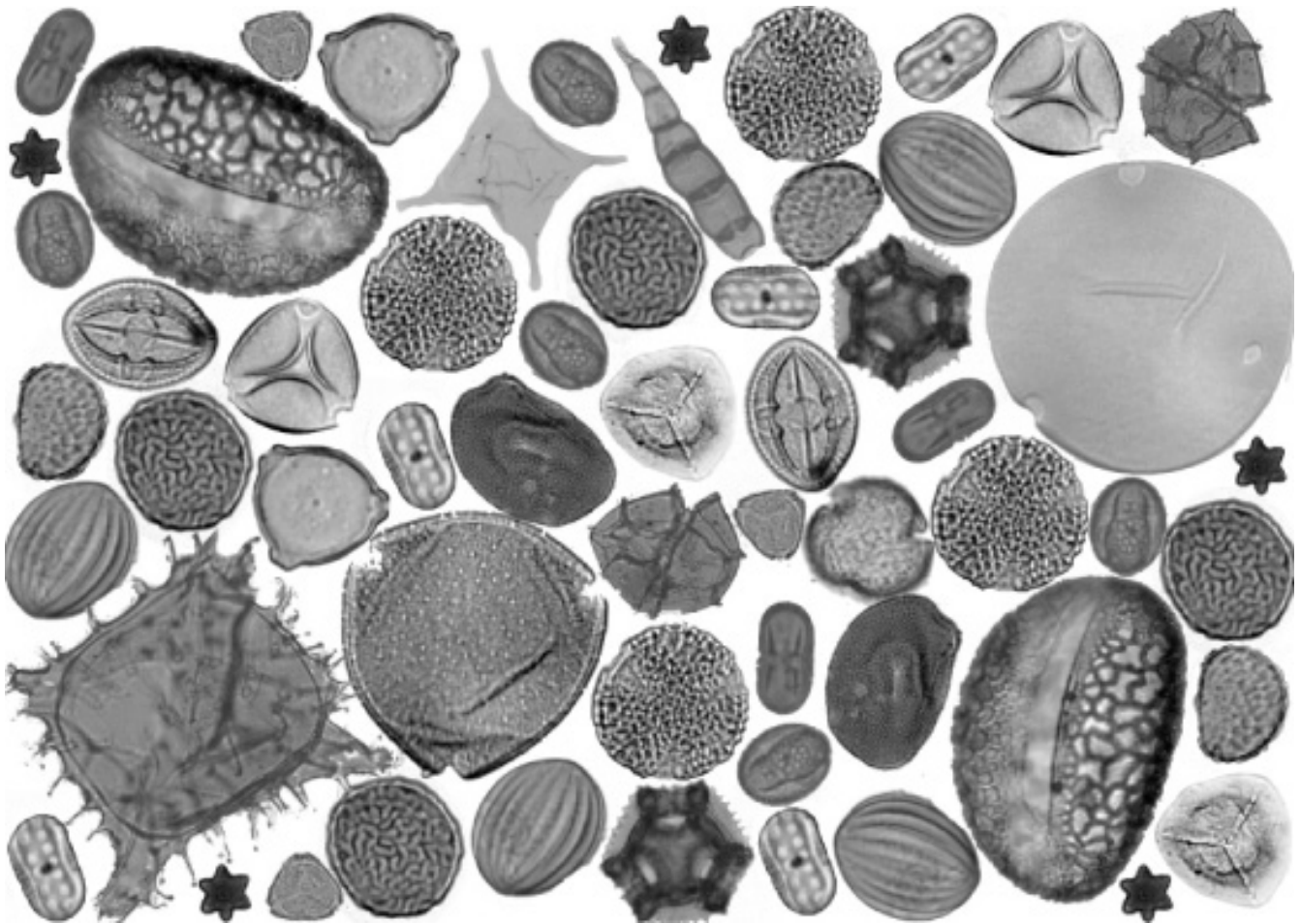


AASP – The Palynological Society

Promoting the Scientific Understanding of Palynology since 1967



NEWSLETTER

December 2024

Volume 57, Number 4

Published Quarterly



AASP – TPS NEWSLETTER

Published Quarterly by AASP – The Palynological Society

December 2024, Volume 57, Number 4

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AASP

The Palynological Society

The American Association of Stratigraphic Palynologists, Inc. - AASP - The Palynological Society - 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 200 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* (quarterly), 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-TPS 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)
Dr. Satish K. Srivastava (awarded 2006)
Professor Estella B. Leopold (awarded 2013)
Professor Vaughn M. Bryant (awarded 2016)
Professor David Batten (awarded 2018)
Dr. Robert Fensome (awarded 2024)
Dr. James Riding (awarded 2024)

AASP-TPS 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)
Professor Vaughn Bryant (awarded 2005)
Professor Alfred Traverse (awarded 2005)
Professor Bernard Owens (awarded 2011)
Dr. John E. Williams (awarded 2013)
Mr. Paul W. Nygreen (awarded 2013)
Professor Norman Norton (awarded 2016)
Professor George F. Hart (awarded 2020)

AASP-TPS Board of Directors Award recipient

Dr. Robert T. Clarke (awarded 1994)
Dr. Thomas D. Demchuk (awarded 2014)

AASP-TPS Medal for Excellence in Education

Professor Aural T. Cross (awarded 1999)
Professor Alfred Traverse (awarded 2001)
Professor Bill Evitt (awarded 2006)
Professor Vaughn M. Bryant (awarded 2013)
Professor Geoffrey Clayton (awarded 2016)
Professor Sophie Warny (awarded 2021)
Professor Francisca Oboh-Ikuenobe (awarded 2023)

AASP-TPS 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)
Professor Owen K. Davis (awarded 2005)
Dr. Thomas Demchuk (awarded 2009)
Professor Reed Wicander (awarded 2014)
Professor Fredrick Rich (awarded 2016)
Dr. James B. Riding (awarded 2016)
Professor Martin B. Farley (awarded 2019)
Professor Jennifer O'Keefe (awarded 2023)



AASP – TPS NEWSLETTER

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Jan Hennissen, Editor

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AASP NEWSLETTER GRAPHIC DESIGN (From December 2021 Issue)

Filipe Barreira, Laboratório Nacional de Energia e Geologia (LNEG), S. Mamede Infesta, Portugal

The AASP – TPS 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. Every effort will be made to publish all information received from our membership. Contributions which include photographs should be submitted two weeks before the deadline. **Deadline for submission for the next issue of the newsletter is March 1, 2025.** 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 members.**

A Message From Our President



Please Join us in North Africa !

