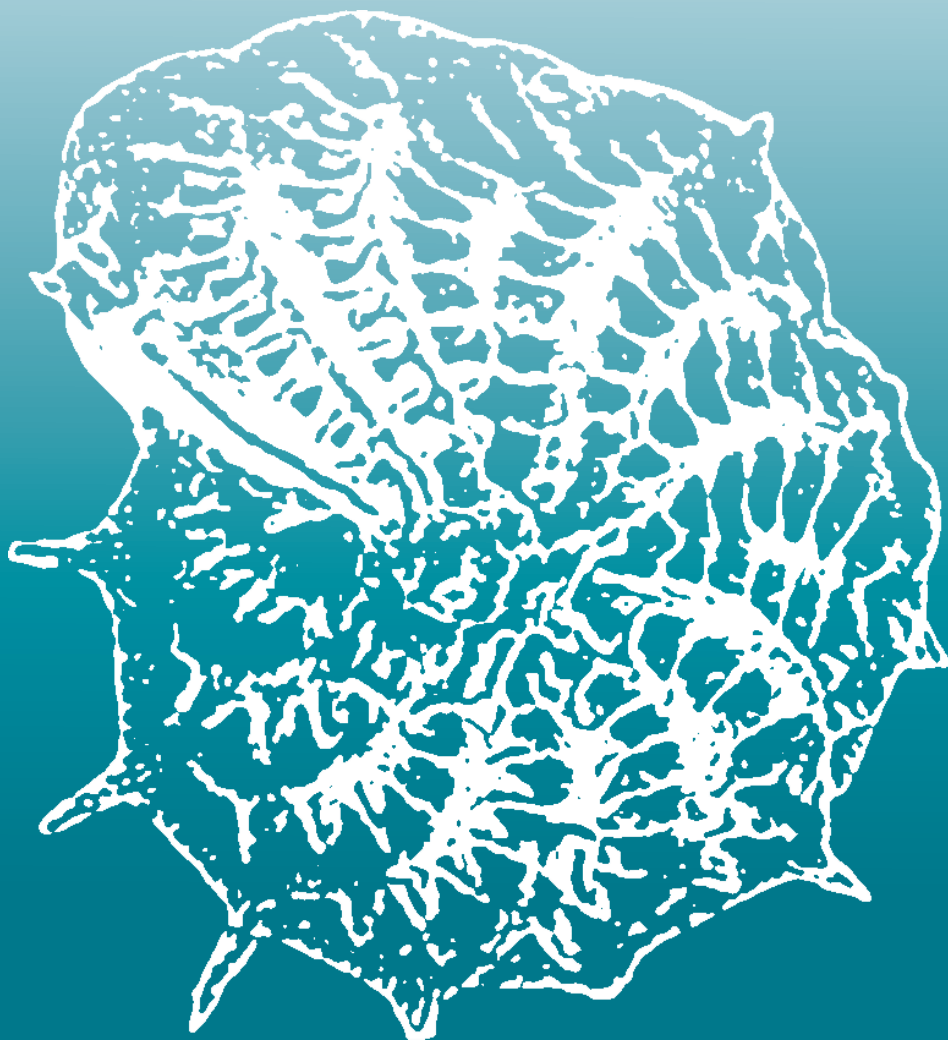


Newsletter of Micropalaeontology

Number 86
August 2012

Edited by Magali Schweizer



Contributions from

The Micropalaeontological Society



The Grzybowski Foundation



International Research Group on Ostracoda



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Correspondence

Please send items of news, comments, letters or articles for publication such as conference reports or meeting announcements to the editor. These should be supplied as plain text files or as Word documents. Photographs or illustrations to accompany articles are also welcome. Please send photos as high resolution JPEG images. Please send all correspondence to the editor: Magali Schweizer, School of GeoScience, University of Edinburgh, West Mains Road, Edinburgh EH9 3JW, UK, or by email to newsletter@tmsoc.org.

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Editorial

SUCCESS FOR MICROPALAEONTOLOGISTS IN SOCIETY AWARDS

As TMS begins to marshal the arguments for the urgent need to support the training of the next generation of micropalaeontologists, it is noteworthy that more established people in the field have had a particularly successful year in the awards made by other societies.

In particular, after retiring from the University of Leicester in 2011, Dick Aldridge has received the double honour of receiving the Lapworth Medal of the Palaeontological Association (its highest honour) and the Coke Medal of the Geological Society of London. Both of these awards recognise Dick's substantial and sustained contributions to the discipline across the full range of research, teaching and academic leadership.

The Coke Medal was awarded at the President's Day of the Geological Society, when no fewer than four micropalaeontologists received recognition for their work. Other award winners included the Wollaston Fund awarded to Bridget Wade (University of Leeds) for her work on Palaeogene foraminifera, the Lyell Fund awarded to Daniela Schmidt (University of Bristol), also for work on Cenozoic foraminifera, and the President's Award to Carys Bennett (Lille & Leicester) for her work on Lower Carboniferous ostracods and isotopes.

Congratulations to all concerned

Paul Smith
TMS President

Conference Announcements

TMS FORAMINIFERA AND NANNOFOSSIL GROUPS JOINT MEETING 2013

Charles University, Prague

Thursday 20 and Friday 21 June 2013
Conference

Saturday 22 June 2013
Field trip

Organizer: Katarína Holcová
More information in September!

OSTRACOD GROUP AUTOMN MEETING 2012

Friday 5- Sunday 7 October 2012

University of Sussex, Brighton

Convenor: Mick Frogley

gather Friday evening
talks and dinner on Saturday
half day field work on Sunday



NAMS
North American Micropaleontology Section, SEPM



Microfossils III: Geologic Problem Solving with Microfossils
March 10-13, 2013
University of Houston
Houston, TX USA



The North American Micropaleontology Section (NAMS) of SEPM announces the *Third Geologic Problem Solving with Microfossils Conference* (Microfossils III) to be held March 10th-13th, 2013 at the University of Houston in Houston, Texas. The mission of Microfossils III is to bring together geoscientists from academia, industry and government to focus on the use of microfossil to solve geologic problems. The conference is open to all microfossil specialties.

Conference activities include: oral and poster technical presentations, a regional pre-meeting field trip, post-meeting short courses, ice breaker, and plenary dinner at the Houston Museum of Natural Science. Tentative session themes include:

- The Microfossil record of Major Oceanic Events
- Microfossils and Unconventional Resources: The New Frontier
- High-resolution Biostratigraphy, Chronostratigraphy, and Geochronology
- Reconstructing Past Environments Using Microfossils
- Paralic and Lacustrine Micropaleontology
- Microfossils and Biofacies Analysis: Applications and Challenges
- Paleoclimate, Paleoceanography, and Relative Sea-level Change
- Taxonomy, Phylogeny, and Evolution
- New Technologies and Techniques in Microfossil Studies

Abstract submittal deadline: November 11, 2012

For information on the meeting and abstract submission, visit
<http://www.sepm.org/nams/meetings.htm#abstracts> or
contact **Dr. Mark Leckie** at MLeckie@geo.umass.edu



The Micropalaeontological Society

<http://www.tmsoc.org>

Annual General Meeting 2012



A coccolithophore bloom off Newfoundland, courtesy of NASA

The TMS are delighted to announce that the 2012 AGM will be held at the BGS in Nottingham and take place over 3 days!

Proposed schedule:

Sunday 11th: Field trip to Charnwood Forest

Participants will be able to examine Late Precambrian metasediments with an Ediacara biota (*Charnia* etc.), intrusive igneous rocks and Quaternary glaciogenic sediments.

Monday 12th: 'Warm Worlds' symposium and Society AGM

The day will include a tour of the BGS, guest lectures on the theme 'Warm Worlds', followed by Society business. The evening will conclude with the wine reception and conference dinner.

Tuesday 13th: Open talks on micropalaeontology and keynote Industrial Lecture

The day will begin with a Keynote Industrial Lecture, followed by an open poster and presentation session. We welcome the submission of abstracts for posters and short (10min) presentations across all aspects of the discipline, including biostratigraphy, palaeoecology, palaeobiology, palaeoceanography, palaeolimnology, palaeoclimatology, molecular evolution and systematics. We particularly encourage talks and posters from doctoral students and early career scientists.

Poster/Presentation Abstract deadline 30th September 2012. Further information regarding conference fees, accommodation options and transport etc. can be found on the [TMS website](http://www.tmsoc.org)

For further information please contact:



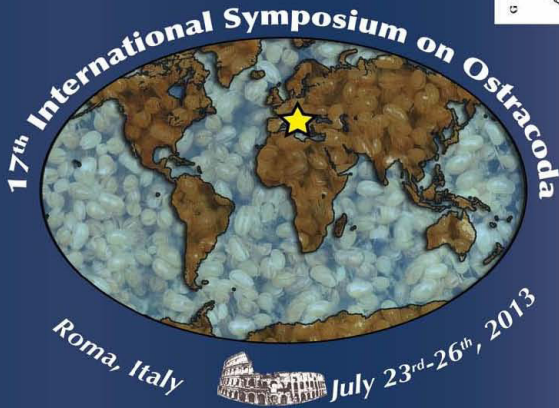
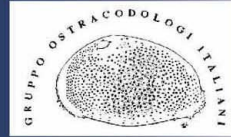
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17th ISO "Back to the future"

Roma Tre University
Rome, 23rd - 26th July, 2013

1st Circular



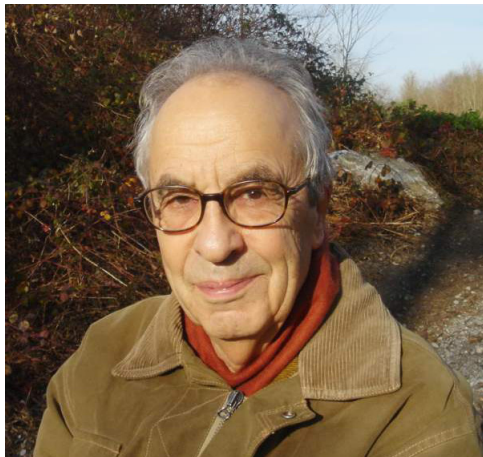
Meeting Reports

24e Réunion des Ostracodologistes de langue française (ROLF 24)

ALAN LORD, FORSCHUNGSINSTITUT SENCKENBERG, FRANKFURT-AM-MAIN

ROLF 24 was held in Geneva 1-3 June 2012 and dedicated to Henri Oertli, who is 85 this year, in recognition of his many contributions to applied micropalaeontology. On Friday 1 June a day of talks and posters was held in the Muséum d'Histoire Naturelle de Genève attended by 30 participants. Fourteen talks and six posters were presented, followed by a tour of the Oertli Ostracod Collection (material plus library). Henri and Käthi Oertli were unable to be present but were represented by their son Beat Oertli and daughter Barbara Oertli who made a joint presentation on behalf of their Father. Saturday 2 and Sunday 3 June were devoted to excursions to the Jura and western Alps, led respectively by Jacques Sauvagnat and Danielle Decrouez, and kindly sponsored by Total. Talks will be published in *Revue de Paléobiologie*. Thanks to Jean-Paul Colin, Jacques Sauvagnat and Danielle Decrouez for arranging a pleasant and profitable weekend, and to the Director

and staff of the Muséum d'Histoire Naturelle de Genève for their hospitality.



Henri Oertli

North East Atlantic Benthic Foraminifers: a new taxonomy for the 21st century University of St Andrews, 19-20th June 2012

KATHARINE EVANS, UNIVERSITY OF EDINBURGH

Sunshine, long days, a beautiful setting and an excellent, productive workshop all contributed to a very enjoyable two night stay in St Andrews. Furthermore, we had the spectacle of graduation week and the opportunity to hear Prof. Noam Chomsky speak as part of the University's 600th Anniversary celebrations.

The organisers, William Austin, Magali Schweizer and Kate Darling, assembled a first-rate programme of speakers whose topics followed logically and seamlessly from one to the next. Karen Luise Knudsen was first up and gave a fascinating historical review of benthic foraminiferal taxonomy. She was followed by Frans Jorissen who delivered an entertaining overview of applied micropalaeontology and then Elisabeth

Alve gave an absorbing presentation about the ecology of benthic foraminifera, including their dispersal and colonisation. Magali Schweizer concluded the quartet of morning talks with her detailed introduction to DNA-based taxonomic investigations, which included many interesting examples.

