

# PALYNOS

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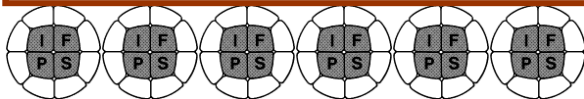
Volume 47 (2) – 2024

NEWSLETTER OF THE INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION OF PALYNOLOGICAL SOCIETIES

<http://palyno-ifps.com/>

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## IFPS BUSINESS

### PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE

I am delighted to report that Fabienne Marret-Davies, of the University of Liverpool (UK), has agreed to become Secretary-Treasurer of IFPS with immediate effect. Fabi could not attend the Prague conference; this appointment was discussed and agreed by the IFPS council last summer. She is sending out ballots for the next Vice-Presidents. I will hand over the bank account to her in due course. Welcome Fabi!

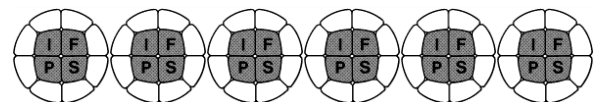
I am still trying to locate the whereabouts of the IFPS archive. These were apparently

curated by the late Alfred Traverse. Thus far I have had no luck so if anyone has any ideas, they would be most welcome. If these archives cannot be located, one way we could improve our sense of history is have all the *Newsletters* on our website. Unfortunately, we do not have the full Newsletter archive online; the oldest issue currently is Volume 3, Number 1 (June 1980). This dates from when IFPS was called IPC (International Commission for Palynology). If anyone has Newsletters prior to this, would they please let me know? My email address is [jbri@bgs.ac.uk](mailto:jbri@bgs.ac.uk). We can arrange for them to be digitised, and put on the website. Pressure on office storage space is very tight these days; I well recall recycling my old issues, albeit reluctantly. We fervently hope that someone out there has kept a full collection!

All best wishes for 2025.

Jim Riding, President of IFPS

*Email: [jbri\(at\)bgs.ac.uk](mailto:jbri(at)bgs.ac.uk)*



### NEW IFPS COUNCILLORS

We have had some movement during the IPC/IOPC conference renewing the IFPS board, and would like to give a warm welcoming to our new board members that were not introduced in the last PALYNOS.

Please see below a brief introduction of themselves, their new role and contact details. We would also like to THANK in capitals the help and support of the outgoing board members, it has been a pleasure to work with you all!

## JIANGUO LI – PSC



Li Jianguo is a professor of palaeontology and stratigraphy at the Department of Palaeobotany and Palynology, Nanjing Institute of Geology and Palaeontology, Chinese Academy of Sciences (NIGPAS) where he received his Msc and PhD degrees in 1997 and 2004 respectively. His main domain of study is on the Mesozoic and Cenozoic palynology, including pollen, spores and dinoflagellate cysts. His research interests cover a wide range of palynological and geological topics, from the most fundamental of taxonomy and morphology of palynomorphs to the specialization of the fossils in plant evolution, palaeovegetation and palaeoclimatology, palynofacies, etc. For years, he has devoted himself in the geology and playnofloras on the Qinghai-Xizang plateau and the Cretaceous and Tertiary terrestrial ecosystem and stratigraphy in China. He is current President of PSC (Palynological Society of China) and has served as councillor and treasure of the society for years (2005~2022).

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Nanjing Institute of Geology and Palaeontology, Chinese Academy of Sciences  
39 East Beijing Road, Nanjing 210008, China.  
[http://english.nigpas.cas.cn/en\\_sourcedb\\_nigpas/yjy/200907/t20090728\\_644276.html](http://english.nigpas.cas.cn/en_sourcedb_nigpas/yjy/200907/t20090728_644276.html)

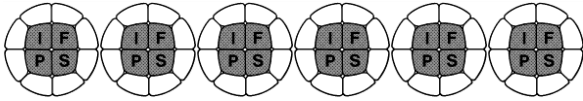
## DIMITRIY MAMONTOV – RPC



Dmitriy is research scientist at Department of Palaeontology, Faculty of Geology, Lomonosov Moscow State University. His PhD thesis, which focusses on the Palaeozoic origin of Gleichenialean ferns and systematic of Visean miospores from the Moscow Syncline, is nearly completed and will be defended in 2025. Dmitriy spent many years concentrating his research efforts on the micromorphology, variation range and ultrastructure of dispersed spores from Central Russia using combination of microscopic technique including light (LM), scanning electron (SEM), confocal laser scanning (CLSM) and transmission electron (TEM) microscopies. Dmitriy is a successful lecturer at the Department of Palaeontology who teaches General Palaeontology, Palaeozoic Palynology, Palaeobiogeography.