REGISTRATION IS NOW OPEN

<https://palynology.org/57th-annual-meeting-aasp-the-palynological-society/>

Dear friends,

As President of the AASP- The Palynological Society, one of my main goals was to focus on making sure that we offer our member a high-quality, unique experience at our annual meetings.

Our meetings are the primary ways all of us members and non-members formally and informally gather in person and share ideas, meet new students and start new collaboration. We hope you will join us for our 57th meeting in the beautiful town of Rabat, Morocco.

The registration website is now open. Plan to submit your abstract in January or February at the latest to give us the chance to plan accordingly. We will keep you informed via emails all through this Fall semester and early Spring. Please consider registering early using the link above.



Collections at L'institut scientifique in Rabat

Dates

57th Annual Meeting AASP-The Palynological Society

Rabat, Morocco

April 22-26th 2025

Note that this **meeting will be earlier than usual** to avoid having to walk around Rabat when temperatures are unbearably high.

Organizing Committee

Hamid Slimani (Department of Geology and Remote Sensing, Scientific Institute, University Mohammed V of Rabat, Morocco)

Nadia Barhoun, **Naima Bachiri Taoufiq**, and **Touria Hssaida** (Department of Geology, Faculty of Sciences Ben M'Sik, University Hassan II, Casablanca, Morocco)

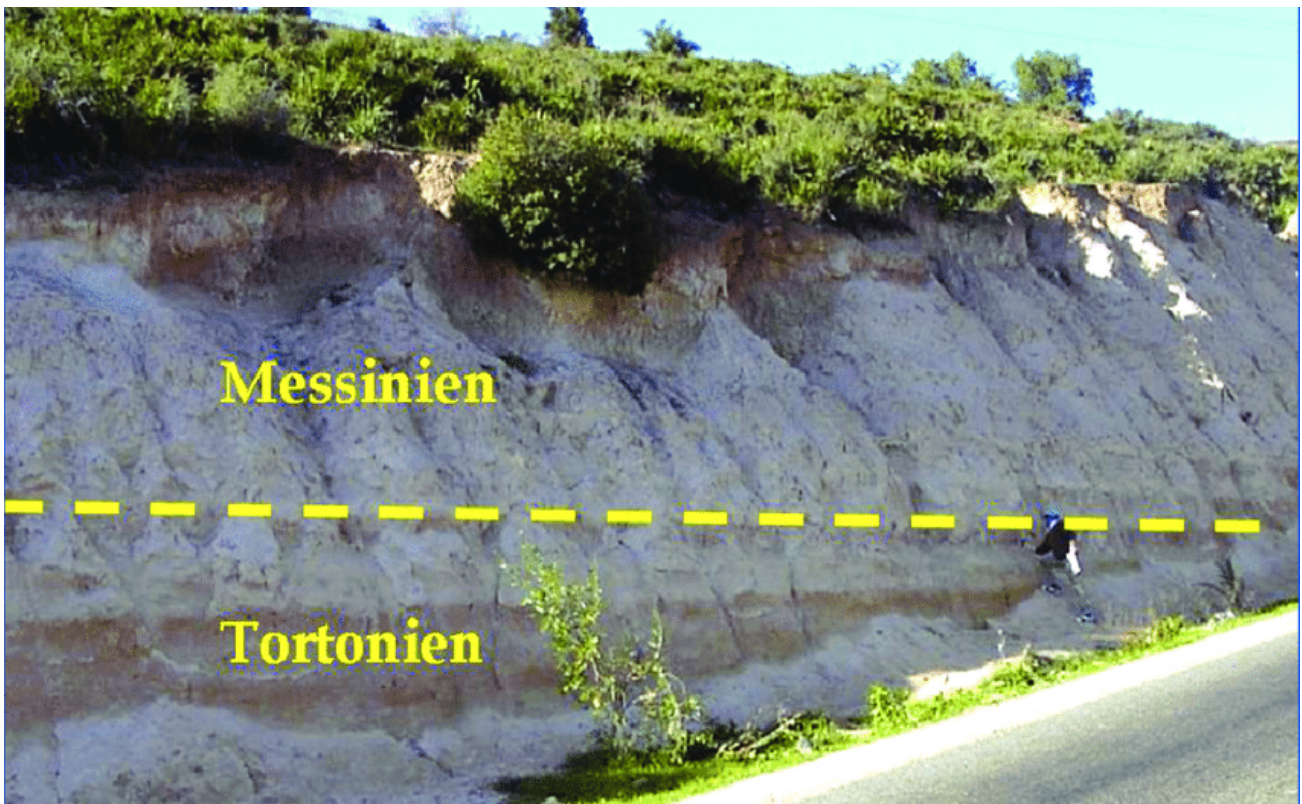
Ahmed El Hassani (Hassan II Academy of Science and Technology, Rabat, Morocco)

Sophie Warny (CENEX, Louisiana State University, Baton Rouge, US).

Tentative program

We are finalizing the details, but at present, the plans are as follow to keep special events such as Ramadan and Easter in consideration:

- Arrival in Rabat Tuesday April 22nd: **Ice-breaker** on Tuesday evening.
- Wednesday to Friday April 23d to 25th: three days of **talks and posters**, various **board meetings**, **early career lunch**, **business luncheon** and **conference dinner**. The details will be provided soon.
- -Saturday April 26th: **field trip**.



