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AASP NEWSLETTER

R. L. RAVN, EDITOR
VOLUME 17, NUMBER 1

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(Distribution of this first issue of the Newsletter for 1984 was delayed somewhat due to the necessity to include the following unfortunate item, which arrived on the day the copy was to go to the printer. The Editor regrets this delay.):

Dr. Richard L. Pierce of Mobil Oil Corporation in Dallas, Texas, died at the age of 57 on December 23, 1983, from gunshot wounds suffered during a robbery attempt on December 8. Dr. Pierce was a longtime AASP member, and had served the organization in numerous capacities, including as President, Editor and Councilor.

The AASP Foundation has established a Rick Pierce Memorial Fund. Contributions should be made payable to the AASP Foundation and forwarded to:

Robert Clarke, Mobil Research and Development Corporation, Dallas Research Division, P. O. Box 819047, Dallas, TX 75381.

A formal memorial tribute to Rick Pierce and further details on the Memorial Fund will appear in the next Newsletter issue.

The science of palynology lost another of its more distinguished members earlier this fall. Dr. Jan Muller of the Rijksherbarium in Leiden, the Netherlands, died after a brief illness on October 5, 1983, at the age of 61. Dr. Muller's publications on both ancient and modern pollen and spores, particularly of tropical areas, represent standard references which will continue to be used by palynologists for many years to come. During his long and varied career, Jan Muller was a vigorous contributor to palynological and paleobotanical congresses, and he served as Vice-President of the International Commission for Palynology. He had many friends all over the world, and he will be greatly missed.

AASP Newsletter is published quarterly by American Association of Stratigraphic Palynologists, Inc.

With this issue of the Newsletter, a new editor takes the reins from Norm Frederiksen, who has relinquished them in order to apply his not inconsiderable energy and organizational skills toward the 1984 Annual Meeting in Washington, D. C. I have the painful duty to acknowledge that the new editor is me. In order to make the transition as smooth as possible, AASP has adhered to the tradition of keeping the position in the hands of a bearded Scandinavian.

One of the major reasons I, sigh, volunteered for the job was that the AASP Newsletter has always set a fine example of informativeness and punctuality, a testimony to the work of Norm and other previous editors. I intend to do my best to adhere to those traditions, too, and to endeavor not to make any errors. I also want to avoid what we at my place of employment call the NMS (New Manager Syndrome), wherein someone new takes over and immediately changes everything for the sole purpose of making everything different. The AASP Newsletter has always maintained a format adequately flexible for news items, commentary, notices of organizational activities, reviews of literature, etc., and all such items continue to be solicited.

The Newsletter also can serve, however, as a medium for publication of smaller technical notes and articles. With this issue, a special section is reserved for such material, with a contribution on nomenclature by Jan Jansonius. The Newsletter is a fully recognized serial publication, and material published in it is appropriately available for subsequent reference. Submissions of brief notes of technical and scientific merit are most welcome. By the nature of the medium and the regrettable vagaries of economics, we are restricted to a relatively small amount of space, so brevity is encouraged. I also would like to invite informal commentary, views, suggestions and ideas concerning the publication of substantive scientific material in the Newsletter.

Of interest in this regard, you will find a photograph preceding Jansonius' article. At the San Francisco meeting, the possibility of including half-tone photography in the Newsletter was discussed. An investigation of commercial printing outlets here determined that the cost of such photography was acceptably small. I've included the SEM photo of a spore (and a handsome devil, at that) as an example of the quality of reproduction. Photographs of palynomorphs, noteworthy persons or events, bearded Scandinavians, etc., would certainly be appropriate for inclusion in the Newsletter in conjunction with news items, discussions and articles. One or two photoes per issue will not add appreciably to our overall cost of reproduction and mailing. Submissions of photoes are welcome, but please do not send the only copy you have; for logistical reasons, they cannot be returned. Glossy black-and-white prints are required, and they will be printed at their original size.

I want to express my sincere thanks to Norm, Doug Nichols, Vaughn Bryant, Bob Clarke and Ken Piel, all of whom provided various kinds of useful material and advice, as well as an occasional muffled snicker, as I accepted the big box full of stuff that represents the heart and soul of the Newsletter. I also want to acknowledge the assistance of Sue Duffield and Jeff Stein of Amoco in New Orleans, who have kindly volunteered their help with the tedious task of mailing (whether they realize it or not), for the price of a yet to be negotiated quantity of beer and munchies.

Robert L. Ravn, Amoco Production Company, P. O. Box 50879, New Orleans, LA 70150.

FORUM

To compound the interest in the seesaw between sporomorph and palynomorph it must be mentioned that unfortunately a modifier is creeping into the literature: "fungal palynomorph". To speak collectively of fungal remains found in palynologic residues, for example spores, hyphal fragments and microscopic fruiting bodies, the term "fungal palynomorph" has been used. But there is no need to say "dinoflagellate palynomorph" or "pollen palynomorph", hence where is the precedent?

