

IOP NEWSLETTER 81

March 2007

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IOPC - VIII, BONN 2008

The 8th International Organisation of Palaeobotany Conference will be held from Saturday 30th August to Friday 6th September 2008 in Bonn, in close conjunction with the 12th International Palynological Congress. Both conferences are hosted by the German palaeo-botanists and palynologists, unified in the Arbeitskreis für Palaeobotanik und Palynologie. In Germany, palaeobotanists and palynologists have always held joint meetings. This has been very successful and it has shown that a dialogue between palaeobotanists and palynologists is most fruitful. Due to various circumstances, participation in both the international palaeobotanical conferences and palynological congresses in 2000 and 2004 was hardly possible for individual scientists. Nevertheless, the organisers of 8th IOPC and 12th IPC feel that interactions between both disciplines are strongly needed, now maybe even more than ever before. Therefore, it was decided to hold both 2008 congresses in the same place and at the same time.

The medium-sized City of Bonn, founded by the Romans, was chosen as the venue for the meeting. Bonn is located in the Rhine Valley and has a rich cultural heritage with a variety of historical buildings and several excellent art and history museums, ranking among the best of Germany. Bonn is well-known for its medieval, baroque, rococo, and Victorian architecture and the city centre offers a large variety of restaurants, bars and pubs. Until a few years ago, Bonn was the capital of Germany and the city has an excellent infrastructure. Bonn can be easily reached by air, by rail and by car. Cologne-Bonn Airport is served by several budget airlines and there are excellent and fast connections to the nearby Düsseldorf International Airport (40 minutes by train) and to Frankfurt International Airport (1 hour by high-speed train). Bonn has sufficient hotel accommodation in all price classes, from very reasonably priced pensions to luxury hotels, and a youth hostel; the city is served by an excellent public transport system (subway, streetcar, and busses).

The 8th IOPC will be held in the main building of the University of Bonn, an attractive 17th century baroque palace located in the centre of town, near City Hall, at only five minutes walking distance from the main railway station. This historical building has a large Audimax lecture theatre and sufficient larger lecture rooms, and medium-sized to smaller meeting rooms

situated around a central courtyard, together forming an ideal setting for the meeting.

Because the conference will be held in university buildings, we will be able to keep the costs reasonably low. One of our aims is to keep conference fees as low as possible; they will not exceed € 200.- for professionals - IOP members will pay a reduced fee. Registration for 8th IOPC also enables IOPC participants to attend all 12th IPC symposia.

The opening ceremony will be in the afternoon of Saturday 30th August, followed by two key-note presentations and the icebreaker party. During the mid-conference break on Tuesday, 2nd September several one-day excursions will be offered, including the Neogene browncoal deposits of the Lower Rhine Embayment, Tertiary and Quaternary volcanism and fossil deposits in the Eifel Mountains, the famous Messel quarry, the Carboniferous of the Ruhr District, and the Devonian of the Rhenish Slate Mountains. For those who prefer cultural program during the mid-conference break, there will be an excursion to Cologne, including visits to the famous cathedral and the Roman-German museum, a unique exhibit on the daily life in the northern part of the Roman Empire. The conference dinner is scheduled for Wednesday evening and is preceded by a boat tour on the Rhine River. This part of the Rhine Valley with its steep vineyards, and many romantic castles and ruins is a UNESCO World Heritage Site.

Several post-congress excursions (2 - 5 days) will be offered, e.g., Palaeozoic (Nordrhein-Westfalen, Rheinland-Pfalz), Permian & Triassic (northern Bavaria, Thuringen, Sachsen), Cretaceous, Paleogene & Neogene (Niedersachsen, Sachsen-Anhalt, Sachsen) and Quaternary (Mecklenburg-Vorpommern). These excursions will visit a number of classical localities and museums with palaeobotanical exhibits.

Call for Symposia - We now call for proposals for symposia. Each symposium will have two convenors. Symposia will be restricted to time blocks of three hours; depending on the theme, a symposium may include two or more blocks. A symposium starts with a 10 minute introduction by the convenors and concludes with a short summary. Each speaker will have 15 minutes for the oral presentation and five minutes for discussion. In order to avoid too many parallel sessions and to give everybody a

fair chance to give an oral presentation, the number of oral presentations will be restricted to two per speaker. Convenors may invite a keynote speaker for their symposium. Keynotes can fill two time slots and counts as a single presentation. Proposals for symposia, preferably in electronic format, should be sent to Hans Kerp (kerp@uni-muenster.de) with a carbon copy to Thomas Litt (t.litt@uni-bonn.de) before 31st May 2007. Proposals should include (1) the title of the symposium, (2) the names and addresses of the convenors, (3) a brief summary of the symposium (c. ½ page), and, if possible, (4) a list of potential speakers. Because we want to encourage interactions between palaeobotanists and palynologists, especially proposals for interdisciplinary symposia dealing with both palaeobotanical and palynological aspects of the same theme (e.g., palaeoclimate, palaeoecology, extinction events) are most welcome.

