



A.A.S.P. NEWSLETTER

Published Quarterly by the American Association of Stratigraphic Palynologists Inc.

December 2005
Volume 38, Number 4

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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)
Dr. Robin Helby (awarded 2005)

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 Aural T. Cross (elected 1991)
Dr. Robert T. Clarke (awarded 2002)
Prof. Vaughn Bryant (awarded 2005)
Prof. Alfred Traverse (awarded 2005)

AASP Board of Directors Award recipient

Dr. Robert T. Clarke (awarded 1994)

Teaching medal recipients

Professor Aural 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)
Dr. David T. Pocknall (awarded 2005)
Dr. David K. Goodman (awarded 2005)
Prof. Owen K. Davis (awarded 2005)

AASP Student Scholarships are awarded annually to support studies in palynology. These comprise two scholarships each for **\$1500**, and a third award of **\$1500** may be given as The Cranwell Award. Ordinarily, the scholarships will be offered to beginning graduate students, but advanced undergraduates may also apply. 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 the 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 these students need not be members of AASP. Application forms are available from the Chairman of the AASP Awards Committee (Paul Strother: strother@bc.edu), or can be downloaded from our website at www.palynology.org/content/scholar.html. Scholarship applications must be postmarked no later than **March 31**. **Awards** at each Annual Meeting: Best Student Paper Award, and Best Poster Award.

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 U\$15.00 for Africa, Asia & the Pacific region (includes Australia and New Zealand).



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December 2005
ISSN 0732-6041

Volume 38, Number 4
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 MARCH 1, 2006. 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 Robert Cushman

Great news! Over the past two years AASP has made great strides in increasing the visibility and availability of its publications to the broader scientific community. Our journal, *Palynology* is now included in the BioOne and GeoScience World databases. If you have not checked the AASP website lately, then you may not know that our journal *Palynology* was also just approved for inclusion in the Thomson ISI database. As a result, *Palynology* can now compete on a level playing field with other professional journals for your manuscripts. *Palynology* will now have an impact factor that should make it more appealing for potential authors. Go to the AASP website at <http://www.palynology.org/news.html> and follow the appropriate links to learn more about what this means to you. Congratulations to AASP and special thanks to Martin Head, Jim Riding, Bob Clarke, Vaughn Bryant, and others for making this happen.

The AASP Board is discussing the possibility of publishing *Palynology* twice a year. Obviously, AASP would incur additional costs for publication and shipping an additional issue. The Board could probably justify going to two issues per year if there was a large backlog of quality manuscripts for *Palynology*. You can influence the Board's discussion on this issue by submitting your next manuscript to *Palynology*.

In the last newsletter I mentioned that the AASP Board is taking steps to address the gradual decline of membership in the AASP. We are moving slowly in this area and I do not have anything to report at this time. We will be able to spend more time on addressing this issue after January 1 and I will report our progress to you in the next newsletter.

Several AASP members attended the Geological Society of America Annual Meeting this past October in Salt Lake City, Utah. Bob and Carol Clarke, Thomas Demchuk, Carlos Jaramillo, Gary Thompson, and I were among the AASP members who attended. Through the efforts of Thomas Demchuk and Bob

Clarke, AASP once again had a great location among the other paleontology-related societies for our booth. Thomas Demchuk and I spent time manning the booth, giving away AASP souvenirs (i.e., lanyards and coasters) and selling AASP publications. The exhibit hall opened Sunday night during the icebreaker. Because no technical sessions were meeting during this time, we had a large number of people who came by our booth as they made their way around the exhibit hall. It was a great opportunity for us to raise the visibility of AASP among other geologists and paleontologists.

