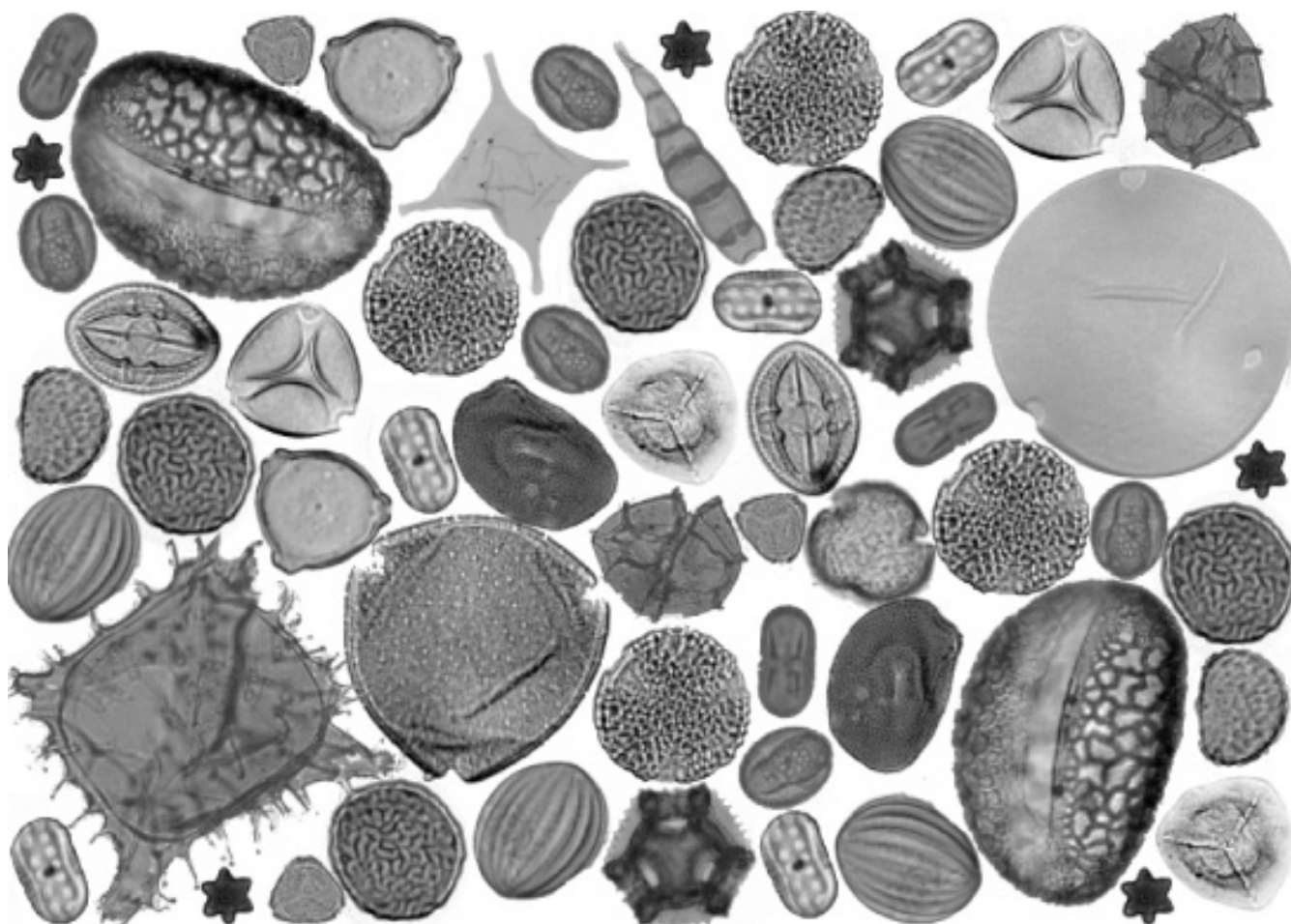




AASP – The Palynological Society

Promoting the Scientific Understanding of Palynology since 1967



NEWSLETTER

September 2026

Volume 59, Number 3

Published Quarterly



AASP – TPS NEWSLETTER

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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)
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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)

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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

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Dr. Thomas D. Demchuk (awarded 2014)

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Professor Geoffrey Clayton (awarded 2016)
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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)
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Dr. Donald W. Engelhardt (awarded 2000)
Dr. David T. Pocknall (awarded 2005)
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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)



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AASP NEWSLETTER GRAPHIC DESIGN (From December 2021 Issue)

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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 December 1, 2026.** 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

Hi everyone!

Trelew has been a roaring success, or so I have been told! Work unfortunately prevented my physical presence. Teaming up with Simposio Argentino de Paleobotánica y Palinología (SAPP) has meant the meeting had no less than 213 contributions across sessions on every part of palynology and palaeobotany. Well done to the organising committee for a fantastic meeting!

As we look towards our 59th Annual Meeting in 2027, it is with great pleasure that we can announce that we are going Down Under to enjoy fabulous Melbourne, Australia! The meeting will be held during 12th-16th July 2027 and more details will come soon. A first circular for the meeting can be found on page 19 and on the [AASP-TPS website](#).