Field trips potentially include visits to the Palaeozoic basement rocks and the Miocene to Pliocene cover. Pictured is the Tortonian/Messinian GSSP in the Rabat Salé region.

Technical Sessions

Abstracts must be submitted **no later than 1 March 2025**.

The three-day program will include a wide range of general to technical sessions. We welcome abstracts on any aspects of palynology, covering deep time to present. We have identified five focus sessions in addition to a general session. Updates will be made as abstracts are being submitted.

Proposed sessions:

- Session 1: Mesozoic and Cenozoic Dinoflagellate cyst research.
- Session 2: Palynological data, climate reconstructions and model simulations.
- Session 3: Human-environmental interactions and vegetation change.
- Session 4: Paleozoic and Mesozoic palynology.
- Session 5: Applied palynostratigraphy
- Session 6: General palynology and new frontiers in palynology.
- Session 7: Neogene vegetation and climate in the Mediterranean region.
- Session 8: The role of palynology in carbon sequestration efforts and energy transition.

Registration and costs

	Early Bird (before 15 March)	Regular (March 16 onwards)
Student Member	\$200	\$225
Student Non-Member	\$250	\$275
Professional Member	\$280	\$310
Professional Non-Member	\$340	\$370

Optional extras: Conference Dinner (\$69), AASP-Business Luncheon (\$30), Post-Meeting Field-trip (\$50). Register on: <https://palynology.org/57th-annual-meeting-aasp-the-palynological-society/>

Accommodation and Travel

Please visit the registration website (link above) for hotel options and travel information. To check visa requirements to enter Morocco, please visit: <https://www.acces-maroc.ma/#/>

Student Travel Awards

Details to apply for student travel awards can be found on Page 16 of this Newsletter.

Managing Editor's Report

by Jim Riding

Palynology Part Four of Volume 48 (2024) was published during the last few weeks (<https://www.tandfonline.com/toc/tpal20/current>).

This issue runs to 215 pages, and completes this year's volume. The total page count for Volume 48 is 842, which may well be a record high!

Issue Four comprises 11 articles, and the contents are listed below. This part again represents a highly diverse spectrum in terms of the topics covered. In my view one of the highlights is an elegant study by Dafna Langgut on fruit-tree cultivation in the Central Jordan Valley at around 7,000 BP.

Our current 'backlog' of papers is very healthy indeed, and Part One of Volume 49 for 2025 is well under way.

The Editorial Team will be holding our annual business meeting with Taylor & Francis in mid-January 2025.

If you have any issues to bring up, please get in contact with me and we will raise any concerns that you may have with our publishing partner.

James B. Riding

Managing Editor, AASP – The Palynological Society
British Geological Survey
Keyworth, Nottingham NG12 5GG, UK
E-mail: jbri@bgs.ac.uk

20th November 2024

The contents of *Palynology* Volume 48, Part 4 (November 2024)

Review Article

1. Hooghiemstra, H. Celebrating Thomas van der Hammen's 100th anniversary: contributions of an explorer palynologist to neotropical paleoecology. Article number 2355811, 12 pp.

Research Articles

2. Negi, S., Rawat, R., Rawat, D.S. and Tiwari, P. Pollen morphology of Asteraceae from Garhwal Himalaya (Uttarakhand, India): part I. Article number 2341321, 12 pp..

3. Langgut, D. The core area of fruit-tree cultivation: Central Jordan Valley (Levant), ca. 7,000 BP. Article number 2347905, 21 pp.

4. Boutahar, A., Gonzalez, P.C., Picone, R.M., Crisafulli, A., Mesa, J.M., Redouan, F.Z., El Bakali, I., Kadiri, M., Lamrani, Z. and Merzouki, A. The relationships between modern pollen rain assemblages and vegetation from Sougna Mountain (Rif Mountains-Northern Morocco). Article number 2358016, 13 pp.

5. Ghavidel-Syooki, M. and Piri-Kangarshah, M.H. The biostratigraphy and palaeobiogeography of Cambrian and Ordovician acritarchs and chitinozoa from the Simeh-Kuh, NW Damghan City, the Alborz Mountains, northern Iran. Article number 2341324, 60 pp.

6. Premathilake, R. and Herath, J. A record of late Holocene sea level and human impacts from the southeastern coast of Sri Lanka. Article number 2365735, 17 pp.

7. Martarello, N.S., Fidalgo, A.O., Rossi, M.L., Martinelli, A.P., Oliveira, F.F., Catharino, E.L.M. and Luz, C.F.P. Pollen morphology and reproductive biology of *Calophyllum brasiliense* Cambess. (Calophyllaceae). Article number 2362465, 19 pp.

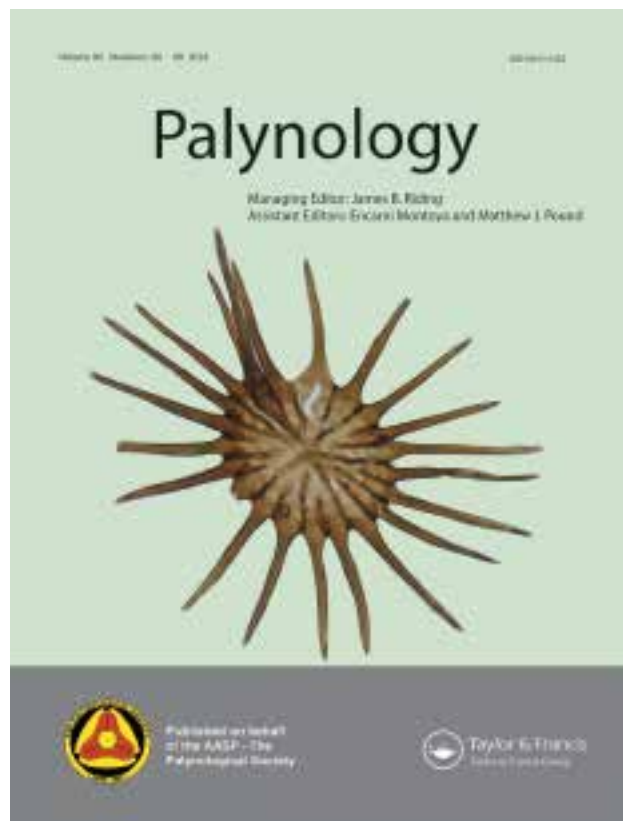
8. Ravn, R.L. and Zippi, P.A. *Zygnematiella*, replacement name for *Lecaniella* Cookson & Eisenack 1962 (fossil zygospore of the algal family Zygnemataceae). Article number 2368792, 2 pp.

