

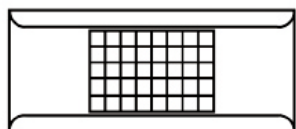
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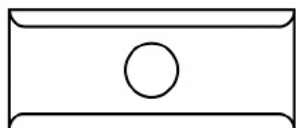


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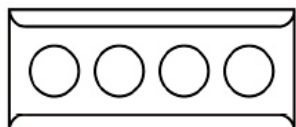
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Newsletter of Micropalaeontology



August 2007

Number 76

Edited by I. J. Slipper



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The future of micropalaeontology illustrated by this scene from the Lyme Regis Fossil Festival in May this year. The full story can be found on page 33. Please check your address label - if it displays LP after your name, it means your subs are overdue. The Society is now thriving with many new members, so do not miss out. The centrefold pull out is there for you to recruit new members; TMS is excellent value for money, with two issues of both the *Journal* and this *Newsletter* per year. Also, put the AGM date in your diary now - 7th Nov - see page 7 for more details.

Copy date for next issue 1st Dec

The Micropalaeontological Society

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Society News

Report from the Chair - a Medal for the Society Prof. David Siveter

It is particular pleasure to inform you that this year The Micropalaeontological Society has commissioned its first medal, to be known as the Brady Medal. The choice of name was a nice problem that faced TMS Committee members in the Spring this year. As you can imagine, there was no shortage of suggestions of scientists who we might honour in this way. That said, we consider the chosen appellation to be very appropriate indeed, being named in honour of G. S. Brady (1832-1921) and H. B. Brady (1835-1891) in recognition of their pioneering studies in micropalaeontology and natural history.

The Brady Medal will be awarded to scientists who have had a major influence on micropalaeontology by means of a substantial body of excellent research and will represent the highest award of The Micropalaeontological Society. The Medal will be cast in bronze from original sculptures by **Anthony Stones**, who is a Fellow of the Royal Society of British Sculptors and a former President of The Society of Portrait Sculptors. As I write this piece the Medal is in preparation for casting at the leading sculpture foundry *Pangolin Editions* of Chalford, using the traditional skills of lost wax investment casting.

TMS members will have the opportunity to nominate candidates for consideration for this award and details of how to go about this task will be given shortly on the TMS website. The Medal is primarily intended to recognise and reward scientific excellence, although, clearly, service to the scientific community may also be a factor when nominations are considered. The Brady Medal will be presented for first time this year, at the Annual General Meeting of The Micropalaeontological Society on 7th November at University College London. It is envisaged that

the award of the medal will become embedded as part of future AGMs and that it will be seen as a prestigious honour within micropalaeontology.

At its recent meeting TMS Committee noted with thanks the great progress that our archivist **Richard Hodgkinson** has made in trying to put decades of Society business in order. Many papers are at hand, and gaps that emerge will be identified in a future *Newsletter*. In addition to written papers the activities of a learned society are also, of course, vitally documented by images, captured for example at meetings and on field trips. A single image can portray a thousand words. The importance of keeping an archive of images was bought home to TMS in the commissioning of the Brady Medal, and the hunt for what turned out to be rare photographs of George and Henry. So, a request - if you have a photograph recording that TMS ostracod group meeting to the Welsh Borders in 1982 or whatever, please send a copy to Richard (Dept Palaeontology, Natural History Museum, London) with full details, including especially the identity of the people depicted. In this way we hope to enhance the record of the history of TMS and provide material for future students of the history of science.

The inaugural Brady Medal will be presented at a very appropriate occasion, when our AGM will have the theme of "*Micropalaeontological Heroes*" and two of the five invited lectures will celebrate the lives and work of the Brady brothers. **Andy Henderson** (local Secretary) has arranged a splendid programme of talks and speakers, details of which appear elsewhere in this newsletter. The meeting is TMS contribution to the bicentenary celebrations of the Geo-

Micropalaeontology Diary

2007

Aug 13-16	40th Anniversary Symposium on Early Vertebrates, Upsala
Aug 24-Sept 1	5th International EMMM, Nuremburg, Germany
Sept 2-7	9th International Palaeoceanography Congress, Shanghai
Sept 5-7	6th European Ostracodologists' Meeting (EOM), Frankfurt
Sept 8-12	AASP 40th Annual Conference, Panama
Sept 12-16	North American Diatom Symposium (NADS), Michigan
Sept 24-28	CIMP Pollen, Spores & Acritarchs meeting, Lisbon
Sept 24-28	15th GEC European Charophytologists' meeting, Belgrade
Oct 17	Nominations for TMS Committee positions
Oct 28-31	GSA Annual Meeting, Denver, Colorado
Nov 7	TMS AGM

2008

Feb 29	Grant-in-Aid submission deadline
Mar/April	Canadian Ostracodologists' meeting (COME2)
April 25-27	TMS Ostracod Group Spring Meeting, Flatford Mill

logical Society and it is hoped that **Richard Fortey**, Geological Society President, will be able to join us for the occasion. We are hoping for a bumper turnout, so do come along and also encourage others to do so, especially students. All TMS members can do their bit for the Society and the meeting by down loading the attractive 'Flyer' (to be distributed to members shortly) prepared by publicity officer **Mark Williams**, and posting it in your common room or corridor. Remember, the meeting requires no prior registration and is absolutely free.

Secretary's Report - Prof. Michal Kucera

The meteorological office here in Germany just announced that the last 12 months were the warmest on record. As you will see from the news and announcements in this *Newsletter* and at the AGM in November, TMS has been keeping pace with the weather: a new Special Publication on **Climate** and Microfossils is due to be unveiled in November at the AGM, which will feature **sizzling** talks on the heroes of our discipline as well as the launch of **hot** new initiatives. As if that was not evidence enough for the weathery correlation, the results of the EGM have provoked a **heated** reaction by some members, and yet another successful meeting of the Foraminifera and Nannofossil Groups, this time in **sunny** Angers, has sent off waves of **fiery** enthusiasm through the community.

My thanks to all members who continue to support TMS and its various activities. The Society is steaming ahead with many new trumps in every sleeve. Watch this space!

Extraordinary General Meeting

As reported elsewhere in *The Newsletter* (page 9) an extraordinary general meeting of TMS took place in March to consider a motion by the Committee to change the name of the Senior Officer of TMS to President. The committee received several comments by

Time flies. It does not seem as long as three years ago that I became Chairman of TMS but it is, and I will hand over the baton at the November AGM. Looking back I see that in my first *Report from the Chair* I noted that I intended to enjoy my three-year stint; it's certainly been interesting, and fun. I would like to thank all TMS Committee members who have served the Society during that period and TMS Membership at large for its continued support to the Society. I look forward to seeing you at the AGM.

members, the majority of which were strongly in support of the motion. The EGM ruled in support of the motion and TMS will thus, as of 2007 AGM, be lead by a (then newly elected) President. The change represents a further step towards the ambitious aim of becoming a leading Society in the discipline worldwide and puts TMS in line with other Societies of this type. To much surprise, this development has attracted strong opinions from several members of TMS. Whilst the Committee does not share these views and knows that they do not represent the majority of the membership, in the spirit of open communication, the opinion voiced by these members is reprinted here on page 38, together with a reply by the Committee.

Annual General Meeting 2007

The 2007 Annual General Meeting will be held at University College London on Wednesday 7th November. Items for the agenda should be presented to the Secretary by e-mail or in writing by Wednesday 17th October 2007. Like every year, the meeting will include presentation of the Society's Awards and Honours and will be followed by a wine reception. The final agenda for the AGM will be displayed on the Society's website

www.tmsoc.org

The topic of the scientific programme of the

Journal of Micropalaeontology Sale of Back Issues

TMS has a considerable number of back issues of past volumes of the *Journal of Micropalaeontology* and is having a sale in order to try and clear much of this back stock. Not all volumes are available, but we certainly have the majority of the Journal's first 21 volumes for sale at the give-away price of **£1 per issue** plus postage and packaging. Should you wish to purchase back issues of the Journal, then please use the form below.

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Count Alexis Nicolas Mouravieff (1936-2007)

Nicolas Mouravieff was born in Brussels on June 7th 1936 and died from illness at Wavre hospital, near Louvain-la-Neuve (where he lived), on the 19th of May 2007.

His family took a large part in the Russian history. In 1825, a group of noble officers, from Saint Petersburg, dreamed of liberal reforms and of a constitutional monarchy. These “decembrists” or “decabrists”, among whom the ancestor, was either hanged or banished.

The most internationally known ancestor is certainly, count Nikolaï Nikolaïvitch Mouraviev-Amourski (1809-1881), Statesman and diplomat, member of the Academy of Sciences of Saint Petersburg. After a brilliant military career, in retirement, he became General-Governor of Eastern Siberia, reconquered the river Amur and led the negotiations with the Chinese Government, which ended with the Treaty of Aygun, making the area from the Amur river, to its mouth, the natural frontier between Russia and China.

In 1960, Nicolas Mouravieff became the assistant of Professor Marius Lecompte, specialist of Devonian corals, stromatoporoids and reefs and was placed in charge of the study of the conodonts from the type locality of Frasn. After his military duty as officer in the corps of engineers, he returned to the university at Louvain, and became full time assistant in 1962, First assistant and Chef de Travaux in 1973.

After the death of M. Lecompte (1902-1970), he became assistant of Raphaël Conil (1930-1990), a famous Lower Carboniferous micropalaeontologist, under the direction of which he presented his PhD in 1970 entitled “Conodontes du Frasnien de la Belgique – Biostratigraphie et aspects écologiques”. He was one of the precursors of the study of the relations between conodonts and their environment. A part of this work was published in a special volume called “Papers on the Frasnian-Givetian Boundary”, produced by the Subcommission of Devonian Stratigraphy (Brussels, 1982) and entitled “Conodont stratigraphic scheme of the Frasnian of the Ardennes”, (pp. 101-118, 7 plates).