As you make decisions regarding which meetings to attend this upcoming year, plan to reserve 22-25 October 2006 for the AASP Annual Meeting in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. The 2006 Annual Meeting will be held in conjunction with the Geological Society of America Annual Meeting and promises to be a great opportunity for AASP to demonstrate the value of palynology to the geological community at large. Several theme sessions on various aspects of palynology are being planned. Owen Davis is coordinating a session entitled, Holocene Sequences of Environmental Disasters: The Terrestrial and Marine Palynological Records. Thomas Demchuk is coordinating a session on palynology related to coal geology and Doug Nichols and I are coordinating a session on using palynology to solve geological problems. If you are interested in coordinating a session on palynology or would like to participate in one of the sessions listed above, please contact our AASP representative to GSA, Paul Strother at strother@bc.edu. AASP will also be holding the normal board meetings and business luncheon at the Philadelphia meeting. It promises to be a great meeting and I look forward to seeing you there.

As we near the end of another year, I wish all of you a peaceful, happy holiday season and safe travels.

Bob Cushman
Loma Linda, CA

FROM THE DESK OF THE AASP SECRETARY-TREASURER

By Thomas D. Demchuk

Just a couple of items for all AASP members to take note of before the year 2005 comes to a close.

1. Membership Renewal: Approximately 275 AASP members recently received their first e-mail notification that their membership runs out at the end of this year. Thanks to many of you who paid shortly thereafter. Because of my personal timetable for the months of November and December I've not been able to produce the obligatory paper membership renewal form and send it out to all whose dues are coming to an end. I will definitely do that in early January so look forward to that in your mail if you need to update your personal information with the Association. In the meantime, if you did not receive the recent e-mail notification for membership renewal, that means you are paid up for 2006 and possibly beyond: you will NOT receive any renewal forms in the near future. You will only receive the renewal form when your membership becomes due.

2. AASP/GSA Meeting in Philadelphia: As many of you are aware, AASP will hold its annual meeting this year in association with the Geological Society of America in Philadelphia, October 22-25. All AASP members are encouraged to think about ideas for Topical Sessions for AASP to sponsor at this meeting. If you are interested in doing that, please contact Paul Strother (strother@bc.edu) who will act as coordinator for the AASP sessions at this meeting. We already have several good ideas for Topical Sessions which will translate into a scientifically exciting meeting for the Association, but please come forward with your ideas if you have them. We will also be having our Board Meetings as well as some social activities so all AASP members will have a great time in the City of Brotherly Love. Remember that as an Associated Society of GSA, AASP members pay the lower GSA member registration fee to the meeting.

3. AASP Coffee Mugs and Medallions: AASP has made a purchase of a number of coffee mugs and medallions emblazoned with the colorful and stylish AASP logo (see pictures). No AASP member should be without either one! The coffee mug is large, sturdy and dishwasher safe and only costs US\$10.00 (including postage and handling). The AASP medallion is brass and serves as a great paperweight, or simply something shiny to show off on your desk. The medallion costs US\$15.00 (including postage and handling). Most importantly, all proceeds from the sale of the mugs and medallions goes to the Scholarship



Fund which will help students participate in all AASP sponsored events. Get yours now!!

2006 is shaping up to be an exciting year for AASP and we look forward to all members taking part in the annual meeting in October, as well as the other AASP sponsored activities that will take place during the year. I hope all of you have a Merry Christmas season and a Happy New Year.

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



AASP Medallion



AASP Coffee Mug

PALYNOLOGY TO BE INCLUDED IN THE SCIENCE CITATION INDEX

On November 14, 2005, AASP received official notification of the inclusion of Palynology in Thomson Scientific's Institute for Scientific Information (ISI) abstracting service. This is the culmination of prolonged negotiations, and the submission of data and back issues, that started in June 2002 between the AASP Board of Directors and the ISI. We are therefore delighted to announce that, as of 2005, our journal Palynology will be included in the Science Citation Index, one of the principal databases administered by Thomson Scientific. Specifically, Palynology is to be included in the following Thomson Scientific products: Science Citation Index-Expanded (SCIE) including the Web of Science, ISI Alerting Service, and Current Contents/Physical, Chemical & Earth Sciences (CC/PC&ES).

