



A.A.S.P. NEWSLETTER

Published Quarterly by the American Association of Stratigraphic Palynologists Inc.

September 2004 Volume 37, Number 3

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A.A.S.P.

American Association of Stratigraphic Palynologists Inc.

The American Association of Stratigraphic Palynologists, Inc. - AASP - was established in 1967 by a group of 31 founding members to promote the science of palynology. Today AASP has a world-wide membership of about 800 and is run by an executive comprising an elected Board of Directors and subsidiary boards and committees. AASP welcomes new members.

The AASP Foundation publishes the journal *Palynology* (annually), the AASP Newsletter (quarterly), and the AASP Contributions Series (mostly monographs, issued irregularly), as well as several books and miscellaneous items. AASP organises an Annual Meeting which usually includes a field trip, a business luncheon, social events, and technical sessions where research results are presented on all aspects of palynology.

AASP Scientific Medal recipients

Professor William R. Evitt (awarded 1982)
Professor William G. Chaloner (awarded 1984)
Dr. Lewis E. Stover (awarded 1988)
Dr. Graham Lee Williams (awarded 1996)
Dr. Hans Gocht (awarded 1996)
Dr. Svein B. Manum (awarded 2002)
Professor Barrie Dale (awarded 2004)
Dr. David Wall (awarded 2004)

AASP Honorary Members

Professor Dr. Alfred Eisenack (elected 1975)
Dr. William S. Hoffmeister (elected 1975)
Professor Leonard R. Wilson (elected 1975)
Professor Knut Faegri (elected 1977)
Professor Charles Downie (elected 1982)
Professor William R. Evitt (elected 1989)
Professor Lucy M. Cranwell (elected 1989)
Dr. Tamara F. Vozzhennikova (elected 1990)
Professor Aureal T. Cross (elected 1991)
Dr. Robert T. Clarke (awarded 2002)

AASP Board of Directors Award recipient

Dr. Robert T. Clarke (awarded 1994)

Teaching medal recipients

Professor Aureal T. Cross (awarded 1999)
Professor Alfred Traverse (awarded 2001)

AASP Distinguished Service Award recipients

Dr. Robert T. Clarke (awarded 1978)
Dr. Norman J. Norton (awarded 1978)
Dr. Jack D. Burgess (awarded 1982)
Dr. Richard W. Hedlund (awarded 1982)
Dr. John A. Clendening (awarded 1987)
Dr. Kenneth M. Piel (awarded 1990)
Dr. Gordon D. Wood (awarded 1993)
Dr. Jan Jansonius (awarded 1995)
Dr. D. Colin McGregor (awarded 1995)
Professor John H. Wrenn (awarded 1998)
Professor Vaughn M. Bryant (awarded 1999)
Dr. Donald W. Engelhardt (awarded 2000)

Awards at each Annual Meeting: Best Student Paper Award, and Best Poster Award.

AASP Student Scholarships may be awarded annually to three students in the amount of US\$1500. The qualification of the student, the originality and imagination evident in the proposed project, and the likelihood of significant contribution to the science of palynology are factors that will be weighed in selection of award winners. Previous winners of this award are eligible only if they are pursuing a different degree than the one they were pursuing when they received the previous award. AASP Scholarships are available to all students of palynology in all countries and need not be members of AASP. Application forms appear in the January issue of the AASP Newsletter, are available from the Chairman of the AASP Awards Committee (Fred Rich frich@gasou.edu), or can be downloaded from our website at <http://www.palynology.org/content/scholar.html>

AASP Membership categories and dues (in US\$ per year) are as follows:

Individual (\$45.00), **Student** (\$30.00), **Retired** (\$15.00), and **Institutional** (\$70.00). Dues may be paid up to three years in advance by using credit card (MasterCard, Visa, American Express), check or money order (made payable to AASP Inc.), and must be sent to the Secretary-Treasurer. All members receive the AASP Newsletter (mailed quarterly by hard copy or via email), Membership Directory (mailed annually), and (with the exception of Retired members) the journal *Palynology* that is published annually. Overseas members can receive their Newsletter and *Palynology* by airmail, rather than book rate surface mail; an additional surcharge is required in the amount of US\$12.00 for Europe & South America, and US\$15.00 for Africa, Asia & the Pacific region (includes Australia and New Zealand).



