



A.A.S.P. NEWSLETTER

Published Quarterly by the American Association of Stratigraphic Palynologists Inc.

March 2005
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A.A.S.P.

American Association of Stratigraphic Palynologists Inc.

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

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

AASP Scientific Medal recipients

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

AASP Honorary Members

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

AASP Board of Directors Award recipient

Dr. Robert T. Clarke (awarded 1994)

Teaching medal recipients

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

AASP Distinguished Service Award recipients

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

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

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

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

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



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Carlos Jaramillo, Editor

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The AASP Newsletter is published four times annually. Members are encouraged to submit articles, "letters to the editor", technical notes, meetings reports, information about "members in the news", new websites and information about job openings in the industry. Every effort will be made to publish all information received from our membership. Contributions which include photographs should be submitted a week before the deadline. Deadline for next issues of the newsletter is JUNE 1, 2005. All information should be sent by email. If possible, please illustrate your contribution with art, line drawings, eye-catching logos, black & white photos, colour photos, etc. We **DO** look forward to contributions from our membership.

PRESIDENT'S PAGE

By Martin Head

I have just returned from the conference *Geologic Problem Solving with Microfossils*, which was held at Rice University in Houston and superbly organized by our very own Thomas Demchuk. This conference was conceived under the auspices of the North American Micropaleontology Section of the SEPM, and AASP was one of the sponsors. This well attended conference – 150 delegates from 20 countries – showed clearly what palynology and micropaleontology have to offer geology in general and the oil industry in particular. An impressive range of applications was shown, and the cost effectiveness of biostratigraphy often emphasized. It seems to me that with light sweet crude oil rising to nearly \$54 per barrel, and gasoline prices up to \$2 per gallon, oil companies should be in a strong financial position to expand their exploration and production operations. This is potentially good news for industrial palynology – if not for the economy – and many consultants are clearly keeping busy. But outsourcing by oil companies is still the norm, and industrial palynology remains steadfastly a "cottage industry". I looked without success for indications that oil companies might be returning to in-house biostratigraphy, where quality and confidentiality can be properly monitored, and where consistency of data collection and interpretation will lead to better results. This reluctance by large oil companies to invest in biostratigraphy presumably makes sense in the short term. But the "cottage industry" represents an ageing workforce (especially in the USA), and five years or so from now there will likely be a serious shortage of experienced consulting palynologists. Universities, in a sense, hold the key to this problem because they are the suppliers of the next generation of biostratigraphers. But the funding strategies of granting agencies seem equally short sighted, and universities are rarely able to gain funding for biostratigraphy projects. There is no easy solution to the problem, but I feel that universities and industry need to work in closer alliance to support the long-term interests of industrial palynology.

I shall now climb off my soap box and give you some news about our journal *Palynology*. As most of you will already know from my bulk-emailed message of last month, *Palynology* is now available online through the newly launched GeoScienceWorld (<http://www.geoscienceworld.org/>). Indeed, the full array of journals offered by GeoScienceWorld (GSW) has been accessible for a free trial period from February 25 to March 30. Thereafter, access to GeoScienceWorld is by subscription, although libraries will be offered free trials. Libraries who subscribe to GSW will have full access to the complete range of geoscience journals on offer. AASP members will continue to have free access to electronic copy of *Palynology*, but access will be through the AASP website, and members will not have access to other GSW journals except by subscription to GSW. All issues of *Palynology* back to 2000 are available online, with abstracts of papers available back to 1977. Bob Clarke (AASP Foundation) and Owen Davis (AASP Webmaster) have both worked incredibly hard, and through a steep learning curve, to ensure that *Palynology* is part of the GSW launch. GSW is a not-for-profit organization dedicated to disseminating the geoscience literature as widely as possible. It is very much in the interests of AASP, as well as the geoscience community as a whole, for us to support GSW. I invite you to check out the GSW website to see what it has to offer. If you like what you see, please ask your library to subscribe, or at least to sign up for a free trial. Thank you. I might just finally mention that I have signed on behalf of AASP the contract for *Palynology* to be part of BioOne, and we hope to be on-line soon with this important biological cluster.

Having just returned from the AASP Midyear meeting at St Louis, I am delighted to report that plans for our Annual Meeting are well underway. The organizing committee led by Franca Oboh-Ikuenobe has put together an exciting program of events including two pre-meeting and one post-meeting field trips. Reed Wicander and Paul Strother are coordinating the technical program. The meeting will take place at the very elegant period Radisson Hotel which is a short walk from the Mississippi riverfront, the Gateway Arch, which is the nation's tallest monument, and the historic Laclede's Landing area of downtown St Louis, with its many restaurants and bars. Check the AASP website for the latest news and for the convenience of booking online. The AASP Annual Meeting in St Louis will be a meeting to remember!

FROM THE DESK OF THE AASP SECRETARY-TREASURER

By Thomas D. Demchuk

Dear AASP Members:

Following are the highlights of Secretary-Treasurer's report that was presented to the Board of Directors at the recent mid-year AASP Board meeting in St. Louis.

Secretary's Report

As of February 27, 2005, AASP had a total of 565 members. This includes 411 Individual members, 57 Retired status, and 97 Institutional members. This is down approximately 30 members from this same time last year. Additionally, 88 members have not paid their dues for the year 2005. You will find a listing of those members elsewhere in this Newsletter. These members not paid for 2005 will only receive two more issues of the Newsletter, and will not receive *Palynology* v.29 that will be published later this year. Your continued support of the Association is greatly appreciated. Within the total number of members, included are 3 Honorary Members, and 7 Institutional Members who only receive the Newsletter.