More information on 8th IOPC and 12th IPC will soon be available on the internet. Until the official conference website is on-line, a preliminary website with the latest information is available under: <http://www.paleontology.uni-bonn.de/>. As soon as the conference website is on-line, visitors will automatically be linked to the official website.

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FORTHCOMING IOP ELECTIONS

Terms of office for the current IOP Executive Officers will end at the VIII IOPC in Bonn, September 2008. Elections for new IOP Officers will be conducted over a period of several weeks preceding the IOPC. Vote

tabulations will be completed during the IOPC, with new officers being announced at the General Assembly, and their terms of office beginning with at the close of the meeting.

Within the next few months there will be a call for nominations in the IOP Newsletter, and a slate of candidates will be developed. Please begin to think about who would make a desirable candidate for each of the executive offices, including President, Vice Presidents (3), Members at large (3) and Secretary/Treasurer. Descriptions of the offices and duties of the officers are presented in the IOP Statutes at <http://www.palaeobotany.org/modules.php?name=iop&sec=about&page=5>

JONGMANS MEDAL TO DAVID BATTEN

Congratulations to David Batten for being awarded The Jongmans Medal, which was presented by Dr. Johanna H.A. van Konijnenburg - van Cittert at the Seventh European Palaeobotanical and Palynological Conference, Prague, September 2006. The response that follows is more or less as David remembers it, give or take a few words or phrases, as he did not have notes.

Presentation of the Medal: Ladies and Gentlemen, dear colleagues - We are here to present for the fourth time the Jongmans medal, this time again to a well-known palynologist: David John Batten.

The Jongmans Award was established in 1994 by the Dutch Foundation Geology and Palaeontology to honour distinguished earth scientists and to commemorate the life and work of Professor dr. W.F. Jongmans. Recipients were Prof. dr. Remy of Munster University (IVth European Palaeobotanical-Palynological Conference, Heerlen, September 1994), Prof. dr. M. Streef of Liege University (Vth EPPC, Cracow 1998) and Prof. dr. H. Walther of Dresden University (VIth EPPC, Athens 2002).

Dr Batten is not only a palynologist working on dinoflagellates and sporomorphs, but also sometimes a macro-palaeobotanist or a scientist dealing with the paleoecological and climatological implications of his work, and last but not least an editor! Many people not working directly in the field of palaeobotany and palynology know you only as the editor-in-chief of *Cretaceous Research* and of *Palaeontology*.

The first time I met you was at the Palaeobotany/Palynology conference in Utrecht in 1966, you as a young palynologist just graduated from University College, London; I as a student in the Yorkshire Jurassic flora, but both working on Mesozoic material from the UK and that has always been a bond between us, even when we went rather different ways.

When I looked through all the reprints I have of your work I see a lot of variation: Although plant macrofossils were not your main concern, you still wrote some papers on them, especially dealing with Cretaceous Equisetales. And in the 1990s you even worked with dispersed seed cuticles and other mesofossils. Of course you are best-known for your palynological work including reworking and palynofacies; you studied not only miospore assemblages but I never realised until recently that you started work on megaspores already at a very young stage of your career. But later on you continued that work including very interesting ultrastructural work on Mesozoic micro- and megaspores reaching significant results on their affinities. And of course, together with Warren Kovach, your Catalogue of Mesozoic and Tertiary megaspores.

And finally your palaeoecological work as for example palynofacies and papers dealing with organic maturation, both topics related to petroleum geology. Your papers I used most in the early days were the 'Wealden palaeoecology from the distribution of plant fossils', and 'Wealden of the Weald - a new model'. Also your 'Palynology, climate and the development of Late Cretaceous floral provinces in the Northern Hemisphere; a review' is well known. Especially your review articles, for example in the three volumes textbook 'Palynology: Principles and Applications', are much appreciated by many students and colleagues not familiar with a particular field of interest.

Your working places were initially, after your PhD at Cambridge and a postdoctoral fellowship there, in the oil industry with Robertson Research International in North Wales and British Petroleum at Aberdeen. You then moved on to the University of Aberdeen as a lecturer and later reader. You then moved to Aberystwyth in 1990 first as a senior lecturer and from 1992 onwards as a professor. When recently in that university things began to be bleak and you became emeritus professor, you had the courage not only to concentrate mainly on your editorial work, but also to go as honorary research professor to the University of Manchester, so that you still can continue your scientific work.

For all these reasons it is a great pleasure for the nominating committee and the Board of the Palynological Circle to award the 2006 medal to David J. Batten.

Johanna van Konijnenburg - van Cittert (Autust, 2006)

David Batten's Response: Thank you Han for your kind words. I am honoured to receive this award. It came as a complete surprise. Had I known about it sooner, I might have had time to prepare a paper for this conference, but I was notified by an e-mail sent to my Aberystwyth address. As a result, a few weeks had passed before I read it because I am based mainly in Manchester University now. On the other hand, I have been so burdened with editing in recent years that I probably wouldn't have found the time to write one I would be happy with even if I had received more advanced warning.

