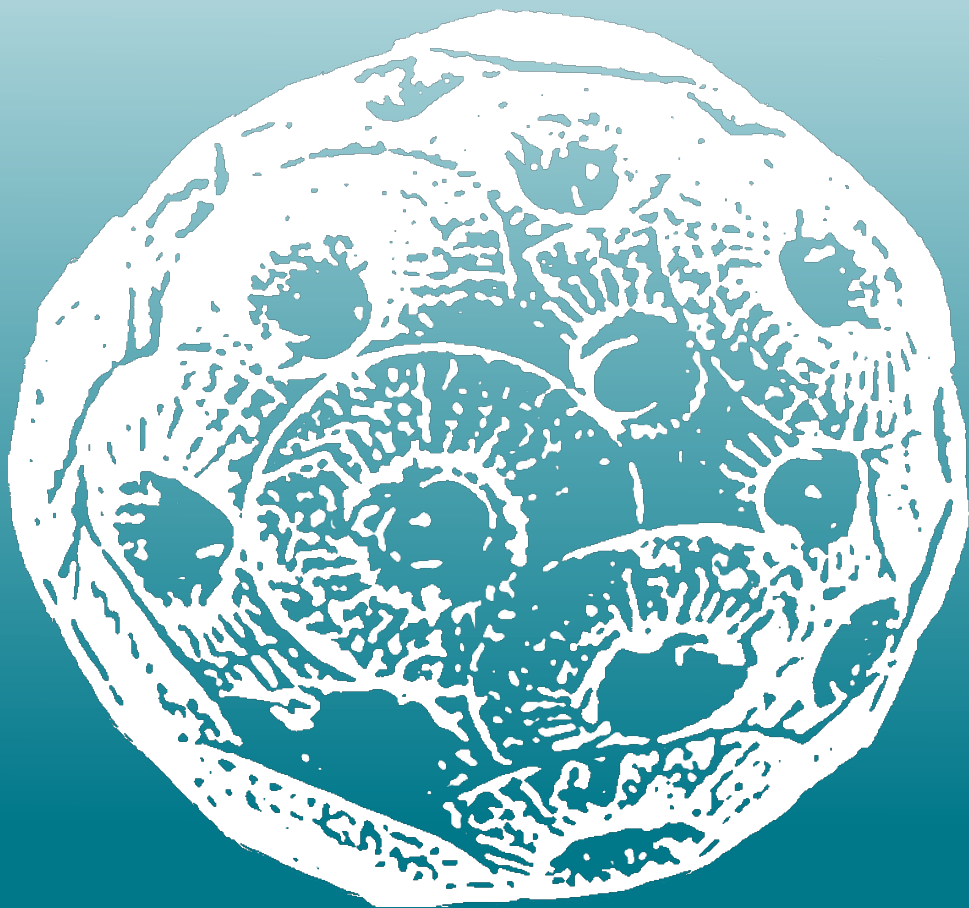


Newsletter of Micropalaeontology

Number 85
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Edited by Magali Schweizer



Contributions from

The Micropalaeontological Society



The Grzybowski Foundation



International Research Group on Ostracoda

The International Nannoplankton Association



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Fugro Robertson



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Correspondence

Please send items of news, comments, letters or articles for publication such as conference reports or meeting announcements to the editor. These should be supplied as plain text files or as Word documents. Photographs or illustrations to accompany articles are also welcome. Please send photos as high resolution JPEG images. Please send all correspondence to the editor: Magali Schweizer, School of GeoScience, University of Edinburgh, West Mains Road, Edinburgh EH9 3JW, UK, or by email to magali.schweizer@ed.ac.uk.

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Conference Announcements



Lyell Meeting 2012



Thursday, 29 March, 2012 'Big Palaeontology', The Geological Society, London

Large-scale projects, involving multidisciplinary geoscience teams from numerous institutions, are playing an increasingly important role in modern palaeontological research. This meeting will showcase the science being undertaken in these projects across the range of palaeontological disciplines, including key contributions from junior researchers. We will discuss the benefits and logistics of running these large-scale projects including funding, outreach and training opportunities.

Convenors: Drs Jeremy Young (UCL) and Tom Dunkley Jones (University of Birmingham)

Further information

For further information about the conference, please contact:

Ellie Duncanson-Hunter, Conference Office,
The Geological Society, Burlington House,
Piccadilly, London W1J 0BG

T: 0207 434 9944

F: 0207 494 0579

E: ellie.duncanson-hunter@geolsoc.org.uk

W: www.geolsoc.org.uk/lyell2012

Keynote Speakers:

Chris Stringer Ancient Human Occupation of Britain

Henk Brinkhuis IODP Wilkes Land Glacial History

Ken Johnson EU Indonesian Throughflow project

Bridget Wade Tanzanian Drilling Project

Wolfgang Kiessling PBDB – coral biodiversity

Paul Upchurch PBDB – Cretaceous vertebrate biodiversity

Mark Sutton Imaging and Virtual Palaeontology

Richard Twitchett Co-evolution of Life and the Planet

Richard Edmonds Jurassic Coast World Heritage Site

24th ROLF

RÉUNION DES OSTRACOLOGISTES DE LANGUE FRANÇAISE GENEVA, 1ST-3RD JUNE 2012

This meeting will be dedicated to one of the pioneers of the European applied ostracodology, Henri Oertli who will be 85 next year. This will also be the 35th anniversary of the OLF (Ostracodologues de Langue Française). Of course, as usual, communications in English will be welcome and will be published in the *Revue de Paléobiologie* (with black background!).

The first day, Friday 1: round-table and communications (oral and posters) in the Museum of Natural History of Geneva. Proceedings will be published in the *Revue de Paléobiologie*.

Two field-trips will follow:

- Saturday 2: Aptian and Albian outcrops with ostracodes in the Jura mountains and the famous dinosaur tracks site of Plagne

- Sunday 3: geological field-trip in the Alps with outcrops from earliest Cretaceous to Oligocene.

In order to get organized in terms of bus reservation for the field trip, size of the meeting room, number of abstract booklets and field guides we ask you to tell us as soon as possible (ideally before December 31st) if you are willing to assist.

There will be no registration fees since we managed to have funds for the publication, the bus and probably one meal. The first circular will be distributed early 2012. At this time we will give you all informations concerning hotel accommodations (most likely in Annemasse, on the French side of the border...much cheaper than Geneva).

We sincerely hope to see many of you for this celebration.

The organizing committee: Jean-Paul Colin, Jacques Sauvagnat and Danielle Decrouez

TMS Foraminifera and Nannofossil Groups Joint Meeting University of Edinburgh

Interdisciplinary advances in foraminiferal and nannofossil research

Thursday 21st and Friday 22nd June 2012

The meeting will be preceded by a two day workshop (19th and 20th June) at the University of St Andrews entitled

'North-east Atlantic benthic foraminifers: a new taxonomy for the 21st century'

Information for both events: <http://www.tmsoc.org/foram.htm>

13TH INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON FOSSIL AND RECENT RADIOLARIANS

13th InterRad

Cádiz

25-29 March 2012

This year the meeting is organized in honour of Paulian Dumitrica on the occasion of his 75th birthday. The InterRad congress is a major international meeting held once every 4 years under the auspices of the International Association of Radiolarian Palaeontologists. The meeting provides a showcase for all that is exciting and new in the fields of radiolarian palaeobiology, ecology, palaeontology and stratigraphy. The 13th InterRad in 2012 is hosted by the InterRad and partner organizations, and will be based in University of Cádiz.

Yours sincerely,

Luis O'Dogherty, President of InterRad

<http://www.ugr.es/~lodogher/InterRad13/Welcome.html>

NEW MSc COURSE IN APPLIED & PETROLEUM MICROPALAEONTOLOGY

September 2012 should see the launch of a new MSc in Applied & Petroleum Micropalaeontology at the University of Birmingham (subject to final approval from the University). The course will be strongly focussed on industrial applications and will include taught components from both Academia and Industry. It is hoped that the re-emergence of a UK-based Masters course in Micropalaeontology (*sensu lato*) will help highlight the role our discipline has to play in both hydrocarbon exploration and furthering our understanding of the evolution of the biogeosphere.

For more details on the course, contact the Course Director, Dr Ian Boomer (University of Birmingham).

TMS SPRING FIELDTRIP TO THE JURASSIC OF DORSET

In Spring 2012, there will be a TMS fieldtrip to visit some of the rarer exposures of Jurassic sediments on the Dorset Coast. The trip will focus in particular on the exposures of the Middle Jurassic exposed along the northern shore of the Fleet lagoon. Permission for access and sampling should be obtained in early 2012 and a date agreed with the Fleet Warden subject to good tidal conditions. An additional visit will be made to the Purbeck beds of east Dorset. Although the trip will be organised by members of the ostracod group all members of the society are welcome to join us. If you wish to receive further information regarding this trip, please email Ian Boomer i.boomer@bham.ac.uk.

foramBARCODING MOLECULAR DATABASE OF FORAMINIFERA

The identification of foraminiferal species is mainly based on the morphology of their tests. Here we propose a complementary identification system based on DNA fragments specific to each species, called DNA barcodes. For each species present in our database, you will find its general description, photos, collection data, DNA sequences, and references to related publications. The database is manually curated and differs from other foraminiferal catalogues by including only species, for which both molecular and morphological data are available. Our objective is to provide a complete, high quality and freely accessible resource of information about modern foraminiferal species.

The database can be accessed through:

<http://forambarcoding.unige.ch/>

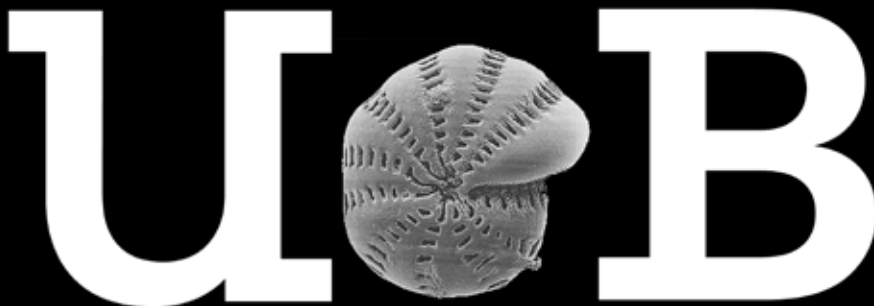
The foramBarcoding project is coordinated by Jan Pawlowski and Maria Holzmann from the Department of Genetics and Evolution, University of Geneva

We would greatly appreciate your contribution. A common effort is needed to establish a large molecular database that covers different species from various geographic regions and habitats. Foraminifera specialists with taxonomic expertise are invited to deposit well identified species to make them available to the foraminiferal community. To contribute you can either send living specimens or specimens preserved in DNA extraction buffer supplied by us. For each species we need at least 5 specimens for molecular analysis and 5 voucher specimens for further morphological investigation. A form with detailed collection data needs to be filled in for each collected species.

Please contact Maria Holzmann for any further information.

MSc Applied and Petroleum Micropalaeontology*

* Subject to validation



Key Features

- Comprehensive coverage of the key microfossil groups used in hydrocarbon exploration
- Focus on the role of microfossils in understanding major changes in global climate
- Course taught by both academic staff and industrial partners
- Opportunity to experience working in geological consultancies as well as lively research environment
- Individual research project tailored to your own skills and goals

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- | | |
|---------------------------|--|
| • Foraminifera | • Dinoflagellates |
| • Calcareous Nannofossils | • Sedimentary Basin Analysis |
| • Ostracods | • Petroleum Geoscience |
| • Pollen and Spores | • Micropalaeontological Skills and Industrial Case Studies |

Learn more

Course Director: Dr Ian Boomer

Email: micropalaeontology@contacts.bham.ac.uk

School of Geography, Earth and Environmental Sciences
University of Birmingham
Edgbaston, Birmingham, UK
B15 2TT

www.birmingham.ac.uk/students/courses/postgraduate/taught/gees/micropalaeontology.aspx

School of Geography, Earth and Environmental Sciences

Meeting Reports

Ostracods of the Ponto-Caspian Region Report of a workshop held on July 26th 2011 during the 7th European Ostracodologists' Meeting (EOM) in Graz, Austria

LEE BRADLEY & LORNA WILLIAMS

The workshop was convened by Lee Bradley (University of Liverpool, UK) and Lorna Williams (Memorial University, St Johns, Canada) to facilitate discussion of the taxonomy and distribution of Pleistocene to Recent ostracods from the Aral Sea, Caspian Sea, Sea of Azov, Black Sea and Marmara Sea. During the past 20,000 years these inland seas have experienced significant environmental changes, due to a combination of climatic and anthropogenic processes, and contain unique ostracod assemblages in both modern samples and the fossil record. Many species are endemic to the region and are presently threatened by environmental change. The inland seas and the majority of the taxa originated from Paratethys in the Miocene, but in the Black Sea some were introduced more recently, during the Holocene, from the eastern Mediterranean. The workshop reviewed the diverse range of past and current ostracod research in the region, starting with a series of talks before a plenary discussion between many participants with research interests in the area; some participants also presented aspects of their research in the general EOM poster sessions.

Ian Boomer (University of Birmingham, UK) started the session by introducing the region and highlighting known research problems, emphasizing the requirement for taxonomic harmonisation between workers. Evgenij Schornikov (A.V. Zhirmunsky Institute of Marine Biology, Vladivostok, Russia) presented an overview of problems in the area using 50 years' worth of research experience in the study of ostracods in the Caspian Sea, giving an account of how the current state of taxonomic confusion arose and also reporting on lost collections. Three suggestions were made to improve research. The first was that the study of soft parts in a number

of species would help to establish the validity of taxa and establish the range of intraspecific morphological variation that can occur in their shells. The second suggestion was that radical and coordinated taxonomic revision should be undertaken. The final suggestion was that detailed taxonomic revisions of key fossil taxa may help reveal additional taxonomically-useful features.

Two presentations highlighted the use of the fossil ostracods in reconstructing the Holocene environment of the Black Sea based on assemblages from cores taken on the south-western shelf of the Black Sea. Lee Bradley discussed the use of ostracods and dinoflagellates as palaeosalinity proxies, while Lorna Williams' poster illustrated key taxa and outlined the faunal turnover that took place after the Black Sea became reconnected to the eastern Mediterranean, in the early Holocene. Finally, Dan Danielopol (Karl-Franzens University of Graz, Austria) discussed the importance of understanding the difference between a biological characteristic and a morphological characteristic to enhance taxonomic understanding and applied this to a case study of Miocene to Recent *Ammicythere* species.