Until now, Palynology has been at a disadvantage relative to similar journals because of its unregistered impact factor. This parameter is calculated by Thomson Scientific for the journals within its database only, and since they did not include Palynology, our journal had an impact factor of zero. Authors have chosen to submit their manuscripts to journals with the highest possible impact factor. Thus, recently, Palynology has not received its fair share of manuscripts. Henceforth, Palynology will be more attractive to authors of manuscripts pertinent to our subdiscipline.

This represents the recent significant growth in the stature of Palynology; the journal is now available online through GeoScienceWorld (GSW), BioOne and JSTOR. We anticipate an increase in manuscript submissions in the future. This should mean more articles, and hence greater value for your AASP membership. This will also mean more work for the AASP voluntary editors, and we anticipate growth of our Editorial Board. The AASP Board of Directors is currently considering increasing the annual number of parts per volume to two, in order that we maintain the rapid publication turnaround for which Palynology is acclaimed.

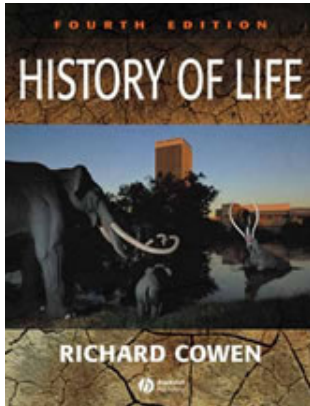
Palynology volume 29 was published on 25th November 2005.

Thank you for your much-valued support of AASP.

Jim Riding and Bob Clarke on behalf of the AASP Board of Directors and the AASP Foundation

BOOK REVIEW: "HISTORY OF LIFE"

History of Life, 4th edition, by Richard Cowen, Blackwell Publishing, Malden, MA, 2005, xii + 324 p. Softcover \$79.95, ISBN: 1405117567.



For a book purporting to provide a *History of Life*, this book by University of California at Davis paleobiologist Richard Cowen contains precious little about the history of plant life. This omission is particularly grievous in that the author was/is an institutional colleague of such illustrious paleobotanists/palynologists as Daniel Axelrod and Jim Doyle. In his description of the book in the Preface, Cowen does not even mention fossil plants. Instead, he freely admits that the book is "*largely*" a history of vertebrates. Consequently, the book is not really a *History of Life* at all.

The word palynology is not used in the book, although the work of a few palynologists/paleobotanists (e. g., Crepet, Dilcher, DiMichele, Graham, Knoll, Niklas, Pfefferkorn, Retallack, Schopf, Tiffney, Visscher, Wing, Wolfe) is at least mentioned or referenced. On p. 77 Cowen makes reference to a paper by Visscher and colleagues reporting an extreme abundance of fossil fungal spores in sediments at the P-T boundary. He also references several other palynologists when he discusses the "fern spike" at the K-T boundary. However, overall I was quite disappointed in how little information is presented on the fossil record of plants. To illustrate, Cowen writes: "Bees, ants, flies, and frogs have been preserved as fossils in amber", but appears to be unaware or overlooks the fact that leaves, flowers, twigs, spores, and pollen have also been preserved as fossils in amber!

When the author of this book does mention the fossil record of plants, it is with some outrageous statements that are sure to rile more than a few palynologists/paleobotanists. Here are a few choice examples: "We have no idea when plants first colonized land surfaces" (p. 95). [Exactly when plants first colonized land may be controversial, but we certainly

do have an idea of when this event may have taken place.] "The earliest spores that belonged to land plants come from Middle Ordovician rocks" (p. 98). "The first angiosperms appeared around the Jurassic-Cretaceous boundary" (p. 204). Also, "grasses . . . did not evolve until well into the Cenozoic" (p. 208); "the evolution of the first grasses [was] at the end of the Oligocene" (p. 249). And, last but not least, "Amazingly, the severe fluctuations of [Pleistocene] climate do not appear to have affected ice-age [sic] plants or animals very much" (p. 300).

