PALYNOS

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NEWSLETTER OF THE INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION OF PALYNOLOGICAL SOCIETIES

http://palyno-ifps.com/

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IFPS BUSINESS

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

I am writing this in June so the Prague meeting is one year ago. It seems like only yesterday! I will reach out to the organisers of the 2028 meeting in Canada to get an update of their plans.

I am currently revisiting my seven pledges that I made upon becoming President. In the coming months I will be contacting all the councillors with regard to a rewrite of our constitution – which is long overdue in my opinion.

In the meantime, I am trying to find out if there any IFPS paper archives out there. Unfortunately, I am not having any success and am more than a little pessimistic if any physical records still exist. If my fears are realized, this is a great shame in terms of future generations understanding the inception and development of our organisation. So, if you know of any store of paper records pertaining to IFPS please contact me and I will try to ensure they are properly curated and digitized. May I also reiterate my request for Newsletters prior to the summer of 1980? We would like to have a complete set of these on our website. Please look in your old files for any of these – any issues at all would be great.

With all best wishes
Jim Riding, President of IFPS
Email: 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!

VINCENT MONTADE – APLF

Vincent is a specialist in Quaternary paleoecology, with a primary research interest lying in reconstructing the history of terrestrial environments in tropical ecosystems. Initially working in South America, he is now focused on Madagascar and Africa. Using pollen analysis of sediment archives associated with a multi-proxy and an interdisciplinary approach, he studies past vegetation dynamic and response mechanisms to natural environmental and anthropogenic changes.

Vincent Montade
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NEWS FROM IFPS SOCIETIES

GRUPPO DI PALINOLOGIA DELLA SOCIETÀ BOTANICA ITALIANA – SCHOOLS OF PALYNOLOGY 2025

Two palynological schools organised by the Laboratory of Palynology and Palaeobotany (LPP) of Modena were held in the first half of 2025, continuing the tradition started in the 80s of the Italian training schools on the applications of pollen analysis in interdisciplinary research. These periodical events are under the patronage of the Italian Society of Botany and supported by the GPP-SBI.

The 2025 *Winter School of Palynology* (Modena, 22-24 January) was funded by the National Biodiversity Future Center (Italian project). It was dedicated to morphopalynology and evolution of

Tracheophyta, and welcomed 22 participants from all over Italy. The theoretical and practical lectures provided scientific basis for a thorough understanding of plant micro-biodiversity useful for applications in ecology and palaeopalynology.

Figure 1. Participants at the 2025 Winter School on Pollen morphology held in Modena.

The 2025 Summer School on *Introduction to Forensic Palynology* (Modena, 9-13 June) was part of the training activities of the 'Natural Traces in Forensic Investigations' project funded by Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions (MSCA Doctoral Networks 2022, Grant agreement: 101120165; https://naturaltraces.com/home/; https://forensic-workshops.org/). The Modena lab hosted the first school of "Criminopalynology" in Italy, organised in 1992 by Professor Daria Bertolani Marchetti, founder of LPP. This Summer School aimed to contribute to the training of experts who can assist routine investigative techniques with palynological surveys and botanical research. During the week-long School, the PhD students enrolled in the Natural Traces project explored the parameters used to identify and classify pollen, and the applications of forensic palynology. The training course included lab activities for pollen extraction from mosses, and light microscopy sessions to observe (fresh and acetolysed) pollen reference slides for Central Europe and the Mediterranean. Participants were also given the theoretical basis of forensic palynology and the significance of pollen evidence in forensic contexts.

Figure 2. 2025 Winter School group photo.

Assunta Florenzano
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REPORT ON THE 10TH WORKSHOP ON NON-POLLEN PALYNOMORPHS, GÖTTINGEN, GERMANY, 2ND-6TH JUNE 2025

Event summary: This year, the 10th NPP Workshop found its home in Göttingen, Germany, drawing together 85 participants from 22 countries. Some gathered in person, others joined from afar, but all contributed to a vibrant and curious community. Among them were 44 in person attendees, 31 tuning in online, and 10 enthusiastic students from the University of Göttingen stepping into the world of palynology. Over the course of the week, participants explored the many dimensions of non-pollen palynomorphs through conversations that moved between rooms and screens, creating a shared space of learning, exchange, and connection.

From the opening lecture to frolicking in the botanical garden to hands-on microscopy sessions, the workshop offered a rich and varied programme. The programme opened with a talk by Dr. Thomas Giesecke on open palaeoecological data and future-facing research infrastructures (Fig. 1), followed by an ice-breaker that set the tone for days of

exchange. Not to mention the incredible spread of food beautifully curated over the week.

The first full day features sessions on identification and interpretation challenges, with presentations ranging from fungal taxonomy to the ecology of dung spores, hypogeous fungi, dynoflagellates cysts and chironomids.

Figure 1. The opening ceremony of the 10th NPP Workshop.

Case studies brought us across continents, from moss samples in the Białowieża Forest to sediments in Senegal and the Cis-Urals, revealing how NPPs can illuminate diverse environmental stories. In the afternoon, we all enjoyed refreshing beverages and a boost of vitamin D, soaking up the sun during an outdoor poster session (Fig. 2). With rapid-fire three-minute talks offering snapshots of innovative tools, bold case studies, and emerging voices. From mobile apps like NPPdex to seismic reconstructions in Middle Eastern lake sediments, the energy was curious, generous, and unmistakably supportive.

The day did not end there, we had the unique opportunity to visit the University's Palaeontology Collection and the Königsberg Amber Collection, one of the largest scientific collections of animal and plant remains from the Baltic region preserved in resin for over 50 million years.

Figure 2. The outdoor poster session at the conference venue.