He was an intelligent and cultivated man and was in charge of the practical teaching of geology for students in sciences and involved in the fieldwork. In his job, he was meticulous and always took care of the details. He was never in lack of projects. The students and the professors appreciated him both. For many years, Nicolas and myself organised weekends in the French Boulonnais as first contact for the students with their new studies. Even after his retirement, he continued organising these kind of activities.

He retired in April 1998. His wife Jocelyne Mouravieff-Aubin is a well-known sculptor who also writes pieces of poetry.

by
Eric Groessens

2007 AGM will be “*Micropalaeontological Heroes*”. Five speakers will ponder over a century of pioneering work, breakthroughs and fallacies, heroes and anti-heroes of our science. This very special programme will be a contribution by TMS to the bicentenary celebrations of The Geological Society of London, the oldest learned society devoted to geoscience in the world. One could hardly imagine a more appropriate occasion than this to launch the first TMS Medal. The newly established Brady Medal is the highest award of TMS and it will be first awarded at the 2007 AGM (see page 3 of the Newsletter for further details). In addition to the exciting talks, wine reception and medal ceremony, the audience will be treated to mystery guests and the latest news from the Society. If you can make it, come and join us London in November! The full programme of the AGM is printed on page 7 in this newsletter.

Changes to the Committee

The terms of office of the following Officers of the Committee come to an end at the 2007 AGM: *Chairman, Treasurer, Special Publications Editor*.

Nominations for these positions should be submitted to the Secretary by Wednesday 17th October 2007. Nominees, proposers and seconders should all be members of the Society. Those who consider standing for any of the offices are welcome to contact the Secretary or the Chairman for information on what duties these posts entail. The Committee's nominations for these posts are:

Charles Downie Award 2007

The Charles Downie Award is an annual award made to the member of the Society who, in the opinion of the Committee, has published the most significant paper, in any journal, based upon his or her postgraduate research. The Committee has awarded the 2007 Charles Downie Award (best paper published in 2006) to **Eleanor Maddison** (Open University, UK) for her publication: Maddison, E. J., Pike, J., Leventer, A., Dunbar, R., Brachfeld, S., Domack, E. W., Man-

ley, P. and McClellenn, C. Post-glacial seasonal diatom record of the Mertz Glacier Polynya, *East Antarctica. Marine Micropaleontology* **60**, 66-88 (2006).

The committee received two nominations for the award. Dr Maddison will receive her award at the 2007 AGM.

Grants-in-Aid 2007

Six applications had been received by the deadline, all of which were of high standard. It is encouraging for the Society to see a continuous engagement by its young members. Having considered the merits of the applications, the committee decided to support each by an award of £100. The awardees are: **Jawad Afzal** (PhD student, Leicester) to collect samples in Pakistan,

Claudia Cetean (PhD student, Cluj-Napoca) to attending the Mikro 2007 workshop in Gdansk,

Tom Challands (PhD student, Durham) to attend the 2007 EGU meeting in Vienna, **Sarah Heal** (PhD student, Dublin) to attend the XVI International Congress on the Carboniferous and Permian in Nanjing,

Anna Hey (PhD student, Cardiff) to attend the 10th International Symposium on Antarctic Earth Sciences in Santa Barbara and

Lea Numberger (PhD student, Tübingen) to attend TMS Foraminifera and Nannofossil Group meeting 2007 in Angers.

TMS Grants-in-Aid are awarded annually to help student members of the Society in their fieldwork, conference attendance, or any other specific activity related to their research which has not been budgeted for. Grants-in-Aid cannot be awarded for miscellaneous expenditure, nor can they be awarded retrospectively. A maximum of £200 can be awarded to each successful applicant. Awardees are expected to write a short report for *The Newsletter* once their grant has been used. Applications forms may be obtained from the Secretary at:

michal.kucera@uni-tuebingen.de

The next deadline for applications is 29th February 2008.

Membership Database

The Society's database currently comprises 415 individual members of which 220 are resident in the UK, 107 in Europe and 90 in the rest of the World. So far, the Society has welcomed 28 new members, continuing the rising trend of the last year. It is especially encouraging to see a growth in European and Overseas membership numbers, which is in line with the vision of TMS to serve as the foremost international forum for our discipline. [There are in addition 134 library and institutional members worldwide. Ed.]

Treasurers' Report - Dr Stephen Packer & Clive Jones

All members should have received a 2007 subscription invoice by now. If you haven't paid to date, we would be grateful if you could do so as soon as possible.

The Society's policy in the past has been to remove non-payers from the mailing list if payment has not been received once reminders have gone out. (Copies of the 2007 subscription invoice can be downloaded from the website just in case you've lost it).

Also a reminder for those with a UK bank account that Direct Debit mandate forms can be downloaded from the website. If you would like to pay your 2008 subscription

For those who have not renewed your membership yet: bold "LP" letters in the address label indicate you have not paid yet. Members who do not renew their subscriptions by the AGM (7th November 2007) will have to be struck off the database and will receive neither *Newsletter of Micropalaeontology* no. 77 nor Part 2 of Volume 26 of the *Journal of Micropalaeontology*.

using this method please return this form to us over the next few months. This saves you the bother of returning credit card details or cheques to the membership treasurer each year.

The Society administers two memorial funds (Charles Downie and Alan Higgins). If you would like to make a donation to either fund or contribute to the Brady Medal please send your cheques etc. to us.

Thank you for your continued support of TMS and we look forward to seeing many of you again during 2007.

New Members

We welcome the following new members to the Society:

Casford, J.	Bolton, C.	Quinn, P.S.	and welcome back to:
Parthasarathy, R.	Beer, C.J.	Ghosh, A.	
Micoara, I.T.	Bellas, S.	Dowsett, H.	Hooker, N.P.
Ball, J.	Ciurej, A.	Osterloff, P.	Lunt, P.
Bennett, J.	Fontanier, C.	Ufkes, E.	Alve, E.
Griffiths, N.	Challands, T.J.	Little, D.	Igarashi, A.
Snider, A.	Foy, D.L.	Baumann, K.-H.	
Smith, D.M.	Hammoudi, R.A.	Levet, D.	
Montiel, E.	Yanko-Hombach, V.	Peryt, D.	
Onodera, J.	Donoghue, P.C.J.		
Fernandes, P.	Jones, C.		

A reply to the above letter

We regret to see that our initiative to enhance the profile and prestige of the Society has met with misunderstanding. We value the views and engagement of every member of TMS and therefore wish to print the above letter in full as requested by its lead author. We do so knowing that this opinion does not represent the majority of the views that the Committee has received earlier this year, after the proposed change of the title of the senior officer has been announced to the membership in the newsletter and via the w.w.web. More importantly, it is the unanimous view of the Committee that the EGM has been called in accordance with every article of the Constitution and Rules of TMS. The wording of the Rules is not open to interpretation. If it were, why should we have any? The authors of the letter refer to the rules of the Charity Commission. A closer examination of these rules reveals the supposition presented in the above letter to be false. The minimum quorum required by Charity Commission for a decision affecting the Constitution is two Trustees. In addition, the proposed change in fact does not fall into the remit of the Charity Commission. For further information, please consult the following website: <http://www.charity-commission.gov.uk/>

Professor David J. Siveter
Department of Geology
University of Leicester
Leicester LE1 7RH

0116-2523925

Chairman, The Micropalaeontological Society

Institute for the Promotion of the Less than One Millimeter

A website discovered which contains
"The Micropoltian Museum" of microscopic artforms

A commentator on the site muses "Monty Python sits somewhere on the Board, I think. The website mixes micro photography with light humor. The marine collection is a gallery of pictures grouped into subheadings like the "Foram Factory", "Radiolaria Lounge", and "Center for Larval Development." The photo below is one example. Take all day and browse the images. "

The authors are Win van Egmond and Brian Darnton and can be found at

www.microscopy-uk.org.uk



Peneroplis planatus
©image: Wim van Egmond 2000

Letters to the Editor

AN OPEN LETTER TO THE MICROPALAEONTOLOGICAL SOCIETY MEMBERSHIP

An Extraordinary General Meeting of the Society was called on the 14th March, 2007 with the sole purpose of changing the title of the Chair of the Micropalaeontological Society to President. A change in itself which is relatively minor and would probably be accepted widely by the membership, but as the officers of the Society are defined in the Society Constitution it requires a vote at a General Meeting to change the title of any one of them. Notification of the meeting in this case was rushed out by email because there was a delay in publishing the Newsletter and many members did not receive it within the 21 days required in the Rules for it to constitute formal notification (Rule 5 iii). This alone brings the validity of the meeting into question.

Calling such a meeting, even though it coincided with a Society Committee meeting, was never going to attract general members of the Society to travel from their places of work/study/retirement in sufficient numbers to create what was a quorum for a Society general meeting. A quorum at an extraordinary general meeting (EGM) is poorly defined in the Society rules which state: "At the AGM, 10% of the current membership of the Society shall constitute a quorum" (Rule 5 iv). Nothing is actually stated regarding a quorum for an EGM, but by convention this is still a General Meeting which is being organised in addition to the AGM and should fall under the same rules.

On this understanding, any decision taken at such a meeting which is attended by less than 10% of the current membership should be deemed null and void. It is my understanding that there was a relatively sparse attendance at the EGM on March 14th which numbered well under the full committee membership of 22, let alone 10% of the full Society membership of over 400. This being the case, the EGM could not arrive at any decisions which would be binding on the Society. Had it done so, it would set an enormous precedent meaning that in future any 10 members could call an EGM (Rule 5ii) and potentially change the Society Constitution fundamentally. This must be in breach of any understanding between the Society and the Charity Commission, under whose jurisdiction the Society operates.

It is the recommendation of the undersigned that any decision minuted at the meeting of March 14th, 2007 be regarded as invalid on the basis of an insufficient attendance and that the Society Committee, should they wish, raise the proposal for the name change at a General Meeting at which there is an established quorum, presumably at a future AGM. Until such time, the "head" of the Society remains the Chair.

