

The Compleat Mesoangler

A Newsletter About Mesozoic Fishes

Volume 12, Number 1

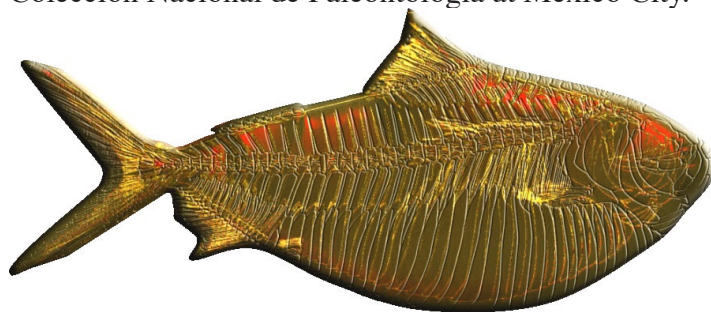
February 20, 2008

FIFTH INTERNATIONAL MEETING ON MESOZOIC FISHES: GLOBAL DIVERSITY AND EVOLUTION

SALTILLO, MEXICO

Scientific sessions AUG 31-SEPT 3, 2009

The international meeting will be hosted at the “Museo del Desierto”, Saltillo City, Coahuila State, Northern Mexico. We plan to have a short visit to some of the fossil localities in the Saltillo region on September 4th. In addition, we will offer two excursions to the most important Mexican fossil fish localities: **1)** the Tlayúa quarry in Tepexi de Rodríguez, Puebla (some days before the scientific sessions), and **2)** Vallecillos, Nuevo León (after the scientific sessions). The first excursion will also include a visit to the paleoichthyological Mexican collections housed in the Colección Nacional de Paleontología at México City.



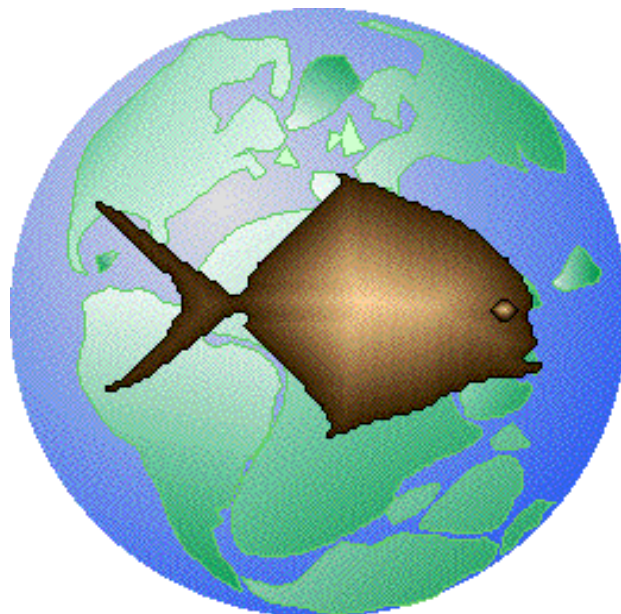
Preliminary schedule:

August 26th. Visit to the paleontological collection at UNAM, México City (*optional*).

August 27th-29th. Excursion to the Tlayúa quarry, Puebla State (*optional*).

August 31st-September 3rd. Oral and poster sessions at the Museo del Desierto.

September 4th. Visit to some paleontological localities



in Coahuila State.

September 5th-7th. Excursion to the Vallecillos quarry, Nuevo León State (*optional*)

Time schedule

The pre-registration form must be sent before **June 30th, 2008**.