The following day shifted gears towards practical learning. Dr. Maike Lorenz led a dynamic workshop on algae, featuring the humorously dubbed "Algae Buffet", where participants explored live cultures under the microscope and prepared their own slides as unique souvenirs. This was made possible thanks to the ever-popular slide preparation station, where Johanna Krug and Dr. Vlada Batalova demonstrated techniques for creating semi-permanent slides using glycerin jelly and paraffins. Meanwhile, Dr. Ines Teichert's workshop on *Sordaria macrospora* invited participants to see beyond the slides, and for some of us, beyond the fossil record. To understand fungal remains not just as static spores, but as living systems with genetic structure and development. *Sordaria* offered a hands-on introduction to fungal anatomy and growth, with participants learning how to mount samples and observe different stages and strand types under the microscope. The session bridged molecular biology and palynology in a tangible way, reminding us that the fungal forms we encounter in sediment once moved, divided, and responded to their environments.

Adding to the spirit of collective discovery, the tea and coffee room featured a blackboard boldly titled "WANTED NPPs!" (Fig. 3), a playful nod to our most elusive microfossils. Participants were invited to print out images of their unidentified NPPs and pin them to the board, turning break-time into an informal identification forum. The day was alive with

exchange, a testament to how ideas take root when they're passed from one curious mind to another, and to the care and thoughtfulness that shaped every aspect of the workshop's design.

Figure 3. a. the WANTED NPPs blackboard and **b.** the identification tips for our unknown microfossils.

After the practical session we joined the guided tours to the algal cultures collections (SAG), the Herbarium and the Old Botanical Garden, which host a large and valuable collection of species from all over the world. The Algae Culture Collection has more than 2300 strains of eukaryotic algae and cyanobacteria and provides algal cultures to scientists worldwide. The Botanical Garden was founded in 1736 as a "hortus medicus" by the botanist Albrecht von Haller and today houses 19th century tropical greenhouses, ponds, alpine and rose gardens, collections of wild cultivated plants from Central Europe and an arboretum.

On the final formal day of the workshop, the focus turned to one of the field's most enduring, and increasingly urgent question: how we name what we see. A well-rounded session was brought together by diverse contributions: Dr. Leroy addressed the need for taxonomic clarity across palaeoecological timescales, drawing on dinoflagellate cysts as the central case study. Dr. Lammertsma provided us with tools for the characterisation of dinoflagellate cysts, developed by the Utrecht University. She showed us the functionality of the open-source, community-fed database DINOSTRAT (of Mesozoic-Cenozoic organic-walled dinoflagellate cysts, developed by Dr. Peter K. Bijl) and palsy.org (a taxonomic, stratigraphic and image database of organic-walled dinoflagellate cysts). Meanwhile, Dr. Karpińska-Kołackzek gave us a short lecture on testate amoebae, explaining their biology, ecological features and taxonomy as well as providing tips and tools for their identification. Similarly, Dr. O'Keefe draw on her ongoing work with fungal morphotypes and collaboration with mycologists to highlight existing tools and offer practical strategies for navigating nomenclatural challenges in applied settings.

Dr. Julia Gravendyck offered a much-needed anchor in the ongoing debates surrounding non-pollen palynomorph nomenclature, grounding the conversation in the principles of the International Code of Nomenclature for algae, fungi, and plants, also known as the MaDr.id Code. Rather than framing nomenclature as a fixed obstacle, she invited us to view it as a tool: a practical language designed to help us communicate ecological meaning with clarity and traceability. "Nomenclature is the label on the box", she reminded us, what matters is that others know what you mean when you use it. Dr. Gravendyck addressed one of the most enduring tension in our field is the uncertainty that often accompanies fossil material, where naming can feel both necessary and precarious. She encouraged the use of dual nomenclature, as such, lab codes alongside formal names, as a way to accommodate incomplete identifications without compromising the stability of the system. Crucially, she highlighted that taxonomic determination always comes first, and lab codes should never be prematurely formalised. When certainty is lacking, it is better to publish with informal lab names and register them for traceability, rather than risk erroneous classification. Once a taxon is confidently identified, the lab code can be coupled with its proper name, serving as a stable reference through future revision. She further clarified that retroactive renaming is not required, changes in naming conventions apply from the

time of their implementation and do not necessarily invalidate older, familiar systems. This resonated deeply in the discussion on fossil record continuity. What emerged from her session was not a rigid call to rename or formalise, but a roadmap for moving forward. This was particularly evident when Dr. Steffen Wolters introduced the features and constraints of the Neotoma database and emphasised the urgent need to harmonise the data and to establish data stewards who can manage and validate the uploaded data. As Dr. Gravendyck aptly put it: nomenclature is a tool, it should serve our purpose, not stand in our way. Talks and open-floor debates of the COST-Action PalaeOpen Working group ranged from the practicality of lab codes and fossil morphology to the ethics of synonymy, dual naming systems, and the question of retroactive renaming. One message stood out: the goal is clarity, not perfection, and a shared commitment to building a reference system that is as transparent as it is usable. Ten volunteers have stepped forward to form a working group focused on harmonising NPP taxonomy within Neotoma and contributing to the ongoing development of the NPP-ID, an exciting step toward greater coherence and accessibility in the field. All of this sparked rich discussion, as participants openly acknowledged the challenges ahead with ambiguous morphotypes, fragmentary fossils, and lab preparation techniques that can alter NPP appearance. While numerous practical solutions were proposed, rooted in both nomenclatural code and community practice, there remained a friction: between the drive for formalisation and the need for flexibility, between preserving legacy systems and striving for clarity. Among the creative suggestions, Dr. Gravendyck proposed lab codes into transparent, searchable genus-style labels (eg. HdVites), a move that might offer both traceability and taxonomic coherence. But as we left the room still debating code versus context, one question lingered: can any single system truly hold the messiness of the past and the precision we seek for the future?

Well, mark your calendars to continue the discussion! The 11th NPP Workshop will take place in 2027 in Vilnius, Lithuania, with heartfelt thanks to Laura Gedminienė for taking the lead. We cannot wait to gather again, exchange ideas, and grow our community even further.