Treasurer's Report

As of February 27th, 2005, the total AASP assets were US\$72,830.58. This is slightly more than the total assets reported at last year's mid-year meeting. The increase is primarily due to the greater value of the AASP mutual fund investments. At the Outgoing Board meeting to be held in conjunction with the Annual Meeting in St. Louis, I will have a more complete breakdown of expenses per member. Our printing and postage charges, particularly with respect to the Newsletter have been significantly lowered thanks to David Pocknall at BP, and Robert Clarke in Dallas, and also because of electronic mail-out to the membership.

Other Secretary-Treasurer News

All members are encouraged to attend the Annual Meeting to be held in St. Louis this September. The Radisson Hotel downtown will serve as an excellent host for the meeting, with plenty of good restaurants and pubs within easy walking distance. I've also been assured that the weather in September will be much warmer than that recently encountered in March. Information regarding meeting registration and hotel accommodations can be found on the AASP website, or by contacting Franca Oboh-Ikuenobe. The meeting in St. Louis will be a wonderful celebration of AASP, honoring many of our members for their past service to the Association and further honoring our long-standing members for their dedication.

At the AASP meeting look for new AASP logo gear. Details are currently being finalized to sell AASP logo golf shirts, baseball caps, and coffee mugs, with profits from sales going to the Scholarship Fund. Look smart and feel great in AASP logo gear. These items will be highlighted at the St. Louis meeting and will go on sale at that time.

If anyone has any questions regarding the Secretary-Treasurer's report given above, please feel free to contact me at your leisure.

Respectfully submitted,

Dr. Thomas D. Demchuk
AASP Secretary-Treasurer
Houston, Texas

38TH AASP ANNUAL MEETING, 18-22 SEPTEMBER 2005, ST. LOUIS, MISSOURI

By Francisca Oboh-Ikuenobe

The 38th Annual Meeting of the AASP will be held on September 18-22, 2005 at the Raddisson Hotel and Suites Downtown in St. Louis, Missouri. The hotel is located next to the Gateway Arch and Jefferson Expansion Memorial Museum, and is within walking distance of the historic Laclede's Landing, a riverboat casino, Union Station and several tourist facilities. A block of single and multiple-occupancy rooms has been reserved for participants at the meeting (ask for AASP rate). There will be an opening mixer on Sunday evening (September 18) at the hotel at the end of two pre-meeting field trips, one of which will be a two day field trip to regional Cretaceous clay pits, led by David Dilcher (Florida Museum of Natural History). One post-meeting field trip is also planned.



St Louis Arch

The technical program will include two symposia and general sessions. There will be one symposium on "Palynology and Plant Phylogeny" on Monday with

two keynote speakers: Charles Wellman (University of Sheffield) for the early spore record and Michael Zavada (Providence College) for the angiosperm record. The second symposium on "Paleozoic Microphytoplankton (PhytoPal)" will take place on Tuesday. Abstracts for either symposium are encouraged and will be included in the appropriate symposium session. General technical sessions will be interspersed between the symposia. Contributions will be accepted from July 15 to August 15. There will only be one screen available for talks. We will have an overhead available as well as a slide projector and computer projector for PowerPoint. With the exception of keynote addresses, talks will be 20 minutes long (15 minutes for presentation and 5 minutes for questions). Information about registration, technical sessions, abstract submission, field trips, social events, and a tour of the Missouri Botanical Gardens can be found on <http://www.palynology.org/meetings.html>. Please direct questions about logistics to Francisca Oboh-Ikuenobe (ikuenobe@umr.edu), and questions about the technical program to Reed Wicander (reed.wicander@cmich.edu) and/or Paul Strother (strother@bc.edu).

PALYNOLOGY ON GEOSCIENCEWORLD

By Martin Head

Palynology is now available online through the newly launched GeoScienceWorld (<http://www.geoscienceworld.org/>). Access to GeoScienceWorld is by subscription, although libraries will be offered free trials. Libraries who subscribe to GSW will have full access to the complete range of geoscience journals on offer. AASP members will continue to have free access to electronic copy of *Palynology*, but access will be through the AASP website, and members will not have access to other GSW journals except by subscription to GSW.

All issues of *Palynology* back to 2000 are available online, with abstracts of papers available back to 1977. Bob Clarke (AASP Foundation) and Owen Davis (AASP Webmaster) have both worked incredibly hard, and through a steep learning curve, to ensure that *Palynology* is part of the GSW launch.

GSW is a not-for-profit organization dedicated to disseminating the geoscience literature as widely as possible. It is very much in the interests of AASP, as well as the geoscience community as a whole, for us to support GSW. I invite you to check out the GSW website to see what it has to offer. If you like what you see, please ask your library to subscribe, or at least to sign up for a free trial. Thank you.

PALYNOLOGY

By James B. Riding

During 2004, I took over from Owen K. Davis as Managing Editor of AASP. The principal duties of this post are to solicit and edit manuscripts for *Palynology*, our frontline Journal. *Palynology* accepts suitable manuscripts on all aspects of the study of organic microfossils and related subjects. In our website at www.palynology.org, click on "publications" to read about *Palynology*. The instructions for authors can also be accessed from this page.

I am currently seeking high-quality manuscripts for the 2005 issue of *Palynology*, and would like to remind AASP members that space is still available in this volume. Suitable manuscripts could therefore potentially be published in 2005. *Palynology*, as we all know, is a high quality journal, with a very reader-friendly, two-column format. Plates and diagrams are reproduced at the highest standard. Offprints are available at an extremely modest cost. We are presently considering issuing two parts per year, and since last month, *Palynology* has been available online as downloadable .pdf files through GeoScienceWorld and will soon become available through BioOne.