A personal bias on "taxon": The term implies unity, not entity. Or in crasser terms, "taxon" is the pigeon hole or file drawer to or into which an individual is assigned. However in usage by saying "... an extant taxon" one can certainly mean one individual, if only one is known.

Bill Elsik

EDUCATING RITA

It has nothing whatever to do with the science of palynology, nor is it likely that Rita can tell us just what a sporomorph is, but Doug Nichols suggests that AASP members who attended the 1982 meeting in Dublin might enjoy the current film "Educating Rita." The comedy, which stars Michael Caine and Julie Walters, was filmed entirely in Ireland and mostly on the campus of Trinity College in Dublin.

DETTMANN REPRINT

The Royal Society of Victoria is reprinting the famous 1963 paper of Mary E. Dettmann entitled "Upper Mesozoic microfloras from southeastern Australia." The 160-page reprinting will sell for A\$20 plus postage and will be available early in 1984. Copies may be ordered from:

The Executive Officer, Royal Society of Victoria,
9 Victoria Street, Melbourne, Victoria 3000, Australia

PRINTING OF STRATIGRAPHIC DISTRIBUTION CHARTS

Jan Jansonius (comment in Newsletter, October 1983, v. 16, no. 4) raises a good point, but the discussion lost some of its impact for the likes of me due to the lack of explicit drawings/illustrations. But more to the point, and for the proposed AASP Newsletter poll on the issue: I am against upside-down charts. A rule of thumb should be -- all charts to read right side up, or from the right. Don't ask me which direction that means the master must be rotated. My head is already in a spin!

Bill Elsik

Editor's note: The tabulated vote total for the poll on orientation of stratigraphic distribution charts, as proposed by Jansonius (excluding Jansonius and Vaughn Bryant, whose disagreement was noted in Jan's original comment), is:

Rotation 90° left: 1
Rotation 90° right: 0

I think. The poll remains open.

GLYCERINE JELLY MOUNTS

One Woman's Recipe for Re-mounting Glycerine Jelly Slides

I have recently needed to re-mount several glycerine jelly preparations of plant megafossil cuticles in which air had entered beneath the cover slips hindering light microscope investigations. Hence, I was interested in Chris Hill's comments on the use of 5% HCl (AASP Newsletter, v. 16, no. 3) and would like to offer details on the alternative technique of enzymatic hydrolysis, involving the use of approximately 10% Trypsin solution (W/V). This method has proved successful in all cases, though the ease and rapidity with which it can be achieved vary considerably with the age and condition of the preparations.

Slides are individually immersed in petri-dishes of Trypsin solution and kept at room temperature, about 20°C, for 24 hours. During immersion the seal floats away from the slide as a solid ring and, in the most straightforward case, the Trypsin loosens the cover-slip and completely hydrolyses the jelly without damage to either the material or the labels, unless written in fibre-tip pen. (Labels should, of course, always be written in permanent black ink.) The material can then be re-mounted easily. However, in most cases the cover slip has to be gently lifted with a needle and the jelly beneath often remains as a disc, which is then re-immersed in fresh Trypsin solution. Generally this fully hydrolyses the jelly.

Some of the older mounts are more stubborn as the Trypsin only partially hydrolyses the jelly and the disc remains coherent. For these I cut away excess jelly with a clean, sharp scalpel blade and heat the resulting small pieces of jelly in a few drops of glycerol on a slide, the slide being covered by a petri-dish to limit airborne contamination. Eventually, the pieces of jelly disintegrate and the cuticles can be carefully picked out for re-mounting.

Although this technique has resulted in successful light microscope slides, I have not examined previously mounted cuticles with the SEM to see if material mounted years ago could be rendered suitable for such study. Note that the recommendation of 10% Trypsin solution is only an approximation. The concentration will depend on the activity of the Trypsin available commercially and the length of time stored since production. The Trypsin I used was from bovine pancreas, recently purchased from B. D. H. Chemicals.

Caroline Sincock, Department of Geology, University of Manchester, Manchester, U. K.

In addition, Chris Hill, British Museum (Natural History) in London, informs us of the following new publication:

Fripp, Peter J. 1983. A method of preserving glycerine-jelly microscope preparations. South African Journal of Science, 79 (June): 228.

LABELS AND DUES

The need has arisen to clarify AASP policies concerning dues notifications and payments:

1. The labels of the Newsletter, PALYNOLOGY, etc. will now have a date (83, 84, 85, etc.) printed to indicate the last year for which the person or institution has paid dues. This date will usually appear on the same line as the name.
2. Dues payments are due and payable on January 1, and delinquent thereafter. Checks, money orders, etc., should be made payable to AASP, Inc., not personally to the Secretary-Treasurer nor to the AASP Foundation. They should be sent to the Secretary-Treasurer of AASP, Ken Piel, and not to Robert Clarke at the AASP Foundation.
3. Dues from new members are assumed to be for the year in which they are paid, unless otherwise specified.
4. When paying by bank draft, be sure your name is on the draft or on an attached sheet of paper so you can be credited for payment.
5. It is most helpful when members outside the U.S. clearly specify that payment is to be in U.S. dollars on the instrument of payment, and use a bank with offices in the U.S. or a postal money order. This avoids a collection charge, bank charge, etc., which is passed on to the member.

