

Newsletter of Micropalaeontology

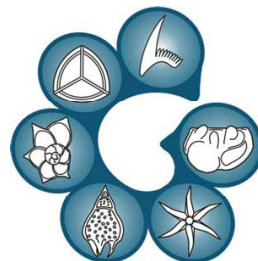
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Edited by I. J. Slipper



Contributions from

The Micropalaeontological Society



The Grzybowski Foundation



The International Nannoplankton Association



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Correspondence

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TMS President's address - Professor Michal Kucera

The Micropalaeontological Society is celebrating its 40th birthday this year. Admittedly, forty years is not much for a community used to deal with the unimaginable scales of geological time; it is in fact not that much even when compared to the age of many other learned societies. On the other hand, it is certainly enough to deserve a brief reflection on the circumstances under which the Society came into existence, how it evolved through time and where its position is today, in the larger scheme of things.

Scientists like to invent questions, ponder and debate them with passion and turn them into new questions, more profound and fundamental than before. This essential mode of scientific work is reflected in the life of learned societies. Thus, quite a few years before the founding of TMS, a group of palaeontologists began to ask whether the interests of their discipline are best served within the walls of the Geological Society of London. The answer was no, and the Palaeontological Association was born. A few decades later, a group of micropalaeontologists felt the same way about our discipline and founded the British Micropalaeontological Group, which over time became TMS. Such trends towards particularisation of disciplines are seen in all branches of science. It reflects increasing specialisation necessitated by the mounting body of knowledge and technological development, combined with a growing number of active scientists keen to be active in a community of a manageable size. In both respects, the relationship of TMS to its palaeontological ancestor is quite unusual. Whilst some of the organisms we study are unique to our discipline, many microfossil groups are also claimed by palaeobotanists and vertebrate palaeontologists. Although



we define ourselves by the necessity to use a microscope to observe our fossils, featuring prominently on the highest award of TMS – the Brady Medal, the need to magnify is not unique to our discipline. The best defining feature of micropalaeontology is perhaps the range of its applications, arising from the nature of the sediment material that can be effectively scrutinised by our methods.

The strong affinity to applied research was one of the decisive arguments for forming a distinct association of practitioners in the heyday of oil exploration – remarkably, the same argument comes to my mind as the best defining feature of our discipline today. It is also our main strength. To paraphrase the words of this year's recipients of the Brady Medal – Tom Cronin – our discipline has an enormous potential of contributing to a range of issues of immediate relevance to society – we only need to better stake our

claim and not let our microfossils be dissolved or treated like data without understanding their substance. It is encouraging that TMS continues to succeed in attracting many new members whose research is positioned exactly at this interface. In fact, I have to admit with amazement, that our mid-term ambitious goal of achieving a membership of 500 will most likely be reached already this year. The micropalaeontological community worldwide recognises the merits of being represented by its own learned society, which acts to promote research, communication and education within the discipline, raises its profile and defends its interests internationally. TMS enters the fifth decade of its existence with precisely this mission. The vision and ambition currently followed by TMS allows us to place our discipline at a more equal footing with other learned societies and, remarkably, there no longer being such a strong need to demarcate ourselves, we are beginning to find more common ground with our roots in the wider context of earth sciences.

No scientific discipline can exist in isolation. We all work towards the same basic goal of understanding processes and phenomena occurring in nature and little fundamental progress can be achieved these days without an integrated approach across fields and disciplines. This year will be unusually rich in major conferences. Not only will those of us working on calcareous microfossils be confronted with the rare constellation of FORAMS-2010 and INA-13 occurring in the same week, but the micropalaeontological community at large will be able to meet under the auspices of two large, interdisciplinary meetings: the Third International Palaeontological Congress and the 10th International Conference on Paleooceanography. It is no coincidence that TMS supports not only FORAMS and INA, but is this year a co-organiser of the

International Palaeontological Congress. We wish to bring our discipline to the centre of current scientific discourse and make the most of the unique potential hidden in microfossils by encouraging our members to engage with earth scientists, palaeoclimatologists and biologists to seek collaboration and pursue integrated studies. Our discipline is booming, but its future does not lie in isolation.

The 2009 activities of TMS have concluded with a most stimulating series of talks at the Annual General Meeting in November, celebrating the Darwin year. The Committee is working hard to live up to the vision we have set for our Society and this year will be in many respects decisive for its success. Our affiliation programme, including the new-format Newsletter, will be expanded in a major way, our commitment to supporting education in micropalaeontology will be materialised in the establishment of the Educational Trust and the production and handling of our Journal of Micropalaeontology will be shifted to a modern online platform, in collaboration with the Geological Society Publishing House. These ambitions can only be realised because of sustained support by our members and voluntary work by the Committee. I would thus like to conclude by thanking all TMS members and Committee officers for their hard and unstinting work in the past year, keeping TMS such a vibrant and buoyant Society and I wish all readers a happy and successful year 2010!

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Conference Announcements

Paleontological Data Analysis Symposium at International Palaeontological Congress 03 London, June 28 to July 3, 2010.

Norman MacLeod will be organising this symposium which will be a broad-based review of current state-of-the-art quantitative data-analysis theory and applications in palaeontology. Contributions from all areas of the palaeontological sciences are welcome. Appropriate topics will include, but not be restricted to, any of the following:

Morphometrics (2D & 3D)
Disparity analysis
Theoretical morphology
Quantitative biostratigraphy
Automated taxon recognition
Allometry
Quantitative palaeobiogeography

Phylogenetics
Quantitative palaeoecology
Evolutionary rates
Modularity/Development
Targets of selection Functional morphology
Eco-morphology
Comparative Method

The purpose of this symposium is to emphasize the important role quantitative data analysis plays in palaeontology and correct the popular conception that the study of fossils is all about finding them. Over the past several decades significant developments have taken place in virtually all aspects of data analysis as applied to the study of fossils. These range across the entire gamut from abstract theoretical considerations (e.g. morphometric shape theory), through the introduction of new technologies (e.g. 3D laser and optical digitizers, web-based data-analysis tools), to outstanding examples of the application of both new and established data-analysis techniques to palaeontological datasets. This symposium is intended to be a celebration of these advances, a showcase of the best examples from across the range of this discipline, a discussion/debate of current issues in the discipline, and an encouragement to ever greater achievements in the areas included; especially by younger members of the palaeontological community. Presentations will be pitched at a level that can be understood by a general (non-mathematical) palaeontologist in order to appeal to the broadest possible audience.

There will be two keynote presentations. One by P. David Polly (Indiana University) and the other by Philipp Mitteröcker (University of Vienna). All other talks will be based on submitted abstracts either as podium or poster presentations. If you work in the area of palaeontological data analysis and have developed a new approach, or if you have particularly nice applications-level example of the use of an established method, please consider coming to London and contributing to the symposium.

The IPC03 abstract deadline is 28 February 2010. Registration and abstract submission information can be found in the IPC03 web site.

For further information please contact
Norm MacLeod
N.MacLeod@nhm.ac.uk
<http://www.ipc3.org/>

Masterclass - Terrestrially-Derived Fossil Palynoflora: Subsurface Applications To Petroleum Geology August 16-20, 2010 University of Utrecht, The Netherlands

The Significant Aims of this Class will be:

- To provide instruction on basic pollen/spore/algal taxonomy as an aid in identifying and classifying varied terrestrially-derived palynoflora
- To provide a general background into terrestrial palynomorph morphology, taxonomy, chronostratigraphy, paleoecology and paleoclimate through the Phanerozoic
- To provide case studies of standard and innovative Industrial applications of terrestrially-derived pollen/spore/algae to subsurface problem solving, including calibration to sequence stratigraphic modeling (systems tracts): Case studies include those from the Middle East (Paleozoic), Southeast Asia (Neogene), Offshore Nigeria (Neogene) and the Americas/Europe (Cenozoic)

The Course Outline will include but not be limited to:

- General pollen/spore morphology and taxonomy
- Concepts and applications of pollen/spore/algae chronostratigraphy and paleoecology
- Paleozoic spore chronostratigraphy and paleoecology, with special focus on the Middle East
- Mesozoic spore/pollen chronostratigraphy and paleoecology, with focus on Australia, North-west Europe, and North America
- Cenozoic pollen chronostratigraphy and paleoecology, with focus on North and South America
- Neogene pollen chronostratigraphy and paleoecology, with focus on West Africa and South-east Asia
- Quaternary/Holocene palynostratigraphy and paleoecology, from varied localities

This week long course will also include a half-day fieldtrip to the type Maastrichtian in the southern Netherlands, an opening evening Icebreaker and mid-week dinner. Additionally, each topic of the Course Outline will be supplemented with workshops at the microscope investigating varied palynoflora, sitting alongside the experts.

Course Instructors who have confirmed their participation at this time include: Thomas Demchuk, James Eldrett, Guy Harrington, Carlos Jaramillo, Andy Lotter, Robert Morley, Doug Nichols, Michael Stephenson, and TNO Personnel including Oscar Abbink, Timme Donders, Dirk Munsterman, and Roel Verreusel. Additional instructors are currently being finalized and will be announced in future course advertisements.

Maximum enrollment to the class will be 40. Course fees have not been finalized but are expected to be in the range of: 1100 Euros (Professional), 750 Euros (Consultants/Academics), 500 Euros (Students). It is hoped that through corporate sponsorship, these registration costs will be less than stated. Reasonably priced accommodations in Utrecht in proximity to the University are being sought for all participants. Please see future announcements in this *Newsletter* (and other Newsletters and websites) for final announcement of the course details.

Additional information and questions regarding this course may be forwarded to either Thomas Demchuk (thomas.d.demchuk@conocophillips.com) or James Eldrett (James.Eldrett@Shell.com). Current sponsors of the class include: University of Utrecht, TNO (The Netherlands), ConocoPhillips Ltd. Shell Exploration and Production. (U.K.), AASP-The Palynological Society

The Micropalaeontological Society

News

Report from the Secretary - Jenny Pike

Current membership of TMS is buoyant with 478 individual members, an increase of 21 over numbers reported at the 2008 AGM. Membership comprises 241 UK members, 118 European members and 98 from the Rest of the World. We currently have 90 student members – an increase of 22 members in 2009. Increased membership inevitably means more work for Clive Jones, the Membership Treasurer, and I would like to thank him for his excellent work in keeping track of all our members. I would also like to thank Jeremy Young, co-opted Treasurer, and Andy Henderson, Webmaster, for getting online payment set up on the website. The online payment system will make renewing your membership easier in 2010, especially for those members without sterling bank accounts. New members, in addition to those listed in the Summer 2009 Newsletter, are:

Stewart, J., Kuhs, M., Mary, Y., Bradley, S., Bradley, L. R., Martínez-Colón, M., Swann, G., Kabel, K., Lee, G., Appleton, P. J., Mander, L., and Froom, S.

TMS STUDENT AWARDS

In 2009 the Society accepted two new courses into the Student Awards Scheme: University of Birmingham, UK, and a co-hosted course between the University of Ghent – K.U. Leuven, Belgium, bringing the total number of courses in the scheme to 11 across 5 European countries. We have made 8 awards to outstanding students in 2009 (one year free membership), one of which (Adam Jeffery, Keele Univ.) was made in memory of Brian O'Neill. Each year, we will continue to make an award in memory of Brian and this award will rotate through the courses that are part of the TMS Student Award scheme.

Norman Savage

One TMS Student Award was made in honour of Norman Savage. Early in the year, Norman

contacted the Society to enquire what his annual £1 direct debit payments were for, that he had apparently been paying to the Society for over 20 years. On further investigation, it was clear that the TMS accounts had indeed registered a miscellaneous £1 income for many years! Apparently, over 20 years ago, Norman had made arrangement with the Society to receive the bi-annual *Newsletter of Micropalaeontology* for the cost of £1, however, over the course of time, the Society had forgotten this arrangement. We apologised to Norman and offered to refund his money. On discovering that I was based in Cardiff, and because he still had links with Cardiff, Norman suggested I add the monies to the Tea Fund!! However, given that I can't buy tea with TMS funds, we agreed that the 2009 Cardiff Student Award would be awarded in his Honour. That award was made to Kayleigh Mills.

2009 Recipients

Adam Jeffery (Keele Univ.), Kayleigh Mills (Cardiff Univ.), Gemma Tongue (Univ. Leicester), Sam Bradley (Univ. Southampton), Ulrike Baranowski (Univ. Tübingen), Ben Slater (Univ. Bristol), Ane García Artola (Univ. País Vasco), Marion Kuhs (Univ. Birmingham).