I would enthusiastically encourage all AASP members to consider submitting manuscripts on their research to *Palynology*. It is one of the very best journals of its genre and authors are guaranteed that their work will reach its target audience because *Palynology* is directly disseminated to the palynological community worldwide.

If you have a suitable manuscript available now, or anticipating submitting within the next few months, please contact me soon in order that your paper can be considered for publication in 2005.

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"THE NEW MICROPALAEONTOLOGY"

By John A. Van Couvering

Beginning with Volume 51, 2005, the journal "Micropaleontology" http://micropress.org/micro_journal.html will be making important changes to better serve the profession.

NEW EDITOR: Robert Fleisher (PhD University of Southern California, 1975) becomes Editor as of January 2005. Dr Fleisher brings his distinguished career in foraminiferal biostratigraphy and taxonomic analysis to the mission of reinventing the journal with the best and most important papers across the field. Dr Fleisher will be working closely with a newly reconstituted editorial board that will represent the full diversity of international micropaleontological research.

NEW SCOPE: "Micropaleontology" will now publish frontline research across the entire field of micropaleontology. This will include studies in paleoceanography; paleoenvironments; ecology and paleoecology; biology and paleobiology; and evolution (both morphologic and molecular) -- as well as in our traditional areas of systematics and biostratigraphy. Short notes on preparation methods and taxonomy will also include software, instrumentation, and data handling and storage.

NEW FORMAT: "Micropaleontology" will no longer be restricted to a fixed number of pages per issue, but will seek to publish all papers within 90 days of acceptance and usually in the next issue.

NEW STANDARDS: With more subjects to cover, it will be necessary for "Micropaleontology" to be more selective. At the same time, we will remove the requirement that manuscripts must be submitted in completely correct English to be considered. No good paper will be rejected for this reason, and where necessary we will provide the corrections without cost.

NEW PROCEDURE: All manuscript will be processed online. Papers and illustrations will be submitted, reviewed, and corrected via the internet, in our specifically designed "Micro Man" system. This procedure will greatly enhance submittal, review, and revision, with better communication and greater security as side benefits.

NEW INTERNET ACCESS: All 50 years of "Micropaleontology" will be available online through membership in BioOne and GeoScience World. Items of general interest, such as meeting announcements,

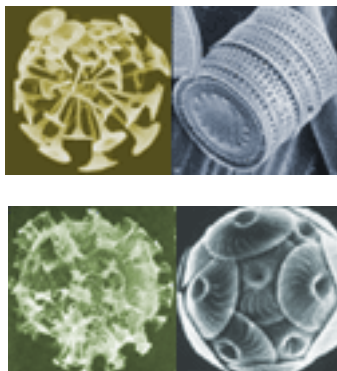
society advertisements and postings of national and international resolutions, will be published in open access.

NEW FLEXIBILITY: The online edition of “Micropaleontology” will accept color, animation, and 3D treatments at no cost, subject only to the proviso that the same information can be adequately (if not completely) presented in the print edition. Links to associated data repositories will be active in the online edition..

NEW CONDITIONS: Plate charges will no longer be required. As before, there are no page charges, and authors receive 10 free offprints. Text documents must not include hidden formatting from “End Notes” or other aids, and illustrations must be digitized as JPG or TIFF files, full size, high resolution (360 dpi grayscale for photo, 1200 dpi for maps, diagrams and tables).

NEW VIEW OF MICROPALAEONTOLOGY: As the flagship journal of a newly independent nonprofit project with the mission of promoting the science, our goal is to publish papers that bring micropaleontology back to the cutting edge of paleontology, stratigraphic geology, paleoenvironmental analyses, and chronostratigraphy, while also engaging colleagues in environmental, conservation and evolutionary biology. We invite authors from any field that deals with microfossils or their living representatives to consider the new “Micropaleontology” as a modern, technologically sophisticated means of disseminating their research results.

John A. Van Couvering, Editor in Chief
The Micropaleontology Project, Inc.
New York, January 2005



BOOK REVIEW: “LES DINOFLAGELLÉS FOS- SILES. GUIDE PRATIQUE DE DETERMINATION. LES GENRES Á PROCESSUS AT Á ARCHÉOPYLE APICALE”

Les dinoflagellés fossiles. Guide pratique de détermination. Les genres á processus at á archéopyle apicale, co-ordinated by Danièle Fauconnier and Edwige Masure, 2004, 600+X p., softcover, published by Brgm Éditions, 2004 for 60 euros, www.brgm.fr/vientdeparaître.htm. ISBN: 2-7159-0938-1

Many years ago, after an internal program review presentation in which I mentioned that our vision for the coming year included plans to prepare and publish a couple of taxonomic papers, a sedimentological colleague asked whether such work shouldn't be left to students. The implication was that taxonomy is a lightweight and inconsequential pursuit whose proper domain was in the hands of less-experienced students: they are the ones who have to delve into such arcane matters in order to make their theses look impressively weighty and technical. Those researchers of a more mature status, according to the implication, shouldn't worry about such “fluff” as taxonomy – such people should attend to the real issues of the moment, whatever they might be.



Contrary to the opinions of our former sedimentological colleague, detailed and accurate taxonomic studies and publications form a major cornerstone of all

paleontological work. Taxonomy is about developing concepts of taxa and meaningfully communicating those concepts – in a sense it is our fundamental frontier with the natural world. If our taxonomic concepts are not sound, then any downstream applications – age control through biostratigraphy, global change through paleoecology, paleogeographic reconstructions based on particular time horizons, and so on – will all be fundamentally flawed if not meaningless.