Time was also set aside for the examination of extensive material provided by Evgenij Schornikov and Holocene material provided by Lorna Williams. SEM images provided by a variety of workers were also discussed. The talks, posters and examination of material/images showed the diverse range of research in the area but also further highlighted the common problem of a lack of taxonomic stability. The plenary discussion focused on the need for taxonomic harmonisation with topics including the status of collections, current research projects and ideas for future projects. Sadly, sev-

eral important ostracod collections, many of which included type material, are either missing or known to have been destroyed. Information regarding surviving collections is essential; Elsa Gliozzi (Università degli Studi di Roma Tre, Italy) highlighted the work she is doing to image existing museum collections in St Petersburg. The problem of hand drawn images vs SEM images was also discussed with the consensus being that some drawings exaggerated characteristics and shape and most cannot be relied upon. Discussion turned to the establishment of a web-based database of species found in the region. This database should include images that would allow researchers to cross-reference findings and facilitate discussion of problematic taxa. The proposed database would start with the very simple aim of collecting images and names. To facilitate this database, a small working group would be set up to begin the process of taxonomic harmonisation. Ian Boomer agreed to chair this group. The first objective would be to set a clear definition of the constraints on the database in regards geographical boundaries and age limits. Discussion also covered where to host this database and the structure it might take. A suggestion was made that during the opening phase of this project, the work should centre on the species that the

community is certain about (figuring type, para-type or lectotype material where possible), thus allowing researchers to use the data with greater confidence. In the medium to long term there is a need for collection of fresh material in the area and examination of the remaining collections. Information on collections still in existence was given and their potential will be examined. It is hoped that the workshop and the production of this report will act as a catalyst to bring taxonomic harmonisation to the region. During this initial period, further contributions to the debate are welcome, both from those present at the workshop and the large number of interested people who were unable to attend. A session will be dedicated to this topic at the International Symposium on Ostracoda in two years' time (Rome, 2013). For information please contact Ian Boomer (email: i.boomer@bham.ac.uk). A call for expression of interest will also follow through OSTRACON in Autumn, 2011.

Extended abstracts of the workshop and other EOM presentations were published in *Joannea Geologie und Paläontologie*, volume 11 (2011). We thank all of the participants for a thought provoking session. We also thank Ian Boomer and David Horne for their help in organising and introducing the workshop.

Report on the 44th Annual Meeting of the American Association of Stratigraphic Palynologists-The Palynological Society, September 5-7, 2011, held at the National Oceanography Centre, Southampton, U.K.

THOMAS DEMCHUCK, CONOCOPHILLIPS

The 44th Annual Meeting of AASP-The Palynological Society took place at the National Oceanography Centre, Southampton (NOCS) in southern England, September 5-7, 2011. Our hosts were Dr Ian Harding and Prof. John Marshall of the University of Southampton. Approximately 85 participants registered to enjoy the coastal surroundings and the four days of technical lectures and fieldtrips. Although the weather was less than cooperative for much of the time, the sparse sunshine was amplified by the palynological camaraderie and warmth

among the group.

The meeting started unofficially on the Saturday, September 3rd with the Outgoing Board of Directors Meeting. On Sunday, fieldtrip participants survived the early morning deluge on the Isle of Wight, to be presented with sunny skies for the afternoon of investigating the magnificent Cretaceous and Palaeogene exposures of Whitecliff Bay, and were joined Geoff Eaton who kindly took a day out from his holiday on the island to provide additional explanation of the succession based on the extensive palyno-

logical work he had completed on the locality. Following a short period to catch their breath, the Icebreaker, sponsored by Taylor & Francis Publishers (the company that now produces the AASP-TPS journal *Palynology*), took place in the general foyer area at the NOCS. A special presentation was given by Prof. Margaret Collinson (Royal Holloway) who described recent research on the *Azolla* phenomenon of the Arctic Palaeogene from a palaeobotanical and palynological perspective. The post-talk period involved continued hand-shaking and re-acquaintances, along with a sit-down meal in the waterfront canteen - and more beverages! Several large groups later headed off to enjoy the numerous pubs and fine restaurants of Southampton.

Much of Monday's technical sessions were given over to Palaeozoic palynology, in honor of long-time AASP member Bernard Owens. The Bernard Owen Session was sponsored by CIMP, and included presentations by many of Bernard's long-time colleagues and collaborators. The requisite AASP-TPS Business Luncheon was had at Monday noon at a nearby Indian restaurant. The venue was a welcome change from the usual rubber chicken luncheons, and included several Indian curry specialties to satisfy all tastes. During the formal business portion of the luncheon, AASP-TPS handed out awards to deserving members who have served the Society over the years. Honorary Membership was bestowed upon Bernard Owens for his life-long commitment to the Society and fostering the science of palynology worldwide, particularly his involvement in industry palynological activities in the Middle East and North Africa. AASP-TPS also recognized Thomas Demchuk with its Distinguished Service Award. Thomas has served as the Society's Secretary-Treasurer for the last 14 years, as well as earlier serving a two-year term as Director-at-Large and being involved in the organization of several AASP-TPS meetings and courses over the years. A hearty round of congratulations was given to Bernard and Thomas for their accomplishments.

The Business Luncheon further included a presentation by Jennifer O'Keefe extolling the virtues of Lexington, KY (USA) as the next lo-

cale for the 45th AASP-TPS Annual Meeting to be held in July 2012. The formal part of the luncheon came to a close as outgoing President Paul Strother presented incoming President Francisca Oboh-Ikuenobe with the ceremonial gavel and the Society's special copy of Roberts Rules of Order. This particular copy of Roberts Rules contains the signatures of all past Presidents of the Society. The afternoon technical sessions continued the Palaeozoic theme, and ended with a reception in honor of Bernard Owens sponsored by Saudi Aramco. The meeting of the new Incoming AASP-TPS Board of Directors was held early that evening. The highlight of that Board meeting was a presentation by Claudia Rubenstein inviting AASP-TPS to hold its 2014 annual meeting in conjunction with the International Paleontological Congress to be held in Mendoza, Argentina. The Board heartily agreed to this wonderful idea.

The Tuesday technical sessions moved into younger territory with talks on the Mesozoic, covering aspects of miospore and dinoflagellate biostratigraphy from all corners of the world, ranging from Greenland to Antarctica and from NW Europe to South American and New Zealand via the Sudan. As the day continued, talks moved forward into the Cenozoic, with presentations on subjects ranging from the marine to terrestrial palynology from the PETM of Spitsbergen to the Neogene of Australia by way of the Miocene, before the technical sessions of the meeting concluded with three industrially-flavored talks on subjects as diverse as Neogene lake systems and deep-water turbidite sand packages.

The Tuesday evening Conference Dinner was a spectacular event held on the gun (cannon) deck of the historic British ship the HMS Warrior. The ship is in permanent dock at Portsmouth and serves as venue for such social events. Participants were able to investigate all aspects of this 19th Century ship, with guides ready to answer all questions. Meeting participants were welcomed aboard with a Pimm's reception, again sponsored by Taylor & Francis Publishers, this time to celebrate the publication of the 50th volume of *Grana*. Participants enjoyed a wonderful meal accompanied by diverse bev-

erages: the dinner tables on the gun deck being situated between the cannon. After-dinner specialties included dessert and toasts with rum or port. AASP-TPS awards were presented for the L.R. Wilson Best Student Oral Presentation, Best Student Poster Presentation, and Best Overall Poster. The winner of the L.R. Wilson Award was Kimberley Ball (*Late Campanian and Maastrichtian Pulcheripollenites: taxonomy, phylogeny and biostratigraphic utility, northwestern North America*), a MSc student from the University of Calgary, and the winner of the Best Student Poster was Kara Bogus from Bremen University (*Variability in fossil dinoflagellate cyst wall composition as determined by micro-Fourier transform infrared (FTIR) spectroscopy*). Both students receive a cash award, two years membership of AASP-TPS, and a framed certificate. Winners of the Best Overall Poster were Keith Richards and co-authors for their presentation on the modern Volga Delta.

Student registrants were each awarded a cash sum to offset their registration expenses from a fund generously made available by TMS. The merriment continued into the late evening as participants enjoyed the maritime sounds of sea shanties provided by The Cabin Buoys (a pun lost on the North Americans!), a trio who kept everyone truly entertained with their lively music.

The conference concluded with a fieldtrip on the Wednesday to visit the UNESCO World Heritage Jurassic Coast of Dorset, taking in Lulworth Cove and Kimmeridge Bay (type section for the Kimmeridge Clay Formation and the Kimmeridgian stage), and bar the coach breaking down on the way into the village of Lulworth (!), everyone enjoyed the day tremendously. Delegates left having commended the meeting most highly, and looking forward to next year's meeting in Kentucky.



The Micropalaeontological Society News

Report from the Secretary - JENNY PIKE

At last year's AGM it was reported that individual membership of TMS stood at 455. At the time of this AGM, the current membership stands at 432 comprising 226 UK members, 132 members from Europe and 74 members from the rest of the world. This represents an increase in members from Europe and a slight decrease in membership from the UK and rest of the world. We currently have 334 full members, 25 retired members, 8 honorary members, and 65 student members. Encouragingly, this is the same number of student members as last year. I would like to thank George Swann for his help as Membership Secretary over the past year.

CHANGES TO THE COMMITTEE

At the 2010 AGM, M. Paul Smith was elected as President, George Swann was elected as Membership Secretary, Mark Williams was elected as Special Publications Editor and Magali Schweizer was elected as Newsletter Editor. During the course of 2011, Ian Boomer has taken on the role of Ostracod Group Chair and Alan Lord took over from John Whittaker as Ostracod Group Secretary. At the 2011 AGM, Haydon Bailey was elected for a second term as Industrial Liaison Officer and Sev Kender was elected as Secretary. We would like to extend our thanks to all Officers and Specialist Group representatives who volunteer their time and effort to further the aims of TMS. Further, I would like to extend my personal thanks to all those who have made my time as TMS Secretary an enjoyable one! I wish Sev every success in helping the Society move forward.

SPECIALIST GROUP MEETINGS 2011

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' meeting was held in Kraków, Poland, together with the Eighth Polish Micropalaeontological Workshop, MIKRO-2011. The Ostracod Group held two successful meetings in Leicester and London, UK. The Palynology Group held a joint meeting with the Silicofossil Group in Tromsø, Norway, early in the year and this was followed by a second Silicofossil Group meeting in Lille, France, in September. Further to these activities, TMS sponsored the Dino 9 meeting in Liverpool, UK and AASP meeting in Southampton, UK, and is co-ordinating the 2012 Lyell Meeting on the topic of 'Big Palaeo', highlighting the contributions of large palaeontological research programmes, so watch out for this one on 29th March 2012!

BRADY MEDAL

The 2011 Brady Medal was awarded to John A. Barron at the AGM for his contribution to siliceous micropalaeontology; diatom taxonomy, biostratigraphy and palaeoclimatology/palaeoceanography in particular. 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.

ALAN HIGGINS AWARD FOR APPLIED MICROPALAEONTOLOGY

The Alan Higgins Award 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. We are delighted to make the 2011 award to Bridget Wade. Nominations for the 2012 award should be sent to the Secretary by 28th February 2012.

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 2011 Charles Downie Award (best paper published in 2010) to Clara Bolton for her paper: Bolton, C. T. et al. 2010. Evolution of nutricline dynamics in the equatorial Pacific during the Late Pliocene. *Paleoceanography* 25, PA1207, doi:10.1029/2009PA001821. As always, the Committee were gratified at the high standard of nominations and hope that this will continue. Nominations for 2012 (best



The Brady Medal

The Brady Medal is the highest award of The Micropalaeontological Society. It 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.

The Medal is awarded to scientists who have had a major influence on micropalaeontology by means of a substantial body of excellent research. Service to the scientific community may also be a factor for consideration by the Award Committee. The medal was commissioned and was awarded for the first time in 2007.

The Medal is cast in bronze from original sculptures commissioned by The Micropalaeontological Society in 2007. The sculptor is Anthony Stones, Fellow of the Royal Society of British Sculptors and President (1999-2004) of The Society of Portrait Sculptors. The Medal is hand crafted by the leading sculpture foundry Pangolin Editions of Chalford, England.

Mechanism for making a nomination:

All nominations must be made on the TMS "Brady Medal" pro-forma which can be downloaded from TMS website. Nominations must have a Proposer and Seconder, both of whom should be Members of the Society and not be affiliated to the same institute as the person they nominate. Nominations should be made in strictest confidence and in no circumstance should the person nominated be informed. The completed nomination form should be returned to the Secretary of the Society. Nominations may be made at any time of the year.

Alan Higgins Award for Applied Micropalaeontology

Alan Charles Higgins (1936–2004), a British micropalaeontologist and expert on conodonts, made major contributions to Paleozoic 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 was 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 these), nor can they be awarded retrospectively.

A maximum of £300 can be awarded to each successful applicant. Awardees are expected to write a short report for the *Newsletter of Micropalaeontology* once their grant has been used. Application forms may be downloaded from TMS website or obtained from the Secretary.

Deadline for application is 28th February 2012

Charles Downie Award

The late Charles Downie was one of the pioneers of palynology in the UK 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 2011 and will be presented at The Micropalaeontological Society AGM in 2012. Nominations for the best paper published in 2010 should be submitted either to the appropriate TMS Specialist Group, or The Micropalaeontological Society Secretary by 28th February 2012.

paper published in 2011) should be sent to the Secretary by 28th February 2012.

GRANTS-IN-AID

In 2011, TMS awarded five Grants-in-Aid: Thomas Gregory (Cardiff, Wales) to attend the Silicofossil Group meeting in Lille in September; Annekatrin Enge (Tübingen, Germany) to attend the joint Foraminifera-Nannofossil Groups meeting in Krakow in June; Ginny Bernardout (Queen Mary University of London, UK) towards fieldwork in Essex; and Eliana Palumbo and Emanuele Dario (both from University of Sannio, Italy) to attend the Urbino Palaeoclimatology Summer School. The committee encourages student members to apply in 2012. Details and the application form can be found on the website (28th February 2012 deadline).

TMS STUDENT AWARDS

The Society has made 9 awards to out-standing undergraduate and Masters students in 2011 (one year free membership): Christopher Duffield (Plymouth); Anna Mikis (Cardiff, 2011 award in memory of Brian O'Neill); Ann-Sophie Jonas (Kiel); James Wiltshire (Southampton); Jochen Fuss (Tübingen); Annabel Hodge (Bristol); Cédéric van Renterghem (Ghent-Leuven); Claire Howell (Keele); and Eder Amayuelas (País Vasco). 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).

2011 TMS ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The Old Refectory, University College London

Wednesday 16th November 2011

TMS President, M. Paul Smith, opened the AGM by welcoming members (numbering 57) and guests. This was followed by Society business and then a scientific programme of talks and, finally, by the presentation of the 2011 TMS Awards.

REPORTS FROM THE SOCIETY OFFICERS

The President, Paul Smith, noted how we are living in interesting times, particularly in the ed-

NEWSLETTER

In 2011, Magali Schweizer took over as the Editor of the Newsletter of Micropalaeontology. We look forward to expanding the newsletter as we announce new affiliations with other micropalaeontological societies in the future and we thank Magali for her efforts this year.