I began my university education in Canada for reasons that I don't have time to go into. I went to Queen's University in Kingston, Ontario, in 1961 intending to study botany, but one of my first year courses was in geology and made me think about continuing in this field, especially since I had not found the botanical part of the biology course very interesting. However, during the rest of my time at the university I remained unsure of my future. One of the consequences of this was that I also took arts courses, in the end graduating with degrees in liberal arts in 1964 and honours geology, with a minor in biology, in 1965. Following graduation, I was still uncertain about what to do next, despite having been accepted by the University of Chicago to pursue a PhD degree in vertebrate palaeontology. When I discussed this with my father he became a little worried that he might have to continue helping his son financially for several more years, so he suggested that I might consider something else that wouldn't last so long. As it happened, he had seen a newspaper advertisement for an MSc programme in micropalaeontology at University College London, so he suggested that I apply for that. I told him that I didn't know anything about micropalaeontology to which he replied 'well you don't know anything about vertebrate palaeontology either, so what's the difference?', or words to that effect. He also suggested that I might like to be based in London for a while, and since the cover of a recent issue of Time Magazine had been headed 'swinging London', I decided that this was actually rather a good idea.

At the time, the MSc course at UCL consisted of lectures, practicals and project work on palynology, ostracods and foraminifera. The palynology component came first and was presented by Bill Chaloner, who not only brought me back to botany but also inspired me to continue in the field. In addition, partly as a result of his influence, I didn't partake as fully as I might have done in the many extra-curricular activities that London had to offer. Indeed, when the possibility of working towards a PhD became a reality, I found the prospect of going to Cambridge more attractive than staying in the metropolis.

At Cambridge I was supervised by Norman Hughes, who wanted me to work on the distribution of spores and pollen grains in the Wealden (early Cretaceous) succession of south-east England in order to determine how sedimentary facies affected the stratigraphic ranges of these microfossils. However, it wasn't long before I began to find interesting relationships between rock types and the occurrence of not only palynomorphs but also the associated particulate organic matter, which laid the foundations of my longer term work on palynofacies, palaeoenvironments and the generation of hydrocarbons.

Cambridge in general, and the Department of Geology (as it was then) in particular, was a good place to be in the 1960s. Among the people who visited Norman or who had some study leave in Cambridge during my time there were Jim Doyle, Blanka Pacltová and Geoff Creber, all of whom are here today. In my final year of PhD research, with the prospect of having to look for a job looming, Brian Harland unexpectedly offered me a place on an oil-company-funded programme of field work for just under three months in the Svalbard archipelago, supported by helicopters operating from a Norwegian ice-breaking sealer, and also a year's employment afterwards if I wanted it. This particular operation led to the foundation of the organization known as CASP (Cambridge Arctic Shelf Project), which continues to this day. In the event, I didn't need the job because on my return from the Arctic I learned that I had been awarded a two-year postdoctoral fellowship at Cambridge.

I joined the geological consultants Robertson Research in North Wales at the beginning of 1972 and was immediately expected to be an expert on the palynology of sedimentary successions of all ages in any part of the world. Being 'thrown in at the deep end' in this way was an interesting and valuable experience, which I put to good use when I went to work for British Petroleum

early in 1974, briefly in London, then in Aberdeen. Towards the end of 1976 I moved on again, this time to a lectureship at Aberdeen University. While at BP I began correlating palynological with geochemical data in collaboration with the company's geochemists, and this research continued on and off during much of my time in Aberdeen.

Unfortunately, during the late 1980s there was a UK-wide, so-called 'rationalization' of university earth science departments, and for a time it looked as if the Department of Geology in Aberdeen would have to close, despite the fact that the North Sea oil industry was on its doorstep. I eventually decided to leave for the recently combined geology and geography departments at the University of Wales, Aberystwyth because future prospects there appeared to be brighter. How wrong I was! The first couple of years were more or less satisfactory, but the situation progressively deteriorated after that because of both internal-departmental and university-management politics, and culminated in the winding down and eventual closure of the geology department in 2000 when the last intake of its students graduated.

During the closing-down period I had little desire to transfer to another university, even if it had been possible. In 1999, one of my departmental colleagues, Tim Palmer, who had recently secured part-time employment as the Executive Officer of the Palaeontological Association, suggested that I might like a similar part-time position as editor of the Association's publications. I was reluctant to consider this at first because I was already Editor-in-Chief of *Cretaceous Research*, but eventually agreed to be the technical editor. However, by early 2001 it had become clear to me that *Palaeontology* and the other publications of the Association needed to be managed in a different way, and it was then that I became Editor-in-Chief. At the same time I decided to relinquish my position with *Cretaceous Research*, but for various reasons it proved necessary for me to continue with this journal for a couple more years, and latterly it has not been possible to find anyone willing to step into my shoes. However, I have now decided that, regardless (As of October 31, it seems that a replacement has been found), I must stop at the end of this year; being a chief editor of two journals is more than enough for any sane person. I need to find more time for research and especially to finish long-shelved, half-written papers that my co-authors, including the current IOP President, Margaret Collinson, have been waiting so patiently for me to work on again.