Thus, taxonomy is emphatically not a lightweight pursuit, but one in which experienced researchers must take a leading role. Such is the case with this new compendium of fossil dinoflagellates published by “Brgm Editions” under the auspices of the Groupe de travail “Dinoflagellés” of the Association des Palynologues de Langue Française (the dinoflagellate working group of the association of francophone palynologists). The group, led by Danièle Fauconnier Fauconnier and Edwige Masure, have produced a substantive and authoritative work that will be indispensable to libraries of institutions and companies with researchers on fossil dinoflagellates. The text is in French, but there are English translations of captions to photos.

The work is a hefty paperback volume of 600 A4-size pages with good quality paper. It treats proximo-chorate to chorate fossil dinoflagellates with apical archeopyles and constitutes the second of a series – the first, on the “*Gonyaulacysta* complex, appeared in 1986. The format is essentially the same as the first issue, and includes the following:

- a series of hierarchical tables or keys, in a form resembling those in some traditional floras. General tables are located at the beginning of the book and use morphological pointers to guide the user to a particular genus, where similar tables are set up to aid species recognition.
- a text section under each alphabetically-listed genus providing information as appropriate under the following categories: synonymy, type species, other species fully accepted in the genus, species provisionally accepted, problematic species, (former) species attributed to other genera in the volume, (former) species attributed to other genera not treated in the volume, and references.
- line drawings of particular morphological features of some genera..

- exhaustive photographs of the holotypes where possible (which is the case for most species) and/or other key specimens of each species.
- a separate reference list for each genus. (Space might have been saved with no real detriment, I think, to the contents, if a single reference list had been produced at the end of the book.)

In my view, the most valuable aspect of the book is the collection of holotype re-illustrations: this collection is magnificent! Obviously a lot of work and care has gone into soliciting material and re-photographing specimens, and the result is a superb achievement. Of course, some of the specimens are poorly preserved, but this not the fault of the authors – it is clear that they have taken all care possible in maximizing the visual information that can be gleaned from the material. The experience of the authors is obvious in this comprehensive collection of images.

Keys can sometimes be tricky, readily leading the user in wrong directions unless material is perfectly preserved. However, the compilation of information gathered into the keys will prove to be very useful, whether one is a fan of keys or not.

The comprehensive listing of species, while again containing much useful information, seems ungainly, split as it is into fragmented categories. The practice of separately listing assured, provisional and problematic species within each genus goes back to the classic compendium of genera by Lew Stover and Bill Evitt, published in 1978 (was it really 27 years ago?). As was the case in Stover and Evitt, in the present volume, species that can be confidently assigned to a genus are simply listed without further ado; the list of “provisionally accepted species” consists of those species that looked like they probably belong to the genus but one can’t be sure; and “problematic species” are those that happened to be assigned to the genus but defy meaningful morphological interpretation (usually because of poor preservation or illustration).

The three-way listing in the present volume has been further complicated by awkward use of quotation marks for problematic species (even though, nomenclaturally, the names remain valid and currently available – i.e. “correct” in the sense of the Botanical Code). And in some cases the splitting of different subspecies of the same species under different categories.

In my view, the text would have been significantly more “user-friendly” if it had listed all species within each genus entirely in alphabetical order, to have indicated provisional and problematic species with a question mark, to have recommended further that problematic species be restricted to their type, and to have restricted the use of quotation marks to names and combinations that are not “correct” in the sense of the Botanical Code. I recognize, though, that these comments are largely based on stylistic preferences. However, I find the splitting of subspecies more bothersome. If the morphology of a particular subspecies is sufficiently different from that of (or because of problematic morphology, hard to compare with) the type subspecies, then would it not make sense to raise that subspecies to species rank?

Such quibbles aside, this is an extremely useful volume, indispensable to all those who work with fossil dinoflagellates. The vision, leadership skills and persistence of co-ordinators Danièle Fauconnier and Edwige Masure are to be highly commended, and all those who worked on the volume should be proud of their collective achievement. The price, at 60 euros, is a little hefty for most individual palynologists to buy, but all with an interest in fossil dinoflagellates should persuade their library to order a copy.

When discussing a volume in a series, a reviewer at this point usually writes that he can barely wait for the next installment – what indeed will I do for bedtime reading for the next 18 years (the spacing between the first and second volumes in this series). My guess would be that there will probably not be a further volume as such – because this type of specialist material is ideally suited to the worldwide web. One hopes that the authors are thinking along these lines, because – despite the comment of my sedimentologist colleague – we really do need experienced taxonomists such as Fauconnier, Masure and colleagues to continue to make such contributions. I hope they do.

Reviewed by Rob Fensome,
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BOOK REVIEW: “PALYNOLOGICAL AND MICRO-PALAEONTOLOGICAL STUDIES IN HONOUR OF GEOFFREY PLAYFORD”

Palynological and micropalaeontological studies in honour of Geoffrey Playford Edited by J. R. Laurie and C. B. Foster. 2004. *Memoirs of the Association of Australasian Palaeontologists* 29, 274 pages. This volume is available from: The Business Manager, Geological Society of Australia, 706 Thakral House, 301 George Street, Sydney NSW 2000, Australia. Price: Australia: \$A105.00 (including P & H and GST). Overseas: \$A110.00 (economy air). ISBN 0-949466-27-1.

This volume is a fitting tribute to the accomplishments of Dr. Geoffrey Playford, a world-renown paleontologist who has devoted his scientific career to the pursuit of excellence in both teaching and research. The 14 papers that comprise this volume are derived mostly from the presentations given at the Playford Symposium of the First International Palaeontological Congress, Sydney, Australia, July 2002. At that symposium, marking the retirement of Dr. Playford, 31 papers and 10 posters were presented by authors from 20 countries and every continent except Antarctica. The diversity of topics covered in the symposium is a reflection of the wide range of interests of the honoree. This volume is a celebration of the many accomplishments and contributions made by Dr. Playford to the fields of palynology and micropaleontology.