One final highlight: What better ending than with an outdoor field trip? We had the special opportunity to visit the Hartz Mountains National Park and the Rammelsberg mine, an UNESCO World Heritage site since 1992 (Fig. 4). We particularly enjoyed the outdoor lesson held by Dr. Thomas Gieseke on the vegetation history of the Hartz Mountains at the Radauer bog. We learnt how climate and human activities have influenced the structure of the pristine Hartz vegetation over the past 11,000 years. We observed how intensified logging for charcoal production and metal smelting activities in the area have had a strong impact on the composition of the forest nowadays. We spent some quality time together in the outdoors and it was an opportunity to build deeper connections with colleagues outside of a purely work-related context.

Figure 4. Memories from the outdoor field trip at the Hartz mountains, a., b. the guided tour at the Rammelsberg mine; c. sulfidic ore; d., e. the Radauer bog and the outdoor lecture on the Hartz vegetation history.

The 10th NPP workshop was a great opportunity to network with many passionate researchers and early-career researchers. As first-year PhD students we enjoyed the vibrant atmosphere of the workshop and the many insights on NPPs we received. We feel truly grateful for this experience, the exchanges and the advice we received from the NPP community. This positive and thought provoking experience wouldn't have been possible without the excellent organisation of the workshop. We send our gratitude to the workshop organisers (Dr. Lyudmila Shumilovskikh, Dr. Vlada Batalova and Dr. Lionello Morandi), to the students who helped with the logistics (Johanna Krug and Nicholas Rohde) and all the speakers and participants who contributed to this great event! If you want to get involved or if you experience difficulties in identifying your unknown microfossils, we highly suggest to subscribe to the NPP mailing list (https://non-pollen-palynomorphs.uni-goettingen.de/). It is a communication platform that aims to share information on new papers and meetings related to NPP research, to support the identification of unknowns and to find collaborations/networking.

What stuck with me: It was Dr. Gravendyck's lecture on nomenclature that resonated with me most. It tickled my brain, challenged my assumptions, and stayed with me long after the session ended. Her framing of nomenclature as a practical tool rather than a rigid structure sparked something in me: the desire to understand not just how we name things, but why it matters, and who gets to decide. That is why, I initiated a short survey targeting students and early career researchers post-workshop, to gather impressions, uncertainties, and aspirations from others navigating the same questions, especially those of us new to the field (Fig. 5).

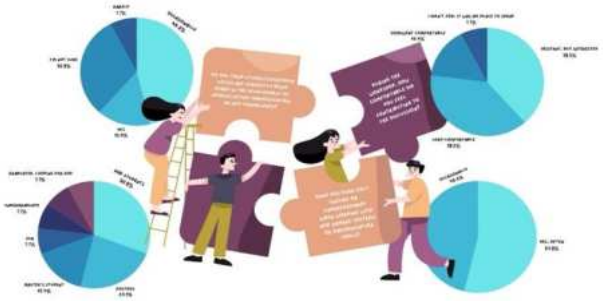

Figure 5. Sneak peek of results from the "Voices of NPP Research" survey. Watch this space for a fuller report, and hopefully the start of a collaborative effort to shape NPP work. To get involved or learn more, feel free to contact me (Ayaka Nguyen).

One where new voices are not only welcomed but empowered, and where our contributions help strengthen foundational tools like shared databases, reference guides, and open discussion spaces.

Ayaka Nguyen, PhD student, Eberhard Karl University of Tübingen, Germany

Valentina Fontana, PhD student, University of Milano - Bicocca, Italy

On behalf of the Organising Committee 10th WNPP 2025

OBITUARIES

ANNICK LE THOMAS (1936–2024)

It is with deep respect and sorrow that we announce the passing of Professor Annick Le Thomas, a pioneering figure in the fields of botany and palynology, whose work has left an enduring mark on plant science and systematic biology.

Professor Le Thomas was a distinguished scientist at the Muséum National d'Histoire Naturelle (Paris, France) and the École Pratique des Hautes Études (EPHE), where she served as Director of the Laboratory of Plant

Evolution and later the Laboratory of Biology and Evolution of Vascular Plants. Her scientific journey began in earnest in the early 1960s when she became editor of the international botanical journal Adansonia (1962–1972). In the 1970s, she founded one of the Muséum's two major palynological collections, helping to establish an essential resource for the study of plant pollen and evolution.

Her research was focused on pollen morphology and ultrastructure in various families of Angiosperms, especially the Annonaceae and Iridaceae. Her work on Annonaceae took her to Africa and Madagascar, where she trained numerous students and produced foundational research, including two volumes in *Pollen et Spores* during the early 1980s. Her bold assertion that the unique pollen structures found in Annonaceae indicated an ancient origin placing this family at the base of the evolutionary tree of flowering plants—an insight that positioned her among the forward-thinking systematists of her time.

Throughout her career, Professor Le Thomas held prestigious leadership roles in specialised societies. She served as President of the Association des Palynologues de Langue Française in 1983, and Vice-President (1985) and later President (2000) of the International Federation of Palynological Societies (IFPS).

Her reputation as an international authority led to her being called upon to evaluate leading institutions, including the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew, in the UK. The laboratory she directed became one of the most internationally recognized centres for plant systematics in France, collaborating with scientists of global repute, including James Doyle of the University of California, Davis.
In recognition of her extraordinary contributions to science and education, Professor Le Thomas was honoured as a Chevalier de l'Ordre de la Légion d'honneur and a Commandeur dans l'Ordre des Palmes académiques.

Professor Annick Le Thomas leaves behind a legacy of scientific excellence, mentorship, and intellectual courage. Her contributions fundamentally reshaped our understanding of plant evolution, and her work will continue to influence generations of botanists and systematists around the world. She will be deeply missed by her colleagues, students, and the broader scientific community.