The Committee strongly encourages any member who runs an undergraduate or Masters course in micropalaeontology to apply to join the Student Award Scheme (details and application form are on the website).

METINGS IN 2009

The Society continues to promote micropalaeontology through national and international meetings organized by its specialist groups, as well as by sponsoring various activities at other scientific meetings. This year, the joint Foraminifera and Nannofossil Groups' joint meeting was held in Zurich in June and was attended

by over 80 researchers from 15 countries. The Palynology Group held a successful meeting in London in May and the Ostracod Group held their annual meeting in Down House, Kent. Further to these activities, TMS sponsored the *Microfossils II* meeting convened by NAMS, the *Cretaceous Symposium* convened in Plymouth, the *International Conodont Symposium*, *INTERRAD 12* in China and *MIKRO 2009* in Poland. The TMS AGM in November was well-attended and comprised an excellent session of talks on the topic of Microfossils and Evolution, organized by David Lazarus and Michal Kucera. TMS is one of the co-organising societies for the *International Palaeontological Conference* in London in 2010 and will be contributing two symposia to the meeting: *The Micropalaeontological Record of Global Change and Microfossil Contribution to Understanding the Tree of Life*. We look forward to seeing many members at this meeting.

CHANGES TO COMMITTEE

At the 2009 AGM, Jeremy Young was elected as Treasurer, Alan Lord as Journal Editor, John Gregory as Special Publications Editor, Tom Russon as Webmaster, and Robert Raine as Publicity Officer. Jeremy was thanked for his efforts as co-opted Treasurer during 2009, John Gregory (Journal Editor), Andy Henderson (Webmaster) and Mark Williams (Publicity officer) were all thanked for their dedication to the Society over the past years. Since the Summer Newsletter, we have also welcomed Paul Smith (Microvertebrate Group Chair), Carine Randon (Microvertebrate Group Secretary) and George Swann (Silicofossil Group Secretary). The Society is continually grateful to all committee members who volunteer their time and efforts to furthering its aims and activities.

GRANTS-IN-AID

Three Grants-in-aid were awarded to PhD students in 2009. The awardees were: Laura Cotton (Cardiff University) to attend the Spring TMS Foraminifera and Nannofossil joint meeting in Zurich and, in particular, the field trip into the Einsiedler Schuppenzone which was relevant to her PhD topic investigating larger benthic foraminifera across the Eocene-Oli-

gocene boundary; Phil Jardine (University of Birmingham) to attend the Advanced Course in Jurassic, Cretaceous and Cenozoic Organic-Walled Dinoflagellate Cysts in Urbino, Italy; and Kimberley Pool (University College London) to carry out a programme of faunal sampling of the Paleocene-Eocene Thermal Maximum at the Contessa Road section in Gubbio, Central Italy. The committee encourages student members to apply in 2010. Details and application form can be found on the website (28th February deadline)

CHARLES DOWNIE AWARD

The Charles Downie Award is given annually to the member of TMS 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 2009 Charles Downie Award (best paper published in 2008) to Magali Schweizer for her paper (M. Schweizer, J. Pawlowski, T. J. Kouwenhoven, J. Guiard and B. van der Zwaan) entitled: Molecular phylogeny of Rotaliida (Foraminifera) based on complete small subunit rDNA sequences, published in *Marine Micropaleontology* 66, 233-246. The Committee were gratified at the high standard of nominations and hope that this will continue. Nominations for 2010 (best paper published in 2009) should be sent to the Secretary by 28th February.

ALAN HIGGINS AWARD

We were delighted to launch the Alan Higgins Award for Applied Micropalaeontology at the AGM and hope to make the first award at the 2010 AGM. The award will be made to early career micropalaeontologists and was established with the help of Alan's family and friends. The award will be given in recognition of a significant record of achievement in applied and industrial micropalaeontology. Nominations (see website for details and nomination form) should be sent to the Secretary by 28th February 2010.

BRADY MEDAL

The 2009 Brady Medal was awarded to Thomas M. Cronin at the AGM for his contribution

to ostracod micropalaeontology and palaeoclimatology. The Brady medal is the Society's highest award for scientists who have had a major influence on micropalaeontology by means of a substantial body of excellent research. The Medal is named in honour of George Stewardson Brady (1832-1921) and Henry Bowman Brady (1835-1891) in recognition of their outstanding pioneering studies in Micropalaeontology and Natural History. Further details are given in the Report of the AGM elsewhere in the *Newsletter*.

NEWSLETTER

Ian Slipper continued as the Editor of the Newsletter of Micropalaeontology. No. 79 came out in Spring 2009, and no. 80 in the Summer. With no. 80, the Newsletter entered a new phase with a re-design and contributions from the International Nannoplankton Association and Grzybowski Foundation and, subsequently the Newsletter was distributed to their members as well and reached a new micropalaeontological audience. A new issue of the Handbook of Micropalaeontology will be mailed to TMS members with no. 81, and Committee would like to thank Ian for his continued efforts in this endeavour.

WEBSITE

Andy Henderson continued to develop the website and issue electronic updates to the membership. This year saw the development of an online payments facility (with the help of Jeremy Young) which was a major step forward, and now you can renew your membership, or join TMS, online. The website is used to disseminate information to the membership including details of specialist group meetings, as well as providing access to back issues of the *Journal of Micropalaeontology*. The link is: <http://www.tmsoc.org>. The Committee would like to thank Andy for all his endeavour with the website over the years, as he comes to the end of his term as webmaster.

PUBLICITY

Mark Williams has continued PR activities, sending publicity materials to meetings and conferences, and his efforts have clearly contributed to the growth in membership. As he comes to the end of his term, the Committee would like to thank mark for all his hard work in raising the profile of the Society.

2009 TMS ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Room 1.06, Roberts Engineering Building, University College London
Wednesday 18th November 2009

TMS President, Michal Kucera, opened the AGM by welcoming members (numbering 52) and guests. This was followed by Society business and then a scientific programme of talks and, finally, by the presentation of the 2009 TMS Awards.

Reports from the Society Officers

The President, Secretary (Jenny Pike), and co-opted Treasurer (Jeremy Young) reported on the progress of the Society since the 2008 AGM. Significant business involved the launch of the Alan Higgins Award for Applied Micropalaeontology, the recent launch of the TMS Affiliation Scheme, the election of the Honorary Auditor (Steve Packer) for 2009/2010, and a summary

of the micropalaeontological sessions being convened by TMS as part of the International Palaeontological Congress in London, in 2010. A report from the Journal Editor (John Gregory) was read by the Secretary, and the Special Publications Editor (Jeremy Young) presented a report.

Election of Officers

The members present confirmed Haydon Bailey and Giles Miller as scrutineers. In order to be quorate, the AGM requires 10% of the membership (48 members) to be present; there being 52 members present the election of Officers could continue. The Secretary announced the 5 Offices that were open for election and named to the one nominee (that of the Committee) for each

Office. There were no other nominations.

1. Treasurer – Jeremy Young

Proposer: Alan Lord; Seconder: Michal Kucera

2. Journal Editor – Alan Lord

Proposer: Haydon Bailey; Seconder: Andy Henderson

3. Special Publications Officer – John Gregory

Proposer: Giles Miller; Seconder: Jeremy Young

4. Webmaster – Tom Russon

Proposer: Andy Henderson; Seconder: Phil Jardine

5. Publicity Officer – Robert Raine

Proposer: Haydon Bailey; Seconder: Alan Lord

Each nomination was voted on separately and each was carried by a majority vote of those members present. Following the election of Officers, the new Journal Editor (Alan Lord) presented the newly constituted group of Editors to the AGM.

TMS membership continues to grow with nearly 50% of the membership now from outside of the UK. This is great news for the Society, however, it will shortly cause problems to the constitutional running of the AGM if 10% of members are required to be present for valid voting procedures. It was announced that the Committee will consider this issue over the coming year with a view to presenting an amendment to the 2010 AGM.

Science Programme – Microfossils and Evolution

Following the conclusion of Society business, Michal Kucera and David Lazarus introduced an excellent series of talks on the topic of Microfossils and Evolution, celebrating the Darwin Bicentenary. The first speaker was David Bass from the Natural History Museum, London, whose title had evolved from his original one into 'The Nth eukaryotic 'supergroup' and the evolutionary and ecological complexity of the Rhizaria'. David entertained us with comparisons between the eukaryote 'bush of life' and 'tree of life' and presented some interesting new data from 454 sequencing of DNA libraries. Phil Donoghue from the University of Bristol followed and began by reminding us that Darwin's *On the Origin of Species* contained a damning reference to the

utility of the fossil record! Phil then presented some elegant computer tomographic imagery of some exceptionally well preserved fossil embryos from the Precambrian. Astonishingly large samples are required in order to find the embryos; Phil talked about one sample of 12 tonnes that yielded 600 embryos (~ 1 gramme)! He also concluded that encysted fossil embryos are predisposed to fossilisation, more so than larval stages or animals following hatching. Charles Wellman from the University of Sheffield talked about the timing of the emergence of fossil plants. He summarised the debate about the first good evidence for land plants and showed his evidence that this was mid Silurian cryptospores, suggesting that Cambrian evidence was algal remains. He stated that this represented a change from gametophyte-dominant (e.g. bryophytes) to sporophyte-dominant vascular plants. Koenraad Martens from the Museum of Natural Sciences, Brussels, talked about the paradox of sex. Given that sex is very costly in evolutionary biological terms, why is sex so successful? Koenraad talked about the ostracod *Eucypris virens* which has 3 genders (sexual male, sexual female and asexual female) and was discovered, following genetic analysis, to have 37 cryptic species that can not be identified morphologically! Paul Pearson from Cardiff University discussed the evolution of Cenozoic planktonic foraminifera and developments that have resulted from stratophenetic sampling. He presented a new synoptic morphospecies phylogeny, developed by Tracy Aze (Cardiff University) as part of her PhD research, and went on to discuss the problems of anagenesis and the need to get rid of pseudo-speciations and pseudo-extinctions that result from the splitting of a gradually evolving lineage into different species. David Lazarus from the Museum für Naturkunde, Berlin, talked about the problems of investigating the evolution of radiolaria – the fact that no catalogues exist for extant radiolarians, let alone fossil ones, which limits the use of traditional macroevolutionary analysis using diversity curves and databases. Many fossil taxa have not been described properly yet, under-recording primary diversity, however, David presented some new data from Renaudie and Lazarus that demonstrated a huge increase in radiolarian diversity in the middle Miocene. He concluded by saying much more work

needs to be done with radiolarians to address the really important evolutionary questions.

TMS Awards

The President presented the 2009 Charles Downie Award to Magali Schweitzer for her paper (M. Schweitzer, J. Pawlowski, T. J. Kouwenhoven, J. Guiard and B. van der Zwaan) entitled: Molecular phylogeny of Rotaliida (Foraminifera) based on complete small subunit rDNA sequences, published in *Marine Micropaleontology* 66, 233-246. Magali was unable to be at the AGM however her award was collected on her behalf by Tom Russon and he read a short statement from Magali thanking the Society for the award and the recognition of the field of molecular micropalaeontology.

The President then presented the highest award of the Society, the Brady Medal, to Thomas M. Cronin in recognition of his research into ostracods and their applications to palaeoclimatology. On accepting the award, Tom thanked TMS for the honour and then went on to thank his thesis advisor, Stephen Gould. He then described how G.S. Brady's classic studies from Vermont and Maine, USA, played a major part in form-

ing his career and how he could not have completed his PhD thesis without them. Tom then acknowledged help, assistance and discussions over the years from David Horne, Alan Lord and Robin Whatley. He ended by stating the two big challenges that remain for applied micropalaeontology. The first was the paradox of sex ... which he suggested we leave to Koenraad Martens to sort out! The second was the issue of stabilizing carbon dioxide concentrations in the atmosphere by sequestering carbon. Geochemists and climate modelers need the assistance of micropalaeontologists to ground-truth data and reconstructions, and to ensure that proxies are grounded in a sound biological and ecological framework.

Closure of the AGM

The President formally closed the AGM by thanking the speakers once again and proposing a vote of thanks to PetroStrat for sponsoring the wine reception in the Roberts Building Foyer, to which everyone then adjourned.