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<https://www.researchgate.net/profile/Dmitriy-Mamontov>



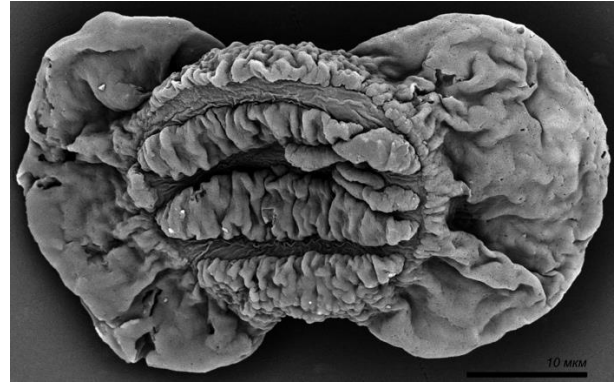
## NEWS FROM IFPS SOCIETIES

### RUSSIAN PALYNOLOGICAL COMMISSION



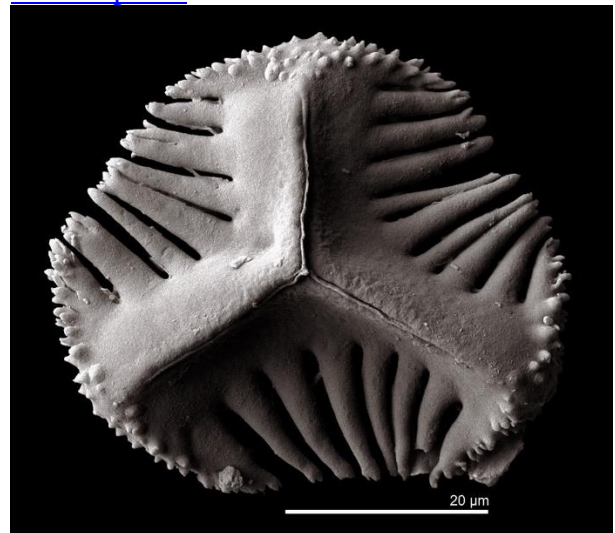
We are pleased to introduce the Russian Palynological Commission's new website, <https://polinos.ru/>.

Palynology has emerged as a popular topic for scientific education, incorporated under 'Nauka 0+', the Russian segment of the Science Festival. The public's interest in prehistoric and current spores/pollen has significantly increased in Russia. Over the past three years, a number of palynological hands-on exhibits have been organized on a Russian and international scale in cities such as Moscow (Russia), Shenzhen (China), Tashkent (Uzbekistan) and Minsk (Belarus) by IFPC councillor Dmitriy A. Mamontov. Moreover, under the auspices of the Russian Science Festival, Dmitriy submitted two electron photomicrographs (SEM) of perfectly preserved miospores to the Science Photo Competition. Each of the works attracted the interest of different individuals, ranging from children and students to expert palynologists. The first image is Early Triassic taeniate pollen *Lunatisporites transversundatus* (Jansonius, 1962) Fisher, 1979 from the Vologda Region (European Russia) (Fig. 1). This electron micrograph was accepted as the 'Featured picture' on Wikimedia Commons and chosen as Wikipedia's Picture of the Day of the April 5, 2024. Details are available via link [https://fr.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wikip%C3%A9dia:Image\\_du\\_jour/5\\_avril\\_2024](https://fr.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wikip%C3%A9dia:Image_du_jour/5_avril_2024)



**Figure 1.** Early Triassic (251 Ma) gymnosperm pollen *Lunatisporites transversundatus* (Jansonius) Fisher from the Vologda Region (European Russia). Once a few viable cells of male gametophyte were hosted inside this pollen coat. Electron photomicrograph of the pollen grain was done using scanning electron microscope TESCAN VEGA 3 (PIN RAS). Extracted in 2019 from Lower Triassic terrigenous rocks (siltstones) of the Nedubrovo section (Vologda Region).

The second one is a scanning electron image of the Mississippian miospore species *Diatomozonotriletes cervicornutus* (Staplin, 1960) Playford, 1963 from Ryazan Region in European Russia (Fig. 2). This photograph won the 'Microscopic picture' category in the Russian Science Photo Competition-2024! Details are available on the Competition organizers' website <https://naukatv.ru/film-science/photo>

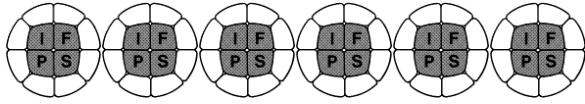


**Figure 2.** The fossil spore *Diatomozonotriletes* has been produced by unknown pteridophyte plant from early Carboniferous (346 Ma). Fossil biopolymer spore coat (miospore), attributing to extinct pteridophytes that once grew in Carboniferous tropical forests in the region of Central Russia. On the picture, there are three rays of laesure from which the spore cell could develop into

gametophyte as it happens today in pteridophytes (e.g. ferns and lycophytes).

*Dimitriy A. Mamontov*

*Email: palynologist.dm(at)mai.ru*



## REPORT ON THE PALYNOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF CHINA (PSC) CONFERENCE, TIANSHUI, AUGUST 23-26TH, 2024

The Palynological Society of China (PSC) hold her bi-annual conference on August 24–26, 2024 at Tianshui, Gansu Province, northwestern China. About two hundred participants including graduate students from research institutes, universities, and industrial companies attended the conference, with 74 oral presentations and 20 posters. The conference was started with a keynote lecture by Prof Fang Xiaomin from the Institute of Tibetan Plateau, CAS on the impact of the Tibetan Plateau on climate and biota-ecosystem co-evolution and a wide range of topics in the research and application of palynology have been deeply discussed or concerned, such as pollen and spore morphology, palynostratigraphy, petroleum and source application, palaeovegetation and palaeoclimate, pollen productivity and modern process, Quaternary vegetation and ecological protection, global climate changes, archaeopalynology, the origin of rice and agriculture, phytoliths, etc. It's very exciting that the conference attracted a large number of young students who introduced their research progress at the conference. Six of them were appraised as the excellent student reports. After the conference, a field excursion featured by the local geology, topography, plants and vegetation, and culture of the Silk Road in Gansu Province was organized.