We welcomed Manuel Vieira as our new president-elect, Marie McNeill as our new treasurer, Tony Butcher as our new director-at-

large and Amira Chalabe as our new student director-at-large onto the board in Trelew. An enormous thanks to Sophie Warny (past-president), Vladimir Torres (treasurer), Paula Narváez (director-at-large) and Shaan Heydenrych (student director-at-large) who have given the society so much and have stepped down from the board. Our society is in a fantastically strong position because of the work the board does.

Whilst the society has fantastic financial security and our membership is steady, we do need to think to the future. To this end, we need you! And every palynologist and student you know to join and retain membership. Only with a diverse demographic can we ensure that, not only will there be palynologists in the future, but members to lead the society.

But why should anyone join? Well for the Trelew meeting we awarded 12 student travel awards; we also provided three student research awards of around \$3000 each.



Managing Editor's Report

by Jim Riding

I have very good news indeed on the Impact Factor of *Palynology*! This year the Impact Factor increased to 1.7, up 0.4 from 1.3 last year. Furthermore, our ranking has risen ten points to 26/58, and the journal has been promoted to Q2 from Q3.

Obviously, we aim to continue this trend in the future. We now share the same Journal Impact Factor and ranking position as our principal competitor. In yet another metric, we now have a CiteScore of 2.9, and *Palynology* is now ranked 45/121 in the Palaeontology category; this is the result which has placed us back in Q2.

All of these data and metrics clearly represent very strong progress for our journal, which we sincerely hope can be maintained going forwards.

In other news, *Palynology* Volume 50, Part 3 was published online during early August 2026 and includes 13 items over 221 pages. These papers comprise one Data Note and 12 Research Articles; the full contents are listed below. We continue to provide items on a wide variety of topics in our subject. There are plenty of accepted papers in production and there is easily sufficient to fill up Part 4, which will be issued during early November 2026.

James B. Riding

Managing Editor, AASP – The Palynological Society

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1st September 2026

The contents of *Palynology* Volume 50, Part 3 (August 2026)

Data Note

1. Edwards, K.J., Sugden, H., Innes, J.B., Blackford, J. and Schofield, J.E. Palynological data from Loch an t'Suidhe, Isle of Mull, Scotland. Article number 2658690, 8 p.

Research Articles

2. Singh, H., Agnihotri, P. and Mishra, S. Biogeographical implications of the flora from the Middle Eocene Harudi Formation in the Umarsar Lignite Mine, western India. Article number 2634173, 25 p.

3. Torres-Leite, F., Carrijo, T.T., de Sousa, H.C.F., Mendonça, C.B.F., Garbin, M.L., Bruniera, C.P., Goldenberg, R. and Gonçalves-Esteves, V. Pollen morphology sheds light on the systematics of the tribes Palicoureeae and Psychotrieae (Rubiaceae). Article number 2646544, 19 p.

4. Çelemlı, O.G. Palynological characterization of Turkish *Clinopodium* L. taxa in Davis's classification and comparative analysis with the newly described *Clinopodium hakkaricum*. Article number 2657007, 12 p.

5. Jiménez-Zamora, T., Rivera-González, I., Galicia, L., Espinosa, D. and Luna-Vega, I. Palynological indicators for assessing ecological continuity in the tropical montane cloud forest of Mexico. Article number 2653524, 16 p.

6. Başköse, İ., Acar-Şahin, A. Pınar, N.M. and Yaprak, A.E. Pollen morphology of *Atriplex* L. (Amaranthaceae) from Türkiye and its taxo-

nomic significance. Article number 2660802, 15 p.

7. Smith, M.A., Reichgelt, T. and Correa-Narvaez, J. Environmental interpretations of pollen assemblages from the middle Eocene Clarno Formation of Oregon, USA. Article number 2631688, 37 p.

8. Sousa-Pereira, A.K., Oliveira-da-Silva, F.R., Silva, J.P., Luiz-Ponzo, A.P. and Ilkiu-Borges, A.L. Spore morphology and sporophyte traits provide new insights into evolution in the Lejeuneaceae subtribe Cyclolejeuneinae. Article number 2661946, 15 p.

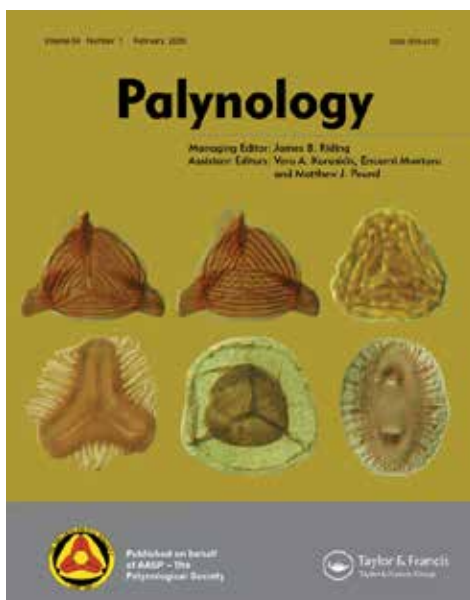
9. Gokul, S., Divya, R.K., Deshpande, A.S., Ravichandran, P., Ravikumar, K., Janarthnam, M.K., Rajasekharan P.E. and Vishwakarma, P.K. Pollinia storage and viability assessment in *Decalepis arayalpathra*. Article number 2664761, 7 p.