The *Elphidium* game occupied the afternoon session and proved a great hit. The 35 participants were split into five groups and each group was presented with 40 SEM images of *Elphidium* that represented 13 genotypes. Based on morphology alone, they were asked to divide these images into 13 groups of between one and eight images. It was fascinating listening to the expert group leaders (Karen Luise Knudsen,

John Murray, Frans Jorissen, Ellen Thomas and Elisabeth Alve) guide their teams' taxonomic discussions. Karen Luise Knudsen's group triumphed with their correct grouping of the eight images belonging to Genotype 1 (*williamsoni* morphospecies)! The presentation of the 'answers' gave invaluable insights to the current state of foram taxonomy; while the same morphospecies names were given to some genotypes by all attendees, for others, several names were given, reflecting the geographic origin of the scientists.

John Murray kicked off the second day with a clear explanation of his dislike for genera and an excellent presentation of his ambitious biogeographic dataset. The talks concluded with a team effort by the Edinburgh genotypers (Clare Bird, myself, Magali Schweizer and Kate Darling), who discussed the molecular and morphological limits of genotypes. An extended microscope session ensued, which was followed

post-lunch by a final discussion and then most attendees departed to continue the foram-fest at the TMS meeting in Edinburgh.

This was an inspiring meeting characterised by quality, friendliness and optimism. Discussions were plentiful, open and constructive and I think all of us from undergraduates to established leaders learnt a great deal. I am sure that this meeting will result in fruitful collaborations between classical taxonomists and those who use DNA and together we will provide a biologically meaningful and usable taxonomy.

Thank you to Bill, Magali and Kate, plus the St Andrews team of excellent post-docs and students for organising such a successful meeting. The evening walk back to my hotel in the mid-summer light, with beautiful views across the Eden Estuary to the wilds of northern Scotland, will be a lasting memory.

Ninth International Conference on Modern and Fossil Dinoflagellates. University of Liverpool. 28th August – 2nd September 2011

LEE BRADLEY, FABIENNE MARRET (UNIVERSITY OF LIVERPOOL)

JANE LEWIS (UNIVERSITY OF WESTMINSTER)



The Ninth International Conference on Fossil and Modern Dinoflagellates was held at the University of Liverpool in late summer 2011. The week-long conference brought together 120 delegates with diverse research interests in dinoflagellates. The conference series began in 1978 when William R Evitt proposed the dedication of a Penrose' conference to fossil and living dinoflagellates. The desire was that

two communities of workers, with dinoflagellates in common, come together to learn from each other and to discuss their science and to progress interdisciplinary working. This spirit was evident in Liverpool with the four major sessions comprising, Environmental Change, Ecology/Palaeoecology, Life cycles and Diversity and Stratigraphy and Evolution. Key note talks from Stijn de Schepper (University of

Bergen), Edwige Masure (Université Pierre et Marie Curie, Paris), Anke Kremp (Finnish Environment Institute), Linda Medlin (University of Pierre and Marie Curie, Banyuls sur Mer) set the theme for each session followed by talks and a large number of posters.

Four workshops were designed to disseminate skills and discuss research methods. Christopher Bolch (University of Tasmania) led a hand-on laboratory based session '*Linking dinoflagellate lifecycle stages using single-cell isolation and molecular typing*'. Stijn de Schepper, Martin Head (Brock University), Kazumi Matsuoka (Nagasaki University) and André Rochon (Université du Québec à Rimouski) led two discussion and microscope sessions examining taxonomic issues surrounds '*Quaternary and Neogene dinocyst*' and '*Round Brown Cysts (with or without processes)*'. A number of delegates brought their own material for examination by other delegates. A final computer based workshop led by Anne de Vernal (Université du Québec à Montréal) examined '*Dinocyst assemblages as proxy in late Cenozoic paleoceanography: towards quantitative reconstructions using transfer functions*'. All four workshops were extremely popular.

Complementing the scientific program was a busy social program, including a geological walk around Liverpool, conference dinner and a half day excursion to Ainsdale National Nature Reserve. Prof. Chris Reid delivered a stimulating Public Lecture examining '*Climate Change: Impacts and Consequences for Mankind*'. The conference was concluded by presentation of awards for the best student posters (Audrey Limoges & Mirja Hoins) and talks (Stefanie Dekeyzer & Eric Potvin), the prizes for the photographic competition (won by Sílvia

Anglès) and the lifetime achievement award to Rob Fensome (Geological Survey of Canada).

The conference was particularly well attended by a large number of students. Sponsorship from a number of companies, institutions and societies including the British Phycological Society, The Micropalaeontological Society, Petrostrat, Beta Analytic and the Universities of Liverpool and Westminster allowed registration fees for students to be relatively low. This no doubt contributed to the number of students in attendance, all of whom benefited from having their talks, posters and projects being discussed with other delegates.

The conference organisers would like to thank the international scientific committee and local organisers for their tireless efforts towards this successful conference. A TMS special publication entitled '*Biological and Geological Perspectives of Dinoflagellates*' is under preparation and will be published as a result of the conference.



News

Micropalaeontology at The Natural History Museum

TOM HILL, NHM

In August 2011, two new posts, unique within the Natural History Museum (NHM), were advertised for employment within what is now the Department of Earth Sciences. Whilst NHM staff are normally employed as either curators

or researchers, the purpose of the new roles are to work with external stakeholders to explore potential ways in which the NHM collections, and the expertise of NHM staff, can be of use to the user-specific community in terms of re-

search, education and commercial contexts.

The two new micropalaeontology Museum Scientist posts were recently filled by myself and my colleague, Stephen Stukins. We are both employed full time on three-year contracts. Our roles and responsibilities will include advising staff in the Palaeontology Department and wider Museum on micropalaeontology collections development needs, training and education opportunities, income-generation potential and research priorities. We would like to emphasise that wide collaboration and engagement with the micropalaeontological community, and beyond, is at the centre of our role and will help underpin progression within the activities described above.

Over the course of the next three years, Steve and I intend to formulate, and implement the first stages of an action plan which will raise the collection's profile. We expect the initial stakeholder community engagement to take a variety of formats, starting with a relatively simple questionnaire designed to assess what you know about the NHM collections and how often (if indeed at all) you use them. In addition, we need to evaluate the potential of our current collections in terms of future development and research and applications opportunities. We hope to achieve this by arranging visits to the collections by groups of microfossil specialists from academia, industry, education, government, and beyond. In the longer term, we also hope to create a collections development advisory panel (similar to that implemented successfully at the BGS) in order to ensure the wider community have an active voice in identifying ways in which the collections can evolve over time.

Such engagement is intended to advertise and further promote the micropalaeontology collections and associated resources that may be of value to fellow micropalaeontologists in the UK and indeed beyond. For example, the NHM has an enormous collection of former

BP well and outcrop samples from around the world, a collection that encompasses all of the main microfossil groups. Similarly, the F.R.S Henson and Associates Middle Eastern larger benthic foraminifera collection is held by the NHM. Both of these collections are likely to be of significant value, in educational, research and commercial contexts. Similarly, the John Williams Index of Palaeopalynology (JWIP) is entirely unique, providing researchers with the ability to search for citations of any palynological publication relating to taxa, geological period and/or geographical location. Many more unique collections and samples are stored within the NHM, some of which we may not yet be fully be aware of, but we very much hope to raise the profiles of these in the near future. In addition, the Earth Sciences Department, and wider Museum, also encompasses people with expertise in and access to cutting-edge technology, making the supporting resources available to micropalaeontologists somewhat unique. We are in the process of reformatting our micropalaeontology website and hope to launch in Summer 2012 (www.nhm.ac.uk/micropalaeontology). In addition, please visit Giles Miller's '*Curator of Micropalaeontology Blog*' located in the NHMs NaturePlus website (www.nhm.ac.uk/natureplus/blogs/micropalaeo) to become familiar with many of our micropalaeontology collections and associated projects that have been undertaken recently.

In summary, without your help, advice and support, we will not be able to achieve the aims and objectives outlined above. We therefore encourage you to ensure your input will influence the direction and indeed success of this project. We will use TMS (and other relevant societies) as one vehicle through which our activities will be advertised. But please consider visiting the NHM micropalaeontology website if you have not lately to familiarise yourself with our collections, skills, expertise, and facilities. You can also contact us through the website or by using the email address provided below: micropalaeontology@nhm.ac.uk

Precision about issue 85

The man imaged on p. 14 is not Alfred Wegener, but one of his early supporters, Alexander Du Toit, a geologist from South Africa.

The Micropalaeontological Society

News

Report from the Secretary - SEV KENDER

MEMBERSHIP

Current membership of TMS is healthy with 490 individual members; 432 have paid their 2012 subscriptions, and I encourage others to bring themselves up-to-date as soon as possible. I would like to thank George Swann, Membership Secretary, for his excellent work in keeping track of all our members. Many of you are taking advantage of the online payment system which is making renewing your membership easier. In 2012, so far, we have welcomed 53 new members to TMS:

O. Adojoh, M. Alonso, A. Aturamu, A. Bevan, M.-C. Blanc, M. Borges, R. Campbell, J. Chitolie, T. Collart, M. Côtchico, A. J. Drury, H. El Atfy, I. Fenton, H. Filipsson, J. Frampton, A. Ghazwani, T. Goode, C. Haller, L. Hauser, G. Howarth, G. Hughes, G. Hughes, A. Hunter, L. Joy, D. Kaminski, L. Lartey-Antwi, M. Leckie, C. Linnert, R. Llewellyn, E. M. Foster, K. Matsuzaki, A. Meilijson, Z. Miller, D. Mkuu, R. Ott, T. Patel, L. Pettit, E. Pizzey, I. Polovodova, L. Pouille, K. Prentice, M. Radl, O. Rahim, E. Randle, D. Roberts, D. Shaukry, S. Slater, R. Taylor, G. Thomas, M. Vieira, H. Wilkinson, M. Williams and D. Winder.

AGM 2011

This year we have an exciting AGM (11th–13th November 2012 at the British Geological Survey, Nottingham) which will be extended to two days of talks, keynotes and posters, in order to broaden the scope and interest of the conference, and to make the evening celebrations more inclusive to all members and participants.

After a Sunday field excursion to study Ediacaran fossil-bearing sediments in Bradgate Park, and an evening meal in Nottingham, the first day of the conference (Monday) will follow previous formats and include a symposium

of invited talks entitled 'Warm Worlds'. We welcome all to the free drinks reception and lively evening conference meal in Nottingham.

The second day (Tuesday) will begin with an invited keynote lecture on an emerging field in the hydrocarbon industry, and continue with open talks and poster sessions from all participants. We especially encourage PhD students and early career scientists to submit abstracts on any topic.

The full conference programme is available elsewhere in the Newsletter and can be found on the website. All members are encouraged to register early for limited places (150 participants). The 2012 AGM will be held at the British Geological Survey, Nottingham, on 11th–13th November 2012.

Items for the AGM agenda should be sent to the Secretary by email, or in writing, by 15th October 2012. Like every year, as well as excellent science talks, the AGM will include presentations of the Society's awards and honours.

ALAN HIGGINS AWARD

The Alan Higgins Award for Applied Micropalaeontology is given to a young scientist, less than 10 years from graduation, in recognition of a significant record of achievement in the field of applied and industrial micropalaeontology, as documented by publications, software, patents, leadership or educational activities. The committee will award the 2012 Alan Higgins Award to Tom Dunkley Jones at the 2012 AGM in recognition of his taxonomic, palaeoecological and palaeoclimate work.

Nominations for the 2013 Alan Higgins Award should be sent to the Secretary by 28th February 2013 using the appropriate nomination form available from the website.

CHARLES DOWNIE AWARD

The Charles Downie Award is an annual award made to the member of the Society who, in the opinion of the Committee, has published the most significant paper, in any journal, based upon his or her postgraduate research. The committee will award the 2012 Charles Downie Award (best paper published in 2011) to Tracy Aze at the 2012 AGM for her paper: Aze, T., Ezard, T. H. G., Purvis, A., Coxall, H. K., Stewart, D. R. M., Wade B. S. & Pearson, P. N. 2011. A phylogeny of Cenozoic macroperforate planktonic foraminifera from fossil data. *Biological Reviews* 86: 900-927. doi: 10.1111/j.1469-185X.2011.00178.x

Nominations for the best paper published in 2012 should be sent to the Secretary by 28th February 2013.