9. Soliman, A., Riding, J.B., Smelror, M. and El Afty, H. 2024. A review of the Mesozoic–Cenozoic acritarch genus *Cyclopsiella* Drugg & Loeblich Jr. 1967 emend. nov. Article number 2371935, 18 pp.

10. Adkins, S.B. and Zavada, M.S. A review of the status of air quality monitoring in the Permian Basin, USA, and its implications for effective long-term monitoring of industrial operations. Article number 2370368, 22 pp.

11. Stephenson, M.H., Bomfleur, B., Jardine, P., Kerp, H., Blumenkemper, P., Bäumer, R., Abu Hamad, A. and Schneider J.W. Palynological variability within the Permian (Changhsingian) Umm Irna Formation (Jordan): implications for biostratigraphy and fluid-flow character in alluvial formations. Article number 2388134, 19 pp.

(215 pages)



Obituary - Keith Richards

by Fabienne Marret

It is with great sadness to share the passing of our colleague and friend Dr Keith Richards in August 2024, in North Wales (UK).

Keith graduated from Hull University in 1980 with a joint honours degree in Geography and Botany. He continued in research in tropical ecology and biogeography at Hull and Duke University, obtaining an MSc. in Quaternary palynology, based on a Holocene pollen study from Cameroon, West Africa, in September 1984.

During his time at Hull University, Keith was involved in original field work and biogeographic studies including on Krakatoa (Krakatau) in Indonesia (in 1979, 1983, and 1990), participating in pioneering work in Island Biogeography with J.R. Flenley, R.J. Whittaker and M.B. Bush, among others. Subsequent field work in rainforest ecology and biogeography was undertaken in Cameroon (1980-1981) and Costa Rica (1984).

He worked as a Schools Conservation Officer with BTCV (British Trust for Conservation Volunteers) in Hull (1982-1983) and briefly in Bangor (1984).

He joined Robertson Research in 1985 as a commercial palynologist based primarily in North Wales, with overseas postings to Singapore (1985) and Indonesia (1988-1992). He became increasingly involved in sequence stratigraphic interpretations, principally the integration of palynological, microfossil, electric log and seismic data.

He opted to become an independent consultant in January 1997 and set up KrA Stratigraphic Ltd. Since then, he continued with palynological and stratigraphic studies from around the world, with particular emphasis on South America, Atlantic Margins, the Caspian



Dr. Keith Richards

Sea, Black Sea and South East Asia.

Keith has organised and co-presented (with R.J. Morley) two advanced palynological workshops (December 2012 and December 2015) for the Vietnam Petroleum Institute, Ho Chi Minh City. He was very familiar with palynofloras of ages ranging from Recent / Plio-Pleistocene / Cenozoic / Mesozoic from most areas of the world including South America (Brazil, Colombia, Ecuador, Venezuela), Africa (Angola, Congo, Cabinda, Nigeria, Equatorial Guinea, Cameroon, Gabon, Ghana, Ivory Coast, Tanzania, Mozambique, Senegal and Libya), the Middle East (Egypt, Kuwait, Yemen and Oman), the Near East (Turkey, Slovakia, Bulgaria, Georgia, Black Sea, Caspian Sea,

Pakistan and India), Russia (including Sakhalin), the Far East (China, Taiwan, Myanmar, Thailand, Vietnam, Cambodia, Malaysia, Indonesia and Papua New Guinea), Australia and Western Europe (Netherlands).

It was Keith's life dream to study for a PhD which was made possible when he was a guest researcher at the Institute for Biodiversity and Ecosystem Dynamics (IBED), Faculty of Science, University of Amsterdam, between 2014 and 2019, researching the recent palynological history of the Caspian region under the guidance of Professors Henry Hooghiemstra (UvA) and Salomon Kroonenberg (Delft). His PhD thesis, awarded in 2018, was on Studies in Caspian palynology: six million years of vegetation, climate and sea level change.

He became an Honorary Research Associate at the University of Liverpool in 2019, consolidating many years of discussion and collaboration on Quaternary dinoflagellate cysts from the Caspian Sea.

Keith will be remembered as such a friendly person, considerate and generous and will be deeply missed by family, friends and colleagues.

Fabienne Marret



The Malaysian Pollen and Spore Atlas

by Bob Morley

The Malaysian pollen and spore atlas was finally published on 15th November 2024 by the Geological Society of Malaysia. The atlas was mainly put together during the two Covid years, but final publication was held up for a while with obtaining permissions etc.

The volume is available in digital form as open access but we will also be producing hard copies in a month or so. We haven't decided on the price for the hard copies but will try to keep it low.

I have loaded the atlas into ResearchGate so it is readily available for download [here](#).