10. Césari, S. and Dueñas, H. The Late Devonian palynology of the Llanos Orientales Basin, Colombia. Article number 2648007, 24 p.

11. Suwanphakdee, C., Jarupund, P. and Hodkinson, T.R. Systematic assessment of *Thunbergia* (Acanthaceae) from Southeast Asia using pollen morphology. Article number 2642020, 19 p.

12. Buratti, N., Ruiu, E., Unida, S. and Spina, A. The palynology of the Lower Cretaceous (Barremian-Aptian transition) from the Gorgo a Cerbara section, northern Apennines, Central Italy. Article number 2659847, 14 p.

13. Gençay Çelemlı, Ö.G. First micromorphological characterization of pollen in the newly described species *Hesperis sivasica* (Brassicaceae) using integrated light and scanning electron microscopy. Article number 2685639, 10 p.



Awards Committee News

by Marie McNeill, Jan Hennissen & Sonia Camina

In the previous Newsletter (Vol. 59 Nr.2, June 2026), we presented the biographies and research projects of this year's winners of the Student Research Awards and the Student Travel Awards to attend the 2026 Annual Meeting in Trelew. Below, the final two Student Travel Award winners for 2026 present their projects. Congratulations to all of this year's winners!

2026 Student Travel Awards

Lucia Espitia-Aguirre

Universidad Nacional de La Plata, Argentina

Project title: Trophic State Changes in the Pampean Shallow Lakes La Corina and San Miguel del Monte (Buenos Aires Province) during the Last Millennium: Palynological and Macrofossil Evidences.

Supervisor: Dr. Sonia L. Fontana and Fabiana B. Drago

Biography: I hold a degree in Biology from the Universidad Nacional de Colombia. When I arrived in Argentina, I developed my first research experience in Quaternary paleoecology, analyzing plant and animal macroremains preserved in lake sediments. I am currently a doctoral student in Natural Sciences at the Universidad Nacional de La Plata, Argentina.

Research: My doctoral research investigates the paleoecological evolution and trophic state dynamics of two Pampean shallow lakes, La Corina and San Miguel del Monte (Buenos Aires Province), over the last millennium. Palynomorphs were analyzed together with plant and animal macrofossils, complemented by sedimentological parameters and radiocarbon dating.

La Corina spans the last 400 years, showing an initial clear-water state dominated by submerged vegetation. During the 19th century, alternating turbidity episodes may reflect the climatic and hydrological variability of the Little Ice Age (LIA) – Current Warm Period (CWP) transition. In recent centuries, eutrophication-tolerant species and exotic plants signal increasing anthropogenic impact on both the lake and the surrounding landscape.

San Miguel del Monte spans the last 1,250 years. A clear-water state dominated by charophytes persisted from the 8th to the 14th century, when a drastic shift toward turbid conditions occurred, possibly linked to the climatic deterioration marking the onset of the LIA. Since the 15th century, the lake has



remained predominantly turbid, with primary productivity dominated by phytoplankton. From the 19th century onwards, the establishment of human settlements in the area is reflected in the pollen record by the appearance of exotic arboreal vegetation.

This study highlights the value of combining palynomorphs and macrofossils for paleoenvironmental reconstruction of Pampean wetlands. The results reveal that each lake responded differently to external drivers, reflecting not only subtle regional differences in climate and distinct anthropogenic pressures, but also the unique internal ecological dynamics of each system. This underscores that trophic state changes in shallow lakes are the result of a complex interplay between external forcing and ecosystem-specific processes.

Maria Alejandra Voos

Loma Linda University, USA

Project title: Palynological evidence for a paleo-lacustrine system in the El Molino Formation (Maastrichtian-Paleocene), Torotoro National Park, central Bolivia.

Supervisor: Roberto E. Biaggi

Biography: Maria was born and raised in Oxapampa, a rainforest town in Peru, where she developed a deep love of nature as a child, hiking the trails of Yanachaga Chemillén National Park with her late mother, Maria Isabel. That early connection grew into a calling: she later joined the Park's Ranger Brigade, spending over five years leading environmental education programs and guided tours.

Raised with the steady support of her grandfather, Maria moved to Lima to study Environmental Engineering, where she joined her university's Geoscience Research Center and took part in fieldwork across Peru, including studies of fossil whales, mastodon remains, heavy-metal contamination, igneous rocks studies and others. It was during this fieldwork that she met her husband, Alex. Her path later led to a dinosaur excavation project in Wyoming, USA, and a scholarship to complete her Master's degree in Geology at Loma Linda University, where she is now pursuing her PhD in Earth Sciences.

Research: Maria's research focuses on the ancient environment of Bolivia around the time of the Cretaceous–Paleogene boundary, roughly 66 million years ago, when the dinosaurs went extinct. Little is known about this period in Bolivia compared to nearby regions, so Maria analyzed fossil pollen and spores preserved in a 40-meter rock sequence at the Río Sucusuma site in Torotoro National Park, a locality already famous for its dinosaur footprints. This is the first study of its kind for the site.

Her results show an abundance of freshwater algae and floating ferns, along with a variety of land-plant pollen, and no trace of marine microfossils. Together, this points to a shallow freshwater lake within a floodplain, rather



er than any ocean influence. One spore type found in the samples may also help pin down the precise age of the rock layers. These findings mirror a similar ancient lake environment already documented in Argentina's Yacoraite Formation, helping extend the picture of this ecosystem across the Andes during one of the most significant turning points in Earth's history.