TMS STUDENT AWARDS

Ten of our new members are recipients of TMS Student Awards. These are Mar Alonso (Universidad del País Vasco), Tim Collart (University of Ghent - K.U. Leuven), Ellen Margaret Foster (Keele University), Assad Ghazwani (King Fahd University of Petroleum and Minerals), Thomas Goode (University of Southampton), Gerallt Hughes (Cardiff University), Richard Ott (Eberhard-Karls Universität Tübingen), Edward Pizzey (University of Bristol), Hayley Wilkinson (University of Birmingham) and Megan Williams (University of Leicester). The 2012 Student Award in memory of Brian O'Neill was given to the University of Southampton award winner Thomas Goode. These students are nominated for an award (free membership for 2012) for outstanding performance on one of the TMS-approved micropalaeontological courses (see elsewhere in this Newsletter for details). Congratulations to them all. The TMS Student Award scheme currently has 13 approved micropalaeontological courses and

I would encourage all lecturer and professor members to consider nominating their taught micropalaeontological courses for the scheme and thereby encouraging their best students to perhaps continue with micropalaeontological endeavour.

TMS GRANTS-IN-AID

The committee decided to award five applications for Grants-in-Aid grants towards fieldwork costs or attendance at specific micropalaeontological conferences: Sébastien Maillet (Faculté Libre des Sciences et Technologies, Lille) to sample Givetian outcrops for ostracods in northern Spain (Asturias) in July, Manuel Weinkauff (Eberhard-Karls Universität Tübingen) to attend the Foraminifera and Nannofossil Groups Joint Spring Meeting 2012, Lyndsey Fox (University of Leeds) to attend the Foraminifera and Nannofossil Groups Joint Spring Meeting 2012, Michaela Radl (Queen Mary University, London) to attend the Foraminifera and Nannofossil Groups Joint Spring Meeting and Foraminifera satellite workshop 2012, and Adeyinka Aturamu (Leicester University) to attend the International Workshop on Agglutinated Foraminifera (IWAF9), Spain, in September.

I would encourage all of our student members to consider applying for a Grant-in-Aid. Grants-in-Aid are awarded annually to help student members of the Society in their fieldwork, conference attendance, or any other specific activity related to their research which has not been budgeted for. Grants-in-Aid cannot be awarded for miscellaneous expenditure, neither can they be awarded retrospectively. A maximum of £300 can be awarded to each successful applicant. Awardees are expected to write a short report for the Newsletter once their grant has been used. Applications forms can be downloaded from the website (www.tmsoc.org), or obtained from the Secretary. The next deadline is 28th February 2013.

Alan Higgins Award for Applied Micropalaeontology

Alan Charles Higgins (1936–2004), a British micropalaeontologist and expert on conodonts, made major contributions to Paleozoic biostratigraphy and helped firmly establish the value of micropalaeontology in hydrocarbon exploration. He was a founding member of TMS, its past Chairman and Honorary Member. The award of £300 is given to a young scientist, less than 10 years from graduation, in recognition of a significant record of achievement in the field of applied and industrial micropalaeontology, as documented by publications, software, patents, leadership or educational activities. The award was established with the help of Alan's family and friends, to commemorate his contribution to micropalaeontology and encourage young researchers in the field. It is presented in person at the Society's AGM in November. The first award was made in 2010.

Nominations can be made by any TMS member using the nomination form available on the website or from the Secretary, and sent by the end of February of each year to the Secretary of TMS. The nominees need not be members of TMS. The award is normally given each year, resubmission of unsuccessful nominees is possible.

TMS Grants-in-Aid

TMS Grants-in-Aid are awarded annually to help student members of the Society in their fieldwork, conference attendance, or any other specific activity related to their research which has not been budgeted for. Grants-in-Aid cannot be awarded for miscellaneous expenditure (e.g. slides, sample bags, sample preparation, laboratory costs, SEM photography or producing, photocopying, printing and binding of these), nor can they be awarded retrospectively.

A maximum of £300 can be awarded to each successful applicant. Awardees are expected to write a short report for the *Newsletter of Micropalaeontology* once their grant has been used. Application forms may be downloaded from TMS website or obtained from the Secretary.

Deadline for application is 28th February 2013

Charles Downie Award

The late Charles Downie was one of the pioneers of palynology in the UK and a mentor who guided the thinking and development of a large number of postgraduate students who passed through the University of Sheffield. Through the efforts of former colleagues at Sheffield, a permanent memorial has been established to recognise Charles' contribution to micropalaeontology. An annual award will be made to The Micropalaeontological Society member who, in the opinion of The Micropalaeontological Society Committee, has published the most significant paper, in any journal, based upon his or her postgraduate research.

An award of £200 will be made for the best paper published during 2012 and will be presented at The Micropalaeontological Society AGM in November 2013. Nominations for the best paper published in 2012 should be submitted to the TMS Secretary by 28th February 2013.

The Brady Medal

The Brady Medal is the highest award of The Micropalaeontological Society. It is named in honour of George Stewardson Brady (1832-1921) and Henry Bowman Brady (1835-1891) in recognition of their outstanding pioneering studies in micropalaeontology and natural history.

The Medal is awarded to scientists who have had a major influence on micropalaeontology by means of a substantial body of excellent research. Service to the scientific community may also be a factor for consideration by the Award Committee. The medal was commissioned and was awarded for the first time in 2007.

The Medal is cast in bronze from original sculptures commissioned by The Micropalaeontological Society in 2007. The sculptor is Anthony Stones, Fellow of the Royal Society of British Sculptors and President (1999-2004) of The Society of Portrait Sculptors. The Medal is hand crafted by the leading sculpture foundry Pangolin Editions of Chalford, England.

Mechanism for making a nomination:

All nominations must be made on the TMS "Brady Medal" pro-forma which can be downloaded from TMS website. Nominations must have a Proposer and Seconder, both of whom should be Members of the Society and not be affiliated to the same institute as the person they nominate. Nominations should be made in strictest confidence and in no circumstance should the person nominated be informed. The completed nomination form should be returned to the Secretary of the Society. Nominations may be made at any time of the year.

Committee Vacant Offices

At the 2012 AGM, the terms of the following Officers come to end:

Special Publications Editor x2

(increasing from two to three posts)

Webmaster

Publicity Officer

Treasurer

Nominations for these positions should be submitted to the Secretary by 15th October 2012. Nominees, proposers and seconders should all be members of the Society. Those who consider standing for any of the offices are welcome to contact the Secretary for information on what duties these posts entail.

REQUIREMENTS FOR THE TMS WEBMASTER POSITION

The position of TMS webmaster will become available at the 2012 AGM in November. The term is 3 years and it is possible to stand for a second term. The website is an important mechanism for TMS to communicate and interact with its membership and consequently we are keen to find a suitable candidate to move the website forwards post-2012.

Principle duties of the webmaster:

- keeping the site up to date via notifications from other officers / group representatives and information in the TMS newsletter.
- setting up payments for TMS sponsored events through PayPal.
- developing new functionality / design aspects of the site.

Required skills / time investment:

- the site is almost entirely written in basic HTML and could be managed effectively by

someone with little, or even no, prior expertise of website management. There are a few uses of Java and PHP, but these are not essential to the core functionality of the site. At present the site is maintained in free web-editing software. However, the site also offers a great development opportunity for someone with more advanced web programming skills.

- keeping the site up to date is not an onerous task, generally requiring less than 30 minutes per week. At busy times for the society, i.e. the run up to meetings, this can increase, but rarely to more than an hour per week.

- the webmaster is an officer of the society and consequently required to submit reports to the quarterly TMS committee meetings and also to attend these where possible.

If you might be interested in standing, please feel free to contact the present webmaster (Tom Russon - webmaster@tmsoc.org) with any questions. To nominate yourself to stand, please contact the secretary of TMS (secretary@tmsoc.org).

Industrial Liaison Officers Report, July 2012

HAYDON BAILEY

So the TMS Educational Trust is up and running and fully operational. We have received our first donations from major companies – Thank you BG – and we have awarded our first grants, both at an institutional level and also direct to students. We still need to do loads more, but we have started and hopefully, in time, we will have a positive effect.

It would be great to see regular donations coming into the Trust, but this is unlikely at this stage, so one off donations are perfectly acceptable for now. Anything that allows us to develop and establish our procedures for accrediting and funding courses has to be a good thing, as well as enabling the Society to assist student micropalaeontologists to cope with ever increasing tuition fees.

The ongoing publicity campaign to raise awareness of the need to train more micropalaeontologists is ongoing, targeting industry and the wider geological community with letters to the PESGB and the Soapbox and online articles in *Geoscientist*. These are being followed up with

further messages to senior geologists and this is where you come in.....

All micropalaeontologists at some stage or other come into contact with fellow geologists who are probably unaware of the demise of micropalaeontological training during the last decade. So tell them! Increasing awareness on as broad a base as possible will have a progressive effect. Take every opportunity you have simply to point out all the areas where micropalaeontologists are active and the gaps that would arise if they weren't there.

For far too long we have been the poor relation of many other geological disciplines and the contributions made by micropalaeontologists in hydrocarbon exploration and production, major engineering projects and climate change research go largely unacknowledged. This is becoming something of a rant to the already converted, but I am beginning to notice that a well targeted rant can go a long way. So this is your chance to stick your head up above the parapet and speak out. You might find that you enjoy it.

TMS AGM 2012

and 'Warm Worlds' Symposium

Date: Sunday 11th - Tuesday 13th November 2012

Venue: The British Geological Survey, Keyworth, Nottingham

Convenors: Jim Riding and Sev Kender

Schedule:

Sunday 11th November

Field trip to Bradgate Park, Charnwood Forest

Monday 12th November

'Warm Worlds' symposium and Society AGM

10.30 Tour of BGS Environmental Science Centre

12.30 Buffet lunch

Guest lectures (Alan Haywood, Emanuela Mattioli, Jennifer Pike, Jörg Pross, Andy Purvis)

Society business (officers' reports and presentation of awards and medals)

17.30 Drinks reception

18.45 Conference dinner

Tuesday 13th November

9.30 Keynote industrial lecture, open talks and poster session

13.00 Buffet lunch

More information on the TMS website: <http://www.tmsoc.org/agm2012.htm#schedule>

The deadline for registration is the 30th September 2012

Treasurer's Report – On the Margin

JEREMY YOUNG, UCL (CURRENTLY RRS JAMES CLARK ROSS, GREENLAND SEA)

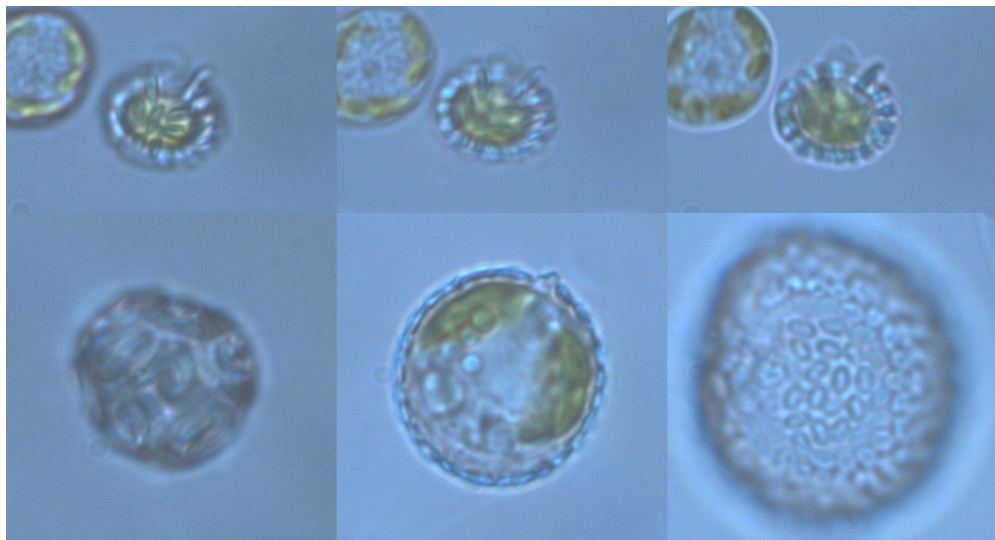
No, it's alright the TMS finances are still fine. or at least they were before I went away (a month ago). We are not spending any more than we are getting in and we have a respectably healthy reserve. There will be more details next newsletter but that will have to do for now.