Ken Piel

POST-MORTEM, SAN FRANCISCO

Congratulations to the Organizing Committee for the 1983 Annual Meeting in San Francisco. Chairman Harold Kaska, Wally Walowick, John Williams, Linda Wright, Virgil Wiggins, Rehana Makada, Paul Wesendunk, Tom Edison and Fred May presided over a most successful and enjoyable meeting. Thanks also to Bill Evitt of Stanford and Jim Doyle of the University of California at Davis, who "provided" student assistants, whose aid with lights and projection, among other things, was greatly appreciated.

The meeting opened with a special one-day symposium on the Palynology of Tertiary Floras of Western North America in honor of Dr. Harry D. MacGinitie, Professor Emeritus at Humboldt State University and longtime Research Associate in the Museum of Paleontology at the University of California at Berkeley. Lanny Fisk of Loma Linda University chaired the symposium, which was graced by the appearance of Dr. MacGinitie, known simply as "Mac" to his many students and friends.

The first Technical Session of the meeting also featured something unusual for AASP, three invited papers relating to various aspects of the Cretaceous-Tertiary extinction problem. Resolution of the various K-T boundary controversies was not achieved, sadly, but an informative and entertaining morning was. Both of these special sessions were very well received, and the possibility of holding similar special-interest and cross-disciplinary symposia at future meetings is presently a topic of discussion.

Student participation at the San Francisco meeting was particularly gratifying. By my count, there were ten student presentations, not including poster sessions. The large number and high quality of these presented a formidable task to the student paper judging committee. After considerable deliberation, the committee awarded the L. R. Wilson Award for Best Student Paper to Javier Helenes of Stanford for his presentation titled "When Among the Conyaulacoids, You Should Watch Your P's and Q's." The Award consisted of \$250 and a plaque. Congratulations to Javier. (Coincidentally, a major paper by Javier has appeared in the most recent issue of Micropaleontology.)

One other major award was presented at the Annual Luncheon. The AASP Distinguished Service Award was given to Dr. Richard W. Hedlund of Amoco Research in Tulsa, Oklahoma, for a list of services to AASP dating back to the founding of the organization in 1967. This list is so long that I'll not try to cite it all for fear of inadvertently leaving something out, but Dick has served in a variety of offices including President and several years as Journal Editor. The complete accounting of his contributions to AASP will appear in a subsequent issue

of Palynology. Our congratulations to Dick for his long and untiring service to AASP, and for his richly deserved award. Now he can get back to work. In conjunction with both these awards, thanks go to Eileen Williams of Union Oil Research in Brea, California, who designed the parchments that accompanied the awards.

No award was given for this, but note must be made of the most profound new idea presented at the meeting. Despite the special symposium presentations of Drs. Asaro, Clemens and McLean on the K-T boundary, this special achievement citation goes to G. Kent Colbath's Unified Theory of Extinction. As Kent noted, it has to be a good theory, because it explains everything. Persons desiring further information on the Colbath Theory may contact Kent at the Smithsonian Institution, where he is currently putting the Theory into practice.

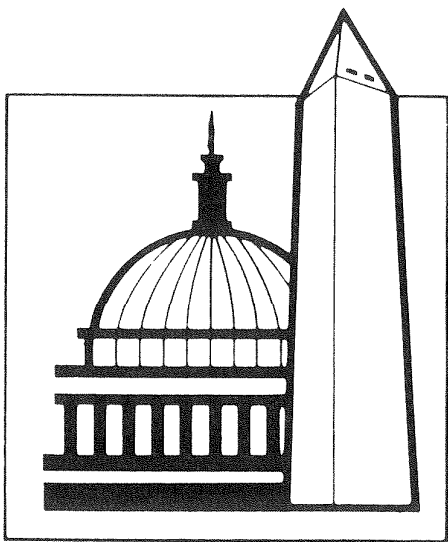
Also meriting notice was the poster presentation of Stephen Lowe of the BP Research Centre, who took the trouble not only to prepare an excellent display, but also to provide reduced high-quality copies of it to persons desiring them. Hopefully others will emulate this idea at future meetings.

The traditional AASP Award for the Greatest Distance Traveled to the meeting went to Dr. Basil Balme of the University of Western Australia, who, if he continues to attend AASP meetings, probably will continue to win the award until such time as we get a membership application from an extraterrestrial. In accepting the award, Dr. Balme noted that he was able to attend the meeting because his superiors were impressed with the Northern Hemisphere; Dr. Balme also instituted a new award, for the Least Distance Traveled, which he presented to Harold Kaska.

At the Executive Meeting, New York City was selected as the site for the 1986 Annual Meeting, with Dan Habib acting as organizer (may we expect a logo with a large apple?). Arrangements for the 1985 Annual Meeting in El Paso are progressing, with Bill Cornell as chairman.

