hugh Lance Pearson for providing a well-researched biography of Marie Stopes for the Palaeobotanist Biographies section of our website, which also is included in this newsletter. We welcome other biographies. Please think about palaeobotanists who have been influential in your own country and help us to recognize them with biographical narratives and images on our website.

It is possible that I may have become the longest serving IOP President—not because of a Trumpian lust for power, but because the Covid-19 pandemic interfered with our cycle of quadrennial IOPC meetings, to which our elections of IOP officers are linked. Please see the call for nominations, at the end of this newsletter, seeking candidates for the positions of president, vice presidents, secretary-treasurer, and members-at-large. I hope you will join us in Prague next May as we observe the peaceful transition to a new team of officers.

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Sincerely,

Steve

Steven Manchester (Gainesville, FL, USA), IOP Presiden

News from our members

Paige Wilson Deibel – new staff member at Burke Museum of Natural History and Culture



Dr. Paige Wilson Deibel is the new Paleobotany Collections and Lab Manager at the Burke Museum of Natural History and Culture in Seattle, Washington, USA. Her research interests incorporate using fossil plants to infer paleoecology, paleoenvironment, and terrestrial vegetation specifically focusing on Cretaceous-Paleogene (K-Pg) floras from Montana. During her dissertation work at the University of Washington, Paige added an additional ~6,000 plant fossils from this critical time window to the Burke's collections. She also collaborated with researchers on a variety of paleobotanical microfossils (e.g., palynomorphs and phytoliths) and macrofossils (e.g., fossil wood). She brings this background in collecting, cataloging, preparing, describing, and studying plant fossils from all ranges of size and preservation to her new work in stewarding the paleobotany collection at the Burke.

Dr. Wilson Deibel grew up in New England and got her start in paleontology as an undergraduate at Dartmouth College. She studied Eocene-Oligocene mammals as well as a new species of ankylosaur from the Late Cretaceous with Dr. Jason Moore (Associate Professor at University of New Mexico, formerly Dartmouth College) before learning the joys of plant fossils, which would become her future research focus. Paige worked on her Ph.D. under Drs. Greg Wilson Mantilla and Caroline Strömberg at the University of Washington where her research became specialized in K-Pg floras. After finishing her Ph.D. in March 2022, Paige became the first ever Paleobotany Collections and Lab Manager at the Burke. Although the Burke has a long history of paleobotanical research and collections, Dr. Wilson Deibel is the first collections manager dedicated solely to the >70,000 plant fossils in the Burke's collection. In addition, she manages the laboratory and microscope facilities for processing phytolith and pollen samples (among other

procedures), and she continues her involvement in outreach and education through the Burke (i.e., the [DIG Field School](#)).

You can read more about Dr. Wilson Deibel [here](#). Please feel free to contact me (wilsonp2@uw.edu) if you would like to visit or access the Burke's collections; we welcome any researchers or students! We have particularly large collections from the Cenozoic of the Pacific Northwest as well as one of the largest phytolith collections in the world; you can read more about these paleobotany collections [here](#).

Bibliographies of palaeobotanists

Marie Charlotte Carmichael Stopes FLS¹ (15 October 1880 – 2 October 1958)

In a list of “Our favourite Britons” (Cooper 2002), Marie Stopes stood at number 100, where she was described as “Palaeobotanist; pioneer and advocate of birth control; Scottish born Edinburgh (1880–1958)”. With some fifty papers and books on fossil plants (mostly as sole author), Stopes published over seventy other works, chiefly books and pamphlets on sociology (*e.g.* contraception), but also poetry, plays, one travelogue and a film script. Stopes was superlative: first woman to obtain a joint B.Sc. (Hons) in University of London after two years; first female Ph.D. in botany at University of Munich; youngest D.Sc. in UK; first female lecturer in science at Victoria University, Manchester; first female western scientist to visit Japan; first woman to set up a birth-control clinic in the British Empire.