Jenny Pike
TMS Secretary



TMS Student Awards

In order to support the teaching of micropalaeontology at all BSc, MSc and equivalent levels, as well as to encourage and reward student engagement and achievement in this field, The Micropalaeontological Society has established TMS Student Awards. Each award consists of one year's free membership of the Society, including two issues of *Journal of Micropalaeontology* and Newsletter of Micropalaeontology, discount on TMS and GSPH publications, discounted registration fees at TMS specialist group meetings, and eligibility for awards and grants-in-aid.

The awards are given annually by tutors of registered micropalaeontology courses. Only one award per year per institution (or per course if co-hosted by more than one institution) may be given. Nominating tutors must be members of TMS and in order to register a course they must submit a completed form to TMS Secretary who will confirm in writing that the given course is approved for the award. The Secretary will keep a list of registered micropalaeontology courses, conferring with the Committee when necessary. Course tutors of registered courses may then give the award at any time of the year on the basis of any criteria to students deemed to have achieved meritorious grades. The tutor reports the name and address of the awardee, as well as a brief statement on the criteria used to select the awardee, to the Secretary, who will collate a list of citations to be tabled each year at the AGM and printed in the Newsletter.

Each year, one TMS Student Award will be awarded in memory of Brian O'Neill.

Eleven courses are currently registered:

EA2009 Microfossils

School of Earth and Ocean Sciences, Cardiff University

500016 Foraminiferen im Schleswig-holsteinischen Wattenmeer

IFM-GEOMAR, Kiel

Advanced Micropalaeontology

Department of Geology, University of Leicester

Microfossils, environments and time

School of Ocean & Earth Science, University of Southampton

Mikropaläontologie

Institut für Geowissenschaften, Eberhard-Karls Universität Tübingen

Micropalaeontology

University of Bristol

Micropalaeontology: Principles and Applications

Keele University

16199 Micropalaeontology

Universidad del País Vasco

GLY 5102 Marine Micropalaeontology /

GLY 5104 Applied Micropalaeontology

/GLY 5207 Case Histories in Marine Micropalaeontology / research project involving micropalaeontology

Environmental and Marine Masters Scheme in the Faculty of Science, University of Plymouth

ESCM 320/440 Micropalaeontology

School of Geography, Earth and Environmental Sciences, University of Birmingham

Micropaleontology and

Paleoenvironmental Reconstruction

University of Ghent – K.U. Leuven

Alan Higgins Award for Applied Micropalaeontology

Alan Charles Higgins (1936–2004), a British micropalaeontologist and expert on conodonts, made major contributions to Palaeozoic biostratigraphy and helped firmly establish the value of micropalaeontology in hydrocarbon exploration. He was a founding member of TMS, its past Chairman and Honorary Member. The award of £300 is given to a young scientist, less than 10 years from graduation, in recognition of a significant record of achievement in the field of applied and industrial micropalaeontology, as documented by publications, software, patents, leadership or educational activities. The award was established with the help of Alan's family and friends, to commemorate his contribution to micropalaeontology and encourage young researchers in the field. It is presented in person at the Society's AGM in November. The first award will be made in 2010.

Nominations can be made by any TMS member using the nomination form available on the website or from the Secretary, and sent by the end of February of each year to the Secretary of TMS. The nominees need not be members of TMS. The award is normally given each year, resubmission of unsuccessful nominees is possible.

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 of Micropalaeontology* once their grant has been used. Application forms may be obtained from the Secretary. <pikej@cardiff.ac.uk>

Deadline for application is 28th February 2010

Charles Downie Award

The late Charles Downie was one of the pioneers of palynology in the U.K. and a mentor who guided the thinking and development of a large number of postgraduate students who passed through the University of Sheffield. Through the efforts of former colleagues at Sheffield, a permanent memorial has now been established to recognize Charles' contribution to micropalaeontology. An annual award will be made to The Micropalaeontological Society member, who in the opinion of The Micropalaeontological Society Committee, has published the most significant paper, in any journal, based upon his or her postgraduate research.

An award of £200 will be made for the best paper published during 2009 and will be presented at The Micropalaeontological Society AGM in November 2010. Nominations for the best paper published in 2009 should be submitted either to the appropriate TMS Specialist Group, or The Micropalaeontological Society Secretary by 28th February 2010.

Charles Downie Award Winner 2009

Magali Schweizer presents a summary of:

Molecular phylogeny of Rotaliida (Foraminifera) based on complete small subunit rDNA sequences

Magali Schweizer, Jan Pawlowski, Tanja J. Kouwenhoven, Jackie Guiard, Bert van der Zwaan

Summary of the article published in *Marine Micropaleontology* 66 (2008) 233-246

The classification of foraminifers is presently based on the morphological characteristics of the test. The species bearing a calcareous hyaline perforate test are currently grouped into three different orders: Buliminida, Rotaliida and Globigerinida (Sen Gupta 2002). Molecular phylogenetic studies based on partial small subunit (SSU) rDNA sequences have shown some discrepancies with this traditional classification. A study focusing on the rotaliids s. l. (Buliminida and Rotaliida) revealed some unexpected groupings of genera, although the support for the new clades was rather weak. The low support was thought mainly due to the lack of informative sites in the limited length of the analysed fragment (Schweizer et al. 2005).

In order to improve the resolution of the rotaliid phylogeny, 26 new complete SSU rDNA sequences have been obtained. Phylogenetic analyses of these data, together with seven sequences obtained previously, confirm with stronger statistical support the presence of three major clades among the Rotaliida. The clades 1 and 3 are strongly supported by analyses of the complete SSU rDNA, while the monophyly of clade 2 is less certain, probably due to the rapid evolutionary rates of some lineages included in this clade.

A good agreement has been found between molecular data and the morphological definition for the families Cassidulinidae, Uvigerinidae, Calcarinidae and Nummulitidae, whereas the Nonionidae, the Rotaliidae and the Buliminidae are genetically polyphyletic. The superfamilies Buliminacea, Nonionacea and Planorbulinacea are also polyphyletic. Moreover, our results clearly contradict the separation of rotaliid foraminifera into two orders: Rotaliida and Buliminida. Apparently, the presence of a toothplate, which is the main feature to distinguish both orders, is not as taxonomically important as was previously thought.

References

- Schweizer, M., Pawlowski, J., Duijnste, I. A. P., Kouwenhoven, T. J., van der Zwaan, G. J., 2005. Molecular phylogeny of the foraminiferal genus *Uvigerina* based on ribosomal DNA sequences. *Marine Micropaleontology*, 57: 51-67.
- Sen Gupta, B.K., 2002. Systematics of modern foraminifera. In: B.K. Sen Gupta (Editor), *Modern foraminifera*. Kluwer, Dordrecht, pp. 7-36.

Treasurer's Report

Jeremy Young

The Natural History Museum, London

Accounts for the society were presented and accepted at TMS Annual General Meeting in November 2009 and are reproduced here. They were audited by former treasurer Steven Packer. As explained in the notes some corrections needed to be made to the 2007-8 accounts in order to make them consistent with previous accounts.

The closing balance in the accounts is reported at the end of the financial year after payment of the Journal and Newsletter issues for the year and before receipt of any subscription income for the following year. Hence it is a fair representation of the financial reserves of the society. The closing balance is £24,794.63 and is slightly higher than the corrected closing balance for 2007-8. More significantly this closing balance has increased significantly over the past few years, from £5151 in 2003-4. This increase in balance reflects the steady increase in membership of the society and increased library sales of the Journal. Our annual turnover is currently ca. £39,000 so we are nearing our long-term objective of establishing reserves close to annual turnover. In the future the new contract with the Geological Society Publishing House for publishing the *Journal of Micropalaeontology* should significantly improve our finances.

Given the satisfactory finances of the society the membership subscriptions for 2010 have remained at £35 for regular members and £20 for student and retired members. Membership renewal forms will as usual be sent to all members and we would be very grateful if these could be paid promptly, not least since sending reminders is very time-consuming for the membership secretary, Clive Jones. An important change from previous years is

that online payment of subscriptions is now possible through the TMS website. We are using PayPal to provide secure online payment but payment is possible using any credit card. Also, as with most online payment systems, payments can be made from accounts in any currency without incurring bank charges. Payment can also be made by direct debit, cheque or by credit card, using the membership subscription form, but we would recommend online payment as the simplest system, especially for members outside the UK.

Gift Aid; The Society has been operating Gift Aid since 2004. This allows us to reclaim tax on subscriptions and donations. I would urge all UK tax payers to complete and return a Gift Aid form, if you haven't already done so (you only need to complete a form once and it's valid whilst you still pay a subscription). The Gift Aid form can be downloaded from TMS website. If you are unsure whether you have already completed a Gift Aid form please ask me.

NOTES ON THE ACCOUNTS

The accounts for this year are slightly more complex than usual since a series of adjustments needed to be made to the accounts which were published for 2007-8. The reason for this is that the accounts for 2007-8 were produced on a slightly different basis to those for preceding years, and so were not entirely consistent with them. Essentially, the accounts for 2007-8 reported bank transactions over the reporting period, and so included some items already provided for in the previous accounts and excluded equivalent commitments for the following year. The following notes provide a basic explanation for these corrections and for other items as seems useful.

TMS Statement of accounts for financial year 2008-2009

INCOME	
BALANCE FROM 2007-2008	
Closing balance in 2007-8 accounts	21,656.39
ADJUSTMENTS TO ACCOUNTS	
Correction to opening balance (Nov 2007)	116.78
<i>Items erroneously included</i>	
TMS002 spec publ., colour plates	1,800.00
J. Micropal 27/2	12,834.00
Downie Award for 2007	200.00
Postage Newsletter 76	55.84
<i>Items erroneously excluded</i>	
Interest	434.37
J. Micropal 28/2	- 12,558.00
Total corrections	2,882.99
INCOME DURING YEAR	
Membership Subscriptions	
Individual membership subscriptions	15,805.54
Library Subscriptions	19,572.49
Total Subscription income	35,378.03
Miscellaneous Income	
Royalties TMS spec publ 001	44.68
Royalties TMS spec publ 002	527.12
FugroRob sponsorship of spec publ figs	1,000.00
Advertising	160.00
Downie Fund donations	185.00
Higgins Fund donation	100.00
Miscellaneous	5.05
Sale of back issues	100.00
Refund of erroneous direct debits	1,423.33
Amazon clickthrough	26.63
Foram nanno gp mtng (Tubingen)	924.95
Total Miscellaneous income	4,496.76
TOTAL INCOME FOR YEAR	39,874.79

Notes

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EXPENDITURE	
Journal of Micropalaeontology	
Volume 28, Part 1	12,558.00
Volume 28, Part 2	12,696.00
TMS Special Publication	
Ostracod Atlas - figures	1,000.00
Ostracod Atlas - presentation copies	135.00
Newsletter of Micropalaeontology	
Newsletter 78 printing	361.00
Newsletter 79 & handbook printing	824.00
Newsletter 80 postage	1,284.77
Newsletter 80 printing	867.00
Sub-total publishing	29,725.77
Annual General Meeting	
Reception at UCL	976.12
Speaker's meal	621.50
Speaker's expenses	288.71
	1,886.33
Meetings, Awards, etc.	
IFPS Subscription	150.45
Downie Award 2008	200.00
Grants in Aid (3 @ £200)	600.00
Lyell Meeting 2008	2,025.00
Foram-nanno Group Meeting (ETH)	414.33
Ostracod Group Meeting (NHM)	61.04
Palynology Group Meeting (NHM)	245.06
Polish Mikro Meeting	250.00
Conodont Conference	200.00
Cretaceous Symposium	500.00
Houston Applied Micro Meeting	730.61
	5,376.49
Committee expenses	
Catering	29.32
Editor's expenses	430.09
Memb Sec. Expenses	189.08
Publicity Officer	46.00
Treasurer	20.00
Newsletter Editor	42.27
Secretary	97.10
Group Reps	50.25
	904.11
Charges	
Barclaycard	541.67
Bank charges (foreign payments)	43.00
Pegasus computing (direct debits)	53.19
PayPal	25.13
Erroneous direct debits	1,063.85
	1,726.84
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	39,619.54

Notes

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SUMMARY OF FINANCIAL SITUATION

Corrected opening balance	24,539.38
Income	39,874.79
Expenditure	- 39,619.54
Closing balance	24,794.63

The total cash assets includes:

Downie Fund	1962.52
Higgins Fund	1405.00

This financial period ran from 4th November 2008 to 7th November 2009

Dr. J.R Young (Treasurer)

Dr. S.Packer (Honorary Auditor)