Sorry once more Margaret! I am looking forward to my changed circumstances in 2007.

I end by reiterating that the award of the Jongmans Medal is a considerable honour, which I have greatly appreciated. Thank you,

David Batten (September 2006)

BOTANICAL SOCIETY MERIT AWARD TO RUTH STOCKEY

The Botanical Society of America Merit Award is the highest honor the Society bestows. The award was instigated at the 50th Anniversary Celebration of the Botanical Society in 1956. That year fifty awards were given to honor contributions to the botanical sciences spanning the previous half century. In 2006 Dr. Ruth Stockey was presented this award at the Centennial Celebration of the BSA in Chico, California.

Upon presentation of the 2006 award, the President of the Botanical Society stressed that "Ruth is being recognized for her outstanding contributions to paleobotany, especially to our understanding of the anatomy and development of fossil conifers and angiosperms. She began her research career elucidating the structure and development of fossil conifers and is recognized as the world's expert in this area. Since moving to the University of Alberta, she has concentrated on anatomically preserved fossil angiosperms, providing data on floral structure, development, and phylogeny in these ancient plants. Her research has been supported by the Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council (NSERC) of Canada for more than 26 years. Dr. Stockey is truly an "ambassador of botany" and is involved in collaborative work with colleagues around the world; her letters of support came from five countries! She is an enthusiastic teacher and her support and training of students is exceptional--one student began research in her laboratory in high school, and received her Ph.D. this year. For her many contributions to paleobotany, including her dedication to training the next generation of botanists, the BSA is proud to recognize Dr. Ruth A. Stockey with its highest award."

Well done sweetie!

Gar Rothwell (Ohio University)

POSTDOCTORAL RESEARCH POSITION IN PALAEOBOTANY AND EVOLUTIONARY PLANT BIOLOGY

Applications are requested for a Post-Doctoral Research Fellow to investigate exceptional, anatomically preserved Palaeozoic seed plants on a NERC-funded research project led by Dr Jason Hilton within the Palaeobiology and Palaeoenvironments Research Group. Research will be strongly multi-disciplinary, requiring the appointed researcher to undertake palaeobotanical fieldwork, to prepare and describe individual fossil specimens, analyse collated results in a developmental framework within seed-plant phylogeny, and prepare publications. The project will explore aspects of seed-plant phylogeny and evolution, character evolution, and phylogenetic analysis of extinct and living seed plants, completed within a conceptual structure provided by contrasting molecular and morphological phylogenies. The project offers research links with Profs Richard Bateman (Kew), Jean Galtier (Montpellier) and Shi-Jun Wang (Beijing).

Starting salary £24,402 in the range of £24,042 to £31,840 a year (potential progression on performance once in post to £33,799). This position is available from 1 June 2007 for a period of 34 months.

Informal enquiries to Dr Jason Hilton on tel: 0121 414 6151 or e-mail j.m.hilton@bham.ac.uk Further information is available on <http://www.gees.bham.ac.uk/>

Closing date: 23 March 2007 (Reference: S43132). Details from <http://www.hr.bham.ac.uk/jobs>, or from HR, University of Birmingham, Edgbaston, Birmingham B15 2TT, UK

SEPKOSKI GRANTS

The Paleontological Society International Research Program announces the continuation of its small grants program for paleontologists living in Eastern Europe and republics of the former Soviet Union. For 2007, thirty grants of US \$500 will be awarded. Applications are due by April 1, 2007. Please go to the PS website at <http://www.paleosoc.org/palsirp.html> to obtain further details and instructions on how to apply.

INTERNATIONAL UNION OF BIOLOGICAL SCIENCES WEB SITE

It is with great pleasure that the International Union of Biological Sciences announces the development of a renewed website (<http://www.iubs.org/>). This new website aims to serve as a media, a forum and an interface between the IUBS and its family members and partners. Also, we would be very grateful for your help to update all information and data related to your organisation, programmes and activities.

Dr Talal YOUNES
Executive Director, IUBS
email: tyounes@iubs.org

MEETINGS ANNOUNCEMENTS

24th Midcontinent Paleobotanical Colloquium

The 24th annual MPC will be held March 16-18, 2007 at Southern Methodist University, Dallas, Texas. The MPC is held in the spring, and is hosted by a different institution each year. This meeting emphasizes student participation in a relaxed and relatively informal setting. Although the format varies somewhat from year-to-year, there generally are social receptions, oral and poster presentations, banquets, workshops, field trips, slide exchanges, and lots of personal interactions.

This year the program will feature registration, open house at SMU, and evening reception at the Jacobs house (March 16); scientific program, evening banquet and dinner speaker (March 17th); and a one-day field trip led by Bill DiMichele and Dan Chaney focusing on vegetation and climate change associated with the Pennsylvanian-Permian boundary (March 18th). Registration will open on November 1, 2007, and the abstract submission deadline will be February 1, 2007. For more information, please visit the website: <http://www.smu.edu/geology/MPC.htm>

Bonnie Jacobs, SMU

Palaeobotany and the Evolution of Plants: Current Issues

An international seminar entitled "Paléobotanique et évolution du monde végétal: quelques problèmes d'actualité" will be held at the Collège de France, Paris

on 23-25 May 2007. The aim of this symposium is to provide a forum for the discussion of recent developments in palaeobotany, palaeoecology, the evolutionary biology of plants, and the use of fossil plants in the reconstruction of palaeoenvironments and palaeoclimates. The abstract deadline is March 21, 2007. The second circular for the conference is appended to the end of this Newsletter.