In addition to such questionably accurate statements, throughout the text Cowen also makes surprisingly dogmatic statements, such as: "Snowball Earth calls for catastrophe to trigger the metazoan revolution. That simply can't happen; . . ." Another example of such dogmatism is on p. 80, where Cowen writes: "No reasonable person can doubt that the twin events [volcanic eruption and asteroid impact] must have caused these two major extinctions" (emphases added). Rarely have I seen such dogmatism in a textbook. Cowen's dogmatism comes through elsewhere as well in statements such as: "the first 'land' plants must have been largely aquatic, living in swamps or marshes" (p. 95, emphasis added). "All these adaptations must have evolved in a rational and gradual sequence" (p. 96, emphasis added). "Birds, of course, are derived diapsid, archosauromorph, archosaurian, dinosaurs" (p. 141, emphasis added). In my opinion, such dogmatic language is unnecessary and simply has no place in a science textbook.

Promotional information for this new edition states that the book is "designed for undergraduate courses in the history of life on our planet." However, in my opinion, it is too advanced for a freshman- or sophomore-level (lower division) course. In places, the book is greatly simplified, while in other sections the book reads more like a textbook for an upper division or even graduate course (for instance, the last quote above). The level of detail varies widely, with the greatest detail given to vertebrates (of course!) and the least to fossil plants.

For an undergraduate textbook, the text contains far too many personal opinions, interpretations, and even speculation, as opposed to a synthesis of current knowledge. This is particularly surprising following Cowen's statement in the Preface that "in science, the jury is always out, and new evidence comes in all the time." However, in the Preface, Cowen also freely admits that "space or conviction has led me to present only one side of an argument." To me, such a one-sided treatment is unfair to students taking their first introductory course in paleontology, although the

unfairness is slightly tempered by his note to students stating: "You don't have to take any of the interpretations in this book at face value. Facts are facts, but ideas are only suggestions. . . . The 1960's slogan 'Question Authority!' is still valid."

Besides containing lots of personal opinions and some questionable conclusions, this book also contains some editorial matters I find irritating. Inconsistent capitalization (e.g., Earth/earth, Formation/formation) even in adjacent sentences shows that the editors were not too careful with the text – particularly surprising for a book that is in its fourth edition. The layout design, consisting of a single 5-inch-wide column per page with a 2-inch outer margin (infrequently used for figures) is either a great waste of space or a great place to put in marginal notes, if you do not have an aversion to writing in your books and thereby lowering their resale value. I find distasteful the use of conjunctions (can't, won't, didn't), which may make the book harder to read for those students for whom English is a second language. The book contains some unnecessary tidbits or factoids, such as "Garlic keeps away insects as well as vampires and friends" (p. 211). The book also contains unfortunate generalizations that could confuse students, such as: "At some point, the first bird must have hatched out of a dinosaur egg" (p. 37).

Cowen has spiced up the text by including original limericks; for instance this limerick comes from the chapter on the origin of life:

*Their bacterial plight was pathetic
It's hard to be unsympathetic:
Volcanic heat diminished,
Organic soup finished,
Their solution was photosynthetic.*

Cowen has even spiced up the Further Reading bibliography at the end of each chapter by adding annotations such as "Glitzy"; "Do we care? (No.)"; "Competes for bad paper of the decade."; "Contains a lot of data and a lot of opinion, and it's often difficult to tell them apart." Incidentally, the latter statement is also true of Cowen's book.