**Figure 1.** Visiting the Dadiwan ancient human site.

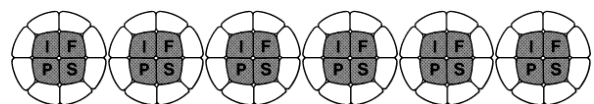
The conference has achieved great success, which must be attributed to the host of the Northwest Institute of Eco-Environment and Resources, Chinese Academy of Sciences, and the Tianshui Normal University. The next conference of PSC is scheduled to be held in Zhengding, Hebei Province in 2026. We look forward to an equally successful meeting there!



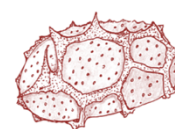
**Figure 2.** Excellent student reports award winners.

*Jianguo Li*

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## REPORT ON THE MEDITERRANEAN PALYNOLOGY SYMPOSIUM, SALAMANCA, SPAIN, JULY 17-19<sup>TH</sup>, 2024



**MedPalynoS  
2024**

Salamanca (Spain) 17-19 July

Mediterranean  
Palynology  
Symposium

The Mediterranean Palynology Symposium 2024 was held in Salamanca (Spain) from 17 to 19 July 2024 on the behalf of three palynological societies: Association des Palynologues de Langue Française (APLF), Gruppo di Palinologia e Paleobotanica-Società Botanica Italiana (GPPSBI) and Asociación de Palinólogos de Lengua Española (APLE). The venue was the Dioscórides building (Faculty of Biology, University of Salamanca), where most of the sessions were held in its assembly hall.

Different oral and poster sessions were held in the areas of Aeropalynology, Archaeopalynology, Melissopalynology, Palaeopalynology and Pollen Biology. Around 100 participants from different countries of the Mediterranean arc (France, Italy, Spain, Algeria, Turkey) together with colleagues from other countries such as Portugal, presented more than 50 oral communications and just over 30 poster communications. In addition, there were four plenary lectures, one for each of the areas discussed, given by renowned specialists. These plenary lectures provided comprehensive summaries of the state of knowledge in these areas, addressed future challenges and also raised interesting debates which were discussed between the plenary lecturers and the audience.

Throughout the conference, the annual assemblies of the scientific societies promoting the event also took place, in mixed face-to-face and virtual mode. In a relaxed atmosphere, the participants exchanged opinions and scientific views over coffee breaks and at the gala dinner. The symposium concluded with a trip to the town of La Alberca, located in the Biosphere Reserve ‘Sierras de Béjar y Francia’ and with a beautiful architectural and natural heritage.

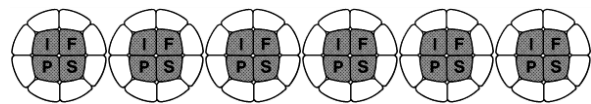
For more information, the website <https://medpalynos2024.org/>, where you can consult details about the scientific sessions, plenary lectures, sponsors or the scientific

committees as well as download the book of abstracts.



**Figure 1.** Symposium group photo.

*Estefanía Sánchez Reyes and David Rodríguez on behalf of the Organising Committee MedpalynoS 2024*



## **LATIN AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF PALEOBOTANY AND PALYNOLOGY**

As a contribution to the late Famennian, a new collaboration project on the D-C boundary has been ongoing between Streeel and di Pasquo since 2024 as members of the SDS. Due to the almost complete disappearance of the Liège Paleozoic palynology lab (Streeel’s personal comm.), which turned to Precambrian research a few years ago, palynologic samples from the Devonian to Carboniferous of some classic outcrops and wells in western Europe are processed at the Argentinian laboratory (LPP, CICYTTP-CONICET-ER-UADER) under the supervision of Mercedes Di Pasquo (See, for instance, [Streeel, M., di Pasquo, M. 2022. Quantitative approach by miospores of the Devonian-Carboniferous transition. Contributions to the Newsletter of the Subcommittee of Devonian Stratigraphy \(SDS, IUGS\) 37: 23-45](#), or [di Pasquo, M., Streeel, M. 2022. A Revision of the Devonian-Carboniferous Boundary in South America. Boletín ALPP, v. 22, p. 137-180](#)). Currently,

the main focus on that part of the sections not studied in the last PhD thesis written by Nadia Maziane-Serraj (2009), Liege University, which was supervised by M. Streeel, in collaboration with Ken Higgs (miospores), Michel Vanguestaine (acritarchs) and Jacques Thorez (for Famennian sedimentology).

Other contributions relate to several projects between 2018 and 2025 on Paleozoic rocks in collaboration with colleagues from Argentina and elsewhere. These projects also linked to me as a PhD supervisor, allowing the publication of several contributions dealing with Paleozoic floras, mainly from South America, the USA, India, and Turkey, as well as papers and abstracts in congresses. Other contributions relate to the Cretaceous-Cenozoic, and especially the Quaternary of Entre Ríos and Corrientes. See in networks <http://www.palino.com.ar>,

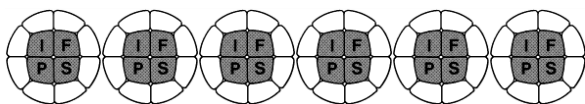
Academia: <http://independent.academia.edu/MercedesDiPasquo>,  
Research Gate  
[https://www.researchgate.net/profile/Mercedes\\_Di\\_Pasquo/](https://www.researchgate.net/profile/Mercedes_Di_Pasquo/).