WEBSITE

This year Tom Russon has continued to develop the website and has overseen the movement of the website to a new commercial hosting site which will allow us to expand our activities. We thank the IT staff at the Natural History Museum for their help over the past years. The website is used to disseminate information to the membership including details of specialist group meetings. The link is: <http://www.tmsoc.org>. We would like to thank Tom for all his efforts with the website this year.

PUBLICITY

Rob Raine, together with the GSPH, brought out a new TMS publicity leaflet this year which highlights the benefits of the Society and will be raising our profile at scientific meetings over the next few years. We thank Rob for his contribution to the Society this year.

As I stated earlier, I wish Sev Kender every success as he takes over the role of TMS Secretary, and I wish the Society every success as it moves forward with its new Annual Meeting format in 2012.

ucation sector, and that it would be a challenge to ensure that micropalaeontology prospers into the future. In the industrial sector, a large training gap has been identified and TMS has a role and responsibility to help meet this gap. Paul highlighted three things:

1. That's the Society has plans to inaugurate a broader, 1.5 day Annual Meeting with an overnight stay to encourage discussions. This would include a thematic half-day symposium, an

open talks session and a dedicated poster session, with early career researchers encouraged to participate and present their research.

2. TMS is close to finalising affiliation agreements with IRGO and InterRad.

3. The TMS Educational Trust had been established to help address the micropalaeontological training gap.

The Secretary, Jenny Pike, then highlighted aspects of her report that was circulated with the AGM papers, in particular, the increasing Society membership from Europe and the continued high numbers of student members. Jenny also noted the diversity of specialist group activity spread widely across Europe in 2011.

The Treasurer, Jeremy Young, went through the Society accounts, as presented in the AGM papers. He noted that we are in a good financial situation at the end of 2011.

The Journal Editor-in-Chief, Alan Lord, reported that the strategy for bringing the publication dates of the *Journal of Micropalaeontology* forward are well underway, that submissions had increased and the impact factor has also increased. Alan thanked his board of editors, Tom Dunkley Jones for steering the special set of papers from the 2010 International Conference on Palaeontology, and Sarah Gibbs at the Geological Society Publishing House.

Mark Williams, Special Publications Editor, encourage everyone to consider submitting proposals for Special Publications.

The Industrial Liaison Officer, Haydon Bailey, informed the AGM that the TMS Educational Trust was now established as an independent charity and was in the process of gathering funds.

Paul Smith ended the reporting by highlighting the new MSc in Applied and Petroleum Micropalaeontology that will begin in Birmingham in October 2012, with Ian Boomer as Course Director.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

Ian Boomer and Claire Allen were confirmed as scrutineers, and it was confirmed that as 57 members were present, the AGM was chorate. Before continuing, Paul Smith thanked Jenny Pike and Haydon Bailey for their contributions

as Secretary and Industrial Liaison Officer over the past three years. The AGM then elected Sev Kender as the new Secretary (proposed by Jenny Pike and seconded by Paul Smith) and Haydon Bailey for a second term as Industrial Liaison Officer (proposed by Alan Lord and seconded by Kate Darling). Steve Packer was also confirmed as the Honorary Auditor for another year.

SCIENCE PROGRAMME – MICROFOSSIL PALAEOBIOGEOGRAPHY AND PLATE TECTONICS – A TRIBUTE TO ALFRED WEGENER

The science programme was put together by Alan Lord and John Marshall in order to commemorate Alfred Wegener's presentation of his continental drift theory in Frankfurt in January 1912. Rolf Schroeder, from Frankfurt, introduced Wegener's life and achievements, including the 1915 publication 'The Origins of Continents and Oceans'. Rolf finished up his talk by presenting some of his and his colleagues work on palaeobiogeographic reconstructions using larger benthic foraminifera – the Orbitolinidae. This was followed by Mark Williams (Leicester) who asked the question 'why did small arthropods become the most successful arthropods, particularly numerically, in the Palaeozoic



oceans?' Mark began with Charlie Chaplin, to demonstrate the impact of oxygen on aging, and kept up with the movie theme by walking through the Ostracod Identity, the Ostracod Ultimatum and the Ostracod Supremacy. Jan Rasmussen, from Copenhagen, told us about Wegener's early involvement and physicist and photographer on the 1906-1908 Danmark expedition to

Greenland, and how Wegener was the first to use kites and weather balloons to study the polar atmosphere ... with the help of a car! Jan then went on to demonstrate how statistical methods can be used to draw out palaeobiogeographic relationships between conodonts. John Marshall (Southampton) began the programme again after the coffee break by brandishing a real copy of 'The origins of Continents and Oceans'! John then followed this up by exploring how Devonian plants with large megaspores could disperse around the globe by piggy-backing on moving volcanic arc island belts. Marcelle BouDagher-Fadel (London) showed us how it was possible to understand the Cae-nozoic evolution of larger benthic foraminifera by understanding the interaction of tectonics, climate and sea level changes. Marcelle concentrated on the evolution and eventual extinctions within three main groups, the nummulites, lepidocyclinids and miogypsinids. Finally, John Barron (Menlo Park) started out by showing a



illustrated the strength, diversity and power of micropalaeontology.

TMS AWARDS

The President awarded the Charles Downie Award Clara Bolton for her paper: Bolton, C. T. *et al.* 2010. Evolution of nutricline dynamics in the equatorial Pacific during the Late Pliocene. *Paleoceanography* 25, PA1207, doi:10.1029/2009PA001821. The Alan Higgins Award was presented to Bridget Wade in recognition of her taxonomic and biostratigraphic work, her involvement with stratigraphic working groups and educational activities. The 2011 Brady Medal was awarded to John A. Barron for his contribution to siliceous micropalaeontology; diatom taxonomy, biostratigraphy and palaeoclimatology/palaeoceanography in particular. 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. On accepting the Medal, John congratulated the Society for promoting micropalaeontology so strongly.



photograph of the San Andreas fault where the Pacific and North American plates are moving next to each other. He then took us on a journey through the marine diatom palaeobiogeography of the Eocene, demonstrating how the diatoms were following global cooling around the world. Alan Lord invited Paul Smith to close the science programme which he did by saying the micropalaeontologists were not just fossil geeks! The programme had demonstrated the multidisciplinary nature of the discipline and

CLOSURE OF THE AGM

The President closed the AGM by announcing that Fugro-Robertsons would be sponsoring the Newsletter of Micropalaeontology in the future, and thanked them for their generosity that will allow us to make further improvements to the quality of the Newsletter. And finally, Paul thanked PetroStrat for generously sponsoring the AGM reception again, and invited everyone to adjourn to the cloisters for a glass of wine.

Jenny Pike
TMS Secretary

Treasurer's Report 2010-11

JEREMY R. YOUNG

Treasurer of The Micropalaeontological Society

ACCOUNT FOR 2010-11

The accounts for the year just passed are presented in table 1. Our accounts are traditionally presented at this time both in order to coincide with the AGM and because this is a natural time for stock taking, before the new year's subscription income starts arriving.

CHANGE IN ACCOUNTS FROM LAST YEAR

The accounts for this financial year are substantially different to those from previous years since they are the first ones presented since the new publishing contract with the Geological Society Publishing House (GSPH) started. GSPH now publish the journal on our behalf and provide the membership with copies in return for keeping all library subscriptions. In consequence the Journal subscriptions income source has almost disappeared and there is now no expenditure on journal printing and distribution. In 2009-10 these items contributed income of £20k and resulted in expenditure of £25k. Hence we are now approximately £5k a year better off. Nonetheless, our surplus this year is only slightly higher (£1.9k) than last year (£1k). This is partly due to drop in other income and partly to rise in other expenditure. The drop in other income is due to inclusion last year of advertising income for two years and gift aid income for three years, and to slight fall in membership income (down £0.6k). The rise in expenditure is due to higher costs for last year's AGM, increase in the number and value of Grant-in-Aid awards, production of a publicity leaflet, and increased committee costs. More broadly it reflects the fact that the committee has been aware that the society is in a relatively good financial position, and expenditure has already increased as a result.

MEETINGS SUPPORTED

In addition to the TMS AGM, we actively supported five meetings this year, through a combination of direct sponsorship, underwriting of budget, and providing an online payment system. Underwriting budgets allows local organisers of TMS group meetings to organise meetings on tight budgets without needing to worry what will happen if there is slight loss. Providing online payment through the TMS website spares local organisers the complexities of setting up an online payment system

for one meeting and means members can pay via a known system. So, although this does involve significant work for both the webmaster (Tom Russon) and the treasurer, we feel it is a valuable contribution. Direct Sponsorship of meetings is a way for TMS to support and promote micropalaeontology and almost always the supported conferences are run by active TMS members and we focus our support on specific activities such as student bursaries, also of course we gain publicity for the society.

The meetings we supported this year were: (1) TMS Siliceous and Palynology group meeting organised by Cathy Stickley in Tromsø in March – sponsorship of drink reception. (2) TMS Foraminifera Group meeting in Krakow in June organised by Anna Waskowska and colleagues – registration fee payments, including bank fees and related costs. (3) Conference on Geology and Environments of Silica Biomarkers in Lille in September co-ordinated by Taniel Danelian; sponsorship and organisation of registration payments. (4) Dino9 Conference held in Liverpool in September, organised by Fabienne Marret and Jane Lewis; sponsorship £500. (5) AASP 44th Annual Meeting conference held at NOC Southampton in September, co-ordinated by Ian Harding; sponsorship £500.

TMS EDUCATIONAL TRUST

The accounts presented include those of the TMS Educational Trust. This is now fully established (see separate report by Haydon Bailey) but we are still hosting the bank account. A major fundraising drive is now in progress and a funding round will be announced shortly.

FINANCIAL OUTLOOK

As explained above the new publishing deal with GSPH has given us a degree of financial space, however, most of this has been already used up. We will not need to increase our membership fees this year, especially since we continue to see expanding our membership outside the UK as a key goal of the society. However, our expenditure will need to be closely regulated to stay within budget. Another effect of the GSPH deal is that our turnover has decreased and hence our reserves in-

TMS Statement of accounts for financial year 2010 - 2011

INCOME		Notes	EXPENDITURE	
BALANCE FROM 2009-2010				
Closing balance in 2009-10 accounts	25'802.37	1	Newsletter of Micropalaeontology	
			Newsletter 83 printing	947.00
			Newsletter 83 postage	832.09
			Newsletter 84 printing	940.00
			Newsletter 84 postage	1'170.60
			Total newsletter	3'889.69
INCOME DURING YEAR			Other communications	
Membership & subscriptions		2	Publicity Leaflet	556.66
Individual membership	13'904.00		Website hosting	61.54
Journal Subscriptions	164.00			618.20
Total Subscription income	14'068.00		Annual General Meeting	
			Catering	790.78
Publication-related income			Speakers' meal	787.74
Spec publ royalties - GSPH	738.79		Speakers' travel	447.52
Spec publ royalties - Springer	95.47		Awardees travel	1'112.62
Journal - advertisements (2011)	280.00	3	Total AGM	3'138.66
Newsletter - advertisements (2011)	930.00	3	Meetings, Awards, etc.	
News! contrib - Gryzbowski Foundation	95.00	3	Transfer to TMS Education trust	1'000.00
News! contrib - Int Nannoplankton Assoc	348.00	3	TMS grants in aid (5 awards)	1'365.00
Website hosting - INA contribution	20.51	4	Higgins Award	300.00
Total publication-related	2'507.77		Downie Award	200.00
			Brady Medal (casting & engraving)	499.78
Miscellaneous income			Sponsorship of DIN09, Liverpool	500.00
Sponsorship of 2010 AGM (Petrostrat)	500.00		Sponsorship of AASP11, Southampton	500.00
Donations	86.00	5	Sponsorship of Siliceous Biomarkers conference, Lille	748.23
Higgins Fund donation	100.00	6	TMS Paly-silico groups meeting	92.38
Amazon clickthrough	29.76		TMS Forum nannofossil group meeting	157.83
Gift Aid	167.78		Int Pal Ass Subscription (2010-2012)	195.63
Interest	7.72		IFS subscription 2011	86.68
Total Miscellaneous income	891.26		Total meetings and awards	5'655.73
			Committee expenses	
TOTAL INCOME	17'467.03		Newsletter editor (software)	116.00
			Journal Editor (hospitality)	155.00
			Travel to committee meetings	1'119.05
			Miscellaneous	49.90
			Total committee	1'439.95
			Charges	
			Barclaycard	510.01
			Bank charges mostly (foreign payments)	108.00
			Pegasus computing (direct debits)	52.56
			PayPal	196.79
			Total charges	867.36
			TOTAL EXPENDITURE	15'609.59

SUMMARY OF FINANCIAL SITUATION

Opening balance		25'802.37
Income		17'467.03
Expenditure		- 15'609.59
Closing balance		27'659.81
This closing balance includes:		1'857.44
Downie Fund	1704.52	
Higgins Fund	1305	

TMS EDUCATIONAL TRUST ACCOUNT

Opening balance		11010.00
Income		
Transfer from TMS main funds		1000.00
Total income		1000.00
Expenditure		
None this financial year		0.00
Closing balance		12010.00
This financial period ran from 27th October 2010 to 10th Nov 2011		
Dr. J.R. Young (Treasurer)		
Dr. S.Packer (Honorary Auditor)		

NOTES

1. This is the closing balance from the published accounts for 2009-10
2. The journal subscription item is royalty payment from GSPH for Journal of Micropalaeontology for the last quarter of 2010. Under the new contract with GSPH this item will no longer appear, and we no longer pay for publication of the journal.
3. The affiliation fees from the Gryzbowski Foundation and the INA are used to offset costs of posting the newsletter to their members.
4. Website hosting, we are now using a commercial hosting service for our website.
5. Amazon click-through - advertising revenue from the TMS website.
6. Gift Aid - we can reclaim income tax on UK taxpayers subscriptions. Last year we made a claim for 3 years gift aid, and the sum in this years accounts is the difference between the amount anticipated in last years' accounts and the actual outcome.
7. These items were not included in the accounts presented at the AGM but were paid immediately afterwards and relate to the 2010-11 financial year so have been added here.

TMS Statement of accounts for financial year 2010 - 2012

creased as a proportion of turnover from reserves of 65% of annual turnover in November 2010 to 164% of annual turnover now. Given this we are

in the position to consider modest capital expenditure or medium term investment.

Journal of Micropalaeontology Report 2010-11

ALAN LORD, EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

COLOUR

The on-line version of the *Journal of Micropalaeontology* is automatically in colour if authors provide colour versions of plates or figures. Rendering a colour version of an illustration to black & white is not always satisfactory and authors may be asked to provide alternative versions. The current (November 2011) price for colour is £450 for the first plate/figure and £80 for each subsequent plate/figure in the printed version of a paper. Authors are encouraged to seek external funding for colour if they believe it to be necessary.

At the TMS Committee meeting of 15 November 2011 it was agreed that TMS will put aside funds for colour where it is judged by the Editors, in consultation with the Geological Society Publishing House, to be essential, for example in a plate showing thermal maturation of palynomorphs or conodonts, or a particularly complex graph. Authors seeking funding for colour illustrations should apply to the Treasurer, Dr Jeremy Young, and advise me as Editor-in-Chief.

