



**International Organisation of Palaeobotany**  
(Homepage: [www.palaeobotany.org](http://www.palaeobotany.org))

## IOP NEWSLETTER 96

October 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 (February 2012) the latest by **January 31<sup>st</sup>, 2012.****

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)*

## **!! LAST CALL FOR NOMINATION OF NEW IOP EXECUTIVE !!**

A new IOP Executive for the period of 2012 – 2016 will take office at the end of IOPC – IX in Tokyo. This is the LAST call for nominations. Descriptions of the offices, eligibility requirements, and duties of the officers you can read in the IOP statutes <http://www.palaeobotany.org/modules.php?name=iop&sec=about&page=5>. All current members are eligible to stand for office, to nominate people for office, and to vote. Offices for which nominations are being accepted include President, three Vice Presidents, three Members at large, and Secretary/Treasurer. If you are not sure if you have paid your dues, please consult the IOP web site <http://www.palaeobotany.org/>, or contact your regional representative to confirm membership status. Please e-mail the names, affiliations, and e-mail addresses of people you wish to nominate for positions on the new executive to the Secretary/Treasurer <[johanna.eder](mailto:johanna.eder@smns-bw.de)>>at<<[smns-bw.de](mailto:smns-bw.de)>>  
**before December 1<sup>st</sup> 2011.** Remember, all nominators and nominees must be current members of IOP. Upon receipt of nominations the Secretary/Treasurer will confirm that both the nominator and nominee are current members, and then contact the nominee to inquire if he/she is willing to serve. Please contact the Secretary/Treasurer if you have any questions about the election process.

## **CALL FOR PROPOSALS TO HOST IOPC X, 2016**

We are entering the most active period of organising IOPC-IX in Tokyo (2012) and it's also time to look ahead to where we will meet in 2016. At the General Assembly to be held in Tokyo next year the membership will vote on the invitations to host IOPC X. Proposals are welcome and may be submitted as e-mail attachments and/or mailed to the Secretary: Johanna Eder, Secretary IOP, State Museum Natural History Stuttgart, Rosenstein 1,

70191 Stuttgart, Germany or  
<[Johanna.eder](mailto:johanna.eder@smns-bw.de)>>at<<[smns-bw.de](mailto:smns-bw.de)>>

## **RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP**

It is time to renew your membership in IOP for 2011 and 2012. You can do that online at <http://www.palaeobotany.org/members/> by entering your user name (your e-mail address) and password. If you have forgotten your password, you can click on the “forgotten your password?” button, and a new password will be supplied.

Remember, only current IOP members are eligible to stand for office, nominate people for office, and vote.

## **!! LAST CALL FOR MIKE BOULTER STUDENT TRAVEL AWARDS FOR IOPC IX !!**

The International Organisation of Palaeobotany is planning to offer several travel awards to help student IOP members defray the cost of presenting their research at IOPC IX in Tokyo, Japan next year. All palaeobotany students who are members of IOP and will be presenting their research at IOPC are eligible to apply.

Awards will be in the amount of US \$500.00 and will be presented to students following their presentation at IOPC IX. Students who do not attend the conference and/or do not make the presentation indicated in the application are not eligible for funds.

Applications are to be sent to the Secretary/Treasurer of IOP via e-mail attachment, [johanna.eder](mailto:johanna.eder@smns-bw.de)>>at<<[smns-bw.de](mailto:smns-bw.de)>> latest **by February 28<sup>th</sup>, 2012**, and must include the following items.

1. A 1-2 page application letter indicating the title of the abstract that has been accepted with the student as the senior (presenting) author.
2. A copy of the accepted abstract.

3. A budget that includes a listing of costs for attending the conference and sources of funding that have been secured for all costs except the IOP Student Travel award.