Mercedes di Pasquo has been elected President of the Latin American Association of Paleobotany and Palynology (Asociación Latinoamericana de Paleobotánica y Palinología - ALPP), for the new period 2025-2029.

The ALPP journal volume 24 (2024) will be published at the end of December. See: <https://alpaleobotanicapalinologia.blogspot.com>

*Mercedes di Pasquo*

*Email: [medipa\(at\)cicytpp.org.ar](mailto:medipa(at)cicytpp.org.ar)*



## NEWS FROM MEMBERS

### THE MISSING LINK; THE CHALLENGE OF MAKING A CONGRESS PROGRAMME

## Henry Hooghiemstra<sup>1</sup> & Adam Lebeda<sup>2</sup>

[1] Emeritus, University of Amsterdam  
([h.hooghiemstra\(at\)uva.nl](mailto:h.hooghiemstra@uva.nl));

[2] ICT Manager, C-IN Congress Organizers  
([adam.lebeda\(at\)c-in.eu](mailto:adam.lebeda@ic-in.eu))

*The quality of the contents of congress programmes is declining. As an emeritus I have participated in some 15 congresses with parallel sessions since 1982, mainly IPC and INQUA congresses. Up to a decade ago participants received a 'Programme' showing sessions, talks, and a list of congress participants, together with a 'Book of Abstracts'. This tradition seems broken. Navigating through parallel sessions and listening to a maximum of talks of personal interest is not possible any more with the information provided. While congress presentations have reached high-tech levels in the digital era, the ability to provide participants with the adequate information at the right time has declined.*

In a multi-session congress, it is crucial to have tables showing all parallel sessions with room name as columns along the timeline for each day. All columns should mention first author, (short) title and time interval. When many parallel sessions occur two opposite pages are needed for such an overview. So, for a large four-day congress this would consume eight pages only. The use of colour may mark the main themes of the sessions. After having received this information at the registration desk an exciting job for the first evening awaits. All talks of interest can be highlighted; use a different colour for talks of minor and highest personal relevance. Hopefully, there are not too many talks overlapping in time. Such overviews will navigate you through the sessions. It is clear that speakers and chairpersons should stick to the time schedule. The distance between the different rooms should be taken considered if a switch of rooms is feasible. It also becomes clear which part of the day can be used for networking. A printed Book of Abstracts is a perfect place to make notes about unknown literature and all kind of hints that can be used for the master-, PhD- and postdoc projects ongoing in your

research group. During the months after the congress these notes can be discussed and perhaps implemented. Potential speakers may be identified to contribute to your institute's series of invited lectures. In this way a printed book of abstracts is a valuable source of information after the congress.

Here, we reach a delicate point in this paper. We should be restricted in our critics as our colleagues have spent much of their precious time to organize a congress. However, it seems problems arose during recent years because the development of congress programmes has become outsourced to commercial parties. Outsourcing is not necessarily problematical if a congress participant receives the information needed to navigate through a multi-session congress in time. At the XV International Palynological Congress (27-30 May 2024) the map with rooms and an overview of sessions was provided. However, the connection with the authors and talks was missing on paper, preventing participants from making their personal navigation route through the parallel sessions. Near the entrance of the rooms a monitor showed the authors and titles of talks in the particular room, but an overview for the full day was sorely missed: the *missing link*. As some participants do not need a book of abstracts, the new practice of ordering a printed Book of Abstracts at additional costs at the moment of registration, is an excellent idea to prevent wasting paper.

Discussions always need the opinions of opposite parties. Therefore, I invited ICT manager Adam Lebeda from the C-IN (Congress Organizers, Prague) on current practice of congress programs.

**Adam Lebeda:** Providing delegates with information regarding the conference content, latest schedule updates, and programme locations is crucial for the success of the event. When creating a printed programme, it is important to consider various deadlines. For physical production, allocating approximately 7 days, an extra day for transportation, and factoring in the graphic designer's workload is necessary. These timelines may vary based on the quantity of materials needed and the

complexity of the content. As our schedules grow busier, we tend to plan in shorter, more frequent intervals, leading to more frequent changes. This results in situations where the printed programme is often finalized and printed, only to become outdated even before it arrives from printing house. It is essential to understand that the conference is a dynamic entity, and changes can occur throughout its preparation, particularly concerning room assignments and speaker participation. While the overall outline of the conference programme may evolve, its fundamental structure likely remains unchanged. Abstracts have already been submitted and endorsed by the Scientific Committee, and pages containing up-to-date information remain unaltered. Nevertheless, modifications primarily occur within the detailed programme, including session schedule adjustments, speaker substitutions, presenter order changes, room re-assignments, and rescheduled or relocated sessions.

