

The Compleat Mesoangler

A Newsletter About Mesozoic Fishes

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Spain and Mexico Mesozoic Fishes Meetings

An intimate and highly successful meeting of Mesozoic Fishes colleagues was held at Miraflores de la Sierra, near Madrid, Spain, in August of 2005. Titled the "Fourth International Meeting on Mesozoic Fishes - Systematics, Homology, and Nomenclature," it was reported by attendees as an excellent event in a beautiful setting. Thanks go to Francisco Poyato-Ariza and his colleagues for organizing the event.

A volume of extended abstracts was published for the meeting, as

"Poyato-Ariza, F. J., Editor. 2005. Fourth International Meeting on Mesozoic Fishes – Systematics, Homology, and Nomenclature, Miraflores de la Sierra, Madrid, Spain. Extended Abstracts. Universidad Autónoma de Madrid, Madrid, Spain."

Meanwhile, authors have been submitting their manuscripts for full papers in the Mesozoic Fishes series of books under the chief editorship of Gloria Arratia, to be published by Dr. Friedrich Pfeil, Munich, Germany.

The next meeting of the Mesozoic Fishes group will be held in Mexico, organized by Rosario Gómez of the Secretaría de Educación Pública del Estado de Coahuila (S.E.P.C.) and Museo del Desierto de Coahuila (MUDE), Mexico.

Shelton P. Applegate 1928-2005

Shelly Applegate, shark researcher and member of the Mesozoic Fishes group, died in Washington, D.C., on August 20, 2005, after a lengthy illness. Born Nov. 24, 1928, Shelly will be especially remembered for his gregarious personality and his contributions to vertebrate paleontology in México, and will be greatly missed by his colleagues and former students.

Mesozoic Fish Tales: News from Readers

Ichthyodectiform theft (almost): Brian Lee Beatty was kind enough to post to vert paleo the link to the latest on-line edition of PalArch at <http://www.palarch.nl/Palaeontology/palaeontology.htm>. [Editor note: issue no longer available; PalArch papers are available only for the first three months after publication] For those interested in such matters, check out the paper on a new ichthyodectiform. The specimen was found in a trash heap and bearing crude hammer marks, both of which the authors cite as evidence that the specimen was illegally collected and later tossed. There's a very nice color photo of the specimen showing the hammer marks. Dan Chure <danchure@easilink.com>

New Members

Bermúdez Rochas, David Didier Museo Geominero (IGME), Ríos Rosas 23, 28003 Madrid, Spain Telephone: 913495789 Email: d.bermudez@igme.es

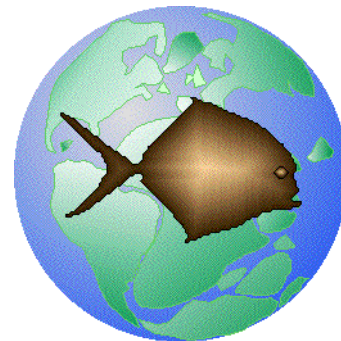
Interests: I'm just beginning my PhD in Mesozoic fishes, so I would appreciate receiving any papers related to this subject. Thank you very much in advance.

Huff, Chris 1008 Minturn Lane, Austin, Texas 78748-6409 USA

Telephone: 512-280-7473 Email:

chuf@peoplepc.com
Interests: I am interested in Mesozoic sharks and tooth replacement in living sharks.

White, Augustus



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Interests: I own a large, relatively popular (4000+ visitors per day) amateur website devoted to paleontology and related matters. The emphasis is on vertebrate paleo. I, and sometimes others, write short articles for the site, usually of a moderately technical nature, based on the primary literature. I'm currently trying to give more coverage to Neopterygii and basal teleosts.

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Squish Fisch Fiche: Recent Publications

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Mexican paleoichthyologists share a happy moment. Seated in the front row (right) is Shelly Applegate, who died on August 20, 2005 (see page 1).

Upcoming Meetings for Mesozoic Fish Workers

VII International Congress on Biology of Fish

July 18-26, 2006

St. Johns' Newfoundland, Canada

url: <http://www.mun.ca/biology/icbf7/index.html>

On-line registration available **Jan. 1, 2006.**

Register before March 15, 2006 and save!

