

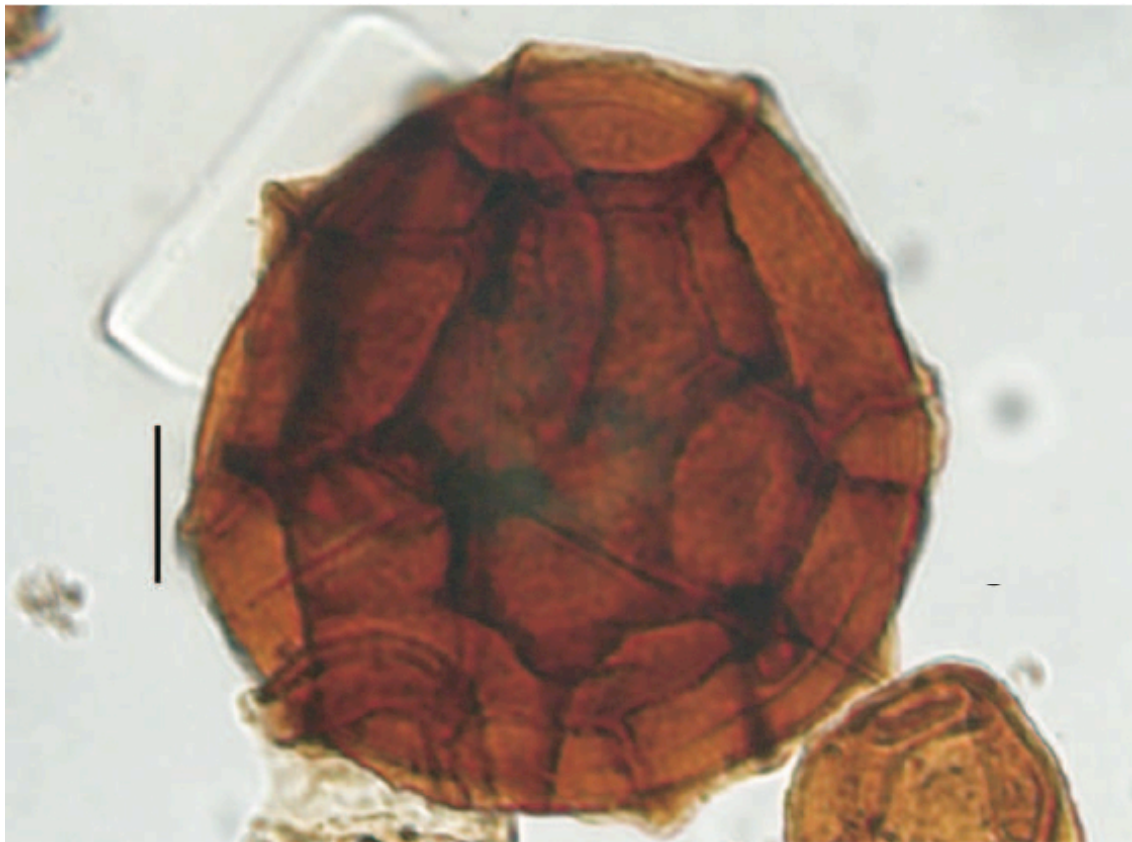


*Spore & Pollen Subcommittee*

*Newsletter No. 10 - 2011*

*by Hartmut Jäger*

*February 2012*



**CIMP Spore-Pollen Subcommittee**

**chair: Zelia Pereira**

**secretary: Hartmut Jäger**

Commission Internationale de la Microflore du Paléozoïque

International Commission of the Palaeozoic Microflora


<http://cimp.weebly.com/>



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Cover: *Reticulatisporites magnidictyus* - index spore in the Mississippian of the Amazonas Basin and elsewhere in Gondwana. Scale bars = 20  $\mu$ m - submitted by G. Playford



## **Message from the chair**

Another year is starting, with a great number of CIMP activities. For those of you, who attended the 2011 AASP Annual Conference in Southampton you know, that it was a very successful meeting with excellent talks and a great attendance, also from CIMP members. A special word of acknowledge for John Marshall and the organizing committee for the organization of a remarkable conference. At that meeting a particular session was dedicated to Bernard Owens, a former CIMP President and enthusiastic palynologist, who contributed to the development of this subject worldwide.

A group of palynologists were also present at 11<sup>th</sup> ISOS Conference, at Alcalá de Henares, Madrid, May 9-13, 2011. At this meeting, interesting Ordovician palynostratigraphic subjects (including cryptospores) were presented in several thematic sessions.

Please note that the 4th edition of WORLD DIRECTORY OF PALYNOLOGISTS (WDP), published by Owen K. Davis in 2008, is being altered and a new version of the WDP is planned for 2012. Please contact CIMP board for any changes of address and/or affiliation.

The coming year will be a very busy year with several interesting meetings:

The 45<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of AASP - The Palynological Society, hosted by the University of Kentucky, Lexington, Kentucky, July 21–25, 2012. In this meeting a special CIMP-sponsored symposium will be convened in honor of Dr. Geoffrey Clayton and Dr. Kenneth Higgs. For more than three decades, Geoff and Ken have dedicated their lives to the study of Late Paleozoic palynology. Their extense and important contribution to this subject should be honored. Please consider your participation at this event and give us your support! Further information about the 2012 AASP meeting is available on the AASP website: <http://www.palynology.org/>.