The title, apart from being a feeble attempt to mislead you, refers to the fact that I am currently at sea on the ice margin to the east of Greenland - with a rather nice volcano outside the window as I write this. What I am doing

up here is participating in the second of three UK research cruises looking at the likely effect



Jan Mayen island – a mid ocean ridge volcano between Greenland and Norway.



Coccolithophores – top *Algirosphaera robusta* and bottom *Coccolithus pelagicus* diploid heterococcolith-bearing and haploid holococcolith-bearing phases.

of ocean acidification on plankton communities. This is a proper multi-disciplinary project combining all sorts of different types of study (trace gases, fluorescence, nutrients, calcification, etc.) and types of planktonic organisms (bacteria to zooplankton anyway), based on a mix of observations across natural gradients in carbonate chemistry and CO₂ enrichment experiments. Luckily for me I get to look at the coccoliths – both assemblage composition distribution and coccolith morphology/degree of calcification. Luckily since, quite apart from the fact that ocean acidification is important and interesting the cruises end up as very fine studies in the control of coccolith biogeography. For further micropalaeontological interest Vicky Peck and Geraint Tarling from BAS are doing some parallel work on planktonic foraminifera and pteropods. Luckily also since, we have been to some very nice places and whilst I had to put up with extended periods in coccolith free environments we have also been through much more interesting waters with very high abundances of *Coccolithus pelagicus* (both haploid and diploid phases), *Calciopappus caudatus*, *Syracosphaera marginaporata* (probably, it is tricky to identify by light micro-

scope) and *Algirosphaera robusta* – as well as *Emiliana huxleyi* of course. In fact I think that if there was a Guinness Coccolithophore World Records book then I would be able to make lots of entries.... maybe that could be an idea for a TMS special publication. Anyway to make up for the lack of financial information and spreadsheets here are a few pictures (for more see our cruise blog at www.arcticoacruise.org).



Journal of Micropalaeontology

Volume, 31, Part 2 July 2012

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TMS Student Awards

In order to support the teaching of micropalaeontology at all BSc, MSc and equivalent levels, as well as to encourage and reward student engagement and achievement in this field, The Micropalaeontological Society has established TMS Student Awards. Each award consists of one year's free membership of the Society, including two issues of *Journal of Micropalaeontology* and *Newsletter of Micropalaeontology*, discount on TMS and GSPH publications, discounted registration fees at TMS specialist group meetings, and eligibility for awards and grants-in-aid.

The awards are given annually by tutors of registered micropalaeontology courses. Only one award per year per institution may be given. Nominating tutors must be members of TMS and in order to register a course they must submit a completed form to TMS Secretary who will confirm in writing that the given course is approved for the award. The Secretary will keep a list of registered micropalaeontology courses, conferring with the Committee when necessary. Course tutors of registered courses may then give the award at any time of the year on the basis of any criteria to students deemed to have achieved meritorious grades. The tutor reports the name and address of the awardee, as well as a brief statement on the criteria used to select the awardee, to the Secretary, who will collate a list of citations to be tabled each year at the AGM and printed in the *Newsletter*.

Each year, one TMS Student Award will be awarded in memory of Brian O'Neill.

Eleven courses are currently registered:

EA2009 Microfossils

School of Earth and Ocean Sciences, Cardiff University

500016 Foraminiferen im Schleswig-holsteinischen Wattenmeer

IFM-GEOMAR, Kiel

Advanced Micropalaeontology

Department of Geology, University of Leicester

Microfossils, environments and time

School of Ocean & Earth Science, University of Southampton

Mikropaläontologie

Institut für Geowissenschaften, Eberhard-Karls Universität Tübingen

Micropalaeontology

University of Bristol

Micropalaeontology: Principles and Applications

Keele University

16199 Micropalaeontology

Universidad del País Vasco

GLY 5102 Marine Micropalaeontology / GLY 5104 Applied Micropalaeontology /GLY 5207 Case Histories in Marine Micropalaeontology / research project involving micropalaeontology

Environmental and Marine Masters Scheme in the Faculty of Science, University of Plymouth

ESCM 320/440 Micropalaeontology

School of Geography, Earth and Environmental Sciences, University of Birmingham

Introduction to Micropalaeontology

Masters in Geology, University of Ghent – K.U. Leuven

Information for Tutors: In order to register a micropalaeontology course at your institute, please fill in the form below and send it to TMS Secretary. You only need to do this once, unless the course has changed or you wish to report a different course for the award scheme. Tutors are welcome to submit the form electronically.

TMS Student Award – Course Registration Form

Nominating Tutor:

TMS Membership Nr:

University/Higher Education Institution:

Course Name:

Course Description (level, number of students, hours of instruction etc.):

Date:

Please return by mail or electronically to TMS Secretary

The Micropalaeontological Society
<http://www.tmsoc.org>

Registered as a Charity No 284013

Specialist Group News

Silicofossil Group Report

TANIEL DANELIAN

BRIEF REPORT ON INTERRAD 13, AN INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON FOSSIL AND RECENT RADIOLARIANS



This is the main international meeting of radiolarian palaeontologists organized every 3-4 years. InterRad 13 took place between March 25th and 29th, 2012 in the Monastery of

San Miguel, which is a reference hotel located in El Puerto de Santa Maria in the Bay of Cadiz (Spain). This magnificent old style building is a former convent which has been renovated and refurbished to offer modern facilities, combined with an atmosphere of tranquillity.

Over 80 participants from 16 different countries attended the meeting, with the Japanese being by far the largest group. Sixty-three talks were given in the Auditorium (the former convent church with an excellent acoustics) combined with 31 posters displayed in a side room. The sessions covered biological, palaeoceanographic, palaeobiological and evolutionary topics, as well as the application of Radiolaria to tectonic and stratigraphic problems. The meeting was marked by significant progress made these last few years in radiolarian molecular biology and the use of non destructive three-dimensional techniques of radiolarian skeleton observation, such as X-ray synchrotron imaging and micro X-ray computer tomography.

Two special sessions were also organized. The first one was dedicated to the memory of Professor Kojiro Nakaseko (1925-2011), consid-



ered to be a pioneer of radiolarian research in Japan. The second session, focused mainly on radiolarian systematics, was organized in honor of Paulian Dumitrica, at the occasion of his 75th anniversary.

The weather was fairly mild but unstable and fairly windy. We were very fortunate to have a sunny weather during the mid-conference trip to the historic city of Cadiz.

A four-day post-conference field trip took place in the Betic Cordillera and gave the opportunity to participants to visit the contact zone between External and Internal zone, to observe Jurassic condensed successions with radiolarites, the record of the Cenomanian-Turonian anoxic event and geotourism in local karsts.

TMS was one of the sponsors of InterRad 13 by offering two student awards (one talk, one poster, £150 each). This was a very successful action for both the short and long term promotion of TMS within the radiolarian community. TMS was briefly described and the benefits of membership explained to the full body of participants before presenting the awards.

Best talk was by Anders Krabberød (Norway) et al. on '*18S + 28S rDNA phylogeny divides Radiolaria into Polycystina and Spasmaria and supports the Retaria hypothesis*'.

Best poster was by Johan Renaudie (Germany) & Dave Lazarus on '*Advances in Antarctic Neogene radiolarian high-resolution stratigraphy*'.

The next InterRad will be held in 2015 in Turkey.

Palynology Group Report

PHIL JARDINE

TMS PALYNOLOGY GROUP MEETING – 13TH JUNE 2012, UNIVERSITY OF SHEFFIELD

This year's meeting of the TMS Palynology Group took place at the University of Sheffield on the 13th June. The meeting was hosted by Charlie Wellman, and was attended by 25 participants. We began by congregating for lunch in the University Arms pub, before moving over to the lecture theatre for the first session of talks.

Ian Harding (University of Southampton) chaired the first session (and at just a moment's notice – sorry about that squire), which was started off with a talk by Palynology Group chair Fabienne Marret-Davies (University of Liverpool). Fabienne presented research on the reconnection of the Black Sea with the Mediterranean at the beginning of the Holocene, and the use of dinocysts as palaeoenvironmental indicators to distinguish between sudden and gradual reconnection scenarios. The results from Fabienne and her co-workers strongly sup-

port a more gradual sequence of environmental changes over ~1500 years.

A contingent from the University of Southampton provided five of the afternoon's nine talks, and very pleasingly two of these were from MSci (undergraduate masters) students. Sam Morrison provided the second talk of the afternoon, with a presentation on his MSci project that focused on a new high-latitude Paleocene Eocene Thermal Maximum (PETM) record from the Spitsbergen Central Basin. Sam combined sedimentary logging with palynological analyses to reconstruct hydrological and sea-level changes during the PETM, and has identified an interval of sustained bottom water anoxia during the event.

Onema Adojoh (Plymouth University) gave the next talk, on Eocene to Pliocene pollen and spore distributions across the Niger Delta. Onema has used the sporomorph record as a proxy to study the development and movement of different vegetation types across the delta in response to changing sea levels and climates.

Joe Emmings (University of Southampton) then gave a presentation on his recently finished MSc project, which concerned the burial of organic carbon in slope apron turbidite systems. Using the Moroccan Turbidite System as a case study, and palynology as a means of determining the composition of organic carbon, Joe showed that slope apron turbidite systems are inefficient mechanisms for organic carbon sequestration compared to submarine fan systems.

The first session of talks was rounded off by Phil Jardine (University of Birmingham), who presented research on climatic controls on low latitude floral diversification. This showed that while the neotropical speciation rate increased in concert with early Eocene global warming, a similar pattern was not observed in the transiently megathermal mid-latitudes. The implications for the maintenance of the latitudinal diversity gradient over extended timescales were discussed.

Afternoon tea was taken in the student union café. We then headed back to the lecture theatre for the second session of talks, which was chaired by Charlie Wellman. Geoff Warrington (University of Leicester) gave a review of the palynostratigraphy of the Triassic Mercia Mudstone Group in the Cheshire Basin, which integrated existing records with newly documented ones.

The remaining three talks were provided by the Southampton delegation. Jon Lakin presented research on the late Devonian Strunian glaciation in Bolivia. This rapid interval of global cooling is being investigated with detailed sedimentological and palynological analyses, and will generate a detailed, and well-dated, record of environmental, climatic and floral change from high palaeolatitudes.

Pin-Ru Huang then showcased the use of palynology in a civil engineering application. This work is focusing on the origins of organic matter in Oxford Clay deposits that now form the setting for landfill sites, and seeks to relate this

to heavy metals and organic pollutants in the landfill and the Oxford Clay itself.

Closing the programme of talks, John Marshall presented work on the microflora of Devonian volcanic arcs that were present between East Gondwana and Siberia. These deposits show that the dispersal capabilities of different plant groups shaped both the floral assemblages of these isolated volcanic arcs, and the biogeographic spread of taxa between Gondwana and Siberia.

The meeting ended with a discussion session on '*Future research in palynology*'. Rather predictably this centered on the current challenges in securing funding for research, and the lack of younger palynologists being trained for industrial and academic careers. We then relocated back to the University Arms for a quick snifter, before heading into Sheffield for a curry. Thanks to Charlie and his helpers for hosting a highly successful and enjoyable meeting.

The programme and abstracts from the meeting are available on the Palynology Group page of the TMS website; see <http://www.tmsoc.org/paly.htm>.

FUTURE MEETINGS WITH PALYNOLOGICAL RELEVANCE

The Palynological Society (AASP) 45th Annual Meeting, 21st to 25th July 2012, at University of Kentucky, Lexington, Kentucky, USA.

IPC XIII/IOPC IX 2012, the joint meeting of the 13th International Palynological Congress and 9th International Organization of Palaeobotany Conference, 23rd to 30th August 2012, at Chuo University in Tokyo, Japan.