Yours

Dr. Haydon W. Bailey
Dr. Liam T. Gallagher
Dr. Keith J. Gueinn

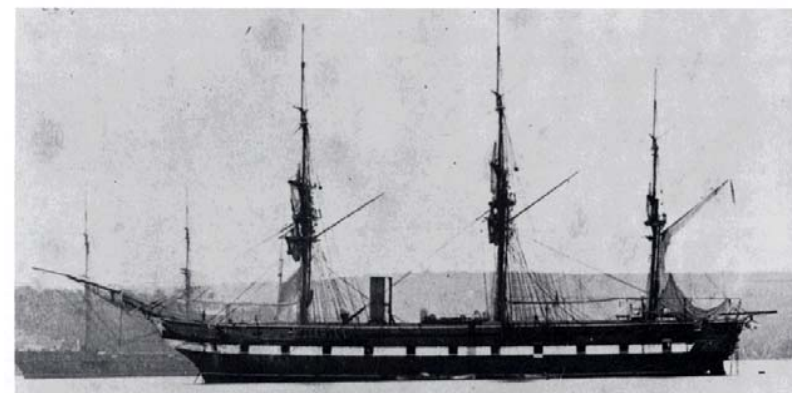
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The Micropalaeontological Society

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Annual General Meeting 2007



Micropalaeontological Heroes

Speakers:

Dr David J. Horne - Ostracods, evolution & religion: George Stewardson Brady (1832-1921) & his scientific collaborators. **Dr Robert Wynn Jones** - Henry Bowman Brady, Hero of Foraminiferology: The Man, the Scientist & the Scientific Legacy. **Prof. Simon J. Knell** - The contentious vertebrate: Christian Pander & the conodont in the nineteenth century. **Prof. John Marshall** - Arthur Raistrick, *Dalesman of the Millennium* & palynologist. **Dr Jeremy Young** - The slow discovery of coccolithophores, from Ehrenberg to Lohmann via Sorby, Wallich & Huxley - heroes & anti-heroes?

Venue: University College London, November 7th, 2007. Meeting convener: Dr Andrew Henderson, Department of Palaeontology, Natural History Museum, London. For further information see TMS website. The meeting will include presentation of society Awards & Honours, & will be followed by a wine reception.



Journal Editor's Report - Dr John Gregory

Issue 26/1 was published on time in April and the contents are listed below; all these articles are available for free download as pdfs by paid-up members at:

www.tmsoc.org

Volume 26, Part 1, April 2007

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1. Organic-walled dinoflagellate cyst stratigraphy in an expanded Oligocene-Miocene boundary section in the eastern North Sea Basin (Frida-1 Well, Denmark) and correlation from basinal to marginal areas.

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2. Latest Permian Entactinaria (Radiolaria) from southern Guangxi, China.

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3. The Pennsylvanian conodont genus *Gondolella* Stauffer & Plummer, 1932: reinterpretation of the original type specimens and concepts.

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4. Seasonal dynamics and decadal changes of benthic foraminiferal assemblages in the western Baltic Sea (NW Europe).

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6. Fusulinid Foraminifera of the Bashkirian-Moscovian boundary in the eastern Taurides, southern Turkey.

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7. The Radiolaria of the Herefordshire Konservat-Lagerstätte (Silurian), England.

David J. Siveter, J. C. Aitchison, Derek J. Siveter & M. D. Sutton p. 86

I was particularly pleased to see several papers from the less well represented groups in the Journal including radiolarians and conodonts. There have been 12 submissions so far this year to June 2007, and there is already enough material being copy-edited and typeset for issue 26/2 with this issue anticipated to be published on time in mid-October 2007.

One major change I will be implementing this year will be the introduction of an International Editorial Board. This Board is being established to further increase the Journal's international appeal and to attract submissions from institutions which may not have previously considered the Journal.

John Gregory

PetroStrat Ltd & Natural History Museum

john@jgregory.demon.co.uk

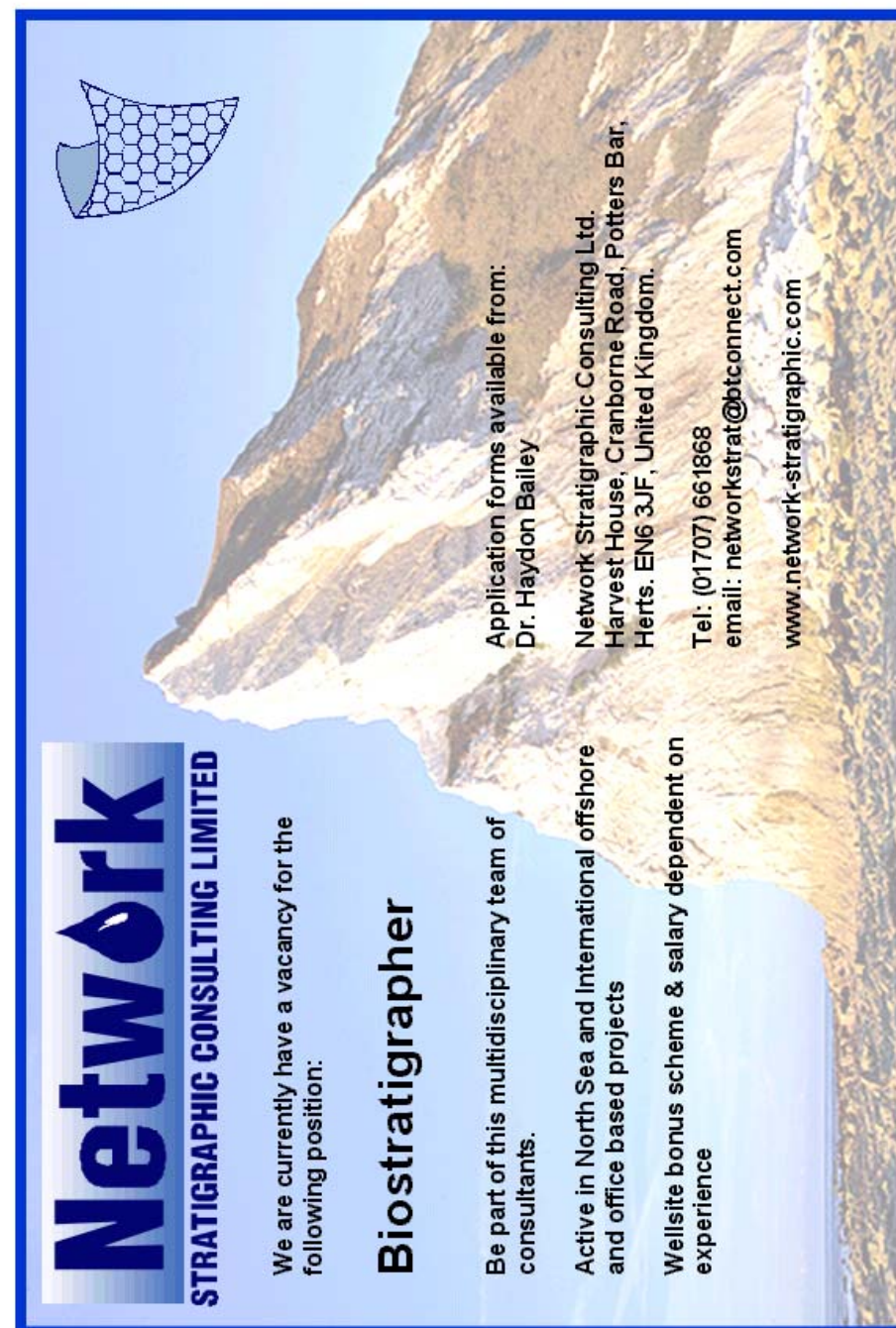
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CAP Newsletter goes digital

A recent poll by email on members of the Canadian Association of Micropalaeontologists has resulted in their newsletter now being distributed only by electronic means as a pdf document. Over half of the membership responded and there was no dissent to this change. Should TMS offer this as a method of distribution for this *Newsletter*? The editor would be interested to receive comments.

Patrick De Deckker AM

Koen Martens, president of The International Research Group ON Ostracoda (IRGO) was among the first to congratulate Professor Patrick de Dekker on his recent award of Membership of the Order of Australia. He is now Patrick De Deckker AM. The Australians gave up the English system of public honours like knighthoods about 30 years ago and invented the above Order. These can be awarded at various grades and is given to anybody nominated by the public for various reasons. In Patrick's case it is for "research and teaching in palaeoclimate study, salination and climate change, and through the initiation and support of international scientific collaboration". We echo the words of Koen Martens - and warmly congratulate Patrick De Deckker with this great honour!



ISO 15 - Online

Renate Matzke-Karasch announces the online publication of the ISO15 Proceedings, theme 1: "Linking Bio- and Geosciences" as volume **585** (1) of the journal *Hydrobiologia*.

<http://www.springerlink.com/content/100271/>

Eighteen papers, derived from presentations at ISO15 in Berlin in September 2005, again illustrate the diversity of applications of ostracod research in both biology and palaeontology.

These papers are prefaced by a study on the recent history of ostracodology, based on numerical analyses of earlier ISO proceedings. If you are interested in receiving a PDF of this paper, please send a mail to Renate directly:

r.matzke@lrz.uni-muenchen.de

ODP Results - Online

Published volumes detailing nearly 40 years of scientific discoveries from ocean drilling research - a vast reservoir of valuable and citable data for geoscientists - will soon be freely accessible online. These publications represent the scholarly results of an important global science endeavour that forever changed mankind's understanding of the Earth.

All findings and data published in volumes from the Ocean Drilling Program (ODP) are now available at

<http://www.odplegacy.org>

The second phase of the digitization project, to be completed by this fall, will bring the Initial Reports of the Deep Sea Drilling Project series (Volumes 1-96) and other printed ODP and Deep Sea Drilling Project (DSDP) reports online. The DSDP publications will be available at

<http://www.deepseadrilling.org>

THE MICROPALAEONTOLOGICAL SOCIETY Extraordinary General Meeting

Minutes of the TMS Extraordinary General Meeting held on Wednesday 14th March 2007, in the De La Beche Room, Natural History Museum, London, commencing 13:45.