TMS

1. Closing balance in 2007-8 accounts: this is the end balance in the published accounts for 2007-8.
2. Correction to opening balance (Nov 2007): This correction is needed since the initial balance in the published accounts was understated by £116.78, compare accounts of 2006-7 and 2007-8.
3. Items erroneously included: These expenditure items had already been included in the 2006-7 accounts and so should not have been included in the 2007-8 account, even though the relevant cheques were not cleared by our bank until 2007-8.
4. TMS002 special publication, colour plates: The quoted cost of printing of the *Journal of Micropalaeontology* part 27/2 in the 2007-8 accounts also included the costs of the special publication plates ($12834 + 1800 = 14634$).
5. Interest: The interest on the BBRT account was included in the income but was subtracted from the cash assets/closing balance.
6. *J. Micropal* 28/2: For consistency with prior accounts the cost of printing *Journal of Micropalaeontology* part 28/2 should have been included in the 2007/8 accounts since the expense was committed at the time of closure of the accounts.
7. Total corrections: This is the net effect of the corrections outlined above, i.e. the cash assets of the TMS were understated by £2882.99.
8. FugroRob sponsorship of spec publ figs: Sponsorship by Fugro Robertson covered the cost of redrawing figures for TMS Special Publication 003 (*Ostracods in British Stratigraphy*). This appears in the accounts as both income and an expense, with no net effect.
9. Erroneous direct debits: Between Sept 2008 and March 2009 a series of direct debits were made from TMS bank accounts to various UK companies. After extensive correspondence, these have all been repaid by the companies involved, and the problem has not recurred, although it was not possible to determine exactly why they had been made. The sums deductions (£1063.85) reported are less than the repayments (£1423.33) since some deductions (£169.47) were reported in the previous accounts, and there was over-repayment of £190.01 by the companies involved.
- 10 Amazon click-through: This is advertising revenue from TMS website
11. Foram nanno gp mtng (Tubingen): The Tubingen meeting in 2008 made a significant surplus which has been transferred to TMS.
12. Lyell Meeting 2008: This is payment to the Geological Society of London for hosting this meeting and catering. This was a delayed payment from 2008, the income from this event (sponsorship and registration) appeared in the 2008 accounts and overall the TMS made a slight surplus on the meeting.
13. Barclaycard: This is the cost for use of the Barclaycard terminal and handling of credit card payments.

Journal Editor's Report

F. John Gregory - PetroStrat Ltd.

Volume 28/2 is at the printers and copy will be sent to members by the end of November/beginning of December, apologies for the slight delay in getting this, my final issue out, it has been a very busy year: Contents as follows and includes colour plates in three papers.

Journal of Micropalaeontology:

Volume 28, Part 2, November 2009

1. **Editorial:** F. J. Gregory
2. **Occurrence of *Vestalenula* (Darwinuloidea, Ostracoda) in the Neogene of Italy, Crete and Serbia, with the description of three new species:** S. Ligios, K. Minati, E. Gliozzi & N. Krstic
3. **Early Eocene marine ostracods from the Crescent Formation, southwestern Washington State, USA:** T. Yamaguchi & J. L. Goedert
4. **Recent benthic foraminifera in Flensburg Fjord (Western Baltic Sea):** I. Polovodova, A. Nikulina, J. Schönfeld & W.-C. Dullo
5. **A minute new species of *Saccammina* (monothalamous Foraminifera; Protista) from the abyssal Pacific:** N. Ohkawara, H. Kitazato, K. Uematsu & A. J. Gooday
6. **Calcareous nannofossil biostratigraphy of an outcrop section of Aptian sediments of west-central Portugal (Lusitanian Basin):** R. O. B. P. da Gama, P. R. Bown & M. C. Cabral
7. **Megaspore assemblages from the Åre Formation (Rhaetian–Pliensbachian), mid-Norway, and their value as field and regional stratigraphic markers:** P. H. Morris, A. Culum, M. A. Pearce & D. J. Batten
8. **Honorarium — Dr John Whittaker:** R. W. Jones & A. R. Lord

MICROPALAEONTOLOGICAL NOTEBOOKS

1. **A bisected *Pelosina* rejoined!**: E. Alve
2. **Wind transport of foraminiferal tests into subaerial dunes: an example from western Ireland:** J. W. Murray
3. **The lectotype of *Spiroplecta rosula* Ehrenberg, 1854 — the type species of *Bolivinospis* Yakovlev, 1891 (Foraminifera):** M. A. Kaminski & D. B. Lazarus

Some parting comments and the Future of the *Journal*.

Apologies for not being present at the AGM, I was stuck on a drilling rig again, this time on-shore Morocco near Fes. I hope you all enjoyed the wine PetroStrat sponsored!

As I announced at the last AGM, I have negotiated a new contract with the Geological Society of London (GSL) and the Geological Society Publishing House (GSPH), which will begin in 2011. This will replace our Society's main financial burden and responsibility to fund the Journal with member and library subscriptions, and will even return a reasonable yearly surplus to TMS coffers. Furthermore, this new contract will allow the next editor to increase the number of issues per year should they desire, at no cost to the Society. This will only be done if there is a perceived need to publish more papers, or to reduce the time taken from submission to ultimate publication of papers. At the moment it can take an average range of between 6 and 12 months from manuscript submission to publication for papers that do not require significant revisions. Some authors have indicated that this too long, but it is a natural consequence of only having 2 issues a year.

Other components of this new deal have now been firmed up and I can confirm that the negotiated benefits below (also at no cost to the Society), will commence prior to the start of the contract.

The main benefit and development is online electronic manuscript submission and review. This will be via the Allen Track system and the Editor-elect, myself and the GSPH Staff editors have been implementing and trialling this with a view to rolling it out throughout 2010. I know that there may be some resistance to online submission, but it will improve the efficiency of the whole manuscript handling procedure. More importantly authors will be able to see at a glance where their paper is in the whole process and it will also speed up reviewing and the ultimate time taken to publication. The final improvement, and not the least, is it will greatly help less-

en the work-load for the new editor, something I greatly empathize with after the last 6 years.

I can also confirm that our Journal will be placed online on the Geological Society's Lyell Collection, and if the committee wants it, GSPH/GSL will support our application for membership to the GeoScience World site in the first 3 years of the new contract.

Members will continue to get free online access to present and archive pdf copies of the Journal, but at the Lyell Collection rather than the NHM site (with thanks to Andy Henderson for managing this over the last few years). The advantage of this new online presence is that interested researchers other than our members can now easily access abstracts and pdfs of Journal papers, and we will not have to maintain the site.

The Editor-elect and I have also been discussing the way forward for the Journal in terms of the editor's role and work-load, and the one major change which will be implemented upon their taking up post will be the election of a new editorial board comprising Associate Editors. Associate Editors will then delegated responsibility for looking after papers within their discipline, following them from submission, through review to a recommendation for the Editor as to whether to publish or not. I would like to thank members of the present International Editorial Board for their help over the last few years.

I hope that these new features, particularly online submissions and a presence on the Lyell Collection will increase quality paper submissions to the Journal, improve paper turnaround, make the editor's job easier, and ultimately improve our citation index/impact factor values.

Finally, I would like to thank the sterling efforts of all the staff at the GSPH, particularly Sarah Gibbs, and not least all the reviewers who have done their job diligently. Without peer review our Journal will not flourish.

Good Luck to the new Editor Prof. Alan Lord from F. John Gregory....Editor (retired) (PetroStrat Ltd.).

Foraminifera Group Report

Robert Speijer

Two major meetings will take place in 2010: the Third International Palaeontological Congress (IPC3) in London, June 28 to July 3, 2010 and FORAMS 2010 in Bonn, September 5-10, 2010.

TMS is holding its annual Foraminifera and Nannofossil (F&N) group meeting on the Monday (June 28) of the IPC3 meeting at the Natural History Museum. This will not clash with any of the IPC3 program but provides an additional opportunity for junior researchers and students to present their research. By scheduling this event at the start of the IPC3 meeting we hope to encourage and facilitate the attendance of junior and senior researchers at both meetings. To pre-register or for more information about the F&N group meeting please contact Tom Dunkley Jones or Jeremy Young. This is a separate event and as such you will not be able to access information about this meeting or register for it on the IPC3 website - details will follow on the TMS website:

FORAMS 2010 succeeds the successful meeting in 2006 in Natal, Brazil. Martin Langer of Bonn University organizes the 2010 meeting and has set up an informative website:
<http://www.forams2010.uni-bonn.de/>

The preliminary program consists of the following sessions on almost everything you ever wanted to know on foraminifera:

- Biogeochemical Cycles and Foraminifera: proxy incorporation and interpretation
- Sea level reconstructions based on foraminifera
- Experimental Approaches in Foraminiferal Research: towards better understanding both their biological features and sensitive proxy developments
- Stratigraphy and Ecology of Cenozoic Larger Benthic Foraminifera
- Foraminifera as bio-indicators of anthropogenic impact
- Potentially Toxic Chemicals: Natural and Anthropogenic Influence on Foraminifera
- Modern and fossil Seep Foraminifera
- Foram Foliation: The Tree of Foraminifera Workshop
- Planktic foraminiferal biogeochemistry, population dynamics and modelling in paleoceanography
- Biozonation by means of larger benthic foraminifera
- Denitrification, bacterial symbionts, and biochemical challenges to survive under hypoxia in sulfidic environments.
- Ocean acidification and foraminifera: altered ecology and physiology in a High CO₂ World
- Studies on Mesozoic and Palaeozoic Foraminifera
- Biogeography of Foraminifera
- Mesozoic planktonic foraminiferal evolutionary history and paleobiology: New insights and interpretations

In addition three group meetings are planned:

- Meeting of the Working Group on Oligocene Planktonic Foraminifera
- Cult FADE Meeting: Culturing of Foraminifera to Avoid Duplication of Effort
- Working Group on Foraminiferal Classification

The social and field program will include a Rhine-River Cruise and Dinner as well as mid-conference field trips to

- Spectacular Fossilagerstätten of S-Germany including Holzmaden, Solnhofen (Archaeopteryx), Nördlingen Meteorite Crater, Bavaria with giant Nummulite and Orbitolina deposits
- Modern Environments of the North Sea tidal environments
- Evolution of a Cretaceous epicontinental Sea (Münsterland)
- Micropaleontology of the Cenozoic Rhine Graben System

Pre-registration is open!

Microvertebrate Group Report

Paul Smith

The Microvertebrate Group had an overhaul at TMS AGM in November with Paul Smith (University of Birmingham) taking over from Howard Armstrong as chair, and Carine Randon (Université Pierre et Marie Curie, Paris) moving into the secretary's seat to replace Rob Raine. Many thanks are due to Howard and Rob for their service over the past few years.

The group gathered as usual in December at the Palaeontological Association annual meeting, where the informal discussions lasted volubly, as ever, late into the night. The formal presentations were highly varied in subject matter and included an account from David Jones and Mark Purnell on toothwear in conodonts and its implication for ecology and function, and a study of the skeletal histology and affinity of *Palaeospondylus* by Zerina Johanson and colleagues. There was also a pair of isotopic pres-

entations, one by Zivile Zigaite on the preservation and geochemistry of Silurian-Devonian microvertebrates and the second by James Wheeley, Paul Smith and Ian Boomer about the sources of variation in ionprobe analyses of oxygen isotopes in conodonts and the consequences for studies of oceanic palaeothermometry. Finally, Rob Sansom, Sarah Gabbott and Mark Purnell presented a systematic description of the experimental decay of hagfishes and lampreys and the implications for phylogenetic analyses, beautifully timed by the programme organisers for the first slot in the morning session after the annual dinner.

Abstracts are available on the Pal Ass website (www.palass.org). The group will next be gathering at the IPC meeting in London in the middle of 2010.

Nannofossil Group Report

Tom Dunkley Jones

The third International Palaeontological Congress is being hosted by the Palaeontological Association and a number of partner organisations, including The Micropalaeontological Society (TMS), at the Natural History Museum and Imperial College next June (28 June - 3 July 2010; <http://www.ipc3.org>). This congress will be one of the largest and most wide-ranging international palaeontological research meetings. As part of the scientific program, TMS has sponsored two specialist sessions focusing on critical contributions of micropalaeontology to palaeontological research: the study of macroevolution and the investigation of global change (details below).

These sessions promise to draw together palaeontologists, evolutionary biologists and global change scientists to tackle some of the key questions in the history of life and the planet. As convenors of these sessions we strongly encourage you and your students to consider

presenting your research at these sessions of the IPC3. The IPC3 abstract deadline is 28 February 2010, with registration and abstract submission information available on the IPC3 web site.