Fabienne Marret
University of Liverpool

Carlos Leopoldo Azcuy (1936–2025)

We sincerely regret to share the sad news of Dr. Carlos Leopoldo Azcuy's passing on June 24th. Dr. Azcuy was an Honorary Member of the Latin American Association of Paleobotany and Palynology and Vice President of the 5th Board of Directors (1992-1996). He actively participated in our scientific community, serving on other

committees as Vice President of the Argentine Paleontological Association (Life Member).
Sharing the words of the message from the Argentine Paleontological Association, he was a key figure in the development of paleobotany and palynology in Argentina and several South American countries. He graduated as a geologist from the University of Buenos Aires in 1967 and began a long, distinguished teaching career there that spanned over three decades. His doctoral thesis, defended in 1974, constituted a pioneering work for paleopalynology and biostratigraphy of the Upper Paleozoic of South America. Dr. Azcuy was a professor and researcher at CONICET who dedicated his life to public education, fostering scientific vocations, and generously sharing his knowledge and passion for geology. He was well-liked and respected in the Paleontology Department at the University of Buenos Aires (UBA), where he trained numerous palynologists and paleobotanists in Argentina, Brazil, Peru, and Ecuador, many of whom now lead their research groups. He also promoted pioneering laboratories at the University of Buenos Aires, the University of Guayaquil (Ecuador), and Ricardo Palma University (Peru), always firmly committed to strengthening these disciplines in our region. I am proud to say that I was her last student at the University of Buenos Aires (UBA), supervising my doctoral thesis (1999), accompanying me during my early career as a researcher (2002), and also during my years as a professor (1988-2008), primarily in the field of Paleontology (1993-2008) at the Faculty of Exact and Natural Sciences (UBA). I endorse the words of Dr. Cecilia Amenábar, who was our student, conducting her doctoral training (2004-2007).
Her valuable legacy, recognized with the Paleontological Merit Award in 2001, continues through the numerous palynologists and paleobotanists trained during her career as a professor and researcher.
During this difficult time, we sympathize with her family, friends, and colleagues.
Dr. Azcuy, my mentor and dear friend, is like my dad; you are in my heart and prayers. I love you forever!! Thank you so much!!!

70th birthday celebration in the Paleontology Department with colleagues and friends (from left to right: Mercedes di Pasquo, Guillermo Ottone, Hugo Carrizo, Gustavo Holfeltz, Carlos Azcuy, Marta Morbelli).

Mercedes Di Pasquo
CICYTTP (CONICET-ER-UADER)

FUTURE MEETINGS 2025

2025 20TH CONFERENCE OF THE INTERNATIONAL WORK GROUP FOR PALAEOETHNOBOTANY (IWGP), GRONINGEN, THE NETHERLANDS, JULY 21ST-25TH, 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 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: Aeropaynology, 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 XIII Congreso de la Asociación Paleontológica Argentina (CAPA), Paraná, Argentina, 24-28 November 2025

We are pleased to invite you to the 13th Conference of the Argentinian Paleontological Society in Paraná (Entre Ríos, Argentina) from 24th to 28th November 2025.
New submission deadline: 14th July 2025.
For more information, please visit the website: https://xiiicapa.wixsite.com/my-site-1

2026

2026 SAPP – AASP, Trelew, Argentina, 8-11 September 2026

The 19th Argentine Symposium on Paleobotany and Palynology will be celebrating jointly with the 58th Annual Meeting of the AASP-The Palynological Society in Trelew, Argentina in September 8-11, 2026. For more information, please check Appendix 1 in this issue.

2026 12th European Palaeobotany and Palynology Conference (EPPC), Münster, Germany, 20-24th September, 2026

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. For detailed information, please check Appendix 2 in this issue. Important: The deadline for proposals for symposia is September 1st, 2025! Please send your proposals to Christian Pott at christian.pott(at)lwl.org.

2026 Palynological Society of China (PSC) CONFERENCE, 2026, Zhengding, 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.

2027 11th NPP Workshop in Vilnius, Lithuania

The next NPP Workshop will take place in Lithuania in 2027. More information will be available in due times.

2028

2028 XVI IPC / XII IOPC Meeting, Calgary, Alberta, Canada

The next joint meeting of IFPS and IOP will take place in Calgary in 2028, hosted by CAP and the Canadian paleobotany community! More information will be available in due times.

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	**James B. Riding**	British Geological Survey, UK	jbri(at)bgs.ac.uk
IFPS Past President	**Jean Nicolas Haas**	University of Innsbruck. Austria	Jean-Nicolas.Haas(at)uibk.ac.at
IFPS Secretary-Treasurer:	**Fabienne Marret-Davies**	University of Liverpool, UK	F.Marret(at)liverpool.ac.uk
IFPS Editor of PALYNOS	**Encarni Montoya**	Institute of Geosciences Barcelona, Spain	encarnacionmontoya(at)gmail.com
IFPS Web-Master	**Sandra Brügger**	University of Basel, Switzerland	sandra.bruegger(at)unibas.ch