The volume can also be obtained through: Geological Society of Malaysia via DOI: https://doi.org/10.7186/gsm_atlas112024

The summary from the Preface is as follows:

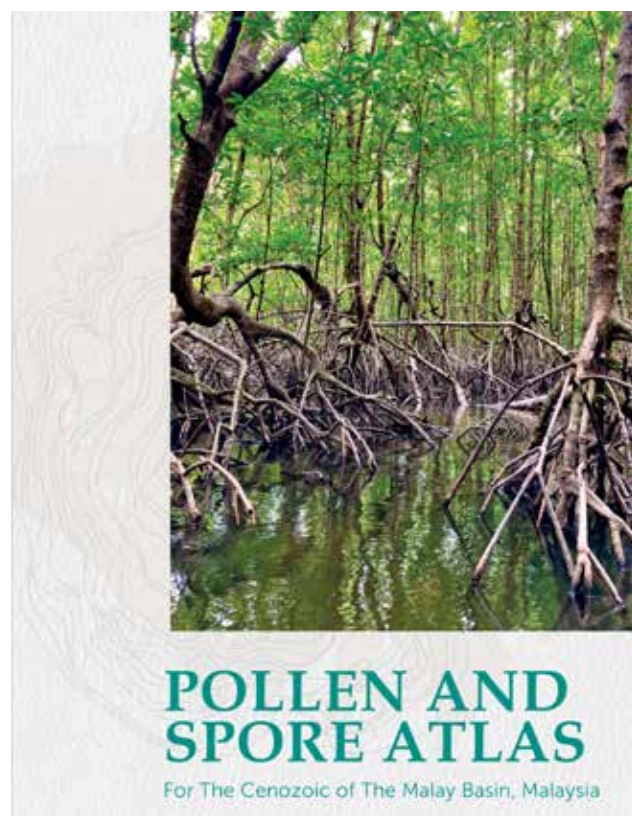
This Pollen and Spore Atlas for the Cenozoic of Malaysia presents for the first time detailed descriptions with full nomenclatural details of 186 pollen, spore and algal form-taxa that are important in the evaluation of the palynostratigraphy and environment interpretation in the Oligocene to Pliocene succession of the Malay Basin. The Atlas will also be useful in the neighbouring areas of Sarawak and Sabah, and in Indonesia, Brunei, Vietnam, Thailand and Myanmar, where the Cenozoic sediments yield a similar pollen flora.

The Atlas also discusses palynological sampling methods, processing, and interpretation of palynological data and presents a palynological zonation for the region building on earlier studies from the Malay Basin. It also discusses the mode of dispersal and deposition of pollen and spores into sediments and outlines the main vegetation types from which

the pollen and spores are likely to have been derived. The Atlas will be of use for stratigraphic palynologists working across the broad region, but also for workers on Quaternary palynology and archaeology, for whom a suggested name is given for each taxon in addition to the form-taxon name.

The Atlas describes 7 new genera, 55 new form-species, 4 new forms and 10 new combinations

We dedicated the Atlas to Keith Richards, I asked Keith to review it prior to publication by GSM, He was very happy to do this but unfortunately passed away just before final publication.



AASP FOUNDATION CENTURY CLUB

What?

The Century Club of the American Association of Stratigraphic Palynologists Foundation is an organization founded by the Trustees of the Foundation in order to provide persons with the opportunity to support activities of the AASP Foundation.

Why?

1. To develop an established level of giving that will continue to provide a solid financial base for the Foundation.
2. To provide unrestricted funds to support the various publishing activities of the Foundation.
3. To provide a meaningful organization and method of recognition of dedicated "friends" of the AASP Foundation.

How?

Your tax-deductible contribution of \$100 or more to the AASP Foundation entitles you to belong to the Century Club. The 2023. "membership" drive is on now. Your contribution may be made by personal check or by a pledge which is **payable on or before December 31, 2024.**

Join!

To join the Century Club, simply complete the attached Contribution/Pledge Form and mail to the address listed below.

The AASP Foundation is a 501 (c)(3) not-for-profit, public organization registered in the United States. This means that contributions to the AASP Foundation are fully deductible on your U.S. Federal Income Tax return. Also, many employers have a matching gift program whereby they match your personal gift to not-for-profit organizations. It is well worth the effort to explore this possibility concerning your gift to the AASP Foundation.

2024 AASP Foundation Century Club Contribution Form

Name: _____

Address: _____

Contribution Enclosed: \$_____ I wish to pledge: \$_____

Awards Committee News

By Marie Thomas

Society Awards Nominations for 2025

AASP–The Palynological Society has several awards that recognize outstanding service to the Society or to the discipline of palynology. The basic nomination procedure is similar for most awards (main letter of nomination accompanied by letters of support, which include documentation of the accomplishment). Details of the procedures for each award can be found at <https://palynology.org/student-support/professional-awards/award-procedures/>

The deadline for submission of society awards nominations is **March 1 of each year**. A complete list of previous winners can be found on the third page of this newsletter.

Distinguished Service Award

This award recognizes individuals who have generously supported the AASP–TPS with their work and resources over several years, and whose efforts have advanced the Society. Typically, recipients have held society office, participated in committees, or dealt with publications or meetings. There have been twenty recipients of this award, most recently Jen O’Keefe in 2023.

Honorary Life Membership

This is the oldest AASP–TPS award, with the first awards dating to 1975. This award is either bestowed upon individuals who have made a fundamental contribution to the discipline of palynology, or to people who have given devoted service to the AASP–TPS. Honorary Life Membership has been awarded to seventeen individuals, most recently to George Hart in 2020.

Medal for Excellence in Education

This medal recognizes leaders in palynological education. Nominees are expected to have considerable experience and accomplishment in aspects of academic education involving palynology. The medal has been awarded 6 times, most recently to Francisca Oboh-Ikuenobe in 2023.

Medal for Scientific Excellence

The Society’s highest award for achievement in the science of palynology is the Medal for Scientific Excellence. The official description lists “fundamental contributions to the development of the science of palynology” as the main criterion. Recipients should have a substantial research history in the field. The medal has been awarded fifteen times in the history of the Society, most recently to Robert Fensome in 2023 and James Riding in 2024.

Medal for Scientific Merit and Outstanding Promise

This newly established award recognizes individuals in their mid-career who have made important contributions to the science of palynology and who show the promise of continued excellence in the discipline. Typically, nominees will have no more than 15 years’ experience beyond their M.Sc. or Ph.D. graduation (excluding time spent in industry or on leave).