The Chairman of TMS, Prof. David Siveter, opened the EGM and welcomed those present. First, it was established that 13 TMS members were present, including all three trustees. Second, Dr. John Whittaker was proposed to act as scrutineer and this proposal was accepted unanimously. The Chairman then asked whether there are any other items of agenda apart from the change of name of the senior officer as advertised. No other items for agenda were received and the EGM thus proceeded with the original single agenda item.

The Secretary of TMS, Prof. Michal Kucera then read out all apologies and written opinions received prior to the EGM. Six written opinions were received, one questioning the need to change, one considering the change flawed and four in favour of change. The EGM noted a letter by Dr. Haydon Bailey, who questioned whether the EGM was called in accordance with the rules of the Society and whether it will be quorate. MK read out Article 5 vi) of the Rules, which explicitly describes the quorum of an AGM and of Committee Meetings. This article contains no mention of EGM and it was thus established that the present EGM can be considered quorate.

In a brief discussion, the reasons for calling an EGM were repeated and it was reverberated that in view of the Committee it would be inappropriate to change the title of the senior officer of TMS at the upcoming AGM. It was judged inappropriate to change the title of the senior officer in "mid term" or at a meeting where a new senior officer would stand for election. It was also noted that the title Chairman is potentially gender-discriminative. MK produced a list of 15 societies from 4 countries of similar character as TMS and noted that all of them are led by presidents. It then transpired that none of those present knew of any learned society that was not led by a president. Prior to voting, DS reminded the EGM that it will be important to communicate not only the decision that will be taken, but also its motivation, and that it is important to make sure the decision is arrived at in compliance with all relevant regulations.

Following the discussion, DS then initiated the vote. Of the 13 members present 10 supported the motion to change the title of the senior officer, 3 abstained and none was against. The required two-thirds majority being reached (TMS Constitution, Article 6), the motion was declared as accepted and the Constitution and Rules of TMS have been amended so that the title "Chair" and "Chairman" will be replaced by "President" throughout.

An enquiry was then raised, as to when the change would be effective. DS replied that as an amendment of the Constitution and the Rules, the change is effective immediately, but in practice the title President will first be used when the new senior officer is elected at the November 2007 AGM.

MK was then charged to produce an announcement on the results of the EGM to be distributed via email among the membership.

There being no other business, the meeting was adjourned at 2 pm.

Prof Michal Kucera

Specialist Group News

Foraminifera and Nannofossil Groups' Report

Joachim Schönfeld, Daniela Schmidt & Jeremy Young

Joint meeting - Angers (France)

7th-8th June 2007

"Integrated Studies of Taxonomy Ecology and Geochemistry"

Small meetings of like-minded researchers are often much more productive than large expensive conferences covering a superficially impressive range of topics in multiple parallel sessions. The foram-nanno group meetings seem to fit this model well; there is enough diversity for it to be a real learning experience but enough similarity for us to have real interest in all the science presented.

The fourth joint foram-nanno group meeting was held in Angers and judging by the turnout, the quality of presentations, the level of animated discussion, and the affecting speeches on every available opportunity, was a great success. In total 80 researchers attended with a nice spread from enthusiastic PhD students to established academics, via all intermediate steps with a common interest in exchanging ideas and experiences. Participants came from twelve European countries ranging from Russia to Ireland and from the Netherlands to Spain. There was also a scattering of participants from further afield, including a several from Japan. As expected, the home country had the strongest delegation with 23 participants, but there was also an impressive level of participation from Germany including teams from Bremen, Kiel and Tübingen.

The meeting was hosted by the Angers University Laboratoire des Bio-Indicateurs Actuels et Fossiles (BIAF) lead by **Frans Jorissen**, the largest research group in Europe working on benthic foraminiferal ecology and palaeoecology - they have a team of seven researchers, three technicians, two

post-docs, and seven PhD students and a wide range of facilities including culture laboratories and even an offshore research station, on the Ile d'Yeu. They have been enthusiastic to host a TMS meeting for several years and delivered splendidly. The team, notably **Christophe Fontanier**, **Helene Howa**, and **Emmanuelle Geslin** had gone to great efforts to prepare for the meeting, including temporarily converting an examination hall into a combined poster room and dining area. This worked really well, with tea and lunch breaks passing seamlessly into extended discussion sessions around the numerous high-quality posters. The lecture theatre was just upstairs, an internet room nearby and nice lawns outside for a bit of relaxation. So we were able to spend the days very efficiently, and as might be expected in France, the food was excellent, both the lunches and the conference dinner in a splendid hotel in the centre of Angers.

Presentations by the Angers group were complimented by those of their colleagues from across Europe and their Japanese counter-parts **Hiroshi Katazato's** team from JAMSTEC, Tokyo, four of whom attended. So an impressive range of benthic foram research was presented with, as promised from the conference theme a wide range of methodologies being applied. The questions addressed ranged from palaeoceanography to biology but a noteworthy trend was an increased number of environmental monitoring studies, from tidal flats to the drill cutting dump sites on shelf seas. Environmental micropalaeontology is emerging as an important field and it is good to see TMS is providing a valuable forum for such studies. A few, rather randomly selected, highlights of the benthic

Postdoctoral scholar for a one year research fellowship The Laboratory of recent and Fossil Bio-Indicators (BIAF) at Angers University, and The LEBIM, Yeu island, France.

Development of Paleooceanographical proxies based on benthic and/or planktonic foraminifera

Origin of the candidate: All European countries except France.

Description: a one year research grant for a postdoctoral scholar based at the Laboratory of Recent and Fossil Bio-Indicators (BIAF), University of Angers and on the Laboratory for the Study of Marine Bio-indicators at the Ile d'Yeu, France.

Admission requirements: Relevant expertise with respect to the research thematics of the laboratory (Recent and Late Quaternary Benthic or Planktonic Foraminiferal Ecology). Maximum age at time of application: 35. Perfect knowledge of English for research purposes. Citizen of a European country; possession of a doctoral degree of science at the beginning of the contract.

Focus:

Applications are accepted by all students of benthic and planktonic foraminiferal ecology and paleoecology. The selected person will be involved in European and French national programs aiming at the improvement of paleoceanographic proxies based on the combination of foraminiferal assemblage characteristics and geochemical measurements of their shells.

Grant provisions: Grantees receive a monthly allowance of 1400 Euro net.

Restrictions: Round-trip airfare, visa fees, housing, medical insurance, and retirement insurance are not supplied, and have to be supported by the grantee.

Application process: Application deadline: as soon as possible, but before October 1, 2007. The position is available as soon as a suitable candidate is found.

Application procedure: Applicants submit as soon as possible a C.V. including detailed information on: University studies and diplomas obtained, Thesis (subject and name of supervisor), Professional experience, Relevant scientific techniques and skills acquired, List of publications Attach copy of the last diploma obtained

Contact: Applicants should address candidatures and all further inquiries to:

Prof. Frans Jorissen
Laboratory of Recent and Fossil Bio-Indicators
Angers University,
2 Boulevard Lavoisier
49045 Angers cedex, France
tel. (33) 41 73 53 91
fax. (33) 41 73 53 52
frans.jorissen@univ-angers.fr

Research Positions

PhD Thesis at the Laboratory of Recent and Fossil Bio-Indicators (BIAF) Angers University, France

Benthic foraminifera of the Portuguese Margin: Impact of organic supplies on the density, biodiversity and composition of the foraminiferal fauna.

This PhD thesis proposes to use benthic foraminiferal faunas of the Portuguese margin to study the structuring of benthic faunas by the quantity and quality of organic supplies to the ocean floor.

Two research strategies will be applied:

- 1) The study of faunas along 3 bathymetrical transects on the open margin, where the vertical flux of organic matter to the ocean floor diminishes with depth. This diminution is accompanied by a significant decrease of the labile fraction, which is easily metabolisable by aerobic macro- and meiofauna.
- 2) The comparison of the open margin faunas with faunas from submarine canyons, which serve as depocenters of large quantities of partially older, more refractory organic matter, will inform us about the influence of the organic matter quality on the benthic faunas.

This comparative study will also allow to test two recently proposed conceptual ecological models. The model proposed by Rex *et al.* (2005) predicts a maximum biodiversity in mesotrophic ecosystems. This theory converges with the TROX-model, proposed by Jorissen *et al.* (1995), which shows that for benthic foraminifera, there is a maximal diversification of ecological niches in mesotrophic conditions. Carney (2005) has recently suggested that the TROX-model can also successfully explain the macrofaunal distribution patterns on ocean margins.

The study of the foraminiferal faunas from a number of density sampled transects on the Portuguese Margin offers an ideal opportunity to test these ecological models, and to better understand the complex relationships between the organic flux to the ocean floor, and biodiversity. This study will also serve to ameliorate existing paleoproductivity proxies based on benthic foraminiferal assemblage composition.

This PhD subject offers to the candidate an opportunity to acquire a solid knowledge in marine ecology and geology, more particularly about the linkage between the export production and the characteristics of the benthic faunas. The study will be performed in a highly international context, in close collaboration with scientists of the Polytechnical University of Marche (Ancona, Italy) and the KNIOZ (Texel, Netherlands).

Thesis Director : Prof. F. Jorissen (UPRES EA 2644, BIAF, Université d'Angers),
tél 0241 733695, frans.jorissen@univ-angers.fr



foraminiferal presentations include: presentations by **Hidetako Nomaki** (JAMSTEC) on the role of foraminifera in the benthic food web; by **Ann Holbourn** (Kiel) on Cenozoic palaeoceanography; by **Vincent Bouchet** (Angers) on the application of tomography to characterise burrow systems in a core then dissected it to study the distribution of foraminifera in it; and by **Jaroslav Tyska** (Krakow) who demonstrated an interesting new 3D version of the classic Berger model of foraminiferal growth (<http://tinyurl.com/2lcwa5>) and used it to discuss alternative theories of foraminiferal macroevolution.