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Carlos Jaramillo, Editor

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The AASP Newsletter is published four times annually. Members are encouraged to submit articles, "letters to the editor", technical notes, meetings reports, information about "members in the news", new websites and information about job openings in the industry. Every effort will be made to publish all information received from our membership. Contributions which include photographs should be submitted a week before the deadline. Deadline for next issues of the newsletter is SEPTEMBER 1, 2004. All information should be sent by email. If possible, please illustrate your contribution with art, line drawings, eye-catching logos, black & white photos, colour photos, etc. We **DO** look forward to contributions from our membership.

PRESIDENT'S PAGE

By Martin Head

It is an honor to serve as AASP's 38th President, and to be working with an accomplished and dedicated board of directors and committee members. AASP is easily the largest palynological association in the world, as well as being the oldest. It also has a healthy bank balance and a membership that is finally stabilizing after some years of decline. I joined AASP in 1981 as a PhD student in Aberdeen, Scotland. David Batten, my PhD supervisor, suggested that AASP was a worthwhile organization to join because I was working on stratigraphic applications in palynology. Twenty-three years on, AASP maintains a core strength in stratigraphic palynology, but its membership probably has more diverse interests in palynology than ever before. As AASP moves forward, we shall continue expanding the relevance of our organization within such areas as archaeology, aerobiology, forensic palynology and Quaternary science. This diversity is palynology's abiding strength, and is why AASP embraces palynology in *all* of its many guises.

It was good to see so many of you at the XI International Palynological Congress in July, held in the beautiful and historic city of Granada, Spain. Here was a chance to see palynology in all its extraordinary diversity. Ana Teresa Romero and her team expertly hosted this major international event which attracted more than 600 people. Tom Demchuk, Francine McCarthy and other AASP stalwarts served at a table displaying AASP's publications. By the end of the conference they had raised almost \$630 from publication sales and \$400 in membership dues. AASP more than covered its expenses at Granada, and its presence created a great deal of important exposure. AASP's annual luncheon was held at XI IPC, and the highlight of this very pleasant gathering was surely the presentation of two AASP Medals for Scientific Excellence, one to Professor Barrie Dale and the other to Dr David Wall. Only six such awards have been presented by AASP previously. David was not able to be present, his acceptance speech being delivered by Tom Demchuk. Barrie gave a delightful, unscripted

speech that could not have failed to move those who were there. Owen Davis did a fine job as Chair of AASP's annual meeting in Granada. The XII IPC will be held in Bonn, Germany, in 2008.

I am delighted to report that AASP is now a member of GeoScienceWorld (GSW: <http://geoscienceworld.org>). This might be the most important development in AASP's history since it set up its own journal, *Palynology*, in 1976. GSW is an online journal aggregate that will make *Palynology* available over the internet, and subscribing institutions will have access for much less than charged by the big publishers. GSW includes the American Association of Petroleum Geologists, the American Geological Institute, the Geological Society of America, and the Geological Society of London – so we are in very good company! GSW is a not-for-profit company and will use Stanford University's HighWire Press to build its new online portal. Libraries and other institutions will be invited to subscribe to GSW and thereby gain access to all the geoscience journals in its stable. Currently there are more than 30 of these, including *Geology*, *GSA Bulletin*, *AAPG Bulletin* etc., and this number will grow over time. All these journals will be indexed, linked, and inter-operable with GeoRef. Bob Clarke will serve as AASP's representative to GSW, and has already been busy this summer converting recent back issues of *Palynology* (to the year 2000). As of early next year, *Palynology* will be available online to all GSW subscribers. AASP will receive a small commission on all articles downloaded from GSW. Moreover, unless there are any last-minute glitches, we will soon also have an online presence through the biological/paleontological cluster called BioOne <http://www.bioone.org>. We will, of course, continue to print *Palynology*, and all members of AASP will receive their hard copy each year. But we will soon have vastly increased online exposure around the world. So there has never been a better time to submit your best manuscripts to our journal.

Owen Davis has stepped down after six years of exemplary service as Managing Editor. He has been an outstanding editor of *Palynology*, and has developed AASP's website with great skill and energy, all while overseeing AASP's publishing activities in their entirety. Although Owen has been succeeded by Jim Riding, he will continue to be responsible for the 2004 issue of *Palynology* and will remain as AASP's webmaster.

Finally, it is my great pleasure to congratulate members of the incoming board on their election to office, and to acknowledge with gratitude the enormous efforts of our outgoing Executive during the

past year. Thanks are also due to Carlos Jaramillo for once again producing an excellent and timely newsletter. I must mention our outgoing President Sharma Gaponoff who is still under strict doctors orders after a near-fatal accident early in the year. One of Sharma's final acts as President was to sign the legal agreement between AASP and GSW. She was determined to attend AASP's Annual Meeting at Granada, and her very presence there typifies her dedication to AASP.