At aged 13 she moved to Norwood, London SE27; aside from a year's doctoral research in Munich and two in Japan, she lived mostly in Hampstead, London NW3, plus lodgings in Manchester, finally at Norbury Park near Leatherhead, Surrey. Biographers point to her parents for influences on her character and she described herself as “a child of the British Association” [for Advancement of Science]; her parents met in 1876 at its Annual Meeting. Henry Stopes, engineer and architect, was an amateur palaeoanthropologist and Marie helped him work on flints and Plio-Pleistocene fossils (Stopes 1912b); he died a week after Marie graduated in 1902.

Her mother, née Charlotte Carmichael, was a Shakespeare scholar and suffragist. Charlotte encouraged Marie's education and instilled women's rights in her. At North London Collegiate School for Girls, Marie's headmistress encouraged Marie to study chemistry. In 1900 Marie applied to UCL, being accepted for B.Sc. in botany with zoology. She was taught by ecologist AG Tansley (Boulter 2017), palaeobotanist DH Scott (Andrews 1980) and anatomist FW Oliver, whom Rose (1992) called “Marie's fatherly mentor”. Tansley instilled in her the value of fieldwork; three of her early papers are on living plant ecology (Stopes 1903, 1907, Stopes & Hewitt 1909). Stopes hastened graduation by registering also at Birkbeck College, London, studying geology in evenings; she achieved first class honours (plus a Gold Medal) in botany, a third in geology. Funding for what would have been her third undergraduate year (*i.e.*, 1902-03) was used to

research Carboniferous plants, supervised at UCL by Oliver and by Scott, Honorary Keeper of the Jodrell Laboratory, Kew. That year saw a major advance in palaeobotany (Pearson 2005, Falcon-Lang 2008c): recognition of seed ferns (pteridosperms) by Oliver and Scott in 1903. Stopes observed cupular glands found on the ovule *Lagenostoma lomaxii* Oliver & Scott and stems of *Lyginopteris oldhamia* (Binney) H.Potonié; she drew five figures for Plate 10 in Oliver & Scott (1904). This, plus three papers she published in 1903 (references in Chaloner 2005) earned her funding to research gymnosperm ovules and seeds at Munich's Botanical Institute under Radelkofer and Göbel. She telescoped time needed for her Ph.D., defending and publishing her doctoral thesis in 1904. Fig.1 shows Stopes using a flask of water as a condenser to operate her light microscope around this time. FE Weiss FLS, Professor of botany at Manchester, made her Assistant Lecturer & Demonstrator in Botany, a post she held 1904-1907. In these industrious years, Stopes got the London D.Sc., clarified archegonial physiology in gymnosperms (Stopes 1905), introduced Capt. RF Scott (of the Antarctic) to palaeobotany, lectured to the 1905 International Botanical Congress at Vienna and visited Lancashire coal mines to research (with DMS Watson) permineralizations of Carboniferous plants called coal balls (Stopes 1906a, b).



Fig. 1: Marie Charlotte Carmichael Stopes, ca. 1905, perhaps when she was a doctoral student at Munich, Germany. The glass slide on her microscope stage is larger than the usual 5cm x 2cm, but typical of coal-ball sections prepared at that time before the peel technique was applied to permineralized specimens. Her light source is a gas mantle, seen on the left. The spheroidal flask of water may have served to condense this light, but it does not appear to have been used for such a purpose when this photograph was taken (photograph in property of Hugh Person).

Around 1905, Stopes began work on Mesozoic plants; she visited Lignier at Caen, France (Rose 1992) and found Jurassic plants at Brora, Scotland (Stopes 1907, Falcon-Lang 2008a). In July 1907 she quit Manchester to work with Prof. K. Fujii on Japanese permineralized plants relating to that perennial issue in palaeobotany, Darwin's "abominable mystery" of the origin of angiosperms. They collected a monocotyledonous fruit and other plants of Upper Cretaceous age, plus fossil insects (Rose 1992). Her fossil insects, Dept. of Earth Sciences, Natural History Museum, London; I13771-4 from Shiobara are Tertiary (Stopes 1910c).