One of the 23 symposia will be:

**Biominalisation in Fish Bones and Teeth:
from Microscopy to Design of Materials.
Organizers: Anne Kemp (University of
Queensland) and Gilles Cuny (Geological
Museum, University of Copenhagen).**

This symposium will discuss all aspects of biomineralisation of the hard tissues of fish, including bone, enamel, enameloid, dentine, calcified cartilage, otoliths and scale tissues. The processes involved in biomineralisation are known in part in some mammals, but little understood in fish. Studies on immunodetection of the proteins involved in the mineralization processes of hard tissues in fish are not very widely used, and the genes coding for these proteins are not always identified. That the fine structure of fish teeth shows an enormous diversity has been known since the early studies of Owen in the nineteenth century, but little of this diversity has been studied with modern techniques of microscopy. Specific adaptations of the ultrastructure of fish dentitions, in relation to stress induced during use of the teeth, have implications for biomaterials research and for the design of more effective machinery for industrial processes. Equally, analysis of the fine structure of bone has implications for biomechanics. Improved understanding of all of these aspects of fish hard tissues has also phylogenetic implications, especially for the relationships among problematic groups of fishes, or between fish and other vertebrates. This symposium will bring ideas from different fields, in biochemistry, genetics, developmental biology, biomaterials and microscopy, together and assist in the development of productive new ideas.

MAR-ECO: Patterns and Processes of the Northern Mid-Atlantic

MAR-ECO is an international exploratory study of the fishes and other animals inhabiting the deep northern mid-Atlantic. Scientists from 16 nations around the northern Atlantic Ocean are participating in research of the waters around the mid-Atlantic Ridge from Iceland to the Azores. This Census of Marine Life (<http://www.coml.org/coml.htm>) project was initiated in 2001 and will last through 2008. Further information can be obtained from the MAR-ECO website: <http://mareco.imr.no/>
Dr. Franz Uiblein, Institute of Marine Research, Dept. of Marine Resources, Nordnesgaten 50, P.b. 1870 Nordnes, N-5817 BERGEN, Norway
Tel.: (+47) 5523-8403, Fax: (+47) 5523-8687,
Email: franz@imr.no, franz.uiblein@imr.no

Heckert, Andrew B. 2005. Late Triassic microvertebrates from the lower Chinle Group (Otischalkian-Adamanian: Carnian), southwestern U.S.A. *New Mexico Museum of Natural History & Science Bulletin* 27:1-170.

A monograph on the taxonomy and stratigraphic distribution of Otischalkian and Adamanian microvertebrates in the southwestern USA. This definitive volume on nonmarine microvertebrates includes 120 figures containing hundreds of SEM illustrations of Upper Triassic microvertebrates from 6 localities in Texas, New Mexico, and Arizona. New taxa include one chondrichthyan, two sphenodonts, and two ornithischian dinosaurs. The volume is \$20 US + shipping and handling and can be ordered online at: <http://nmmnhfoundation.org/mcart/index.cgi?code=3&page=4&cat=12> or go to: <http://nmmnhfoundation.org/mcart/index.cgi> and choose "Museum Bulletins"

The website databases on which Wilson & Bruner's 2004, paper, "Mesozoic fish assemblages of North America" were based have been updated. Now, 1705 references are abstracted. The complete file has been divided into 3 files in order to make it easier to download. Included for the first time is a list of 6636 Mesozoic genera and species, and a list of 2747 higher taxa. *url:* <http://www2.biology.ualberta.ca/wilson.hp/mesofish/MFNA.codes.htm>

9th Symposium on Mesozoic Terrestrial Ecosystems and Biota

June 2006, Manchester, UK

The 9th Symposium on Mesozoic Terrestrial Ecosystems will take place at the University of Manchester from June 27th to June 29th, 2006. This international meeting will provide a forum for palaeontologists and geologists working on different aspects of Mesozoic continental ecosystems to meet and exchange ideas and information. Past meetings have attracted delegates from many different countries and a variety of different disciplines, and have led to a number of important international collaborations.