Journal of Micropalaeontology 31 (1) in-press:

Pottrre, T. L., Pedder, B. E. & Feist-Burkhardt, S. Cambrian Furongian Series acritarchs from the Comley area, Shropshire, England.

Renaudie, J. & Lazarus, D. New species of Neogene radiolarians from the Southern Ocean.

Schönfeld, J. History and development of methods in Recent benthic foraminiferal studies.

Mette, W. & Roozbahani, P. Late Permian (Changhsingian) ostracods of the upper Bellerophon Formation at Seis (Siusi) (Dolomites, Italy).

Stassen, P., Thomas, E. & Speijer, R.P. Restructuring outer neritic foraminiferal assemblages in the aftermath of the Palaeocene–Eocene thermal maximum.

Pike, J. & Stickley, C. The 2011 recipient of the Brady Medal: Dr John A. Barron.

Industrial Liaison Officer's Report November 2011

HAYDON BAILEY

The TMS Educational Trust is, as of April 2011, formally registered with the Charities Commission as a fully functional, independent charity.

Written approaches have been made recently to circa 75 senior oil company executives outlining the current situation in the UK/European market for the training of biostratigraphers, or the relative lack of training (see the letter in this Newsletter). In addition to these direct letters, verbal discussions have also been held with representatives from several multinational companies, pursuing financial support for the Trust.

These approaches are in their early stages and follow ups will continue over the next few months.

Publicity will also be sought via various society newsletters as it is important that we broadcast the need for funds as widely as possible. If you are acquainted with anyone working in a position where they may have access to finances which might be utilised for the TMS Educational Trust then either approach them yourself or put them in contact with me and I will follow up on any leads

APPLICATIONS FOR GRANTS TO BE AWARDED BY THE TMS EDUCATIONAL TRUST FUND – 2012

Applications are invited for awards to be made by the TMS Educational Trust.

These should be submitted by Course Directors/Supervisors to the trustees by February 28th, 2012 c/o haydon.bailey@btconnect.com

Awards will be made on behalf of:

Individual students undergoing post-graduate training in micropalaeontology and

Courses requiring equipment or additional resources.

Applicants should give full justification for the application; the amount applied for and the value to be gained on the receipt of the award (No more than 500 words). For this first round of awards we have a maximum of £6000 total to award and whilst we are flexible we are seeking to make a number of awards. Awards can be made both to dedicated micropalaeontology training and to micropalaeontological components of broader courses (e.g. undertaking a micropalaeontology project within a stratigraphy MSc). If you are not sure whether a proposal would be suitable please feel free to contact me.

Any award is totally at the discretion of the Board of Trustees for the TMS Educational Trust Fund.

Lyell Meetings – A new opportunity to get involved!

The Lyell meeting is – or should be – an annual flagship event for the UK Palaeontology community focused on outward looking, exciting, geologically minded, palaeontology. The Lyell meeting is organised and supported, both financially and scientifically, by the four UK based learned societies with an interest in Palaeontology - the Geological Society (GS), Palaeontological Association (PalAss), Palaeontographical Society (PalSoc) and The Micropalaeontological Society (TMS). Delegates from these four societies make up the Joint Committee for Palaeontology (JCP), which is charged with oversight of the Lyell meeting. Historically the organisation of the Lyell meeting has passed between the constituent societies in a four-yearly rotation. Although TMS has hosted some very successful meetings, such as the 2008 Marine Climate Change Past and Future, the current rotation format has tended to rely on a few people in each society when their “turn came” and did not facilitate collaboration between societies. In light of this, the current JCP have proposed a new, more open means of setting the agenda

for future Lyell Meetings, from 2013 onwards.

Starting with the Lyell Meeting 2013, both the topic and the chance to convene a meeting will be open to any member(s) of the four constituent societies. Instead of the current rotation system there will be an open call for meeting proposals advertised through all the constituent societies’ newsletters and websites. Proposals should have a lead convenor and one or two co-convenors, who need not be from the same society; rather, proposals that cross the traditional society boundaries are strongly encouraged.

It is hoped that this open call for meeting proposals will both increase the scientific quality and relevance of the meetings as well as encourage cooperation between the constituent societies in the organisation of the meeting. For those interested in submitting a proposal, a simple guide to this and associated form can be found on the JCP website: <http://www.geolsoc.org.uk/gsl/groups/jcp>

Dear fellow geoscientist

**CAUTION – MICROPALAEONTOLOGISTS
ARE BECOMING EXTINCT!**

During your career you will have used the services of a micropalaeontologist; they're the people who turn up at the wellsite with a black box, from which they pull out and construct a microscope. They then look at the ditch cuttings and pronounce what you're actually drilling through; not what was prognosed, not what the seismic would suggest, but actually what the drill bit is cutting through now, in real time. They can be very useful.

We all know that the demographics of the oil industry are not good, but at least geologists and geophysicists are still being trained. Currently, there are no regular training courses for Micropalaeontology; not in the U.K., and not in Europe. Micropalaeontologists, apart from one or two Ph.D. students, are simply no longer being trained. The last U.K. M.Sc. course closed in 2008, there are no government grants and the stratigraphic consultancies are too small on their own to finance training courses. Many of the micropalaeontologist you currently employ as consultants were trained during the 1980's "bulge". It doesn't take a great mathematician to work out that they will soon become an endangered species.

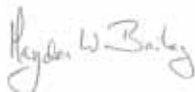
The Micropalaeontology Society recognised this alarming situation some time ago and has now established an Educational Trust Fund as a Registered Charity. This Trust, with industry based trustees, is raising the funds required to finance studentships at those academic locations where micropalaeontologists can still be trained.

This is where you and your company come in. It is essential that we access donations into the Trust Fund. The Trustees have the brief to assess and provide the QA for any relevant courses and subsequently to allocate any grants. If you are involved in allocating funds which can be used for educational training, or you know someone who is, please consider making a donation, preferably a regular annual donation to the TMS Educational Trust.

If you need further information please don't hesitate to contact the TMS Industrial Liaison Officer, Haydon Bailey (on 01707 661868 or haydon@network-stratigraphic.co.uk) who will be happy to meet you and your colleagues in order to give you full details of how the Trust operates.

We're already raising funds and we've made a good start, but we desperately need further contributions. Please consider those times when a wellsite micropalaeontologist has been the one with the answers; then consider a world with no micropalaeontologists.

Thanks for your time.



TMS Industrial Liaison Officer



The Micropalaeontological Society

Future Lyell meetings are expected to be one or two day meetings taking place each year in March or April. Meeting proposals need to be submitted to the JCP (jcp@geolsoc.org.uk) by 31 May of the preceding year. These will then be reviewed by the JCP with the successful proposal decided by the end of June.

by Jeremy Young and Tom Dunkley Jones this will focus on large scale, interdisciplinary projects in palaeontology. Please spread the word for what we hope will be a great meeting! And it's free to TMS members!

TMS JCP Delegates
Paul Smith & Sev Kender

We hope this provides a new opportunity for the membership of our various societies to take a lead in hosting what should be a significant, international palaeontological research meeting. For TMS we do, however, get to host the last Lyell meeting under the "rotary system": Big Palaeo on the 29 March 2012. Convened

Commentary on the letter

The letter above has recently been sent out to a large number of senior geoscientists from major petroleum companies. I'm sure they must get many such approaches and demands on their finances. At a time when micropalaeontologists, palynologists and nannoplankton specialists are in increasing demand the decline in their numbers has gone largely unrecognised across the industry.

It is extremely important that this situation is rectified now before the impetus is lost and we fail to take action to reverse this decline. It can be done, but it has to be done soon. It doesn't demand huge donations from them; a modest regular contribution on an annual basis would be equally as good, as that would mean we have a more predictable income. The cost of tuition fees for Masters courses is set to climb over the next few years and if we're going to be able to replace those micropalaeontologists rapidly approaching retirement then we have to act now. In three or four years it will already be too late.

Working offshore is a demanding career, both physically and mentally, and it tends to be a younger person's choice of occupation most of the time. Having said that, all companies like to think that they can call on the most experienced personnel to undertake the wellsite project they have in hand. It's important that the older generation of micropalaeontologists are able to pass on their experience now before they decide to give up once and for all. The time scale we're working to is roughly five to ten years, anything longer and there won't be too many people to call on.

Perhaps in 5 to 10 years it won't matter and oil companies won't be using biostratigraphers any more; that's what I was told in the late 1970's when I'd just started this career path. Fortunately, the person who said it was definitely wrong and I believe that same is still true. Oil companies will still call on a biostratigrapher to provide them with a relatively cheap and simple method of knowing what they're drilling through. Unfortunately, there might not be too many to call on anymore.

Dr Haydon Bailey
Industrial Liaison Officer,
The Micropalaeontological Society

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 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

Information for Tutors: In order to register a micropalaeontology course at your institute, please fill in the form below and send it to TMS Secretary. You only need to do this once, unless the course has changed or you wish to report a different course for the award scheme. Tutors are welcome to submit the form electronically.

TMS Student Award – Course Registration Form

Nominating Tutor:

TMS Membership Nr:

University/Higher Education Institution:

Course Name:

Course Description (level, number of students, hours of instruction etc.):

Date:

Please return by mail or electronically to TMS Secretary

The Micropalaeontological Society
<http://www.tmsoc.org>

Registered as a Charity No 284013

Specialist Group News

Foraminifera Group Report

KATE DARLING & PHIL SEXTON

The Co-convenors welcome you all to take part in our annual TMS joint Foram/Nannofossil Groups meeting to be held in Scotland at the University of Edinburgh's Pollock Halls on 21–22 June 2012. The first circular is posted on the TMS website. The theme of the meeting is '*Interdisciplinary advances in foraminiferal and nannofossil research*'. We hope that this open theme will attract submissions from the whole breadth of our discipline. The meeting will consist of short oral presentations and extended poster sessions on both days. As always for the Foraminifera and Nannofossil Groups joint meetings, our priority will be to maximise opportunities for students to present and discuss their research. We also invite you to join us for a one day field excursion on the 23rd June. We will visit Hutton's world-famous geological 'unconformity' at Siccar Point and the Catcraig section of the Dinantian Calcareous Sandstone Measures and reefs of the Lower Limestone Group, which have well preserved microfauna. If there is time we hope to visit the North Berwick sea bird centre which overlooks the Bass Rock, a volcanic plug of phonolitic trachyte rock of Carboniferous (Dinantian) age. This is the largest single rock gannetry in the world and

together with the other Forth River estuary islands constitutes a mega sea bird colony extravaganza. These can be viewed from remote cameras from the sea bird centre <http://www.seabird.org/home.asp>. Early registration to the meeting and early accommodation booking is highly recommended.

Prior to the main meeting there will be a two day workshop for benthic foram lovers on '*North East Atlantic benthic foraminifers: A new taxonomy for the 21st century*'. This will be held at the charming university town of St Andrews. The first circular is also posted on the TMS website.

We also have advance notice of the next annual TMS joint Foram/Nannofossil Groups meeting in 2013. This will be held in Prague, Czech Republic and is being organised by Prof. Katarina Holcová, Department of Geology and Paleontology, Charles University. A full announcement of the Prague meeting will be made at the TMS Edinburgh meeting.

The next EGU General Assembly in Vienna, Austria (April 22nd–27th) is hosting a session titled '*Micropaleontology: A key to modern and ancient environments*' <http://meetingorganizer.copernicus.org/EGU2012/session/9855/>

Silicofossil Group Report

TANIEL DANELIAN

«GEOBIOLOGY AND ENVIRONMENTS

OF SILICA BIOMINERALIZERS»

SEPTEMBER 4-6, 2011,

LILLE (FRANCE)

Nearly forty-five participants, from fourteen different countries (France, Belgium, UK, Germany, Switzerland, Poland, Spain, Mexico, Bolivia, Russia, Armenia, India, China and Japan) gathered in Lille to discuss a wide variety of topics, ranging from silica biomineralization, biogeochemical cycles, environmental studies and palaeoceanography to siliceous plankton biodiversity dynamics and palaeobiology. This Silicofossil Group meeting of the Micropaleontological Society also received the scientific patronage of InterRad (the International Association of Radiolarian Palaeontologists),

the International Society for Diatom Research, as well as the French Palaeontological Association, the French Geological Society and the regional Geological Society of Northern France.

After confronting the crowds of visitors that invaded Lille that weekend for the traditional annual Flea Market (a very popular event that attracts over a million visitors and creates a festive atmosphere to the city), most of the participants met on the first afternoon of Sunday, September 4, for a guided tour at the Natural History Museum of Lille. The museum hosts one of the most beautiful representations of Carboniferous terrestrial ecosystems reconstructed from the coal deposits of Northern France. After an entertaining tour of the Museum led by one of our former Geology students (Mickael Swialkowski), participants had the opportunity to enjoy a small reception offered by the Museum.



Group photograph at Lille's Museum of Natural History.

The Conference itself took place during the following two days (September 5 and 6) at the University of Lille 1 Campus (at Villeneuve d'Ascq) during which 36 talks and 11 posters were presented. A small opening ceremony gave the President of the University (Philippe Rollet), the Head of the Geosciences Research Department (Thomas Servais, a palynologist and TMS member) and Jenny Pike (representing TMS) opportunity to formally welcome the participants and officially begin the meeting. A special tribute was paid to Georges

Deflandre (1897-1973) by Jean-Pierre Caulet (former research fellow at the Museum of Natural History and one of his former students). Deflandre was one of the French "Micropalaeontological Heroes" and a pioneer of studies on silicofossils in France. His study of Carboniferous Radiolaria from the "Montagne Noire" region of France profoundly changed the scientific community's ideas about the evolution of Radiolaria. An important driving force behind research into Mesozoic Radiolaria since the 1980s was the need to produce biostratigraphic schemes well adapted to the dating radiolarites from Alpine-type mountain belts in the Mediterranean countries, in Japan or in California. It was in France, and more precisely in Lille, that the first international meeting of Radiolarian micropalaeontologists was held in 1979. The organizer of that meeting, Patrick De Wever, closed this first "ceremonial part" of the Conference with a talk about the "Monsoon as a cause of Mesozoic radiolarite deposits in the Tethys Ocean". The Conference itself was organized around seven plenary thematic sessions, each one introduced by a keynote or invited talk:

- Silica biomineralization and biogeochemical cycles
- Diatoms and marine (palaeo-) environments



Conference dinner at a traditional restaurant of the North of France (September 5th)

- Siliceous plankton and (palaeo-) environmental studies
- Siliceous biomineralization and environments
- Siliceous sediments and their palaeoenvironmental/industrial significance
- Siliceous plankton biodiversity dynamics
- The Radiolarian biotic response to global change

This Conference was designed to encourage participation of a diverse array of disciplines: micropalaeontologists, plankton biologists and ecologists, geochemists, sedimentologists and palaeoceanographers. The full programme and abstract volume can be downloaded at: <http://www.tmsoc.org/silicofossil.htm>

Following on from the main meeting a small group of us drove towards the west to participate in a Palaeo-Diatom session of the 30th meeting of the French Diatomist association which was being held on Wednesday, September 7th at the sea-side town of Boulogne-sur-Mer, in the lecture theatre of NAUSICAA, one of the largest and most impressive European aquariums. An excursion to the magnificent spot of Cap Gris-Nez organised for late afternoon–early evening gave participants a

chance to appreciate the nature and geology of the region, one of Northern France's most attractive places. A tour and beer tasting in a local brewery followed immediately after the excursion. The trip ended with a very tasty dinner at a traditional restaurant in Cap Gris-Nez.