Jean Broutin and Martine Berthelin,
Collège de France, Paris

10th International Symposium on Antarctic Earth Science

You are invited to the 10th ISAES to be held in Santa Barbara August 26 to September 1, 2007. The registration process includes three parts; register for the symposium; register for on-campus housing; submit a paper(s) for presentation.

Deadlines for each are as follows: Registration (early, discounted) June 15, 2007; Registration at a higher rate from June 16 to the start of the symposium. On-campus housing reservations are on a first-come, first-served basis. Deadline for submitting a presentation March 15 OR May 15.

To register for the symposium:

http://www.housing.ucsb.edu/conferences/web_reg/isaes2007reg.htm

To register for on-campus housing:

http://www.housing.ucsb.edu/conferences/web_reg/isaes2007housing.htm

To submit a paper or extended abstract:

<http://isaes2007.geol.ucsb.edu/Presenters.html>><http://isaes2007.geol.ucsb.edu/Presenters.html>

To sign up for field excursions, go to the Field Excursions web page:

<http://isaes2007.geol.ucsb.edu/ProgramFieldExcursions.html> and contact the trip leader directly by email.

For more information: Join our information email list to stay up to date on important news and announcements concerning ISAES 2007:

<https://secure.lsit.ucsb.edu/mailman/listinfo/info-isaes2007.geol>

General questions and inquiries should be sent to:
isaes2007@geol.ucsb.edu

International Neumayer-Symposium on Polar Research

Following the great success of the 1st Symposium held in 2001, we are pleased to invite all scientists working on any aspect of the polar regions to meet from Sept. 21st until Sept. 24th 2007 in Bad Dürkheim, Germany, for the: "2nd International Neumayer-Symposium on Polar Research" together with the Award of the "Georg von Neumayer-Medal".

If you are interested in joining us for this occasion, please consult the 1st Circular at http://ipy.pollichia.de/index_e.html. Personally, I would be glad if we could have a strong Paleo-session during this meeting and I would like to ask you to distribute the circular among other colleagues interested in polar paleontology.

With best wishes

Dieter Uhl <mailto:dieter.uhl@gmx.de>
on behalf of the organization committee

Invitation for the 8th European Palaeobotanical and Palynological Conference

The Organizing Committee is delighted to invite you for the 8th European Palaeobotanical and Palynological Conference to be held in Budapest in 2010. The conference will be organized by the Hungarian Natural History Museum, the Hungarian Academy of Sciences, the Eötvös Lóránd University and the Hungarian Geological Society. The scientific sessions of the conference will cover all important issues of palaeobotany and palynology - the broad spectrum of subjects will guarantee an interesting scientific programme for everyone.

Pre- and post-conference field trips will show palaeobotanical localities as well as recent botanical and cultural sights. A 3-4 day fieldtrip will be organized to northeast Hungary, and there will be two fieldtrips (2 and 3 days) to western Hungary.

Budapest is the capital and the most important scientific, cultural and historical centre of Hungary. The city is accessible easily by plane (international airport), train (IC and EC trains) and by bus or car from all European cities from all directions. (E.g. from Vienna it takes no longer than 2,5 hours to reach Budapest by car or train). Budapest has a well-developed network of public transport including metros, buses and trams. The new building complex of the Eötvös Lóránd University serves as an ideal conference venue with lecture halls providing all technical facilities (projection equipment, internet access, etc.). For banquets, welcome parties, etc., the new building of the Natural History Museum is an excellent place. Housing facilities, with numerous hotels of various standard and price, all kinds of restaurants, with traditional Hungarian kitchen, as well as kitchen of other countries, and snack bars fit all pocketbooks and tastes. Various social events, tourist attractions and a rich natural environment provide a pleasant and interesting program also for the accompanying participants. During the conference a short sightseeing tour will take place and several interesting programs will be offered for accompanying participants, e.g. a tour to the Hungarian Pusztá.

Lilla Hably

ANNOUNCEMENTS OF PASSING

Dr. Ajit Kumar Pal (1944-2006)

We deeply condole the sudden death of Dr Ajit Kumar Pal on February 21, 2006. Dr. Ajit Kumar Pal was born at Dhaka, Bangladesh in 1944 and had his education in Kolkata. He was a State Scholar in School Final and a National Scholar in graduate level. He obtained the Masters degree from Jadavpur University, Kolkata in Geology and carried out research in the Department of Botany, University of Calcutta with Prof. A. Ghosh. He was awarded the Ph.D. degree in 1971, and the Calcutta University awarded him the D.Sc. degree in 1999.