The TMS is also holding its annual Foraminifera and Nannofossil (F&N) group meeting on the Monday (June 28) of the IPC3 meeting at the Natural History Museum. See details in the Forum Group report above.

IPC3 Symposia sponsored by The Micropalaeontological Society:

1) Microfossil contribution to understanding the tree of life

Keynote speakers: Jan Pawlowski, Ivan Sansom. Organisers: Daniela Schmidt, Paul Bown & Jeremy Young.

This session will focus on microfossil evidence for macroevolution. Topics will range from major innovations, the geological record of radiations and mass extinctions to documenting global changes in biodiversity. Studies of material from Lagerstätten with exceptional preservation and the resulting paradigm shifts are strongly encouraged as are case studies highlighting the microfossil contribution to the evolution of larger organisms, e.g. the evolution of early vertebrates or plants.

2) The micropalaeontological record of global change

Keynote speaker: Luc Beaufort. Organisers: Tom Dunkley Jones & Taniel Danelian.

This session will present new micropalaeontological approaches to understanding interactions between the biosphere and past global environmental change. It will address some of the major questions in the evolution of life and its relationship with the global environment, including the history of biomineralisation and related changes in ocean chemistry and the role of unicellular organisms in global biogeochemical cycles. Case studies of biotic response to climatic change will be particularly welcome (i.e. ocean acidification, global warming and anoxic events).

Palynology Group Report

Phil Jardine

Outgoing Palynology Group chair Ian Harding has recently been appointed as a Director at Large on The Palynological Society council. Ian will therefore be working to establish stronger links between the two societies.

Several members of TMS Palynology Group attended the Linnean Society Palynology Specialist Group Meeting, held on 29th October at Burlington House in London. The title of the meeting was *Pollen and spore research: from the Precambrian to the present*, and included presentations on a diverse range of palaeo- and neopalynological themes. Speakers from the TMS Palynology Group were Charlie Wellman, who gave a talk entitled *What lived on land in the Precambrian?*, Brian Pedder, who presented research on *Laurentian Upper Cambrian acritarchs from the U.S.A.*, and yours truly, who asked *How useful is the dispersed pollen record for determining the spatial dynamics of extinct plant communities?*

Ian Harding will be stepping down as the Palynology Group Chair in the New Year, and we have now begun looking for a new Chair to replace him. Should anyone be interested in

this position, please contact either Phil Jardine (Palynology Group secretary; pej083@bham.ac.uk) or Ian Harding (ich@noc.soton.ac.uk).

We are now working at full steam to set-up the next Palynology-Silicofossil Joint Meeting, which will be held in Southampton in early summer 2010. Ian Harding and Richard Pearce will act as local coordinators. Details will be announced once the arrangements have been made.

Future meetings of interest:

3rd International Palaeontological Congress (IPC3), 28th June to 3rd July 2010, at Imperial College and the Natural History Museum, London. <http://www.ipc3.org/>

8th European Palaeobotany – Palynology Conference (EPPC 2010), 6th to 10th July, Hungarian Natural History Museum, Budapest, Hungary. <http://www.eppc2010.org/index.php>

The Palynological Society 43rd Annual Meeting, 29th September to 2nd October 2010, at the Harbourview Holiday Inn, Halifax, Nova Scotia.

Silicofossil Group Report

Taniel Danelian

The last international meeting of Radiolarian Palaeontologists (INTERRAD 12: Radiolarians through time) took place from September 14th to 17th in Nanjing (China) and was hosted by the Nanjing Institute of Geology and Palaeontology of the Chinese Academy of Sciences. 89 participants from 17 different countries attended the meeting which started with a 10-day long pre-conference field excursion organised in Tibet to visit Mesozoic radiolarian chert sequences associated with oceanic pillow basalts along the Yarlung-Tsangpo suture zone.

The opening ceremony was held at the Nanjing Museum of Palaeontology during which participants had the opportunity to be informed of recent advances in palaeontological research in China. Two plenary talks stressed the contribution of Radiolarians to better understand major tectonic and palaeoceanographic questions. The rest of the Conference took place at the Liuyan Hotel, in the campus of the Southeast University. The Conference was organised around seven sessions that covered biological, palaeobiological, palaeoceanographic and evolutionary topics, as well as the application of Radiolarians to tectonic and stratigraphic issues:

- Radiolarians: biology and ecology
- Radiolarian (molecular) biology and its application to palaeobiology and palaeo-

oceanography

- Radiolarians and Climate change through time
- Radiolarian taxonomy and systematics
- Radiolarian biostratigraphy, evolution and extinctions
- Tectonostratigraphic applications of Radiolarians
- The taxonomic legacy of the first 100 years of radiolarian research

A one-day mid-Conference excursion gave the participants the opportunity to visit the GSSP of the Permian/Triassic boundary, the late Permian levels of which comprise thin-bedded radiolarian-bearing limestones. A 6-day post-conference excursion provided the opportunity to visit Upper Palaeozoic radiolarian-bearing strata in the Guangxi Region of south-western China.

The meeting was mainly sponsored by a consortium of Chinese research institutions and Universities. TMS was also amongst the sponsors of the meeting, with two student awards (one talk, one poster). This was a very successful action for both the short and long term promotion of TMS within the Radiolarian community. Below there is a detailed report by the Past Silicofossil Chair, Dave Lazarus.

TMS Student Awards, Interrad 12

Dave Lazarus

Of the 100 or so presentations at Interrad 12, there were approximately 20 by students, divided nearly equally between oral and poster forms. The presenters as a whole, and specifically for student presentations, came from (in approximate order of abundance) Japan, China, western countries, Russia and others.

The award committee consisted of myself;

Kjell Bjørklund, University Oslo; Giuseppe Cortese, GNS New Zealand; Rie Hori, Ehime University, Japan and Harouo Wu, CAS, Beijing. The committee was able to quickly agree on the best presentations:

Best talk was by Jin, Yu-Xi, Noble, P.J. and Poulson, S.R.: Permian radiolarian faunal variations in the Lamar Limestone, Delaware

Basin, West Texas (USA) and their paleoclimatological implications from geochemical proxies; University of Nevada, Reno, USA.

Best poster was by Ikeda, M., Sakuma, H. Tada, R.: Milankovitch cycles detected from the sedimentary rhythms of bedded chert and its relation to diversity dynamics of radiolarian fossils; Tokyo University, Japan.

TMS was briefly described and the benefits of membership explained to the full body of participants before presenting the awards, and Taniel or myself were mentioned as contact persons. The committee was particularly pleased by the overall high quality of the student presentations (indeed, they included some of the best of the meeting) and this was stressed as a promising sign for the future of radiolarian research.

A Diploma and an envelope with the award money were handed to the winners or their colleagues. N.B. - the diploma and envelopes

were created on-the-spot by the local organizers. It might be better, if we wish to continue this activity, to have a proper TMS created Diploma.

TMS was listed on the printed documents and main posters at the front of the meeting room as a sponsor of Interrad 12.

Lastly, I should mention a minor cultural confusion that occurred. Several post-docs were expecting to be included in the competition for the student awards, as apparently in Asian countries the term student also includes post-docs. Once this was pointed out to me after the meeting, a clarification was distributed on the community's email server, radfolks. Future awards might wish to broaden the scope to include 'young researchers', though defining this or verifying eligibility on a global scale might be difficult.



Grant-in-Aid recipients' reports

The Foraminifera and Nannofossil Groups Joint Spring Meeting, Zurich, Switzerland

Laura Cotton (PhD student, Cardiff)

Earlier this year the Foraminifera and Nannofossil group meeting was held in the Earth Science building of ETH, Zurich. My PhD looks at the extinctions of larger benthic foraminifera at the Eocene Oligocene transition in Tanzania. So the meeting with its fieldtrip to see the Einsiedler Schuppenzone seemed an excellent first conference for me to attend and present the preliminary results from my first year's work.

The talks covered a broad range of subjects and there was lots of time to view the posters and some of the excellent geological displays in the Earth Sciences building. But particularly interesting for me were the talks of Jawad Afzal and Antonio Briguglio, both on larger benthic foraminifera. It was very helpful to be able to speak to more experienced people working in a

similar field, as there seem to be few of us larger benthic people about.

The fieldtrip, though rather soggy, was an excellent opportunity to see Nummulites and their friends "in the wild" – so far all my samples had been captive specimens collected before I began my PhD. It also proved quite useful for field identifications in some subsequent fieldwork I undertook. Quite a few pieces of the nummulitic limestone accompanied me back to Cardiff – they make beautiful thin sections.

So, finally, I would just like to thank TMS for giving me the opportunity to attend, and hopefully I will be back next year with even more giant forams to show you.



Hunting for Nummulites in the rain

Evidence For Precursors To The PETM Displayed By The Paleocene Foraminiferal Record In The Contessa Road Section, Umbria-Marche Basin, Italy.

Kimberley Pool (University College London)

I have recently completed my Masters of Geoscience at UCL under the supervision of Dr Michael Kaminski. The Grant-in-Aid provided by TMS allowed me to travel to Gubbio, Italy to carry out sampling for my Masters dissertation "Evidence for precursors to the PETM displayed by the Paleocene foraminiferal record in the Contessa Road Section, Umbria-Marche basin, Italy".

The main purpose of this study was to increase our understanding of the deep water agglutinated foraminiferal palaeoecology and to construct a longer record of events leading up to the Paleocene Eocene Thermal Maximum (PETM). Previous to this study, the Contessa Road Section was not investigated in enough detail in order to determine whether the PETM was a unique event within the Paleocene.

In April 2009 I travelled to Italy to carry out field work collecting 100g samples every metre across the twenty eight metre Paleocene section at Contessa Road. I then stayed on in Italy at the micropalaeontological lab of the Istituto di Geologia, Università degli Studi di Urbino to undertake sample processing. Samples were processed in HCl due to the highly cemented nature of the limestones. This resulted in only agglutinated foraminifera being preserved and analysed.

Micropalaeontological analysis was carried out on the foraminifera from the Paleocene limestones of the Scaglia Rossa Formation at Contessa Road. Faunal trends of abundance, diversity and morphogroup distributions were assessed and compared with previously studied

deep water agglutinated foraminifera distributions across the PETM (Galeotti et al. 2004).

Marly intervals were observed midway through the Paleocene section which displayed large decreases in abundance and diversity. Relative abundances of foraminifera showed varying proportions of dominating genera including opportunistic species such as *Repmanina charoides* and *Spiroplectamina spectabilis* displaying evidence for stressed environments leading up to the PETM.

Lithological changes, foraminiferal assemblages and relative abundances within the studied section were similar to that shown at the PETM in the Galeotti et al. (2004) study. Therefore, it is suggested that the marly layers at the Contessa Road Section represent precursor events to the PETM and that the PETM itself was not a unique event, but a more dramatic example of Paleocene climatic change.

Reference

Galeotti, S., Kaminski, M. A., Coccioni, R. & Speijer, R. P., 2004. High-resolution Deep-water agglutinated foraminiferal record across the Paleocene/Eocene transition in the Contessa Road Section (Central Italy). In: Bubik, M. & Kaminski, M. A., (eds). *Proceedings of the Sixth International Workshop on Agglutinated Foraminifera*. Grzybowski Foundation Special Publication, 8: 83–103.

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The Grzybowski Foundation

Report from GF Chairman - Dr Mike Kaminski

With the publication of this newsletter the Grzybowski Foundation is pleased to reaffirm its continuing collaboration with The Micropalaeontological Society to bring news items to the attention of Micropalaeontologists in Eastern Europe and elsewhere. If you are reading this column and you live in the "New Europe" or in Russia, and you are not a TMS member, it means that you are an associate member of the Grzybowski Foundation. We also like to thank our dues-paying members worldwide for their continued support of our activities. This is also a reminder to send in your yearly dues payment, if you have not already done so. The GF relies upon the generosity of its members to fund ongoing activities. Above all, I wish to welcome all of our new members who joined the foundation this year. Membership in the GF certainly has its benefits – members receive print copies of our special publications and have access to the Members Only pages on the GF website, where lots of useful publications can be found. In addition you have the satisfaction of knowing that you are supporting a dynamic group of people who are active in research and training in Micropalaeontology in Central Europe, and other valuable activities such as our meetings and special publications.