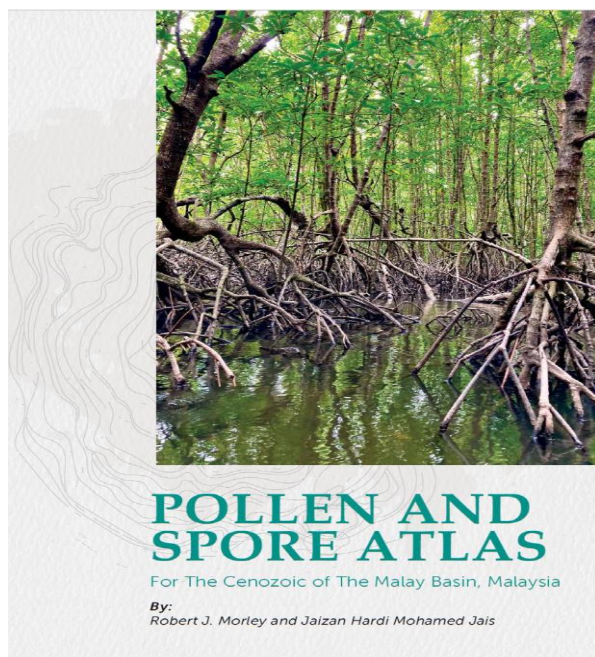
This is why we opt to present the daily overview through alternative platforms, such as digital screens displaying the current program, online searchable programme platforms on websites, or mobile applications. Once the printed programme has been created and circulated, it becomes static, unable to be altered, and ceases to provide accurate information to attendees. Over the past six years, I have provided guidance for over 30 congresses and conferences. During this time, I have observed a shift away from static programs towards dynamic alternatives that offer various additional features, such as full-text search and customizable search filters and also connection to multimedia content or interactive functions. These crucial tools fill the gap left by "the missing link"

**Henry Hooghiemstra:** Adams Lebeda's view on designing a congress programme provides an interesting view on current practice and arguments. The idea that recent congress schedules are busier than thirty years ago is a misappreciation of the past. I admit, in case of no-shows Adam's strategy has an advantage as gaps in the series of talks of a session can be

avoided by reshuffling the sequence of talks. However, the immediate consequence is that planning a personal navigation route through the sessions is not possible. Modern practice gives the impression that a commercialized congress programme is mainly developed on the days before and during the congress. Arguments to do so follow from the money-driven narrow time slot a commercial party has available. The needs of the congress participants, who all together are spending over an order of magnitude much more money, are being neglected in modern practice. Modern commercialized programming is driven by profit, not by providing congress participants the necessary information in time. Complaints echoed over the 2023 INQUA and 2024 IPC congresses; not too loud of course as participants are the guest of the hosting university and like to behave as a guest. My suggestion to the Boards of INQUA and IPC is to examine the opinion of their congress participants. We should not return home with frustration about the missed talks, but an exciting programming should make us smile.

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## THE MALAYSIAN POLLEN AND SPORE ATLAS



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 [here](#).

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.

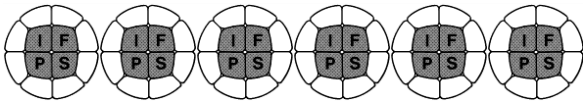
The Atlas also discusses palynological sampling methods, processing, and interpretation of palynological data and presents a palynological zonation for the region building on earlier studies from the Malay Basin. It also discusses the mode of dispersal and deposition of pollen and spores into sediments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

*Bob Morley*



## **IFPS-FUNDED EARLY CAREER RESEARCHERS: IPC/IOPC-2024 CONFERENCE REPORTS**

### **EIVER GELAN MANZANO**



*Presenting my PhD project during the CIMP session.*

First of all, many thanks to the IFPS for granting financial support to attend the IPC/IOPC in Prague, it was a great privilege and a pleasure to be with other researchers and respected figures in the field of palynology!

This was my first time giving a talk at an international conference and it is intimidating to present my ongoing PhD work to an international audience. Luckily Gilda Lopes, who was chairing the CIMP session, was gracious in her reassurances. The talk went smoothly, and I was able to overcome my nerves.

My PhD project is about the “Spatial dynamics of phytoplankton biodiversity in the early to middle Paleozoic.” Phytoplankton are integral components of marine ecosystems/food webs and it is important to understand what

contributes to their diversity and abundance. We employ a paleogeographic approach, looking at where phytoplankton is abundant (or not). The Paleozoic is particularly interesting because three major mass extinctions occurred, linked to climate changes. These can serve as potential analogues for modern day climate fluctuations. I concluded the talk with a warning: we should be cautious in making interpretations based on different paleogeographical models, for e.g. these different models will generate different patterns of latitudinal diversity.



A photo-op with fellow Université de Lille students, PhD student Penelope Claisse and PANGEA masters student Jaqueline Calero Gordon.

Aside from myself, the contingent from the Université de Lille (France) included fellow PhD student Penelope Claisse, former postdoc Elliott Capel, master student Jaqueline Calero Gordon and our supervisors Thomas Servais and Borja Cascales-Miñana. Penelope presented an updated phylogeny of zosterophylls while Elliott discussed the challenges of measuring plant diversity in the Paleozoic. Jaqueline also did a good job presenting her first year internship work with us on acritarch ecophenotypism in the Middle Ordovician of Öland, Sweden.



A mini-reunion at the Sternberg Dinner of PANGEA students and alumni (from left to right: the author, Jaqueline Calero Gordon, Daniela Quiroz and Marcos Amores).

It was also a great time connecting with fellow alumni and students of the Erasmus joint masters degree PANGEA (Paleontology, Geoheritage, Applications). These include Marcos Amores who is also doing a PhD at University College Cork, Daniela Quiroz currently at the Swedish Museum of Natural History and Jaqueline who is interning at TotalEnergies in Pau (southern France).