The symposium will consist of three days of scientific presentations (plenary speakers, regular platform presentations, and posters). Preference will be given to those contributions that focus on the broader implications of Mesozoic biotas (e.g, overviews of particular clades or biotas, palaeoenvironments, palaeobiogeography, etc), rather than narrower descriptive studies. A symposium volume containing the meeting abstracts and short papers will be published and distributed at the meeting.

A short pre-meeting field trip to either the Cretaceous localities on the Isle of Wight or the Middle Jurassic of the Yorkshire Coast is planned, as is a longer post-meeting field trip including a range of classic Triassic, Jurassic, and Cretaceous deposits in Oxfordshire, the Bristol Channel, Devon, and Dorset.

A conference banquet will be held to celebrate the successful closure of the meeting. We also plan to hold two evening receptions: one in the recently refurbished galleries of the Manchester Museum and the other in the picturesque grounds of Hulme Hall (University of Manchester).

For further information, please consult our web site <http://homepage.mac.com/paulselden/MTE/> If you are interested in attending the meeting, please contact either Paul Barrett or Susan Evans (see addresses below) in order to be added to our mailing list.

Paul M. Barrett, Susan E. Evans The Natural History Museum Dept. Anatomy & Dev.Biol. Cromwell Road University College London London SW7 5BD, UK Gower Street, London WC1E 6BT p.barrett@nhm.ac.uk, s.e.evans@ucl.ac.uk

The Sauropterygia

We present you with the first circular for **The Sauropterygia**, a conference dedicated to all aspects of sauropterygian palaeontology to be held under the auspices of the European Association of Vertebrate Palaeontology (EAVP) in Karlsruhe, Germany on 4th - 8th September 2006. The first circular is now available from <http://eavp.alettra.de/> (and click on 'The Sauropterygia'). Alternatively to obtain full details or further information, which can be provided in German, French, Spanish or English, please contact myself (see below) or one of the other members of the organizing committee. Further details will appear on the EAVP web site as they become available: <http://eavp.alettra.de/> With all best wishes, Leslie Noè on behalf of **The Sauropterygia** organizing committee.

The first European Association of Vertebrate Palaeontology (EAVP) Themed Symposium.

Presented by: The Staatliches Museum für Naturkunde and The University of Karlsruhe, Karlsruhe, Germany. 4th -8th September 2006
Announcement and First Circular - Call for expressions of interest and abstracts.

The Sauropterygia will be the first international conference devoted exclusively to all aspects of sauropterygian palaeontology; such a conference has never before been attempted, but is long overdue. Organized and run under the auspices of the European Association of Vertebrate Palaeontology (EAVP), **The Sauropterygia** will be a wide-ranging, cross-disciplinary summary of all the latest and most exciting research into the sauropterygian reptiles, ranging from historical perspectives and current successes to future prospects. **The Sauropterygia** will be a "state of the science" conference and will provide a forum for the presentation of original work, promote the exchange of information and ideas, and offer a unique opportunity for all those interested sauropterygian palaeontology to meet, discuss recent developments and ongoing research, and develop future collaborations. The language of the conference will be English; however, members of the organising committee are also native speakers of German, French, and Spanish, and questions can be answered in these languages if required.

Rationale: The Sauropterygia were some of the earliest known and best preserved Mesozoic vertebrate fossils, and were hugely influential in

both the scientific and public imagination during the first half of the 19th Century, resulting in a rich history to complement modern studies. In recent years there has been a resurgence of interest in the Sauropterygia, with detailed redescription of existing material, exciting new finds, and the application of new methodologies improving our understanding of these magnificent creatures. However, despite recent advances and almost 200 years of study, many aspects of sauropterygian palaeontology remain enigmatic: The early evolution of the Sauropterygia and phylogenetic relationships within the Reptilia remain controversial; relationships within the group are not fully resolved and are often obscure; and although a number of biomechanical and ecological studies have been undertaken, physiology is only just beginning to be explored. The next few years hold the promise of much new research, and this conference offers a unique opportunity for all those interested in any aspect of sauropterygian palaeontology, or the wider topics of reptilian evolution or secondary adaptation to life in water, to meet and discuss these and other relevant topics.