The 1983 AASP Annual Meeting closed with a Saturday field trip to the Napa Valley area north of San Francisco, to introduce participants to the palynology of wine. I was unable to attend the field trip, having spent the previous weekend investigating this topic on my own, but I have it on good authority that those who did were fully qualified and capable of rendering sound professional judgment relevant to this important sub-discipline. Norm Frederiksen is threatening to organize a portion of the 1984 meeting field trip for the investigation of the palynology of boiled crabs.

Bob Ravn



1984 ANNUAL AASP MEETING
SECOND ANNOUNCEMENT

The 1984 Annual Meeting of AASP is scheduled in Arlington, Virginia, October 17-20. Arlington is only a few minutes from downtown Washington, D. C., and ample opportunities exist for attendees, spouses and guests to enjoy the city before, during and after the meeting. The annual field trip will be to classic fossiliferous Cretaceous and Tertiary localities of the Maryland and Virginia Coastal Plain.

Students are especially encouraged to attend the meeting and present papers. Students and advisors are reminded of the L. R. Wilson Award for Best Student Paper, which is given at every annual meeting; the award carries a cash stipend and a plaque.

For further information contact the meeting chairperson:

Norman Frederiksen, U. S. Geological Survey, 970 National Center, Reston, VA 22092. Phone: (703) 860-7745

1984 ANNUAL MEETING PROGRAM

We have received a very enthusiastic response from the questionnaire accompanying the first announcement for the 1984 Annual Meeting. The present count is: 82 yes or maybe will attend, and 60 yes or maybe will present a talk or poster display.

This good response suggests that we should have no trouble filling the program. Every effort will be made to accommodate everyone who wants to make a presentation. We hope to encourage those with material more suited to a poster display to present their data in poster sessions. At the San Francisco

meeting, Bill Evitt and his students had some really outstanding posters. Let's have some more like them in '84.

Two comments here from your persnickety program chair: 1) At the San Francisco meeting, several speakers had slides that were totally unsuitable to an oral presentation. The rule is: If you can't hold the slide in your hand and read every word without a hand lens, please volunteer for a poster display. 2) In past years, abstracts filled with vacuous phrases such as "are shown," "is discussed," and "will be presented," have made it into the program. This year they may be returned for a rewrite.

In response to the questionnaire, we are working on several symposia. More information on these will come at a later date. There has been a strong expression of interest in sessions/symposium on Late Cenozoic Palynology. Kathleen Heide is now seeking contributions in the form of online computer demonstrations, poster-session displays, or formal talks showing creative, innovative, or other means of palynological data handling. Please contact her (ARCO Oil & Gas, P. O. Box 2819, Dallas, TX 75221; phone 214 422-6244) for details. Gil Brenner (Dept. of Geosciences, State Univ. of New York, New Paltz, NY 12561; phone 914 257-2164) will be putting together a symposium on Paleoclimatology, and is also interested in contributions.

This year, we have attempted to strike a compromise between our desire to get the program finalized and the speakers' desire to work on the abstract up until the last minute. Titles for the 1984 meeting will be due on May 15, 1984. The title must be accompanied by a telephone contact number (please specify work or home) and a very short summary of the presentation. You will not be absolutely held to the summary, but it will serve to help us schedule you in the appropriate session and to convince us that you really are serious about giving a presentation. Abstracts for which advance titles have been submitted will be accepted until July 15; abstracts without advance titles will be accepted until June 15.

Again, this year, we are asking for camera-ready abstracts, to be submitted on the form attached to this Newsletter. The area of the box on our official form is slightly larger than last year's. It is designed to be reduced 20% and to fit 2 per page (with room to scribble) in the abstracts volume. Please use a high-quality carbon film ribbon to ensure good reproduction. Detailed instructions are on the reverse side of the abstract form.

Lucy E. Edwards, Program Chairperson, 1984 AASP Annual Meeting, U. S. Geological Survey, 970 National Center, Reston, VA 22092. Phone: (703) 860-7745.

Editor's note: Extra abstract forms may be obtained from Robert Ravn, Newsletter Editor.

STUDENT HOUSING

In addition to serving as Program Chairperson for the meeting, Lucy Edwards has volunteered to aid students in making housing arrangements. Students who bring sleeping bags may stay free-of-charge at Lucy's house in Fairfax. The first 3-4 get beds, she says; after that, its the sofa, cushions, and the plushly carpeted floor. The house is about 30 minutes from the meeting site, depending on the traffic.

Lucy also will act as a clearing house for students who would like to stay at the hotel but who need roommates to make it affordable. Students who would like to attend the meeting are urged to get in touch with Lucy as soon as possible. Please indicate whether you would like to stay at the house or at the hotel, and whether or not you will have a car for transportation.

