



International Organisation of Palaeobotany
(Homepage: www.palaeobotany.org)

IOP NEWSLETTER 94

February 2011

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The views expressed in the newsletter are those of its correspondents, and do not necessarily reflect the policy of IOP.

Please send us your contributions for the next edition of our newsletter (June 2011) the latest by June 15th, 2011.

President: Gar Rothwell (USA)

Vice Presidents: Ruben Cuneo (Argentina), Carole Gee (Germany), Edith Taylor (USA)

Members at Large: David Ferguson (Austria), Lena Golovneva (Russia), Sun Ge (China)

Secretary/Treasurer/Newsletter editor: Johanna Eder-Kovar (Germany)

Conference/Congress Member: Harufumi Nishida (Japan)

IOP Logo: The evolution of plant architecture (© by A. R. Hemsley)

Dear members,

the forthcoming IOPC in Tokyo is approaching quickly. The organisers are busy to provide the best basis for a successful conference. It is up to us to support the efforts of our Japanese colleagues by actively contributing already now to the preparation process.

The call for symposium proposals is open. Please think about an interesting topic to submit. Deadline is May 31st, 2011.

During the IOPC the election of the IOP executive officers has to be performed. Please consider appropriate proposals and read below for the details. Last but certainly not least we need to think about where to hold the 10th IOPC in 2016. Reflecting the sites where the last meetings have been held may help in the discussion: IOPC 8 was held in Bonn, IOPC 7 (2004) in Baraloché, Argentine, the 6th conference (2000) was held in Qinhuangdao, China, and the 5th (1996) in St. Barbara, California. IOP policy is to find conference sites that are well distributed around the globe. Hoping to stimulate discussion sincerely
Johanna Eder

INVITATION FOR SYMPOSIA PROPOSALS IPC/IOPC 2012

The theme of the IPC/IOPC 2012 is "Palynology and Palaeobotany in the Century of the Environment".

The pre-proposal should briefly describe the symposium in English and should include a descriptive title, one or two paragraphs explaining the purpose of the symposium, and a tentative list of speakers (unconfirmed) with affiliations and preliminary presentation titles.

Please send the pre-proposal to the program committee (program.ipc.iopc.2012@gmail.com) by **31 May, 2011**. Only one symposium proposal from each individual is accepted. Workshop proposals are also welcomed.

For more information and the first circular of the IPC/IOPC 2012 please visit:

<http://wwwsoc.nii.ac.jp/psj3/jp/index.htm>

CALL FOR NOMINATIONS FOR NEW IOP EXECUTIVE OFFICERS

Article 7 of the IOP Statues

(<http://www.palaeobotany.org/modules.php?name=iop&sec=about&page=5>) state that the election of officers should take place at each General Assembly during the International Organisation of Palaeobotany Conference. The next election will be held in 2012 and completed at IOPC-IX in Tokyo, Japan, August 23. – 30., 2012. The Executive Committee is seeking nominations for the offices of President, Three Vice Presidents, Three Members at large, and the Secretary/Treasurer/Newsletter editor.

At Bonn, Germany in 2008, the following were elected:

Vice Presidents: Ruben Cuneo (Argentina), Carole Gee (Germany), Edith Taylor (USA)

Members at Large: David Ferguson (Austria), Lena Golovneva (Russia), Sun Ge (China)

Secretary/Treasurer/Newsletter editor: Johanna Eder-Kovar (Germany)

Conference/Congress Member: Harufumi Nishida (Japan)

The President, Vice-Presidents, Members-at-large, and Secretary/Treasurer all must be elected at Tokyo. Of these posts, the Constitution allows that only the Secretary be eligible for re-election to multiple, consecutive terms. The Members-at-Large are eligible for re-election to a maximum of two consecutive terms, but other officers are ineligible for reelection to consecutive terms. All three current Members-at-Large are serving their first term.

Therefore, all are eligible for re-election as a Member at Large. All officers are eligible for election to another office.

Nominations must be made to the Secretary, in writing, **before December 1st 2011**. Both, mailed (Johanna Eder-Kovar, Secretary/Treasurer IOP, State Museum of Natural History Stuttgart, Rosenstein 1, 70191 Stuttgart, Germany) and e-mailed < *johanna.eder*"at"*smns-bw.de* > nominations will be accepted.

WHERE WILL IOPC-X (2016) BE HELD?

Although we are only entering the most active period of organisation for IOPC-IX in Tokyo, it's not too early to look ahead to where we will meet in 2016. The location for the next IOPC is chosen by a vote of the membership at the General Assembly held at each IOPC.