## **IOP WEBSITE**

The IOP website is the platform for information exchange among palaeobotanists. Jason Hilton has taken care of it for several years and we owe him many thanks for what he has set up! Alan Spencer has taken over Jason's tasks for quite a while now. The website is developed further but requires also input from the membership. The "Members Area" includes the "Member's account". One of the advantages of membership is placement of your contact information on the "Member's account" and access to that information by all current members. If you have not yet uploaded your information to that site, you may do so at any time by going to <http://www.palaeobotany.org/members/> putting in your username and password, and uploading your information. So far less than half of the IOP members have used this opportunity which is a pity. Also in the "Member's account" the "image archive" has been set up to offer the chance for sharing images of fossils among colleagues. If you do not remember your password, click on the link "Recover your password" and that information will be sent to you.

## **UPCOMING MEETINGS**

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

Please see for details Newsletter 94, February 2011

[www.wcps2011.com](http://www.wcps2011.com)

**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/en/index.htm>

**4<sup>th</sup> INTERNATIONAL  
PALEONTOLOGICAL CONGRESS  
The history of life: a view from the Southern  
Hemisphere  
Mendoza, Argentina, September 28<sup>th</sup> – October  
3<sup>rd</sup>, 2014**

Please see for details Newsletter 95, August 2011

## **OTHER ITEMS OF INTEREST**

### **New Regional Representative for northern Europe**

My name is Lil Stevens and I am the new regional representative for northern Europe. I am a curator in the palaeontology department of the Natural History Museum in London, currently working on the micropalaeontology and human remains collections. For my PhD thesis I studied Palaeozoic plants and completed an ontogenetic reconstruction of the filicalean fern *Oligocarpia gothanii* and a description and reconstruction of the lycopsid bisporangiate cone *Flemingites arcuatus*. I also made several floristic studies of Lower Carboniferous floras in the Midland Valley of Scotland and Permian floras in northern China. These included statistical analysis of floral data and a comparison of macro- and micropalaeontological patterns.

## OBITUARY

### IRINA ALEXEEVNA ILJINSKAJA

1922 – 2011



January 8<sup>th</sup>, 2011 Irina Alexeevna Iljinskaja, well-known Russian palaeobotanist, closed her eyes for ever. More than 60 years she studied Cenozoic extra tropical floras of Eurasia. It was during Christmas holidays when she prepared texts for volume 5 of “Fossil Flowering Plants of Russia and adjacent states”. 88 years old she died at her place of work in the Palaeobotanical Laboratory of the Botanical Institute, Russian Academy of Sciences in St. Petersburg.

I.A. Iljinskaja was born as daughter of professor A.P. Iljinsky – a well-known Russian botanist and author of the monograph “Vegetation of the globe”. He was a specialist in plant geography working in the Botanical Institute and gave lectures at the Leningrad University. The family lived in an apartment on the first floor of a building that belonged to the Botanical Institute. Irina Alexeevna only had to cross the Botanical Garden to reach the laboratory. From early in the morning to late in the evening and often during the weekend she worked in her small office. Many

years she worked there together with Pavel Ivanovich Dorofeev – the famous palaeocarpologist. Three quarters of a century she followed the entire institutional life of the Botanical Institute. Many famous botanists and palaeobotanists came to meet in their small apartment among them the academicians V.L. Komarov, V.N. Sukachev and A.A. Grossheim. Prof. A.N. Kryshstofovich and Prof. E. V. Wulf came there even more often.

After the Second World War, I.A. Iljinskaja married Anatol Robertovich Regel, professor of physics. He was the great-grandson of A.L. Regel, the founder of the Botanical Garden and first director of the Botanical Institute who is also known as specialist in *Betula* taxonomy.