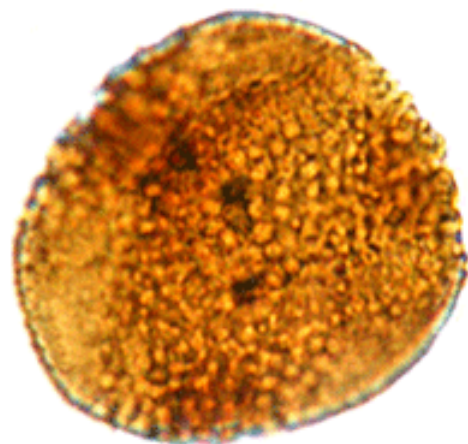
In the introductory first chapter, Cowen alerts the reader that his book contains four levels of interpretation: 1) inevitable conclusions, 2) likely interpretations, 3) speculation, and 4) guesses. Guesses, he explains, are completely untestable and therefore nonscientific ideas for which there is no evidence at all. Unfortunately, in the remainder of the book, Cowen does not label which of these four levels of interpretation he is using. Rather, he leaves it up to the unprepared student to determine the level of

interpretation. I recognize that textbook authors in paleontology and historical geology have a natural tension between presenting a factually accurate description of the fossil record versus presenting an interesting story full of imagination, speculation, hypotheses, and theories. This textbook author clearly errs toward the latter end of the spectrum.

History of Life is not a book on the history of life as much as it is a book of personal beliefs, minority opinion, unlabeled speculation, and plain guesses. In fact, the book contains too many of these to qualify as a textbook. To illustrate the extent to which Cowen has gone astray, in the next to the last paragraph he states regarding extinctions: "I believe that any rational God would have intervened long ago to prevent the wholesale destruction of so many of His creatures. We have only ourselves and one another to blame and to rely on" (p. 314, emphasis added). In my opinion, such philosophical statements of personal belief have no place in an undergraduate textbook, even if they are properly labeled as part of the author's personal belief system.

If you are searching for an undergraduate textbook or a general reference covering the history of life on Earth, I recommend that you skip over Cowen's book and consider instead a standard textbook such as *Historical Geology -- the Evolution of Earth and Life through Time* by AASP member Reed Wicander and coauthor James Monroe. I think that you would find the latter more satisfying and a better investment, rather than spending your money on an \$80.00 paperback containing so many inaccuracies and personal opinions dogmatically stated as facts.

Lanny H. Fisk
PaleoResource Consultants



Bombacacidites annae, key species
Paleocene of Neotropics

NEW HOME FOR IMPORTANT PALYNOLOGY COLLECTIONS

By David Jarzen

Two important palynological collections have recently found a new home at the Florida Museum of Natural History (FLMNH), Paleobotany and Palynology Laboratory, University of Florida, Gainesville, Florida. Thanks to the foresight and courtesy of Satish Srivastava and Jan Jansonius, these collections will be housed at the FLMNH permanently and will receive state-of-the-art curation and care.



Loeblich Pocock Collection

Alfred Richard Loeblich, Jr. (1914 - 1994), left a rich legacy in micropaleontology working on a variety of specimens including foraminifera, acritarchs, dinoflagellates, pollen and spores. In the sixties, while at the Chevron Oil Field Research Company (COFRC) at La Habra, California, Loeblich began building a modern pollen reference collection. His material came mostly from the Rancho Santa Ana Botanic Garden in Claremont, California, where Sherwin Carlquist, the towering botanist of taxonomic fame, identified most of the taxa collected for pollen preparation. The prepared, acetolysed pollen slides are housed in eleven cherry-wood boxes, each slide labeled in detail. An additional box of slides is labeled in the handwriting of Warren Drugg (also a Chevron employee). Satish Srivastava, while clearing out the palynology collections at Chevron, contacted me to inquire about the possibility of the FLMNH receiving this fine collection of more than 1000 slides. The FLMNH accepted the donation in November 2004 and began the curation of the beautifully prepared pollen slides.