Another international meeting, partially focused on Palaeozoic palynology, is the annual meeting of the IGCP 591 'The early to middle Palaeozoic revolution'. It takes place in Cincinnati, Ohio, July 22-28, 2012.

Finally in August the International Palynological Congress will be held in Japan as joint Meeting of XIII. IPC / IX. IOPC at Chuo University, Tokyo (August 23-30, 2012).

Another call is the support of subcommission working groups. In the last newsletter Hartmut has given new ideas and a few new proposals were made. In order to have a new dynamic please give your ideas and contributions.

Finally, I would like to express my gratitude to all of you, who have contributed to this Newsletter. I would also like to thank Hartmut Jaeger, who compiled the news included here.

I am hoping to see many of you again at the upcoming palynologic meetings and don't forget to pay CIMP fees (<http://cimp.weebly.com/membership.html>).

Zélia Pereira

## **Message from the secretary**

First of all, many thanks to all of you, who contributed to this newsletter. Without you most of the interesting things - going on in our field of research - would have been missed. Comparing this newsletter to the last one the contributors have almost completely changed. On the one side it is good to get to new people to join their news and views with the subcommission. On the other hand unfortunately not more people

got involved to this newsletter, what I really would like to see. Having in mind, that I send this newsletter out to more than 100 people, I'm sure there has been done much more interesting Palaeozoic spore-pollen research in the last year, than what is shared in this newsletter. Therefore, I strongly want to encourage you to contribute to future newsletters. It is no big deal, a few lines about your current research, a list of presentation abstracts, a list of paper references. It won't cost you lots of time, but it will improve the newsletter a lot.

Looking back into 2011 one of the highlights surely was the 44th annual meeting of AASP in Southampton. It was no official CIMP meeting. But the CIMP sponsored session in honour of Bernard Owens, a major supporter and promoter of Palaeozoic palynology and CIMP, made it at least half a CIMP meeting. If AASP annual meetings are always like this - one day of Palaeozoic palynology out of two days of talks - I will attend every AASP meeting from now on. ☺

What I really missed at this meeting, were our CIMP colleagues from eastern Europe and further east. I also got very few contributions for the newsletter from this side. I know there is a lot of good Palaeozoic spore-pollen research going on in this part of the world and I hope to meet many of you again in upcoming CIMP related meetings and also get your input to our internal communication like the newsletter. CIMP always needed and still needs your strong input and support.

The wave of retirements moves on and this time Ireland is hit. The retirement of Geoff Clayton and Ken Higgs will affect the Palaeozoic spore research significantly. Both have been major contributors to this field during the last decades and Ireland has been a major resource for this field of research. Many of us, including myself, have benefited a lot during visits in Ireland for palynological training, PhD's and research collaborations. So it's time to express our gratitude to Geoff and Ken for the great support they have provided to Palaeozoic palynology. This will be done with the CIMP sponsored session in honour of both of them at the 45th annual meeting of AASP in Lexington, Kentucky, in July.

This time it is not a CIMP sponsored session only, but the meeting is a joined meeting of AASP and CIMP subcommissions. I hope to meet many of you there, making Palaeozoic palynology a significant part of this meeting. The post-conference field trip into the Devonian and Lower Carboniferous of Kentucky offers the chance to visit the upper Palaeozoic in North America, one more reason to come.

One last point on my own behalf. Together with a former colleague I'm organizing a session on 'Organofacies and geochemistry of European Unconventional Shale Plays' at the next IAS International Sedimentology Meeting in Austria in September. Shale gas and shale oil have become a major target of future energy resources with often highly complex multiphase source rock systems. Beside hydrocarbon related geochemistry palynology (palynofacies/organofacies and organic maturation) could provide essential information to a better understanding of these systems and improve exploration strategies. Getting palynology more involved into the study of the open questions in unconventional shale plays is a major goal of this session.

Finally, I hope to meet many of you in upcoming meetings this year, sharing interesting scientific sessions and discussing ideas and future projects with some drinks later on.

Cheers  
Hartmut

## News from the members

**Zelia Pereira** ([zelia.pereira@lneg.pt](mailto:zelia.pereira@lneg.pt)): I continue working on Palynostratigraphy on the Devonian-Carboniferous in the South Portuguese Zone, Portugal, mainly developing industry contracts with the mining companies operating in the Pyrite Belt.

Together with Paulo Fernandes from Algarve University, we are supervising a project on dinoflagellate cysts of the Jurassic from the Algarve Basin, Marisa Borges PhD project, and on the palynology of the Ordovician, Silurian and Devonian of central Portugal, Gilda Lopes PhD project, producing many innovative palynological results,

**Pawel Filipiak** ([pawel.filipiak@us.edu.pl](mailto:pawel.filipiak@us.edu.pl)): I'm still busy in palynology. Some things I have finished some things I will start. I am working currently with the Lower and Upper Devonian samples as usual. This year I will start a big project concerning the Upper Devonian sediments from Russia, in cooperation with palaeontologists, geochemists and sedimentologists. But of course everything depends on how many productive samples I will bring back from the outcrops the next summer...