Now is the time to begin thinking about proposals to host IOPC-X in 2016. A call for proposals will be included in a forthcoming IOP Newsletter. If you or someone else you know may be interested in hosting IOPC-X, think about it seriously, talk it over with your colleagues, discuss your anticipated proposal with the Secretary/Treasurer, and be prepared to respond to the "Call for Proposals", which will be included in a forthcoming Newsletter.

UPCOMING MEETINGS

IPC XIII/IOPC IX 2012, TOKYO, Japan
13th International Palynological Congress
9th International Organisation of Palaeobotany
Conference (August 23–30, 2012, Chuo
University, Tokyo)

For more information please visit:
<http://wwwsoc.nii.ac.jp/psj3/jp/index.htm>

20th International Workshop on Plant Taphonomy **(Senckenberg Natural History Collections in Dresden, Germany, March 25–27, 2011)**

Dear colleagues,

It is my great pleasure to invite you to participate in the 20th International Workshop on Plant Taphonomy to be held in Dresden, Germany, from March 25 to 27, 2011.

In the last few decades, plant taphonomy has become essential to paleobotanical studies and integral in the reconstruction of paleovegetation, paleoenvironments, and paleoclimates. It is a multidisciplinary field where specialists from all parts of plant palaeontology meet to share results, ideas, and suggestions that facilitate the accurate interpretation of ancient floras and ecosystems.

For the last 20 years, the International Workshop on Plant Taphonomy meeting series has gathered together a small but enthusiastic group of paleobotanists, palynologists, palaeontologists, and other scientists in Europe for a one-day, informal and discussion-oriented workshop. The workshops have offered a variety of presentation formats that have included keynote lectures, round-table discussions, as well as talks and posters. This year, the workshop will feature two keynote lectures that will be given by Prof. David K. Ferguson (Vienna) and Prof. Harald Walther (Dresden), respectively.

Because fossil leaf floras are the main focus of paleobotanical research in Dresden, this will be the theme of the March 2011 workshop. Nevertheless, in accordance with workshop tradition, oral and poster presentations on any topic of plant taphonomy are welcome. We therefore invite you to contribute to the workshop with either an oral or poster presentation on a taphonomic topic of your choice, or to just come and participate in the lively and intellectually stimulating discussions that take place at the workshop every year.

We look forward to seeing you at the 20th International Workshop on Plant Taphonomy!

With best regards,
Lutz Kunzmann and co-organizers

General information

Organizers

Lutz Kunzmann (E-mail: Lutz.Kunzmann “at” senckenberg.de)

Carola Kunzmann (workshop secretary) (E-mail: Carola.Kunzmann “at” senckenberg.de)

Denise Hennig (E-mail: Denise.Hennig “at” senckenberg.de)

Venue

Senckenberg Natural History Collections Dresden
Königsbrücker Landstr. 159; 01109 Dresden
(suburb of Dresden-Klotzsche, near airport)

Please visit our homepage:

http://www.senckenberg.de/root/index.php?page_id=144&standort=true&standortID=2

Tentative program

25 March	16:00 – 22:00	Visit to the paleobotanical collections and icebreaker party
26 March	08:30 – 18:00	Workshop 19:00 Dinner in a local Restaurant
27 March	09:00 – 12:00	Special offer: visit to the current Senckenberg special exhibition called the “Deep Sea”, the Japanese Palace, the beautiful Dresden city centre, <i>or</i> Dresden castle’s treasury museum known as the “Grünes Gewölbe” – the Green Vault. (The sightseeing program on Sunday is dependent on the interests of the participants.)

Domestic and international travel options

As Dresden is a destination for international airlines and low-cost carriers, it is easy to fly into Dresden, and the airport is located only about one kilometre from the Senckenberg institute building in Dresden-Klotzsche. Direct flights to Dresden are available from London-Heathrow, Frankfurt, Munich, Düsseldorf, Stuttgart, and Hamburg with Lufthansa/Star Alliance; from Cologne/Bonn with Germanwings; from Vienna with Austrian Airlines; from Zurich with Cirrus; and from Moscow with Aeroflot.

The main train station in Dresden is located in the city centre just a 30-minute tram ride from the

meeting venue. Dresden has Eurocity connections to Prague, Vienna, Budapest, as well as Intercity Express (ICE) and Intercity connections.

Dresden has good international and national highway connections: the A17 Dresden-Prague, the A4 Dresden-Görlitz-Wroclaw (Poland), and the A13 Dresden-Berlin.