This year has been a busy one for the GF – In April we hosted the Second Short Course on Benthic Foraminifera in Urbino, and in September we hosted our semi-annual MIKRO meeting (see report by Jaroslaw Tyszkla). We published the MIKRO-meeting abstract & excursion volume as a Special Publication, and we supported students who attended the MIKRO meeting. Additionally, we awarded the Stanislaw Geroch Memorial Grant-in-Aid to Ph.D. student Zofia Dubicka from the Polish Academy of Sciences, Warszawa, who will attend the Third Second Short Course on Benthic Foraminifera in the spring. We will also give a grant to a Ph.D. student from Eastern Europe who wishes to attend the FORAMS meeting in Bonn.

Another core activity that is now well-established is the Grzybowski Foundation Library in Krakow. This year the Library's holdings have grown considerably, due in part to the fact that the closure of the MSc course in Micropalaeontology at UCL meant I had to rationalise book holdings – so a number of duplicate publications were transferred to the GFL. I would like to thank our former Librarian Agnieszka Ciurej for all her dedicated effort in setting up the library and its lending system, and for keeping things in good order over the last several years. Agnieszka stepped down from the position earlier this year in order to write up her Ph.D. thesis. The position of Librarian has now been handed over to Wieslawa Król who is currently a Ph.D. student at the Polish Academy of Sciences (see report below). This September, the GF's "Working Group on Foraminiferal Classification" held its annual meeting at the Grzybowski Library to discuss matters of foraminiferal systematics as well as revisions to the generic descriptions and synonymies.

I wish to thank Danuta Peryt and her team at the Polish Academy of Sciences for doing such a fine job of putting together GF Special Publication nr. 15, the MIKRO-meeting abstract and guidebook volume. This publication can be freely downloaded from the GF website. Two more GF Special Publications are currently in preparation – if you attended the IWAF-8 meeting in Cluj last year, please send in your contributions to the Proceedings Volume now. We are currently reviewing and editing papers that have been received so far. Please contact me, or Sorin Filipescu, if you have a contribution for the volume. Now there's no excuse NOT to publish in the GFSPs, because the IWAF proceedings volumes are now listed in Thompson-Reuter's Science Citation Index. Theodor Neagu's book on the Albian Foraminifera of the Romanian Plain is now in the review process and will be printed in 2010.

Finally some congratulations are in order (in no particular order) – to Prof. Janina Szczechura upon receiving the Grzybowski Award for 2009; to Adam Gasinski upon being elected President of the Polish Geological Society; to Jarek Tysza upon receiving a Kosciuszko Foundation scholarship; to Krzysztof Bak on assuming the editorship of the Journal of the Geological Society of Poland; to Eiichi Setoyama upon receiving a Sepkoski Memorial Grant; to Claudia Ceteau upon receiving a travel grant from NAMS and a postdoctoral position at the Natural History Museum in London, to Stefano Patruno on obtaining a Ph.D. studentship at Imperial College, and to our new members Julietta Mikkeliidou, Kim Pool, & Ashleigh Costelloe upon finding positions in industry upon successfully defend-

ing their masters theses. I wish to personally thank the Geological Society of America and the Cushman Foundation for awarding me the W. Storrs Cole Award for 2009, which will fund research on high-latitude foraminiferal biostratigraphy. Finally, at a meeting of GF officers held in at the MIKRO meeting in September, it was decided that the role of GF Chairman will be assumed by the person who takes responsibility for organising the next MIKRO meeting. Since this task has fallen to me this time, I'm pleased to report that I'll be writing this column for the next two years. We wish all our members and readers a Happy Holidays, and we hope you find the news items that follow to be both interesting and enjoyable.

The MIKRO-7 Micropalaeontological Workshop ***Sweita Katarzyna, Poland, September 28-30, 2009*** Jarosław Tysza (ING PAN)

We cannot believe that already more than 10 years ago we decided to hold the first MIKRO-workshop to gather together all micropalaeontologists interested in the Polish and central/eastern European research context. The latest, 7th MIKRO-meeting, fulfilled our expectations, bringing together scientists from the whole of Poland and surrounding countries. Well..., the word “surrounding” is probably not the right expression because we met micropalaeontologists from 14 countries, from as far away as Japan, Georgia, the United Arab Emirates, Italy, the UK, Trinidad, and actually the United States. We were very happy to welcome so many scientists and postgraduate students from Hungary, Lithuania, Romania, Russia, Romania and Ukraine this time. If we also add Austria and Germany, we get the idea that the MIKRO meeting was more international than ever before.

The workshop was organised in Swieta Katarzyna, in Polish Santa Caterina, in the middle of Poland by the Institute of Palaeobiology (IP) of the Polish Academy of Sciences (PAN) and the Grzybowski Foundation, with some kind support from the Polish Geological Institute

(PIG), The Micropalaeontological Society, and other institutions. The perfect team of micropalaeobiologists coordinated by Danuta Peryt (IP) made a splendid job of running two days of scientific sessions and a one day field trip to the Holy Cross Mountains. The meeting began with an ice-breaker evening before the first formal day of the workshop. Most of us had just arrived so it was a chance to have a rest and chat.

The oral sessions started the morning of the next day after the Conference Welcome address by Grzegorz Racki, the Director of the Institute of Palaeobiology. Presentations began from the youngest “microfossils” and travelled back into deep time.

The first session, chaired by Danuta Peryt and Mike Kaminski (UCL), got underway with a presentation by Jarosław Tysza (Inst. of Geol. Sci. PAN) on the recent advances in the understanding of self-organization foraminiferal reticulopodia and test morphogenesis. Next, Wojciech Majewski (IP) talked about foraminifers from around the Antarctic Peninsula - the “hot spot” of global warming. Then, Malcolm



mikro '09

Ćew. Katarzyna, Holy Cross Mts.
Poland, 28-30 September, 2009

Hart (University of Plymouth) with co-authors successfully recovered benthic foraminifera after the eruption of the Soufrière Hills Volcano (Montserrat). Fabrizio Frontalini (U. Urbino) finished this part of the session on living with agglutinated foraminifera as a tracer of water masses along an inner neritic to upper bathyal transect in the Marmara Sea. After the coffee break, Mike Kaminski crossed the Eocene-Oligocene boundary checking benthic foraminifera in the southern Labrador Sea. Then, Johann Hohenegger with collaborators took us not that far from his university to the Vienna Basin and presented the multivariate analysis of the Middle Miocene microfauna tuned to palaeoclimatic trends. Émoke Toth (Budapest University), as well as Danuta Peryt continued the topic with microfaunal, stable isotopic, and sedimentologic studies from two different parts of the Paratethys.

The Monday afternoon session, chaired by Johann Hohenegger and Wojciech Majewski, started with the benthic foraminiferal palaeoecology of the Neogene in Trinidad presented by Ashleigh Costelloe (UCL). Ilaria Mazzini (IGAG-CNR) talked about the Neogene from Central Anatolia (Turkey). Andrzej Szydło (PIG) concluded that many calcareous foraminiferal assemblages in deep-water flysch series represent records of submarine mass movements in the Outer Carpathian basins. Vladimir N. Benyamovskiy (Geol. Inst. RAS, Moscow) summarised the Palaeogene planktonic foraminiferal biostratigraphical scheme of the Crimea-Caucasus Realm. Vera M. Podobina (Tomsk University) followed with the foraminiferal biostratigraphy of the same age in Western

Siberia. Eiichi Setoyama (ING-PAN) finished this session with a palaeobathymetric study of the Late Cretaceous foraminiferal assemblages of the southwestern Barents Sea. Mike Kaminski and Johann Hohenegger finished the day with a presentation of historical interest about the life and work of Richard Schubert. The grill party with a camp fire, guitar playing, and a variety of national and international songs was the final point of this very busy day.

The next day, Malcolm Hart and Claudia Cetea (ING-PAN) kicked off the morning session, which proved to be a bit tricky for the speakers, chairs, and organizers. Internal power supply problems interrupted the smooth run we experienced a day before. Again, the organizers impressed all of us by unrolling long electric extension cords brought from Warsaw "just in case". This emergency action solved the trouble for the whole day. In the first session, Claudia G. Cetea, Khatuna Mikadze (Georgia), Valentina Vishnevskaya, and Flavia Fiorini talked about Cretaceous foraminifera and radiolarians from a different continents and stages.

Later, Jarosław Tyszká (ING PAN) introduced a part of the empirical morphospace with Globigerinida and Rotaliida. Malcolm Hart presented his latest thoughts on the early evolution of the planktic foraminifera with some hot new evidence from Poland. Ágnes Görög (Budapest University) followed with the Kimmeridgian protoglobigerinids from SE France. Ewa Olempska finished the morning session with the morphological analysis of fabulously preserved Palaeozoic ostracods (Eridostraca).

The last session, after lunch and the poster session, was chaired by Vladimir Benyamovskiy and Jarosław Tyszką who invited Mike Kaminski to present some common regularities in the shell morphological development of Fusulinoida and Miliolata (Foraminifera) prepared by Valeria I. Mikhalevich, who was unable to attend the meeting. Blazej Blazejowski (IP), Daria Baranova (Paleont. Inst. RAS, Moscow), and Elena Zaytseva (Moscow State University) followed with case studies on fusulinoids from various localities.

Later, Hanna Matyja (PIG) presented integrated analysis of conodonts and foraminifers from the Middle Famennian of NW Poland. Daria Baranova introduced the presentation by Marina S. Afanasieva on the dynamics of the Devonian radiolarians. Ryszard Wrona (IP) presented skeletal elements of the Cambrian marine roundworms. At the end, Mihai Dumbraua (Bucarest University) presented Theodor Neagu's new book (to be published by the Grzybowski Foundation) on the Albian foraminifers from the Romanian Plain.

When all sessions were over, Michael Kaminski and Danuta Peryt presented the Grzybowski Award for 2009. This year Prof. Janina Szczuchura from the Institute of Palaeobiology of the Polish Academy of Sciences was presented the award for her life-long contributions to the field of micropalaeontology.

Then, we had to decide where to meet in two years time and who would be more than happy to organize the next MIKRO meeting. The United Arab Emirates were proposed, but... not accepted because Flavia Fiorini (Petroleum Institute, Abu Dhabi) had no time to convince sponsors that it was an excellent idea. Therefore, Mike Kaminski proposed the 19th century health spa Iwonicz Zdrój in the Carpathians as an optimal place to gather, enjoy the mineral waters, and visit some of Grzybowski's type localities. Details about the next conference will be posted on the GF website. The conference dinner gave us all time to thank all the organisers and sponsors, share all some good ideas,

enjoy the company, and... to once again sing or enjoy some nice Romanian songs thanks to the musical talent of Angela Miclea, the post-graduate student from Cluj.

The last day we woke up to perfect sunny weather for the field trip to the nearby Holy Cross Mountains. We met on board the bus where Vladimir Benyamovskiy (RAS, Moscow) made a friendly welcome to Mike Kaminski, shouting "Mishenka!". Mike responded "Volodia!" that created a perfect background atmosphere for the whole trip. First we went to Wietrznia Quarry to enjoy the Devonian limestones rich in fossils and see the Early/Middle Frasnian boundary. Agnieszka Pisarzowska (ING PAN) and Grzegorz Racki (IP) presented this spectacular nature reserve, full of corals, stomatopods, brachiopods, fishes, and... conodonts. The next stop gave us a chance to touch and sample the Middle Miocene organonodetrital limestones in the Pinczów quarry. Wojtek Majewski (our perfect guide), on behalf of Anna Chruszcz (Kochanowski University, Kielce), presented the whole variety of large, shallow water foraminifers. After lunch, Ewa Główniak (Warsaw University) took us to the Gniezdzińska quarry and introduced the Callovian and Oxfordian succession. It was an opportunity to see the record of the epicontinental sea located on the northern flank of the Western Tethys.

We all enjoyed the meeting and the company. By the way, if you are still interested in what we actually presented at MIKRO-2009, you can either purchase a printed copy of Grzybowski Foundation Special Publication no. 15, join the GF, or download the pdf of the Abstract book and the Guidebook from the Grzybowski Foundation website or from: <http://www.paleo.pan.pl/conferences/MIKRO2009/Publications/Micro-abstrakty.pdf> <http://www.paleo.pan.pl/conferences/MIKRO2009/Publications/Micro-wycieczki.pdf>

See you in Iwonicz Zdrój, Poland in 2011.

The 2009 Grzybowski Award –

Prof. Dr. Janina Szczechura

The Grzybowski Foundation is pleased to announce the recipient of the 2009 Grzybowski Award, which recognises long-term and sustained achievement and service to the field of Micropalaeontology. The award consists of a certificate and Honorary membership in the Grzybowski Foundation.