I'd like to close by saying that the AASP Annual Meeting at St Louis 2005 promises to be a superb event, and a detailed (tentative) schedule is already available on the website at <http://campus.umn.edu/dce/conferences/aasp.htm>. Franca Oboh-Ikuenobe and her team have been working very hard on this, and will keep us informed of developments.

Martin J. Head
Cambridge, UK

AASP SECRETARY-TREASURER'S REPORT

As Presented at the Annual Business Luncheon
Wednesday, July 7, 2004
Granada, Spain

It's my pleasure to present an overview of the Secretary-Treasurer's report as presented to the general membership at the past Business Luncheon in Granada.

Secretary's Report

As of June 25, 2004, AASP had a total membership of 594. This included 435 Individual members, 57 Retired, and 102 Institutional. This number is significantly higher than the membership totals reported at last year's meeting, however, this membership of 594 includes those who have not renewed their membership for the year 2004. As of the mailing of this Newsletter, 74 members have NOT paid their 2004 dues and therefore will not receive Volume 28 of *Palynology* to be published later this year. All members whose dues are in arrears should have recently received another dues reminder in the snail-mail, as well as an e-mail notification. Your continued membership and support of the Association are greatly appreciated.

On a pleasant note, there have been a number of new memberships received, predominantly from students. All of these new members will receive a free AASP Foundation publication, and current members should encourage others to join the Association to take advantage of this offer.

As many of you will have noticed, the Newsletter has been distributed via e-mail. I'd like to thank all the members for keeping their e-mail addresses up-to-date. The number of "bounced" e-mail addresses has been very low, so thanks are in order for keeping my in-box clean.

Treasurer's Report

As of June 25, total assets of the Association were US\$71,525.22. This is down ever-so-slightly from the same time last year. As you may know, AASP has greatly increased the funding for students to travel to the various AASP sponsored meetings. This will continue as we sponsor student involvement in the upcoming Rice 2005 Microfossil Conference (see attached notice) and the AASP Annual Meeting later in 2005 in St. Louis. The increase in payments to students comes partly as a result of decreased reproduction and postage charges, specifically for the Newsletter. Many thanks to David Pocknall at BP for covering some of these reproduction charges, and for organizing the remaining hard-copy Newsletters which need to be sent out (mostly to Institutions). Our mutual funds fluctuate in value as the US stock market goes through its highs and lows; the Money Market slowly accumulates interest, as do our two Certificates of Deposit.

If any member has questions or concerns over the Secretary-Treasurer's report, I would be happy to provide details and answer questions. I look forward to serving the Association for another year. See you all at the Annual Meeting in St. Louis next September, and I further hope to see many of you at the Rice 2005 Microfossil Conference here in Houston next March.

Respectfully submitted,
Dr. Thomas D. Demchuk
AASP Secretary-Treasurer

INTERNATIONAL PALYNOLOGICAL CONGRESS
Granada, Spain July 4-9, 2004
By Thomas D. Demchuk

Since this is only the second IPC I have been fortunate enough to attend during my palynological career I may not be the best judge as to where this Congress ranks in the grand scheme of things. Perhaps it was the beautiful surroundings of Granada, perhaps it was the great technical atmosphere provided by the Granada Conference Center, or maybe it was just a combination of everything. This it not to say anything negative about my previous IPC experience, but

Granada had a lot going for it and it came through with high marks. Major accolades to the Organizing Committee, and Ana Teresa Romero, for providing a wonderful technical and social program for this recent gathering.



Alhambra

I did not attend the opening presentations on Sunday night, but Monday morning started bright and early with technical sessions. Dinoflagellates were the flavor of the day as Barrie Dale's presentation started the paleopalynology discussions. The day continued with some wonderful talks concerning dinoflagellate stratigraphy. The next few days of paleopalynology presentations progressed through the geological column. The organizers did a great job of having only three or four concurrent sessions, and at times it was difficult to decide which session to attend. The number of good presentations were a tribute to the success of the meeting. A session which garnered great interest was the one on Forensic Palynology. It seemed the interest in the presentations were much greater than the seating capacity of the room as people occupied any open spot that was available including the empty seats at the convenors table. The only negative aspect to this most interesting and exciting session was an annoying young lady who obviously felt that she needed to take pictures with a blinding flash, while stepping all over the people attempting to listen to the talks. Despite the chastising of Dallas Mildenhall, and the persistence of the young lady (who probably did not understand English, or maybe she didn't understand Dallas' Kiwi accent) the session was a great success.