Plankton studies were also well-represented with about equal numbers of presentations of nannofossils and planktonic forams. The need for real rigour in methodologies was highlighted by **Rob Speijer** with a coruscating review of the frequent abuses of the P:B ratio palaeodepth proxy. Fortunately this was balanced by a series of talks on improved methodologies including **Anton Eisenhauer** (Kiel) on paired $^{40}\text{Ca}/^{44}\text{Ca}$ and Mg/Ca ratios, with interesting implications for understanding biomineralisation. **Sebastian Meier** and **Martine Couapel** from CEREGE (Aix) explained how the SYRACO automated identification system is changing the boundaries of what is possible in study of modern and Holocene assemblages, and **Mariem Saavedra-Pellitero** (Salamanca) described work to develop a temperature transfer function for coccolith assemblages based on modern taxonomy. Deeper in geological time the work set in train by **Paul**

Pearson on exceptionally preserved shelf records of plankton continues to produce fine results as highlighted by **Tom Dunkley-Jones** (UCL) working on coccoliths from Tanzania and **Cat Burgess** (Cardiff) using a wide range of proxies on the Eocene Hampden Formation in New Zealand.

Finally, we should outline the single study which best encapsulated the integrated studies theme of the meeting. *Streptochilus* is a small biserial planktonic foraminifera which looks suspiciously similar to the benthic foraminifer *Bolivina*. **Kate Darling** (Edinburgh), **Ellen Thomas** (Yale) and co-workers have applied an elegant combination of morphological observations, molecular genetics and micro-probe analysis of shell-chemistry changes through ontogeny to show that live specimens collected from the plankton in the middle of the Arabian Sea almost certainly started their life in the benthos of the East African shelf, where they would have been identified as *Bolivina variabilis*.

After the two days of micropalaeontological presentations most of us rounded the conference off by joining the one day field trip. Angers is, as we rapidly learnt from the irrepressibly enthusiastic **Fabrice Redois**, situated in an interesting location on the SE margin of the Armorican Massif. The immediate geology is thus Palaeozoic including the Schiste d'Anjou much used for local building stones and roofing slate. However, a half hour drive took us to the edge of the Paris

Basin and an area of diverse marginal facies Jurassic, Cretaceous and Neogene. We spent the morning recuperating from hangovers on fossiliferous shallow marine Bathonian and Callovian sediments and scrabbling in a road-bank to collect some nice euro-sized Cenomanian Orbitolinids. We then had lunch in "Chez Paul", which was supposed to be a trucker's cafe, but produced a buffet which would have put many restaurants to shame. We then visited a couple more nice Mesozoic localities before rolling up to the grand finale of the trip the Faluns d'Anjou Formation in Doué-la-Fontaine. The formation is a 20m thick Miocene bryozoan limestone with massive foreset bedding, and at the base a shelly gravel with a diverse vertebrate fauna. In fact, it is strikingly similar to the English Coralline Crag, but much better exposed, with massive neatly cut quarry faces allowing the sedimentology and fauna to be examined in intimate detail (photo). The outdoor outcrops were impressive but remarkably the rock was not been quarried conventionally but rather mined from narrow surface trenches to produce a network of 500 artificial caves, like giant cellars, underlying the village. We were taken on a special tour through a cathedral-like of sequence of 50 of them, before re-emerging into the daylight to examine various alternative applications of opened caves. Then, since this was France



Jeremy Young & Andy Henderson not seeing eye to eye at the Faluns d'Anjou Formation

and Fabrice was determined to continue our education, we finished up with a tasting of Anjou wines in an open-topped cave as generously supplied by local producer. We were sufficiently impressed to buy the entire stock the producer had brought with him, so after that everyone went home happily.

***Ostracod Group Report* - Ian Boomer & Carys Bennett**

Ostracod Group Meeting -Leicester, Saturday 28th – Sunday 29th April 2007

A good mixture of students, academics and consultants attended this very successful meeting of the TMS Ostracod Group in Leicester. The meeting ran over a weekend, with an afternoon of talks and two morning visits to local scientific sites.

The Friday evening started with many attendees visiting the Leicestershire village of

Leire* where we were superbly hosted by **David and Pauline Siveter**; indeed it was a family occasion, several wives were present and many of us stayed with the Siveters over the weekend period, the main result of which was a serious assault on the eminent Professor's wine and whiskey supplies (thanks David).

It was thankfully sunny for the Saturday morning fieldtrip, a visit to Groby* Pool (north of Leicester) to collect some Recent ostracods. This may have had its origins in a medieval fishpond. Today it is a SSSI to pro-

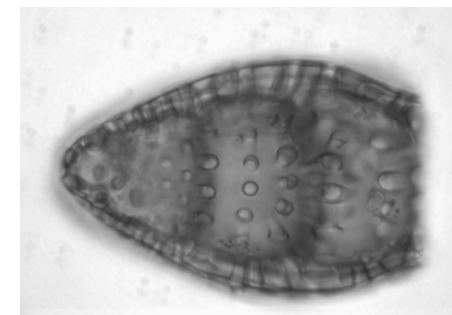
Grant-in-Aid report: Cenozoic evolution of radiolarian silica economy

Ben Kotrc

<bkotrc@gmail.com>

The history of the silica cycle is a fascinating example of how the biological and inorganic earth systems have coevolved. Polycystine Radiolaria are major players in the marine silica cycle, constructing beautifully intricate shells of opaline silica that can be preserved in the fossil record. It has been known for some time that fossil radiolarian shells from the early Cenozoic are much lighter than those from the more recent past, but it has remained unclear what caused this weight change: does it represent a secular trend in body size, as has been documented for numerous other plankton groups where it has been related to Cenozoic climate change? Or is it due to a more economical use of silica, perhaps as a result of increased competition from diatoms? It was in pursuit of these questions that I gratefully accepted one of last year's Grants-in-Aid to consult the Ocean Drilling Program Micropaleontology Reference Center (MRC) and the radiolarian expertise of **David Lazarus** at Berlin's Museum für Naturkunde, as part of my MSc research at Bristol University, supervised by **Daniela Schmidt**.

In Berlin, David and I developed a measurement protocol employing a digital imaging system, which allowed us to quantify both the size of radiolarians and how much silica they use. We selected slides from the MRC and constructed a Cenozoic time-series of radiolarian size and silica economy from over 5000 measurements. The preliminary results of this study give a strong indication of how and why radiolarian shells are lighter today than they were 65 million years ago. The Cenozoic record of radiolarian silica use shows a peak in the Late Eocene and a sharp drop from the Late Eocene to the Early Oligocene. This record, however, is a conflation of two quite distinct signals - body size and silica economy - which most likely track responses to separate selection pressures. The body size record displays a high degree of variability but shows a marked peak in the



Late Eocene and a sharp decrease into the Early Oligocene. Unlike other oceanic microfossils, size change through time in radiolarians does not appear to be closely correlated to change in climate. The variability in the signal may be due to size changes within distinct faunal provinces, perhaps due to directly size-related ecological factors, which require further research at spatial and temporal scales beyond the resolution of this study.

The records of shell thickness and pore area, in contrast, describe a remarkably clear and steady trend of increasing silica economy. This gradual evolutionary transition from forms with thick shells and little pore area to forms with much thinner walls and far greater pore area is most probably a result of declining concentrations of dissolved silica through the increased use of silica by diatoms. The correspondence between the expansion of the diatoms and the evolution of radiolarian silica efficiency is underlined by a marked increase in silica economy from the Late Eocene to the Early Oligocene, which corresponds to a coeval expansion of diatom silica use and opal sedimentation. The evolution and expansion of grasslands may have further modulated silica supply to the oceans. The radiolarian evolution of silica economy through the Cenozoic thus reflects the much larger-scale Phanerozoic trend of increasing biological control over the biogeochemical silica cycle through the rise of diatoms, and possibly grasses.

Discovering microfossils at Lyme Regis

Jeremy Young, Giles Miller & Jenny Hodgetts

The Natural History Museum, London SW7 5BD

"I found an *Epistomina*!" is not what you normally expect excited small children to be exclaiming, but we actually heard it quite a few times over the May bank-holiday weekend. The explanation is that we were in a marquee in Dorset, running a Discovering Microfossils activity as part of the Natural History Museum's input to the Lyme Regis Fossil Festival.

Basically, participants were given some Gault Clay residue to pick, a nicely labelled slide so they could take away whatever they found, and a simplified biostratigraphy chart to work out the age. Cynics might not have predicted this to be entirely successful given that the microscopes were a bit limited and most of the participants were rather small, but our enthusiastic science-education colleagues, assured us it would be fine. Indeed, the microscopes seemed to exert a magnetic attraction on children and we were kept in constant action helping proto-micropalaeontologists to spot ostracods and forams, find their paintbrushes under the microscope, and tactfully removing some of the random shell debris from their slides.

Backing things up we had identification charts, images of microfossils, a big poster explaining how microfossils can be used in palaeoceanography, a research microscope with an image capture system, a desktop scanning electron microscope, pocket mass-spectrometer and microwave. OK, I made up the bit about the mass spectrometer, but we really did have a TM-1000 desktop SEM, kindly loaned to us by Hitachi High-Tech. This performed remarkably well and has a nicely designed interface which allowed us to let visitors run it. Specimen changing was a bit slow so we mostly used a "microfossil zoo" we had prepared earlier - a large stub with plenty of forams, ostracods, fish scales, and other Gault Clay microfossils, some

Holocene ones from Dogs Bay and the Indian Ocean, a row of conodonts, a couple of small dinosaur teeth, and a few plankton filter samples with dinoflagellates, radiolaria, diatoms and some of Jeremy's little calcite disk things. Actually we found it quite educational for ourselves having such a range of material on one stub. Adult visitors were pretty impressed too, but the children far preferred finding their own *Epistomina*, specimens. In fact quite a few got keen enough to ask where they could find their own specimens and one group after a bit of equipping with sample bags came back with a range of samples from around the harbour. Fortunately our **Sally Collins** from Learning had come equipped for such eventualities, and swiftly arranged her new team washing down the samples, and drying them in the microwave. Then after a bit of searching they found a couple of *Haynesina germanica* specimens, which almost certainly had been alive before going in the microwave. That was our favourite result of the festival but through the three days we had an amazing number of enthusiastic participants, even if we didn't quite persuade any of them to join TMS.