The 58th AASP-TPS Annual Meeting in Trelew

by Paula Narvaez

A Successful SAPP & AASP-TPS 2026 Meeting in Trelew!

The 19th Argentine Symposium on Paleobotany and Palynology (SAPP) and the 58th Annual Meeting of AASP – The Palynological Society (AASP-TPS) have come to an end after an exciting week of scientific exchange, collaboration, and community building in Trelew, Patagonia, Argentina.

Held from September 8 to 11, 2026, at the Egidio Feruglio Paleontological Museum (MEF) and Trelew Convention Center, the joint meeting brought together researchers, students, and professionals from Argentina and around the world. The event was attended by participants from 21 countries, highlighting the truly international character of this joint meeting.

We are delighted to report that the scientific programme included an impressive 213 contributions:

- 7 Plenary Lectures
- 106 Oral Presentations
- 100 Poster Presentations

These contributions covered a broad range of topics in palynology, paleobotany, palaeontology, geology, palaeoecology, and related disciplines, providing a vibrant forum for sharing new discoveries, discussing emerging research, and strengthening collaborations across the international community (around 34 countries).





The meeting also featured thematic sessions, pre-meeting courses, field trips, social activities, and opportunities for students and early-career researchers, creating a diverse programme that extended well beyond the scientific sessions.

We would like to express our sincere gratitude to all participants, keynote speakers, session conveners, presenters, students, sponsors, supporting institutions, and volunteers who contributed to making this meeting possible.

A special thank you goes to everyone who travelled to Trelew and helped make this first joint SAPP & AASP-TPS meeting a memorable occasion for our community.

We hope that the connections made, ideas exchanged, and collaborations initiated in Trelew will continue to grow long after the meeting has ended.

Thank you for being part of SAPP & AASP-TPS 2026 — and we look forward to seeing you again at future meetings!





AASP FOUNDATION CENTURY CLUB

The Century Club of the AASP 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.

The goals of the Century Club are:

- To **develop an established level of giving** that will continue to provide a solid financial base to the Foundation.
- To **provide unrestricted funds to support various publishing activities** of the Foundation.
- To **provide a meaningful organization and method of recognition** of dedicated “friends” of the AASP Foundation.
- To provide funds to the Foundation in its efforts to **support students** in the study of palynology.

Your tax deductible contribution to the Foundation entitles you to belong to the Century Club. The membership drive is ongoing. Your contribution may be made by personal check, or you may also pay with credit card through the PayPal website (contact Thomas for that information).

Please complete the Contribution/Pledge form below and mail it to the address below:

Thomas D. Demchuk, AASP Foundation Trustee and Chair
14419 Lotusbriar Ln, Houston, TX 77077

The AASP Foundation is a 501(c)(3) non-profit public organization registered in the United States. This means that contributions to the AASP Foundation are fully deductible as a U.S. Citizen on your U.S. Federal Income Tax return. Also, many employers have a matching gift program whereby they will match your personal gift to a non-profit organization. It is well worth the effort to explore the possibility of supporting the AASP Foundation.

2026 AASP Foundation Century Club Contribution Form

Name: _____

Address: _____

E-mail Address (to send receipt): _____

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

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!

All jewelry can now be purchased at palynologyshop.org which is a tab on the AASP-TPS website (palynology.org).

IUBS-INQUA Workshop Report

by Meghna Agarwala, Betty Gimenez, Shalini Parmar & Zarina Bikmullina

How paleontological proxies can inform us about climate change impacts on biodiversity?

The International Union of Biological Sciences (IUBS) and the International Association of Quaternary Researchers (INQUA) jointly hosted a workshop for Early Career Researchers (ECRs) at the Centre for Ecological Sciences, Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore, from June 4 to 8, 2026. The aim of the workshop was to introduce scholars from the disciplines of ecology and evolutionary biology to researchers from the disciplines of paleobiology to incubate cross-disciplinary research that would allow great theoretical strides in biology and earth sciences. The International Organisation of Paleobotany and the International Society of Zoological Sciences were also involved.



Presentation by ECR Dorj Usukhjargal from the National University of Mongolia

Participants and resource persons at the workshop represented 12 countries, including Argentina, Germany, Japan, Mongolia, Namibia, the Netherlands, Panama, Poland, Spain, Tanzania, the UK, and India.

The first two days included talks by resource persons such as Dr. Carlos Jaramillo, Chair in Paleobiology at the Smithsonian Tropical Research Institute at Panama; Dr. Jason Ali, from the Museum of Senckenberg Dresden, Germany; Dr. Vandana Prasad, former Director of Birbal Sahni Institute of Palaeosciences, Lucknow, India; Dr. Lindsey Gillson, Director, Leverhulme Centre for Anthropocene Diversity, University of York, UK; Dr. Aniruddha Datta-Roy, Biological Sciences, National Institute of Science Education and Research (NISER)-Odisha, India; Dr. Meghna Agarwala, Environmental Studies, Ashoka University, India; Dr. P. Ramya Bala, School of Natural Sciences and Engineering, National Institute of Advanced Studies (NIAS), Bangalore, India; Dr. Jahnvi Joshi, Centre for Cell and Molecular Biology (CCMB), Hyderabad, India; and Dr. Mahi Bansal, National Centre for Biological Sciences (NCBS), Bangalore, India.