IFPS affiliated Societies	Acronym & Website	Councillors
American Association of Stratigraphic Palynologists – The Palynological Society	AASP – TPS http://www.palynology.org	Sophie Warny
Arbeitskreis für Paläobotanik und Palynologie	APP https://www.palaeontologische-gesellschaft.de/ueber-uns/arbeitskreise/ak-palaeobotanik-palynologie/	Olaf Lenz
Arbeitskreis für Vegetationsgeschichte der Reinhold-Tüxen-Gesellschaft	AVRTG http://www.reinhold-tuexen-gesellschaft.de/	Lyudmila Shumilovskikh
Asociación Latinoamericana de Paleobotánica y Palinología	ALPP http://www.ufrgs.br/alpp	Mercedes di Pasquo
Asociación de Palinólogos de Lengua Española	APLE https://aple.csic.es/	Pilar S. Testillano
Association des Palynologues de Langue Française	APLF https://assoaplf.wixsite.com/website	Vincent Montade
Canadian Association of Palynologists	CAP https://capacp.wordpress.com/	Vera Pospelova
Collegium Palynologicum Scandinavicum	CPS www.palynology.info	Julia Gravendyck
Commission Internationale de Microflore du Paléozoïque	CIMP http://cimp.weebly.com/	Jiří Bek
Gruppo di Palinologia della Società Botanica Italiana	GPSBI http://www.societabotanicaitaliana.it/gruppi/gruppo-palinologia-e-paleobotanica-gpp-sbi/21	Assunta Florenzano
International Association for Aerobiology	IAA https://iaaerobiology.org/	Dorota Myszkowska
Linnean Society Palynology Specialist Group	LSPSG http://www.linnean.org/	Barry Lomax
Organisation of Czech and Slovak Palynologists	OCSP http://www.ocsp.eu/	Petr Skupien
Palynological Association of Nigeria	PAN https://www.facebook.com/p/Palynological-Association-of-Nigeria-100070522793498/	Emuobosa Orijemie
Palynological Society of China	PSC http://www.chinapsc.cn/zyfh/bfxfh/en/about	Jianguo Li
Palynological Society of Japan	PSJ http://www.psj3.org/	Naoko Sasaki
Palynological Society of Poland	PSP	Milena Obremska
Palynologische Kring (The Netherlands)	PK http://www.palynologischekring.nl	Stefan Uitdehaag
Russian Palynological Commission	RPC https://polinos.ru/	Dmitry Mamontov
Society for the Promotion of Palynological Research in Austria	AUTPAL http://www.autpal.at	Reinhard Zetter
The Micropalaeontological Society Palynology Group	TMS https://www.tmsoc.org	Luke Mander
The Palaeobotanical Society India	PBS http://palaeobotanicalsociety.org	Hukam Singh
Turkish Committee for Palynology	TCP	Recep Hayrettin Sancay
Affiliation/Membership of the IFPS at the:		
International Union of Geological Societies	IUGS	Marianna Kováčová
International Union of Biological Societies	IUBS	Jean Nicolas Haas
Former Societies of the IFPS:		
International Association for African Palynology	AIPA/IAAP	
Palynological and Palaeobotanical Association of Australia	PPAA	
Palynologists and Plant Micropalaeontologists of Belgium (until 2024)	PPMB	
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
encarnacionmontoya(at)gmail.com

APPENDIX 1: 1ST CIRCULAR OF EPPC

MEET THE HOSTS

The XII European Palaeobotany and Palynology Conference 2026 will be co-hosted by the Palaeobotany Research Group and the Geomuseum of the University of Münster, and the LWL-Museum of Natural History, Münster, Germany.

Münster is a beautiful medium-sized city in the heart of the Münsterland Cretaceous Basin, steeped in more than 1,200 years of history. The city spawned the Anabaptist Rebellion during the Protestant Reformation in 1534, and hosted the signing of the Treaty of Westphalia, ending the Thirty Years' War in Europe in 1648. Münster is the cultural centre of Westphalia and a famous "bicycle capital" of Germany.

Science has always shaped the image of the city. As one of the largest academic locations in Germany, it has around 65,000 students at nine universities and colleges. With more than 43,000 students and over 120 fields of study in 15 departments, the University of Münster is Germany's fifth largest university and one of the foremost centres of German intellectual life.

The LWL-Museum of Natural History was founded in 1892 at the behest of volunteer naturalists from the Münster area. The museum is beautifully located next to Münster's zoological garden and presents in changing exhibitions the natural history of Westphalia. It is today one of the most visitied museums in North Rhine-Westphalia.

The Palaeobotany Research Group was founded in 1968 by Winfried Remy, a student of Walter Gothan in Berlin. As an enthusiastic couple with special interest in Palaeozoic plants, Winfried and Renate Remy established Münster as a renowned centre of palaeobotanical research that received international recognition especially for the pioneering work on Rhynie Chert gametophytes. This research scope was broadened further when Hans Kerp was appointed professor for palaeobotany upon Remy's retirement in 1991. Throughout his intensely productive and successful career, Hans further expanded Münster's palaeobotanical expertise, not the least through his fruitful mentorship that spawned abundant academic offspring.

Today, it is a diverse team of palaeobotanists spread across three scientific institutions – the LWL-Museum of Natural History, the Geomuseum of the University of Münster, and the Palaeobotany Research Group at the Faculty of Geosciences of the University of Münster – that invites you cordially to be part of the XII EPPC 2026 in Münster.