Prof. Janina Szczechura of the Institute of Palaeobiology of the Polish Academy of Sciences (Warszawa) has made significant contributions to the study of post-Paleozoic Foraminifera, Ostracoda, and even the problematic group Bolboforma. Since the 1960s, Prof. Szczechura has undertaken studies of the foraminifera of the Carpathians and Polish Lowlands, publishing with K. Pozaryska a key monograph of the Paleocene foraminifera in the Skole Unit of the Carpathians. Since the 1980s, Prof. Szczechura has investigated the Miocene ostracoda and associated microfossils of the Polish Lowlands,

from the Cenozoic of Antarctica and Greenland, and she has studied living ostracoda in culture experiments. She is the author of over 60 publications on the various topics in Micropalaeontology.

Since 1977, Prof. Szczechura has served on the scientific council of the Institute of Palaeobiology of the Polish Academy of Sciences; she has supervised two Ph.D. students; and taught courses at Warsaw University and at the University of Zagazig, Egypt. She has already received the Polish Gold Service Cross, and is an honorary member of the French-speaking Ostracod group. The Grzybowski Award recognises her achievements in the field of Polish Micropalaeontology, and her continued support and encouragement of the Grzybowski Foundation's activities, including the Mikro- meetings, in which she has been an active participant since their inception.



What's New at the Grzybowski Library

Wiesława Król, Polish Academy of Sciences

This year Agnieszka Ciurej has resigned from the task of looking after the Grzybowski Library. Agnieszka is now writing up her Ph.D. thesis at the University of Science & Technology (Academy of Mining and Metallurgy). Beginning in September the new librarian has been mgr. Wiesława Król who is a Jagiellonian University graduate. The Grzybowski Library is located in the Geological Museum of the Jagiellonian University, at Oleandry Street 2a, Krakow. The museum is open Monday to Friday, 9:00 AM till 3:00 PM. At these times you can meet Jola Gruza, who is the Curator in the Geology Museum of the Jagiellonian University. Jola can help you access the library as necessary. But the best idea is to meet the librarian Wiesława Król, who is available in the library every Wednesday from 11:00 AM to 2.00 PM or contact her for an individual meeting, using following e-mail address: ndkrol@cyf-kr.edu.pl

Recent library acquisitions include several newly published books and journals, including the *Journal of Nannoplankton Research*. We have also recently managed to acquire several dozen books that belonged to the estate of the late Prof. Luczkowska, a large stack of foraminiferal

reprints that belonged to Stan Geroch (kindly donated by his son Peter), and the four-volume monograph of Pacific and Caribbean Foraminifera by Irene McCulloch. The complete list of journals housed in the Library is found on the GF website.

Because of constant inflow of new books and journals, we are planning to install a new book shelf in our room in the Grzybowski Library. Thanks to that the library will have a new outlook and more space to collect the new literature. We like to extend our thanks to everyone who has donated books and reprints over the past few years.

If you wish to donate any publications to the Grzybowski Foundation Library (we maintain a large reprint collection), please send them to:

Wiesława Król
Institute of Geological Sciences, PAN
ul. Senacka 2
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When you are in Krakow you are very welcome to visit the Grzybowski Foundation Library.

The 7th Romanian Symposium on Paleontology

Sorin Filipescu & Claudia Cetea

The 7th Romanian Symposium on Paleontology, was held in Cluj-Napoca between October 22 to 24 and was hosted by the Geology Department of the Babes-Bolyai University. Starting with the current symposium the official language of the meeting becomes English as several participants from Europe attended (Poland, Bulgaria, Germany, France, etc.). Though (as always) the French guests received special attention and their talks were grouped in a special session – “Atelier Francais” that dealt with several problems that paleontology as a science faces today.

The Micropaleontology section included about 15 talks on various topics (biostratigraphy, paleoecology, taxonomy) of microfossil groups (green algae, calcareous nannoplankton, diatoms, pollen, foraminifera, ostracods) from Bulgaria, Germany, Hungary, Romania, Serbia, and the Barents Sea. A 128-page colourful abstract volume was published in the style of *Acta Palaeontologica Romaniaae*, with the extended abstracts of the presentations.

After three days of rain, the field trip organised during the last day of the symposium benefited from a very nice sunny and warm autumn day.

It included two stops where micropaleontological aspects were discussed: Lopadea Veche (Middle Miocene foraminifera and red algae) and Cheile Turzii (Late Jurassic - Early Cretaceous algae and foraminifera).

It was a very successful international meeting, to which several members and supporters of the Grzybowski Foundation contributed. The next symposium will be held in 2011 in the Geology Faculty, Bucharest University.

The George Seiglie Collection of Foraminifera at the Marine Museum in Cumaná, Venezuela

Mike Kaminski & Luis Mata Garcia

During the early 1960's, George Seiglie conducted a series of investigations on the modern and Miocene foraminifera of Eastern Venezuela. At the time, George Seiglie was employed at the Instituto Oceanográfico at the Universidad de Oriente in Cumaná. Many of the research articles were published in the Boletín, as well as in the Caribbean Journal of Science and the Contributions of the Cushman Foundation for Foraminiferal Research. While he was based in Cumaná, George Seiglie also collaborated with Pedro Bermúdez on the benthic foraminifera from the Cariaco Basin. After his tenure at the Instituto Oceanográfico, George moved on to the University of Puerto Rico, and from there to

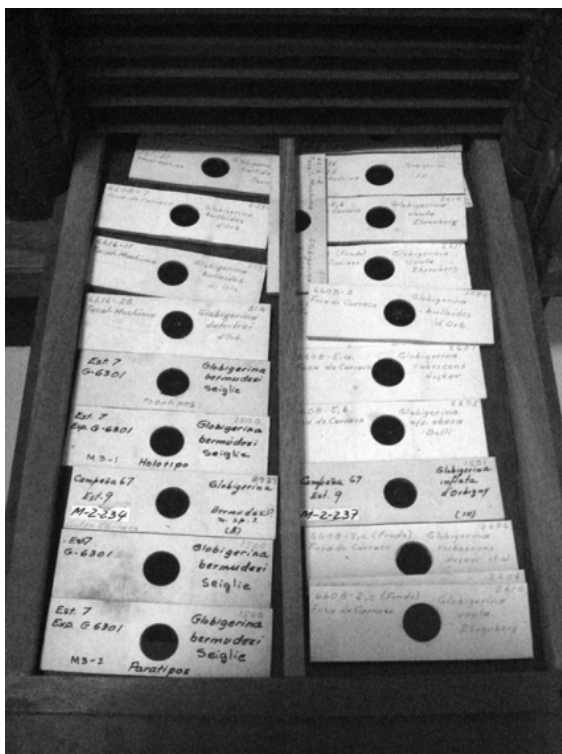
the petroleum industry, and eventually to Gulf Oil in Houston. His collection of type specimens from the Venezuelan offshore, however, remained behind at the Instituto Oceanográfico. At some stage the collection was moved to the Museo del Mar of the Universidad de Oriente in Cumaná, which opened to the public in 1984.

One fine sunny day, we fell upon the idea of checking up on the Seiglie collection – after all, George described several new genera and species of foraminifera from the Venezuelan offshore, so the collection is of international importance to the study of the foraminifera. We paid a visit to the Museo del Mar in Cumaná, a



1970s-style edifice perched on a hillside just outside the colourful Spanish colonial old town of Cumaná city. The museum is wonderfully accessible, and its logo presents some smiling characters from a popular Disney film – a grinning shark, a smiling sea horse, and a happy clownfish. Upon entering the museum, the visitor is greeted by some wonderful examples of Caribbean seafood – cabinets with very large rock lobsters and other tasty crustaceans, the skeleton of a whale hanging from the ceiling, a preserved specimen of a coelacanth, and much to our surprise a scale model of the original R/V Meteor. How that model ship found its way to Venezuela is a mystery. It is a very instructive museum designed to impress the young guests who visit.

We were greeted by the Museum Director, Ms. Solange Pérez, who speaks very good English. Although she claims she never studied English, she certainly picked up the language as an eight-year-old child while her father was working on his Ph.D. at the University of Southampton. We were ushered through a door behind a display case to a staff office that contains two desks and a table in the corner of the room on which there is a large wooden microscope slide cabinet. We had the impression that we must have been the first people in 30 years who had asked to see the foraminiferal collection. The Seiglie collection occupies a single cabinet with about 50 drawers. Most of the drawers are full of identified slides of single species, including a few slides labelled “holotype” or “paratype”. For our purposes, we were interested in finding the type specimens of *Asterotrochammina*, *Oreostomina* and *Tetrataxiella*. The slides were arranged in the trays systematically, so these specimen slides were quickly found. The holotypes are usually labelled as such, but the figured paratypes are generally not. In our search for the types of these genera, we only encountered one minor difficulty – the museum does not possess a binocular microscope. However, the Museum director and staff were very



friendly and accommodating, and we were able to borrow the slides to check the status of the specimens. There were other surprises in the collection, for example some of the slides in the buliminid trays were labelled “*Sygmouvigerina bella* n.gen, n.sp.” and we also found the genus names “*Collinsella*” and “*Patellopsis*”. George Seiglie was obviously fond of his new homeland, and even labelled a few slides with the genus name “Venezuelina”. Apparently, he didn’t manage to publish these names before he left for Puerto Rico.

We recommend a visit to Cumana – it is a picturesque town on the shores of the Cariaco trough – a very interesting place to carry out some foraminiferal research. The Director of the Museo del Mar can be contacted by email, and visits to view the collections can be arranged by sending a message to: Solangeperez@gmail.com. The museum is open daily until 5:00 PM. Just remember to bring your own microscope....

International School on Foraminifera

University of Urbino, April 7 - 16, 2010

The Grzybowski Foundation is pleased to announce the Third Course of the International School on Foraminifera at the University of Urbino, Italy.

As before, the course will consist of morning lectures on relevant questions of taxonomy, ecology, biodiversity and geological history in the benthic and planktonic foraminifera, followed by afternoon microscope sessions. The intensive course is designed for masters or Ph.D. level students, or as a refresher course for industry micropaleontologists.

The Benthic Foraminifera Section (April 7 – 11) will focus on the use of this group as palaeoenvironmental and palaeoceanographical proxies. The Planktonic Foraminifera Section (April 12-16) will emphasize the biostratigraphical applications of this group, from the Cretaceous to Recent. Microscope sessions feature type collections, and Cretaceous to Recent assemblages from petroleum exploration areas and ODP sites.

Course materials include numerous articles and reprints of classic papers. Course instructors include Mike Kaminski, Rodolfo Coccioni, Isabella Premoli Silva, Maria Rose Petrizzo, Claudia Cetaan, and Fabrizio Frontalini.

The Early Registration Fee (before February 5, 2010) for the entire course is £420 for students and £600 for academic/industrial staff. An appropriate discount is available for those wishing to attend only one of the courses. The fee covers all course materials, refreshments, two half-day field excursions, and two course dinners.

For further information and registration details please contact Fabrizio Frontalini
<fabrizio.frontalini@uniurb.it> Tel: ++39 0722 304254.



International Nannoplankton Association

International Nannoplankton Association News:

INA 13 Meeting, Yamagata,
Japan 5-10 September 2010

The International Nannoplankton Association has been holding conferences every two years since 1985. At these meetings, oral and poster presentations are presented on a diverse range of topics such as biostratigraphy, evolution, taxonomy, ecology and molecular genetics. Although mainly focusing on nannofossils and coccolithophorids, presentations on silicoflagellates, calcareous dinoflagellates and other microfossils and microplankton are also welcomed. The meetings are always held in a friendly atmosphere, with plenty of opportunities to relax and enjoy the venue through mid- and post-conference excursions and thoroughly enjoyable sociable events.

The next meeting (INA13) will be held from 5-10 September 2010 at Yamagata, a town located in northern Japan, surrounded by beautiful mountain scenery. The venue is situated next to the hotels in the downtown, where there are plenty of bars and restaurants. The programme will feature keynote speakers and thematic sessions, including a special session on alkenone research, as well as on more traditional themes.

Since this is the first INA conference to be held in Asia, we hope everyone will have a great experience.