An anticlinal structure formed in the Upper Jurassic sedimentary sequence cropping out at Cap Gris-Nez, one of the most visited spots in Northern France.

Palynology Group Report

PHIL JARDINE

Two palynological meetings have taken place in the UK recently: Dino9 at the end of August in Liverpool (organised by Fabienne Marret-Davies and Jane Lewis) and the Palynological Society (AASP) 44th Annual Meeting at the beginning of September in Southampton (organised by Ian Harding and John Marshall). Both were a great success; meeting reports can be found elsewhere in the newsletter. What with the joint meeting of the TMS Silicofossil and Palynology Groups in Tromsø, Norway, last March (see TMS newsletter 84 for a meeting report), 2011 was quite a bumper year for palynologists!

A Palynology Specialist Group meeting is planned for 2012, and more details will follow as they become available.

Future meetings with palynological relevance:

The Palynological Society (AASP) 45th Annual Meeting, 21st to 25th July 2012, at University of Kentucky, Lexington, Kentucky, USA.

IPC XIII/IOPC IX 2012, the joint meeting of the 13th International Palynological Congress and 9th International Organization of Palaeobotany Conference, 23rd to 30th August 2012, at Chuo University in Tokyo, Japan.

Nannofossil Group Report

TOM DUNKLEY JONES

2012 promises to be a busy year for the nannofossil group, with the annual TMS Foraminifera and Nannofossil Groups Joint Meeting being hosted at the University of Edinburgh in June (21st and 22nd) followed by the 14th International Nannoplankton Association Conference (INA14) in the Babes-Bolyai University of Cluj-Napoca, Romania. Hosted by Kate Darling and colleagues, the TMS Forum

& Nanno groups meeting is entitled “*Interdisciplinary advances in foraminiferal and nannofossil research*”. This should be a great opportunity to meet with both UK, European and International micropalaeontologists to share research in friendly but stimulating environment. The meeting will be followed by a field trip to Siccar Point and Hutton's unconformity and then on to unlock the secrets of

the Carboniferous reefs and microfossil-bearing sediments of the East Lothian coast. This will obviously be of interest to many TMS members generally and details will be available soon (please check the TMS website)!

In September, Carmen Chira will host the 14th International Nannoplankton Association Conference in the Babes-Bolyai University of Cluj-Napoca, in Transylvania, Romania. The meeting will take place from September 2 to 8, 2012, and is a must for the nannoplankton/nannofossil com-

munity. As ever, presentation will cover the full range of nannoplankton research including biology, ecology, taxonomy, biostratigraphy, oceanography, palaeoclimatology and palaeoceanography as well as the application of calcareous nannoplankton biostratigraphy in the hydrocarbon exploration industry.

All members of the global geoscience and biology community are welcome to participate in the conference and are invited to attend. For more details see: <http://bioge.ubbcluj.ro/ina14/>

Ostracod Group Report

JOHNATHAN HOLMES, UNIVERSITY COLLEGE LONDON

The Autumn 2011 meeting of the ostracod group was held in the Department of Geography, University College London, on 20th October 2011. A small group of ostracod workers presided over by Ian Boomer heard talks from 5 members.

Ginny Bernadout (Queen Mary, University of London) spoke about her PhD work at Marks Tey, a classic MIS-11 (marine isotope stage 11) site in East Anglia. Ginny is comparing palaeotemperature estimates based on ostracods, chironomids and beetles from these important middle Pleistocene lacustrine deposits.

Adrian Wood (Coventry) described the ostracods from Pliocene age Red Crag deposits exposed at a pit near Alderton. Here, the ostracods from this tide-dominated, shallow-marine environment, are mainly cold-water or eurythermal marine species, although some brackish-water taxa and the occasional non-marine specimen are found. Temperature reconstructions based on modern species distributions suggest lower temperatures compared to present, particularly during summer.

Jonathan Holmes (UCL) presented work undertaken with Tom White (Cambridge) at three MIS-11 sites from eastern England, namely Clacton, Tillingham and Swanscombe. At each site, ostracod assemblages contain both brackish-water (mainly *Cyprideis torosa*) and non-marine elements. Trace-element (Sr/Ca and Mg/Ca) determinations indicated that the two elements were formed in water of contrasting composition, suggesting some degree of reworking of the death assemblages. However, the geochemical evidence suggests that even the specimens of *C. torosa* calcified in only very slightly brackish water.

Dave Horne (Queen Mary, University of London) addressed the problem of identifying Pleistocene

specimens of *Ilyocypris*, a notoriously difficult genus to identify to species level. He suggested the fact that all species of *Ilyocypris* exist in tuberculate and non-tuberculate forms is a useful, working hypothesis. He also evaluated Van Harten's (1979) suggestion that marginal ripplelets are a diagnostic characteristic: while still useful, the presence or absence of marginal ripplelets does not provide unequivocal specific diagnosis. Dave is working on producing suitable SEM images of living specimens of *Ilyocypris* that have unquestionable identifications to species level based on soft-part anatomy.

Finally, Ian Boomer (Birmingham) addressed the problem of sampling groundwater-dwelling ostracods. Obtaining representative samples of ostracods from such habitats is problematical. Ian described a novel method based on pump-filter residues from the Assynt field centre in Scotland. A sample that integrated 6 months of residue collection yielded fewer than 10 living specimens, although the method has good potential both here and in other localities that use filtered groundwater as their source of potable water.

Ian Boomer also presided over items of TMS Ostracod Group business. Alan Lord (Senckenberg Museum) is taking over from John Whitaker (NHM) as group secretary. A field meeting to Jurassic localities of the Fleet area of Dorset is planned for early 2012: March or April or possibly event later in the year were suggested. Mick Frogley (Sussex) agreed to host a meeting perhaps towards the end of summer 2012. Finally, the Isle of Skye was proposed as the possible location of a field meeting in 2013, with the suggestion that the rest of the TMS be invited.

TMS Grant-in-aid Reports

8th Urbino Summer School in Paleoclimatology (USSP): Past Global Change Reconstruction and Modelling Techniques Urbino, Italy, 13th July – 3rd August, 2011

DARIO EMANUELE & ELIANA PALLUMBO, DSBGA UNIVERSITY OF SANNIO, BENEVENTO (ITALY)

In April 2011 TMS awarded us £300 each to put towards costs to attend the 8th USSP held in Urbino (Italy). We are, currently, in the second (Dario) and third (Eliana) years of our PhD, under the supervision of F. O. Amore, at the University of Sannio (Benevento, Italy) and our research projects deals with surface palaeoceanographic and palaeoproductivity reconstructions, during Marine Isotope Stage (MIS) 19 and MIS 11, analysing coccolithophore assemblages in sediments from North Atlantic Ocean cores.

The 8th USSP was organised by Simone Galeotti (Urbino University, Italy), Henk Brinkhuis (Utrecht University, Netherlands) and Stephen Schellenberg (San Diego State University, USA) and lasted three weeks. The 8th USSP consortium was composed of leading senior scientists from around the world. The summer school programme consisted of three parts, each com-

posed of different activities (lectures, symposia, fieldtrips and exercises), regarding the past, present and future climate changes.

The first part concerned palaeoclimate archives, past climate variability and carbon cycle. Attention was given to age model reconstruction, cyclostratigraphy, orbital forcing and dynamics and patterns in carbon cycle. We analysed some case studies on ocean cores regarding crucial climatic events such as Pliocene-Eocene Thermal Maximum (PETM) and Eocene Thermal Maximum 2 (ETM2, also called ELMO). This part ended with a field trip during which we observed key stratigraphic sections of Umbro-Marchean succession as the famous Cretaceous-Tertiary (K-T) boundary and the spectacular cyclostratigraphy examples. All participants were divided in several work groups and collected data successively analysed with modern software for time series analyses during



8th USSP group picture ahead the K/T Boundary, Gola del Bottaccione-Gubbio (Italy). We thank Mark Leckie (University of Massachussets) who took this photo.

the following class.

Palaeoclimatic proxies were discussed during the second part. The importance and use of stable isotope, organic and inorganic marine and terrestrial proxies were illustrated through examples concerning different geological time intervals. As custom, for the USSP, all participants were invited to present a poster showing their research project and/or main results. We also presented our posters! During the poster session, we had the chance to discuss our research with both young (participants) and senior (lecturers) scientists. The Cioppino conference closed that week. Curiously, it takes its name from a traditional fish soup (that we didn't taste!) and it consisted in a scientific meeting during which lecturers exposed their last research results. In this way, we appreciated how to apply all the methodologies explained during the previous classes.

The last part was dedicated to climate model-



Dario and his work group during the field trip data collecting (case study: Bonarelli layer, correlated with an anoxic ocean event).



Eliana and another member of her work group during the field trip data collecting (case study: cyclostratigraphy in Fucoïd Marls).

ling, from principles and practises to advanced calculations and simulations. During that week, several case studies were showed to us, applied to different geological time intervals (Cretaceous, Miocene, Pliocene and Quaternary).

The summer school ended with an intense discussion session about the future implications of climate changes.

This beautiful experience gave us the opportunity to improve our knowledge, widen our cognitive horizons and, of course, meet special people with whom it was very easy to start a friendship. We are sincerely grateful to TMS for having granted us to attend the 8th USSP and also to Simone, Henk and Stephen who included us among the participants. As young scientists, it was very important for us to receive a hand-out in a critical moment for the Italian (and World) economy affecting also scientific research.

Geobiology and Environments of Silica Biomineralisers

4th-6th September 2011

Université Lille 1, France

TOM GREGORY, CARDIFF UNIVERSITY

Organisms that utilise silica to form their shells are extremely important in global biogeochemical cycling and have a widespread distribution in both the modern and ancient marine environments. This meeting brought together international experts and students on siliceous

microfossils and micro-organisms on a high diversity of regions, taxa and time periods, with attendees coming from as far afield as Japan and South America.

We arrived in Lille on the Sunday afternoon and managed to navigate ourselves through

a quite manic flea market in the city centre to the opening reception, which was held at the Natural History Museum of Lille, where we were given a guided bilingual tour of the museum (with English translation provided courtesy of meeting organiser Taniel Danelian). The tour consisted of an interesting insight into the geological history of the region, particularly focussed on the evidence for large Carboniferous forests from local coal mines. In addition, we were told about the influence the geology has had on the regional industries including mining, brick making, and, most importantly, beer!

After the introductory ceremony on the Monday morning, the meeting opened with a biography of the late French micropalaeontologist Georges Deflandre (1897-1973), who produced a considerable amount of taxonomic work during his life. Following this, 35 talks and 14 posters were presented over the two days covering all groups of siliceous microfossils at many time periods and localities ranging from Antarctica to Russia, and everywhere in between. Topics included the possible biological origin of East African pre-Cambrian chert deposits; changes in the abundances and productivity of ebridians, silicoflagellates and diatoms during the

mid-Eocene transient warming; the taxonomy of modern altiplano diatoms in Bolivia; and the improvement, maintenance and easy access of taxonomic databases, in particular the Neptune database. Several talks also covered the development of novel geochemical proxies in siliceous fauna, in particular stable isotope geochemistry of radiolarians and silica and oxygen isotopes in diatoms. Personally, I found some modern studies presented with video footage of diatoms and radiolaria in action particularly interesting as this is very much an aspect of the organism's biology that you don't get to observe as a micropalaeontologist. Furthermore, each talk was scheduled with enough time for a brief yet stimulating period of questioning/discussion afterwards.

In between sessions there was plenty of coffee and nibbles (and at lunch time wine!) provided to stimulate conversation and to allow me the opportunity to make new contacts in the micropalaeontological world. I would like to thank Taniel and the other members of the organising committee for their effort in arranging this meeting, and the TMS Grant-in-Aid that I received to allow me to attend.

Hoxnian ostracods from Marks Tey, Essex

GINNY BENARDOUT, QUEEN MARY UNIVERSITY OF LONDON

In March 2011 I was fortunate enough to receive a TMS Grant-in-Aid award towards fieldwork at the Hoxnian site of Marks Tey, Essex. Researching palaeotemperature estimation techniques of two groups, ostracods and chironomids, during the Hoxnian Interglacial, the working brick pit of Marks Tey was chosen as it is believed to represent the whole of the interglacial period. Fieldwork was planned for August 2011 and

was scheduled to be completed within two weeks. This, of course, turned out to be extremely optimistic. A total of 22 full days have so far been spent in the field measuring, sketching and clearing sections for logging and sampling. I have also come away with enough samples to keep me busy for a long time to come! We are fortunate enough to have a very helpful site manager who has made a season of fieldwork very pleasurable and who was kind enough to dig trenches in the pit to help us link up sections and save us several days of working with only spades.

The team, principally consisting of myself, Dave Horne (principle PhD supervisor, QMUL), Simon Lewis (second supervisor, QMUL), Steve Brooks (third supervisor, Natural History Museum) and Ricky Stevens (exploited undergraduate, QMUL), also attempted to core the then-base of the pit to provide samples suitable for high-resolution analysis. This was not to be, unfortunately, as the departmental corer broke down during coring. We will be returning with





coring equipment in 2012 and hope to have more luck extracting cores.

The end of the summer saw the invasion of heavy machinery for the annual stock-piling of clay by the pit owners, and the heart-breaking destruction of sections which Dave and I had come to know so well. However, it has provided us with some beautiful new faces to get stuck in to which are revealing some very interesting sedimentary features. The base of the pit has also been lowered by some 3 meters, providing us with greater exposure of the sequence.

We were fortunate enough to receive some interesting and valuable input from Russell Coope

shortly before he passed away. Preliminary results from Russell's beetle palaeotemperature estimates and my own Mutual Ostracod Temperature Range (MOTR) estimates of one sample were presented at the Autumn Ostracod Group Meeting at UCL, adding to a mostly Hoxnian-focused meeting.

Contributing to the multi-proxy palaeotemperature estimation approaches being used (MOTR method for ostracods and transfer functions for chironomids), ostracod shells will also be used to provide stable isotope data, with the help of Ian Boomer (Birmingham). This work is due to commence during the summer of 2012.

Field visits have been well attended by those external to the project, including Peter Allen, Simon Parfitt (Natural History Museum), Gareth Tye (RHUL), Tom White (Cambridge) and Jaap Van der Meer (QMUL), and we would welcome the attendance of anyone who is interested in this site during further field work planned for Spring of 2012.