Dr Leslie Noè, Major Projects Officer,
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Second International Palaeontological Congress

June 17-21 2006, Beijing, China

Like the successful First International Palaeontological Congress held in Sydney, Australia, in 2002, the second congress in Beijing, China, will bring together palaeontologists of all specialties from all corners of the world to participate in symposia, general sessions, short courses, and extensive field trips to the most important fossil sites throughout the country.

The congress will be held at Peking University, near the Yuanming Gardens and the Summer Palace in northwestern Beijing. The theme is "Ancient Life and Modern Approaches." The abstract deadline and early registration deadline are both March 1, 2006. More information can be found at the Congress web site: www.ipc2006.ac.cn.

Triassic Research Symposium

CALL FOR PAPERS

A research symposium celebrating the 100th Anniversary of the establishment of the Petrified Forest National Park will be held in Holbrook, Arizona from May 17th through 19th 2006. The symposium will include both invited and volunteered platform and poster presentations as well as field trips to classic Triassic localities in east central Arizona.

Paleontologists and geologists throughout the world are invited to attend the conference and present papers about their research on any aspects of Triassic paleontology and geology worldwide. The papers may be given as either platform or poster presentations.

Extended (two pages and one illustration) abstracts will be accepted through February 10th, 2006. Please indicate if you would prefer the platform or poster format for your presentation. Information regarding registration will be announced in the near future.

The extended abstracts will be published as a supplement to a research volume covering Upper Triassic paleontological research from Petrified Forest National Park that will be published as a Museum of Northern Arizona Bulletin and distributed to attendees at the time of the symposium.

Petrified Forest National Park was established in 1906 to protect petrified wood and other fossils from the Upper Triassic Chinle Formation in northeastern Arizona. These fossils have been researched for over 150 years resulting in the publication of hundreds of papers, forming a cornerstone for Late Triassic paleontological studies in North America.

Please contact one of the following as promptly as possible if you contemplate attending the symposium and/or presenting a paper at it.

William Parker

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CAVEPS 2007

11th Conference on Vertebrate Evolution, Palaeontology and Systematics

Museum of Victoria, Melbourne, AUSTRALIA
9 April - 12 April, 2007.

You are invited to attend the 11th CAVEPS to be held at Museum Victoria, Melbourne Australia. Close to Melbourne are many Devonian fossil fish sites and Early Cretaceous sites with dinosaurs and mammals (excursion 1). CAVEPS is a biennial meeting of vertebrate palaeontologists from around Australia and overseas. CAVEPS 2007 will consist of 4 days of general sessions including papers on all aspects of vertebrate palaeontology, as well as a **fossil fish symposium**.

The conference will be held during the AVCC (Australian Vice Chancellors Commission) common vacation week and will commence on Tuesday 9 April (Monday 8th is Easter Monday), and culminate on Friday 12 of April.

Venue: The meeting will be held in The Age Theatre within Museum Victoria, a modern museum situated close to the city centre. Facilities will be available for slide and Powerpoint presentations (a call for papers will be issued with the second circular). There will be a welcome function at the Museum and a conference dinner at a local restaurant.

Field trips: Excursion 1. A field trip will follow the conference. It is planned to visit the famous Early Cretaceous sites in the Strzelecki Group along the coast east of Melbourne. These have produced several dinosaurs, the last known stereospondyl amphibian, and, most recently, at least three mammals. This trip will continue to the northeast of Victoria to visit Devonian fish sites, returning via the Yarra Valley, one of the best wine growing regions in Australia. This trip should take 4-5 days.

Excursion 2. For those with limited time a day trip to the Cretaceous sites may be possible.

Expressions of interest are sought for CAVEPS 2007. Please forward a brief reply to indicating whether you hope to attend the conference and would like to remain on the mailing list.

Stella Claudius

email: sclaudia@museum.vic.gov.au

Conference convenors:

John Long: logistics

email: jlong@museum.vic.gov.au

Anne Warren: registration, program, accommodation, dinner, venue

email: a.warren@latrobe.edu.au