Linnean Society Palynology Specialist Group Meeting '*Understanding pollen and spore diversity*', 1st November 2012, at Burlington House, Piccadilly, London.

Nannofossil Group Report

TOM DUNKLEY JONES AND JEREMY YOUNG

TMS FORAMINIFERA AND NANNOFOSSIL GROUPS JOINT MEETING - 21-22 JUNE 2012, UNIVERSITY OF EDINBURGH

First, a very sincere thanks to Kate Darling and her team of Clare Bird, Kath Evans, Magali Schweizer and Tom Russon for all their work in hosting the Foraminifera and Nannofossil groups Joint Meeting in Edinburgh at the end of June. It was impeccably organised and in a wonderful location, overlooked by crags of Arthur's Seat and the occasional lowering thundercloud. Following directly on from the North Atlantic benthic forum working group, the meeting was boosted by the presence of many leading international micropalaeontologists, including Ellen Thomas of Yale. The nannofossil group representation was relatively small but included a good mix of academic, industrial and geological survey professionals. It was encouraging to see the international spread of the nannofossil participants, with Europeans outnumbering the UK, and the odd visitors from the US. Talks ranged from Rui Da Gama's new take on Neogene *Discoaster* structures to recent cruise plankton sampling from the Pacific sector of the Southern Ocean (Mariem Saavedra-Pelilitro). Space was provided in the poster sessions to include some of the stunning nannofossil images, produce and framed as an exhibit feature by Jackie Lees, from the Cretaceous and Palaeogene of Tanzania. These images and explanatory text are curated at UCL and are available for display at appropriate meetings – contact Jackie for details (j.lees@ucl.ac.uk). Next year's group meeting will be hosted by Katarína Holcová in Prague, and having been too young (TDJ) for the somewhat legendary Prague INA x meeting, I'm looking forward to visiting the beautiful city and linking up with more of our central European colleagues.

The success of the Forum & Nanno groups meeting was some conciliation, after the disappointing news of the postponement of the

INA14 meeting, scheduled to take place in Cluj, Romania this September. Unfortunately, the logistics for organising this meeting proved problematic and the INA committee judged it better to postpone the meeting before the attendees, many travelling from Americas and East Asia booked their tickets. The good news, however, is that Jean Self-Trail of the USGS has agreed to host INA14 from the 15-21 September 2014 at the USGS offices in Reston, Virginia. Not only is this a great place to gather scientifically and see Jean's home ground, it also offers both beautiful countryside in the local national parks, world class museums and all the sights and facilities of nearby Washington D.C. Jean has already sent out a first circular to the 'coccoliths' email list to gauge interest and approximate numbers (please email Jean if you have not received a copy: jstrail@usgs.gov). The official website is currently "under construction" and will be up and running over the summer. If anyone is interested in running a workshop during the meeting, or if anyone has any questions and/or comments, please do not hesitate to contact Jean.

NANNOTAX WORKSHOPS, MAY 21-22 AND 24, 2012

Nannotax is the online nannofossil taxonomy database being developed by Jeremy Young, Paul Bown, Jackie Lees and Mike Styzen (www.nannotax.org). Part of the development process of this free, web-based reference, teaching and learning resource involves beta-testing at various stages and getting feedback from end-user communities. Thanks to funding from the NERC and hosting of the workshops by Chevron (thanks to Tom Dignes and Alicia Kahn) in downtown Houston, Texas and the Geological Sciences Department at Florida State (thanks to Woody Wise) in Tallahassee, we were able to provide a detailed overview of the system to a large industrial/academic nanno community, followed by hands-on practical sessions to en-



The shimmering towers of downtown Houston (bottom) where a group of nannofossil workers (middle) helped roadtest the nannotax database (top).

courage people to use it. During the workshops, we explained the basic nature of Nannotax - how the system works, the EU-funded projects underpinning the website (EDIT, ViBRANT), Content Management Systems and why we use Scratchpads, why it looks the way it does, how development is progressing, and how us-

ers can contribute to it (by adding comments, images) and use the website for their individual objectives. We also presented progress reports on current developments in biostratigraphic research and synthesis, including the Earthtime EU program and Time Scale Creator (TSC), and explained how we are developing links between Nannotax and TSC (in collaboration with Jim Ogg). The Nannotax site is currently undergoing a revamp, involving a migration to Scratchpads 2 and incorporation of a number of feedback requests, and content is still being added - we are currently working on populating the Mesozoic section and preparing data for the extant section.

IODP EXPEDITION 342 – NEWFOUNDLAND MARGIN SEDIMENT DRIFTS

Paul Bown and Claudia Agnini are currently aboard the Joides Resolution, along with videographer Daniel Brinkhuis. There are currently three u-tube videos providing highlights of the cruise; the third in the series is at: www.youtube.com/watch?v=_qtvK35YhNE&feature=g-vrec and you can see links to the other two from there. The onboard education officer, Caitlin Scully, is accompanied by three Eocene mammal hand-puppets – a must-see!

Ostracod Group Report

IAN BOOMER (WITH HELP FROM COLLEAGUES ON THE TRIP)

TMS OSTRACOD GROUP SPRING MEETING TO DORSET

A select group of ostracodologists attended the TMS Spring Fieldtrip to the north shore of the Fleet, Dorset around the area of Herbury on the 28th of April taking advantage of the relatively low tide, and a break in the unseasonable downpours around that time, to sample some of the exposures of Jurassic rocks along this part of the coast. The visit was made primarily to obtain Jurassic ostracods. This part of the World Heritage coastline provides a relatively condensed succession at outcrop; the same time-

equivalent sediments to the west at Watton Cliff, near Eype, are expanded by 3-4 times and are largely inaccessible due to the height of the cliffs and the presence of slumping.

One of the main reasons for our trip was to visit and sample a particular horizon, the Boueti Bed at Herbury; this stratum is Middle Jurassic, Bathonian in age, approximately 165 million years old. The bed is a distinctive marker in the cliff (as it is regionally) and is named after the brachiopod *Goniorhynchia boueti* found in abundance washed-out along the foreshore. One of the British pioneers of ostracod research, Prof.



Picture 1. Dr David Horne (left, Queen Mary University London) and Prof. Alan Lord (right, Senckenberg Museum Frankfurt) sampling the Boueti Bed.

Peter Sylvester-Bradley (University of Leicester), published a paper on the ostracods from this site in 1948. That paper remains influential as he erected many new scientific names (at subfamily, genus and species level) in that publication that continue to be used today.

A suite of samples were collected by the group (picture 1) but only time will tell as to whether the visit was successful in replicating Sylvester-Bradley's collections. Ostracods of this age are also currently being revised by Prof. Robin Whatley, University of Wales, Aberystwyth.

Our thanks go to Don Moxom for arranging permission to access to the Fleet and to John Dads for ensuring our safe access to and from the shoreline.

The afternoon saw us collecting Lower and Middle Jurassic samples from Watton Cliff at Eype including fallen blocks of the Junction Bed lying

on the foreshore.

The second day of our trip originally planned to take us to the Purbeck exposures along the East Dorset Coast at Swanage but health and safety considerations during the torrential downpours, strong winds and rough seas of that weekend necessitated a more sheltered option. We elected instead for a rather soggy visit to Lulworth Cove (picture 2), focusing mainly on the tea-rooms and the recently completed 'Jurassic Jaws' palaeontological display in the visitor centre that illustrate a range of beautifully preserved fossils from Kimmeridge Bay collected by Steve Etches including a 2m pliosaur jaw, teuthoids with ink sacs and dimorphic ammonites.

The next Ostracod Group meeting is planned for the weekend 5-7th October, to be held at the University of Sussex with Mick Frogley as the local organiser, our thanks to Mick for his kind offer. The meeting will be a 'talks' format on the Saturday and a brief field excursion on the Sunday morning, possibly to Wealden localities.

Reference:

Sylvester-Bradley, P. C. 1948. Bathonian ostracods from the Boueti Bed of Langton Herring, Dorset. *Geological Magazine* 85 (4), 185-204.

Pictures courtesy of Michaela Radl, Queen Mary University, London



Picture 2. A heroic if wet day in Lulworth....

TMS Grant-in-aid Reports

TMS satellite workshop: North-East Atlantic benthic foraminifers: a new taxonomy for the 21st century

MICHAELA RADL, QUEEN MARY UNIVERSITY, LONDON

This year a TMS foraminifera workshop took place on the 21st and 22nd June 2012 at the University of St. Andrews (Scotland) hosted by Bill Austin. In the morning of the first day, talks were held about the history of foraminifera classification (Karen Luise Knudsen), applied micropalaeontology with the question asked if ecophenotypes exist (Frans Jorissen), the problem of morphospecies and cryptic species (Elisabeth Alve) and the field of molecular phylogeny (Magali Schweizer). These topics showed that the taxonomy of North-East Atlantic benthic foraminifera is still in process and has many problems. One of them is what book is the best for identifying genera – Loeblich & Tappan 1964 or 1987, Haynes 1981 or Sen Gupta 1994? In each book, a different amount of genera exist as well as species, and the problem about the species synonyms makes it more complicated. Within this chaotic system, the problems are even growing when the question arise what is the definition of a morphospecies, and when is it a cryptic species? Which characteristics should we use for identification, e.g. when there is only a slightly aperture variances in one species. Furthermore, how variable can a species be when the ecological conditions change or is there a genetic based variability



Microscope session.

Picture: Magali Schweizer.

(Wand & Lutze, 1986)?

One solution would be to use the propagule bank (small, juvenile, dispersal foraminifera) to experiment in the laboratory the different ecological conditions and observe how foraminifera grow. Another, also laboratory based solution is to study the genetic code of different species and reconstruct their family tree. First steps in this study were taken by Clare Bird, Kath Evans and Magali Schweizer who were using *Elphidium*, *Ammonia* and *Haynesina* for this purpose. Their first results about the *Elphidium* group were shown in the 'Elphidium game' in the afternoon of the first day, where we had to group morphotypes together with SEM pictures. On each table one expert and several students had to find the 13 different species and name them. The solution at the end of the game surprised us all, because half of our groups were mixed together due to their genetic code. It was also different to find one name for a genotype, e.g. *Elphidium williamsoni* showed surprisingly a high morphological variability of the test.



One of the groups participating to the Elphidium game.

Picture: Magali Schweizer.

On the second day, the results of the other groups (*Ammonia* and *Haynesina*) were showed in a talk about the molecular and morphological limits of genotypes (Clare Bird, Kath Evans and Magali Schweizer). Also a talk about the

taxonomy and biogeography (John Murray) was given where the biogeography information of 8000 samples is used to plott foraminifera together into five areas: marsh, marginal marsh, fjords, shelf and deep sea. After a coffee break, further discussion during the microscope session was possible, where material was exchanged. In the afternoon, the general discus-

sion about future plans was held by Bill Austin and Magali Schweizer. There, the topics arose that a reliable taxonomy is needed, high quality documentation of type material (museum and universal collections) as well as a platform where information can be exchanged, e.g. wiki taxonomic discussion.

The Micropalaeontology Society Foraminifera and Nannofossil Groups Joint Meeting 2012, 21–23 June 2012, Edinburgh, Scotland, United Kingdom

LYNDSEY FOX, UNIVERSITY OF LEEDS

MANUEL WEINKAUF, EBERHARD-KARLS UNIVERSITY, TÜBINGEN

In 2012 The Micropalaeontological Society awarded us the TMS Grant-in-Aid to join the TMS Spring Meeting of the Foraminifera and Nannofossil Groups. On that occasion, Lyndsey presented a poster summarising assemblage and isotopic analyses of Middle Miocene Foraminifera, whereas Manuel gave a talk about morphological reactions of Foraminifera on environmental stress during the deposition of Sapropel S5.

This years meeting took place at the University of Edinburgh from the 21st to 22nd of June. A big thank you needs to go to Kate Darling, Katharine Evans, Clare Bird, Magali Schweizer, and Tom Russon for putting together such a stimulating and enjoyable programme. There were 87 participants from institutes around the world and a wide range of interesting and informative talks and posters were presented over the two days of the meeting, dedicated to '*Interdisciplinary advances in foraminiferal and nannofossil research*'.