Accommodations

There are several hotels and pensions in the proximity of the meeting venue. Recommended are:

- Point Airport - City non-smoking hotel (www.pointhotel.de)
- Hotel Kurhaus Klotzsche (www.hotel-kurhaus.de)
- Hotel-Pension Königswald (www.pension-koenigswald.de)
- Hotel Dresdner Heide (www.hotel-dresdner-heide.de)

We request that you make your own hotel reservation, for instance, via the online portals hrs.de

(<http://www.hrs.de/hotel/de/sachsen/dresden/>) or hotel.de

(http://www.hotel.de/de.hotels/Dresden_32761/hotels.aspx). An overview of all accommodations in Dresden is available at

<http://www.dresden.de/dtg/de/uebernachtung.php>.

Registration fee

The organizers will try to keep the registration fee as low as possible, which is traditionally 20€ or less. This fee covers the icebreaker party on Friday evening, the two coffee breaks and a light lunch on the day of workshop, and the abstract volume. The dinner on Saturday evening (March 26) and optional tourist activities on Sunday (March 27) are not included in the registration fee.

28th Midcontinent Paleobotany Colloquium, 2011 (MPC) **(North Carolina State University, May 20–22, 2011)**

The **Midcontinent Paleobotanical Colloquium (MPC)** is held in the spring, hosted by a different institution each year. In 2011 the 28th MPC will be at **N.C. State University, Raleigh, North Carolina,**

USA, on May 20-22. This meeting is intended to be relaxed and relatively informal and to be a good venue for student presentations and discussions. Oral presentations and posters on all aspects of paleobotany are welcome. Abstracts are due May 1.

The registration form and fees are due April 20, 2011 (USD 80 professionals, USD 50 students, which includes the banquet on May 21). Inexpensive on-campus housing is available. The paper session on Saturday, May 21, 2011, has Scott Wing (Smithsonian Institution) as the featured speaker talking about the spectacularly preserved late Campanian Big Cedar Flora. On May 22, Jim Mickle (James_Mickle@ncsu.edu) and Pat Gensel (pgensel@ad.unc.edu) will lead a field trip to a Triassic locality.

Visit the MPC 28 web site for more information and a copy of the registration and housing form at <http://go.ncsu.edu/mpc28>

IBC 2011 - XVIII International Botanical Congress (Melbourne, Australia 3–30 July, 2011)

Please see for details Newsletter 91, April 2010.
<http://www.ibc2011.com/Default.htm>

International Conference on Computational Biology and Bioinformatics - CBB 2011 (October 28–30, 2011, Shanghai, China)

The 2011 International Conference on Computational Biology and Bioinformatics (CBB2011) will take place in Shanghai China, 28-30 October, 2011. The conference CBB2011 is held under the World Congress on Engineering and Technology 2011 (CET2011). The CET 2011 is composed of several conferences on the frontier topics in the engineering and technological subjects.

For more information please visit:
www.engii.org/cet2011/CBB2011.aspx

World Conference on Palaeontology and Stratigraphy - WCPS 2011 (November 28 – December 2, 2011, Nakhon Ratchasima, Thailand)

The Northeastern Research Institute of Petrified Wood and Mineral Resources (in Honour of His Majesty the King), Nakhon Ratchasima Rajabhat University, Nakhon Ratchasima, Thailand is holding the World Conference on Palaeontology and Stratigraphy (WCPS 2011) during November 28th to December 2nd, 2011 to celebrate the occasion of His Majesty the King's 84th anniversary.

For more information please visit:
www.wcps2011.com

OTHER ITEMS OF INTEREST

250th anniversary of the birth of Count Kašpar Maria Sternberg (1761-1838)

Count Kašpar Maria Sternberg unquestionably is among the most important palaeobotanists of the 19th century. He was born as the youngest of eight children in an aristocratic family, whose members had been concerned with stewardship of the Czech state since medieval times. He was the third and youngest son of Count Jan Sternberg and Countess Anna Joseph Kolowrat-Krakovská. He was raised in the family, mostly in country estates in Osek and Radnice na Rokycansku. His closest companions were his older brothers - Jan and Joachim, both graduates from the law school of Prague University. They aroused his interest in Czech history and natural science, but the greatest influence came from his mother, an unusually well-educated woman for the time, with a wide-ranging interest in European culture. In 1799 Kašpar Sternberg successfully finished his studies at Prague University and continued his education at the theological seminary in Rome. After completing his studies, Sternberg spent several months travelling around Italy and after his return, assisted with caring for the family estates. Thanks to his brother Joachim, he became acquainted at that time with the works of the Czech Royal Scholastic society. At age

24 he left for Regensburg and in 1785 he became a member of local canonry, later its canon.