MEET THE HOSTS

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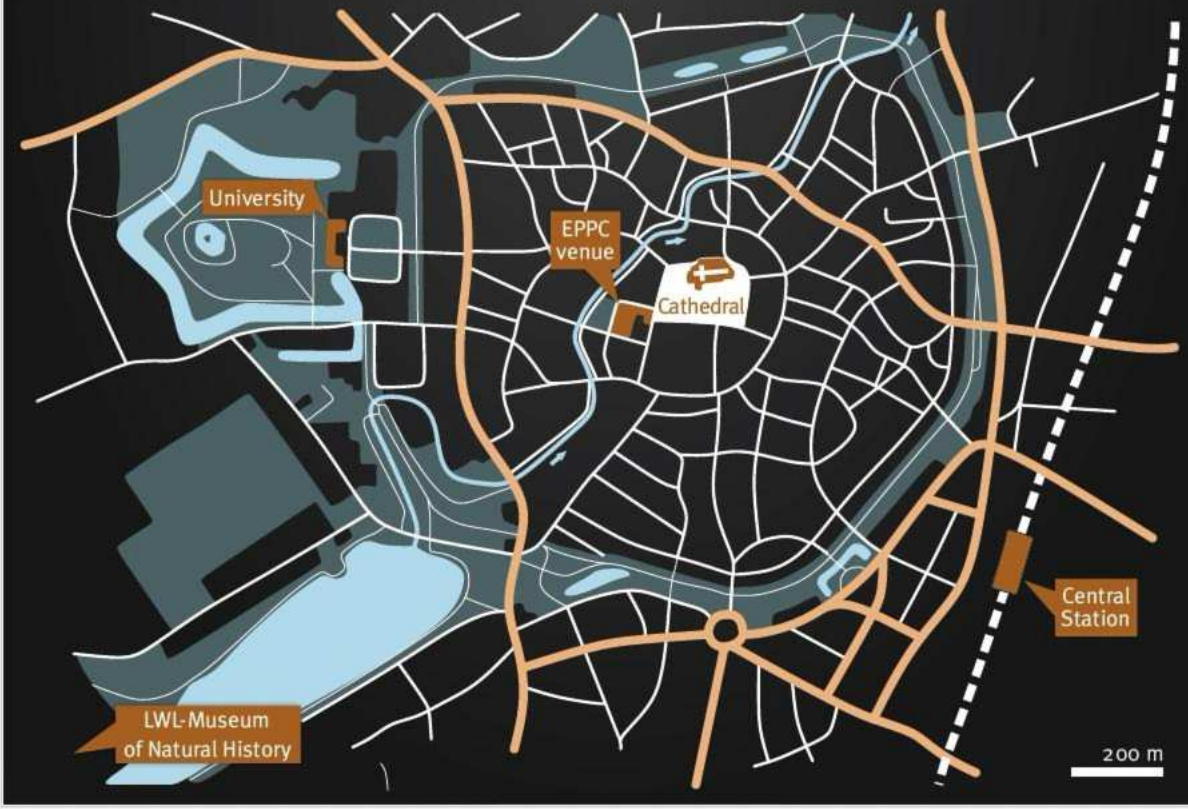
THE VENUE

The conference takes place at the Fürstenberghaus in the heart of the city, with the Münster cathedral and the famous city market at sight. This university building is named after Franz Friedrich Wilhelm von Fürstenberg, a late 18th century statesman known for his progressive politics. Due to ist central position, many sights of the city are very close by. Münster's main railway station is just a 15-min walk away, while the international airports of Düsseldorf and Cologne are 1.5 hours from the city by train. A well organized public transport in Münster connects the different conference locations and hotels.



CALL FOR SYMPOSIA

Deadline for submission: 1. September 2025

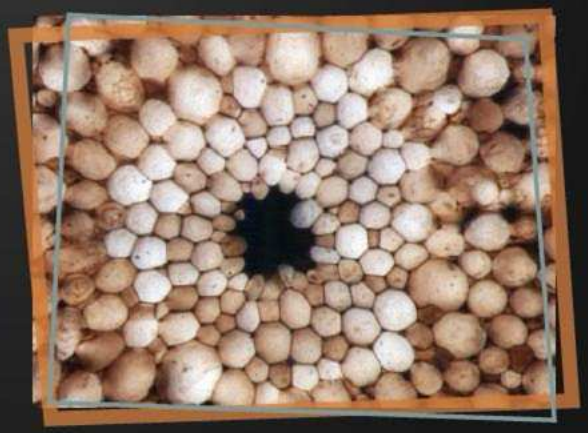
On the occasion of the XII EPPC 2026 it is our pleasure to invite proposals for symposia. We welcome submissions from every field of palaeobotany and palynology that:

- have a descriptive, catchy title,
- are of interest for a broad community,
- explain their purpose in a concise, meaningful abstract (100 words maximum),
- provide the names of chairpersons with affiliations and a list of possible speakers.

Please note that only one proposal per individual is accepted. The program committee will review the submissions and eventually suggest changes or merging of symposia due to the organisation of the whole conference. An example for a possible contribution is provided on the following page.

Please send your proposal via email to Christian Pott (christian.pott@lwl.org)

Leafy shoot of the sea grass ***Thalassocharis westfalica*** from the Campanian (Upper Cretaceous) of Stemwede-Haldem, Westphalia. Photo: LWL/Steinweg



Cross-section of a young axis of ***Rhynia gwynne-vaughanii*** from the Devonian Rhynie Chert. Photo: Kerp