**Gilda Lopes** ([gilda.lopes@lneg.pt](mailto:gilda.lopes@lneg.pt)): I continue working on my PhD in Paleozoic successions of Portugal (Ordovician, Silurian, Devonian). In these three years, the results already obtained gave one of the oldest evidence of terrestrial plants in the fossil record of Portugal. The stable isotope studies are also done and promising results for the Silurian of the Barrancos region are being achieved.

**Reed Wicander** ([reed.wicander@cmich.edu](mailto:reed.wicander@cmich.edu)): My research predominantly involves Ordovician–Devonian acritarchs and prasinophyte phycoma. However, I do look at miospores if they are in my samples, and recently collaborated with Geoff Clayton, John Marshall, Ian Troth, and Andrew Racey on a palynologic study of the Upper Devonian Iquiri and Itacua formations from southeast Bolivia in regards to possible multiple glacial/interglacial events during the latest Devonian. I covered the acritarchs and prasinophytes, whereas Geoff and John interpreted the miospores.

I will also have an opportunity to examine some Late Devonian miospore assemblages during my upcoming sabbatical (January-May, 2012) with Geoff Playford at the University of Queensland, Australia. We will be examining the palynoflora from the Upper Devonian Saverton Formation from Illinois, U.S.A. This will complete our joint studies during the past 25+ years on selected Devonian acritarch, miospore, and prasinophyte assemblages from the mid-continent of North America.

And lastly, along with Zélia Pereira, we will be organizing and co-chairing the CIMP-sponsored “Devonian–Carboniferous Symposium Honoring Geoff Clayton and Ken Higgs” at the 45th Annual Meeting of AASP at the University of Kentucky in Lexington, Kentucky, July 21–25, 2012. We hope to have many contributions to this symposium, and we look forward to a large audience to honor Geoff and Ken for their many contributions over the years to Paleozoic palynology.

**John B. Richardson** ([jb.richardson1@ntlworld.com](mailto:jb.richardson1@ntlworld.com)): Joint work with the University of Wales (Cardiff) on *in situ* cryptospores and trilete spores from the Ditton Formation from the Welsh Borderland illustrates that some aspects of the early evolution of land plants have been oversimplified. This has been related to previous work on *in situ* spores (*inter alia* Fanning et al. 1988, 1991). Work in progress is providing more detailed work on the distribution patterns and habitat of their parent plants (see Richardson 2007).

I have also continued my work in New York State and PA with Professor Woodrow and members of the PA Geological Survey on Strunian strata. The PA Survey has provided funding for the work as well as a series of Borehole cores. Dr V. Avkhimovich formerly of the Belorussian Research group working with the Late Professor Kedo (who did much of the original work on Famennian spores) has been involved with much of the species identification.

**Geoffrey Playford** ([g.playford@uq.edu.au](mailto:g.playford@uq.edu.au)): I continue palynological research in a number of areas, geographically and stratigraphically, within the Palaeozoic. Research collaborators include Reed Wicander (Central Michigan University; due to spend his third sabbatical leave at U of Q, February-May, 2012), Heidi Allen (Geological Survey of Western Australia), Leonardo Borghi (Universidade Federal do Rio de Janeiro), John Rigby (Queensland University of Technology), Felipe González and Carmen Moreno (Universidad de Huelva, Spain), and José Henrique Gonçalves de Melo (Petrobras Research Centre, Rio de Janeiro). Currently (August 2011 through January 2012) working with J.H.G.M. on Mississippian palynostratigraphy of the Amazonas and Parnaíba basins (northern Brazil); a further 7-months' sojourn at the Petrobras Research Centre is proposed for 2012. Successful recent palynological PhD (U of Q) supervisees: Marco Quintavalle (Ordovician, Canning Basin, Western Australia); Daniel Mantle (Jurassic, Timor Sea); and Emma Msaky (Middle Jurassic-basal Cretaceous, coastal Tanzania). Their dissertations have been published successively (2006-2011) in *Palaeontographica*, *Abteilung B*.

**Philippe Steemans** ([p.steemans@ulg.ac.be](mailto:p.steemans@ulg.ac.be)): All my publications are available at <http://orbi.ulg.ac.be/simple-search?locale=en&query=Steemans>. Several publications are not in open-access, however, in the lower part of the internet page you may request a copy in filling the form (click first on "request a copy" at the right of the screen). The most recent publications are listed below in this newsletter.

Our annual PPMB meeting (Palynologists and Plant Micropaleontologists from Belgium) took place during late November. Around thirteen PhD students and professionals were present. The list of the talks is available at <http://hdl.handle.net/2268/105852>.

Thanks to the courtesy of Paul Strother, we are together working on the cryptospore-like palynomorphs from the Cambrian of Arizona. With the help of Kevin Lepot (Lille, France) and Emmanuelle Javaux (Liège, Belgium) I'm using FTIR techniques to identify the biochemical composition of the wall of those palynomorphs. Up to now, we did not succeed to clearly identify the wall composition. More accurate analysis will be done next year.

Several years ago, during 2006, I had published an enigmatic palynomorph in a CIMP newsletter (<http://hdl.handle.net/2268/17175>). Discouraged by the difficulty to find a biological affinity I had stopped my research on them. Based on pictures of tintinnids in the internet, I'm now convinced that there is a strong affinity between both. FTIR analysis has also been done on a specimen. The first results would seem to show that the biochemical composition could be close to the chitinozoan wall.