In the mid-fifties, Stanley A.J. Pocock (1928 - 2004) while employed at Imperial Oil's newly established Palynology Laboratory in Calgary, Alberta, began a study of the spore-pollen assemblages of Jurassic and Cretaceous strata in western Canada. Inevitably this work led him to examine the pollen and spores of extant plants that displayed "primitive" characteristics,

in an attempt to define those taxa that may constitute a "link" between gymnosperms and angiosperms. As a result Pocock photographed, using SEM, several thousand taxa of "primitive plants". The negatives of these photos, as well as the aluminum SEM stubs, and vials of residue material provide a plethora of materials for studies on the nature of the pollen wall and surface features of extant pollen types. In addition to the SEM photographs, other materials accompanying the Pocock Collection include his notebook documentation, slides of fossil preparations, some which Pocock received from Bolkhovitina, and a miscellany of odds and ends which will need special curation techniques. Jan Jansonius is to be thanked for salvaging this material from the "dumpster" and for offering this valuable collection as a donation to the FLMNH. Art Sweet graciously covered the cost of shipping much of the material to Gainesville and Dave McIntyre is thanked for "hand delivery" of the SEM stubs to the AASP meeting in St. Louis, where they were transferred to me.

Use of the Loeblich and Pocock Collections by students and professionals may be arranged by contacting me at dmj@flmnh.ufl.edu.

These collections not only add significant taxa to the growing collections at the FLMNH, but they include the works, often the handwritten work, of several respected American based, oil company palynologists. As such I look upon these collections as valuable, not only for the materials they include, but for the history and legacy with which they are associated.

USEFUL DATABASE WEBSITES

Compiled by Paleobotany & Palynology Lab at the Florida Museum of Natural History

Plant Micromorphology Bibliographic Database www.rbgekew.org.uk/bibliographies/PA/PAhome.html

Kew Record of Taxonomic Literature, a database of references relevant to the taxonomy of flowering plants, gymnosperms and ferns. www.rbgekew.org.uk/bibliographies/KR/KRHomeExt.html

Index to North American Botanical Literature (NYBG) scisun.nybg.org:8890/searchdb/owa/wwwIABL.searchform

GEOLEX is a search tool for maps and literature on North American geologic unit names (formally recognized Formations, Groups, Members, etc). ngmdb.usgs.gov/Geolex/geolex_qs.html

Scott Russell's Botanical links Hundreds of well or-

ganized, many useful links, updated monthly. www.ou.edu/cas/botany-micro/botlinx/subject/

Online Map creation website: Give coordinates to define the boundary of your map and locality coordinates, and it will draw a publication quality map with your points automatically plotted in Adobe Illustrator format. www.aquarius.geomar.de/omc/

On-Line Software for Clustering and Multivariate Analysis. www.pitt.edu/~csna/software.html Computational Paleontology & PAST. www.notam02.no/~oyvindha/compal.html Phylogeny Programs. evolution.genetics.washington.edu/phylip/software.html

The Index Nominum Genericorum (ING), a collaborative project of the International Association for Plant Taxonomy (IAPT) and the Smithsonian Institution. ravenel.si.edu/botany/ing/

The International Plant Names Index (IPNI). www.ipni.org/index.html Indices Nominum Supragenericum Plantarum Vascularium Alphabetical Listing by Genera of Validly Published Suprageneric Names. www.inform.umd.edu/PBIO/fam/inspindex.html

Australian Botanical Names. www.anbg.gov.au/anbg/names.html Flora of China Home Page. hua.huh.harvard.edu/china/

Angiosperm Phylogeny Website. www.mobot.org/MOBOT/Research/APweb/welcome.html

Internet Directory for Botany Images. www.botany.net/IDB/botany.html Internet Directory for Botany. www.botany.net/IDB/

Links for paleobotanists with an upper Triassic bias. www.biologie.uni-hamburg.de/b-online/palbot/palbot1.html

Paleontology Database Network. www.ucmp.berkeley.edu/pdn/index.html

Plant Glossary. www.enchantedlearning.com/subjects/plants/glossary/indexp.shtml

Phylogenetic systematics (cladistics). www.nearctica.com/evolve/taxonomy.htm#anchor177886