While Dr. Jaramillo and Dr. Prasad spoke about the paleo-history of the continent of South America and India respectively, and the role of geology and historical legacies in plant communities, Dr. Ali, Dr. Datta-Roy and Dr. Joshi spoke about using molecular techniques such as biogeography to reconstruct geological histories, speciation, extinction and broader patterns in evolution. Dr. Ali focussed on colonisation processes in Madagascar. Dr. Bansal focused on using geology to reconstruct and understand drivers of angiosperm diversity. Dr. Gillson, Dr. Agarwala and Dr. Ramya Bala



The working group planning a collaboration on the palaeoclimatic history of the Bay of Bengal discuss their project with Dr. Carlos Jaramillo, of Smithsonian Tropical Research Institute at Panama.

spoke about their work on using insights from paleo-ecology for present-day conservation and management of ecosystems.

The second day of the workshop also consisted of presentations from the ECRs. The ECRs presented their work on a range of topics. Some used traditional methods in paleontology to understand fossil horse bones (Karol Karbowski), mammoth bones (Ningnung Jakoniao) and the diet of fossil reindeer (Oliwia Oszczepalińska) to understand extinction, adaptation and range constriction in these mammals; others used traditional methods in ecology to understand the ecology of Przewalski's horses in Mongolia (Dorj Usukhjargal) or disease ecology in rodents in Tanzania (Mwajabu Selemani), while still others combined both paleo- and ecological perspectives to study paleo-parasites in South America (Augustin Bellusci).

The ECRs presented work that used a wide range of proxies and methods: geochemistry and isotopes, macro- and microfossils of plants and animals, ecology of modern animals, molecular ecology and biomarkers and ancient DNA.

The final two days of the workshop were dedicated to collaborative discussions and brainstorming sessions to foster new collaborations among ECRs participants. Renee M. Borges and Thijs van Kolfschoten, representatives of IUBS and INQUA respectively, opened the session by encouraging participants to interact with ECRs from different disciplines and continents, emphasizing the unique opportunity offered by the workshop to explore new collaborations and ideas.

Participants added keywords and concepts on a white-board that reflected the diversity of perspectives within the group. Some focused on time-scales, regions, or proxies, others

on disciplines, or on more precise research project ideas. Groups of ECRs with common scientific interests and complementary expertise organically emerged around a range of research themes.

Five main working groups emerged, each with three to seven ECRs, and the proposed collaborations covered a broad range of topics. One working group emerged around the study of parasites, bringing together ecologists, paleoecologists, and specialists in parasitology from both modern and paleo perspectives. This group plans to explore the potential of parasitology and paleoparasitology, together with complementary approaches, for reconstructing past ecosystems.

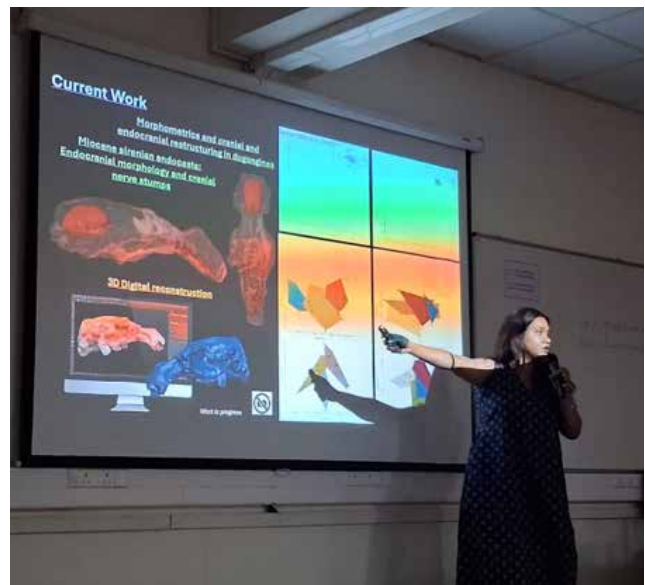
A second consortium brought together paleoecologists and archaeologists to investigate the distribution and habitats of mammals during the Pleistocene.

Another group united modern and paleoecologists around the study of grasslands as alternative stable states through a multi-scale and multi-proxy approach.

An additional initiative was launched by several participants to investigate the origins of tropical rainforest biodiversity in the Western Ghats, India, and compare them with the origin of other rainforests.

Finally, a working group was established to develop a project focused on the paleoclimate history of the Bay of Bengal that examined the coupling between terrestrial and marine ecosystems.

Each working group then gathered separately to further develop their project ideas. Discussions focused on identifying the specific expertise, interests, and potential contributions of each ECR, reviewing the available literature, identifying knowledge gaps, and exploring potential research directions, and complementary collaborators. To define the most appropriate next steps for each initiative, group



ECR Aatreyee Saha presents her work on reconstruction of skulls and palaeoneurology in Sirenians.

discussions explored the possibility and relevance of organizing a hands-on training workshop, a discussion workshop to involve additional collaborators, preparing a review paper, or developing grant proposals. Several groups considered applying for seed funding to facilitate future meetings, strengthen the consortium and enhance the expertise of members, and further consolidate the project team and its objectives before pursuing larger funding opportunities. Groups were provided feedback on their ideas from resource persons regularly. Funding opportunities such as the INQUA or IUBS seed grants were specifically highlighted as promising opportunities to support the continuation of these emerging collaborations.