OUTRAGEOUS HYPOTHESES

Norrie Robbins wishes to know if anyone is interested in participating in a special symposium on Outrageous Hypotheses (ideas that might prove impossible to test) and Palynological Leftovers (tissues never seen before or after), to be held, theoretically, sometime during the 1984 Annual Meeting. The Symposium would be convened one night in a room with a slide projector. No abstract would be required, and talks would be limited to ten minutes. A handout showing the shape and dimension of any strange objects the presenter wishes to illustrate would be useful. All interested parties should contact:

Eleanora I. Robbins, U. S. Geological Survey,
National Center MS 956, Reston, VA 22092

PALEOBOTANICAL CONFERENCE

The 2nd International Paleobotanical Conference will be held in Edmonton, Alberta, August 18-24, 1984 (immediately preceding the 6th International Palynological Conference in Calgary). A wine and cheese reception is scheduled for the evening of August 18 at the Sheraton Cavalier Hotel near the Calgary airport. A particularly attractive feature of this conference for those planning to attend the Calgary Palynological Conference is an extensive field trip from Calgary to Edmonton with return transportation to Calgary provided. The field trip begins August 19 and ends August 22, and it includes numerous collecting stops in Cretaceous and Lower Tertiary sediments as well as visits to several museums of interest to botanists, geologists and paleontologists.

Abstracts for presentations at the Paleobotanical Conference may be submitted either in English or in French. The deadline for submission is April 1.

Submissions must be made in camera-ready copy on an abstract for available from the meeting organizers. The abstract form and details of the meeting may be obtained from:

Dr. Ruth A. Stockey, IOPC, Department of Botany,
University of Alberta, Edmonton, Alberta, Canada

For information on housing, write:

The University of Alberta, Conference Center,
44 Lister Hall, Edmonton, Alberta, Canada T6G 2H6

OTHER MEETING ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Linnean Society of London and the Systematics Association are scheduled to hold a joint international symposium entitled "Pollen and Spores: Form and Function" from 27-29 March 1985. The symposium is to be held at the rooms of the Linnean Society and the British Museum (Natural History). Topics covered will include all aspects of function in pollen grains and spores up to the time of germination, with an emphasis on relating function to form. A lengthy list of speakers is already scheduled, but offers of additional papers will be considered and poster exhibits will be welcome. For further details, please write:

S. Blackmore, British Museum (Natural History),
Cromwell Road, London SW7 5BD, England

The XIV International Botanical Congress is to be held in Berlin (West), Germany, July 24 through August 1, 1987. The meeting is held under the auspices of the International Union of Biological Sciences. The Program consists of six Divisions: Metabolic Botany, Developmental Botany, Genetics and Plant Breeding, Structural Botany, Systematic and Evolutionary Botany, and Environmental Botany. All plant groups will be considered, and aspects of both pure and applied research will be covered. Special emphasis will be laid on inter- and multi-disciplinary topics. Plenary sessions, symposia and poster sessions will be held.

In addition, the Nomenclature Section will convene in Berlin from July 20 to July 24, prior to the main portion of the meeting. Pre- and post-congress scientific field trips will be arranged to various parts of Central, South and North Europe. The First Circular, which contains further details and a preliminary registration form, is now available. Enquiries should be sent to the Secretary of the Organizing Committee, Prof. Dr. W. Greuter, XIV IBC, Botanical Garden and Museum, Königin-Luise-Str. 6-8, D-1000 Berlin (West) 33, Germany. Full name and address should be sent to ensure inclusion on the mailing list, and early replies will be appreciated.

PALYNOLOGY AND THE PUBLIC

An upcoming issue of National Geographic magazine is going to contain an article on palynology, which will include some mention of AASP. Clearly, such exposure will focus public attention on the discipline of palynology, and it represents an opportunity for AASP and AASP members to stimulate interest in potential employers of palynologists and in expanded academic programs in the field. Dewey McLean, newly-appointed chairman of the AASP Public Relations Committee, has submitted to the Newsletter the following comments relevant to the interaction of AASP with the general public:

AASP has maintained such a low profile with the public and scientific communities that it is virtually invisible. For several years, I have interacted extensively with geochemists, astrophysicists, and cosmochemists, etc. Most have never heard of palynology. Those who have do not understand its power to solve problems interesting to them.

Low visibility has hurt us even within geologically related fields. Commissions on climatology, oceanography, evolution, and time-scale, etc., should be automatically contacting AASP for its expertise; and, AASP should have vigorous representation on the National Academy of Sciences. Such is not the case. Until we gain political power, we will continue to remain relatively invisible.

Greater visibility can bring many benefits, among them: (1) elevation of prestige; (2) better support for academic palynology programs, the value of which are often not understood, or appreciated; (3) recognition of individual scientists who have elevated palynology to its present state; (4) publicity for oil companies; (5) greater attendance at AASP meetings and; (5) perhaps endowments for AASP.