The Families of Flowering Plants and IntKey. biodiversity.bio.uno.edu/delta/angio/

The Paleobiology Database Project. paleodb.org/cgi-bin/bridge.pl

The International Plant Names Index (IPNI) is a database of the names and associated basic bibliographical details of all seed plants. www.ipni.org/index.html

The PLANTS Database provides standardized information about the vascular plants, mosses, liverworts, hornworts, and lichens of the U.S. and its territories. plants.usda.gov/

W3TROPICOS provides new and improved access to the Missouri Botanical Garden's VAST nomenclatural database and associated authority files. mobot.mobot.org/W3T/Search/vast.html

Nomenclature of Seed database. Germplasm Resources Information Network - (GRIN). www.ars-grin.gov/cgi-bin/npgs/html/taxassoc.pl

Global Pollen Database. www.ngdc.noaa.gov/paleo/ftp-pollen.html

Each week in Science there is a section called Net Watch that gives 4 or 5 links that would be of interest to people in Science.

NEW URL FOR DUXBURY (1983) ONLINE DATABASE OF CRETACEOUS DINOFLAGELLATE CYSTS

By Susanne Feist-Burkhardt

The Natural History Museum webpages changed layout and were completely restructured. Therefore also the URL for the Duxbury (1983) online database of Cretaceous dinoflagellate cysts has changed. Please note the new URL: <http://www.nhm.ac.uk/research-curation/projects/duxbury/>



NEWS FROM INDIA

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

A conference entitled "Challenges in Indian Palaeobiology – Current Status, Recent Developments and Future Directions" was organized by the Birbal Sahni Institute of Palaeobotany, Lucknow during November 15-16, 2005, at the beginning of its Diamond Jubilee Celebrations. More than 100 palaeobiologists representing 34 Organizations participated in the same. Some of the important recommendations of the Conference are:

1. Greater interaction between Academia and Industry especially in the field of fossil fuel exploration studies.
2. Greater stress on palaeoclimatic studies, using latest tools with computer modeling.

An international Conference on applied and academic aspects of Palaeobotany and allied earth sciences is proposed to be held during November 15 – 17, 2006 at the Birbal Sahni Institute of Palaeobotany, Lucknow. Proposals for holding Symposia on selected themes are invited from fellow palynologists and palaeobotanists.

Recently Vandana Prasad et al. (2005, Science, 310: 1177-1180) have discovered grass (Poaceae) phytoliths in the dinosaur coprolites from Central India shedding light on early evolution of grasses in the Late Cretaceous in the Indian Sub-continent.

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POSTDOC IN TERTIARY PALYNOLOGY

Place of employment:

Geological Survey of Denmark and Greenland (GEUS), Department of Reservoir Geology, 10 Øster Voldgade, DK-1350 Copenhagen K, Denmark

Description of position:

A 2 year post. doc. position in Tertiary palynology is vacant from July 2006 in the Department of Reservoir Geology. The purpose of the project is to gain knowledge concerning oil generation from rocks dominated by higher land plant material, in particular coals. Vegetation-specific biomarkers will be integrated into the interpretations.

Further information:

Contact Senior Research Scientist Henrik I. Petersen, Phone: +45 38142455 or Email: hip@geus.dk
Applications must be based on the full announcement, which will be available at www.geus.dk/job.

The Geological Survey of Greenland and Denmark, GEUS, is a research and advisory institution in the Danish Ministry of the Environment. See also <http://www.geus.dk>.