The exchange sessions were productive and provided a particularly valuable platform for ECRs to establish new connections, strengthen interdisciplinary collaborations, and contributed to lay the foundations for new research initiatives. The global representation of the participants, with ECRs originating from almost all continents, and the variety of their disciplines and perspectives, supported the emergence of research questions that

spanned regions, ecosystems, and timescales. Overall, the initiatives launched during these two days have the potential to grow well beyond their initial stages, by involving additional researchers and institutions to consolidate working groups, and with the potential to generate lasting scientific collaborations in the years to come.

The workshop received positive feedback from ECR participants, many of whom enthusiastically expressed their interest in sharing reflections on their workshop experience. While each participant had a unique experience engaging with researchers from diverse scientific disciplines, the workshop was widely praised as an intellectually stimulating platform that fostered new research ideas and multidisciplinary perspectives on the factors shaping biodiversity patterns and trends.

The scientific sessions were praised for highlighting how palaeontological and palaeoecological evidence can be integrated with modern ecological and conservation studies to better understand biodiversity dynamics, climate change impacts, species dispersal, resilience, and extinction processes through time. The ECRs highlighted insights gained from diverse scientific themes, including tropical biome evolution, vertebrate dispersal, angiosperm palaeobiogeography, and biodiversity conservation.

The ECRs felt that a key strength of the workshop was its interdisciplinary and international character, bringing together ECRs and experts from diverse scientific backgrounds, including palaeontology, palynology, ecology, evolutionary biology, and conservation science.

Participants valued the opportunity to interact with scientific experts and fellow ECRs from different countries and disciplines, gaining exposure to a wide range of paleontological proxies, methodologies, and research priorities. The ECRs also appreciated the workshop for fostering interdisciplinary thinking,

potential collaborative research proposals and strengthening international research networks that may facilitate future funding opportunities through INQUA, IUBS, and related initiatives.

Participants further appreciated the welcoming atmosphere, the excellent facilities and green campus of IISc, Bengaluru, India, and field excursion to the Sericulture facility, which provided practical insights into sustainable resource management and the relationship between biological resources and human livelihoods. Overall, the workshop was regarded as a highly successful platform for scientific learning, networking, and collaboration, leaving participants with new perspectives, valuable professional connections, and renewed motivation for future research.



Obituary: Donald Benson Jr.

by David Pocknall

Don G. Benson, Jr., palynologist and long-time friend to many in the palynological community passed away on July 30, 2026, in New Braunfels, Texas, at the age of 85. Don was born on September 3, 1940, in Houston, Texas. His father was a petroleum geologist which meant the family traveled widely within the United States and around the world in connection with the geological exploration for oil and gas.



Don at an AASP Meeting in St. Catharines in October 1983.

As a youngster he spent time in Venezuela. Don completed an undergraduate degree at Tulane University in New Orleans, graduating in 1962, and later moved to the University of Virginia (UV) to undertake a PhD which he completed in 1965. He met his future wife Kitty at UV who was also studying for a PhD. After a short period teaching at Louisiana State University (LSU) in Baton Rouge they moved back to Virginia to take up teaching posts, Don at Virginia Polytechnic Institute (VPI). Don's graduate work to this point had been in the fields of experimental embryology, endocri-

nology, and cytochemistry. While at VPI Don earned a master's degree in Geology on the Cretaceous-Tertiary Boundary in Maryland, graduating in 1971. In 1975 Don began his career in the petroleum industry working for Texaco in New Orleans for 2.5 years and later with Amoco in New Orleans and Houston, who he joined in 1978. He retired from Amoco in 1994 and later joined the consultancy IRF. His focus was largely on Jurassic-Cretaceous dinoflagellates but he examined material from Cambrian to Eocene.

Don was an ardent supporter of AASP-TPS. He served as President-Elect (1985-1986), President (1986-1987), and Past-President (1987-1989). He was also part of the organizing committee for the 9th International Palynological Congress held in Houston, Texas, in 1996. Don and Kitty were regular attendees at AASP annual meetings. He will be sorely missed by the palynological community and by his family to whom we offer our condolences.

A more substantive obituary is being prepared for publication in *Palynology*.



Don in New Braunfels (TX) in May 2026.

The 59th AASP - TPS Annual Meeting 2027

by Vera Korasidis



Exciting news: AASP is coming to Melbourne

We are delighted to welcome the palynological community to Melbourne for five days of research, discussion and connection. The 2027 meeting will bring together researchers, students and collaborators working across palynology and palaeobotany, from the Precambrian to the Quaternary.

Call for thematic sessions

Help shape the scientific program. We invite proposals on focused topics, emerging research areas, innovative applications of established approaches, specialist subdisciplines and international collaborations in palynology and palaeobotany.