The second circular will be forwarded soon with detailed information regarding the deadlines for payment of fees, funding, and abstract submission. ■

ASIH GIBBS AWARD TO GLORIA ARRATIA

At the July 2007 annual meeting of the American Society of Ichthyologists and Herpetologists held in St. Louis, Missouri, USA, a symposium was held in honor of Dr. Gloria Arratia, well known to TCM readers. By a happy coincidence, Gloria was also the recipient of the Robert H. Gibbs Award, the Society's highest award for lifetime achievement in Systematic Ichthyology. (continued on page 13)

Obituaries

Vladimir Menner, of the Institute of Geology and Exploitation of Combustible Fuels (IGIRGI), 50 Fersmana St., Moscow, 117312, Russia, died Monday on September 18, 2006 of a heart attack. ■

Annie Valérie Dhondt (1942-2006)

Distinguished paleontologist Annie Dhondt, who specialized in Mesozoic molluscs, died recently. TCM member Dirk Nolf published a full biographical obituary with list of publications here:

NOLF, D. 2007. Annie Valérie Dhondt 1942-2006. Bulletin de L'Institut Royal des Sciences Naturelles de Belgique, Sciences de la Terre. **Vol. 77**:5-14.

In addition, a brief biography with a photo of Dr. Dhondt appears in Acta Paleontologica Polonica accessible at this web address:

<http://www.geo.uw.edu.pl/agp/table/pdf/56-4/dhondt.pdf> ■

Dr. Yael Chalifa (1940-2006)

Paleontological Legacy of Yael Chalifa by Mark Wilson with text by Henk K. Mienis

In August of 2007 we learned of the death of Mesozoic Fishes worker Dr. Yael Chalifa, even though she had passed away in January of 2006. We learned of her untimely death when Dr. Henk Mienis of Tel Aviv University was compiling a collection of her reprints, after having written an obituary that was published in the Annual Report of the National Collections of Natural History at Tel Aviv University, Israel. In the spring of 2007 the collection had received about 120 paleontological objects and numerous books from Yael's husband, Mr. Avraham Chalifa (Jerusalem).

Dr. Mienis writes, "The paleontological collection contains a variety of fossil plants and animals (mainly fishes, mollusks, brachiopods, and insects) from Israel (among others from HaMakhtesh HaGadol, Makhtesh Ramon and Nahal Tavor), Canada, Brazil and several European countries."

Yael was born as Yael Ben-Shem in Tel Aviv



Yael Chalifa during field work in Canada in 1987

in 1940. She married Avraham Chalifa, a building engineer. They lived in Jerusalem where they had three daughters and two sons. After the children were in school, Yael enrolled at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem. She completed her M.Sc. thesis in 1980 on "The anatomy, systematic position and evolutionary level of *Pachyamia latimaxillaris* n. gen. n. sp. (Holostei, Amiidae), from the Lower Cenomanian of Ein-Yabrud (Ramallah area) [in Hebrew]" and her Ph.D. in 1986 concerning "The systematic position, phylogeny and ecological relationships of the Enchodontiformes n. order, from the Lower Cenomanian of Ein-Yabrud (Ramallah) [in Hebrew]. Both degrees were supervised by the distinguished paleontologist Prof. Eitan Tchernov. Yael was also assisted during her M.Sc. studies by Prof. Georg Haas.

In 1987 Yael spent a year with her two sons, working on a postdoctoral position with Mark Wilson in Edmonton, Canada, where she participated in field work and studied Late Cretaceous fishes from Alberta.

She had anticipated obtaining a position on her return in the paleontological collections of the Hebrew University, but was very disappointed when it failed to happen. Yael was also devastated by two personal tragedies at about this time. Her younger son was killed before her eyes when struck by a vehicle within a year after their return from Canada. In addition, her best friend, the botanist Dr. Ruhama Berliner, was among many tourists who were murdered by terrorists during a bus tour of the Sinai.

Yael's papers on the Cretaceous fish fauna of Ein Yabrud were published in international journals including *Palaeontology*, *Journal of Paleontology*, and *Journal of Vertebrate Paleontology*. Nevertheless, she received very little in the way of funding to pursue further research. Instead, she worked for some time as a school teacher, although she participated in the 1993 Mesozoic Fishes meeting in Eichstätt and subsequent field trip.

In recent years she organized a series of lectures in geology and paleontology, including fieldtrips, for the Avshalom Institute in Tel Aviv. However, her

work was cut short when she was diagnosed as having cancer of the pancreas, liver, and stomach. Yael died on 8 January 2006.