The volume begins with a brief history of Geoff’s life with the usual information of where he was born, went to school, received his various degrees, etc., and then focuses on his career in the Department of Geology and Mineralogy at the University of Queensland, beginning with his appointment in 1963. It was at the University of Queensland where Geoff “established the discipline of palynology and micropalaeontology in undergraduate curricula and postgraduate research.”

During a teaching career that spanned some 30 years, Geoff mentored 19 Ph.D. and two M.Sc. students through the successful completion of their degrees. Since his “retirement,” several more students have earned advanced degrees under Geoff’s guidance. In terms of research, Geoff has published more than 115 papers as either sole author or in collaboration with colleagues, many of whom are former students. These papers cover a wide spectrum of paleontologic and geologic topics, and many of them are considered seminal in their field.

The 14 papers comprising this volume cover a wide range of topics in palynology, micropaleontology, and even geophysics. Although the papers are not arranged by any particular theme, the editors are to be commended for producing a volume with consistently high quality figures and plates throughout, and virtually free of typographic errors. Such attention to detail must certainly please Dr. Playford, who, as his former students and colleagues can attest, demanded excellence and adherence to the highest possible standards in his publications.

Space limitations preclude even a short discussion of all 14 papers, but I will at least mention each paper, so as to give the reader a sense of the breadth of topics covered. The first paper in this volume is by Malgorzata Moczydlowska who discusses and beautifully illustrates some putative bacterial nanofossils of earliest Cambrian age. These non-septate filaments are preserved *in situ* and three-dimensionally on the tube of the metazoan *Sabellidites cambriensis* from a borehole in Lithuania. This interesting and well-reasoned paper gets the volume off to a good start.

Moving up the section, Marco Vecoli looks at the stratigraphic and paleoenvironmental distribution of acritarchs, enigmatic cryptospore-like palynomorphs, and filamentous-tubular palynomorphs of uncertain origin from Cambrian-Ordovician transitional strata in a borehole in the Ghadamis Basin, southern Tunisia. In this paper, he provides evidence in support of the hypothesis that the distribution of acritarch assemblages in lower Paleozoic sediments of the Central Sahara was influenced by paleoenvironmental conditions and is related to increasing distance from the paleoshoreline.

The remaining 12 papers jump around in terms of geologic age and topics covered. Five of these papers deal with marine palynology. Included is a review of Ordovician Laurentian acritarch assemblages and their relevance to paleogeographic and biodiversification trends by Reed Wicander, as well as two chitinozoan papers. The first deals with chitinozoan biostratigraphy and paleogeography of Lower Silurian (Llandovery) strata from Iran by Mohammad Ghavidel-syooki and Theresa Winchester-Seeto, and the second concerns the erection of two new Devonian chitinozoan species from Bolivia by Gordon Wood.

The Ghavidel-syooki and Winchester-Seeto paper is a classic biostratigraphy paper in which a diverse and well-preserved chitinozoan assemblage is described from the Sarchahan Formation, Iran, the stratigraphic distribution of the chitinozoan species are plotted,

local biozones are established, and the age ranges of these biozones is supported and confirmed by independent fossil data, and correlations are made to other formations in the region on the basis of the recovered chitinozoan taxa. This paper exemplifies a hallmark of Geoff's research through the years, namely the careful attention to taxonomy and its importance in geological application, particularly as it applies to biostratigraphy.

The first report of organic tentaculite remains is presented by Gordon Wood, Merrell Miller, and Stig Bergström. They describe and illustrate what they interpret as the external wall layer that enveloped tentaculite tests recovered from Upper Devonian core samples from Poland. Rounding out the marine palynology papers, Jim Riding describes a new Late Jurassic-Early Cretaceous dinoflagellate cyst genus and species from Australasia and discusses its temporal and areal extent.

Three papers cover the field of non-marine palynology. The first by Paul Strother, Gordon Wood, Wilson Taylor, and John Beck examines an extensive and diverse assemblage of Middle Cambrian cryptospores from North America and their role and connection to the origin of land plants. As the authors conclude, the recovery of this assemblage strongly suggests that a subaerial terrestrial ecosystem occupied by thallophtytic plants, some of which were of bryophytic grade, had been established by the Middle Cambrian.

John Utting and Peter Giles provide a very detailed analysis of spore data enabling them to make palynostratigraphic correlations of Mississippian rocks in Newfoundland and Nova Scotia, Canada. Detailed stratigraphic information is provided for each of the rock units studied, the vertical distribution of the spores recovered in each unit is provided, and a detailed description and analysis of the spore zones and subzones encountered is discussed. This is a very comprehensive paper on Mississippian spore palynology of Newfoundland and Nova Scotia.

The last non-marine palynology paper, by Elizabeth Truswell and Michael Macphail, uses the presence of pollen tetrads recovered from Upper Eocene glacio-marine sediments at Ocean Drilling Program Site 1166, Prydz Bay, East Antarctica as evidence for carnivorous plants (Droseraceae) existing at this site. The authors provide an overview of the modern distribution and fossil history of the Droseraceae, followed by the geologic setting at Prydz Bay, East Antarctica, and the significance of the fossil Droseraceae pollen grains in relation to the surrounding vegetation just before the collapse of this polar ecosystem due to

the onset of glacial conditions at or soon after the Eocene-Oligocene boundary.