In May 1909 Stopes was re-appointed at Manchester as Lecturer in Fossil Botany. She wrote up the Japanese fossils, published a textbook (Stopes 1910a) and attended conferences in Canada and USA. She used plant impressions to age the "Fern Ledges" fossil flora of St John, New Brunswick, as Carboniferous. In America Stopes made useful contacts (Chaloner 1995) and, some forty years later, she claimed: "I did myself find Coal Balls in America, and before Noë, but like so many things I have [done], I never published about them." (Andrews 1980). Whilst Noë (1923) reported 1922 for their recognition, Walton (1959) and Chesters (1963) support the Stopes claim for 1911; Andrews (1947) gives 1894 for their US discovery.

An offer in May 1910 of a fellowship with research facilities at UCL led Stopes to leave her Manchester post November 1910; Watson (2005) reported on both jobs Stopes held at Manchester. She took up additional offers of work: she lectured on palaeobotany to female students at Bedford College, London, (Audus 2001) and catalogued Mesozoic plants at the British Museum (Natural History) [BM] to support the 3 graduates then in its Geology Dept. (Stopes 1913, 1916). Stearn (1981) states Stopes got on well with Keeper of Geology, Sir A.S. Woodward, and his wife; their tablecloth embroidered with Stopes's signature is framed and displayed at BM. Her inaugural UCL lecture, August 1913, looked to the history and future of palaeobotany; demand for coal rose to its peak during the First World War and Stopes emphasized its applied aspects (Lessing 1959). She called for international cooperation between fossil botanists, *e.g.* to share and record new or revised names of plant fossils; in a pre-digital age, her idea for universal card indices of names was prescient (Stopes 1914). Stopes supported the collection of over 15,000 specimens of Coal Measures plant fossils from S.Wales, now held at the National Museum of Wales, Cardiff, UK (Thomas 1986). She remained at UCL until 1920, but her work at BM and wartime employment at a coal laboratory of the Dept. of Scientific & Industrial Research resulted in two major aspects of her scientific career.

Stopes described five British permineralized angiosperm woods, then all considered of Lower Cretaceous age (Stopes 1910b, 1912a). Her assertion that some of them were: "... like quite highly placed Angiosperms in all their details." was challenged by Thomas (1959) and Chaloner (2005) explains some of their ages are queried. Of these, Crawley (2001) considered *Aptiana radiata* Stopes Lower Cretaceous, three others as Tertiary and her *Woburnia porosa* of uncertain age, under its junior synonym *Dipterocarpoxyton porosum* (Stopes) Kräusel. Stratigraphical definitions have changed since 1912 and Scott (2018) overstated uncertainties of provenance and age for her museum specimens.

The first and last palaeobotanical papers by Stopes (1903, 1951) dealt with plants in Carboniferous coal; she began work with coal chemist R.V. Wheeler in 1916 and this continued after the War. Scott (2018) explains they examined coals as petrologists scrutinize rocks in thin section. Stopes (1935) coined coal terms: “maceral” for the physicochemically distinct components of coals and she defined four categories: clarain, durain, fusain and vitrain (Stopes 1951).

Stopes was elected Fellow of the Linnean Society (FLS) on 18 March 1909 and admitted on 1 April that year (Gage & Stearn 1988). Her sponsors were: F.W. Oliver, F.E. Weiss (later PLS), E.A.N. Arber (Palaeozoic plant researcher at Cambridge), F.E. Fritsch (phycologist and subsequent PLS) and E.N. Thomas. Stopes published one of her papers in a Linnean Society journal: her account of the permineralized Cretaceous bennettitalean stem she named *Bennettites scottii*; now *Cycadeoidea scottii* (Stopes) Wieland. This type material she described was notable as a new species but also as a rare instance of a fossil plant stem with both leaves and pollen organs in attachment. However, Dr Thomas PLS (1959) stated that she “took a real interest in the Society until a short time before her death.” As Chaloner (1985) recalled, Stopes refused to accept that charcoal was preserved as fusain. Chaloner (2005) recalled:

“One of her last public appearances, when she spoke before a scientific audience, was at a Linnean Society meeting in 1957 in which T.M. Harris defended the fire origin of fusain. He wrote ‘...she opposed my revival of the old fire theory with vigour and in a pleasant voice. If I could have talked it over [with her] I doubt if we would have got far, because we were thirty years out of phase...’ (see Chaloner 1995).”