The social program for the congress highlighted the Andalusian culture of the region. The Icebreaker on Sunday evening took place on the roof of the Conference Center, providing a spectacular view of Granada at night. Local food and drink were plentiful, and it was great to have opportunity to chat with other palynologists not seen since the last IPC. In typical Spanish fashion, the Icebreaker started at 9:30pm and lasted well through the remainder of the evening. The warm temperatures of the Granada

evening, which persisted throughout the remainder of the week, made it a great event. Two other social events clearly displayed the unique culture of Southern Spain. A dinner held just outside Granada at a private garden, was highlighted by a continuous stream of good-looking Flamenco dancers dressed in traditional costumes. Spanish barbeque was served, the sangria flowed, and crowd was well engrossed in these cultural festivities. The dancing and music lasted for quite some time with several meeting attendees making the most of the hospitable surroundings. The second party held at another garden meeting place outside Granada, held a Moorish flare. The food and wine were wonderful, and this time in front of a live music, meeting attendees danced until the late hours. The Spanish tradition of late evenings was very much carried forward through the meeting.

Of course, AASP had it's business functions and was well represented through the course of the meeting. Major kudos to Owen Davis for arranging the various AASP events. AASP held both of it's Board Meetings during the week, covering topics of interest to the general AASP membership. I'm sure Martin Head will outline these in his Presidential column elsewhere in this Newsletter. Additionally, the AASP Business Luncheon took place to honor two members with our most prestigious award. David Wall and Barrie Dale were both awarded the AASP Medal for Scientific Excellence. Although David was unable to attend the meeting, I was fortunate enough to be asked to give his acceptance speech, and will have opportunity very soon to present the plaque to him here at a small gathering of Houston palynologists. Barrie Dale was presented his award by Martin Head, and an emotional acceptance speech followed. It was great for

all to be there and partake in the ceremony.



Martins Adventure: A palynology gang after a wonderful meal, following Martin's "excellent adventure" to find the right restaurant (which we never located!). Martin Head and Joyce Lucas-Clark seated; standing from L-R Rolf Mathewes, Keith Richards, Stephen Lowe, Francine McCarthy, and Marta Ribot-Demchuk.

All in all, despite the high cost of the some of the social events, the atmosphere of southern Spain provided a wonderful setting for the Congress. Again, the organizers are to be congratulated. The next IPC will take place in Bonn, Germany in 2008 in conjunction with the International Organization of Paleobotany. I'm sure many of us will look forward to that gathering. I was extremely fortunate to be part of the IPC in Granada, and I'm definitely looking forward to Bonn. For a more complete review of the IPC meeting, one should read Susanne Fiest-Burkhardt's article in the recent TMS (The Micropaleontological Society) Newsletter www.nhm.ac.uk/hosted_sites/tms/newsletter.htm. Susanne has done a great job in her review of the technical sessions and in capturing the social atmosphere of the Congress.



Martin Head presents the AASP Medal for Scientific Excellence to Barrie Dale

NEW IGCP PROJECT 499

“Devonian Land-Sea Interaction: Evolution of Ecosystems and Climate (DEVEC)”



Leaders of the project

Dr. Peter Königshof (*), Dr. Jurga Lazauskiene (**), Dr. Eberhard Schindler (*), PD Dr. Volker Wilde (*) and Prof. Dr. M. Namik Yalçin(***)

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We have to announce a new IGCP-Project which was accepted by the UNESCO/IGCP Scientific Board in February 2004. The brief outline of the project is following:

The Devonian was a critical period with respect to the diversification of early terrestrial ecosystems. The geotectonic setting was characterized by the switch from the post-Caledonian to the pre-Variscan

situation. Plant life on land evolved from tiny tracheophytes to trees of considerable size in combination with a global increase in terrestrial biomass, and vertebrates started to conquer the land. Extensive shallow marine areas and continental lowlands with a wide range of different habitats existed which are preserved in a large number of basins all around the world. Climate change finally led from greenhouse to icehouse conditions towards the end of the Devonian. Both, rapid evolution of terrestrial ecosystems and climate change had a pronounced influence on sedimentation and biodiversity not only in the terrestrial but also in the marine realm (“Devonian Change”).

A major goal of the proposed project will be to focus on controls and interactions of the respective facies parameters in different paleogeographic settings in order to refine the global picture by international cooperation in a number of case studies. Geoscientific co-operation will include a variety of disciplines, such as sedimentology, paleontology, stratigraphy, paleoclimatology, paleogeography, geochemistry, paleoceanography, and structural geology.