Dr. Pal joined the Geological Survey of India as a Geologist (Jr.) in 1971 and retired from service as Director (Geology) in January 2004. He received financial support of the Royal Society & Nuffield Foundation Commonwealth Bursary to work with Prof. W.G. Chaloner, FRS at the Birbeck College University of London, U.K, and made a significant contribution on

the study of the *Lepidodendropsis* flora from the Lower Carboniferous of Kashmir, India (Nature,1979). More recently, he studied the Palaeozoic stratigraphy and fossils of Kashmir Himalayas. He also worked on fossil algae and fauna of Bagh Beds. Dr. Pal was Associate Professor in the Department Geological Science, Jadavpur University, Kolkata for a short time.

Dr. A.K. Pal was awarded the Dr. J. Coggin Brown Gold Medal by the Mining Geological & Metallurgical Institute of India for the year 1992-93. He was the first to receive this medal for Palaeontological studies. He published more than 50 research papers on Palaeontology and Palaeobotany in national and international journals. Dr. Pal was honoured by Satyendra Puraskar – 2001 for his popular science book in Bengali “Fossiler Katha” by the Govt. of West Bengal. He has written many popular articles on Palaeobotany and Palaeontology.

Members of IOP Indian Chapter in a meeting held in the Palaeobotany-Palynology Section, Department of Botany, University of Calcutta condoled the sudden demise of Dr. Ajit Kumar Pal. May His Soul Rest in Peace.

Manju Banerjee

Dr. John Gordon Douglas (1929-2007)

We are saddened to learn of the recent death of Jack Douglas in Warrmambool, Victoria. As one of our favourite Australian colleagues, we will miss his genial companionship. An obituary for Jack is being prepared for publication in the next IOP Newsletter.

OBITUARY

In memory of Bernard Lugardon, a talented palynologist

Bernard Lugardon has departed this world on the 25th of January 2007 after a short illness. Owing to the very rich and pleasant collaboration which I have had with him during about ten years (1996 – 2005), I would like to homage to him, to his great expertise and knowledge but also for his enthusiasm, his faithfulness and his exquisite kindness.

In the beginning of 1996, Bernard proposed me to study ultrastructurally the spores of my fossil plants in order to try to precise their relationships. I sent him the spores of the Triassic sphenophytes *Equisetites* and *Schizoneura* and the spores of the lycopsids, respectively the Triassic genera *Pleuromeia* and *Annalepis* and the Carboniferous genus *Polysporia*. Rather quickly he told me that the results were very promising! It was the beginning of a very active and fruitful collaboration which lasted about ten years and during which we exchanged more than 350 messages. This collaboration resulted in 4 publications and 5 communications at different congresses. Unfortunately, because of some interruptions, we had not enough time to publish all the results, particularly those on the sphenophytes and the lycopsids *Annalepis* and *Polysporia*.

Owing to the transmission electron microscope (TEM) studies made by Bernard Lugardon, we could show that the ultrastructural features of both, the microspores and the megaspores of *Pleuromeia rossica* from the Lower Triassic of the Russian platform are very similar to those of the living *Isoetes* and greatly differ from those of all the other extant Pteridophyta. These similarities lead us to conclude that there is a close relationship between *Isoetes* and *P. rossica*. These results have been reinforced by the TEM studies of the spores of *P. sternbergii*, the type-species from the Lower Triassic of Germany, since they show the same ultrastructural features as the spores of *P. rossica* and *Isoetes*. Moreover, one of the ultrastructural features proved to be phylogenetically highly significant feature since it permitted to recognize and trace the isoetalean lineage within the lycopsid history and to show that this lineage including the modern Isoetales has a very remote origin which can be traced back to the Devonian. Likewise, these studies allowed to show that there are no direct relations between the isoetalean and the lepidodendralean lineages. Since the isoetaleans have appeared quite earlier, they cannot be derived from the Carboniferous arborescent lepidodendraleans, as it was long admitted. The close homologies between the wall components of the microspores and megaspores of *P. sternbergii* which could be identify, moreover open up new prospects about the connections linking many seemingly very different sporoderm types.

The preliminary results of the TEM studies made by Bernard on the spores of *Annalepis* and *Polysporia* show that they have the same ultrastructural features as the spores of *Isoetes* and *Pleuromeia* and that, therefore,

they also belong to the isoetalean lineage. As to the preliminary results of the TEM studies of the spores of *Equisetites* (*Equisetostachys*) and of *Schizoneura* (*Echinostachys*), Bernard told me that these spores represent for him “un petit régal”, i.e. a true delight, since they clearly represent the intermediate stages between those of the Carboniferous sphenophytes and those of the living Equisetaceae. These results would be the first proof of their relationships.

However, beyond the great expertise and knowledge of Bernard Lugardon, I have lost a faithful and good friend. His sudden departure leaves me in a great sadness. Therefore I will greatly miss him. Likewise, Paleobotany has lost a valuable collaborator and an estimated expert.