Chaloner told me (pers.com.) Stopes visited him at UCL in 1957/8; she was interested to see plant fossils that she had used herself to teach botany there some forty years earlier. These, plus letters, photographs and notes for teaching and research are at BM, S. Kensington (Cleevely 1983); further Stopes letters are at the Linnean Society Library.

Over sixty years since her death, how does posterity assess the biological career of Marie Stopes? Her 4 textbooks (Stopes 1906c, 1910a, 1911, 1919) popularized botany; her publications on contraception and sexual equality (plus her fictions) outnumber her palaeobotanical papers. Biographers and obituarists of Stopes speak volumes on her life too: Andrews (1980), Anon.(1958), Begbie (1927), Brett (1958), Chaloner (1958,1995,2005,2008), Desmond (1977), Eaton & Warnick (1977), Falcon-Lang (2008b,d,e), Falcon-Lang & Miller (2007), Fraser & Cleal (2007), Haines (2001), L.A. Hall (2004), R. Hall (1977), Lessing (1959), Maude (1924), Pontolillo (1996), Rose 1992), Thomas (1959), J. Timson (1980), Tomkeyer & Yoblov (1959), DMS Watson (1959), J Watson (2005). A 1935 survey of American academics ranked *Married Love* (Stopes 1918) below *Das Kapital* but above *Mein Kampf* in their 25 most influential books of 1885-1935 (Hall 1977). What led to her fall in ratings from 1935 to 2002? Falcon-Lang (2008a) criticized palaeobotanical predictions by Stopes that she termed “geoprophesy” (Maude 1924). Boulter (2017) praised her work in fossil botany, but commented on her support of eugenics; Stopes was by influenced genetic ideas and philosophies of the Malthusian League and Eugenics Society. This

produced tumult not only in her public life but in her domestic affairs too. The Second World War and today's political correctness cast critical light upon that moral stance. However, one should consider wider aspects of her personal, emotional and professional life to avoid unfair criticism of great advances Stopes made at a time when women in academia were rarities and in geology “almost an impropriety” (Chaloner 1959).

Amongst contemporaneous female palaeobotanists, Eleanor Reid FLS and Margaret Benson FLS published less than Stopes, with narrower stratigraphic interests. The outputs of Emily Dix and the Belgian Suzanne Leclercq bear closer comparison to Stopes, but their foci were essentially Palaeozoic. Stopes & Watson (1908) remains in bibliographies and her coal maceral terms are still in use. Notwithstanding her critics, Stopes (1912a) stimulated research worldwide on Lower Cretaceous angiosperms. One wonders how many of today's palaeobotanists will have their papers referenced to the same extent as those by Stopes a century after their publication.

¹FLS - Fellow of the Linnean Society of London

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NOTE: This biography is based on a longer article that makes more reference to Stopes as one of the earliest female Fellows of the Linnean Society of London and includes a previously unpublished photograph of her in 1911: Pearson, HL. 2023. Marie Charlotte Carmichael Stopes (15 October 1880 - 2 October 1958). *The Linnean, London; Special Issue no. 10*: 37–42.

Hugh Lance Pearson FLS.

Email: hugh.pearson@edf-energy.com

Meeting invitation: MPC & PRC Symposium 2024 Chicago



Pictured above, Field Museum, Chicago.