Ways we can work to give palynology and AASP greater recognition include: (1) starting off national meetings with symposia that have nationally-known scientists speaking on topics that excite the scientific and public imagination -- and the press. Journalists should see our meetings as places where exciting things happen; (2) "spicing up" the Newsletter with conceptually-exciting items, and then sending it to science editors of selected newspapers. For example, an article in the New York Times will be picked up and published by myriads of papers across the country; (3) automatically sending the Newsletter and important announcements to Geotimes, EOS, etc. They have great readership, do publish meeting dates, and are always looking for a good story; (4) identifying experts within AASP, and asking them to be available for interviews through the auspices of AASP; and (5) having AASP become involved in popular topics, showing its collective clout via position statements. AASP draws upon the greatest paleontological data banks, and most "hands on" experience of any organization on the face of this earth. Its power to bring new understanding

to topics such as punctuated equilibrium, extinctions, climate evolution, etc., is profound, and should be exercised for the good of AASP, palynology, and science.

Dewey M. McLean

POSITION AVAILABLE

Atlantic Richfield Company has a major commitment to an expanded exploration and production program in Alaska during the 80's. Palynology is playing an increasingly important role in this program. With ARCO Alaska, Inc. (subsidiary of Atlantic Richfield) in Anchorage you will have an opportunity to exercise your geological knowledge as well as your palynological expertise in a geological/geophysical team approach for resolving geological problems in frontier areas. Excellent potential for career growth and challenge. ARCO needs palynologists with a minimum of two years operational experience (or equivalent training) who have strong backgrounds in Tertiary/Mesozoic dinocysts and in stratigraphy/sedimentation. Good Alaska benefits. Interested persons are invited to send a resumé to:

H. M. Simpson, ARCO Alaska, Inc., P. O. Box 100360, Anchorage, AK 99510-0360.

ERRATUM

A typographical error in AASP Contribution Series No. 13, "Modern and Fossil Peridiniineae" by Bujak and Davies, has unfortunately resulted in an incorrectly cited and confusing reference. In the caption for Table 10 on page 125, the citation reading "(Norris' 1968a, b . . .)" should read "(Norris' 1978a, b . . .)".

NEW MEMBERS

R. Scott Anderson, Geoscience Dept., Arizona Univ., Tucson, AZ 85721
Kent C. Armstrong, Biology Dept., California State Univ., 1250 Bellflower Blvd., Long Beach, CA 90840
John Bogdanski, Geology Dept., Idaho State Univ., Pocatello, ID 83209
Bernard Courtinat, Faculty of Science, Bd. de Safi, B.P.S. 15, Marrakech, Morocco
Keith T. Degnan, Dept. of Geological Sciences, Virginia Polytechnic Inst. and State Univ., Blacksburg, VA 24061
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Washington, DC 20560

Zhang Lu Jin, Nanjing Inst. Geol. and Paleont.,
Academia Sinica, Nanjing, People's Republic of
China

NEW PUBLICATION

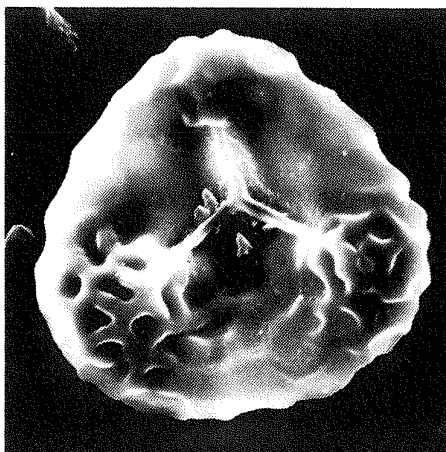
Alberta Research Council Bulletin 44, Cenomanian
microfloras of the Peace River Area, Northwestern
Alberta, by Chaitanya Singh, is now available. The
bulletin is hard-cover, 322 pages, 62 plates, 19 text-
figures and 15 tables; it contains descriptions and
illustrations of 191 species of fossil microspores,
megaspores, pollen grains, dinoflagellates and acrit-
archs. Copies may be ordered, at a cost of \$30.00
(Canadian) from:

Alberta Research Council, Editing and Publications
Department, 5th Floor, Terrace Plaza, 4445 Calgary
Trail South, Edmonton, Alberta, Canada T6H 5R7;
Telephone (403) 438-1666 ext. 221.

TRIHYPHAECITES

Barbara Egner of Amoco Production Company, Houston,
is presently investigating the geographic and strati-
graphic distribution of the Carboniferous palynomorph
Trihyphaecites triangulatus Peppers 1970, a fungal
body reported originally from coals in Illinois. She
would appreciate hearing from anyone who has observed
this palynomorph. Please write:

Barbara E. Egner, Amoco Production Company, P. O. Box
3092, Houston, TX 77001



Klukisporites pseudoreticulatus Couper 1958, from
the Dakota Formation (Lower Cenomanian), northwest
Iowa (800X).