Three of the other four papers in this volume can be characterized as micropaleontologic in nature. David Haig, one of Geoff's early Ph.D. students, and a keynote speaker at the Playford Symposium, examines the foraminiferal assemblages and habitats from Australian Permian and Cretaceous Interior Seas. During the Permian and Cretaceous, Australia experienced major marine flooding that formed vast interior seas that were essentially estuarine environments. Haig compares the foraminiferal assemblages from the Australian Permian interior seas with those of the Cretaceous to try and determine how conservative or innovative foraminifera were in adapting to an estuarine-type ecosystem. He also examines modern analogues as a proxy for the Permian and Cretaceous interior seaways of Australia, but notes that there are presently no perfect analogues to these ancient environments.

Peter Jones discusses the biostratigraphy and paleogeographic links of a Late Devonian (Strunian) and Early Carboniferous (Tournaisian, Viséan), benthic ostracode community from the Bonaparte Basin, northwest Australia. In addition to a detailed biostratigraphic, paleoecologic, and paleobiogeographic analysis of the fauna, Jones also describes 11 ostracode species (one of which is new) belonging to the Paraparchitidae family in the Systematic Paleontology section.

Vincenzo Palmieri formally names a new genus and species for a Late Permian foraminifera from the Bowen Basin, Central Queensland that he previously and informally reported as *Pilamina* sp. He also provides the lithostratigraphy, biostratigraphy, and provenance for the samples examined in this study.

The last paper reported on here (although it is the fourth paper of the volume) is a provocative and multidisciplinary examination of the role played by the Pangaeian thermal anomaly and its influence in the geological evolution of eastern Australia during the late Paleozoic and early Mesozoic and as a consequence, the floral successions in the Australian region during this time. In this paper, John McKellar provides a detailed discussion of the relationship between the Pangaeian thermal anomaly and the role it played in subsequent geophysical and geological events. He also links this event to the late Paleozoic and early Mesozoic geologic history of eastern Australia as well as the floral succession and paleoclimatic changes occurring during this time. The two major floral extinction events in this region were the abrupt extinction of

the *Glossopteris* Flora, just preceding the end of the Permian, and the rapid termination of the *Dicroidium* Flora at the end of the Triassic. These extinctions, separated by approximately 46 million years, have seemingly little in common. However, McKellar proposes "that they were both strongly influenced by a feature that is still clearly evident in Earth's present-day geoidal surface, this being the long-wavelength, African-eastern Atlantic residual geoid high." The sequence of events that directed the floral successions in eastern Australia during this ~46 million year period, were predetermined by the geophysical controls exerted by the Pangaeian thermal anomaly, and in turn, form part of the supercontinent cycle of fragmentation and consolidation.

As is evident from this review, this volume contains a collection of papers reflecting a wide range of palynologic and micropaleontologic topics, thus mirroring the diverse interests of the man that this volume honors. The communal thread binding this volume together is the high quality of the papers, not only in terms of the science presented, but also in the plates and figures. Whereas not every paper will be of interest to the general reader, there is enough variety that most palynologists and micropaleontologists will want to own their own copy of this fine volume.

In closing, I would like to echo Clinton Foster's wish that Geoff enjoys "a long and active retirement as Professor Emeritus" (Preface). This volume is an excellent tribute to someone who has given so much to the palynological and micropaleontological community. I would also like to offer this personal comment to Geoff, whom I've had the honor, privilege, and pleasure to have worked with on various research projects, as well as enjoying his friendship over the years – "Good on ya' mate!"

Reviewed by Reed Wicander
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G. Playford

NEWS FROM INDIA

By Naresh C. Mehrotra (nareshmehrotra@indiatimes.com)

RECENT PAPERS

A new dinoflagellate cyst species, *Calliaiosphaeridium scabratum*, is discovered by Khowaja-Ateequzzaman and Garg (2004) from the Kulakkalnattam Sandstone Member of Garudamangalam Formation exposed in the Cauvery Basin, southern India. It is characterized by a scabrate wall and distally open short and broad tubular paracingular processes. (Khowaja-Ateequzzaman and Garg, R. 2004. *Calliaiosphaeridium scabratum* sp. nov. , A new dinoflagellate cyst species from Early Turonian of the Cauvery Basin, India. *Palaeobotanist*, 53 (1-3):97-103)

A rich megaspore assemblage has been recorded by Tewari et al. (2004) from the Early Permian Barakar Formation of Umrer Coalfield, Wardha Basin. It indicates prevalence of marshy and humid environmental conditions of deposition. (Tewari, R., Rajnikanth, A. & Jha, N. 2004. Permian Gondwana megaspores from Wardha Basin, India. *Palaeobotanist*, 53 (1-3); 35-50)

Leaf impressions from Kasauli sediments (Lower Miocene) of Himachal Pradesh were described. They belong to *Semecarpus* (Anacardiaceae), *Chukrasia* and *Heynea* (Meliaceae), *Tephrosia* (Fabaceae), *Mallotus* (Euphorbiaceae), *Donex* (Marantaceae) and *Poacites* (Poaceae). Srivastava, R. & Guleria, J.S. 2004. Leaf impressions from Kasauli sediments of Himachal Pradesh and their palaeoenvironmental significance. *Geophytology*, 32 (17): 97-106.