The death of Yael cost her nation its foremost expert on paleoichthyology and deprived the Mesozoic Fishes community of an opportunity to build upon her important, earlier works. In total she published nine papers, naming five new genera and eight new species. Her paleontological collection and library are housed in the National Collections of Natural History of Tel Aviv University.

Lists compiled by Henk K. Mienis:

Publications (in chronological order)

01. Chalifa, Y. & Tchernov, E., 1982. *Pachyamia latimaxillaris*, new genus and species (Actinopterygii: Amiidae), from the Cenomanian of Jerusalem. *Journal of Vertebrate Paleontology*, 2 (3): 204-285.
02. Chalifa, Y., 1985. *Saurorhamphus judeaensis* (Salmoniformes: Enchodontidae), a new longirostrine fish from the Cretaceous (Cenomanian) of Ein-Yabrud, near Jerusalem. *Journal of Vertebrate Paleontology*, 5 (3): 181-193.
03. Raab, M. & Chalifa, Y., 1987. A new Enchodontid fish genus from the Upper Cenomanian of Jerusalem, Israel. *Palaeontology*, 30 (4): 717-731.
04. Chalifa, Y., 1989. New species of *Enchodus* (Pisces: Enchodontoidei) from the Lower-Cenomanian of Ein-Yabrud, Israel. *Journal of Paleontology*, 63 (3): 356-364.
05. Chalifa, Y., 1989. *Yabrudichthys* and *Serrilepis*, two new genera of Enchodontoids (Teleostei) from Lower Cenomanian beds of 'Ein-Yabrūd, Israel. *Israel Journal of Zoology*, 36: 11-38.
06. Chalifa, Y., 1989. Two new species of Longirostrine fishes from the Early Cenomanian (Late Cretaceous) of Ein-Yabrud, Israel, with comments on the phylogeny of the Dercetidae. *Journal of Vertebrate Paleontology*, 9 (3): 314-328.
07. Wilson, M.V.H. & Chalifa, Y., 1989. Fossil marine Actinopterygian fishes from the Kaskapau Formation (Upper Cretaceous: Turonian) near Watino, Alberta. *Canadian Journal of Earth Sciences*, 26: 2604-2620.
08. Chalifa, Y. & Lewy, Z., 1991. Early Maastrichtian marine Teleosts from the Northern Negev, Israel. *Israel Journal of Earth Sciences*, 40: 91-106.
09. Chalifa, Y., 1996. New species of *Enchodus* (Aulopiformes: Enchodontidae) from the Northern Negev, Israel, with comments on evolutionary



Yael Chalifa attending the first Mesozoic Fishes meeting in Eichstätt, in 1993

trends in the Enchodontoidei. In G. Arratia & G. Viohl (Eds.): *Mesozoic Fishes I – Systematics and Paleoecology*, 349-367. Verlag Dr. Friedrich Pfeil, München.

New Taxa (in chronological order)

Pachyamia Chalifa & Tchernov, 1982

Pachyamia latimaxillaris Chalifa & Tchernov, 1982

Saurorhamphus judeaensis Chalifa, 1985

Parenchodus Raab & Chalifa, 1987

Parenchodus longipterygius Raab & Chalifa, 1987

Enchodus brevis Chalifa, 1989

Yabrudichthys Chalifa, 1989

Yabrudichthys striatus Chalifa, 1989

Serrilepis Chalifa, 1989

Serrilepis longidens Chalifa, 1989

Rhynchodercetis gracilis Chalifa, 1989

Dercetoides Chalifa, 1989

Dercetoides venator Chalifa, 1989

Enchodus zinensis Chalifa, 1996

List of type specimens of fossil fish species described by Yael Chalifa and preserved in the Paleontological Collection of the Hebrew University of Jerusalem

Family Amiidae

Pachyamia latimaxillaris Chalifa & Tchernov, 1982

Holotype HJY EY 640. Ein-Yabrud, Lower Cenomanian, Bet-Meir Formation.