Dear Colleagues and Friends,

Please save the date for the 41st Mid-Continent Paleobotanical Colloquium 2024 (MPC) and a very special symposium to celebrate Sir Peter Crane's 70th Birthday at the Field Museum in **Chicago, April 12-14, 2024.**

The MPC program will be preceded on Friday April 12, 2024 by a distinctive event to celebrate Peter's birthday. The speakers at this special symposium will be long-time collaborators from around the world who have agreed to join us to help celebrate Peter's countless contributions to the field of Paleobotany. One of Peter's early contributions as curator was to initiate MPC back in 1983, which was hosted that year at the Field Museum, so it seems fitting to bring the Colloquium back this year to its original location.

The main MPC program will take place at the Museum on Saturday, April 13 followed by an optional field trip on Sunday, April 14 to one of the nearby Mazon Creek Lagerstätte localities. This site is home to exquisitely preserved fossil plants and the mysterious Tully Monster. The Paleobotanical collections at the Field Museum will be open to students and researchers as well.

Please let us know if you would like to attend this event so we can plan accordingly. You may attend both the Friday symposium and Saturday colloquium, or just the Saturday colloquium, depending on what your schedule permits. We will be launching the MPC website in early 2024

and will provide more details for registration, hotels, and student travel awards as soon as the information becomes available.

We look forward to hosting you in Chicago in 2024, back where it all began!

Organizing committee:

Fabiany Herrera (Field Museum)

Patrick Herendeen (Chicago Botanic Garden)

Michael Donovan (Field Museum)

Re-produced and updated: IOP Circular September 2023: Important news on IPC/IOPC 2024, Prague

Content:

- IOPC/IPC Symposia posted online
- Early-bird registration open
- Call for Applications to “IOP Graduate Students Travel Grants”
- IOP elections: call for nominations
- IOP General Assembly
- Call for nominations for honorary membership

Dear IOP Members,

With this circular we would like to draw your attention to some important dates and deadlines for the forthcoming XI International Organisation of Palaeobotany Conference (IOPC), to be held jointly with the XV International Palynological Conference (IPC) on May 27–31, 2023 in Prague, CZ. Firstly, we give our sincere thanks to the organizing committee and partners who have worked hard to conduct the international meeting after the pandemic-related postponement. The organizing committee informed us that the updated conference homepage will be available on October **16 (NEW DATE!)** for early-bird registration and abstract submission: (<https://www.prague2020.cz/>).

Updated list of scientific symposia online:

The organizing committee has recently accepted new symposia supplementing or replacing those proposed earlier for the conference that was cancelled in 2020 due to the pandemic. The updated list of scientific symposia and other conference activities is now available online:

<https://www.prague2020.cz/committees.php>

Abstract submission deadline: January 17, 2024. (NEW DATE!)

Early-bird registration open online:

The organizing committee offers reduced registration fees for progressive registration periods as follows:

PRE-EARLY REGISTRATION

450 € regular / 350 € for student – 16 October–15 November, 2023 (NEW DATE!)

EARLY REGISTRATION

490 € regular / 390 € for student - 16 November–20 December, 2023 (NEW DATE!)

REGULAR REGISTRATION

590 € regular / 490 € for student - 1 January–29 February, 2024 (NEW DATE!)

LATE / ONSITE REGISTRATION

690 € regular / 590 € for student - from March 1, 2024 until May 31, 2024

Please visit the conference homepage to learn about services covered by the registration fee:

<https://www.prague2020.cz/registration.php>

Call for applications for “IOP Graduate Students Travel Grants”:

IOP will allocate 10.000 € for early career scientists as financial support for participation in the conference. It is not intended that the grant will cover the entire costs of conference participation, but help to defray expenses. Amount of individual financial support will be related to travel distances (continent of home institution) of the applicant:

- applicants of European institutions (independent from nationality) 500 €;
- applicants from institutions from other continents 1.000 €.

Applicants can be master students, doctoral candidates (PhD students) and postdocs if the PhD was defended not earlier than June 1st, 2023 (within one year before the conference).

IOP membership of the applicant is mandatory.

The application, which has to be submitted as a `single` pdf file to IOP secretary-treasurer Lutz Kunzmann [[lutz.kunzmann\(at\)senckenberg.de](mailto:lutz.kunzmann@senckenberg.de)], contains:

- (1) abstract for a talk at the conference (already submitted to the conference);
- (2) short CV including references of 3 most important publications (max. 2 pages);
- (3) letter of support from the supervisor/advisor (max. 1.5 pages).