Submit a session proposal until **1 December 2026**

Email proposals and enquiries to aasp-2027@unimelb.edu.au

Important dates

1 September 2026	Call for thematic session proposals opens
1 December 2026	Thematic session proposal deadline
1 March 2027	Abstract submission opens
1 May 2027	Abstract submission and early registration deadline
1 June 2027	Final program published
12 July 2027	Conference begins



Conference venue

Conference presentations will be held in the Fritz Loewe Theatre on The University of Melbourne's Parkville campus. The theatre provides a dedicated setting for scientific sessions, while nearby breakout rooms with audiovisual facilities will support workshops, specialist meetings, and informal discussions. The campus is well connected by tram and bus services and is within easy reach of central Melbourne.

Why Melbourne?

The Parkville campus sits within a major education, research, health and cultural precinct, approximately a 15–20 minute walk from the city centre and close to Carlton, Parkville and Fitzroy. Delegates will be well placed to explore Melbourne's distinctive laneways, museums, galleries, sporting venues, gardens, restaurants and café culture. The city's compact centre and extensive public transport network also make it easy to combine conference activities with visits to nearby cultural and natural attractions.

- Melbourne Museum, Carlton Gardens and the Royal Exhibition Building
- State Library Victoria and the National Gallery of Victoria
- Royal Botanic Gardens Victoria and the Melbourne Cricket Ground
- Queen Victoria Market and the dining precincts of Lygon, Brunswick and Smith streets

About the host

Founded in 1853, The University of Melbourne is Australia's oldest university and a leading research-intensive institution. The School of Geography, Earth and Atmospheric Sciences brings together expertise across Earth, environmental and atmospheric research and provides a strong academic home for AASP 2027. The Parkville campus combines historic and contemporary teaching and research spaces in a lively precinct shared with major medical, scientific and cultural institutions.



Organising committee

Dr Vera Korasidis and Dr Bianca Dickson
School of Geography, Earth and Atmospheric Sciences
The University of Melbourne
aasp-2027@unimelb.edu.au

Join us in Melbourne • 12–16 July 2027

Upcoming Meetings



The
**Micropalaeontological
Society**

Welcome back to a second season of the TMS Palynology Talk series. This monthly speaker series aims to create a space and bring our palynological community together to hear and learn about the scientific developments and latest findings in our field.

Our first talk will be on **September 29, 2025**. The online talks will be take place through Zoom.

The speakers will be:

Francisca Oboh-Ikuenobe
Artai A. Santos
Alex Correa-Metrio
Silane da Silva

Encarni Montoya
Rachid Cheddadi
Phillip Jardine
Francesca Sangiorgi

Palynology Talk Series Website:

<https://sites.google.com/view/tms-palynotalk-series/home>

For further information about this event or future TMS events,
you can visit the websites

TMS Website: <https://www.tmsoc.org/groups/palynology/>

You can also contact us at **tmspaly@gmail.com**



TMS Annual General Meeting in 2026 **“Micropaleontology in the Heart of Poland”**

The TMS Annual Conference 2026 will be hosted in **Kraków, Poland, by the Polish Academy of Arts and Sciences**, Micropress Europe, the Institute of Geological Sciences of the Polish Academy of Sciences, and the Grzybowski Foundation **December 2-5th**.

The AGM will start with an icebreaker at Micropress Europe on the evening of **December 2nd**, followed by two full days of scientific sessions and workshops at the Polish Academy of Arts & Sciences. On 5th Dec there will be an optional visit to **collections at the European Micropaleontological Reference Center**.



REGISTRATION

Registration fee includes access to all scientific sessions and workshops, conference materials, coffee breaks, lunches, icebreaker party. **The trip (TBD) and conference dinner are paid separately.**

The TMS AGM will be held on Thursday late afternoon and will be streamed. This portion of the meeting is free to all members and a zoom link will be circulated by the TMS secretary to all members in advance so that you may join. You do not need to register for the meeting if you will only be attending the AGM portion of the event.

CONFERENCE FEES

Professional:

- Professional (TMS member): £115
- Professional (non-TMS member): £145
- Online Professional (TMS member): £20
- Online Professional (non-TMS member): £65
- Retired or Unemployed (TMS member): £20

Student

- Student (TMS member): £50
- Student (non-TMS member): £70
- Online Student (TMS member): £10
- Online Student (non-TMS member): £35
- Conference dinner: £30 (**paid separately**)

IMPORTANT!

PROGRAMME

Please find below an overview of the programme to facilitate your planning. The detailed programme will be updated here as it becomes available. If you have any questions, do not hesitate to contact the local organiser Prof. Mike Kaminski (makaminski17@gmail.com).

Wednesday 2nd Dec (all day, tbc)	Working Group Meetings and workshops (TBD)
Wednesday 2nd Dec (evening)	Icebreaker reception at Micropress Europe at the AGH University.
Thursday 3rd Dec (morning and early afternoon)	Scientific sessions at Polish Academy of Arts and Sciences
Thursday 3rd Dec (late afternoon)	TMS AGM (free to all members)
Thursday 3rd Dec (evening)	Conference dinner.
Friday 4th Dec (all day)	Scientific sessions at Polish Academy of Arts and Sciences / visit to the collections at the European Micropaleontological Reference Center (Micropress Europe)
Saturday 5th Dec. (all day)	Excursion TBD

ABSTRACT SUBMISSION

Abstract submission is open until **30th September, 2026.**

Please apply here:

<https://forms.gle/PA6KKNnufnMxMGjs8>

IMPORTANT!

The abstract volume will be available online in advance of the meeting.