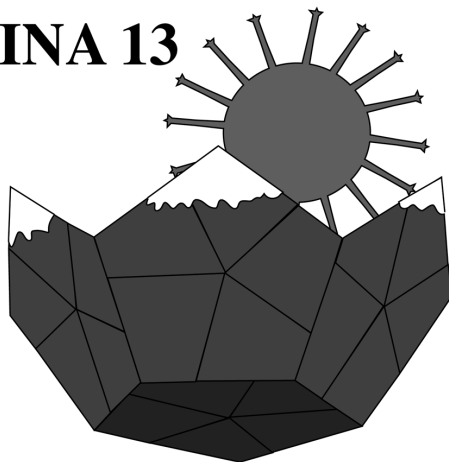
Although still under construction, the INA13 website can be visited at:

<http://ksgeo.kj.yamagata-u.ac.jp/~INA13/>

We hope to see you all in Yamagata in September 2010!!

Richard Jordan (host of INA13) and Paul Bown (INA President)
On behalf of the Local Organizing Committee

INA 13



INA



International
Nannoplankton
Association

Charophyte Conference Proceedings

The proceedings of the Rostock conference are now available on the web. The first two papers to be processed are now at

www.charophytes.com

The abstracts are available to anyone who cares to download them, where the authors have submitted a non-English abstract this is also available. Full journal access is available to subscribers. Subscription forms can be downloaded from the website.

When enough papers have been processed (c. 6-8 papers) the first issue will be printed in hard copy. The second issue will contain the remainder of the papers. When all papers are processed, if there is interest in having a single publication of all the papers, I will get a hard copy of the entire proceedings printed for sale.

Michelle Casanova, Editor.
amcnova@vic.chariot.net.au

Karel Wouters retires

Koen Martens informed the ostracod community of the retirement in November of Karel Wouters. He says "as my former mentor, Karel Wouters retires after a well-filled career in ostracod work. Karel has always kept a low profile, but has had a strong impact on the professional career of several people as he was always ready to help.

I am sure that you agree when, on behalf of all of us, I wish him happy

retirement! A toast!"

CYPRIS online

Michael Schudack reports that Cypris Nos. 26-27 (2008-2009) is now online. If you would like the most recent copy please download a Word document version or a pdf document from:

<http://userpage.fu-berlin.de/~palaeont/irgo/cypris.html>

Thanks go to Elly Brouwers and Peter Frenzel for this extremely rewarding and tremendous work.

ROLF

Rakia Benzarti & Jean-Paul Colin announce the next meeting of the Ostracodologues de Langues Française (23rd ROLF) will be held in Tunisia (in the SEREPT building, Tunis) from May 6th to May 8th 2010.

Program:

- Round table of scientific activities
- Two day field-trip:
- Mio-Pliocene of Cap Bon
- Cherahil Formation (Lutetian to Priabonian) of Jebel Jèbil or Jebel Cherahil (Kairouan region)
- Upper Cretaceous (Turonian to Santonian) of Jebel Douleb (Kasserine region)

To be able to start preparing this meeting we are asking you to tell Rakia Benzarti -
rakia.benzarti@serept.com.tn

(with copy to J-P Colin - jpc.colin@laposte.net), as soon as possible if you are willing to come to this meeting and/or present a paper (in French or in English !).

The proceedings of the 2006 ROLF held in Tetouan (Morocco) have just been published as a special Issue "Moroccan Ostracodology" of the *Revue de Micropaléontologie*, (vol. 53, issue 1) edited by Driss Nachite & Jean-Paul Colin. Available via Science Direct.

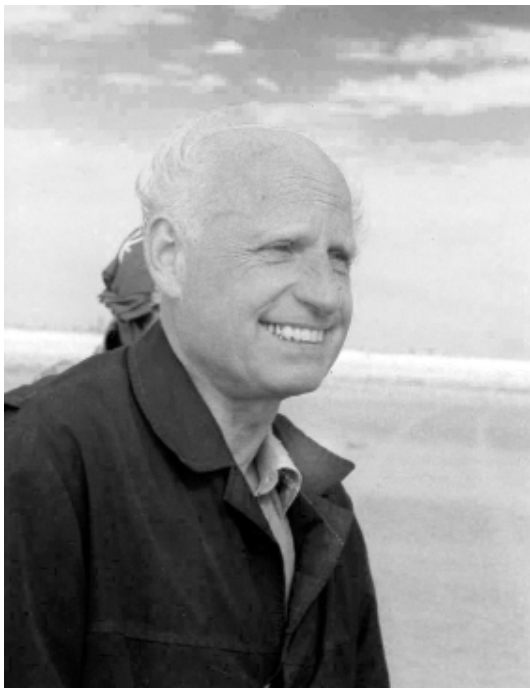
PIERRE DONZE (1918-2008)

Blue, the blue glance, he traversed the plains, climbed the mountains, skirted the French coasts, primarily in search of the ostracode in establishing a zonation to make a correlation with the ammonite scale and highlighting the migration paths of these small crustaceans.

Pierre Donze was born on January 21st, 1918 at Notre Dame de Lourdes in Manitoba, Canada into a family of Savoyard immigrants, who left France in 1895.

This family returned to Cognin close to Chambéry (Savoie, France) in 1921. Pierre was the third child of four; he was a nice child, clever at school, very good and managing to play piano. Pierre lead his secondary studies at *Externat Saint François de Sales* (Chambéry) from 1928 to 1936, then entered the Great Seminary. Called up in 1939, he carried out his military service as an Alpine hunter. He was ordained as a priest on June 29th, 1943.

He was destined by his superiors for a career in teaching and they sent him to Lyon to take a Licentiate degree in science. He was initially engaged to teach in 1948 at College St François de Sales, Chambéry, then in the small seminary at Rumilly, Haute-Savoie. In 1951, he joined the Laboratory of Geology at the University Claude Bernard, Lyon as a research scientist at CNRS. His early work deals in the biostratigraphy of Tithonian ammonites. Then he defended his Doctoral State Thesis (*Thèse d'Etat*) to study the subject of the Jurassic-Cretaceous boundary across south-eastern France. This biostratigraphic study relied increasingly on foraminifera, charophytes



and especially ostracodes. These last proved valuable for basin analysis and work related to the changing climate during the Cretaceous.

From 1970, he expanded his activities to North Africa. In 1976, he was charged by the geological Survey of Tunisia to study the outcrop called the track Mellegue Hammam, located SW of the Kef city (Northern Tunisia); he assigned the samples to several specialists. He presented the results of this study to the Copenhagen International Geological Conference on Cretaceous-Tertiary boundary, in 1979 and also to the 26th International Geological Congress in Paris, 1980, and proposed this section as a reference for the Maastrichtian and Paleocene Mesogean facies.

This section has been officially considered as a Global Stratotype Section and Point (G.S.S.P.) at the 28th International Congress of Geology in Washington, 1989. It has become the Cretaceous-Tertiary boundary reference section; this boundary is marked by a thin millimetre-scale brownish goethite layer containing Ir and Ni-rich spinels.

During the years 1981-1983, then retired from CNRS, but working as an expert on a volunteer basis, he organised several field-trips in Tunisia; he was responsible for the emergence of geological maps in Central Tunisia and then in Southern Tunisia. He trained several geologists in the field and participated in the management of theses.

His Tunisian mission complete, he participated in local religious life in Cognin. He produced the culture program *Regards sur la Savoie* on RCF radio from 2002 to 2008. He also undertook many great journeys, the last from the Caribbean to extreme South America through the Panama Canal and then to Rio de Janeiro during a two month tour.

His tastes in pianists ranged from Johann Sebastian Bach to Pierre Boulez, through classic to romantic musicians. A man of classical culture, he often had a bedside book Kant's *Critique of Pure Reason*. A great sportsman, he loved the winter and put on his skis down the savoyard slopes; in the summer-time, he climbed some peaks at the Cervin.

A gourmet, he was a lover of great wines.

He was a senior scientist at the CNRS; he didn't apply for that grade but was invited to present this application for promotion.

Loved and appreciated by his colleagues and students, listening to others, discrete and present, this loving man of God, did love the great outdoors.

Pierre Donze died in the house of his family at Cognin, on October 7th 2008.

Anne-Marie Bodergat¹, Jean-Paul Colin²,
Isabelle Donze³.

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Dampierre, MAE, Université Paris Ouest-
Nanterre-La Défense, 92023 Nanterre cedex.

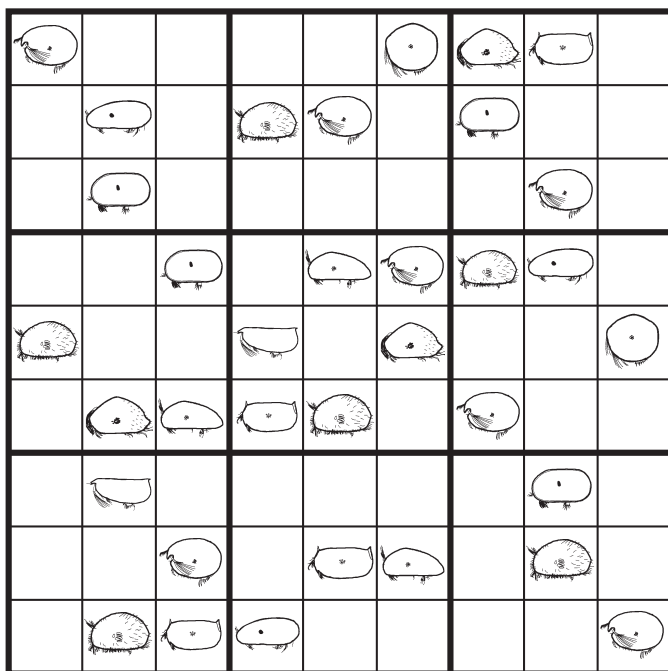
Gerhard Becker

We are saddened to learn of the death of Prof. Dr. Gerhard Becker just before Christmas. At present no further details are available. I hope to be able to provide a full obituary in the next issue of *The Newsletter of Micropalaeontology* issue 82.

Micropalaeontology Diary

2010

Feb 28	Deadline for TMS Grants-In-Aid applications	p.12
Feb 28	Deadline for Nominations for Alan Higgins Award	p.12
Feb 28	Charles Downie Award nomination Deadline	p.12
Feb 28	IPC03 abstract deadline	
April 7-16	International School on Foraminifera, Urbino	p.36
May 6-8	23rd ROLF, Tunisia	p.38
June 28-July 3	3rd International Palaeontology Congress, London	
June 28	TMS Foraminifera and Nannofossil group meeting at IPC03	p.19
July 1	Copy date for <i>The Newsletter of Micropalaeontology</i> issue 82	p.1
July 6-10	8th European Paleobotany-Palynology conference, Hungary	p.21
Aug 16-20	Terrestrial Pollen Masterclass, Utrecht	p.5
Aug 30-Sept 10	4ème Congrès Français de Stratigraphie, Paris	
Sept 5-10	INA 13 meeting, Yamagata, Japan	p.37
Sept 5-10	FORAMS 2010, Bonn	p.19
Sept 29-Oct 2	43rd Palynological Society meeting, Nova Scotia	p.21



MicroDoku #3 Ostracoda

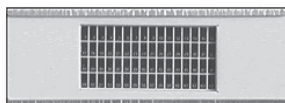
The images here are taken from *Microfossils by Armstrong & Brasier second edition, chapter 20, Ostracoda*.

This puzzle is an easy standard and the target time is 15 minutes; just about time for a cup of coffee.

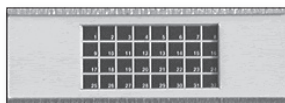
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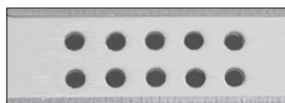
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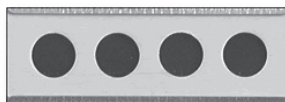
CF64B or CF64W



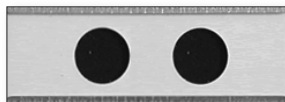
CF32B or CF32W



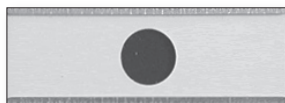
C10B or C10W



C4B or C4W



C2B or C2W



CSB or CSW



CSBDD or CSWDD

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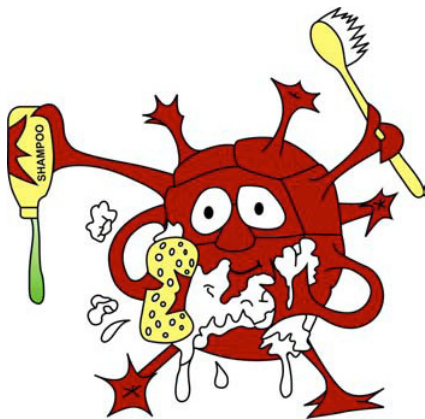
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