I found one!

tect birds and other wildlife, but the ostracods have been rather neglected, until now that is (as far as we know there are no published records of living ostracods from Leicestershire). Leicester undergraduate **Katy Gosling** will be doing her third year dissertation on the ostracods from the pool. We sampled from various sites, with the knowledge of local expert **Roy Clements** who helped us identify freshwater gastropods and molluscs (see summary of molluscs at end of this report). Ostracods were present, although only one could be recognised in the field, a species of *Herpetocypris* (after all it was over 2mm long!). We look forward to learning more about the populations from Katy in due course.

There was a packed schedule of talks and discussions on Saturday afternoon at the University of Leicester, on a wide variety of ostracod related topics. **Dinah Smith** (University of Leicester) introduced her PhD studies on the Roddons: microfossils and Holocene palaeoenvironmental change in the Fenlands. **John Athersuch** (StrataData) talked about how ostracods from the Caspian Sea are used for biostratigraphy in the Petroleum Industry. **Ian Boomer** (University

of Birmingham) discussed the fate of the Metacopina with a new look at the early Toarcian extinction. **Roy Clements** (University of Leicester) gave a detailed history of Groby Pool. **Alan Lord** (Senckenberg Museum, Frankfurt) showed us some Middle Jurassic ostracods from Western Australia. **John Whittaker** (The Natural History Museum) reviewed ostracods from the Pleistocene of the Nene Valley. **Vince Williams** (University of Leicester) then introduced the ostracod fauna of (the recently created) Rutland Water which was initiated during a TMS ostracod Group visit to Rutland a few years ago. **Carys Bennett** (University of Leicester) updated us on her PhD work on Carboniferous ostracods from Scotland and the invasion of the non-marine realm. **Mark Williams** (University of Leicester) showed an exceptionally preserved ostracod from the Miocene of Antarctica, and some special photos from a recent Antarctic field expedition. Finally, **Ian Wilkinson** (BGS) gave a talk on Cretaceous climate and ostracod distribution, **David Siveter** (University of Leicester) valiantly forfeiting his planned item on brood care in a Silurian ostracod, due to lack of time.



Roy Clements, John Whittaker, Alan Lord, Katy Gosling, Anna Wilkin, Carys Bennett and Vince Williams.
Ian Boomer, David Siveter and Dinah Smith.

We gathered on Saturday evening for a first class dinner at the White Horse pub in Leire, Leicestershire (David Siveter was clearly well-known by the proprietor). The meal and fine wines were much needed and appreciated after a hard day of field-work and discussions. A wonderful evening was had by all, and sleeping accommodation at David Siveter's house was fortunately within staggering distance!

On Sunday morning part of the group travelled to the British Geological Survey in Keyworth, for an informative two hour tour of the facility with curator **Mike Howe** and micropalaeontology researcher **Ian Wilkinson**. At the National Geoscience Records Centre Ian Wilkinson gave a brief talk on the history of the BGS, and Mike Howe showed us some of the many online databases that are available, including geological maps and borehole records. We walked through the huge core store and later had a chance to peek through the palaeontological collections, housed in beautifully preserved antique cabinets, with larger specimens out on display.

The good attendance, friendly atmosphere, large number of talks and fine weather helped make it a special meeting to remember. The next meeting will be incorporated into the European Ostracod Meeting in Frankfurt, Germany, between 4th – 8th September 2007. Next year's Spring Meeting will be held on the weekend of 25th – 27th April, at the Flatford Mill Field Centre, Suffolk (yes, it's the same venue as Constable's famous painting). We aim to provide training for new ostracod researchers, in the collection and study of ostracods including basic ostracod identification and study techniques. Please contact **Ian Boomer** if you are interested in attending.

i.boomer@bham.ac.uk

[*Etymological footnotes by John Whittaker: Leire (pronounced Lee-er) is a Celtic river name (on which the village stands); villages named Layer in Essex have the same origin. Groby (pronounced Grooby) is a Scandinavian name meaning "farm near a hollow"].

Report on the Mollusca observed at Groby Pool (28th April 2007 a.m.)

The following details all represent tentative field identifications. No material was collected as to allow confirmation of the identifications. Microfaunal samples were retained from each locality for further study by **Katy Gosling** (University of Leicester).

Locality 1: just to the north of the overflow [Grid Ref. SK5229 0825]

Anodonta cf. cygnaea (Linnaeus) – single specimen, bivalved, dead; others seen in water.

Locality 2: Grid Ref. SK5225508323.
pH = 8.46; temperature = 14.8° C

Bithynia ?tentaculata (Linnaeus)
Pisidium/Sphaerium sp. (c. 1 cm long)
Planorbis cf. carinatus (Linnaeus)
- single specimens of each, all alive.

Locality 3: Grid Ref. SK5219908401.
- in reed beds.

Pisidium sp. – very small, alive(?)
Planorbis cf. corneus (Linnaeus) – juvenile, dead.

Locality 4: Grid Ref. SK5217208431.
- field edge, muddy bottom. (*Herpetocypris* also seen alive at this site)

Pisidium sp. – very small, isolated valve
Pisidium sp. – very small, bivalved, alive
Lymnaea cf. stagnalis (Linnaeus) – dead shell

Roy G Clements, 2nd May 2007



seum in London, this met with a few delays but reached the museum in the end. **Giles Miller** had kindly arranged for those wishing to see particular collections to do so and others looked round the museum.

A step back in time

On Thursday night there was a chance to go to a Medieval banquet at Coombe Abbey, near Coventry. Dressing up was optional and most people, not knowing if others would do the same chose not to. Others may have opted out of bringing their suits of armour and swords due to baggage limit and airport security. We were welcomed by the abbot and led through to the great hall where chief panderer and others sat at the head table.

Dinner was simple but hearty grub and made more realistic by the lack of utensils and the good mead. There was a chance to recognise those who had made a significant contribution to the world of conodont research by awarding the Pander medal to **Richard Aldridge** and **Lennart Jeppson**. Dinner was then followed by some music, dancing wenches and a jester.

Mark Purnell is especially thanked for organising the meeting, accommodation and meals at which we all had a great time. The time and effort spent by him and the rest of the committee and the volunteers from Leicester University is greatly appreciated by those that attended.

TMS Grants in Aid

TMS Grants-in-Aid are awarded annually to help student members of the Society in their fieldwork, conference attendance, or any other specific activity related to their research which has not been budgeted for. Grants-in-Aid cannot be awarded for miscellaneous expenditure (e.g. slides, sample bags, sample preparation, laboratory costs, SEM photography or producing, photocopying, printing and binding of theses), nor can they be awarded retrospectively. A maximum of £200 can be awarded to each successful applicant, and a total of £600 is available annually. Awardees are also expected to write a short report for the Newsletter once their grant has been used. Applications forms may be obtained from the Secretary

<michal.kucera@uni-tuebingen.de >. Deadline for applications is 28th February 2008.

Conference reports

ICOS conodont symposium, Leicester 2006

Rob Raine

Arrival

A very hot week in July 2006 saw the meeting of the 1st international conodont symposium (ICOS 2006) at Leicester, U.K. There was a good attendance of delegates from all reaches of the world, including, Japan, China, Australia, USA, Canada and a large number of European countries represented. Most people arrived on Sunday 16th July at the leafy halls of residence, Beaumont Hall, situated next to the Leicester University botanical garden. A bar was conveniently situated within the halls and delegates were told that the bar would stay open after the ice breaker as long as it was frequented, so we all did our utmost to keep it that way. The first night was a time for many friends and colleagues to catch up on each other's research and to get some conodont gossip. Eventually the delegates that had been on the pre-conference field trip to Ireland returned for the conference looking unusually tanned. Perhaps they didn't go to Ireland, but the hot weather was set to continue for the entire conference and also for the post conference trip to the north of England and Scotland.

Scientific talks, posters and symposia

The talks were of a high standard, and praise is due to those non-English speakers who gave talks in English. Many posters were laid out in the hall and people were free to wander round as they had their lunch. Over 50 oral presentations were given and around 25 posters. The talks were grouped into several themed symposia, each with one or more keynote speakers. Monday morning saw the first symposium of the conference, dealing with Pander's legacy 150 years on. This was followed by talks looking at coniform conodont apparatuses and architecture, prompting many good discussions. The Tuesday

included symposia on Devonian conodont biostratigraphy and also the palaeobiogeography and palaeoceanography of conodonts. The next day (Wednesday) was left for day excursions, and a chance for the vending machines to be re-stocked with cold drinks, which after two days of hot weather had been very well used. Talks resumed on the Thursday and included two symposia, the first on Triassic conodonts: taxonomy and timescales, followed by the final symposium on conodont phylogenies: alternative approaches, implications and applications.

Buffet reception at New Walk Museum

A fabulous reception was provided on Monday night with a fine array of buffet food, including some local delicacies and traditional British grub for those wishing to try it. Pickled walnuts and onions were most amusing to those who had never seen them, but the pork pies, sausage rolls and scones with cream and jam didn't last long. Good ales as well as wine were all provided, and a chance to converse in a nice setting beneath the museum's sauropod made for a fantastic night. Thanks are due to *Hitachi High-Technologies*, who sponsored the reception.