Social events featured a welcome reception on the first evening and a traditional Scottish barbecue (i.e. indoors because of rain) after the first day of talks. Both events were supplied with generous amounts of wine and beer, sponsored by Shell and Neflex for the welcome reception, which ensured a good time was had by all in spite of the weather.

A total of 28 talks were given over the course of

the meeting, and here we present some of the highlights:

Isabel Fenton kicked off the first session with "*Measuring and mapping diversity of core top macroperforate planktonic Foraminifera*". This talk compared a variety of diversity measures and discussed the similarity of the results produced, demonstrating that different diversity measures highlight different aspects of the community and that high latitude communities show phylogenetic niche conservatism.

Tracy Aze followed with a fantastic talk on the results of her PhD titled '*A phylogeny of Cenozoic macroperforate planktonic Foraminifera from fossil data*' which won her the TMS prize for best talk for an early career scientist. Her work identified many instances in the fossil record where morphospecies of macroperforate planktonic Foraminifera intergraded over time, allowing for the elimination of 'pseudospeciation' and 'pseudoextinction' from the record. Hence she was able to reconstruct a more natural phylogeny based on inferred biological lineages.

In the afternoon Mike Bidgood gave a compelling talk: '*Dating the Silverpit impact crater: The North Sea's Chicxulub or best taken with a pinch of salt?*' which suggested that, contrary to a recent Geological Society meeting which resulted in a majority consensus for a salt withdrawal mechanism to explain the Silverpit structure, it may indeed be an impact crater. Evidence comes from micro- and nannofossil assemblages derived by sediment mixing, and

nannofossils fractured by a possible impact shock wave comparable to similar observations on nannofossils from a confirmed impact event in Chesapeake Bay, USA.

In the final session of the day, Bridget Wade's talk '*Global zooplankton turnover marks the base of the Priabonian (middle/upper Eocene boundary)*' gave an extremely convincing argument on why the double extinction of *Morozovelloides* and *Acarinina* should be used as a new GSSP for the base of the Priabonian.

The following morning Katy Prentice talked about the exciting preliminary results from her PhD project '*Surface ocean productivity during the E/O transition*', using samples from IODP site U1334 and investigating Sr/Ca ratios preserved in coccolithophores as a tracer of major nutrient availability. Her results revealed an increase in Sr/Ca just before the Eocene–

Oligocene transition (E/OT) followed by a sharp fall and slow recovery at its onset. She also found that most coccolith species have similar Sr/Ca responses, but with different magnitudes across the E/OT.

In the final session of the meeting, Malcolm Hart gave a very engaging talk titled '*Rewriting the Cretaceous–Palaeogene boundary events in Texas: New sections and revised micropalaeontological interpretations*' which provided an entertaining account of how he and his PhD student, Andrew Leighton, discovered some new and more complete K–Pg boundary sections in Texas, and also highlighted some of Andrew's work on K–Pg boundary events in Texas and how they relate to other areas.

The meeting was brought to a close with the presentation of several awards for best talk and poster. Tracy Aze (Cardiff) and Peter



*Manuel Weinkauff, Lyndsey Fox and Michaela Radl during the field trip.
Picture: Magali Schweizer.*

Stassen (Leuven) were both awarded prizes for best talk from an early career scientist. The prizes for best student talk were awarded to David Bell (Edinburgh) for his talk *'Onset of the Icehouse world'* and Kristina Arthur (Vrije University Amsterdam), for her talk *'Agulhas Gateway geometry and leakage efficiency since the last glacial maximum'*. The student prizes for best posters were awarded to Agnes Weiner (University of Bremen), Mirjam Koch (University Frankfurt/Main) and Lyndsey Fox (University of Leeds)!



The dissolution cavities in Catcraig were formed in situ in the Middle Longcraig Limestone beneath the tree stems of a mangrove forest during the Carboniferous, due to acidic conditions in the soil.

The excursion of this year's meeting was undertaken on Saturday, the 23rd of June, which was luckily quite a dry and sunny day after two days of a more or less continuous rain. The excursion started at 8.45 a.m. in front of St Leonards Hall. From there the bus took us to our first destination, Catcraig.

Catcraig, close to Dunbar, exhibits a thick succession of Early to Middle Mississippian strata (mainly limestones), that have long been quarried especially for agricultural purposes and cement production. We were guided through that outcrop, which spans several hundred metres along the coastline, by famous Euan N. K. Clarkson, FRSE. In the outcrop two sea-level cycles can be observed, each starting with a thick sandstone bed overlain by limestone beds containing corals, brachiopods, crinoids, and foraminifers. On top of each limestone bed lays a soil horizon with root channels, covered by a thin coal layer. This gives evidence for two regression–transgression events, during which a shallow marine environment shifted into a mangrove forest that existed for a considerable long time, as to allow the coal horizon to be deposited, before again being submerged by the sea. Especially the lower limestone bed (Middle Longcraig Limestone) is outstanding in Europe (and probably the entire world) by exhibiting shallow, bowl-shaped depressions on its surface. Those are interpreted as dissolution structures, which were formed in the limestone during the Carboniferous, due to the acidic conditions beneath the tree stems growing in the mangrove forests of that time.

We then went on to Siccar Point, located a short distance to the southeast of Catcraig. After spending our lunch break at the cliff top, enjoying the picturesque scene of grey waves breaking on the rugged rocks beneath, the majority of us climbed down the steep but rather easily accessible slope to the coastline. Here, one of the birth places of modern geology is exposed: James Hutton's famous unconformity. Steep, nearly vertical, strata of Llandoveryan (early Silurian) greywackes and shales are overlain by sub-horizontal breccia and sandstones of the upper Devonian and Mississippian. Here Hutton understood that the earth must be much older than just some thousand years (as was commonly believed at that time), and that its surface must have been subject to continuous deformation and reworking. His ideas, that changed the way we understand the earth, were published in 1788 in the first volume of the Transactions of the Royal Society of Edinburgh.

Our last stop on the field trip led us to the North Berwick Sea Bird Centre in The Harbour, North Berwick. Off the coast there are two isles, Bass Rock — with a lighthouse built by David Stevenson, the cousin of Robert Louis Stevenson — and the Isle of May. On both rocks a variety of seabirds (like puffins, gannets, and razorbills) found nesting places, and are protected by the Scottish Seabird Centre. From the visitor centre one can observe those birds

using remote cameras or telescopes provided, and one can learn lots of interesting information about the wildlife in that region of Scotland's coast. The more passionate visitor may also visit those isles personally by boat.

Our field trip, as well as the meeting itself, ended around 6.00 p.m. that day in front of St Leonards Hall. It offered all of us great opportunities to exchange knowledge about a variety of research areas concerned with Foraminifera and nannofossils, meet interesting people, and visit the countryside of Lothian. After a very successful conference and a truly amazing field trip, we want to thank Jeremy Young and the TMS committee for supporting our participation in the TMS meeting. We look forward to the next TMS Foram/Nannofossil

groups meeting, to be held in Prague in June 2013.



Hutton's unconformity at Siccar Point, where nearly vertical strata of the lower Silurian are overlain by sub-horizontal red beds of the Devonian–Mississippian.

Fieldtrip in Asturias and Leòn - Looking for Devonian ostracods

SÉBASTIEN MAILLET, FACULTÉ LIBRE DES SCIENCES ET TECHNOLOGIES, LILLE

Working on Devonian ostracods, I am currently in the second year of my PhD, supervised by B. Milhau, J.-P. Nicollin and T. Danelian. My research project deals with the biodiversity and the palaeoecology of ostracods from the Givetian carbonate platform of Ardennes (northern passive margin of the Rheno-Hercynian

Ocean). Thus, I study the response of ostracods to environmental changes and events during this period.

In this view, I would like to compare the Givetian ostracod fauna of the Ardenne carbonate platform with those of farther areas. Nowadays, the Givetian ostracod fauna of the Iberia-Armorica Terrane Assemblage remains poorly known and ostracods from carbonate facies of Asturias and Leòn have never been studied. That is why B. Milhau and I spent 15 days in June-July 2012 at the University of Oviedo (Asturias, Spain), for a field trip in the Cantabrian Mountains. The Micropalaeontological Society kindly allocated me a grant to co-finance this field trip.



Perán-Carranques section (Carranques beach) - boundary between the Candás Formation (gray limestones on the left where B. Milhau stands, Givetian/Frasnian) and the Piñeres Formation (red sandstones on the right, Frasnian).

Led by Luis Carlos Sánchez de Posada (ostracod specialist, University of Oviedo) and Isabel Méndez-Bedia (sedimentologist and reefal fauna specialist, University of Oviedo), we visited four Givetian reference sections of the Cantabrian Mountains.

Two sections are located northwards to Oviedo,



Huergas de Gordòn section - Nocedo Formation (Frasnian), with I. Méndez-Bedia and L. C. Sánchez de Posada in front of the top of the Molino limestones.

in the Asturias domain:

- The Perán section, located on the coast eastwards to the town of Candas, shows the stratotype of the Candas Formation; a 200m-thick carbonate formation with an abundant reefal fauna.

- The Luanco section, located on the coast but westwards, also displays the Candas Formation, but the carbonate series is thicker than Perán and reaches about 400m.

The two others sections are located southwards of Oviedo, in the León domain (southern slope of the Cantabrian Mountains):

- The Huergas de Gordòn section, located in the Bernesga valley, shows well the Portilla For-



Huergas de Gordòn section - base of the Portilla Formation (Givetian), with M. Arbizu on the left.

mation.

- The Matallana section, also displays the Portilla Formation.

I collected about 100 samples in the Perán, the Huergas de Gordòn and the Matallana sections in order to extract and analyse the ostracod fauna.

My stay in the University of Oviedo also allowed me to complete my reference list on the Devonian of the Asturias, to look at the ostracods collection of the University of Oviedo and to visit the museum of the geology department.



The pass of Parajes (altitude: 1378m), frontier between the Asturias and the León. Limestone bars behind me are Carboniferous.

Beyond the geology, Oviedo is a very amazing and beautiful city, with a lot of historical monuments, of which some date back to the VIIIth century. More generally, the landscape of the Asturias is very pretty, with both mountains and sea, and some curiosities as some Osborne bulls, emblems of Spain, at the top of mountains... Asturias is also famous for its cider, with an original way to serve it!

I am thankful to TMS for this grant. Visiting Asturias was a very useful experience for my PhD, allowing to me to exchange with experienced specialists and thus to complete my knowledge on the Devonian and the ostracods.

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The Grzybowski Foundation

[Fundacja im. J. Grzybowskiego]

A note from the Chairman's desk

MIKE KAMINSKI

This spring has been an eventful one for the Grzybowski Foundation – we organized a successful short course in Urbino, and we put together the abstract volume for the Ninth International Workshop on Agglutinated Foraminifera (IWAF) which will be published as GF Special Publication nr. 17. Firstly, I wish to thank our dues-paying members worldwide for their continued support, and at the same time this is also a reminder to send in your dues payment for 2012. All dues-paying members will receive a copy of the 'Ninth International Workshop on Agglutinated Foraminifera' abstract volume, which was sent to the printer in July. The GF relies upon the generosity of its members to fund ongoing activities such as the special publication series, so your continued support is much appreciated.

The Fifth International School on Foraminifera was held in Urbino in June, and attracted 37 participants from as far away as Korea and Brazil. For the first time, the course was

hosted at the Collegio Internazionale of Urbino University, which provided newly upgraded conference facilities as well as air-conditioned accommodation under one roof, right in the centre of historic Urbino. The timing of the course coincided with the Euro-2012 football matches, so when Italy was playing we heard the cheers from the football fans in the Piazza loud and clear. It was quite a spectacle to see all cafés in the Piazza outfitted with big-screen TVs, and all the fans cheering on their favourite teams. This year's foraminiferal course included a field trip to Gubbio, with an evening dinner at a rustic restaurant that brews its own organic beer. This provided an excellent backdrop for the now traditional Karaoke night. We would like to thank Fabrizio and Nadia for their supreme efforts in organising an excellent course this year. We have plans to expand the curriculum of the course next year, and the course will run for a full two weeks.