2025 Student Research Awards

Call for Applications

AASP–The Palynological Society is pleased to announce its program of Student Research Awards. For 2025, there will be two awards of \$3000 (US) each, to support research in any area of palynology. Student Research Awards are to be used for costs directly connected to carrying out research, such as fieldwork and laboratory expenses, but not for travel expenses to attend a meeting. Typically, these awards are provided to students in the preliminary stages of their doctoral research, but MSc. and advanced undergraduate students may also apply.

Basis of awards: The qualification of the student, the novelty and imagination of the proposed project, and the likelihood of significant contribution to the science of palynology are factors that will be weighed in the selection process.

Application procedure

The application form can be downloaded from this webpage: <https://palynology.org/student-support/student-awards/student-research-grants/>

Part A of this form is to be completed by the student, and **Part B** by the student's faculty supervisor. Applications must be accompanied by a photograph of the student (.jpeg format) for publication in the society's newsletter.

Additional material will not be considered.

The applicant's supervisor must submit both parts A and B of the form to the Awards Committee Chair, either as Word document or as a PDF:

Dr. Marie L. Thomas
AASP–TPS Awards Committee Chair
aaspawards@gmail.com

Please ensure that you have completed both parts A and B of this application form.

The deadline for applications is **April 15, 2025**. Late or incomplete applications, as well as those that exceed the stated word limits in sections A or B will be disqualified. As per society awards policy only students who are registered AASP–TPS members are eligible to apply (<https://palynology.org/join/#join>). Applications from non-members will not be accepted.

Student Travel Award 57th Annual Meeting, Rabat, Morocco

AASP–The Palynological Society is pleased to announce its Student Travel Awards program for 2025. These awards are designed to support travel for student members who intend to present a talk or poster at the 57th annual meeting of AASP - The Palynology Society in Rabat, Morocco.

Application procedure

The application form can be downloaded from this webpage: <https://palynology.org/student-support/student-awards/student-travel-awards/>

Part A of this form is to be completed by the student, and **Part B** by the student's faculty supervisor. Applications **must** be accompanied by a photograph of the student (.jpeg format) for publication in the society's newsletter.

The **applicant's supervisor must submit both parts A and B** of the form to the Awards Committee Chair, either as Word document or as a PDF:

Dr. Marie L. Thomas
AASP–TPS Awards Committee Chair
aaspawards@gmail.com

Please ensure that you have completed both parts A and B of the application form.

The deadline for applications is **January 15, 2025**. Late or incomplete applications will not be considered. As per society awards policy, only students who are registered AASP–TPS members are eligible to apply (<https://palynology.org/join/#join>). **Applications from non-members will not be accepted.**

AASP – Student Travel Award 2024: Alex Freitas



I graduated in Biological Sciences from the Universidade Federal do Rio de Janeiro (UFRJ) and earned a Master's degree and PhD in Ocean and Earth Dynamics from the Universidade Federal Fluminense (UFF), Brazil. My research is focused on Quaternary palynology (continental palynomorphs) and the analysis of marine microfossils (dinoflagellate cysts).

Participating in the AASP congress in Montpellier was extremely important for sharing and discussing my work with other researchers.

Undergraduate Student Awards

To support the teaching of palynology at the undergraduate level and to encourage and reward student achievement, AASP–The Palynological Society offers the Undergraduate Student Award. Each award consists of one year’s free membership to the Society. This free membership includes access to digital issues of the Society’s publications, the journal *Palynology*, and the quarterly newsletter; discounted registration fees at Society meetings; and eligibility for Society awards.

The awards are made annually to students nominated by faculty members teaching courses with significant palynological content. One student with meritorious achievement in some aspect of the course can be nominated per year, per institution.

The following institutions have approved courses from which undergraduate students may be selected: University of Southampton, Louisiana State University, University of Tennessee-Knoxville, University of Portsmouth and Morehead State University.

Additionally, course instructors who are members in good standing of AASP–TPS, and who teach an appropriate course, may nominate their course using the Registration Format found below. This should be cut-and-pasted into a word document and sent to the Awards Committee Chair at: aaspawards@gmail.com.

Upon course approval, instructors may nominate a student to receive the award by sending the name, institutional address, and email address of the recipient to the Awards Committee Chair and Society Secretary (s.stukins@nhm.ac.uk) at any time of the year. Additionally, faculty must send the name of the winner, a paragraph about their achievements, and a photograph to the newsletter editor (aaspnews@gmail.com) for inclusion in the March (awards between July and December) or June newsletter (awards between January and June) each year.

Undergraduate Student Award, Course Registration Form

- Nominating faculty member:
- University/Higher Education Institution:
- Course Name:
- Course Description and level:
- Average number of students registered in the course annually:
- Number of hours of palynological instruction:
- Criteria used to determine the winning student:
- Date:

Elections: Director-at-Large Candidates

AASP-TPS is looking a **Director-at-Large** on the society's board as advertised in the September 2024 issue of the Newsletter (Vol. 57, nr. 3).

Below are the biographies of two candidates for the position: Anthony Butcher and Damiaĕn Caĕrdenas



Anthony Butcher

Director-at-large

I'd like to put myself forward for the position of Director-at-Large of the AASP-TPS - a society that I have been a member of since my PhD days back in the early 2000s, and which has

helped me build both a network of colleagues in palynology and the ability to support my students today.

I graduated with a BSc in Geology from the University of Portsmouth in 1998, and was primarily interested in solving geological problems with fossils - this led me to a PhD working on Silurian chitinozoan biostratigraphy supervised by Dr David Loydell.