Wednesday excursions

On Wednesday, people were free to pursue one of several organised excursions or to look around Leicester. Two day trips were organised, one to the Carboniferous rocks of North Staffordshire, where not only was there the chance to see some classic conodont localities but an eccentric British pub was visited for lunch. The pub contained many amusing things from yesteryear including old music boxes, and a slightly non-humane looking, acme dog carrier. The alternative trip was to the Natural History Mu-

Palynology Group Report - Ian Harding

I suspect that many members of TMS will be attending the 9th International Palaeoceanography Congress in Shanghai, to be held September 3-7th later this year, for more details please see their website:

<http://icp9.iodp.cn>

Almost immediately afterwards, from September 8th-12th, **Carlos Jaramillo** will be hosting the 40th Annual Meeting of the American Association of Stratigraphic Palynologists at the Smithsonian Tropical Research Institute, Panama. More details can be found on the conference webpage:

<http://striweb.si.edu/aasp07>



From 24th-28th September this year, Lisbon is hosting the CIMP Spores/Pollen and Acritarch Subcommissions meeting, organised by **Z. Pereira, J. Tomás Oliveira, P. Fernandes** and **N. Vaz**.

Linnean Society Palynology Specialist Group meeting

Looking further forwards, in 2008, the XII International Palynological Congress will be held in Bonn, Germany from 30th

August to 6th September 2008, in conjunction with the 41st AASP Annual Meeting. Further details from **Thomas Litt**: t.litt@uni-bonn.de. There may be many interested to know that the 12th IPC will be held in conjunction with the VIII International Organisation of Palaeobotany Conference. More details can be found by following this link:

<http://www.paleontology.uni-bonn.de/Congress.pdf>.

Until recently both of these 4-yearly conferences used to be organised in the same country, but to the best of my knowledge this is the first time that they have coincided in the same location and are being organised so that delegates pay only a single registration fee and will be able to attend both meetings - and excellent initiative that should be applauded.

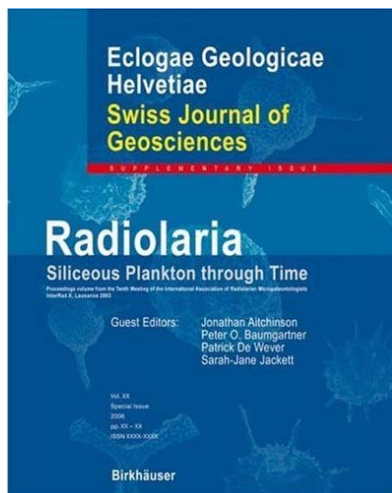
The AASP Executive Board has accepted a proposal from **Sarah de la Rue** that in 2011, **John Marshall** and I will be hosting the 44th Annual Meeting of the American Association of Stratigraphic Palynologists at the School of Ocean & Earth Science, University of Southampton. This meeting will be held in conjunction with TMS and we also plan to invite other European palynological groups to participate.

If there are any offers to host a much-overdue TMS Palynology Group meeting in 2008, **Duncan McClean** or I would be pleased to receive suggestions.

Although there is at the moment no news specifically on TMS silicofossil group activities, there are a few noteworthy developments in the world of siliceous microfossils to report.

New Publications

After a rather long gestation period, the proceedings volume of the next-to-last Interrad meeting (Lausanne, 2003) has appeared: Radiolaria - Siliceous Plankton Through Time. 2007. *Eclogae Geologicae Helvetiae Supplement Series*, 2, 120p. \$249 (Springer).



There are 11 articles in total (themes - taxonomy, stratigraphy, evolution; time intervals -Paleozoic to early Tertiary), plus one article describing the elegant online taxonomic database at www.radiolaria.org.

Several articles about siliceous microfossils, mostly diatoms but also one (by myself) on radiolarians and silicoflagellates are included in The Encyclopedia of Quaternary

Sciences, a massive (>3,500 page) four-volume work from Elsevier, with a hefty price of >\$1,500.

It is unfortunate that these volumes are so expensive. One can only hope that other distribution channels (reprints, pdfs) provide access for readers without well-endowed libraries.

Lastly, although some may have missed it due to the taxonomy-free title ("Chemical reduction of three-dimensional silica micro-assemblies into microporous silicon replicas") a recent *Nature* article (446, 172-175 (8 March 2007) reports a new twist on the current craze by the materials research community to create biologically inspired nanomaterials. The authors report directly converting diatoms into pure silicon, suitable for industrial use, while preserving the species-specific morphology of the valves. One wonders if this will lead to attempts to patent individual species morphologies....

Meetings

The First Central European Diatom Meeting was held 23-25 March at the Botanical Garden in Berlin. This represents an important step towards the development of a true European-wide diatom forum, and is a 're-branding' of the 21st meeting of German-language diatomists. The large majority of presentations (mostly in English) were on living or sub-Recent fresh-water diatoms, although there were a couple posters on near-shore marine Holocene cores, and a few taxonomic studies of older Tertiary lacustrine deposits.

The most significant theme of the meeting had to do with the growth of molecular methods in diatom taxonomy. There were many presentations and a lively discussion

EGM announcement as circulated to TMS members by email in April 2007

As advertised on TMS website and in *The Newsletter* No. 75, an Extraordinary General Meeting took place on 14th March 2007 at the Natural History Museum London. The meeting had only one point on the Agenda, that being the change of title of the senior officer of TMS. This Agenda item had been put forward by the Committee, who felt that the title 'Chair' and 'Chairman' (used since the inception of the then 'British Micropalaeontological Group', 37 years ago) was not commensurate with the ambition of TMS to become the leading international forum for micropalaeontology. The Committee proposed that TMS be led by a President, as is the case with all other similar learned societies. This title better encompasses the role of the senior officer and the change represents another step in enhancing the profile and standing of the society. The change also negates any potential issues of 'gender' relating to the title of the senior officer of the society. The term in office of the current Chairman expires this year and the Committee felt this was the most appropriate time to instigate such a change. The Committee felt it would better serve the Society to obtain a decision on this matter prior to the AGM, when a new senior officer will be elected and take up office. The 2007 AGM will celebrate 'Micropalaeontology heroes' and will be associated with the Geological Society bicentenary celebrations.

The EGM was attended by 13 TMS members; Dr John Whittaker acted as scrutineer. Six opinions were received by email, the majority being in support of the Committee's proposal. Of those present, ten members voted in support of the change, three abstained, there were no votes against. Having established that the EGM has been called in accordance with the Article 5, Paragraphs ii) and iii) of the Rules and that the required majority in accordance with Article 6 of the Constitution has been achieved, the Committee's proposal has been declared as accepted. This means that as of November this year, TMS will be led by a President.

Journal of Micropalaeontology online

<http://www.tmsoc.org/journalonline.htm>

All issues of the journal are now available for members to download in pdf format. The latest issue (vol. 25 part 2) has been posted. If you have any problems with logging on, please contact the secretary.

TMS archives - photographic request

<http://www.tmsoc.org/archive.htm>

Thanks to an overwhelming response from members, Richard Hodgkinson, our archivist is busy wading through everything you sent him. He hopes to have a list of archive material posted on the website shortly. In the meantime we are interested in putting together a **photographic archive** of TMS. Can members send photographs of past TMS officers, field trips, conferences or any image associated with TMS activities (please nothing compromising!!!).

Contact **Richard Hodgkinson** c/o Clive Jones, Clive.Jones@nhm.ac.uk at the Natural History Museum, London.

Workshop "Ostracods of the Paratethys and the Lake Pannon" during the EOM-6 (the 19th Int. Senckenberg Conference), 5-7 September 2007

I propose to organise a workshop during the EOM meeting with the aim to improve our communication and knowledge on Paratethyan and Lake Pannon ostracods. Most probably the workshop will take place during the 2nd day of the conference, during the evening and it will last about 2 hours. I propose the following agenda:

- (1) Short presentations by participants to the workshop of their interest and practical work done within this topic.
- (2) Which groups of ostracods are in need for better identification, using classic and new methods of investigation. From this list we will abstract the most requested groups and try to discuss directly during this session how to improve our knowledge and communication dealing with these precise groups.
- (3) Bring material and we will try to exchange views about the problematical identification of your material, or you could directly exchange specimens with your colleagues (we will get a room with stereo-microscopes).

We already have some exciting material to show you, those that Ian Boomer and Radovan Pipik propose to bring to EOM and of course we will bring also material from Austria.

- (4) How we can exchange information on ostracods by e-mail? . We already have in Mondsee an impressive data bank with more than 4000 pictures of ostracode valves, where more than the half belong to material from Lake Pannon.

During the conference I will present some practical information concerning useful protocols for the processing of morphometric data with the computer packages "Morphomatica 1.6" and "Primer 6".

In order to make our communication in Frankfurt easier and more productive please would any persons interested in joining our workshop (including those who are not directly working on Paratethys and Pannon ostracods) contact me not later than mid of August!

You may already be able to answer the points mentioned above, so send me your comments. With this information at hand we could develop a more precise programme for the workshop.

A final note: The workshop is in honour of professor Fritz Steininger, one of the former directors of Senckenberg Forschungs- Institut & Museum and important promoter of micropalaeontological research dealing with Paratethys and Lake Pannon.

Dan L. Danielopol

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on this, since diatom taxonomy until now has been primarily based on valve morphology. In short, both molecules and morphology give similar results and are best viewed as complementary to each other. Automatic identification of taxa in surveys of living material using molecular methods (aka "Barcoding") appears to work well with diatoms, although the needed underlying databases of linked taxonomic and molecular data are still limited, and quantitative estimates of individual taxon abundance are still in the preliminary development stages. A proceedings volume of extended abstracts is being planned (refreshingly, and in reference to my prior comment, as an online, open-access volume).

Other Meetings of interest to silicoworkers are:

19th North American Diatom Symposium (NADS), 12-16 September 2007, University of Michigan Biological Station, Pellston, Michigan. There is a web site, but little information on sessions etc. the link for this is: <http://www.umanitoba.ca/outreach/sil/meetings/nads2007.html>.

The 9th International Conference on Paleocyanography, Shanghai, China 2-7 September 2007. Home page <http://icp9.ioldp.cn/default.aspx?id=1>.

Microvertebrate Group Report - Rob Raine

40th Anniversary Symposium on Early Vertebrates/Lower Vertebrates.

The conference is to be held in Uppsala, Sweden on August 13-16th.

There are talks on several aspects of microvertebrates included in the programme. The conference also marks the 300th anniversary of the birth of Linnaeus in his home town, Uppsala.