The rapid evolution of early life on land and its interaction with sedimentary processes, climate, and paleogeography, both on land and in marine settings, will be covered by studies in different terrestrial and marine facies. Increasing colonization of the land by plants in combination with soil-forming processes and changing runoff led to major changes of sediment input into the marine system. On the other hand, sediment input and climate are major controls for carbonate production and reef development. The study of responses and interactions thus needs detailed characterization of facies and high-resolution correlation which can only be provided by a refined stratigraphy including biostratigraphy, lithostratigraphy, chronostratigraphy, etc. Characterization of facies and correlation of stratigraphic units is especially difficult in marine-terrestrial transitions and will be an important focus of the project. Resolution of sea-level changes will be enhanced by recognition and exact correlation of their effects which may be hidden just in these transitions. On the background of the global geotectonic situation (paleogeography s.l.), this will be an important prerequisite for a better discrimination of eustatic, climatic, and biotic controls, both on regional and global scale.

The focus of the project concerns the interrelated evolution of terrestrial and marine paleoecosystems with respect to biotic and abiotic factors in space and time. Studies will include individual paleoecosystems and their components as well as their paleobiogeographic distribution. Biotic and abiotic factors of pa-

leoecosystems are controlled by both, earthbound and extraterrestrial triggers causing either cyclicity and/or distinct events. Thus in turn, such studies may give a clue to underlying causes of global changes. The project will include sedimentologic and climatic controls of reef development and distribution as well as diversity, and paleoecology of reef building organisms throughout the Devonian, because the Middle to Late Devonian was a peak in reef development with reefs spreading into latitudes as high as 45-60 degrees. On the other hand, accommodation space for Early Devonian reefs was greatly reduced due to major input of sediment from the continents in combination with sea-level lowstand(s). A marked decline in reef development towards the end of the Devonian was probably caused by climatic deterioration.

The integrative kind of research which is needed for the success of the proposed project can only be carried out by a worldwide network of research groups representing different disciplines. Such a network can now be based on core groups successfully participating in the recently terminated IGCP 421. Furthermore, the project will extend the results of the former IGCP 328. It will actively interlink with the existing IGCP 491 which is mainly centered around vertebrate research. But, the proposed project will concentrate on the correlation and interaction of different ecosystems in a more general way. Special attention will be paid to coupling effects between the terrestrial and marine realm. Co-operation is also intended with the proposed IGCP "The Rheic Ocean: its origin, evolution and correlatives". Furthermore, an active network is represented by the members of the "Subcommission on Devonian Stratigraphy" (SDS). These existing networks will be integrated and thus providing the necessary base for an improved understanding of the Devonian period. A number of the respective colleagues and working groups have already agreed to contribute to the proposed project.

For supporting the network and communication among the participants there will be a website provided which will be hosted at the Senckenberg Research Institute and Natural History Museum. It will include links to participating groups/institutions and other relevant sites such as funding agencies.

Further information may be obtained from the respective website www.senckenberg.de/igcp-499

Colleagues interested in participation should contact one of the leaders in Frankfurt, for palynology/palaeobotany preferably V. Wilde; colleagues from Turkey should directly contact M. N. Yalçın (all contact details see above). Mailing address for all of the

project leaders in Frankfurt is: Forschungsinstitut und Naturmuseum Senckenberg, Senckenberganlage 25, D – 60325 Frankfurt am Main, Germany.

2004 WINNERS OF THE L.R. WILSON BEST STUDENT PAPER AWARD

by Fred Rich, AASP Awards Committee

The AASP Awards Committee is pleased to announce the names of the winners of the annual L.R. Wilson Best Student Paper Award. These were the papers judged at the 37th Annual Meeting of AASP held at the Eleventh IPC, July 4-9, 2004, Granada, Spain, by an ad hoc committee consisting of Owen Davis, Tom Demchuk, and Francine McCarthy.

The winners were Mr. *Barry Taylor*, School of Earth and Geographical Sciences, University of Western Australia with the paper "Towards a Sequence Stratigraphic Subdivision of the Early Cretaceous Succession in the Southern Carnarvon Basin (Western Australia)" and Mr. *Ian Troth* School of Ocean and Earth Science, Southampton Oceanography Centre, with the paper "Petroleum Systems, Palaeoclimate and Sea Level Change in the Devonian of Bolivia".

Troth, I.