NEW DIRECTOR OF THE BIRBAL SAHNI INSTITUTE OF PALAEOBOTANY, LUCKNOW

By Rahul Garg (rahul_bsip@yahoo.com)

On 1st March **Naresh C. Mehrotra**, AASP Newsletter correspondent from India, has taken over as Director of the Birbal Sahni Institute of Palaeobotany, Lucknow. Before joining BSIP, he was heading the Palynology Laboratory as Deputy General Manager at the KDM Institute of Petroleum Exploration, Oil & Natural Gas Corporation, Dehra Dun. After completing post graduation in Geology in 1971 from Lucknow University, Naresh joined BSIP, where he received a PhD for a thesis on the Tertiary dinoflagellate cysts and palynostratigraphy of northeastern India and also worked as consultant palynologist to Oil India Limited. He moved to Wadia Institute of Himalayan Geology in 1977 as Research Scientist where he worked on Mesozoic-Cenozoic palynostratigraphy in the Himalaya. Naresh left WIHG to join ONGC in 1980 as explora-

tion palynologist and worked on palynostratigraphy, dinoflagellate sequence biostratigraphy and source rock palynology in several on land and off shore basins of India. He is now back to BSIP as Director with 33 years experience in exploration palynology. We wish to congratulate him for taking over the reins of BSIP and look forward to greater collaborations under his leadership with fellow palynologists, particularly dinoflagellate cyst specialists.

NEWS FROM ARGENTINA

by Mirta Quattrocchio (mquattro@criba.edu.ar)

First Meeting of the "Upper Palaeozoic Chronostratigraphy of South America" Working Group

The first Meeting of the "Upper Palaeozoic Chronostratigraphy of South America" was carried out on November 10, during the XI Reunión de Paleobotánicos e Palinólogos in Gramado (Brazil). The following researchers were present: by Argentina the Drs. Marilín Vergel, Pedro Gutierrez, Hugo Carrizo, Mercedes di Pasquo, Cecilia Rodriguez Amenábar and Carlos Azcuy, by Uruguay the Dr. Angeles Beri and by Brazil the Dr. Paulo Alves de Souza. Dr. Carlos Azcuy was the Coordinator of the meeting.

The use in South America of the chronostratigraphic units established for the Upper Palaeozoic in Western Europe, Russia and the United States was discussed. These units have been defined on the base of fossil assemblages that are not found in Gondwana. All participants considered the subject a good opportunity for working together to establish a regional chronostratigraphy for South America. All existing palaeontological and radiometric data of the Upper Palaeozoic basins in South America will be collected by the IGCP working group and located on a georeferenced map accompanied by the corresponding bibliographical references.

The first results of this project will be discussed and presented during the XIII Simposio Argentino de Paleobotánica y Palinología, that will be held in Bahía Blanca, Argentina (May 22nd to 26th 2006). This is a contribution to the IGCP 471.

Upper Palaeozoic South America Basins

Coordinator: Carlos Azcuy

Parnaíba: Roberto Iannuzzi & Henrique Melo

Amazonas: Henrique Melo

Madre de Dios: Mercedes di Pasquo, Roberto Iannuzzi, Carlos Azcuy, Marilín Vergel, Suárez Soruco & Jaime Oller

Paraná: Paulo Alves de Souza, Roberto Iannuzzi,

Rosemary Rhon & Angeles Beri.
Chacoparaná: Marilín Vergel & Pedro Gutierrez
Tarija: Mercedes di Pasquo & Jaime Oller
Arizaro: Carlos Azcuy, Mercedes di Pasquo & Florencio Aceñolaza
Paganzo: Carlos Azcuy, Hugo Carrizo & Nora Sabattini
Uspallata-Iglesia: Hugo Carrizo & Cecilia Rodríguez Amenábar, Carlos González & Arturo Taboada, Gabriela Cisterna & Nora Sabattini
San Rafael: Silvia Césari & Pablo Pazos
Tepuel-Genoa: Hugo Carrizo, Arturo Taboada, Carlos González & Nora Sabattini.

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JOB OPENINGS

UNIVERSITY OF WASHINGTON

Two positions

1. Director of the Burke Museum. <http://www.washington.edu/admin/eoo/ads/aa874-ouf-05.html>

2. Curator of Paleontology/faculty in Earth and Space Sciences or in Biology (Asst, Assoc. or Full Prof.): <http://www.washington.edu/admin/eoo/ads/aa881-feb15-05.html>

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA AT BERKELEY

Department of Integrative Biology, Faculty Position in Paleobiology, Director, University of California Museum of Paleontology

The Department of Integrative Biology at the University of California, Berkeley seeks an outstanding scientist for a tenured position (Associate Professor or Professor) in Paleobiology. Applicants with a Ph.D. and exceptional research record in any area of Paleobiology will be given serious consideration. This position will include a 5 year appointment as Director of

the University of California Museum of Paleontology, thus previous administrative experience will also be advantageous. Candidates must also have a strong interest in undergraduate and graduate teaching and will be expected to contribute to instruction in Paleobiology as well as in their specific area of expertise.

Interested applicants should send a CV, bibliography, brief description of research accomplishments and objectives, statement of teaching interests, and statement of vision for the UCMP, along with selected reprints, to the address below. Please provide the names and addresses of at least three individuals who might be asked to provide references in support of the application. Applications will be reviewed beginning February 25, 2005.

Applications should be sent to: Paleobiology Search, Department of Integrative Biology, University of California, Berkeley, CA 94720-3140.

EAST TENNESSEE STATE UNIVERSITY

College of Arts and Sciences - Department of Physics, Astronomy, and Geology - Post Doctoral Assistant, Paleobotanist/Curator - (5-34271). Applications are invited for a 2-year postdoctoral research and teaching position in the field of paleobotany. Research will focus on collection, curation and management of the botanical remains from the (late Miocene/early Pliocene) Gray Fossil Site. Teaching responsibilities will include intro- and upper-level geology courses, paleo-related courses, and at least one course within the applicant's area of specialty. Qualifications: must have a Ph.D. in geology, biology or related field, and should exhibit evidence of active research in paleobotany; field experience is essential. Preference will be given to those with experience in mid to late Cenozoic. Submit a letter of application, statement of research interests and experience, curriculum vitae, transcripts, and three letters of recommendation to Dr. Steven Wallace, BP-Postdoctoral Committee Chair, Department of Physics, Astronomy, and Geology, ETSU, Box 70636, Johnson City, TN 37614-1702.