I also got to meet IFPS President Jim Riding and Julia Gravendyck from the University of Bonn at the Sternberg Dinner. We had a discussion with Jim on submitting a manuscript to *Palynology*, hopefully very soon!

*Eiver*

*PhD student, Université de Lille, France*

**CÉSAR      ARTURO      VERA  
FLOREZ**



I would like to thank my research supervisor, Prof. Émilie Saulnier-Talbot, as well as Université Laval, the event organizers (IFPS) and Québec Océan for their financial support. At this conference, I was able to present the results of my master's thesis and some aspects of my doctoral project. It was a very good experience, as I was able to receive comments and suggestions from well-known researchers in my field, such as Henry Hooghiemstra, Simon Connor, and Encarni Montoya.



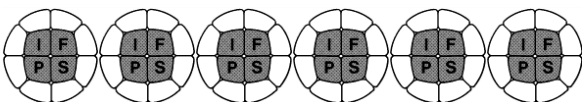
I also had the opportunity to expand my network, meeting palynologists such as Carlos Jaramillo from the Smithsonian Tropical Institution, Panama, with whom I was able to learn about innovations in the use of deep learning and neural networks in pollen studies. As well as alternatives to the standard pollen processing techniques.



Finally, during this trip I was able to make connections with other students from Peru, Colombia, and the USA. I was also able to get to know and enjoy the beautiful city of Prague, taste typical food, and participate in a visit to the Czech National Museum. I was also able to go on a fieldtrip to the beautiful region of Bohemian Switzerland.



*César*  
*PhD student*



## OBITUARIES

### KEITH RICHARDS



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) 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 rain forest 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).

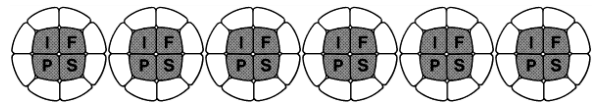
He joined Robertson Research in 1985 as a commercial palynologist based primarily in North Wales, with overseas postings to Singapore (1985) and Indonesia (1988-1992). He became increasingly involved in sequence stratigraphic interpretation, principally the integration of palynological, microfossil, 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 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 a life dream of Keith 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*  
*University of Liverpool*



## **FUTURE MEETINGS**

**2025**

**2025 WINTER SCHOOL OF  
PALYNOLOGY – POLLEN  
MORPHOLOGY: PARAMETERS,  
TAXONOMY AND EVOLUTION,  
MODENA, ITALY, 22-24 JANUARY,  
2025**

The 2025 Winter School of Palynology is a three-day scientific event dedicated to pollen morphology, with a focus on the classification and evolution of pollen. Participants will explore the parameters used to identify and classify pollen, according to the applications in ecology and palaeopalynology, and the latest discoveries in evolution.

The Winter School continues the tradition of palynological schools that already attracted scholars and enthusiasts from all over Italy to Modena in the 1980s, on the themes of interdisciplinarity and the applications of Palynology. Today, the experience starts again from the pillar of morphopalynology, and the response of adhesions far exceeded the 20 places available.

The Winter School includes theoretical and practical lectures with the light microscope,

and each participant will be provided with a box of reference slides to be described along with cards to guide the morphological descriptions.

The event is organised by Anna Maria Mercuri and Assunta Florenzano of the LPP-Laboratory of Palynology and Palaeobotany of Modena within the initiative "Micro- and milli- biodiversity in Terrestrial environments" of the National Biodiversity Future Center (co-coordinator of Spoke 3 prof. Lorena Rebecchi, University of Modena and Reggio Emilia). The event is under the patronage of the Italian Society of Botany (SBI) and the Italian Zoological Union (UZI).

**2025 57TH ANNUAL MEETING AASP  
– THE PALYNOLOGICAL SOCIETY,  
RABAT, MOROCCO, APRIL 22-26TH  
2025**

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

**2025 20TH CONFERENCE OF THE  
INTERNATIONAL WORK GROUP FOR  
PALAEOETHNOBOTANY (IWGP),  
GRONINGEN, THE NETHERLANDS,  
JUNE 1–7, 2025**

The next IWGP conference will be organised by Sonja Filatova, Otto Brinkkemper, Mans Schepers, Ana Smuk, Arnoud Maurer, Merit Hondelink at the Groningen Institute of Archaeology (University of Groningen), from July 21st-25th 2025, with a post-conference excursion on the 26th of July 2025. More information available at:  
<https://archaeobotany.org>.

**2025 13TH BIENNIAL  
INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE OF THE  
PALYNOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION OF  
NIGERIA, 2025**

The next biennial meeting will be held in the Department of Botany, University of Lagos, Akoka, Lagos, Nigeria. More information available in due.

**2025 XVI ALL-RUSSIAN  
PALYNOLOGICAL CONFERENCE,  
MOSCOW, RUSSIA, 22-26 SEPTEMBER,  
2025**



On behalf of the Russian Palynological Commission, we are pleased to announce that the forthcoming All-Russian Palynological Conference will be held in September 2025 at the Institute of Geography, Russian Academy of Sciences (IGRAS), in collaboration with the RAS Geological Institute in Moscow. The Conference will commemorate the 145th Anniversary of Vladimir N. Sukachev's birth, eminent Russian geobotanist and palynologist.