Petroleum Systems, Palaeoclimate and Sea Level Change in the Devonian of Bolivia.

School of Ocean and Earth Science, Southampton Oceanography Centre, Southampton. SO14 3ZH (UK).

The Devonian System of Bolivia is important for hydrocarbon exploration because the major gas reservoir (Huamampampa Formation) and source rock (Los Monos Formation) in the region are found within it. Recently, intensive hydrocarbon exploration has been undertaken in the central and southern areas of the country with the Huamampampa Formation the main subsurface target. The main Devonian outcrop is in the Sub-Andean trend, an active thrust belt, where thrusting and folding over the last 10Ma have complicated the subsurface stratigraphy. Seismic surveying has been unsuccessful in resolving subsurface architecture and the application a standard lithostratigraphic division of the Devonian to the subsurface has produced ambiguous results. Success has been achieved using biostratigraphy, particularly microfossils, since in the Bolivian Devonian there is a succession of distinctive marine microphytoplankton 'events'. These are short-lived monospecific pulses of certain acritarchs and green algae. Four such events are recognised in Bolivia involving the acritarchs *Evittia sommeri*, *Bimerga bensonii*, *Crucidia*

camirensis and the alga *Petrovina connata*. The aim of this study is to undertake a high resolution palynological study of surface Devonian exposures and characterise the microphytoplankton events in terms of precise stratigraphic position, stratigraphic extent, geochemistry and global context. Initially work has concentrated on the *E. sommeri* event, associated with a major marine transgression thought to be the Eifelian 'Chotec' Event.

Taylor, B. A

Towards a sequence stratigraphic subdivision of the Early Cretaceous succession in the Southern Carnarvon Basin (Western Australia)

School of Earth & Geographical Sciences, University of Western Australia, 35 Stirling Highway, Crawley, WA 6009, Australia.

On the North West Shelf of Australia, petroleum reservoirs in fields such as Barrow Island, Chervil, Spar and Stag are of Hauterivian to Aptian age (135-112 million years ago). The ages have been derived from the standard Helby et al. (1987) dinoflagellate cyst zonal scheme; however, a higher biostratigraphic resolution is still required for this time interval. South of the North West Shelf on the Southern Carnarvon Basin (SCB) a programme of continuous coring and closely spaced sampling funded by the Geological Survey of Western Australia and UWA has provided material for the present project, and initial findings from a dinoflagellate cysts stratigraphic analysis are presented.

Based on five sections on the in the basin, seven key sequence surfaces/events have been identified using lowest and highest appearances of key dinoflagellate cyst taxa, dinoflagellate to spore-pollen ratios, sedimentary descriptions and known benthic foraminiferal associations. These are: (1) A late Hauterivian to early Barremian unconformity signifying the initial flooding of the platform; (2) A major marine transgression during the Barremian, marked by a surface and a changeover from terrestrial- to marine-dominated microfossil assemblage with consistent *Muderongia australis*; (3) *Ovoidinium cinctum* acme occurring together with *Muderongia* sp. aff. *testudinaria* and *Scrinodinium attadalense* prior to maximum marine flooding; (4) A maximum flooding surface/interval within the Barremian, expressed by a high dinoflagellate to spore-pollen (marine/terrestrial) ratio together with a maximum diversity of microplankton and benthic foraminiferal taxa; (5) A sequence break during the late Barremian-early Aptian highlighted by the last occurrence of the dinoflagellate cysts *Muderongia mcwhae* and *Batioladinium longicornutum*, and the first occurrence of *Muderongia crucis* as-

sociated with consistent *Odontochitina operculata*; (6) A depositional hiatus of early Aptian age evident by a low dinoflagellate to spore & pollen (marine/terrestrial) ratio, and the last occurrence of four dinoflagellate cyst taxa; and (7) The first appearance of the dinoflagellate cysts *Cribooperidinium edwardsii*, *Endoceratium turneri* and *Diconodinium davidii*, are taken to mark the base of the Late Aptian.

HELBY R., MORGAN R. & PARTRIDGE A. D. 1987. A palynological zonation of the Australian Mesozoic. In: Jell, P. A. (ed). Studies in Australian Mesozoic Palynology, Memoir 4, 1-94. Association of Australasian Palaeontologists, Sydney.

NEWS FROM ARGENTINA

By Mirta Quattrocchio simpixiii@uns.edu.ar



Plaza Rivadavia, Bahia Blanca

The XIII Symposium of Latin American Paleobotany and Palynology will be held in Bahia Blanca, Argentina from May 22-27, 2006. General coordinator: Dra. Mirta Quattrocchio (simpixiii@uns.edu.ar). More details and the address of the web page meeting will be given in the next issue of AASP Newsletter.