If you have any questions, do not hesitate to e-mail the TMS Events Secretary at events@tmsoc.org

WORKSHOPS AND/OR SPECIALIST MEETINGS

These will occur on the Dec 2nd.

Do you want to share your knowledge with other micropaleontologists? Apply here to organize a workshop:

<https://forms.gle/nirJqyWWrxD8AErS9>

All workshops are welcome, whether its **scientific, soft skill knowledge or a working group meeting** searching for new members and presenting their research! Inspire others!

SPECIALIST MEETINGS

What we have so far:

The Neogene and Quaternary Planktonic Foraminifera Working Group Meeting

Lead: Tracy Aze (tracy.aze@plymouth.ac.uk)

Place: Micropress Europe, at the AGH University of Krakow.

Half day meeting for members of the NQPFWG to meeting and discuss progress.

WORKSHOPS:

Title TBD

Lead: Molčan Matejová Marina (marina.matejova@uniba.sk)

Place: Micropress Europe, at the AGH University of Krakow.

Half day workshop from Silicofossil Group, theme TBD.



ONCE AGAIN-IMPORTANT DATES

IMPORTANT!

- TMS AGM 2026 Workshop Application Deadline: **31 July 2026**
- Deadline for ECR travel grant applications: **31 August 2026**
- Registration and Abstract Submission Deadline: **30 September 2026**
- Notification of Abstract Review / Request for Revisions: **By 31 October 2026**
- Oral Presentation Submission Deadline: **23 November 2026**

INFO FOR PRESENTERS

IMPORTANT!

Oral presentations

Oral presentations should be prepared either as a Powerpoint (.pptx) or PDF file (or if you are working in Canva send a link to your presentation to Petra (events@tmsoc.org). Presentations will be 12-15 minutes (tbc; including discussion).

Online: You will share your presentation via Zoom.

DEADLINE TO SEND: 23.11.2026.

Poster presentations

All posters should be prepared in a portrait A0 format (84,1 x 118,9 cm / 33,1 x 46,8 inch). Posters will be on display throughout the conference.

FINANCIAL SUPPORT FOR ECRS TO ATTEND THE TMS AGM

IMPORTANT!

A limited number of grants up to **£250** are available to **Early Career Researchers** to support attendance and presentation at the TMS AGM. The deadline for applications is **August 31st**. Details can be found here – <https://www.tmsoc.org/grants/>



Visiting for the first time?

Check out Petra's travel blog [HERE](#) for a perfect few days before TMS

VENUE AND DIRECTIONS



Main building of the AGH University – home to Micropress Europe (Welcoming Reception).

The TMS Annual Conference 2026 will be hosted in Kraków, Poland, by the Polish Academy of Arts and Sciences, Micropress Europe, The Institute of Geological Sciences (Polish Academy of Sciences), and the Grzybowski Foundation.

The AGM will start with an icebreaker reception at Micropress Europe on December 2nd. The offices of Micropress Europe are on the second floor of the A0 (Main) building of the AGH University, on Mickiewicz Avenue, at the top of the grand staircase. **Look for the big green dinosaur.**

The conference will be held at the Polish Academy of Arts and Sciences, on Sławkowska Street, two blocks from the main square. Details of the location of the workshops to follow.

Main building of the Polish Academy of Arts and Sciences (Scientific Sessions)



TRAVEL AND ACCOMMODATION

Arriving by plane – Flights are cheap and plentiful to the Kraków Pope John Paul II International airport.

(check connections here: <https://www.krakowairport.pl/en/>).

Connections from the airport to the city by bus or train.

Arriving by train – Kraków is well-connected by national and international railroad. We encourage you to book a train ride instead of a flight when traveling from within Europe.

Travel within Kraków – It is easy to get around the city on public transport or by walking. The airport bus nr. 300 costs 6.5 zł, and drops you off at the National Museum, which is a 5 min walk from the AGH University of Krakow.

Kraków has a large variety of accommodation suitable for any budget.



CONFERENCE DINNER

The conference dinner will take place at a traditional Polish **Restaurant Babcia Malina** in the basement of the Polish Academy on the evening of the 3rd December. You will have a chance to try local food and local beer. The cost is £30.

Location: Szpitalna 38, 31-024 Kraków, Poland

POST-CONFERENCE EXCURSION OPTIONS – SATURDAY, 5 DECEMBER

Option 1: Wieliczka Salt Mine (UNESCO World Heritage Site)

Join us for a visit to the famous Wieliczka Salt Mine, a UNESCO World Heritage Site, including a guided tour in English. We will travel together by **public transport** from Kraków (no organized transport will be provided). The tour lasts approximately 3 hours.

Admission is currently **159 PLN** per person (**131 PLN** for seniors/students), payable directly at the site. Further details and timings will be shared closer to the event.



Option 2: Zakopane & Chochół Thermal Baths

For those who have already visited the Wieliczka Salt Mine, we are considering an alternative first half day trip to Zakopane, followed by a second half-day relaxation at the Chochół Thermal Baths. Depending on the level of interest, we may arrange private coach transport. Otherwise, the journey can be easily completed using **public transport**, with a train from Kraków to Zakopane and a short 30-minute bus transfer to the thermal baths. This combination offers an excellent **one-day excursion**, showcasing the beauty of the Tatra region and one of Poland's most popular spa destinations.