I would like to express my thanks firstly to TMS for providing much appreciated financial support which will enable the stable isotope analysis to take place. Secondly, to my supervisors Dave and Simon who spent many hours getting their hands dirty in the field, and further thanks to Dave for providing the use of his car for storage of muddy boots and equipment! Finally, I extend my appreciation to Ricky Stevens who gave his own time to working in the field and showed so much enthusiasm.



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GF

A note from the Chairman's desk

MIKE KAMINSKI, KFUPM

With the publication of this Newsletter the Grzybowski Foundation and the Micropalaeontological Society are now bringing news items to over 100 associate members of the Grzybowski Foundation in Eastern Europe and elsewhere scattered around the globe. 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 on the list of associate members of the Grzybowski Foundation. We also like to thank our dues-paying members worldwide for their continued support of our activities. If you would like to join the Foundation as a dues-paying member, please let me know. Membership in the GF certainly has its benefits – you will be joining a dynamic group of people who are active in research and training in Micropalaeontology in Central Europe. This year has been a busy one for the GF – In June we hosted the Fourth Short Course on Benthic Foraminifera in Urbino, and the joint TMS Foram-Nannofossil Group meeting that was held in conjunction with the MIKRO meeting (see reports in the last Newsletter). We published the MIKRO-meeting abstract & excursion volume as a GF Special Publication, and we supported students who attended the MIKRO meeting. In September, we sponsored the Micropalaeontological session at the Eighth Romanian Paleontological Symposium in Bucharest, and the foundation's logo appears in the abstract volume of that conference. Additionally, we awarded the first Brian J. O'Neill Memorial Grant-in-Aid for PhD Research to Raluca Bindu from the Babes-Bolyai University in Cluj-Napoca, who will use the support to sponsor her PhD project on the agglutinated foraminifera from the Palaeogene of the Tarcau Nappe in the Romanian Eastern Carpathians. Another core activity that is now well-established is the Grzybowski Foundation Library in Kraków. This year the Library's holdings have grown considerably, with the addition of the

Ellis & Messina Catalogue of Foraminifera and a large collection of reprints on planktonic foraminifera. Thanks to the kindness of the good people at Micropalaeontology Press in New York, we now have the only up-to-date subscription to the catalogue in Poland, and in fact it is the only current subscription east of Vienna. People wishing to use the foraminiferal catalogue should contact our librarians Agnieszka Ciurej or Wiesława Król at the Polish Academy of Sciences in Kraków, and arrange a visit. We still wish to update and maintain our reprint collection, so if you still haven't thrown away all your remaining paper reprints, please send a set to Agnieszka Ciurej, Institute of Geological Sciences, Polish Academy of Sciences, ul. Senacka 1, 31-002 Kraków, Poland. Any newly-received reprints will be added to the reprint library.

Some congratulations are in order – to Prof. Malcolm Hart upon receiving the Grzybowski Award for 2011; to Raluca Bindu for receiving the first PhD scholarship given by the Foundation, to Laia Alegret upon becoming a full Professor, to Claudia Ceteau for procuring a position at Fugro-Robertson after completing her post-doc, and to all the authors who published articles in the Proceedings of the Eighth International Workshop on Agglutinated Foraminifera, which was published this year as GFSP-16. Finally, it is with a heavy heart that we report the passing of our GF member in Trinidad, Dr Barry Carr-Brown. Barry was a loyal supporter of the Foundation for the past several years.

Next year will be another busy one – we will host the Fifth International School on Foraminifera at the University of Urbino, June 10-20, 2012, and the Ninth International Workshop on Agglutinated Foraminifera at the University of Zaragoza during the first week of September. We are also pleased to announce that we will offer another Brian J. O'Neill Memorial Scholarship for a PhD student doing a project in stratigraphic micropalaeontology at a university

or research institution in eastern Europe. The grant amounts to \$1,000, and the application form can be downloaded from the Foundation's website – the application deadline is January 31, 2012.

We wish all our members and readers a Happy Christmas and prosperous New Year, and we hope you find the news items that follow to be both interesting and enjoyable.

The Eighth Romanian Symposium on Paleontology, Bucharest, September 29-30, 2011 – Meeting Report

MIKE KAMINSKI, KFUPM

The Romanian Paleontological Symposium is an event that is held every two years, and the venue rotates among the three Romanian universities that have Earth Sciences departments (Cluj, Bucharest, and Iasi). This year it was Bucharest's turn to host the symposium, and indeed it was a very well-organized meeting. A generously catered welcoming reception the evening before the meeting provided a good opportunity to meet people and catch up on the latest news (even our friends from Transylvania dropped in for a bite...). The following two days, the scientific sessions were divided into two parallel sessions, mostly covering topics dealing with stratigraphic palaeontology and micropalaeontology. The language of the meeting was English, and quite a few people from outside Romania attended the meeting. A 145-page abstract volume was distributed at the meeting that has the now-familiar *Acta Paleontologica Romaniaae* cover design. Zoltan Csiki deserves congratulations for producing such a handsome volume.

The Grzybowski Foundation was represented at the Micropalaeontology session – and talks were given by several micropalaeontologists from Romania and from abroad. Theodor Neagu presented his new work on the genus *Uvigerinammina*, George Popescu & Monica Crihan presented their work on the Oligocene to Miocene planktonic foraminifera from Transylvania, Sorin Filipescu presented a revision of the foraminiferal biozones in the Miocene of Romania, Marius Stoica presented his work on the marine ostracods from the Albion of the



Michaela Melinte-Dobrinescu opens the Eighth Romanian Symposium on Paleontology.

Moesian Platform, Boti Szabo gave his presentation on the palaeoenvironmental significance of foraminiferal assemblages at the Oligocene – Miocene transition in the Gura Vitoare section, Andreea Telespan gave a progress report on her study of the life cycle of the agglutinated foraminifer *Entzia macrescens* in a Transylvanian salt marsh, and I presented an overview of updates to the classification of agglutinated foraminifera. We hope that the “Grzybowski Foundation Session” will be a recurrent feature of the Romanian Paleontology conferences. There was even a suggestion to hold a future “MIKRO-Meeting” in conjunction with this venue. The following day saw sessions on Palaeobotany, vertebrate palaeontology, and a special session on Cretaceous Anoxic Events. In the latter session, Michaela Melinte-Dobrinescu presented a summary of the anoxic events in



Raluca Bindiu receives the first "Brian J. O'Neill Memorial Scholarship" from the Grzybowski Foundation.

Romania, and Claudia Cetean's presentation on agglutinated foraminiferal morphogroups at the Cenomanian/Turonian sparked lots of discussion. The conference ended with a very informative private tour of the displays in the Geological Museum, followed by a very generous and friendly buffet dinner. Altogether, I was impressed with the quality of the presentations

and by the wonderful Romanian hospitality. We are already looking forward to the next meeting, which will be held in the eastern city of Iasi in two years time.

Three conference field trips also took place in conjunction with the meeting – the two pre-conference trips visited the Cretaceous anoxic events in the Eastern Carpathians, and the dinosaur-bearing continental deposits in southern Transylvania. We made an ad-hoc trip to the Carpathians the day after the meeting to look for larger agglutinated foraminifera.

Another volume of *Acta Paleontologica Romaniaae* is planned for the collected scientific papers presented at the eighth symposium. At the Society of Romanian Palaeontologists business meeting held at the end of scientific session, plans were unveiled to turn the APR into an annual publication, with a view to getting it accepted into the Science Citation Index. Anyone wishing to contribute a paper to the volume is asked to contact Ioan Bucur for further information.

The eFORAMS website

JAROSLAW TYSZKA, EIICHI SETOYAMA AND PAWEŁ TOPA (KRAKÓW)

We have decided to launch FORAM-Jobs - a new page on eForams.org advertising new positions, postdoc, or PhD opportunities. The page is still empty at the moment but we hope to receive a reasonable flood of offers. This idea came from the TMS-Mikro Joint Meeting in Kraków in June 2011. The participants suggested to run the site as a place to share all essential news including job vacancies for micropalaeontologists, biologists and biogeochemists working on foraminifera and their applications in various studies.

Another good news is that the WG 138, which is the Working Group nr 138 on "Modern Planktic Foraminifera and Ocean Changes"; decided that eForams will be used as an internet platform for the SCOR/IGBP project. Gerald Ganssen and Michal Kucera (coordinators of the project) call "the "WG138-eForams fusion"; as an innovative experiment developing new ways of science dissemination". eForams.org is ready to welcome the project, which plans to share

lots of updated knowledge on living planktic foraminifera.

We would also like to reintroduce FORAM-Publications page, where you can announce your new publications, and search or browse through recent publications related to foraminifera. Not everybody has an access to subscription-based databases, and it is another purpose of the page to make it easier to look up the new literature on foraminifera. There will be a form to fill in to post your work, which is tied to the semantic extension and enables to search by keywords, such as discipline, area and age, and authors. Although the form is not ready, you can post your publications in FORAM-Publications as a registered member of eForams. Do not hesitate to try! It is very easy.

All members and all foraminiferologists are welcome to register on eForams.org and contribute.

Announcements

THE FIFTH INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL ON FORAMINIFERA, URBINO ITALY, JUNE 10-20, 2012

We are pleased to announce that the Foundation will organize the 5th International School on Foraminifera, which will be held on June 10-20, 2012 at "Carlo Bo" University in Urbino (Italy). This ten-day intensive course is specifically designed to provide an overview of the Taxonomy, Ecology, Biodiversity, and Geological History of Foraminifera. The course is intended for students interested in Micropalaeontology, Paleoceanography, Paleoecology, Climate History, and industrial applications. The course structure consists of morning lectures and afternoon microscope sessions. The 5th ISF will be structured in two parts: Benthic Foraminifera and Planktonic Foraminifera.

THE NINTH INTERNATIONAL WORKSHOP ON AGGLUTINATED FORAMINIFERA

The Department of Earth Sciences of the University of Zaragoza and the Grzybowski Foundation are pleased to announce the 9th International Workshop on Agglutinated Foraminifera - IWAF-9.

The workshop is open to all Micropalaeontologists irrespective of society membership, and follows the workshop previously held in Cluj in 2008 (IWAF-8). The workshop should be of interest to both academic and industrial participants. Following the tradition of the IWAF meetings, it will be specifically open to young researchers and students. We aim to provide a scientifically stimulating and socially enjoyable forum to meet and discuss results related to agglutinated foraminifera.

The meeting will be held at the Department of Earth Sciences (Departamento de Ciencias de la Tierra) at the University of Zaragoza (Spain), on 3rd – 7th September 2012. The workshop will consist of three days of technical sessions, followed by a two-day field excursion in the picturesque Basque-Cantabrian flysch deposits in Northern Spain and Southern France.

Authors are invited to present their work as oral

Applications for this year's course are now being accepted. Course details and application can be found on the Foundation's website. For more information and registration, please contact:

Dr Fabrizio Frontalini
Dipartimento di Scienze dell'Uomo, dell' Ambiente e della Natura
Facoltà di Scienze e Tecnologie
Università degli Studi di Urbino "Carlo Bo"
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or poster presentations. Microscopes and seminar rooms will be made available for working groups and for demonstration purposes.

Student travel grants to attend the IWAF-9 meeting will be made available by TMS and the Grzybowski Foundation.

Important dates:

March 15th, 2012: Deadline for abstract submission and pre-registration

May 15th, 2012: Evaluation of abstracts and e-mail of acceptance sent to authors

May 30th, 2012: Deadline for payment of registration

September 3rd: 9:00-17:00: Satellite meeting: Working Group on Foraminiferal Classification
September 3rd: 17:00: IWAF-9 registration and icebreaker party

September 4th-5th: Technical sessions

September 6th-7th: Fieldtrip to the Basque-Cantabrian basin (N Spain and S France)

For further information please contact Laia Alegret [laia@unizar.es]

PHD STUDENT OPPORTUNITY – IODP RESEARCH AT KFUPM (BIOSTRATIGRAPHY)

Applications are sought for a PhD studentship position in Geology (Foraminiferal Micropalaeontology) in the Earth Sciences Department at King Fahd University of Petroleum & Minerals in Dhahran, Saudi Arabia. The studentship is funded through a grant from the Saudi National Science Technology & Innovation Program. The successful candidate will assist in an international effort to investigate benthic foraminiferal assemblages from IODP Leg 323 cores recovered from the Bering Sea under the supervision of Drs Mike Kaminski & A. Umran Dogan at KFUPM and Sev Kender at the BGS. For additional information on the nature of the research project, please contact Dr Mike Kaminski at kaminski@kfupm.edu.sa.

PHD STUDENT OPPORTUNITY – IODP RESEARCH AT KFUPM (MINERALOGY & GEOCHEMISTRY)

Applications are sought for a PhD studentship position in Geology (Mineralogy, Geochemistry & Micropalaeontology) in the Earth Sciences Department at King Fahd University of Petroleum & Minerals in Dhahran, Saudi Arabia. The studentship is funded through a grant from the Saudi National Science Technology & Innovation Program. The successful candidate will assist in an international effort to investigate

the mineralogy of volcanic ash and benthic foraminifera from the volcanic ash layers in IODP Leg 323 cores recovered from the Bering Sea under the supervision of Drs A. Umran Dogan & Mike Kaminski at KFUPM and Tonci Balic-Zunic in Copenhagen. For additional information on the nature of the research project, please contact Dr A. Umran Dogan at umran-dogan@uiowa.edu.

At KFUPM, all PhD students receive free tuition and on-campus accommodation, highly subsidised health care, subsidised cafeteria meals, two one-way economy-class tickets to Dammam from point of origin, as well as a tax-free stipend that is currently in excess of \$1,700 per month. Married students receive an upgraded housing allowance. The PhD programme at KFUPM is a 4-year program, and all PhD students are expected to attend postgraduate-level courses and perform light teaching duties or other assignments. A Masters degree in Geology or a related subject is required, and all candidates are required to submit GRE test results. Additionally, non-native English speakers must submit TOEFL/IELTS test results. Potential applicants are advised to first check the KFUPM Graduate Studies website under "PROSPECTIVE STUDENTS" [www.kfupm.edu.sa/gs] for additional eligibility requirements. KFUPM rules & regulations apply. Online applications for September entry will be accepted between February 6 and March 8, 2012.

The Theodor Neagu Collection of Foraminifera at the Laboratory of Palaeontology, University of Bucharest, Romania

MARIUS STOICA, BUCHAREST

The Laboratory of Palaeontology is hosted by the University of Bucharest and was founded in the early 20th century (August, 1905). Because of preoccupation of former and current professors, this laboratory has an exceptional collection of fossil plants and animals, collected from all stratigraphic units of Romania and beyond (especially Europe). Collections even include remains of *Homo sapiens fossilis* found in Cioclovina cave.