NEWS FROM INDIA

By Naresh C. Mehrotra nareshmehrotra@indiatimes.com

Recent Researches from Birbal Sahni Institute of Palaeobotany, Lucknow, India. Late Permian mioflora from Pirlī-Pavna area, Wardha Valley Coalfield and Sub-basin, Kamptee Coalfield, Maharashtra has been reported. The palynomorphs recovered from these two areas are comparable with Raniganj palynoflora of Damodar and Godavari basins.

Bhattacharyya, A.P. 2004. Late Permian mioflora from Pirlī-Pavna area, Wardha Valley Coalfield and Sub-basin, Kamptee Coalfield, Maharashtra. *Geophytology*, 32 (1&2): 91-96. Leaf impressions from

Kasauli sediments (Lower Miocene) of Himachal Pradesh are reported. They belong to *Semecarpus* (Anacardiaceae), *Chukrasia* and *Heynea* (Meliaceae), *Tephrosia* (Fabaceae), *Mallotus* (Euphorbiaceae), *Donex* (Marantaceae) and *Poacites* (Poaceae).

Srivastava, R. & Guleria, J.S. 2004. Leaf impressions from Kasauli sediments of Himachal Pradesh and their palaeoenvironmental significance. *Geophytology*, 32 (1&2) : 97-106.

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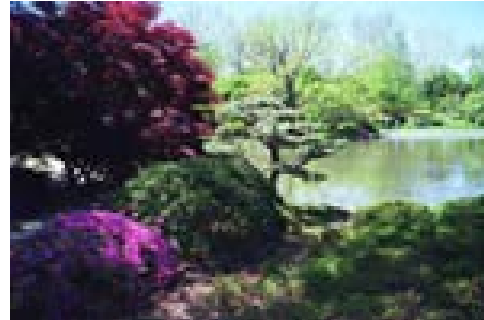
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38TH AASP ANNUAL MEETING

18-22 September 2005
St. Louis, Missouri
By Francisca Oboh-Ikuenobe ikuenobe@umr.edu



Japanese Garden at MBG

The 38th Annual Meeting of the AASP will be held on September 18-22, 2005 at the Raddisson Hotel and Suites Downtown in St. Louis, Missouri. Francisca Oboh-Ikuenobe (University of Missouri-Rolla) is in charge of logistics for the meeting, while Reed Wicander (Central Michigan University) and Paul Strother (Boston College) are coordinating the technical program. Information about registration, technical sessions, abstract submission deadline, field trips, social events, and a tour of the Missouri Botanical Gardens can be found on <http://www.palynology.org/meetings.html>.

BIOGEOGRAPHY OF LATIN AMERICA--CAUSES AND EFFECTS

October 8-10, 2004, St Louis, MO, USA

The Missouri Botanical Garden is hosting a symposium that may be of interest to the Association membership: BIOGEOGRAPHY OF LATIN AMERICA--CAUSES AND EFFECTS. It is a special event (the 52nd annual symposium and the 51st supported by NSF) in that it extends over two days rather than the usual one-day, the proceedings will be published as a book by the MBG Press, it has a strong paleobotanical-paleopalynological component, and there is an international representation of speakers from disciplines that typically are not part of the same panel (e.g., Chris Scotese on the Paleomap Project; Paul Mann on the building of the Antillean Land Bridge; Lonnie Thompson on ice cores from the Andes, Kili-

manjaro, and Tibet; Henry Hooghiemstra on vegetational history at the extremes--the High Andes and Amazonia; and others representing different fields of historical geology and paleobiology.

The full program can be seen on the web site: www.mobot.org (search/systematics symposium).

For those who do not regularly attend the Symposium, or have not visited the Gardens recently, October is a glorious time of the year at the Missouri Botanical Garden and it is a pleasant venue for hosting an event we believe will be of special interest and importance.

SABBATICAL FELLOWSHIPS IN TROPICAL PALEOPALYNOLOGY AT ICP (COLOMBIAN PETROLEUM INSTITUTE)

The Colombian Petroleum Institute has established a new Sabbatical Fellowship Program. Opportunities are offered to senior investigators invited to undertake sabbatical research in any aspect of tropical Paleopalynology at the ICP campus in Bucaramanga, Colombia. Please contact Carlos Jaramillo at carlos.jaramillo@ecopetrol.com.co for more information. Applications can be made at any time during the year.