NESCENT FELLOWSHIPS

The National Evolutionary Synthesis Center (NESCENT) calls for proposals for up to 10 PostDoctoral and 5 Sabbatical fellowships. Please see www.nescent.org for details about applications.

PostDoctoral and Sabbatical Fellowships will support ambitious, synthetic research on any aspect of evolutionary biology and relevant disciplines. Sabbatical applicants should take note of our full-salary "targeted sabbatical" program to attract individuals interested in developing community computational

infrastructure for evolutionary biology, and for evolutionists from Minority Serving Universities. Proposals can include any type of synthetic project, but should not include time at the bench or in the field. Projects can be entirely theoretical and may involve developing analytical methods and software.

AASP STUDENT SCHOLARSHIP

Deadline: March 31, 2005

www.palynology.org/content/scholar.html

The American Association of Stratigraphic Palynologists is pleased to announce its program of Student Scholarships to support studies in palynology. Currently, two scholarships for \$1500 (US) each may be awarded annually, and a third award of \$1500 may be given as The Cranwell Award. Ordinarily, the scholarships will be awarded to beginning graduate students, but advanced undergraduate students may also apply.

BASIS OF AWARDS: The qualification of the student, the originality and imagination evident in the proposed project, and the likelihood of significant contribution to the science of palynology are factors that will be weighed in selection of award winners. Previous winners of this award are eligible only if they are pursuing a different degree than the one they were pursuing when they received the previous award. AASP Scholarships are available to all students of palynology in all countries. Students need not be AASP members.

TO APPLY: Scholarship applications for the current year must be postmarked no later than March 31. Scholarship forms are available from AASP web site or from the Chair of the AASP Awards Committee: Professor Fred Rich, Department of Geology and Geography, P.O. Box 8149, Georgia Southern University Statesboro, GA 30460-8149 US. tel: (912) 681-5361 fax: (912) 681-0196, frich@gasou.edu

2005 TSOP STUDENT GRANT PROGRAM

Deadline: May 1, 2005

The Society for Organic Petrology (TSOP) invites applications for graduate student research grants. The purpose of the grants is to foster research in organic petrology (which includes coal petrology, kerogen petrology, organic geochemistry and related disciplines) by providing support to graduate students from around the world, who demonstrate the application of organic petrology concepts to research problems.

Grant Size: Monetary awards up to a maximum of \$1,000.00 US will be granted. TSOP will also provide Merit Awards, in the form of certificates redeemable for TSOP publications, to top-ranking applicants not receiving grants. The program awards a maximum of two grants each year.

Use of Grant: Grants are to be applied to expenses directly related to the student's thesis work, such as summer fieldwork, laboratory analyses, etc. A portion (not to exceed 25%) of the funds may be used to attend TSOP Annual Meetings. Funds should not be used to purchase capital equipment, to pay salaries, tuition, room, or board during the school year. Funds must be spent within 18 months of receipt of the award.

Application Deadline: TSOP graduate student research grant application deadline is May 1, 2005. Grants will be awarded in September, 2005. Detailed information and an application form on the TSOP web site <http://www.tsop.org/grants.htm> or applications may be obtained from S. J. Russell, Shell UK Exploration and Production, 1 Altens Farm Rd., Nigg, Aberdeen AB12 3FY, United Kingdom; fax: +44(0)1224 88 3689; e-mail: suzanne.j.russell@shell.com

AGENDA

2005

September 11-14, 2005, The Society for Organic Petrology (TSOP), 22th Annual Meeting, Louisville, Kentucky USA.

Information: Dr. James Hower, Center for Applied Energy Research, University of Kentucky, 2540 Research Park Drive, Lexington, KY 40511-8410, Phone: (859) 257-0261; Fax (859) 257-0360; E-mail: hower@caer.uky.edu. Further details: <http://igs.indiana.edu/tsop2005>. Abstracts due 4/30/05. Oral and poster sessions September 12-13.

Conference themes include CO₂ sequestration, coal utilization, coalbed methane, coal petrography, organic geochemistry. Special technical session on dispersed organic matter. Workshop (Sept. 11) on CO₂ sequestration. Field trips to Falls of the Ohio (Sept. 11) and a mine (Sept. 14).

September 18-22, 2005, 38th AASP Annual Meeting, St. Louis, Missouri, USA

Details at [//www.palynology.org/meetings.html](http://www.palynology.org/meetings.html)

ABSTRACT SUBMISSION FORMAT

Sample Abstract for AASP 38th Annual Meeting, St. Louis, Missouri, September 18-21, 2005

BIOSTRATIGRAPHIC SIGNIFICANCE OF A MIOSPORE ASSEMBLAGE FROM
THE MIDDLE DEVONIAN ULUSUBASITE FORMATION, NORTHWEST CHINA

Zhu, Huaicheng¹ & Wicander, Reed²

¹Nanjing Institute of Geology and Palaeontology, Chinese Academy of Sciences, 39 East Beijing Road, Nanjing 210008, China

²Department of Geology, Central Michigan University, Mount Pleasant, Michigan 48859, USA

Please follow these simple rules in submitting your abstract for the upcoming AASP meeting.

Your complete abstract must fit on one page with one inch (2.5 cm) margins from each side and top and bottom, single spaced, and left-hand justified. Use 12-point font only in either Times or Times New Roman, and no bold or italics except for genera and species. Do not indent the first paragraph, but subsequent paragraphs should be indented. Please use the above format for title of presentation, names of authors, and affiliations.

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