Of course we are still working on material from Saudi Arabia (together with Pierre Breuer, Charlie Wellman, Alain Le Hérisse, Florentin Paris and many other friends), especially on the Qusaiba-1 borehole, which contains the oldest trilete spores of the world (Darriwillian), YESSSSSSSS! (<http://hdl.handle.net/2268/15579>).

Together with Pierre Breuer I hope, that next year we will have the pleasure to see published the stratigraphic and systematic parts of the PhD thesis of Pierre (Breuer, P., Steemans, P., In-press. Devonian miospores from Saudi Arabia and North Africa. *Palaeontol.*). It will be a great reward for the wonderful work Pierre has done. We hope also to see published another paper (Steemans, P., Petus, E., Breuer, P., Mauller-Mendlowicz, P., Gerrienne, P., in-press. Palaeozoic innovations in the micro- and megafossil plant record: from the earliest plant spores to the earliest seeds, in: Talent, J. (Ed.), *Extinction intervals and biogeographic perturbations through time – Earth and Life Springer*), unfortunately a paper which already need to be updated as it has been approved for publication around three years ago.

With Claudia Rubinstein, I continue the collaboration on miospores from Argentina. This is an exciting work since we have published the oldest cryptospores of the world, YESSSSSSSSSSSS! (<http://hdl.handle.net/2268/72757>). Very fresh new discoveries are on the road to glory (Prestianni et al, 2011 in <http://hdl.handle.net/2268/105852>)



It is not over, but I'm afraid you get tired of reading about me.

**Michael Stephenson** ([mhste@bgs.ac.uk](mailto:mhste@bgs.ac.uk)): I'm pretty active in palynology, beside being the palaeopalynology Editor-in-Chief of *Review of Palaeobotany and Palynology*! At the moment I'm researching palynology applications in shale gas and have some papers in preparation. I'm also working in nearfield and farfield palaeoclimates in the Carboniferous-Permian.

**Marco Vecoli** ([marco.vecoli@aramco.com](mailto:marco.vecoli@aramco.com)): I have recently moved from academia to industry, and I am now working as palynologist at Saudi Aramco Oil Company, in Saudi Arabia. I work mostly on Early Palaeozoic palynomorphs on application to high-resolution biostratigraphy in support of oil exploration in Saudi Arabia. Our work includes detailed taxonomic studies of palynological assemblages, definition and refinement of biozonations, as well as integration of palynological data with sedimentology and sequence stratigraphy.

**Hartmut Jäger** ([jaeger@georesources.de](mailto:jaeger@georesources.de)): In the last two years Palaeozoic palynology, especially spore-pollen studies, was strongly restricted to little side projects beside the major focus on maturation and source rock studies in the Mesozoic to Tertiary. I've still done little bits of Palaeozoic palynostratigraphy, mainly Lower Carboniferous, but also Devonian to Silurian, in Germany and Europe. This year the focus is again on Palaeozoic palynology in northern Africa within a new hydrocarbon related project. In opposite to many other hydrocarbon studies in northern Africa, the main focus is on the uppermost Devonian and Lower Carboniferous. Welcome back ... ☺

### Papers published (2011)

- Breuer, P. & Grahn, Y., 2011. Middle Devonian spore stratigraphy in the eastern outcrop belt of the Parnaíba Basin, northeastern Brazil. *Revista Española de Paleontología*, 43, 1-21.
- Edwards, D., Morris, J.L., Richardson, J.B., Axe, L. & Davies, K.L., 2011 Notes on sporangia and spore masses containing tetrads or monads from the Lower Devonian (Lochkovian) of the Welsh Borderland, U.K.
- Edwards, D., Richardson, J.B., Axe, L. & Davies, K. L., in press. A new group of Early Devonian plants with valvate sporangia containing sculptured permanent dyads. *Bot. J. Linn. Soc.*
- Filipiak, P. 2011. Palynology of the Lower and Middle Devonian deposits in southern and central Poland. *Review of Palaeobotany and Palynology*, 166, 3-4, 213-252.
- Filipiak, P., Zatoń, M. 2011. Plant and animal cuticle remains from the Lower Devonian of southern Poland and their palaeoenvironmental significance. *Lethaia*, 44, 397-409.
- Gerrienne, P., Gensel, P. G., Strullu-Derrien, C., Lardeux, H., Steemans, P., & Prestianni, C., 2011. A simple type of wood in two early Devonian plants. *Science*, 333, 837.
- Ghavidel-syooki, M., Álvaro, J.J., Popov, L., Ghobadi Pour, M., Ehsani, M. H. & Suyarkova, A., 2011. Stratigraphic evidence for the Hirnantian (latest Ordovician) glaciation in the Zagros Mountains, Iran. *Palaeogeography, Palaeoclimatology, Palaeoecology*, 307, 1-16.
- Jan, I. & Stephenson, M.H., 2011. Palynology and correlation of the Upper Pennsylvanian Tobra Formation, Zaluch Nala, Salt Range, Pakistan. *Palynology*, 35, 212-225.
- Morris, J.L., Edwards, D., Richardson, J.B., Axe, L. & Davies, K.L., 2011. New plant taxa from the Lower Devonian (Lochkovian) of the Welsh Borderland, with a hypothesis on the relationship between hilate and trilete spore producers. *Rev. Palaeobot. Palyn.*, 167, 51-61.