Shortly after the Second World War, I.A. Iljinskaja graduated from University. First fieldwork Irina Alexeevna performed in the Caucasus. As a young botanist she went to the Talysh district, southern Azerbaidzhan. Her scientific mentor was academician A.A. Grossheim (1888-1948) – connoisseur of the local flora and chief of the Caucasian Floristic Department of the Botanical Institute, Russian Academy of Sciences. She studied the genus *Pterocarya* Kunth., the main objective of her doctoral thesis and later of the monograph (*Acta Bot. Inst.*, 1953. ser. 1, vol. 10). Mainly based on the peculiar fruit morphology, she revised the Southern Chinese species *Pterocarya paliurus* Batal. and described it as the independent genus *Cyclocarya* Iljinskaja. Fossil leaves and fruits of *Cyclocarya* were found in Kazakhstan (Late Oligocene Ashutas Flora, Zaissan Lake Basin). Later, *Cyclocarya* has also been found in the West European Miocene, West Siberia, and the Russian Far East. I.A. Iljinskaja made valuable contributions to our knowledge of the fossil flora of the Zaissan Basin. She started with the flora of Ashutas taking it over from A.N. Kryshstofovich and I.V. Palibin and finishing it together with T.N. Baikovskaya (1956).

In the late 50-ies of the last century I.A. Iljinskaja took part in the preparation of the special issue “Gymnospermae and Angiospermae” in “Foundations of Paleontology”. She described fossil Ulmaceae, Moraceae, Juglandaceae, Salicaceae, Mimosaceae, Caesalpiaceae, Fabaceae, Rutaceae, Sapindaceae, Hippocastanaceae, and Alangiaceae

following the angiosperm systematics applied in the Soviet Union at that time. Genera and species of these families are wide-spread in Cenozoic floras. As a result of her revision of the genus *Engelhardia* I.A. Iljinskaja described the new genus *Alfaropsis*. She also studied Fagaceae for more than 30 years. She started with a review of the genus *Dryophyllum* (Palaeogene, Zaisan Basin), and then described all fossil species and genera of this family from the former USSR in "Fossil Flowering plants of the USSR", vol. 2 (1982).

In the late 50-ies, after her investigations in the Caucasus region she began her studies of the Neogene flora of the Transcarpathian region. She published several articles and the monograph "Neogene Flora of the Transcarpathian Region of the USSR" (1968). Before she has finished the study of the Swoscowice flora near Kraków (1964) working on the Zeuschner collection (1850). Thus she continued the investigations of this flora following F. Unger (1850) and D. Stur (1867, 1873). Together with the palaeocarpologist V. Nikitin and geologists she prepared a monograph on the Lower Miocene flora of the Mamontov mountains (Siberian platform) (1976). This is still the most essential publication for the study of new Neogene localities in Siberia.

The study of the floras from the Zaisan Basin remained her main interest during the last years. At the age of over 60 she still took part in a field excursion to the Zaisan region where she collected Eocene and Oligocene plants at Kiin Kerish and Kalmakpay hills.

After the death of professor P.I. Dorofeev, it was I.A. Iljinskaja who prepared his huge material of *Salix*, Rhamnaceae, Ericaceae, and some other difficult families for volume 5 of "Fossil Flowering plants of Russia and adjacent states". She also prepared the palaeocarpological material of P.I. Dorofeev for publication.

She was a prominent representative of the classic Russian palaeobotanical school. Its founder was also her teacher – A.N. Kryshthofovich. Her research on fossil taxa was always accompanied by a thorough study of herbarium specimens. She also aimed to find recent descendants of fossil taxa. I.A. Iljinskaja thoroughly edited the volumes of "Fossil

Flowering plants of Russia and adjacent states". Plant descriptions which were prepared by young palaeobotanists she edited very thoroughly always insuring their authorship. For all of us she was a perfect example for utter devotion to science.

She loved to go on canoe trips in North East European Russia with her husband Anatoly Robertovich Regel when he was still alive.

Mikhail A. Akhmetiev

## CHANGES OF ADDRESS

**Anne-Laure Decombeix** has finished her post-doctoral work at the University of Kansas and joined UMR AMAP ("botAnique et bioinforMatique de l'Architecture des Plantes") in Montpellier as a CNRS researcher.

Her new contact information is as follows:

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

[johanna.eder@smns-bw.de](mailto:johanna.eder@smns-bw.de)



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