The microfossils came a bit later to the attention of the University of Bucharest (in 1950) when the course in Micropalaeontology was introduced into the academic curriculum. From this point, the micropalaeontological studies begin to develop more and more. The first group of microfossils that will become dominant is represented by the foraminifera, followed by ostracods, microgastropods, otholiths, as well as calcareous algae connected to studies of carbonate



Academician Prof. Theodor Neagu, standing in front of the microfossil collection in the Laboratory of Palaeontology, University of Bucharest.

microfacies. It is worth mentioning that from the beginning all studied and published microfossils have been inventoried according to ICZN rules and today there are catalogues for both foraminifera and ostracods.

Academician Prof. Theodor Neagu initiated in those times the new catalogues and he devoted most of its activity to the study of foraminifera, from the Carboniferous to Recent. His field of interest was and still is the study of Mesozoic foraminifera, especially the Cretaceous ones. All foraminiferal species, already studied for over 50 years of his activities, are figured and preserved in his collection in the Laboratory of Palaeontology, University of Bucharest.

Since the early 1960s, the agglutinated foraminifera represented his favorite subject, and he described the first new taxa from Romania such as *Bulbobaculites problematicum* and the famous “giant” agglutinated foraminifera *Aschemonella carpathica*, *A. moniliformis* and *Psammato dendron dichotomicus*. These are the



One of the trays of type specimens, showing the labelling of the microscope slides.

first specimens registered into the foraminifera catalogue, and their numbers begin with LPB. IV. 5001.

Today, the Theodor Neagu collection lists more than 12,000 specimens. Each species or specimen registered in his collection is glued into micropalaeontological slides, upon which is written the full name of the species, author, geographical location, geological age, collection and inventory number. In the foraminiferal collection over 6,000 micropalaeontological slides can be found that contain one or more speci-



One of the large specimens of agglutinated foraminifera, from the public display cabinet in the Laboratory of Paleontology.

mens each. All holotypes and paratypes designated and referred to in different papers are stored in individual microslides. This collection includes over 200 new taxa (species, subspecies or new genus) and lots of studied and figured hypotypes (more than 70%). Most of the new species were figured by excellent pencil or ink drawings using “camera lucida”. Later, some of these species were re-imaged by SEM pictures. The foraminiferal collection in the Laboratory of Palaeontology is open to all who wish to consult it and benefit from Prof. Theodor Neagu’s extensive experience. He is an outstanding micropalaeontologist and colleague, still very active at the age of 78.

International Research Group on Ostracoda (IRGO)

August 2011: The new IRGO website entered into service!

**RENATE MATZKE-KARASZ, LMU MÜNCHEN
CHAIR OF IRGO STEERING COMMITTEE**

The online-publication of CYPRIS 2010, the actual (28th!) volume of IRGO's newsletter by and for ostracodologists, was a welcomed occasion to launch the new IRGO website.

Started in 1994 by Rosalie Maddocks in Houston (University of Houston), the website moved to Berlin in 2006 to receive the first face-lift by Michael Schudack (FU Berlin). As a co-operation of Peter Frenzel (IRGO information officer, University of Jena) and Finn Viehberg (University of Cologne), the html-website migrated to a more flexible content management system and

is now hosted on a server of the University of Cologne: <http://www.irgo.uni-koeln.de>

Right now, the pages are still being updated and cross-linked to gain more interactivity for you. We are looking forward to your clicks from all over the world! Comments and suggestions are welcome.

By the way – visitor statistics are freely accessible and include an interesting geographical cluster map (on the lower left of the homepage).

2011, The Summer of Meetings and Workshops on Ostracods in Graz, Austria

MARTIN GROSS

**UNIVERSALMUSEUM JOANNEUM, DEPT. GEOLOGY & PALAEONTOLOGY
GRAZ, AUSTRIA**

SEVENTH EUROPEAN OSTRACODOLOGISTS' MEETING – EOM 7

The 7th "European Ostracodologists' Meeting" was held in Graz (Austria) at the end of July, 2011. Invited by the Universalmuseum Joanneum and the Karl-Franzens University Graz, about 90 participants from 28 countries shared the programme and contributed with 46 talks and 43 poster presentations (Fig. 1). The sessions comprised a broad array of ostracod research: biology, morphological variability (recent and fossil material), palaeoclimate, diversity patterns, (palaeo-)limnology, and "deep time" ostracods.

During mid-symposium excursion to Eggenberg Castle with its nice gardens and exhibitions, as well as during various evening events, participants took advantage of the extra-time for discussing and establishing new contacts.

Proceeding of this meeting will be published in

the *Revue de Micropaléontologie* and the *International Review of Hydrobiology*. The next EOM is scheduled to take place in Estonia in 2015 and will be organised by Tõnu Meidla and his team (University of Tartu).

Two special workshops were included in EOM 7, stimulating the international exchange of data and the harmonization of taxonomy. During the "**Ponto-Caspian Region**"-workshop (convenors: Lee Bradley & Lorna Williams) taxonomic problems concerning ostracods from the Caspian and Black Sea were discussed in the plenum and further engaged by the examination of material brought the participants. The workshop "**OMEGA project**" (convenors: Dave Horne & Alison Smith) focused on the calibration of GIS-based datasets of non-marine ostracods, which are used for palaeoclimate modelling. Topics of database structure, data compatibility and quality were considered.



Participants of the seventh European ostracodologists' meeting in Graz, July, 25th-28th 2011, in front of the main building of the Karl-Franzens University of Graz.

The abstract volume of EOM 7 is freely accessible through <http://www.museum-joanneum.at/en/geology/publications-2/nr-11-2011>

FIRST WORKSHOP “NORTHERN HEMI-SPHERE QUATERNARY AND MODERN NON-MARINE OSTRACODA”

The Graz team was proud to host the one-day, NSF-funded workshop “Northern hemisphere Quaternary and modern non-marine Ostracoda” (convenors: Alison Smith & Dave Horne) in parallel to EOM 7. This initiative brought together North American and European experts on non-marine ostracods in order to develop and coordinate new research projects. A second workshop, to be held in the United States in 2012, will monitor first outcomes and further explore possibilities of this initiative.

SECOND WORKSHOP “METHODS IN OSTRACODOLOGY” – MIO 2

EOM 7 was followed by the second workshop “Methods in Ostracodology”, which offered lectures and practical sessions in a summer school like atmosphere. MIO 2 comprised the subsequent topics: 1. Geometric morphometrics (Angel Baltanás & Dan L. Danielopol), 2. Stable isotopes (Ian Boomer), 3. Transfer functions (Peter Frenzel) and 4. Dissection of Recent ostracods (Tadeusz Namiotko & Dan L.

Danielopol). Fifteen students (undergraduates, graduates and professors) from seven nations participated MIO 2 (Fig. 2).

Abstracts of contributions to MIO 2 are freely accessible through <http://www.museum-joanneum.at/en/geology/publications-2/nr-11-2011>. Further information on MIO 1 and MIO 2, including PDFs of selected presentations and relevant publications are available at:

<http://palstrat.uni-graz.at/methods%20in%20ostracodology/methods%20in%20ostracodology.htm>



Participants of the second workshop “Methods in Ostracodology” at the Graz Karl-Franzens-University.

The International Nannoplankton Association (INA)

INA NEWS

JEAN SELF-TRAIL, CARMEN CHIRA AND PAUL BOWN

14TH INTERNATIONAL NANNOPLANKTON ASSOCIATION MEETING

The International Nannoplankton Association, in conjunction with the Faculty of Biology and Geology of the Babes-Bolyai University, Cluj-Napoca, Romania, is pleased to announce the 14th INA Conference in Cluj-Napoca, Romania on September 2-8th, 2012. All members of the global geoscience and biology community are welcome to participate in the conference and are invited to attend.

The biannual INA meeting allows for members and friends of the calcareous nannoplankton community to meet and discuss current research topics, fieldwork, database initiatives, and collaborative projects. It promotes international friendships in both research and industry and provides a means to introduce students into the community. The meetings are typically small (less than 150 people) and usually consist of 3-4 days of talks and workshops and 2-3 days of field trips. We encourage researchers in related fields (for example, biology, geochronology, foraminifera, etc.) to attend. These meetings are unique and are one of the few venues that offer a place for a researcher and an industry palaeontologist to sit down together over snacks and a beer to discuss stratigraphy or taxonomy or whatever!

Contributions on all aspects of calcareous nannoplankton are welcome, although specific theme sessions will be hosted on:

- Coccolithophores as palaeoceanographic proxies
- Calcareous nannoplankton evolution
- Biology and ecology of living coccolithophores
- Application of calcareous nannoplankton in the hydrocarbon exploration industry
- Taxonomy of living and fossil calcareous nannoplankton

A mid-meeting field trip will be held at the Turda Salt Mine, near Cluj, where we will examine Middle Miocene (Badenian) age sedi-

ments. A post-conference field trip, lasting two to three days, will be held in the northern part of Transylvania, Maramures and Bucovina, and examine Cretaceous through Miocene flysch deposits.

The deadline for abstract submission, registration and early payment is May 20th, 2012. More information can be obtained at the conference website at <http://bioge.ubbcluj.ro/ina14> or at the INA home page website at <http://ina.tm-soc.org/>.

PRESIDENTIAL ELECTIONS

INA members, it's that time again. It's time to hold the election for our illustrious leader—the President of INA. Although Paul has done a great job for the past four years, according to our bylaws, someone else has to step up to the plate and fill in his shoes. Here's how it works. In the next month or so, a committee of three individuals (Members in good standing who are not on the Council) will be appointed to serve as a nominating committee and will be announced on the list server. Nominees for President can be submitted to the committee by any member in good standing. Once names have been submitted, a ballot will be put together and sent out via email to all voting members. The results will be tallied by our Treasurers (Stacia Spaulding and Matt Hampton) and announced. The official INA “whistle of office” will exchange hands at INA 14 in Romania (note from current President – I never got the ‘whistle of office’!).

What is your job in all of this? Please put your thinking caps on and identify who you would like to have as your next INA president and be ready to submit a name to the committee. Although it's an honor to be recognized, some people are happier to work from the sidelines, thus any person nominated can always refuse the nomination.

INA website move

JEREMY YOUNG, INA WEBSITE EDITOR (JEREMY.YOUNG@UCL.AC.UK)

The INA website has recently moved. We used to be a hosted site on the Natural History Museum servers but we are now a primary domain on the TMS website – with the new address <http://ina.tmsoc.org>. For users all you need note is that the address has changed – and if you do list the INA website on your website then it would be good if you could change the links. There are however redirects in action so anybody navigating to the old site location should get sent on to the new site but if you have bookmarks, especially to pages inside the website then you should change them. As website editor the change to a domain which we control properly has some real benefits. Most immediately I no longer need to worry about NHM policies on advertising, or sale of books etc. through the website (the latter was probably a sackable of-

fence, but they got me on other grounds before they noticed). For the future it provides us with a platform where we can apply web-technologies such as php to allow blogs and things like that on the website. Also, the collaboration with TMS, and specifically Tom Russon made the transfer easier (and cheaper) and allows us to share experiences.

For those of you who are not familiar with the site the INA website provides a mix of information on the society and nannofossils. Highlights include a range of images of nannofossils, a literature guide, an extensive illustrated glossary, and a generic level overview of nannofossil taxonomy. As ever I am very happy to receive suggestions for the website, images for the image of the 'day' (almost anything offered will be used), and requests to add links.

NANNOTAX Expansion Project

JEREMY YOUNG

In addition to the main INA website, we have been developing Nannotax, an online database of nannofossil taxonomy for a few years now (we started in 2007) and it has built up into a heavily used resource (8601 images and pages, 341 registered users and 910810 page views, according to the server statistics; and I have also been told by real people it is quite handy). So, as part of my transfer to UCL, Paul Bown, Jackie Lees and I decided to try to take this on to a better level, and submitted a proposal to the UK Natural Environment Research Council for a "Knowledge Exchange" project to do this. We got a very encouraging amount of support and encouragement from the various colleagues we asked, at embarrassingly short notice, to be project partners which really helped demonstrate that this was something of value for both industrial and academic colleagues. Anyway, we got the funding and so will be sig-

nificantly developing the site over the next two years. Specifically we recklessly undertook to do the following (with apologies for application newspeak):

1. To implement comprehensive content development for the Nannotax fossil coccolithophore modules (Mesozoic, Palaeogene, Neogene), developing them into an integrated, authoritative guide to nannofossil taxonomy and biostratigraphy.
2. To expand the system to include a new module on extant coccolithophores, in order to broaden the user-base and increase flow of information between different user-types (e.g. oceanographers, algologists and palaeontologists).
3. To extend functionality of the system to include identification keys for each module, and additional pages giving a glossary of terms, exhaustive bibliography and details of preparation

techniques and study methodologies. These extensions are intended to develop the site from being essentially a reference/research resource into one that can also be used for teaching/learning.

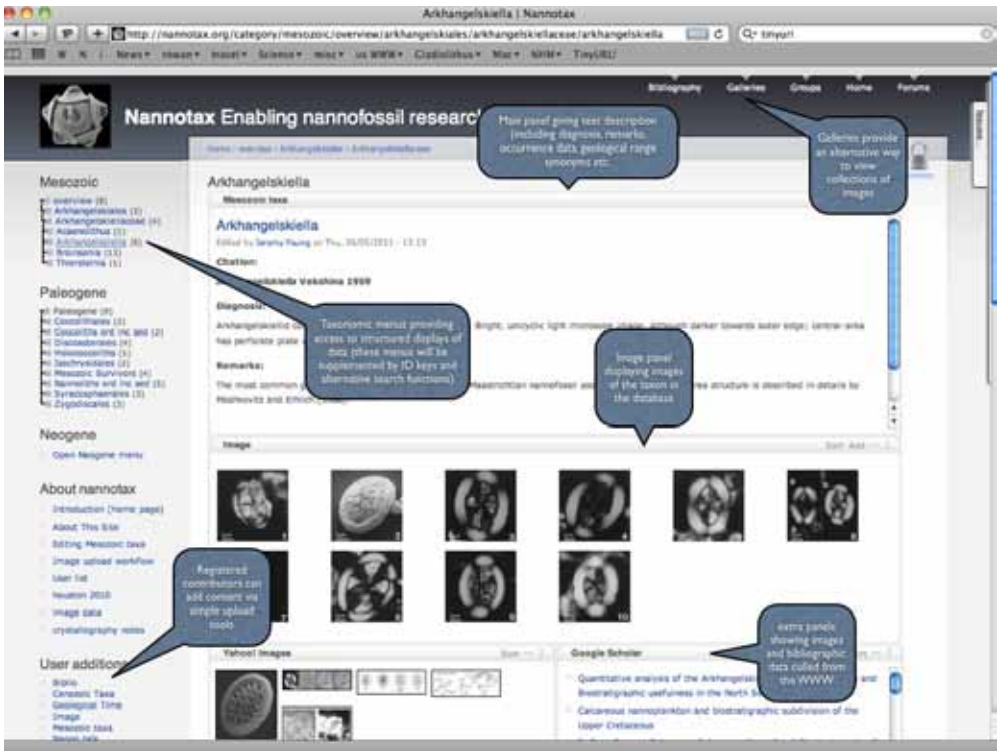
4. To engage with the broadest user-base, via: (a) Project Partners, who will contribute and review content; (b) workshops in Houston and London for current industrial and academic end-users, and (c) presentations and demonstrations at various research meetings (including the 2012 INA Conference and 2013 TMS Forum Nannofossil Group Meeting).