AASP NEWSLETTER TECHNICAL SECTION

NOTES ON NOMENCLATURE APROPOS OF:
CATALOG OF NORTH AMERICAN DEVONIAN
ACRITARCHS BY R. WICANDER

Jan Jansonius, Esso Resources Canada, Ltd., Calgary,
Alberta, Canada

ABSTRACT

Botanical nomenclature is Latin or, if from another source, Latinized or treated as Latin. Some pitfalls and orthographic errors are discussed and corrected. Transliterated Greek is accepted by the International Code of Zoological Nomenclature, but not by the International Code of Botanical Nomenclature.

GENERALITIES

The International Code of Botanical Nomenclature contains two divisions: (1) the general Principles, and (2) the more detailed Rules. Principle V states: "Scientific names of taxonomic groups are treated as Latin regardless of their derivation." By implication, and by tradition, this means that scientific botanical nomenclature is Latin, or Latinized if derived from another source, or at least treated as if it were. This differs from the International Code of Zoological Nomenclature, in which both Latin and Greek are accepted.

The Rule on the names of genera, as given in Article 20, states (paraphrased) that: The name of a genus is a substantive in the singular, or a word treated as such (regardless of its derivation); it may be composed in an absolutely arbitrary manner (some specific qualifications and exceptions are listed).

Recommendation 20A.1 suggests: (1) using Latin terminations insofar as possible, and (2) avoiding names not readily adaptable to Latin.

For some reason, a number of workers in the field of fossil dinoflagellate cysts and acritarchous algal cysts have affected names of Greek origin. On one hand, this departure makes the unwitting creation of homonyms less likely. On the other hand, the correct Latinization of Greek words requires a knack and a deep understanding of both these languages, neither of which is evidently widespread. Indeed, a number of names of acritarch taxa are undigested transliterated Greek, without the least attempt to Latinize them. One can deplore such lack of empathy with classical tradition, but

Article 20 allows such names to stand. A practical objection to such names is that often their gender is not easily or correctly recognized.

Article 23 indicates that (paraphrased): The name of a species is a binary combination consisting of the name of the genus followed by a single specific epithet (hyphenated if consisting of more words), taken from any source whatever or even arbitrarily composed, which may be a noun or an adjective; an adjectival epithet must agree grammatically with the (gender of the) generic name.

Thus, there is a class of fantasy-names, arbitrarily composed (often anagrams) and without relationship to any language. A majority of specific epithets, however, are Latin adjectives such as *albus*, *officinalis*, etc. A number of the latter are derived from Greek, e. g., *glaucus* (G. *glaukos*), *levis* (G. *leios*), etc. In Latin, some Greek words were used either with a Latin, or with the original Greek, ending: *lotos* or *lotus*, both with the genitive *loti* and of feminine gender, whereas the Greek *lotos* is masculine, with a genitive *loutou*.

It can be argued that, whereas in *Rosa alba* the epithet is adjectival and grammatical in agreement with the preceding noun *rosa*, if I were to name a new rose with black foliage "*Rosa niger*," that specific epithet would have to be quoted as "*niger*" by subsequent authors, because it was "arbitrarily chosen thus." Obviously, that is nonsense: *niger* is a well-known Latin adjective, and anyone with rudimentary Latin would (as required by Article 23.5) automatically correct it as "*Rosa nigra*."

The Code, however, cautions one not to correct names unduly. Thus a genus such as *Elektoriskos* Loeblich (1970) should be maintained without alteration, even though it is derived from Greek *ēlektōr* = beaming sun (same root as in the word *electron*), and more appropriately would have been rendered "*Electroiscus*." Loeblich clearly indicated the gender of *Elektoriskos* to be masculine. Wicander (1974) assigned several new species to this genus, among which:

1. *E. arcetotricus*, derived from G. *arketos* = sufficient; *thrix* (gen. *trichos*) = hair. It is difficult to determine whether this "Latin" ending indicates grammatical agreement of an adjectival epithet, or a Latinization of a noun in the genitive case. The incorrect Latinization of the Greek *chi* ("x") as a "C" suggests a "fantasy" ending and, therefore, should be taken to signify an adjectival epithet.

2. *E. lasios*, derived from *G. lasios* = hairy. This clearly is an adjective, which agrees grammatically with the preceding noun. Trouble is: This is pure Greek, not Latin. The fifth Principle of the Code states that scientific names are treated as Latin. Therefore, a conscientious taxonomer must automatically correct the orthography into: *E. lasius*.

3. *E. apodasmios*, of which Wicander did not provide a derivation. A Greek dictionary gives *apodasmios* = from, parted off; from the noun *apodasmos* = division, part of a whole. Consequently, this binomial should be Latinized as *E. apodasmius*, with an adjectival epithet. The Greek and, thus, incorrect declension in the new combination *Solisphaeridium "apodasmion"* confirms this view.

More tricky is *Elektoriskos dolos* Wicander & Loeblich (1977), which is said to be derived from the Greek noun *dolos* = stiletto (my dictionary gives *dolos* = bait, piece of deceit). This need not be changed to *dolus*. However, as a noun it must not be changed to "*dola*" if reassigned to a genus with a name of feminine gender.