The Ninth International Workshop on Agglu-



Group picture from the 5th International School of Foraminifera in Urbino



Prof. Jan Srodon, Director of the Institute of Geological Sciences, Polish Academy of Sciences, Krakow, congratulates Dr Eiichi Setoyama on the successful defense of his PhD thesis, June 4, 2012.

minated Foraminifera will be held in Zaragoza in September, and so far over 50 participants have signed up. Laia Alegret and Silvia Ortiz are putting together a program that includes the annual meeting of the ‘*International Working Group on Foraminiferal Classification*’, a technical session with oral and poster presentations, and a field trip to see the famous Zumaia section along the north coast of Spain. For further information please contact Laia Alegret.

We wish to extend congratulations to two postgraduate students who have been GF stipend holders: Eiichi Setoyama successfully defended his PhD thesis on the ‘*Late Cretaceous Foraminifera from the northern proto-Atlantic – Arctic Seaway: Biostratigraphy, Palaeoenvironment, Palaeobiogeography*’ at the Polish Academy of Sciences in Krakow, and Andreea Telespan defended her MSc thesis on ‘*The Life Cycle of Entzia*’ at Babes-Bolyai University in Romania. Let’s hope that this important step is just the beginning of something big!

This spring the GF achieved another milestone:

we quietly celebrated our twentieth anniversary! It was in May of 1992 that the idea to begin this initiative popped up out of nowhere one sunny afternoon – after we had organised a field excursion in the Polish Carpathians for international guests and at about the same time assumed the responsibility for organising the 4th IWAF. Originally, the GF was just going to be a small initiative to perhaps help masters students at the Jagiellonian University, but within a few years we established a micropalaeontological library, a special publication series, a national (and sometimes international) micropalaeontological conference series, an international short course, and now through the kindness of our members, we can offer a grant to PhD students. We have assumed responsibility for organising an international meeting (the International Workshops on Agglutinated Foraminifera) also taken over one activity that was formerly done by Ruth Todd through the Cushman Foundation – compiling the Recent Literature on the Foraminifera (FORAMREFS). Twenty years later, the Grzybowski Library is a world-class resource that is used by dozens of people, we have published 17 books (and undertook a project to start updating and revising the Loeblich & Tappan volume), we have established a micropalaeontological collection at the Grzybowski Library, and students that have received grants-in-aid have gone on to have successful careers in both academia and industry. Now when I visit a micropaleontological lab somewhere in the world and see our signature black books sitting all together and within reach on a bookshelf, or when I see 40 people attending a foraminiferal short course that has risen like a phoenix from the ashes of the old UCL MSc Micropalaeontology degree course, I begin to think that our foundation has really accomplished something. Not bad for a small group of enthusiasts working on a shoestring budget! What will the future

hold for the Foundation? One idea is to attach the MIKRO-meetings to the Polish-Czech-Slovak palaeontological meetings that already take place every two years (it makes no sense in duplicating these efforts, after all) – after the last joint TMS-MIKRO meeting at Kraków some people say that bigger is better. In 2015, Miroslav Bubík and I will be organizing the ‘Schubert Symposium’ to commemorate the 100 anniversary of the tragic death of Grzybowski’s talented friend. Also it would be great if we could organise a tenth IWAF meeting in

four years time. In terms of publishing, this summer we are taking steps to make the pdfs of all the IWAF articles available on the GF website. This should increase the readership and citations to the GF publications. Finally, now that several GF members are working in the Gulf States, we are thinking of organising a local ‘Gulf Foraminiferal Group’, and we will hold our first meeting in Abu Dhabi at the EAGE meeting in December. I hope we can continue these activities and do even more in the future...

Thirty Years of FORAMREFs

MIKE KAMINSKI, KFUPM

The Bibliography of the Foraminifera that appears on the Grzybowski Foundation Website (FORAMREFs) has achieved a milestone this year – we now have a list of publications on the Foraminifera that begins in 1981 and is current up to 2011. One might ask that now that we have Google Scholar and other search engines, perhaps the an effort to compile a current list of publications dealing with the Foraminifera represents a duplication of effort. In reply to this, I can point out that many of the older publications are in defunct journals that were never published in electronic format, or appeared as book chapters, or as occasional publications. The search engines simply do not find these articles – try googling ‘*Utrecht Micropaleontological Bulletins*’ or ‘*Voprosy Mikropaleontologii*’ and you cannot even find a list of articles that were published in these journals. One problem that makes an electronic search less accurate is the fact that often the word ‘Foraminifera’ does not appear in the title, even though the article deals with this microfossil group.

From the very start, the idea behind FORAMREFs was to make a complete (or as complete as possible) inventory of the recent literature on the Foraminifera. This is the continuation of Ruth Todd’s work that until her death 25

years ago appeared regularly in the *Journal of Foraminiferal Research* (JFR). Sadly, the ‘Recent Foraminifera’ chapters in the JFR have been appearing less regularly in recent years, and fewer articles seem to be included in the compiled list. This is where FORAMREFs steps in. I am certain that the bibliography compiled by us is by no means complete – particularly when it comes to papers published in Asia and the former Soviet Union – but it still contains many more references than a computer search will provide.

At present, FORAMREFs contains 9615 references on the Foraminifera published between 1981 and 2011. I have taken the liberty of playing with the numbers, and I can observe some interesting trends based on the available data. Firstly, the number of references on the Foraminifera appears to have peaked in 1984 and 1988 – largely owing to the fact that so many papers were published in the Benthos meeting proceedings volumes. This may have been a one-off peak. Since 1988 the numbers of papers display a slow decline, but this decline seems to have tapered off recently.

With the recent push to publish only in ISI journals (some academic departments only consider ISI journals for promotion purposes),

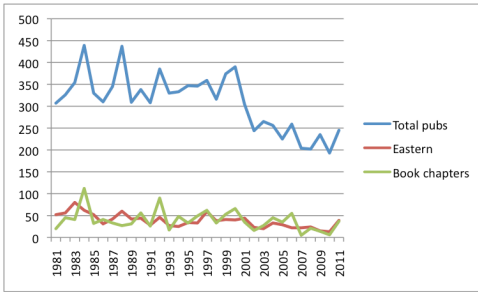


Chart showing the number of publication recorded in FORAMREFs from 1981 to 2011, with the total number at the top, and the number of papers from Eastern Europe and book chapters below.

the number of articles published as book chapters and in occasional publications has been in decline in the past few years. Today, some authors would not even remotely consider the idea of publishing a paper in a Proceedings volume, if this paper ‘does not count’ towards promotion. I am not sure whether this is a good trend, because it diminishes the value of the thematic volumes that used to be so popular among micropalaeontologists. Fortunately, the journals are increasingly publishing thematic issues – and *Micropalaeontology* deserves special mention in this regard.

Finally, I see the influence of the Grzybowski Foundation in the FORAMREFs data set. In the early 1980s a fair proportion of the articles (ca. 15%) came from eastern European countries, but this witnessed a decline coincident with the break-up of the former Soviet system, when the proportion fell below 10%. In general, the numbers of papers from Eastern Europe show a long-term decline over this period. However, the percentage of papers published by Eastern European authors has been on the increase again since the establishment of our foundation. I do not think this is a spurious correlation, because the Grzybowski Library is a much-used resource, and our meetings have provided platforms for people to publish articles on the Foraminifera. In recent years many of the Eastern European authors have had links with the GF. One noticeable trend is the fact that more Eastern European scientists are now publishing in international journals. The number of papers published by Romanian authors has especially been on the increase in recent years – due in part to the establishment of a palaeontological society and a palaeontological journal.

FORAMREFs can be accessed from the Grzybowski Foundation’s website, and if you have published a paper that is not on the list, please send me the reference and I will include it.

Plans for the Subbesskydian National Geopark (Moravia) coming to reality

MIROSLAV BUBÍK, CZECH GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, BRNO

After the first Czech geopark Český Ráj (Bohemian Paradise) and the Czech-Bavarian Geopark Egeria, several other geoparks are being prepared within the national network in the Czech territory. The idea of a Subbesskydian Geopark emerged at the end of 2009 as a response to the new land use plan for Štramberk city that brought up the question about the future of the large limestone quarry after its closing. The quarry is famous for the rich

and diverse coral-reef fauna of the Tithonian Štramberk Limestone and also for its Lower Cretaceous fauna (especially Berriasian-Valanginian). The richness of the Jurassic fauna was the basis for the introduction of the Tithonian Stage by Opper (1865). In Štramberk the Štramberk limestone forms a group of large olistoliths within the Silesian Unit of the Outer Flysch Carpathians. The genesis and structure of the blocks is still not fully understood.

At the moment, the Kotouč Company operates the quarry with a prospect of up to about ten years. Depending on the economy, the operation may stop suddenly and then the interests of various subjects will appear, like industrial projects (storing, production), a waste dump, a public space for sports and recreation, or a natural reserve. The existing plan for land reclamation does not consider the need of preserving the geological heritage. Establishing a geopark is perhaps the best way to keep some control over the future of the quarry. It is very important to convince local people that our geological heritage is valuable, because the national geoparks are based on local citizen communities. On the other hand, geoparks can give something back to the local people. They enhance the attractiveness of the area for sustainable tourism and bring job opportunities. Since 2010, the local citizens' association Hájenka has taken care of the geopark. They already received funding for printing booklets for the public and the installation of BeeTags. This year the official application for a geopark will be submitted.

The Štramberk locality itself would be too small for a geopark, so we decided to enlarge it and include as many interesting sites as possible. The Štramberk site with its limestone klippe remains the jewel of the geopark. The whole area is 530 square kilometres and contains all kinds of features that are required for a geopark in our conditions. Besides the interesting geology with palaeontological sites, type sections, teschenite volcanism etc., the area documents a long history of mining that created the basis for metallurgy in Silesia (pelosiderite iron ores, coal, limestone). The limestone 'island' in a sea of siliciclastic rocks is a natural home and a refuge for a variety of endangered flora and fauna. Many of them represent the northernmost occurrences in Europe. Also the area has a long cultural history illustrated by numerous archaeological sites (Neanderthal man, Neolithic settlements, Bronze and Iron

Age sites), several castles, Valachian wooden architecture, and more.

And what does all this have in common with micropalaeontology? Even for a micropalaeontologist the area is an interesting place to visit and study. In the Kotouč quarry in Štramberk the calcipionellid biostratigraphy was established through the Jurassic-Cretaceous boundary by Houša (calibrated also by magnetostratigraphy). Little is known about the foraminiferal fauna here. The only paper of is very outdated today (Perner, 1898), yet it is a classic. The most information about the Štramberk-type limestone foraminifers comes from smaller olistoliths from the Polish Carpathians (papers of D. Ivanova, B. Kołodziej, B. Olszewska). Just out of curiosity I tried to extract foraminifers from the crumbly coral limestone lithotypes simply using a hydraulic crusher. The result was fairly good and plenty of isolated foraminifer tests were recovered. The conical morphogroup (Andersenolina, Trocholina) and fragments of Nodobacularia highly dominated the assemblage accompanied by a few nodosariids, epistominids and discorbids. One surprise is that the Polish assemblages differ quite a lot. The Lower Cretaceous associated with limestone blocks is rich in dinoflagellate cysts, calcareous nannofossils and foraminifers – mostly calcareous benthics.

Several type sections of Carpathian lithostratigraphic units are within the geopark borders and are waiting for the modern micropalaeontological evaluation or revision. Among those are the Verovice Formation, the Jasenice Fm., Koprivnice Fm., Palkovice Fm., Ženklava Fm., Chlebovice Beds, etc. Some other type sections like the Frýdek – Castle hill are just at the border of the geopark.

I hope that Subbeskydian Geopark becomes reality and the rare geological heritage will be preserved for us and those who will come after us. There still remains so much to study...

International Research Group on Ostracoda (IRGO)

Meetings, meetings, meetings!

RENATE MATZKE-KARASZ, ON BEHALF OF THE IRGO STEERING COMMITTEE

The coming year will give lots of opportunities to the ostracod research community for face-to-face information exchange, discussions and for developing new projects.