ICP is a Colombian government research center that focuses on oil exploration. It has modern installations, including SEM, DRX, fluorescence and catholuminescence capabilities, Nikon and Zeiss research microscopes, digital microphotography, biostratigraphic software (Rasc, Graphcor, Stratabug, Conop), and a full-time palynology processing laboratory that includes a Star Microwave System. It also has a complete slide reference collection of fossil and modern tropical palynomorphs ranging from the early Cretaceous to the Recent.

PALYNOLOGICAL LAB EQUIPMENT NEEDED

By Owen Davies

Antonio Maldonado is currently trying to get a pollen lab set up at the University of La Serena, Chile. He is part of a new interdisciplinary Center for Advanced Studies in Arid Lands. His salary is covered but he is having difficulty outfitting the lab. He particularly needs the following equipment.

Compound light microscope with zoom & lighting system
Drying oven
Centrifuge with swinging heads for 50 ml tubes and

3200 rpm
Piston corer (Wright or Livingston)
Sediment corer ("Russian flag" (Giktrif) corer)
Analytical balance (high precision)
Combusting furnace (550 to 925°C)

Any help would be greatly appreciated, for further details please contact:

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AGENDA

2004

November 7-10, XI Meeting on Paleobotany and Palynology (XI RPP), Gramado, Rio Grande do Sul, Brazil. <http://www.exatec.unisinos.br/rpp2004>

2005

March 6-11, 2005, Geological Problem Solving with Microfossils, Rice University, Houston, Texas, USA.

Abstracts accepted April 1 - October 14, 2004.
Website www.sepm.org/microfossils2005.htm.
Inquires to Thomas Demchuk thomas.d.demchuk@conocophillips.com

2006

September, 7 - 12, 2006 European Palaeobotanical-Palynological Conference, Prague, Czech Republic.

Registration deadline December 31, 2004. Conference web page: www.natur.cuni.cz/eppc2006/. Contact [Stanislav Oplustil eppc2006@natur.cuni.cz](mailto:Stanislav.Oplustil@eppc2006@natur.cuni.cz)

A special word for Paleozoic palynologists - the next General Meeting of the CIMP will be in Prague in 2006 a few days before EPPC. Post-Conference Field trip of the CIMP is joint with the Pre-Conference Field Trip of the EPPC. No problem to participate on both conferences, if anybody likes it!

Prague is a very beautiful city, one of the most beautiful in the world! If you have never been in Prague - you cannot miss this chance!!!

SECOND CIRCULAR AND CALL FOR ABSTRACTS



An International Conference In Memory of Garry D. Jones Geologic Problem Solving with Microfossils

March 6- 11, 2005

Rice University, Houston, Texas USA

SPONSORS

- † North American Micropaleontology Section of SEPM (host organization)
- † Gulf Coast Section SEPM
- † SEPM (Society for Sedimentary Geology)
- † The Micropalaeontological Society
- † American Association of Stratigraphic Palynologists
- † International Nannofossil Association
- † Cushman Foundation
- † Canadian Association of Palynologists
- † Pander Society
- † International Commission on Stratigraphy
- † The Micropaleontology Project (Micropress)
- † Geology Department, Rice University

PURPOSE

- † Bringing together a diverse array of geoscientists to showcase the problem-solving power of microfossils in a variety of geologic settings.

WHO SHOULD ATTEND

- † Geoscientists wanting to learn more about the geologic application of microfossils.
- † Professionals in microfossils from industry, academia, museums, and government agencies
- † Students

ICEBREAKER (March 6)

- † Warwick Hotel, Terrace Lounge

FORUM (March 7-9)

- † 2.5-day conference
- † Case-histories
- † Oral and poster presentations
- † Invited papers
- † Accepted abstracts will be grouped into appropriate themes for the Conference.

PLENARY DINNER (March 8)

- † Houston Museum of Natural Science

SEPM FIELD TRIP (March 10-11)

- † Upper Cretaceous of Central Texas

PUBLICATIONS

- † Conference program with abstracts
- † Post-conference SEPM Special Publication

† Visit the official Conference Website beginning March 1, 2004 at www.sepm.org/microfossils2005.htm

† Call for abstracts: **April 1 - October 14, 2004** via the Website

† Registration begins **September 6, 2004** via the website.

Direct all inquiries by e-mail to Thomas Demchuk (Thomas.D.Demchuk@conocophillips.com)

Microfossil images courtesy of The Natural History Museum (London), Mitch Covington, and Gulf Coast Section SEPM