Wicander & Loeblich (1977) proposed a name *Cymatiosphaera bounolopha*; "the specific name is from the Greek *bounos* = knob + *lophos* = ridge." The authors give an ending in --a, implying that this epithet is adjectival, although a more suitable rendering would have been "*bunolophophora*." At this point it may be better to follow the authors in their apparent understanding of *bounolopha* as an adjective, rather than render the epithet as a noun "*bunolophus*" (viz. "*bounolophos*").

Wicander & Wood (1981) named a species *Lophosphaeridium ochthos*, derived from the Greek *ochthos* = hill, dyke; the epithet is a noun, not subject to grammatical changes. However, Loeblich & Wicander (1976) proposed *Lophosphaeridium "torum"*, which is given as derived from Latin *torus* = mound, protuberance; as a noun it cannot reflect the gender of the preceding generic name, and this binomial should correctly be given as "*L. torus* Loeblich and Wicander 1976."

In dinoflagellate nomenclature one can find only a few Greek binomials (such as *Acanthaulax paliuros* Sarjeant 1962, *Meiourogonaulax psora* Davey & Verdier 1974); the introduction of unmodified Arabic epithets (e. g., *Maghrebinia chleuh* Below 1981) is another example that should not be emulated.

SPECIFICS

Some of the nomenclature compiled in Wicander's 1983 Catalog, as indicated in the previous section, is esthetically flawed but viable; some is flawed badly, but probably best maintained in view of the requirement of the Code that existing nomenclature be not needlessly upset. However, there are a number of small errors that should be corrected. As this Catalog likely will be used as a standard by many, I list below obligatory corrections of orthography I have noted:

p. 10	line 3, 4 up	<i>gracile</i> for <i>gracilis</i>
p. 11	line 8, 9 up	<i>radiale</i> for <i>radialis</i>
p. 11	line 2, 3 up	<i>sannemannii</i> for <i>sannemanni</i>
p. 12	line 1	<i>sannemannii</i> for <i>sannemanni</i>
p. 19	line 5-13	<i>fagonii</i> for <i>fagoni</i>
p. 20	line 5-7 up	<i>milonii</i> for <i>miloni</i>
p. 31	line 9, 11	<i>camptus</i> (L) for <i>camptos</i> (G) = bend (adj.)
p. 33	line 1-3	<i>apodasmius</i> (L) for <i>apodasmios</i> (g)
p. 34	line 1, 2	<i>lasius</i> (L) for <i>lasios</i> (G)
p. 37	line 13, 14	<i>triangulatum</i> for <i>triangulata</i>
p. 40	line 6	<i>granatum</i> for <i>granum</i>
p. 44	line 3, 4	<i>lairdii</i> for <i>lairdi</i>
p. 44	line 12, 13, 15	<i>ohioense</i> for <i>ohioensis</i>
p. 49	line 1, 2	<i>dumale</i> for <i>dumalis</i>
p. 49	line 10, 11 up	<i>torus</i> (noun) for <i>torum</i>
p. 50	line 12, 13	<i>albertense</i> for <i>albertensis</i>
p. 50	line 1, 2 up	<i>bistchoense</i> for <i>bistchoensis</i>
p. 51	line 1, 2 up	<i>duvernayense</i> for <i>duvernayensis</i>
p. 54	line 1-3	<i>sannemannii</i> for <i>sannemanni</i>
p. 57	line 4, 5	<i>sprucegrovense</i> for <i>sprucegrovensis</i>
p. 58	line 9, 10	<i>munifica</i> for <i>munificus</i>
p. 62	line 12, 13	<i>dicrus</i> (L) for <i>dicros</i> (G) = forked, cloven (adj.)
p. 72	line 3-6 up	<i>pruvostii</i> for <i>pruvosti</i>
p. 74	line 14-16	<i>trifissile</i> for <i>trifissilis</i>
p. 78	line 9, 10 up	<i>latibaltea</i> for <i>latibalteus</i>
p. 79	line 1, 3, 4	<i>onondagaensis</i> for <i>onondaga-ensa</i> (-e)
p. 80	line 10	<i>onondagaensis</i> for <i>onondaga-ensa</i> (-e)
p. 83	line 14-16	<i>apodasmium</i> (L) for <i>apodasmion</i> (G) (adj.)
p. 88	line 7, 8	<i>asper</i> for <i>asperum</i>
p. 90	line 1, 2 up	<i>winslowiae</i> for <i>winslowae</i>
p. 98	line 1-5 up	<i>eisenackii</i> for <i>eisenacki</i>
p. 100	line 9, 10	<i>ledanoisii</i> for <i>le danoisi</i>

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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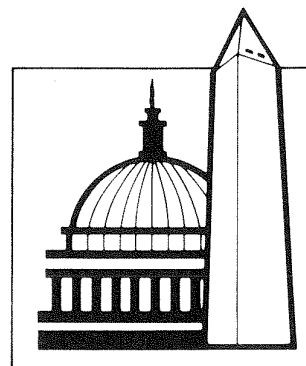
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