At the occasion of the 7th European Ostracodologists' Meeting in Graz in 2011 (see last newsletter for report), Alison Smith from Kent State University (Ohio) and Dave Horne (Queen Mary University of London) initiated a workshop on Northern Hemisphere Quaternary Non-Marine Ostracod Research Initiatives. One focus was on taxonomic harmonization, and the input by around 30 participants was very promising and motivating. From the beginning, a second workshop was planned, which will take place as a short course the day before the 2012 Geological Society of America Annual Meeting and Exposition, 4-7 November in Charlotte, North Carolina, USA (see box on page 41). A trip to Charlotte is even more worthwhile, since Alison and Dave, together with Brandon Curry (Geological Survey, Champaign, Illinois) also offer a topical session within the meeting, dedicated to Developments in Palaeoclimatology, Palaeohydrology, Palaeoecology, and Phylogenetics in Cenozoic Ostracod Research.

(geosociety.org/meetings/2012/courses.htm and geosociety.org/meetings/2012/sessions/topical.asp)

For anyone interested in participating in this future-building initiative, it is highly recommended to make the trip to Charlotte.

However, if this is impossible, please note that another meeting was somewhat squeezed in between and will give those colleagues a good opportunity to contribute to the above topics, as well as to many others - without leaving Europe. The 14th International German Ostracodologists' Meeting (IGOM) will return to the city of Cologne, where Eugen Kempf organized the

first meeting of its kind in 1988 (see invitation on page 41).

One of the extraordinary achievements of Prof. emer. Eugen Kempf is the development and maintenance of the Kempf Database Ostracoda, often referred to as the 'Kempf index' – THE invaluable, multidimensional database ostracodologists cannot live without anymore. This year, Eugen Kempf celebrated his 80th birthday and Finn Viehberg (now our man at the University of Cologne) and I decided to organize a bigger and more international meeting than the previous ones of this series. Beside oral presentations, we scheduled one workshop on Databases and a second on Taxonomic Harmonization, the latter as an invitation to colleagues who are interested in this topic, who have perhaps even participated in the Graz workshop, but cannot make it to Charlotte.

We are very happy that Alison Smith and David Horne will come to Cologne and give key lectures, thus perfectly extending and rounding out the Charlotte workshop.

For more details on IGOM in Cologne, please check out the IRGO website (irgo.uni-koeln.de) under Conferences and then Regional Meetings.

Finally, preparations for our next International Symposium on Ostracoda, ISO 17, are intensively ongoing and a second circular will come out soon (on Ostracoda, the IRGO website and symposium website <http://www.iso17.unipr.it>). 50 years after the very first international meeting of ostracodologists in Naples, this great event returns to Italy! We are looking forward to a great summer meeting in Rome, and a number of great field trips to various regions of this wonderful country.

Great meetings are upcoming and many os-

tracodologists will meet here and there and exchange news. However, for those who cannot travel there is still the discussion list OS-TRACON, and the newsletter CYPRIIS to stay updated, and last not least the growing IRGO website. Especially for the latter, every contribution is highly welcome. A new prize awarded? A new masters' program established? A meeting

scheduled? A new category for the IRGO website to be suggested? Send a short note to Finn Viehberg, Peter Frenzel or me. As to be seen on the hit-counter map included to the homepage, clicks on our page are increasing from all over the world. Make your work part of the IRGO website, send us your links, photos, stories. We are very fast in uploading ;-)

2. Rundschreiben



2nd Circular

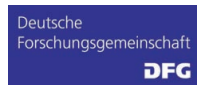
14. International German Ostracodologists' Meeting

“Fossil and Recent meet Kempf Database”

11.10. – 14.10.2012

in Schloss Köln-Wahn, Germany

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SHORT COURSE WITHIN 2012 GSA ANNUAL MEETING AND EXPOSITION, 4-7- NOVEMBER IN CHARLOTTE, NORTH CAROLINA, USA

Short Course 513: Research Initiatives in Northern Hemisphere Quaternary Non-Marine Ostracoda, Workshop II.

Sat., 3 Nov., 8 a.m.–5 p.m. US\$20; includes lunch, plus registrants will receive a coupon redeemable at the onsite GSA bookstore for US\$20 upon signing in at the course. Limit: 30. Co-sponsor: National Science Foundation.

Alison Smith, Kent State University; David J. Horne, Queen Mary University of London. This one-day short course focuses on developments in Quaternary and modern northern hemisphere non-marine ostracod research. Goals include 1) to continue an international dialogue among ostracod workers concerning collaborative research in ostracod genetics, palaeoclimate reconstruction, palaeolimnology and groundwater ecology; and 2) explore the development of linked datasets, cross-training of graduate students, and establishment of taxonomic harmonization procedures. We invite participation through a plenary session and four focused discussion groups on the development of joint research initiatives.

TOPICAL SESSION WITHIN 2012 GSA ANNUAL MEETING AND EXPOSITION, 4-7- NOVEMBER IN CHARLOTTE, NORTH CAROLINA, USA

T16. Cenozoic Ostracod Research: Developments in Palaeoclimatology, Palaeohydrology, Palaeoecology, and Phylogenetics

GSA Quaternary Geology and Geomorphology Division; Paleontological Society; GSA Limnogeology Division

Alison J. Smith, Dave Horne, B. Brandon Curry

This session will focus on novel approaches in ostracod research (marine and non-marine) related to Cenozoic palaeoclimate, palaeohydrology, phylogenetics, and geochemistry. Highlights will include the PETM, Miocene and Pliocene warmth, and Quaternary environmental change.

INVITATION - EINLADUNG

We cordially invite you to attend the 14th International German Ostracodologists' Meeting (IGOM 2012), a conference financially supported mainly by the Deutsche Forschungs Gemeinschaft and organised by the Institute of Geology and Mineralogy, University of Cologne, October 11 – 14, 2012.

IGOM 2012 comes after the past meetings in Graz, Austria (2011) and Jena, Germany (2010), which strongly promoted the network among German speaking ostracodologists also on an international scale. This year the meeting returns to Cologne where the first meeting of this kind was held in 1988. Not surprisingly, it was hosted by our dear colleague, Prof. Eugen Kempf, who celebrates his 80th anniversary this year. It was therefore more than obvious to link this year's motto to his invaluable database, the Kempf Database Ostracoda. 'Fossil and Recent meet Kempf Database' – we hope to stimulate the interdisciplinary discussion within ostracodology.

See you in Cologne in October 2012!
Finn Viehberg and Renate Matzke-Karasz

Obituary

A tribute to the Late Lukas Hottinger

Dear colleagues

I am sorry to announce, that Lukas Hottinger Prof. em. at the Geological and Palaeontological Department at the University of Basel, is no longer among us.

Lukas died peacefully on the 4th of September 2011 after long lasting problems with his heart that laboured him for the last couple of years. His wife Monique, and his three sons had time to say Goodbye. It is sad indeed, because we have lost one of the most prolific palaeontologists in Switzerland.

Lukas was born in Düsseldorf in 1933 but attended his schools in Basel. His father was a renowned paediatric physician and head of the 'Kinderspital' Basel. But why did Lukas go into Palaeontology and Zoology? Monique told me that his uncle, Prof. Carl Cahn-Bronner, nicknamed uncle Bobby, had a large collection of fossils, minerals and shells in his attic and because he admired these natural objects he became interested in palaeontology. Luc, as he sometimes presented himself, did a PhD with Manfred Reichel in 1959 on Palaeocene and Eocene Alveolinids. Already at that time Lukas had a special attitude, he worked almost day and night. I have known Lukas for more than 35 years and he was the one who encouraged me to publish my master thesis. As Lukas was also fascinated with echinoderms we had many discussions during my PhD on crinoids and finally became friends. We also shared a common office at the Geologisch-Paläontologisches Institut. He was indeed a special person. He could be very laborious in lecture and seminar discussions but nevertheless was a passionate teacher and researcher. Actually Lukas was more of a Mediterranean person. His working schedule started around 10 o'clock but usually not before 10.30, he had at least 6 ashtrays in every corner of his office, every one of

them filled up with cigarettes. The whole room was filled with samples and monographs and reprints were stacked everywhere. In between tables two small alleys led to the far back where he was sitting either drawing or looking at thin sections of his beloved forams. Usually around 2 o'clock he left his office to drive his blue Citroën Diane back home to have lunch with his wife and his three sons, and around 4 he went back to his office to work until late in the night.

But let us turn back to young Lukas. He published his PhD in the *Swiss Palaeontological Memoirs* in a double volume, which still remains a reference work until today. Although the work was in the tradition of Manfred Reichel's School, it demonstrated his unique style of drawings and his palaeontological skills that persisted throughout his life. He then went to Morocco to work at the Geological Survey looking at the complex benthic forams of the Early and Late Jurassic and did set up a micropalaeo lab with Mme Faure-Mouret and Prof. Choubert that persisted for many years. In 1964 Lukas started to work as Assistant Curator at the Natural History Museum in Basel under the supervision of Hans Schaub another passionate of alveolinids and nummulitids. A year later he held his first lecture at the university. During that time he got a job offer as a professor in Tübingen, but the family wanted to stay in Basel. In 1966 he became the successor of Manfred Reichel at the Geologisch-Paläontologisches Institut where he remained until his retirement in 1997. However he still continued to work for the new earth gallery in the Museum. After his retirement he left the university to find a workspace in the Museums again, having suffered too long from the pressure of the former Head of the Institute. He continued to work at the Natural History Museum in Basel until recently, although most of his time he spent at home working. Luks was

a scientist one would address as a foram addict. Everyone who wanted to do a PhD with him had to be fanatic or even lunatic, only palaeontology nothing else beside, that's what counted. However Lukas created a friendly atmosphere not only in his office and labs with his students and colleagues but a carefully selected group could also profit of the hospitality of the Hottinger family in Allschwil, where Monique and his sons were busy receiving guest for lunches and dinners. Lukas was a true intellectual with incredible scientific skills and an original insight and patience with his students. One could say Lukas was an impressive person with all his facettes. Palaeontologic and ecologic research was his passion. Lukas played an active and important role in Swiss Palaeontology as President of the Swiss Palaeontological Society and also as member and president of the Swiss Commission of the Pal-

aeontological Memoirs. I had the luck to spent many hours with Lukas, in the field, teaching together vertebrate palaeontology, and sharing a common office for more than one year. Lukas was one of the persons that infected me with the palaeontology virus and continued to do so during my student career as my mentor. But I am not the only one who profited from his immense knowledge, it was and is the whole palaeontology community here in Switzerland, peers and microplaoentologist all over the world that owe Lukas a great deal for his outstanding contribution to science and for that we are grateful to him.

Christian A. Meyer
Director Natural History Museum Basel
Professor of Palaeontology, Geologisch-Paläontologisches Institut University of Basel



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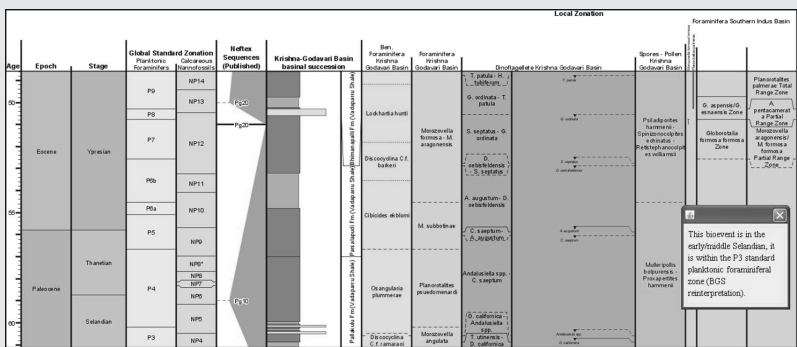
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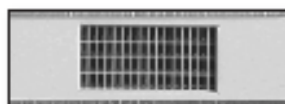


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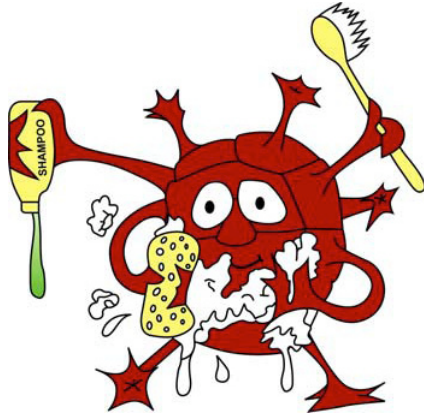
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