Léa Grauvogel-Stamm

SÉMINAIRE INTERNATIONAL
PALÉOBOTANIQUE ET ÉVOLUTION DU MONDE VÉGÉTAL :
QUELQUES PROBLÈMES D'ACTUALITÉ.

PALAEOBOTANY AND THE EVOLUTION OF PLANTS :
CURRENT ISSUES.

PARIS, COLLÈGE DE FRANCE : 23-25 MAI 2007



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DE FRANCE**

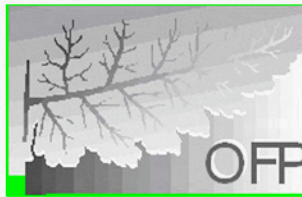
1530

<http://www.college-de-france.fr>

Co-organisé par le Professeur Armand de Ricqlès,
Chaire de Biologie historique et Évolutionnisme
ricqlès@ccr.jussieu.fr

En collaboration avec - In collaboration with:

**ORGANISATION FRANCOPHONE DE
PALÉOBOTANIQUE**



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PALAEOBOTANY SPECIALIST GROUP**



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COORDINATION : Professeur Jean Broutin, Université Pierre et Marie Curie

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Équipe Paléodiversité, Systématique et Évolution des Embryophytes
(UMR 5143 Paléobiodiversité et Paléoenvironnements)



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Martine Berthelin, mberthel@snv.jussieu.fr & J. Broutin, jean.broutin@upmc.fr

Ce séminaire a pour objectif de faire le point sur les derniers développements des recherches en **Paléobotanique, Paléoécologie, Biologie Évolutive des plantes**, en relation avec la reconstitution des environnements et des climats du passé.

Il ambitionne d'être un véritable forum, ouvert à tous, entre jeunes chercheurs et chercheurs confirmés, permettant de « couvrir » un vaste éventail de sujets, centrés tant sur des résultats nouveaux que sur des mises au point générales.

L'accent sera mis sur les approches inter-disciplinaires : présentations et conférences associant « Plantes fossiles » et : systématique et classification phylogénétique (approches morphologique et moléculaire) ; dynamique de la biodiversité végétale ; interactions plante-insecte ; paléo -biogéochimie, -magnétisme, -géographie ; modélisations climatiques ; Identification Assistée par Ordinateur (I.A.O.), bases de données et de connaissances etc..., seront les bienvenues.

Communications et affiches sont possibles. Les présentations orales pourront être en Anglais ou en Français (auquel cas, il est souhaitable de s'appuyer sur des projections libellées en Anglais).

Une visite des collections de paléobotanique du Muséum National d'Histoire Naturelle est proposée le samedi 26 mai pour les participants intéressés.

Aucun droit d'inscription n'est dû pour participer au séminaire, mais un dîner (payant) sera organisé le 24 mai pour les « volontaires ».

Les contributions pourront être publiées, après «peer review », dans un **volume thématique « Paléobotanique – Paléoécologie » des Comptes Rendus PALEVOL de l'Académie des Sciences de Paris** (Manuscrits à déposer en séance, détails dans la seconde circulaire)

The aim of this symposium is to provide a forum for the discussion of recent developments in **palaeobotany, palaeoecology, the evolutionary biology of plants**, and the use of fossil plants in the reconstruction of palaeoenvironments and palaeoclimates.

The focus will be on new results, new reviews of particular problems, new techniques, etc. Young researchers are also encouraged to take part. Both oral and poster presentations are welcome, on a wide range of topics, with the emphasis on interdisciplinary approaches linking fossil plants and: systematics and phylogenetic classification (morphological and molecular approaches); vegetation biodiversity dynamics; plant-insect interactions; palaeobiogeochemistry; palaeomagnetism; palaeogeography; climate modelling; computer aided identifications ; database and other computerized systems etc... Presentations will be in English or in French, in which case the speaker will be asked to produce English labelled slides.

On 26 May it is planned that there will be a visit to the palaeobotany collections of the Museum National d'Histoire Naturelle in Paris for interested participants.

As a “séminaire” of the Collège de France, there will be no registration fees for the meeting. There will be a reception dinner in the “quartier latin” on 24 May, for which there will be a fee for those wishing to attend.

There will be an opportunity to publish contributions, after peer review, in a **thematic volume “Palaeobotany –Palaeoecology” of Comptes-Rendus PALEVOL de l'Académie des Sciences de Paris** (Elsevier), in English or French (manuscript to be deposited during the symposium, details in the second circular)

SECOND CIRCULAR / DEUXIÈME CIRCULAIRE

Registration / Inscription

Deadline for reply: March 24 / Date limite pour la réponse : 24 Mars

Title, Name – Titre, Nom :

First name – Prénom :

Address – Adresse :

E-mail address – Adresse électronique :

Telephone – Téléphone :

Fax – Télécopie :

Accompanying person(s) – Membre(s) accompagnants(s) :

I do not plan to give any presentation - Je ne prévois pas de présentation

I plan to give an oral presentation (**computer, video projector, slide projector, overhead projector available**)

Je souhaite présenter une communication orale (**ordinateur, vidéo-projecteur, projecteur de diapositives rétroprojecteur disponibles**)

Title – Titre :

I plan to present a poster - Je souhaite présenter une affiche

Poster : maximum size 90 x 150 cm. **Affiche** : Taille maximale 90 x 150 cm.