- Morris, J.L., Richardson, J.B. & Edwards, D., 2011. Lower Devonian plant and spore assemblages from Lower Old Red Sandstone strata of Tredomen Quarry, South Wales. *Rev. Palaeobot. Palyn.*, 165, 183-208.
- Morris, J.L., Edwards, D., Richardson, J.B. & Axe, L., In press. New dyad-producing plants from the Lower Devonian (Lochkovian) of the Welsh Borderland. *Bot. J. Linn. Soc.*
- Steemans, P., Breuer, P., Petus, E., Prestianni, C., Ville de Goyet, F. de & Gerrienne, P. 2011. Diverse assemblages of Mid Devonian megaspores from Libya. *Review of Palaeobotany and Palynology*, 165, 154-174.
- Steemans, P., & Gerrienne, P. (Eds.), 2011. *Miscellanea Palaeontologica 2011*. Liège, Belgique: PPP.
- Stephenson, M. H. & Al-Mashaikie, S. Z. A. K., 2011. Stratigraphic note: Update on the age of the Akbarah and Kuhlan formations, northwest Yemen. *GeoArabia*, 16, 17-24.
- Stephenson, M.H., 2011. Two new non-haptotypic palynomorph taxa from the Middle Permian Upper Gharif Member, Oman. *Riv. Ital. di Paleont. Strat.*, 117, 211-219.
- Waters, C. N, Somerville, I. D., Stephenson, M. H., Cleal, C. J. & Long, S., 2011. Chapter 3, Biostratigraphy. In: A revised correlation of the Carboniferous rocks of the British Isles. *Geol. Soc., Special Report*, 26.
- Waters, C. N, Somerville, I. D. & Stephenson, M. H., 2011. Chapter 26, International Correlation. In: A revised correlation of the Carboniferous rocks of the British Isles. *Geol. Soc., Special Report*, 26.
- Wicander, R., Clayton, G., Marshall, J. E. A., Troth, I. & Racey, A. 2011. Was the latest Devonian glaciation a multiple event? New palynological evidence from Bolivia. *Palaeogeography, Palaeoclimatology, Palaeoecology*, 305, 75–83.

### Conference Abstracts (2011)

- Abuhmida, F.H., 2011. Ordovician-Lower Silurian palynology of the Murzuq basin, southwest Lybia. *44<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of ASSP*, Southampton.
- Clayton, G., Mason, C.E., Ettensohn, F.R., Lierman, R.T., Goodhue, R., Rooney, A., 2011. Palynological correlation of a Late Devonian dropstone in Kentucky with diamictite-bearing sections in the Appalachians and Bolivia. *44<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of ASSP*, Southampton.
- Jaeger, H., 2011. Carboniferous spore assemblages from the northwestern Upper Rhine Graben, SW-Germany. *44<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of ASSP*, Southampton.
- Lopes, G., Pereira, Z., Fernandes, P., Matos, J., Rosa, D., Oliveira, T., 2011. The geodynamic importance of the Late Cambrian to Late Devonian reworked palynomorphs from the borehole SDJ1, Santa Susana region, Ossa Morena Zone (OMZ), Portugal. *44<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of ASSP*, Southampton..
- Lopes, G., Fernandes, P., Goodhue, R., Pereira, Z., Piçarra, J. (2011). Preliminary account of the Silurian carbon isotope record ( $\delta^{13}\text{C}$ ) from the Barrancos region, Ossa Morena Zone, Portugal. *Goldschmidt Conference*, Mineralogical Magazine, 75(3), p. 1355.
- Lopes, G., Fernandes, P., Pereira, P. (2011) Palynology and carbon isotope stratigraphy of the Ordovician - Silurian rocks of Portugal: palaeogeographic and palaeoclimatic implications. *Seminar "Ciências do Mar, da Terra e do Ambiente 2011"*, University of the Algarve, Faro.
- Matos, J. X., Pereira, Z., Rosa, C. J.P., Rosa, D. R.N., Oliveira, J. T., Relvas, J. M.R.S., 2011. Late Strunian age: a key time frame for VMS deposit exploration in the Iberian Pyrite Belt. *11th Biennial SGA Meeting, Antofagasta, Chile*,
- McLean, D., 2011. A unified Upper Carboniferous stratigraphy for the UK and Netherlands Sectors, southern North Sea. *44<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of ASSP*, Southampton.