The following subjects will be covered in great detail throughout the meeting:

- Morphology, systematic and taxonomy of spores and pollen. Palynology in phylogenetic analysis.
- Pre-Cambrian Palynology, Palaeozoic and Mesozoic Palynology: stratigraphy, palaeogeography, deposition environment, climate and vegetation.
- Cenozoic Palynology: stratigraphy, palaeogeography, deposition environments, climate and vegetation.
- Applied Palynology: Aeropalynology, Melissopalynology, Palynology in Geoecology.
- Archaeological Palynology.
- Algology and Diatomology.

- Palynological techniques: novelty in preparation and analysis methodology.

More information will be available at <https://polinos.ru>.

**2025 10<sup>TH</sup> WORKSHOP ON NON-POLLEN PALYNOMORPHS, GÖTTINGEN, GERMANY, 2-6 JUNE, 2025**



We are pleased to invite you to the 10<sup>th</sup> Non-Pollen Palynomorphs Workshop in Göttingen (Germany) from 2<sup>nd</sup> to 6<sup>th</sup> 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:**

- 2.06 Arrival, Ice-breaker
- 3.06 Presentations and posters
- 4.06 Presentations and posters, microscopy sessions
- 5.06 Discussion on NPP nomenclature, Neotoma workshop
- 6.06 Excursion

For preliminary registration, please fill out the [registration form](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSenwjnz4wrof74rDF3otOTbOF0eNGn6ceq4wQF3PZATSr4Zvw/viewform?usp=sf_link) until the 31.01.2025. ([https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSenwjnz4wrof74rDF3otOTbOF0eNGn6ceq4wQF3PZATSr4Zvw/viewform?usp=sf\\_link](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 2<sup>nd</sup> 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

**2026**

**2026 12TH EUROPEAN PALAEOBOTANY AND PALYNOLOGY CONFERENCE (EPPC), 2026, MÜNSTER, GERMANY**

The next EPPC Conference will take place in Münster, Germany, in 2026, co-hosted by the Palaeobotany Group (University of Münster) and the LWL-Museum of Natural History in Münster, Westphalia, Germany. More information will be available here in due times.

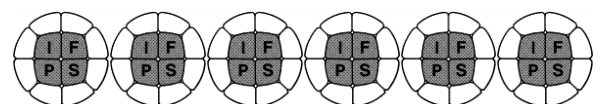
**2026 PALYNOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF CHINA (PSC) CONFERENCE, 2026, ZHENG DING, HEBEI PROVINCE, 2026**

More information will be available here in due times, or on: <http://www.chinapsc.cn/zyfh/bfxfh/en/about>

**2027**

**2027 XXII INQUA CONGRESS IN LUCKNOW, INDIA, FEBRUARY 2027**

The next INQUA Congress will take place Lucknow's Birbal Sahni Institute of Palaeosciences in February, 2027. More information will be available at <https://www.bsip.res.in>.



## CURRENT IFPS AFFILIATED SOCIETIES AND COUNCILLORS

The current list of the IFPS officers and IFPS councillors is provided below. The IFPS president (James B. Riding), IFPS secretary-treasurer (Fabienne Marret-Davies), IFPS editor of *PALYNOS* (Encarni Montoya), and the IFPS Web-Master (Sandra Brügger) should be informed of any errors or necessary changes. Please inform the IFPS Officers of possible website or email address changes.