Title – Titre :

Please : send back the title, **even provisional**, of your oral presentation and / or your poster **by return of mail**, in order for us to coordinate as well as possible the lecture sessions and the poster display.

SVP : renvoyez-nous le titre, **même provisoire**, de votre communication orale et / ou de votre affiche **par retour de mail** pour nous permettre d'organiser au mieux les sessions de communications et la mise en place des affiches.

I plan to visit the paleobotanical collection and exhibition of the Museum of National History of Paris on May 26

Je souhaite visiter la galerie de Paléobotanique du Muséum National d'Histoire Naturelle le samedi 26 mai

I plan to submit a manuscript for the thematic volume of the Comptes-Rendus de l'Académie des Sciences de Paris "PALEVOL", related to my oral communication / to my poster, or original.

Dead line for reception of the manuscript: during the meeting (see instructions for authors: <http://france.elsevier.com/html/index.cfm?act=inc&page=ia/ia-PV.html#anglais>). Length: up to 12 pages for a synthetic review article (1 page = 5000 characters, spaces included).

Je souhaite soumettre un manuscrit pour le volume thématique des Comptes-Rendus de l'Académie des Sciences de Paris "PALEVOL", en relation avec ma communication orale / mon affiche ou original.

Date limite de dépôt du manuscrit : pendant le séminaire. (voir instructions aux auteurs: <http://france.elsevier.com/html/index.cfm?act=inc&page=ia/ia-PV.html#français>). Longueur : jusqu'à 12 pages pour un article de synthèse (1 page = 5000 caractères, espaces compris).

I wish to attend the reception dinner on May 24 (circa 30 euros), with _____ accompanying person(s).

Je souhaite participer au dîner le 24 mai (environ 30 euros), accompagné par _____ personnes.

Dead line for sending your abstract (for the abstract volume)
Date limite pour l'envoi du résumé (pour le volume de résumés)
March 21 2007

Abstract should preferentially be sent by e-mail to jbroutin@upmc.fr or mberthel@snv.jussieu.fr as an attached file.

PREPARATION OF THE ABSTRACT – PRÉPARATION DU RÉSUMÉ

Abstract (**one page maximum**) with keywords (7 maximum) in English or in French or both

Résumé (**une page maximum**) avec mots-clé (7 maximum) en Anglais ou / et en Français

Bibliographical references list (optional) – Références bibliographiques (optionnel)

Acknowledgements (optional) – Remerciements (optionnel)

Figure and / or table (optional) – Figure et / ou tableaux (optionnel)

FORMAT OF THE ABSTRACT – FORMAT DE L'ABSTRACT.

TITLE (Times New Roman 10, CAPITALS, BOLD) - TITRE (Times New Roman 10, CAPITALES GRASSES)

Name of author(s) (Times New Roman 10, bold) – Nom du (des) auteur(s) (Times New Roman 10, gras)

Address(es) (Times New Roman 10, bold and italic) - Adresse(s) (Times New Roman 10, italiques grasses)

Text of the abstract (Times New Roman 10, justified on both sides ; interline: simple)

Texte du résumé (Times New Roman 10, justifié des deux côtés; simple interligne)

Provisional schedule / Planning provisoire

May 2007- Mai 2007	A.M./Matin		Lunch Déjeuner	P.M./Après-Midi		Evening Soirée
Wednesday 23- Mercredi 23	8h30 -9h15 Registration Enregistrement 9h30-10h30 Keynote Lecture Lectures	10h30-10h50 Coffee break- Pause café 10h50-12h30 lectures	12h30- 14h00	14h00-16h00 Keynote Lecture lectures	16h00-16h30 Coffee break/ Poster session Pause café / Affiches 16h30-18h30 Lectures	-
Thursday 24- Jeudi 24	9h00-10h30 Key note Lecture Lectures	10h30-11h Coffee break/ Poster session Pause café / Affiches 11h-12h30 lectures	12h30- 14h00	14h00-16h00 Key note Lecture lectures	16h00-16h30 Coffee break/ Poster session Pause café / Affiches 16h30-18h30 Lectures	20h00 Conference diner
Friday 25- Vendredi 25	9h00-10h30 Keynote Lecture Lectures	10h30-11h Coffee break/ Poster session Pause café / Affiches 11h-12h30 lectures	12h30- 14h00	14h00-16h00 Keynote Lecture lectures	16h00-16h30 Coffee break/ Poster session Pause café / Affiches 16h30-18h30 Lectures	-
Saturday 26- Samedi 26		10h –12h Visit of the National Museum collection of Paleobotany				

Keynote lectures: 30 min. presentation + 5 min . discussion

Regular lectures : 15 min. presentation + 5 min. discussion

The 3rd circular, with the detailed programme will be sent in april
 La 3^{ème} circulaire avec le programme détaillé sera envoyée en avril