- McLean, D., Pendleton, J.L., Owens, B., Bodman, D., 2011. Pennsylvanian (Namurian-Westphalian) miospore assemblages from the west coast of Scotland. *44<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of ASSP*, Southampton.
- Mehlqvist, K., Hagström, J., 2011. Oldest preserved cryptospore containing sporangia and mesofossils from the upper Silurian of Baltica (Gotland, Sweden). *44<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of ASSP*, Southampton.
- Pereira, Z., Lopes, G., Fernandes, P., Matos, J., Rosa, D., Oliveira, T., 2011. Carboniferous palynostratigraphy of the borehole SDJ1 from the Santa Susana region, Ossa Morena Zone, Portugal. *44<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of ASSP*, Southampton.
- Relvas, J. M.R.S., Barriga, F.A.S., Carvalho, J.R.S., Pinto, A.M.M., Matos, J.X., Rosa, C.J.P., Pereira, Z., 2011. Structure, stratigraphy and hydrothermal alteration at the Gavião orebodies, Aljustrel: reconstruction of a dismembered ore-forming system at the Iberian Pyrite Belt and implications for exploration. *11th Biennial SGA Meeting, Antofagasta, Chile*
- Rubinstein, C., Muro, V., & Steemans, P. (2011). Miospores from Ordovician-Silurian Argentinean basins: evolution and relationships with other South American basins. *44<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of ASSP*, Southampton.
- Stephenson, M.H., Jan, I., Al-Mashaikie, S.Z. 2011. Comparison and palynological correlation of Pennsylvanian glaciogene rocks in Oman, Yemen and Pakistan. *44<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of ASSP*, Southampton.
- Streel, M., 2011. A new *Grandispora cornuta* Interval Zone to specify the VCo Oppel Zone in the late Famennian of Western Europe. *44<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of ASSP*, Southampton.
- Taylor, W., 2011. Interpreting the evidence for lower Paleozoic terrestrial (?) autotrophs: What do we think, and what do we know? *44<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of ASSP*, Southampton.
- Wellman, C., 2011. Spore assemblages from the Lower Devonian 'Lower Old Red Sandstone' deposits of Spitsbergen. *44<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of ASSP*, Southampton.

### Subcommission working groups

A few words on subcommission working groups. The ones of you, that have visited the new CIMP homepage have realized already, that subcommission working groups are no longer present on this webpage. Although this was related to the restructuring of the newly build homepage - many thanks to Philippe - it reflects the actual situation of the working groups very well. The former working groups mainly have become inactive and the response to the call for working groups in the last newsletter was very limited (see Newsletter No.9). Finally, no one really wanted to take over responsibility for any working group. So in my opinion, there is no real interest for working groups in the moment and therefore there is nothing to present on the homepage. If you feel a need for a working group and want to organize it, you are very welcome to do so. Please contact Zelia Pereira or me and we will see how it can be integrated in the homepage.

### Reports from past meetings

#### **44<sup>th</sup> Annual AASP Meeting, Southampton, September 2011**

One of the most important international palynological meetings, if not THE international palynological meeting in 2011 was the 44<sup>th</sup> annual meeting of AASP in Southampton. About 85 people from all fields of palynology made it to the National Oceanography Centre at the University of Southampton to this 4-days meeting. Co-organized by John Marshall it was clear, that Palaeozoic palynology will be a remarkable part of it. Even more by organizing a CIMP sponsored session in honour of Bernard Owens, one of the key figures in developing and promoting Palaeozoic palynology, especially spores and pollen, just as CIMP. This promised to become a very interesting meeting. Starting with a field trip to the Isle of White offered no Palaeozoic highlights, but an

interesting view into the Cenozoic record of southern England, just as the experience of both sides of the English summer. Walking along the Cretaceous section in Sandown Bay in heavy, sometimes horizontal rain in the morning and visiting the Paleogene in Whitecliff Bay in wonderful sunshine in the afternoon. In between an extended lunch break in the Dinosaur Isle Museum, Sandown, to get dry and visit the interesting dinosaur exhibition there.



Day one of the scientific program brought us back to our great love - the Palaeozoic. Warming up with 3 talks on Quaternary palynology, the rest of the day was occupied by Palaeozoic palynology. The CIMP sponsored session in honour of Bernard Owens included 14 talks on all aspects of Palaeozoic Palynology, from the Cambrian to the Pennsylvanian, from America to Arabia. Presentations were mainly focused on spores, analog to Bernard's long research record, but also few talks on acritarchs and chitinozoans were included. The day was finished by Maurice Streel with a very personal view on Bernard's career. It was a great journey back to the early days of CIMP. For a CIMP-'youngster' like me, it was very interesting to see, how things have started and what CIMP was all about. I heard even more about the history of CIMP, about the initial motivation and how things were handled, talking to Bernard and Maurice later during this meeting. I really enjoyed talking to both of these grand old men of CIMP and to get a glimpse of the initial spirit of CIMP - learning from the past to improve the future.

Bernard was the man of the meeting. The CIMP-sponsored session in honour to him, the bestowal of the AASP Honorary Membership at the AASP luncheon and the Bernard Owens buffet sponsored by Saudi Aramco - all this honored a prominent key figure of CIMP and of Palaeozoic palynology in general. Throughout all his career, from the post-Doc in Canada in the early sixties, throughout the years in the BGS and finally as Director of the Centre for Palynology at the University of Sheffield, Bernard was promoting Palaeozoic palynology worldwide with a strong link to industry, especially in the Middle East and North Africa. One special legacy of his long career is the 'Bernard Owens Collection' of single grain mount palynological slides, available online at the BGS (<http://www.bgs.ac.uk/taxonomy/spores/collection.html>). This huge collection of several hundred slides of more than 145 taxa is a very valuable resource for the ongoing research of Palaeozoic palynology. Without any doubts, for more than 4 decades Bernard has been a highly influential person in the development of Palaeozoic palynology and also CIMP.