Application deadline: November 30 2023. (NEW DATE!)

Decisions will be made and announced before the early-bird registration deadline December 20, 2023. The selection committee will consist of the IOP officers as far as they are not considered to have conflicts of interest.

IOP elections: call for nominations:

According to the statute, the new IOP officers will be elected in connection with IOPC 2024 in Prague. The term of office will be until IOPC 2028. Elections will be organized as E-mail ballot before the conference.

Here, we call for proposals for candidates; both self-nominations and third-party nominations are possible. For candidates IOP membership is mandatory.

IOP officers are:

- president
- three vice presidents
- secretary/treasurer
- three members-at-large
-

Nominations should be sent by E-mail to IOP secretary latest January 31, 2024 [[lutz.kunzmann\(at\)senckenberg.de](mailto:lutz.kunzmann@senckenberg.de)]. The list of candidates will be published in the February 2024 IOP newsletter.

The conference/congress member of the executive committee will be a person from the organizing committee of the forthcoming IOPC 2028 who is an IOP member. This IOP officer will be designated when the host of IOPC 2028 is firmed by the IOP General Assembly to be held in Prague.

IOP General Assembly Prague 2024:

During the general assembly the results of the elections of the executive committee will be announced. The retiring executive committee will give an account on the activities over the last 8 years.

Furthermore, we propose for discuss the following IOP businesses: our current statutes and by-laws were last ratified in 2016. For the following points updates or reforms are considered:

- elections of officers: online voting should become the usual mode
- possible decoupling of positions of secretary and treasurer; treasurer as additional officer [president's suggestion: appointed by secretary with approval of officers]
- IOP webmaster/facilitator should be an additional formally recognized officer
- How to deal with membership payment failures?

Lastly, IOP membership has to decide on the host of IOPC 2028 in agreement with the IFPS.

Other items for the agenda are welcome.

The full agenda for the IOP General Assembly will be issued in advance in the February 2024 newsletter or later by a circular.

Call for nominations for honorary memberships:

We currently seek nominations for honorary members who may be announced at IOPC in Prague. According to our by-laws, "Honorary Membership in IOP may be extended to individuals who have made exceptional contributions to palaeobotany (especially through a career long effort) and are now retired, or have given exceptional service to the IOP, or to regional palaeobotanical organisations but are now retired from that role. Honorary members will have free membership of IOP for life and enjoy all the benefits of a fully paid member."

Nominations, accompanied by the names of two proposers, and a brief statement of justification (max. one page), should be communicated to president and secretary latest by December 31, 2023. Nominees will be considered by the executive committee and celebratively announced in Prague during the opening or closing ceremony.

Upcoming meetings

31st International Workshop on Plant Taphonomy November 3–5, 2023, Lichtenberg Castle, Rheinland-Pfalz, Germany

For detailed information please see the 1st Circular in IOP Newsletter 131 or contact Jan Fischer (j.fischer@pfalzmuseum.bv-pfalz.de).

For information about the museum please visit: www.urweltmuseum-geoskop.de

XV International Palynological Congress / XI International Organization of Palaeobotany Conference May 25–31, 2024, Prague, Czech Republic

For more information please visit: <https://www.prague2020.cz/news.php>

XX International Botanical Congress July 21–27, 2024 Madrid, Spain

For more information please visit: <https://ibcmadrid2024.com/>

12th European Palaeobotany and Palynology Conference, 2026, Münster, Germany

More information will be given next year.

Disclaimer:

Newsletter edited by Lutz Kunzmann & Steven Manchester.

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

Newsletters are regularly issued in February, June and October every year.

Please send us your contributions for the next edition of our newsletter (133) until end of February 2024.

Contributions should be sent to Lutz.Kunzmann@senckenberg.de.

 Homepage: www.palaeobotany.org



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