Three years of postdoctoral research followed, funded by ENI (and coordinated by David) looking at chitinozoans, acritarchs and carbon isotopes in a North African section, before starting as a Senior Lecturer at Portsmouth in 2008. I've continued to work closely with David on projects integrating graptolite, chitinozoan, and carbon isotope data, and have published on strata from North America to North Africa and the Middle East, written the chapter on chitinozoans for the *Geologic*

Time Scale 2020, and was involved in establishing the new base-Aeronian GSSP in the Czech Republic.

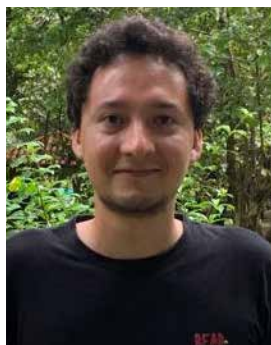
My primary role here at the University of Portsmouth is as the course lead for our BSc (Hons) Palaeontology degree, which has an ever-increasing cohort of students. While most of them are dinosaur-mad, I make it my goal (along with our other resident micropalaeontologist) to turn at least some of them away from the dark side towards palynology, with a steady (albeit small) rate of success - sadly, most still love dinosaurs more than dinoflagellates.

While specialising in chitinozoans, I find myself supervising final-year dissertation projects on everything from Wealden spores to Chalk dinoflagellates and Pleistocene pollen, putting the students in touch with specialists when needed and starting them towards building their own networks. We make full use of the AASP Undergraduate Student Award, nominating the student achieving the highest grade in a palynofacies project they undertake in a second year module.

Due to my course admin role and undergraduate teaching, I don't have as much time as I'd like to devote to research, but I continue to support the next generation of palynology PhD and MRes students on diverse projects and collaborations, most recently co-supervising Dr Sonia Camina's PhD in Argentina (an enthusiastic new chitinozoan researcher) and several MRes students here at Portsmouth (on projects from the Carboniferous to the Cretaceous).

Despite my own limited outputs, I am keen to become a Director-at-Large and support the AASP-TPS due to the continuous efforts that

the society (and its community) put into supporting young researchers at the start of their career (through travel and research grants), and encouraging potential palynologists through the undergraduate awards. With fewer and fewer places now teaching palynology, and the diminishing pool of people entering the field, it's more important than ever to maintain (and look to expand) these efforts.



Damiaën Caërdenas

Director-at-large

I am a geologist and palynologist, and recently appointed as Assistant Professor at the Universidad Nacional de Colombia. I earned a BSc in Geology from the Universidad Nacional de

Colombia in 2012 and a PhD in Geology and Geophysics from Missouri University of Science and Technology (Missouri S&T) in 2021.

During my senior year as an undergraduate student, I was introduced to paleopalynology during an intensive one-week workshop about the applications of palynology in both academia and the oil industry, which stimulated me to study palynology farther.

My first steps into this field were under the guidance of Felipe de la Parra, who supervised my undergraduate research and thesis on the application of quantitative morphologic analyses of closely related pollen morphospecies to improve the taxonomic resolution of biostratigraphic data.

On completion of my bachelors, I joined Felipe's biostratigraphy team at the Colombian Petroleum Institute, where I worked for two and a half years as a junior palynologist analyzing Cretaceous pollen, spores and dinocysts from different sedimentary basins in Colombia.

Afterwards, I headed to the Smithsonian Tropical Research Institute in Panama to intern at Carlos Jaramillo's lab for two years, where I conducted research on Late Cretaceous dinocyst taxonomy and participated in several geological and paleontological field trips across Panama.

During my PhD studies at Missouri S&T under the supervision of Francisca Oboh-Ikuenobe and Carlos Jaramillo, I studied the Neogene marine palynological record in the tropical Americas to improve the paleoenvironmental and biostratigraphical knowledge of the region.

After finishing my PhD, I returned to the Colombian Petroleum Institute to perform a biostratigraphic characterization of several Neogene marine sequences in the Colombian Caribbean using dinocysts. Since July 2023, I undertook an Assistant Professor position in the Department of Geosciences, Universidad Nacional de Colombia.

I am honored to be nominated as Director-at-Large for AASP - The Palynological Society after having the privilege of serving as student Director-at-Large (2020-2022) and participating in the organization of the 53rd and 54th Annual Meetings. I look forward to continue contributing to our Society and to meeting you at any of the several annual meetings to come.



News from...the USA

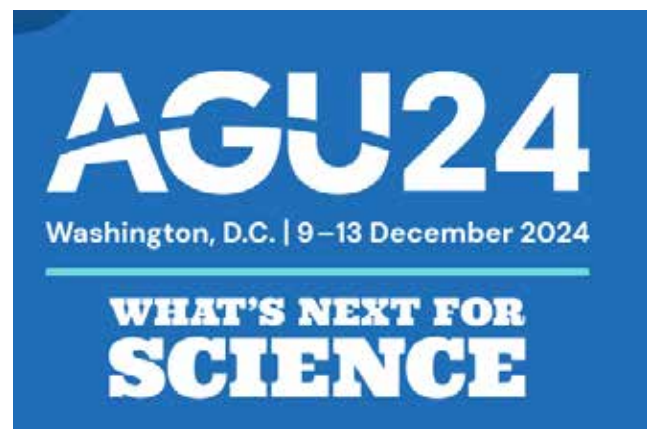
By Ingrid Romero

This month, from Dec. 9-14 the AGU 2024 meeting will be held in Washington D.C and several members of the society will be presenting last updates about their research. Here is the program's LINK to see what will happen in AGU. Some of the presentations and posters that will be presented are:

- PP11E-0615 Evidence for Increased Animal Pollination during the Paleocene-Eocene Thermal Maximum. Vera Korasidis, Scott L Wing, Paul Morse, Natasha Vitek and Jonathan Bloch.
- PP33F-04 MioVeg1: A Global Middle Miocene Vegetation Reconstruction For Climate Modelling. Catherine Bradshaw², Funda Akgün, David Cantrill, Manuel Casas-Gallego, Nela Doláková, Boglarka Erdei, Tamara Fletcher, Mine Sezgül Kayseri-Özer, Marianna Kováčová, Matthew J Pound, Diana Ochoa, Tammo Reichgelt, Torsten Utescher, Pierre Sepulchre, Jiagang Zhao, Natalie Burls, Sarah J Feakins, Dimiter Ivanov, Shufeng Li, Katharine M. Loughney and Yunfa Miao.
- PP31B-0478 A Paleoclimate and Paleobotanical Record Across Eocene Thermal Maximum 2 (ETM2) from the San Juan Basin, New Mexico, USA. Andrew Flynn, Emily J. Beverly, Kathryn E Snell, Vera Korasidis, Philippa Whitehead, Kristine L Zellman, Henry C Fricke, Thomas Williamson, Theodore Matel, Carly McCarthy, Luis Torres, Emily Stivison, Ariam Deleon and Scott L Wing.
- PP41C-0313 A new compilation of terrestrial temperatures during the Miocene. Lina C. Perez-Angel, Jiawei Da, Andrew G. Flynn, Rachel Elizabeth Havranek, Joseph Novak, Ingrid Romero, Mae Saslaw, Feng Zhu.
- PP31B-0482 Influence of Elevated CO₂ on the Carbon Isotopic Composition of Pollen.

Vera Korasidis, Richard Barclay, Allison A Baczynski, Jonathan P Wilson, Antoine Bercovici, and Scott L Wing.

- PP41C-0315 A wet or dry European and Northern African climate during the Miocene Climatic Optimum. R. Paul Acosta, Natalie Burls, Matthew J Pound, Catherine Bradshaw, Jessica L. McCoy, Martha E. Gibson, Jennifer M. K. O'Keefe and Sarah J Feakins.



AASP – TPS 50th Anniversary Jewelry Collection

Exclusive, Custom-made 50th Anniversary Jewelry

Limited-Edition and availability



Special thanks to John Firth and Ingrid Romero for palynomorph images.

Celebrate the 50th anniversary of AASP – The Palynological Society with a beautiful, sterling silver palynomorph necklace. The Society board worked with jeweler and designer, 'Science-inspired jewelry', to create these one-of-a-kind, unique necklaces in honor of our golden anniversary. There are a limited number available of two designs, a pollen grain *Macrolobium multijugum* (a) and a dinoflagellate cyst of *Diphyes recurvatum* (b).

Each necklace comes with a commemorative information card that includes a picture and description of the palynomorph. **The society is selling them now for \$60.00 OR one *M. multijugum* + one *D. recurvatum* for \$100.00.** This is a wonderful way to support AASP-TPS and is a great conversation starter!

Payment can be arranged by contacting the AASP-TPS Treasurer, Vladimir Torres, at vladimir.torres@exxonmobil.com.

Other News



NPP Workshop Göttingen • 2-6.06.2025

Information Letter 1

Dear colleagues,

We are pleased to invite you to the 10th Non-Pollen Palynomorphs Workshop in Göttingen (Germany) from **2nd to 6th June 2025**.

Our regular NPP workshop with its classical structure including oral and poster presentations, microscopy session and possibly excursions will be combined with the COST-Action "PalaeOpen" (<https://www.cost.eu/actions/CA23116/>), for which we will have an open discussion on nomenclature of the NPP taxa and start NPP taxa harmonisation in Neotoma.

Preliminary schedule:

- 02/06: Arrival, Ice-breaker
- 03/06: Presentations and posters
- 04/06: Presentations and posters, microscopy sessions
- 05/06: Discussion on NPP nomenclature, Neotoma workshop
- 06/06: Excursion

For preliminary registration, please fill out the registration form until the 31.01.2025. (https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSenwjnz4wrof74rDF3otOTbOF0eNGn6ceq4wQF3PZATSr4Zvw/viewform?usp=sf_link).

Based on number of participants, we will plan and calculate the costs and inform you in the 2nd Information Letter.

Deadlines:

- 31/01/2025: Preliminary registration
- 31/03/2025: Abstract submission and payment

We are looking forward to meeting you in Göttingen!

Best regards,
Lyudmila, Vlada and Lionello



Smithsonian Institution



The Open
University

TMS meeting of the Palynology group

February 11, 2025

The meeting will be online. It will include different talks about the latest findings and advantages in Palynology.

Deadline for abstracts in Jan 10, 2025. Link to download the abstract form [HERE](#)

More information about the meeting [HERE](#)



The Canadian Association of Palynologists (CAP) will host a joint meeting with The International Society of Testate Amoeba Researchers (ISTAR) in Niagara, Canada in June 2025, a meeting that had been planned for the infamous COVID lockdown year of 2020.

It will be an opportunity to explore synergies between these two groups of researchers where considerable overlap already exists.

The meeting will be held **June 23-27 in St. Catharines, Ontario** (some AASP members will recall a joint meeting there in 2003) at Brock University and we are **currently calling for session proposals and volunteers for membership on the Organizing Committee.**

Information about the meeting is available at: [ISTA11/CAP-Niagara | Department of Earth Sciences](#). We hope you will join us in St. Catharines, which is easily accessible by air through Toronto or Buffalo International Airports, by train (VIA/AMTRAK), or by car (just off the QEW highway).



5th Palaeontological
Virtual Congress

Whither Palynology?

D. Oliveira, V. Smith & M. A. Lorente

Let's explore the future

Whither Palynology?



5th Palaeontological
Virtual Congress

This session aims to assess the progress of current research and highlight the rapidly growing role of palynology. With the advance of technology, palynology witnessed a rapid development of its capabilities in the investigation of high-impact topics in our modern society, including anthropogenic climate change, the use of palynology in forensic science, paleoclimate and the carbon cycle, pollen production and forest composition, and the quantification and prediction of palynological particulate organic matter dispersal.

Contributions exploring high-resolution imaging, automated data extraction, and interdisciplinary applications—extending to fields like archaeology, health sciences, and the food industry—are welcome.

Let's explore
the future