At the time of Sternberg's arrival, Regensburg was an influential political center. It was home to a number of scholars, whose works gained renown in European scientific circles. In 1785, Sternberg met Regensburg botanists F. G. de Bayer and Ch. J. Duval, who later became his teacher. In 1790 a botanical society was founded in Regensburg; Sternberg became a member in 1795. From that time come Sternberg's earliest botanical publications. In 1804, Sternberg, as a member of the Regensburg state delegation, took part in the coronation of Napoleon Bonaparte. He took advantage of his presence in Paris to meet with leading French scientists of the time: Laplace, Cuvier and Bertholet. Utilizing the position of his title in Regensburg, which today we would call prime minister of the Regensburg state, he founded an Academy of Natural Science in 1806, of which he was subsequently elected president.

The year 1809 was a turning point in Kašpar M. Sternberg's life. After the death of both his brothers, Kašpar became the heir of the entire family fortune. In the same year, Napoleon's army captured Regensburg. These two tragic events and deepening disillusionment with the political situation simplified Sternberg's decision to abandon Regensburg. Sternberg settled in the castle Březina, near Rokycany, a building started by his brother Joachim. Sternberg's estate was suitable not only for agriculture, but contained a wealth of minerals as well - black coal and iron ore.

Soon after returning to Bohemia, Kašpar Sternberg began entertaining the thought of founding a scientific institute, which would serve as an umbrella organisation for Czech natural science research. Along with some other patriotic Czech aristocrats, like Count František Sternberg-Manderscheid and Count František Klebersberg, and with the help of the highest ranked burgrave, Count Kolowrat of Liebstejn, he founded the Patriotic Museum on May 18th, 1818, later renamed the National Museum. It was Sternberg's initiative that resulted in the museum acquiring its status as a scientific institution. Kašpar Sternberg was unanimously elected president of the National

Museum Society, a post he held until his death in 1838. An important part of his scientific life was his friendship with the German poet, natural scientist, and politician J. W. Goethe. It was common knowledge that Goethe was intensely interested in mineralogy and botany; his extensive collection of fossils and minerals may still be viewed today in the Weimar Museum.

Sternberg's interest in palaeobotany began as early as 1804, when his first short paper on fossil plants was published. In 1820, publishing of Sternberg's seminal work on palaeobotany began: "Versuch einer geologisch-botanischen Darstellung der Flora der Vorwelt". By 1838, eight volumes had been printed, including descriptions of 82 genera and 519 species of fossil plants, among them the famous *Lepidodendron*. This work was subsequently recognized as the first publication on palaeobotany which understood and classified fossil plants in the sense of modern nomenclature. In 1957, at the 8th Botanical Congress in Paris, the year 1820 was selected as a starting point of palaeobotanical nomenclature. During 1837 he threw himself with boundless energy into realizing another of his dreams - organizing an international scientific congress in Prague. It was the 15th congress of German doctors and scientists. 495 delegates from eleven countries converged in Prague. This grand accomplishment was the peak of Sternberg's organisational activity in the field of science. In December of 1838 he died of complications from a stroke. He was buried on his estate in the family crypt in Horní Stupno at Břasy.

Collections of fossil plants, herbarium sheets, manuscripts, a scientific library and part of the archive of Kašpar Maria Count Sternberg are among the treasures of the National Museum in Prague.

Jiri Kvacek

National Museum, Prague

Chris Hill's stay at the Chinese Academy of Sciences, Nanjing

In late 2009 Chris Hill - formerly of the Natural History Museum in London - joined us for a year as a Senior Overseas Visiting Professor in Nanjing

Institute of Geology and Palaeontology, Chinese Academy of Sciences (NIGPAS). He mainly worked on living and Mesozoic gnetaleans and on Replica Palynology of Permian red bed material from the Middle East, besides - as he puts it - 'quietly catching up on rather a lot of literature!' In October a field trip was undertaken with some colleagues from the Department of Palaeobotany and Palynology, NIGPAS to the 'classic' red beds near Baode in rural Shanxi. This was the start of a complementary Replica Palynology study of some of the extensive exposures of Permian red beds from China and also gave us an opportunity to collect exciting new material of megafossils from the Shihhotse Formation, including cycadalean material new to China. He also gave keynote presentations at a Chinese Academy conference in Beijing and at the 7th Palaeobotanical Society of China meeting in Xishuangbanna and recently gave a series of 'East meets West' tutorials for Nanjing research students on 'How Science works'.