CALL FOR PAPERS GENERAL ASSEMBLY 2006 OF THE EUROPEAN GEOSCIENCES UNION (EGU)

Austria Center Vienna
Vienna, Austria 02-07 April, 2006
http://meetings.copernicus.org/egu2006/general_information.html



Call for papers

Session SSP28

Applied Palynology

Convener: A. Götz

Co-Convener: S. Feist-Burkhardt

Deadline for abstract submission: 13 January, 2006

Contact: Annette E. Götz Institute of Geosciences
Martin Luther University Halle-Wittenberg
D-06099 Halle (Saale)
Email: annette.goetz@geo.uni-halle.de



AGENDA

2006

April 2-6, 7th Simpósio do Cretáceo/Brazil - 1th Simpósio do Terciário do Brasil in Serra Negra, Brazil.

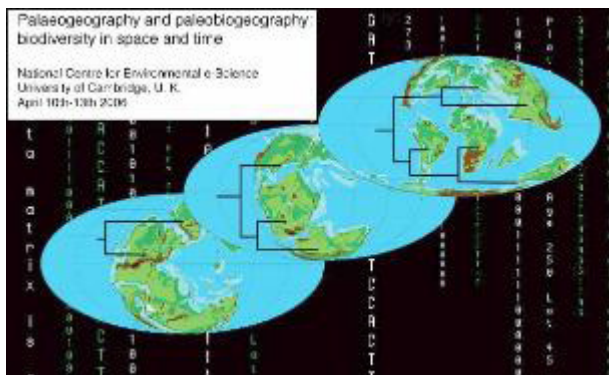
www.rc.unesp.br/igce/simpcret/simpcretaceo.html



April 10-13, Palaeogeography and Palaeobiogeography: Biodiversity in Space and Time at the University of Cambridge

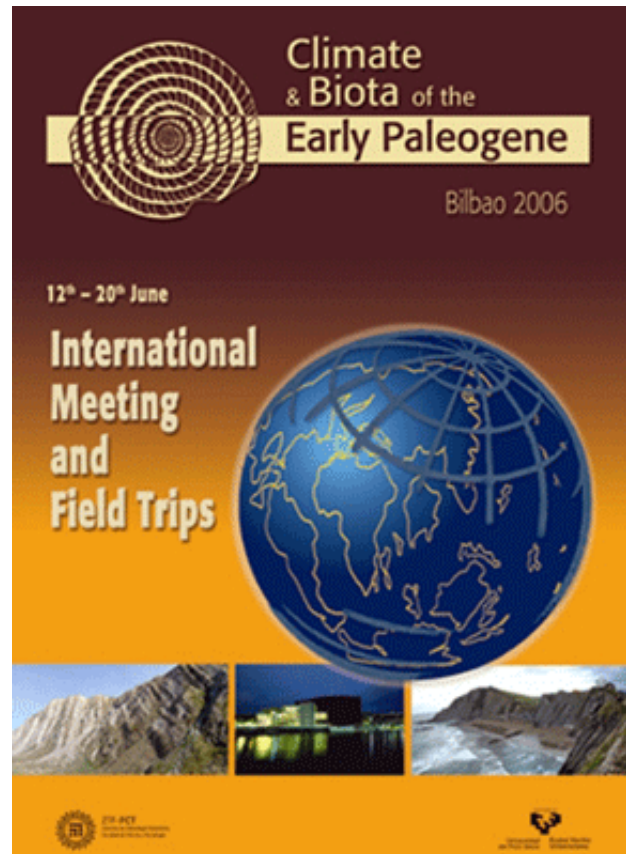
www.biogeography.org

This meeting aims to broaden scientific understanding of the evolution of Earth's biodiversity at a range of spatial and temporal scales by facilitating collaboration among palaeogeographers, palaeobiogeographers, and modern day geographers and biogeographers. The meeting will consist of a day of talks from invited speakers, four workshops, and poster sessions.



June 17-20. Climate and Biota of the Early Paleogene (CBEP), Bilbao, Spain

<http://www.ehu.es/cbep2006/general.html>



October 22-25. GSA/AASP Annual Meeting, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

<http://www.geosociety.org/meetings/2006/index.htm>