5. To improve the system. There is scope to improve the way that Nannotax presents content to the end-user. and we will aim to continuously develop this aspect in collaboration with the ViBRANT team, and in response to user feedback and requests. In particular, we will to improve the handling of bibliographic references and search functionality, and in early 2012 there will

be a major overhaul of data presentation on the system in conjunction with transfer to a new version of the content management system, Scratchpads2.

Please do take a look at the site, use it, and send us any suggestions or offers for extra content. Also any micropalaeontologists who are interested in the underlying scratchpads system as a platform for developing similar resources for other fossil groups are very willing to pick my brain (see also the User Guide – nannotax.org/content/user-guide). Advantages of the Scratchpads system are that it is an EU funded system specifically designed for web delivery of taxonomic information, it is well-supported and is integrated with the alphabet soup of major eTaxonomy projects such as EoL, Gbif, WoL, and TDWG. .. and it has intelligent handling of geological time.

INA



Obituaries

Curt Hildebrand Edler von Daniels

07 SEPTEMBER 1940 – 21 MAY 2011



As with many palaeontologist whose work is mainly directed to the application of their specialisation, the pure scientific and published record of Curt is relatively small in comparison to the wealth of unpublished contributions (many of which are

now available under LBEG Web Map Services: <http://nibis.lbeg.de/cardomap3/?TH=1005>).

As a student of the University of Goettingen, he already showed remarkable talents for improvisation as well as for perfection (e.g. improving a splitter for tiny volumes of residue for determining foraminiferal population densities, reconstruction of the Krumm sampler for small subsurface sediment samples in aquatic environments). Although he started – as common in those years at Goettingen – with a study in the Palaeozoic, in this case of the Devonian and Early Carboniferous in the Northern Kellerwald Mountains (Rhenish Schiefergebirge) for his diploma thesis, he switched to Recent foraminifera in the Adriatic coastal waters of Istria for his PhD thesis. Equipped with this experience, he soon took a position as a micropalaeontologist in the Lower Saxony Geological Survey (NLfB) with the daily work on Tertiary foraminifera as main obligation. He took part in several foreign hydrocarbon projects (in cooperation with institutions and counterparts in Pakistan and the Philippines). In spite of signs of a progressing gene disorder, he took responsibility of reorganizing the enlarged palaeontological and stratigraphical collections of the Federal Institute for

Geosciences and Natural Resources (BGR) in Potsdam after the German re-unification and was appointed as director of the joint NLfB/BGR collections and micropalaeontological department. For details of his remarkable career see Weiss, W. (2011): Curt von Daniels 1940 – 2011. – GMIT, Geowissenschaftliche Mitteilungen, 45: 82-83 [in German].

His main scientific merits are connected with the elaboration of detailed biozonations by means of *Uvigerina* and *Bolboforma* species (in close cooperation with Dorothea Spiegler, partly together with Ivan Cicha) and their correlation far beyond northern Germany. Moreover he contributed to the success of the project “NW German Tertiary Basin” supported by the German Science Foundation (DFG) and the International Geological Correlation Programme Project 124: “The NW European Tertiary Basin”.

From the very beginning of our acquaintance at the University of Tuebingen in 1963, Curt impressed me not only with his inherited aristocratic correctness, but also as a very straightforward and always trustworthy character. In spite of our different biographies he remained a reliable and always helpful friend during all the decades. Curt took the burden of his disease – although suffering ever more – with admirable self-control. He is survived by his wife Beate and two sons, but many more will miss him dearly.

Henning Uffenorde

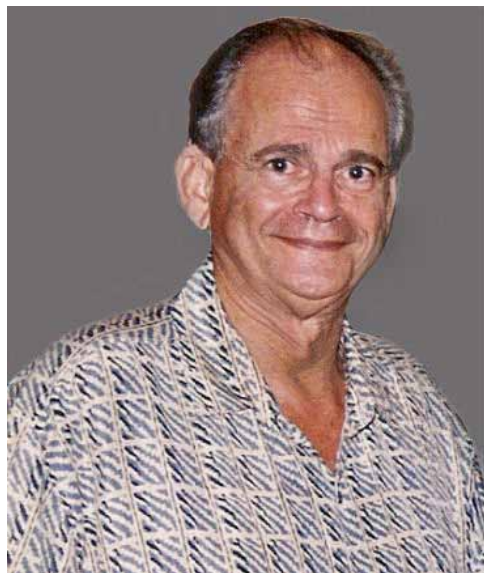
Barry Carr-Brown

12 MARCH 1936 – 15 JUNE 2011

Barry Carr-Brown was a true “gentleman” which, according to the OED, is a “chivalrous, courteous or well-educated man.” He certainly met all three definitions as his many friends and colleagues will attest.

It seems appropriate that Barry was born in an oilfield hospital in Pointe-a-Pierre, southern

Trinidad and was raised on the Royal Dutch Shell camp in Point Fortin, Trinidad. He received his secondary education at the Lodge School in Barbados and followed this by gaining an Honours Geology degree in 1959 at Queen's University in Canada. His graduate thesis was on Upper Cretaceous foraminifera.



Moving back to Trinidad he joined Shell as an exploitation engineer and stayed for three years before transferring to Texaco Trinidad as a field geologist. Three years later, in 1965, he re-established his primary interest in biostratigraphy by joining the Texaco Geological Laboratory. It was during this period when Barry came under the influence of leading micropalaeontologists such as Hans Bolli and John Saunders who both encouraged his chosen profession.

In 1968 a new opportunity arose when Pan American Oil (later Amoco) was awarded acreage off the east coast of Trinidad and Barry joined them, becoming Palaeontological Group Leader. Here he became intimately involved in the early drilling in what is now known as the Columbus Basin. Managing multidisciplinary biostratigraphic studies he developed the company's foraminiferal zonation and presented a paper on the Holocene/Pleistocene contact in the area at the 1971 Caribbean Geological Conference. He also worked closely with Amoco's Gulf Coast Paleontological Group, assessing and comparing the relative stratigraphic and palaeobathymetric ranges of the taxa of both regions.

Although the primary thrust was the search for

oil, Barry was also highly successful in finding water, as he carried out groundwater studies and supervised water well drilling to establish a potable water supply for Amoco's Galeota base and the surrounding residential/industrial area.

In 1980 he moved to INTEVEP in Venezuela and then in 1983 to California as the Manager of the BioStratigraphics Unit of McClelland Engineers. The call of home led to Barry's return to Trinidad in 1985 as Geological Services Superintendent with the Trinidad and Tobago Oil Company. He was later appointed Head of Exploration and Production Research Services.

Taking "early retirement" from TRINTOC in 1990, he went on to establish Biostratigraphic Associates (Trinidad) Limited. It was the start of a new phase of contributions to the biostratigraphy and geology of Trinidad. He remained active in the exploration of the region until his untimely illness forced him from his office.

He was the offspring of English, French and Portuguese colonials in Guyana and Trinidad & Tobago. In 1969 he married Jackie Gibbons and they had two daughters, Joanna and Jillian. Barry had a large, close, extended family and many friends, all of whom will miss his warm and genuine companionship. One described him well as an "awesome friend and a great palaeontologist" and another concluded that "Trinidad will not be the same without him"; a thought shared by many. A true Trinidadian, he loved his cricket, particularly at the Queens Park Oval with the West Indies playing.

He was a Fellow of the Geological Society of London and an Honorary and Founding Member of the Geological Society of Trinidad and Tobago.

Haydon Bailey, with contributions from John Frampton, Reg Potter and David Pocknall

Sara Christina Ballent

20 AUGUST 1950 – 2 OCTOBER 2011



Sara collapsed suddenly in hospital while visiting a cousin, but an immediate operation failed to save her. She leaves four lovely grown children and Alfredo, her husband, a geologist and an established author.

Sara graduated Licenciada en Geología from the Universidad Nacional de La Plata, Facultad de Ciencias Naturales y Museo in 1976. In 1977, with a scholarship from the National Oil Company, YPF, she graduated from the Faculty of Engineering, University of Buenos Aires in Geology with speciality in Petroleum Geology. She completed her doctorate in Natural Sciences (Geology) from La Plata in 1985.

Sara held the post of Professor of Micropalaeontology in the Faculty of Natural Sciences, housed in the famous Museo de La Plata. She was also an Independent Investigator of the Argentinian Research Council CONICET.

Sara's contribution to our knowledge of the Mesozoic Ostracoda of Argentina is truly formidable. In effect, when she began her work we knew very little, especially of the Jurassic. While now we are very well informed. She persisted in the endeavour of extracting workable faunas from often very difficult rocks and many of these finds have proved to be of great importance. Together with colleagues working on other marine invertebrates, she has made

a major contribution to our understanding of the Lower and Middle Jurassic stratigraphy of western Argentina, in all the major basins. She subsequently extended her work into the Upper Jurassic.

She also described an important fauna of Callovian Oxford Clay ostracods from southern England and made two important reviews of the Jurassic ostracod family, the Progonocytheridae, based on the two genera *Progonocythere* and *Lophocythere* and close allies.

She also did much important work on Cretaceous ostracods, one of which was her first and seminal paper on the Maastrichtian Allen Formation of northern Patagonia 1980 and its brackish water fauna, followed up by the 2009 paper with Carignano on refining palaeoenvironments in the same formation. With Sagasti 2002 she used microfossils brilliantly to characterize a marine transgression in the Lower Cretaceous Agrio Fm. of the Neuquen Basin.

She recently extended her interests into the Triassic, with a very nice paper on darwinulids. She was always interested in zoogeography and palaeozoogeography and wrote papers on bi-hemispherical distribution of Mesozoic ostracods and corridors of migration between the hemispheres. She first recognised the Australian Jurassic genus *Paradoxorhyncha* in the Middle Jurassic of Argentina and resolved the enigma of its co-occurrence. She wrote on a number of other gondwanine ostracod genera such as *Arulicythere* and *Rostrocytheridea*, and their distribution as evidence for migrational corridors and in two papers traced the migration of the genus, *Majungaella* from the Middle Jurassic of Madagascar through its southwards traverse of Africa and arrival in South America to its final destination in the late Neogene of the Antarctic.

Sara published well over 100 scientific papers in many different journals or as chapters in books. Their quality is universally high. Among these was an important work on the possible first ever non-marine cyprid ostracods from the

early Mesozoic of western Argentina. She was also co-discoverer of a new living giant freshwater ostracod from the Province of Buenos Aires. As well as her work on Ostracoda, Sara wrote on Foraminifera and made important contributions to their use in Mesozoic stratigraphy.

She also took a very active part in teaching and examining in the Faculty in La Plata and in the Palaeontological/Micropalaeontological life of the Argentine, both as scientist and administrator. She also supervised a number of excellent doctoral students and was examiner for many others. She represented her country internationally at conferences and symposia and enjoyed considerable rapport with colleagues in other parts of South America and beyond.

In 1992, Sara with all her family came to Aberystwyth on an EU grant for 7 months. While Alfredo studied various techniques for impregnating soft rocks and the children charmed us all and learned about English Kings and Queens at school, Sara became a tremendously popular member of the research school in Micropalaeontology. She shared a room with Ian Boomer and wrote a number of important papers and assiduously picked all our brains. What a great delight her visit was and we all remember the whole family with great affection. Sara came to Aber again on a shorter, private visit which was also a great success. We shall miss her terribly.

Robin Whatley

Lukas Hottinger

25 FEBRUARY 1933 – 4 SEPTEMBER 2011

Lukas Hottinger (Düsseldorf, Germany, 25 February 1933; Basel, Switzerland, 4 September 2011) has been a palaeontologist, biologist and geologist. Hottinger collaborated with the Natural History Museum of Basel (Switzerland).

Hottinger was one of the major experts on present-day and fossil larger foraminifera. In 1997 he obtained the Cushman Award from the Cushman Foundation for Foraminiferal Research (Journal of Foraminiferal Research, vol. 28/1, 1-2) for his lifetime contributions to foraminiferal research. Professor Hottinger completed his PhD thesis on Palaeocene and Eocene *Alveolina* in 1959 under the direction of Professor Manfred Reichel. His thesis on Palaeogene *Alveolina* included genus and species definitions and changes through time, the concept of phylogenetic lineages, and their use in zonal biochronology. Published as a double volume of *Mémoires Suisses de Paléontologie* in 1960, this remains the authoritative work on these unique foraminifera. From 1959 to 1964 he lived in Morocco working for the geological survey under the direction of Georges Choubert and Anne Faure-Muret, a time that was essential for his formation. His bibliography, widely respected by the international scientific

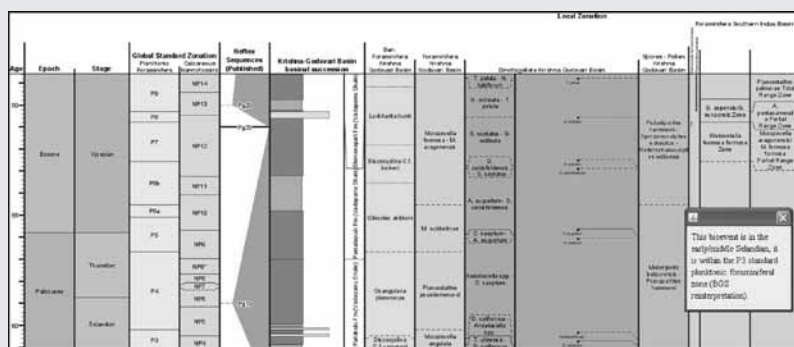
community, comprises over 120 papers and six monographs. These contributions range far over the geological landscape, including topics as diverse as stratigraphy, palaeoecology, and evolution, and spanning the globe from Indo-Pacific and Africa to the northeast Atlantic and the Mediterranean Sea. Besides being a member of the Swiss Academy of Natural Sciences, Professor Hottinger was honored in 1993 with membership in the Slovenian Academy of Sciences and Arts, and in 1997 was awarded the Doctor Honoris Causa by the Universidad Autònoma de Barcelona (Spain).

Wikipedia.org

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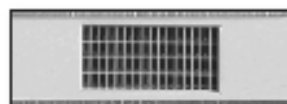
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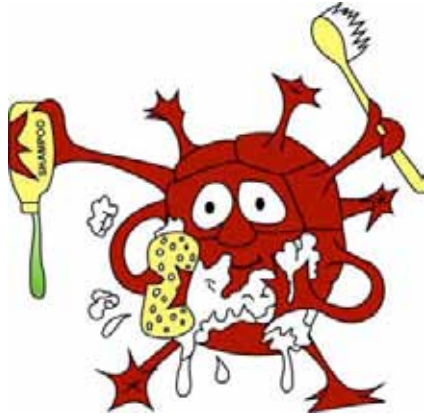
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