IFPS Officers	Affiliation	Email
IFPS President <b>James B. Riding</b>	British Geological Survey, UK	<a href="mailto:jbri(at)bgs.ac.uk">jbri(at)bgs.ac.uk</a>
IFPS Past President <b>Jean Nicolas Haas</b>	University of Innsbruck, Austria	<a href="mailto:Jean-Nicolas.Haas(at)uibk.ac.at">Jean-Nicolas.Haas(at)uibk.ac.at</a>
IFPS Secretary-Treasurer: <b>Fabienne Marret-Davies</b>	University of Liverpool, UK	<a href="mailto:F.Marret(at)liverpool.ac.uk">F.Marret(at)liverpool.ac.uk</a>
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IFPS Web-Master <b>Sandra Brügger</b>	University of Basel, Switzerland	<a href="mailto:sandra.bruegger(at)unibas.ch">sandra.bruegger(at)unibas.ch</a>
IFPS affiliated Societies	Acronym & Website	Councillors
American Association of Stratigraphic Palynologists – The Palynological Society	AASP – TPS <a href="http://www.palynology.org">http://www.palynology.org</a>	<a href="mailto:Sophie.Warny">Sophie Warny</a>
Arbeitskreis für Paläobotanik und Palynologie	APP <a href="https://www.palaeontologische-gesellschaft.de/ueber-uns/arbeitskreise/ak-palaeobotanik-palynologie/">https://www.palaeontologische-gesellschaft.de/ueber-uns/arbeitskreise/ak-palaeobotanik-palynologie/</a>	<a href="mailto:Olaf.Lenz">Olaf Lenz</a>
Arbeitskreis für Vegetationsgeschichte der Reinhold-Tüxen-Gesellschaft	AVRTG <a href="http://www.reinhold-tuexen-gesellschaft.de/">http://www.reinhold-tuexen-gesellschaft.de/</a>	<a href="mailto:Lyudmila.Shumilovskikh">Lyudmila Shumilovskikh</a>
Asociación Latinoamericana de Paleobotánica y Palinología	ALPP <a href="http://www.ufgrs.br/alpp">http://www.ufgrs.br/alpp</a>	<a href="mailto:Mercedes.di.Pasquo">Mercedes di Pasquo</a>
Asociación de Palinólogos de Lengua Española	APLE <a href="https://aple.csic.es/">https://aple.csic.es/</a>	<a href="mailto:Pilar.S.Testillano">Pilar S. Testillano</a>
Association des Palynologues de Langue Française	APLF <a href="https://assoaplf.wixsite.com/website">https://assoaplf.wixsite.com/website</a>	<a href="mailto:Marie-Pierre.Ledru">Marie-Pierre Ledru</a>
Canadian Association of Palynologists	CAP <a href="https://capacp.wordpress.com/">https://capacp.wordpress.com/</a>	<a href="mailto:Vera.Pospelova">Vera Pospelova</a>
Collegium Palynologicum Scandinavicum	CPS <a href="http://www.palynology.info">www.palynology.info</a>	<a href="mailto:Julia.Gravendyck">Julia Gravendyck</a>
Commission Internationale de Microflore du Paléozoïque	CIMP <a href="http://cimp.weebly.com/">http://cimp.weebly.com/</a>	<a href="mailto:Jiri.Bek">Jiří Bek</a>
Gruppo di Palinologia della Società Botanica Italiana	GPSBI <a href="http://www.societabotanicaitaliana.it/gruppi/gruppo-palinologia-e-paleobotanica-gpp-sbi/21">http://www.societabotanicaitaliana.it/gruppi/gruppo-palinologia-e-paleobotanica-gpp-sbi/21</a>	<a href="mailto:Assunta.Florenzano">Assunta Florenzano</a>
International Association for Aerobiology	IAA <a href="https://iaaerobiology.org/">https://iaaerobiology.org/</a>	<a href="mailto:Dorota.Myszkowska">Dorota Myszkowska</a>
Linnean Society Palynology Specialist Group	LSPSG <a href="http://www.linnean.org/">http://www.linnean.org/</a>	<a href="mailto:Barry.Lomax">Barry Lomax</a>
Organisation of Czech and Slovak Palynologists	OCSP <a href="http://www.ocsp.eu/">http://www.ocsp.eu/</a>	<a href="mailto:Petr.Skupien">Petr Skupien</a>
Palynological Association of Nigeria	PAN <a href="https://www.facebook.com/Palynological-Association-of-Nigeria-168093586579093/">https://www.facebook.com/Palynological-Association-of-Nigeria-168093586579093/</a>	<a href="mailto:Emuobosa.Orijemie">Emuobosa Orijemie</a>
Palynological Society of China	PSC <a href="http://www.chinapsc.cn/zyfh/bfxfh/en/about">http://www.chinapsc.cn/zyfh/bfxfh/en/about</a>	<a href="mailto:Jianguo.Li">Jianguo Li</a>
Palynological Society of Japan	PSJ <a href="http://www.psj3.org/">http://www.psj3.org/</a>	<a href="mailto:Naoko.Sasaki">Naoko Sasaki</a>
Palynological Society of Poland	PSP	<a href="mailto:Milena.Obremaska">Milena Obremaska</a>
Palynologische Kring (The Netherlands)	PK <a href="http://www.palynologischeskring.nl">http://www.palynologischeskring.nl</a>	<a href="mailto:Stefan.Uitdehaag">Stefan Uitdehaag</a>
Russian Palynological Commission	RPC <a href="https://polinos.ru/">https://polinos.ru/</a>	<a href="mailto:Dmitry.Mamontov">Dmitry Mamontov</a>
Society for the Promotion of Palynological Research in Austria	AUTPAL <a href="http://www.autpal.at">http://www.autpal.at</a>	<a href="mailto:Reinhard.Zetter">Reinhard Zetter</a>
The Micropalaeontological Society Palynology Group	TMS <a href="https://www.tmsoc.org">https://www.tmsoc.org</a>	<a href="mailto:Luke.Mander">Luke Mander</a>
The Palaeobotanical Society India	PBS <a href="http://palaeobotanicalsociety.org">http://palaeobotanicalsociety.org</a>	<a href="mailto:Rama.S.Singh">Rama S. Singh</a>
Turkish Committee for Palynology	TCP	<a href="mailto:Recep.Hayrettin.Sancay">Recep Hayrettin Sancay</a>
<b>Affiliation/Membership of the IFPS at the:</b>		
International Union of Geological Societies	IUGS	<a href="mailto:Marianna.Kovachova">Marianna Kováčová</a>
International Union of Biological Societies	IUBS	<a href="mailto:Jean.Nicolas.Haas">Jean Nicolas Haas</a>
<b>Former Societies of the IFPS:</b>		
International Association for African Palynology	AIPA/IAAP	
Palynological and Palaeobotanical Association of Australia	PPAA	
Palynologists and Plant Micropalaeontologists of Belgium (until 2024)	PPMB <a href="https://inet.org/palynologists-and-plant-micropalaeontologists-of-belgium.html">https://inet.org/palynologists-and-plant-micropalaeontologists-of-belgium.html</a>	
Philippine Palynological Society	PPS	

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We welcome news items, reports on society activities, reviews etc. and members should forward these to the newsletter editor:

**Encarni Montoya**  
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