Tuesday the focus went back to younger times with sessions on Mesozoic and



Cenozoic palynology, covering miospore and dinoflagellate biostratigraphy from around the world, from Greenland to Antarctica and from northern Europe to South America and New Zealand. Lots of interesting talks to broaden the horizon of a palaeozoic palynologist. The meeting was finished with a spectacular Conference Dinner on board of the historic british ship HMS Warrior. The ship is docked in Portsmouth and pre-dinner participants could discover this famous 19th Century ship, with several guides to answer all questions. The exquisite dinner was served in the very special atmosphere of the gun deck, with the tables placed between the cannons. It was a great finish for a very well organised meeting.

**44th Annual Meeting of AASP, NOC Southampton**



### Upcoming meetings

#### **EGU General Assembly, Vienna, Austria, April 22-27, 2012**

Beside many other topics the meeting includes several sessions on Biogeosciences, Ocean Sciences and Stratigraphy, Sedimentology & Palaeontology. See also: <http://www.egu2012.eu/home.html>

#### **5<sup>th</sup> Workshop on Non-Pollen Palynomorphs, Amsterdam, The Netherlands, July 2-5, 2012**

The 5<sup>th</sup> Workshop on Non-Pollen Palynomorphs (for example fungal and algal spores, cyanobacteria) is held at the Institute for Biodiversity and Ecosystem Dynamics of the University of Amsterdam, including a one-day (optional) excursion for participants. The workshop will be organized for a maximum of 50 persons. If more than 50 colleagues respond with a pre-registration form then we will put these persons on a waiting list. Are you interested to participate? Then send a message to [b.vangeel@uva.nl](mailto:b.vangeel@uva.nl) asking for the pre-registration form. Those who respond will be informed with further circulars. Final registration will be by paying the registration expenses (probably ca 50 Euro).

#### **45<sup>th</sup> Annual meeting of AASP Joint Meeting with CIMP Spore-Pollen, Acritarch and Chitinozoan subcommissions, Lexington, Kentucky, July 21-25, 2012**

#### **Devonian–Carboniferous Symposium in Honor of Geoff Clayton and Ken Higgs**

A CIMP-sponsored symposium will be convened at the Lexington meeting in honor of

Dr. Geoffrey Clayton and Dr. Kenneth Higgs. For more than three decades, Geoff and Ken have made tremendous contributions to our understanding of Late Paleozoic palynology. Lexington, surrounded by Late Paleozoic age strata, is a perfect venue to celebrate their contributions to late Paleozoic palynology. The post-meeting trip will explore several world-class outcrops that expose Devonian and Carboniferous strata, focusing primarily on the Devonian "black shales", which are the principle source of natural gas production in Kentucky. The shales were deposited during a time of explosive land plant expansion and diversification. From the Middle to Late Devonian, we see the emergence of all the major plant groups that would later contribute to the vast coal accumulations deposited during the Pennsylvanian. Both macro- and micro-fossils are common and collecting is encouraged.

**2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Meeting of IGCP 591 'The early to middle Palaeozoic revolution', Cincinnati, Ohio, July 22-28, 2012**

The objective of IGCP 591 *'The Early to Middle Paleozoic Revolution'* is to investigate this dynamic and important interval in the history and evolution of life and our planet, bridging the gap from the great Ordovician biodiversification to the Devonian terrestrial revolution. Additional to two days of scientific talks, a focus of the meeting is on pre- and post-conference field trips into the lower to middle Palaeozoic strata of the southern Appalachian and Michigan/Illinois basins. For more information see <http://igcp591.org/about.php>.

**XIII.IPC / IX.IOPC 2012 Meeting, Tokyo, Japan, August 23-30, 2012**

The joint meeting of the 13th International Palynological Congress (IPC-XIII 2012) and the 9th International Organisation of Palaeobotany Conference (IOPC-IX 2012) will be held in Chuo University, Tokyo, Japan, under the theme: **Palynology and Palaeobotany in the Century of the Environment**. For detailed information see: <http://www.psj3.org/ipc-iopc2012/Welcome.html>

**29<sup>th</sup> IAS Meeting of Sedimentology, Schladming, Austria, September 10-13, 2012  
'Organofacies and organic geochemistry of European unconventional shale plays' - Session T7S6**

This session is of interest for palynologists focusing on organofacies/palynofacies, just as organic maturation analysis related to shale gas exploration in Europe. The session will address the following palynology related topics: Organofacies: palaeo-environment and syn-sedimentary processes; controls of sequence stratigraphy on organofacies; geochemical characterization: initial TOC and kinetics; maturation and hydrocarbon expulsion. Online abstract submission is now open and deadline is April 30th 2012. For more information see <http://www.sedimentologists.org/meetings/ims-scientific-programme>

**Diversa**

In the last newsletter (No.9) I invited you to join the CIMP Spore-Pollen group on facebook as a new platform for communication within the spore-pollen research community. Like all new things it takes a while until it is accepted and used. Until now 30 people have already joined the group, including some, that have never been part of CIMP. That's great! But there is place for more members and I hope to meet many more of you in the group soon. It's also time for the next step, and use the group as it was ment to be - as a platform for vital communication in Palaeozoic spore-pollen research. It offers a wide range of communication: writing a message, uploading texts, pictures and videos and sharing informations or requests directly by chatting with other members of the group. All this can be done in real time, directly by you without any webmaster. Facebook can be a great tool, not only for private purposes. So try it and build up a new level of communication within the CIMP spore-pollen subcommission.