CALL FOR SYMPOSIA

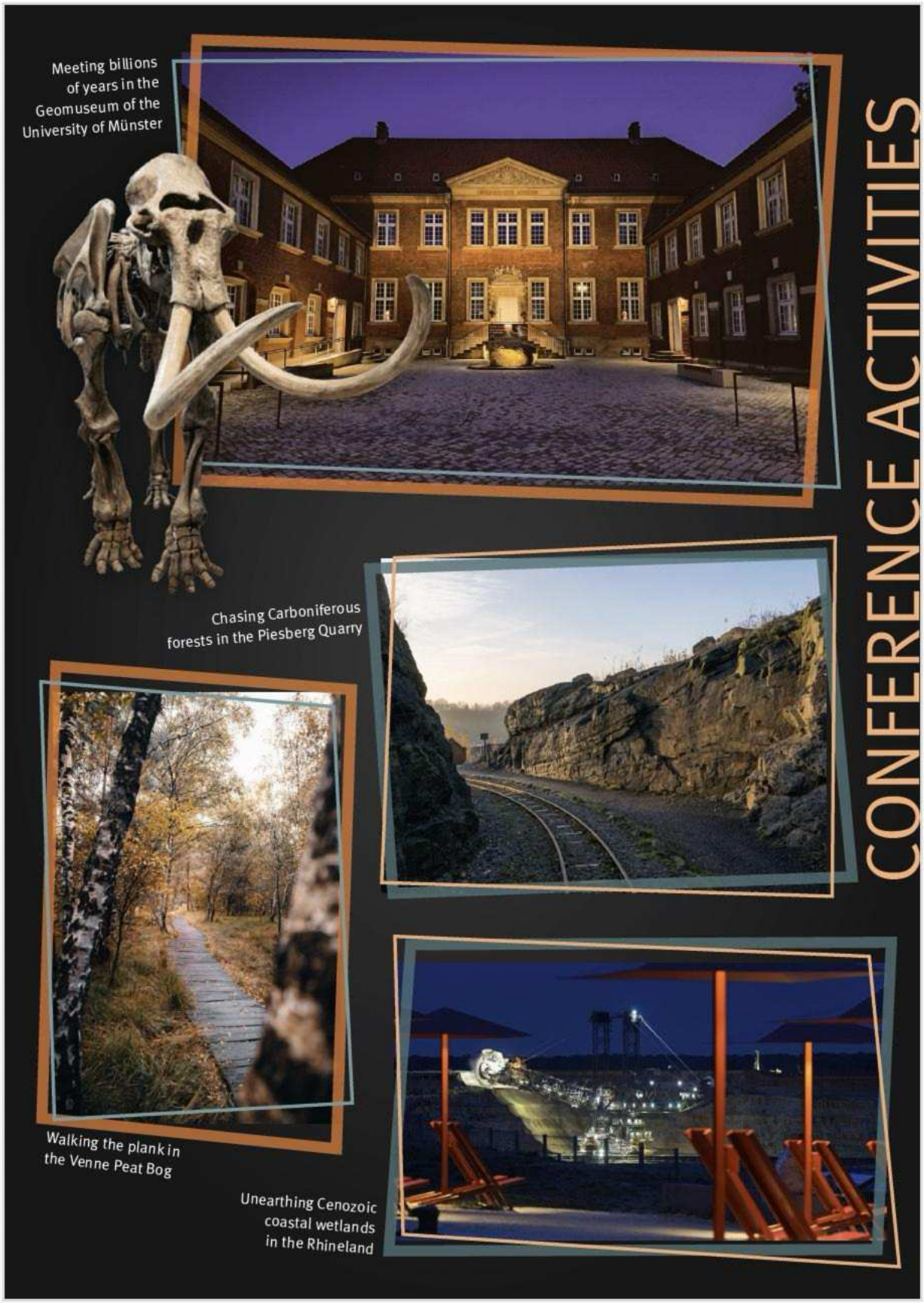
Greening at the brink – Palaeofloras and biotic crises

Mass extinctions have fundamentally shaped palaeocommunities and the course of evolution. Understanding the causes and effects of such drastic events is therefore crucial to understand biodiversity and biosphere/geosphere interactions both in the past and present. This symposium welcomes contributions that focus on palaeofloral and palynomorph records from biotic crises in Earth History. From Snowball Earth to the Ende-Cretaceous Mass Extinction – What can palaeo-botanical and palynological assemblages tell us about the drivers, extent and consequences of incisive phases in evolution? What are the potentials and limits of the fossil record, and what new tools and cross-discipline approaches can be used?

Chairpersons: ...
Possible contributors...

Several plants built up the peat-forming forests of Pennsylvanian tropical Pangaea. Photo: Geomuseum/Steinweg.

CONFERENCE ACTIVITIES



CONFERENCE ACTIVITIES

Relaxing in Münster, the beautiful capital of Westphalia

Discovering Westphalian palaeontological treasures in the new State Exhibiton of North Rhine-Westphalia 2026. Photo: LWL/Steinweg

Decoding nature in the LWL-Museum of Natural History. Photo: LWL/Steinweg

Immersing in Space in the modern planetarium of the LWL-Museum of Natural History Münster. Photo: LWL/Steinweg

WHAT IS NEXT?