This year, having successfully been granted a second year's funding, Chris will be mainly working on some of his new cycad and other material from the Yorkshire Jurassic, together with further aspects of Chinese and Arabian Permian palaeobotany and palynology in collaboration with Wang Jun and Professor Bob Wagner.

WANG Jun

Department of Paleobotany and Palynology, Chair
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BOOK ANNOUNCEMENT

2011 Petrified Wood Calendar makes debut

Elisabeth Wheeler has published a new calendar for 2011 with 12 full-colour pages featuring well preserved and scenic petrified woods. Each page presents a collage of figures, including the specimens in place in the field, and as seen with transmitted light at the microscope. The vibrant field imagery and microscopy of various

anatomically preserved angiosperm woods from Yellowstone, Florissant and other famous US localities seem to pop off the page. Each passing month leads to a new set of gorgeous images. I am afraid I may miss some appointments this year by avoiding to write on, and thereby detract from the beauty of, this calendar. Occasionally featured along with the fossils are [formerly] youthful palaeontologists in the field admiring the towering petrified stumps. The calendar grid is premarked with popular holidays like Hanukkah, Christmas, Kwanza, "international chocolate day", National Arbor Day (which falls on different dates depending on your home country), as well as famous wood anatomist birthdays (e.g., Sherwin Cronquist, Pieter Baas). The calendar is available from LuLu.com for \$12.55 plus shipping.

OBITUARIES

In memoriam Professor LI Xingxue



We are sad to announce that after a long illness Professor Li Xingxue passed away in Nanjing at 18:57, on October 31, 2010, at age 94. Professor Li was a member of the Chinese Academy of Sciences, and an internationally famous palaeobotanist and geologist at the Nanjing Institute of Geology and Palaeontology, CAS, China.

Born in the Chenzhou County of Hunan Province, China, Li graduated from the Department of Geology, Chongqing University, in 1942. He held the positions of Research Assistant, Research Associate in the Geological Survey of China in Chongqing and Nanjing from 1942 through 1951. In 1951 he became Research Professor, Head of the Department of Palaeobotany, and Chairman of the Scientific Committee of the Nanjing Institute of Geology and Palaeontology, CAS. In 1980 he was elected a member of the CAS and also elected a member of the 5th and 6th Political Consultation Conferences of Jiangsu Province, China. He also held adjunct professorships in the Nanjing University and Jilin University, and was the Chairman of the Scientific Committee for the Research Center of Palaeontology and Stratigraphy of Jilin University. He was one of the Presidents of the Palaeontological Society of China (PSC), and the Chief-Editor of *Acta Paleontologica Sinica* for many years. In addition he took on the leadership of several substantial co-operative research initiatives producing such 'classic' books as the *Fossil Floras of China* published in three volumes, and the more recently published *Fossil Floras of China through the Geological Ages*. In addition, Professor Li authored numerous scientific publications. He held a number of positions, including voting memberships, in international organisations, being the Chinese Representative in several of these committees. As with all his work, these duties were undertaken with dedication, sincerity, modesty, and above all with academic substance and integrity. Professor Li was a veritable ambassador not only for Chinese research but also for the Nation – achieving not only international prominence as a world-class scientist but also achieving great respect and many lasting and warm friendships around the world.

His life's work has made outstanding contributions to the development of Chinese and East Asian geology, palaeontology, palaeobiogeography, and stratigraphy. He is one of the founders of Chinese palaeontology and geology. His death is a severe loss both to China and the world. Professor Li will live forever in our minds and in our hearts and in those of the future generations to come!

Prof. Dr. SUN Ge

President

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Prof. Dr. WANG Jun

Secretary General

Paleobotanical Society of China (belong to PSC)
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CHANGES OF ADDRESS

Ruth and Gar's Excellent Adventure

Drs. Ruth A. Stockey and Gar W. Rothwell have retired from the University of Alberta and Ohio University respectively. Ruth took an early buy-out and Gar will continue to teach 1/3 time at OU. They have taken up positions as “Courtesy Professors” in the Department of Botany and Plant Pathology at Oregon State University in Corvallis starting November, 2010. After 21 years of marriage, it may be safe for us to think about moving in TOGETHER in January 2011 in Corvallis. We will have lab space for research, will continue training graduate students and undergraduate researchers, and will be doing some teaching by 2011 or 2012. If there are students or colleagues who would like copies of available reprints especially of Ruth's papers, please send an e-mail asap to ruth.stockey@ualberta.ca and we will make sure to mail you copies so that we don't have to move them!

Please send the editorial office your new details if your address has changed:

johanna.eder@smns-bw.de



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