2007 meeting of the Microvertebrate Group

A short meeting and field trip of the Microvertebrate Group is being planned for the few days prior to the Annual Meeting of the Palaeontological Association in Uppsala, Sweden (16th-19th December). At present suggestions have been proposed to visit the classic area of Västergötland. Västergötland is 3-4 hrs by car from Uppsala, and may be snowfree. It may also be possible to include some classic localities, including a GSSP at Hunneberg and the

Orsten localities which contain paraconodonts as well as exceptionally preserved arthropods. Please e-mail myself or **Howard Armstrong** with your views and let us know if you would be interested in attending.

Microvertebrate news

Dick Aldridge writes

One of my PhD students, **Dave Jones** graduated with his PhD in January. Thesis title: Morphometric analysis of conodonts.

Jiang Haishui of the China University of Geosciences, Wuhan, China, will be visiting the University of Leicester for six months in the academic year 2007/08 to work on Permian/Triassic boundary conodonts under a Chinese government scheme to send its outstanding research students overseas for a portion of their training.

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Next Deadline; 28th September 2007

The SYNTHESYS Office is pleased to announce the Seventh call for proposals under the European Commission's FPVI European-funded Integrated Infrastructure Initiative. SYNTHESYS Project funding is available to provide scientists (Users) based in European Member and Associated States to undertake short visits to utilize the infrastructure (namely the collections, staff expertise and analytical facilities) at one of the 20 partner institutions for the purposes of their research. The 20 partner institutions are organised into 11 national Taxonomic Facilities (TAFs). TAF Users will be hosted by a TAF staff member.

The 11 TAF institutions represent an unparalleled resource for taxonomic research offering: Collections amounting to over 337 million natural history specimens, including 3.3 million type specimens. Internationally renowned taxonomic and systematic skill base Chemical analysis, molecular and imaging facilities. Proposals will be welcomed from high calibre researchers seeking access for short-term visits.

SYNTHESYS is able to meet the Users' costs for:

- * Research costs
- * International travel
- * Local accommodation whilst based at the TAF
- * A per diem to contribute towards living costs
- * Research related costs including: bench fees and consumables (including molecular biology at some TAFs).

See www.synthesys.info for more information or contact synthesys@nhm.ac.uk

European Ostracodologists' Meeting VI (EOM VI)

19th International Senckenberg Conference

5 – 7 September 2007.

Festsaal, Naturmuseum Senckenberg, Senckenberganlage 25, Frankfurt-am-Main

Organisers: Alan R. Lord, assisted by Claudia Franz.

(Alan.Lord@senckenberg.de; Claudia.Franz@senckenberg.de)

Theme 1. Ostracod records of deep-time global warming: with special reference to the Paleocene/Eocene Thermal Maximum. *Theme 2.* Ostracoda and Crisis Events.

Theme 3. The Biology and Ecology of Palaeozoic Ostracoda.

Theme 4. The Biology and Ecology of post-Palaeozoic Ostracoda.

Theme 5. Metadatabase applications for Ostracoda.

Workshop – on 'Ostracods of the Paratethys and Lake Pannon'.

Poster Session – will be open throughout the meeting, located in the SNG

School Room. Poster boards will be available from 14.00hrs on Tuesday 4 September

Mid-Conference Excursion – a half-day local excursion will be held on Thursday 6 September, to provide an opportunity to liaise away from the meeting room.

Senckenberg Collections – will be available for consultation by EOM delegates on Monday 3 September and Tuesday 4 September only and by advance arrangement – numbers will be limited, please contact Claudia Franz personally as soon as possible.



**2007 GSA Annual Meeting,
Colorado Convention Center, Denver, Colorado
October 28-31, 2007**

Topical Session T99: Environmental Change and Evolution: Micropaleontological Case Studies (Oral), Sponsored by the Cushman Foundation, Co-conveners Mark Leckie (UMass-Amherst, mleckie@geo.umass.edu) and Brian Huber (Smithsonian Institution, huberb@si.edu)

Please consider submitting an abstract to the Cushman Foundation-sponsored topical session entitled "Environmental Change and Evolution: Micropaleontological Case Studies" (T99). Note that this is an oral session. The abstract deadline is July 10, 2007 (midnight, Pacific time). Electronic abstract submission is strongly encouraged; the online abstract form is available on the GSA website www.geosociety.org. See the Rationale and Description of the theme session below. If you have any questions, please contact Mark Leckie or Brian Huber.

Rationale for Theme Session:

Micropaleontology has been at the forefront of global change research for decades. Global change at various time scales has been invoked as a major driver of biotic evolution. This session will highlight examples, based on analyses of foraminifera and other microfossils, testing the linkage between paleoenvironmental change and evolution. The symposium will address issues of ancient ocean-climate change, paleoenvironmental reconstruction, and the evolutionary response of microfossils to environmental forcing.

Description for publication:

Global change has been invoked as a major driver of microfossil evolution. This session will address issues of ancient ocean-climate change, paleoenvironmental reconstruction, and the evolutionary response to environmental forcing at various time scales.

And don't forget about the annual Cushman Foundation party, Tuesday during the meeting.

Some technical details from GSA (i.e., the fine print):

Speakers may present two volunteered abstracts during the Annual meeting, as long as one of these abstracts is a poster presentation. This limitation does not apply to, nor does it include, invited contributions to keynote symposia or topical sessions.

Equipment

GSA provides one PC (Windows OS) and one MAC (OSX) to be used for PowerPoint presentations, plus one screen. Complete instructions will be made available to speakers in September. The projector and overhead are no longer automatically provided. If additional A/V equipment is needed, the speaker needing the equipment must make the request themselves using our online order form, which will also be available in September. Contact Nancy Carlson with questions pertaining to A/V equipment (ncarlson@geosociety.org).



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Subscription is welcome at any time. Please send donations to:

Dr Stephen Packer, TMS Treasurer, Middlemarch, 17 Brewhouse Lane,
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Please make cheques payable to "The Micropalaeontological Society". If you wish to pay by credit card, please include the amount you wish to donate, card number, expiry date and cardholder's address; for debit cards please include the issue number.

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TMS Foundation - Brady Medal

Support received towards the commissioning of the Brady Medal is gratefully acknowledged from the following:

Alan Lord, David Siveter, John Whittaker, Michal Kucera.

John Whittaker's donation is made in memory of his late father.

Others who wish to add to Brady Medal funds are welcome to do so.

Conference Announcements

The 15th Meeting of The Group of European Charophytologists (GEC)

This will be held in Belgrade, Serbia, from 24 to 28 September 2007. The meeting is open to any topic dealing with Living and Fossil Charophytes (sensu CHARALES). The meeting (two days of scientific sessions) will be followed by three days of excursion to the Mt Durmitor glacial lakes.

Please ask for the first circular and registration form, from:

Dr. Jasmina Sinzar-Sekulic, Secretary of the 15th GEC
Institute of Botany and Botanical Garden "Jevremovac"
Faculty of Biology, University of Belgrade
Takovska 43, 11000 Belgrade, Serbia
Tel: +381 11 32 44 923, >Fax: +381 11 32 43 603
E-mail: <jsekulic@bfbot.bg.ac.yu>

The 2nd Canadian Ostracode Meeting (COME2)

This is scheduled to take place at the Laboratory for Paleoclimatology and Climatology, Department of Geography, University of Ottawa in the spring of 2008. The University of Ottawa is located in the centre of the nation's capital with easy access to many sight-seeing opportunities, including the Parliament Buildings, the Canadian War Museum, the National Gallery of Canada, and the Byward Market. <http://www.ottawa-conventions.com/survey.html>.

Recently the entire Delorme freshwater ostracode collection was deposited with the Canadian Museum of Nature at the Natural Heritage Building (research and collection facility). This diverse collection is comprised of specimens from over 6,000 localities in Canada, and was diligently cross-referenced and maintained by L. Denis Delorme prior to deposition.

The schedule will depend in part on attendance numbers. We propose the following and suggestions are welcome:

Thursday afternoon/evening: Participants arrive in Ottawa.

Friday: Groups go to the Canadian Museum of Nature to view the Delorme freshwater ostracode collection (The museum can only accommodate a maximum of 4 persons at a time, so this could be planned as 2 half-day visits of 4 people each).

Saturday: Presentations (all topics regarding ostracodes are welcome) and discussions.

At this time we hope to have no registration fees, however this may change depending on the number of interested participants. In addition, if more people are interested in viewing the Delorme collection, we could probably arrange a visit to the museum on Thursday afternoon.

In order to maximize attendance, we would be interested in knowing which dates are more convenient for interested participants. Therefore, we propose March 28-29 or April 25-26, 2008. Once a date has been selected we will explore accommodation opportunities. Please reply or direct any questions to jbunbury@uottawa.ca.

We hope to see you in Ottawa!

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TMS

(founded 1970)

The Micropalaeontological Society

TMS is the world's leading micropalaeontological society. We organize specialist meetings through the year on aspects of research into foraminifera, palynology, ostracods, silicofossils, nannofossils & microvertebrates.

The society holds its AGM in the Autumn of each year with 6 invited speakers on themes such as climate change.

We publish the *Journal of Micropalaeontology* (two parts a year), whose remit includes palaeobiology, palaeoenvironments, evolution, taxonomy & biostratigraphy.

For a profile of the society & the benefits of becoming a member, please visit our website at:

<http://www.tmsoc.org>

To join, fill in the membership form opposite. Please make cheques payable to "Micropalaeontological Society" and send with the form to: **Clive Jones** (Membership Treasurer)
Department of Palaeontology, Natural History Museum
Cromwell Road, London SW7 5BD, UK
Tel: +44 (0)207 942 5580
Fax: +44 (0)207 942 5546
Email: clive.jones@nhm.ac.uk



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Membership is open to individuals as student, ordinary, or retired members (for libraries please contact the society) **subscriptions are due 1st January**

Rates for 2006 are:

Student Membership - £20 per annum (form to be countersigned by supervisor)

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Supervisor's institute.....