1. September 2025

opening conference website – deadline for symposia submission

1. October 2025: second circular

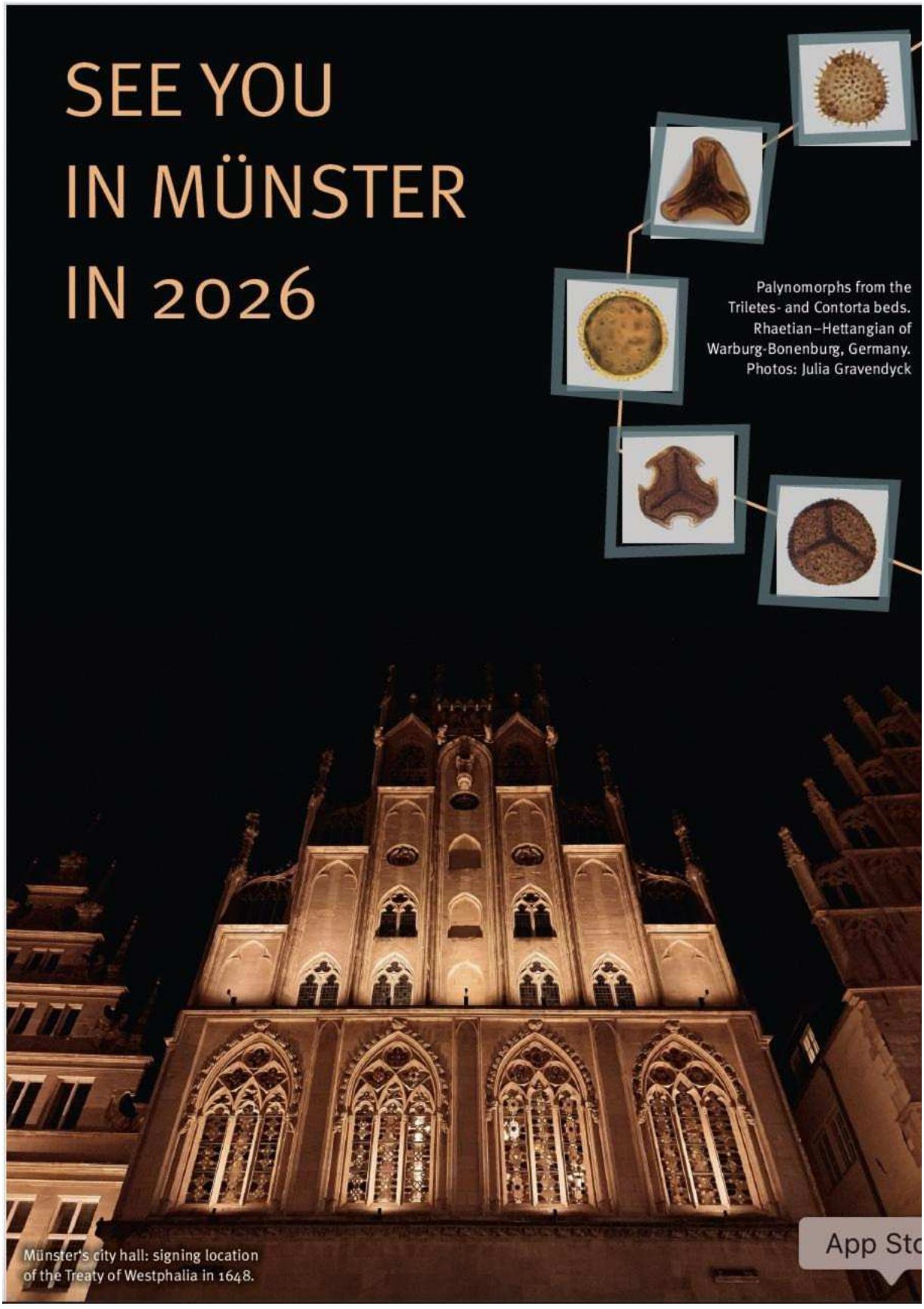
registration fees – conference schedule – field trips – list of symposia

1. February 2026: third circular

information on hotels – public transport

Permineralised fungal hyphae in extraxylary conifer cells, lower Permian, Germany.

Studying Carboniferous arborescent lycopsid plants in situ in a coal mine in Hattingen in the Ruhr Area, Germany. Photo: LWL/Steinweg


SEE YOU
IN MÜNSTER
IN 2026
Palynomorphs from the Triletes- and Contorta beds. Rhaetian–Hettangian of Warburg-Bonenburg, Germany. Photos: Julia Gravendyck
Münster's city hall: signing location of the Treaty of Westphalia in 1648.
App Sto

APPENDIX 2: 1ST CIRCULAR OF SAPP – AASP

19th Argentine Symposium on Paleobotany and Palynology
joint with the
58th Annual Meeting of the AASP-The Palynological Society

Trelew, Argentina
2026 September 8-11

Dear colleagues and friends,

We are excited to invite you to the 19th Argentine Symposium on Paleobotany and Palynology (SAPP), which will be held jointly with the 58th Annual Meeting of the AASP–The Palynological Society in 2026. The event will take place in Trelew, a city in northern Patagonia and home to the Egidio Feruglio Paleontological Museum (MEF), the host institution.

The MEF's recent expansion has tripled the museum's exhibit space and added state-of-the-art infrastructure for academic and scientific events. The newly built MEF Convention Center will be the main venue, offering modern facilities in the heart of the city.

The Convention Center features a main auditorium that accommodates over 800 people, as well as several fully equipped breakout rooms, cutting-edge audiovisual technology, full accessibility for individuals with reduced mobility, and communal areas for networking and relaxation. Its downtown location offers easy access to accommodations, transportation hubs, and local restaurants.

The MEF itself is one of Latin America's most prominent scientific institutions, housing a world-renowned paleontological collection. Its permanent exhibitions trace the history of life on Earth—from its origins to the present—and feature iconic specimens such as the *Patagotitan mayorum*, the largest dinosaur known to date. In addition to its newly renovated galleries, the museum features research labs, educational areas, and a visitor center that includes a museum shop and café.

Just across the street, the National University of Patagonia San Juan Bosco (UNPSJB, Trelew campus) has a long record in academic training and scientific research in southern Argentina. The institution hosts the Botany and Palynology laboratories, as well as the Trelew Herbarium, which will be available for visits during the meeting.

Thematic symposia, keynote lectures, and field trips to sites of paleobotanical, botanical, and geological interest are planned, providing opportunities for academic exchange near the Patagonian landscape.

The event will also feature a set of initiatives aimed at strengthening engagement with the local community. These include educational programs, public exhibitions, and outreach activities designed to bring advances in Palaeobotany and Palynology closer to a broader audience, fostering exchange between science and society in a regional context.

About Patagonia and Trelew

Patagonia is a key region for the natural sciences in the Southern Hemisphere. Its mix of steppes, mountains, and well-preserved geological history makes it a reference area for paleontological research. Fossil sites across the region provide extraordinary records that are essential for reconstructing the evolution of ecosystems and biotas through time.

It is also a living territory of exceptional biodiversity, featuring species such as the Magellanic penguins and southern right whales on the Atlantic coast.

Located in the center of this vast region, the city of Trelew has daily flights to and from Buenos Aires via the Almirante Marcos A. Zar International Airport, and additional air connections through the El Tehuelche Airport (in Puerto Madryn, 60 km north). Trelew also has a regional and national bus terminal, along with a wide range of accommodation, gastronomy, and services, making it a suitable location for scientific meetings of both national and international scale.

Hence, the meeting offers a unique opportunity to explore this region's natural and fossil heritage while engaging in academic exchange in Paleobotany and Palynology.

We look forward to welcoming you to Patagonia — for its science, its land, and its life.

The 19th SAPP and 58th AASP–TPS meetings Organizing Committee