## Second Announcement

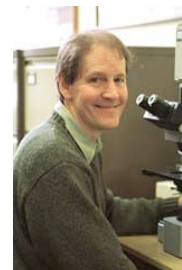
### Now a Joint Meeting: 45<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of AASP – The Palynological Society with the Spore/Pollen, Acritarch and Chitinozoan Subcommissions of CIMP



## University of Kentucky, Lexington, KY July 21 – 25, 2012

### Conference Co-Hosts

Cortland F. Eble, *Kentucky Geological Survey*  
Jennifer M.K. O'Keefe, *Morehead State University*



### Pre-Meeting Field Trip: Natural Bridge State Resort Park and the Red River Gorge National Geological Area (July 21)

Join us in our exploration, on well-maintained walking trails, of early Pennsylvanian sandstone cliffs, natural rock arches, and the unique microclimates and flora contained in this rugged terrain.

### CIMP-Sponsored Devonian – Carboniferous Symposium in Honor of Geoff Clayton and Ken Higgs

Co-chaired by Zélia Pereira and Reed Wicander

Presentations in all aspects of Devonian-Carboniferous palynology and geology in honor of Geoff and Ken's tremendous contributions to our understanding of Late Paleozoic strata are welcome. Contact Zélia ([zelia.pereira@lneg.pt](mailto:zelia.pereira@lneg.pt)) or Reed ([reed.wicander@cmich.edu](mailto:reed.wicander@cmich.edu)) for more information.

### Presentations on a variety of palynological topics and interactions with colleagues from around the world.

We invite your submission of presentations in all aspects of palynology. Studies concentrating on any portion of the geologic column and modern settings are welcome.

### Post-Meeting Field Trip: World-class outcrops of Devonian and Carboniferous Strata (July 25),

Focused on the Devonian "Black Shales" and associated sediments of eastern Kentucky. Both macro- and micro- fossils are common and collecting is encouraged.

Conference website, registration information, abstract submission coming in February 2012! See [www.palynology.org](http://www.palynology.org) or contact Jen O'Keefe ([jokeefe@moreheadstate.edu](mailto:jokeefe@moreheadstate.edu)) or Cortland Eble ([eble@uky.edu](mailto:eble@uky.edu)) for more details.



### Pre-Meeting Field Trip, July 21, 2012

A pre-meeting trip to Natural Bridge State Resort Park ([www.parks.ky.gov/findparks/resortparks/nb](http://www.parks.ky.gov/findparks/resortparks/nb)), located approximately 80 miles SE of Lexington is planned. This will provide attendees a chance to enjoy one of Kentucky's most scenic areas. The centerpiece of the park is a "natural arch" of Early Pennsylvanian sandstone that has been undercut by erosion. The park is transected by several well-maintained walking trails that afford easy access to this beautiful area. The park also has a very comfortable lodge and restaurant.

View from the natural bridge in early fall

### Post-Meeting Trip, July 25, 2012

The post-meeting trip will explore several world-class outcrops that expose Devonian and Carboniferous strata, focusing primarily on the Devonian "black shales." These shales are the principle source of natural gas production in Kentucky, and are being studied for their potential as a reservoir for CO<sub>2</sub> sequestration and enhanced gas production. The shales were deposited during a time of explosive land plant expansion and diversification. From the Middle to Late Devonian, we see the emergence of all the major plant groups that would later contribute to the vast coal accumulations deposited during the Pennsylvanian. Both macro- and micro- fossils are common and collecting is encouraged.

Devonian Shale Outcrop at Vanceburg, KY







<http://www.sedimentologists.org/meetings/ims>

**CALL FOR ABSTRACTS -- CALL FOR ABSTRACTS -- CALL FOR ABSTRACTS**

**Theme 7:** Hydrocarbon systems

**Session 6:** Organofacies and organic geochemistry of European unconventional shale plays

Oral and poster presentations welcome!

**Conveners:** Axel Emmerich (Karlsruhe/Germany)  
Hartmut Jäger (Heidelberg/Germany)

<mailto:a.emmerich@enbw.com>  
<mailto:jaeger@georesources.de>

The success of shale gas exploration in North America – potentially turning North America into a net exporter of gas in coming years – and most recently the emerging shale oil industry has led to the question whether such a story could be replicated in Europe. Many researchers, consulting companies as well as international and national oil companies have come up with different, sometimes controversial answers.

As being proved by recent shale oil and gas case studies in the U.S., the devil is – as usually – in the details. Sweet spot detection and the deliberate search for liquid prone plays are only a few of those examples directly related to the nature of source rocks in unconventional shale exploration and production. Therefore all geoscientists dealing with source rocks in European shale oil and gas plays are encouraged to submit a contribution – either as oral or poster presentations. Since most potential European shale resource plays already have a long lasting record of conventional E&P activities it is expected that the sessions will address the following source rock related topics:

- Organofacies: Palaeoenvironment and syn-sedimentary processes
- Controls of sequence stratigraphy on organofacies
- Geochemical characterisation: initial TOC and kinetics
- Geochemical / petroleum systems modelling: quantification of primary and secondary cracking
- Maturation and hydrocarbon expulsion

**Timeline:**

**April 30<sup>th</sup> 2012: Deadline for submission of abstracts and presenting author registration.**