Family Dercetidae

Dercetoides venator Chalifa, 1989

Holotype: HJY EY 175. Ein-Yabrud, Lower Cenomanian, Amminadav Formation, Judea Group.

Rhynchodercetis gracilis Chalifa, 1989

Holotype: HJY EY 330. Ein-Yabrud, Lower Cenomanian, Amminadav Formation, Judea Group.

Family Enchodontidae

Enchodus brevis Chalifa, 1989

Holotype HJY EY 466. Ein-Yabrud, Lower Cenomanian, Amminadav Formation.

Paratype HJY EY 236. All from the type locality.

Enchodus zinensis Chalifa, 1996

Syntypes HJY OR 1, 2, 3, 5, 29, 45, 54, 83, 95, 120, 130, 133, 152, 173, 174, 179, 301, 302 and 900. Oron Syncline, near Giv'at Mador and Zin Syncline near Har-Zin, Northern Negev, Israel, Oil shale member, Ghareb Formation, Mount Scopos Group. Lower

Maastrichtian.

Remarks: Many additional fragments are mentioned in the text; however, none has been included among the syntypes. The discussed material came from two different localities, but a type locality was not selected. *Parenchodus longipterygius* Raab & Chalifa, 1987
Holotype HJY P 163. Givat Shaul, Jerusalem. Upper Cenomanian, laminated limestone member of the Kefar-Shaul formation.

Remarks: Seven other specimens are mentioned in the original description: HJY P 143, 150, 1502, 1503, 1504, 1508 and HJY DY 15, but nowhere are they indicated as being paratypes.

Family Europholidae

Saurorhamphus judeaensis Chalifa, 1985

Holotype EY 666. Ein Yabrud, Lower Cenomanian, Amminadav Formation.

Remark: Eight other specimens in the Paleontological Collection of the Hebrew University of Jerusalem are mentioned in the original description: HJY EY 301, 82, 141, 305, 306, 310, 647 and 689, but nowhere are they indicated as being paratypes.

Family Serrilepididae Chalifa, 1989

Serrilepis longidens Chalifa, 1989

Holotype: HJY EY 489. Ein-Yabrud, Lower Cenomanian, Amminadav Formation.

Paratypes (18): HJY EY 26, 30, 32, 156, 355, 372, 373, 414, 415, 417, 418, 469, 495, 545, 602, 661, 672, and 689. All from the type locality.

Family unknown

Yabrudichthys striatus Chalifa, 1989

Holotype HJY EY 410. Ein-Yabrud, Lower Cenomanian, Amminadav Formation. ■

New Members

There are currently 245 subscribers to TCM.

Berrell, Rodney William Vertebrate Palaeontology & Biomechanics Lab, School of Integrative Biology, The University Of Queensland, Brisbane QLD, 4072 Australia *Telephone:* 612-47878813 *Email:* s4138223@students.uq.edu.au

Interests: Paleobiology of Mesozoic fishes of Australia,

Blanco-Piñón, Alberto Centro de Investigaciones en Ciencias de la Tierra, Universidad Autónoma del Estado de Hidalgo, Apdo. Postal 1-288, Admón. 1. Pachuca, Hidalgo. CP. 42001, México *Telephone:* 771 7172000 ext 6621 *Email* albblanc@yahoo.com

Interests: Lower Turonian Fossil fish Lagerstätten in Mexico and their relationship to oceanic anoxic events, with special interest in OAE-2. Need for bachelor or master students interested in taphonomy and anoxic events.

Bucinkas-Bichell, Jonas Petras 20784 Old York Road, Parkton, Maryland, 21120-9139 USA *Telephone:* 443-465-5231 *Email* jonasbichell@yahoo.com

Interests: I am a scientific illustration student at Virginia Commonwealth University and a volunteer at the Smithsonian Museum of Natural History paleo department. I am an avid fossil collector as well as an interested reader.

Capasso, Luigi University Museum, State University “Gabriele d’Annunzio”, Piazza Trento e Trieste, 1, I - 66100 Chieti, Italy *Telephone:* +39.0871.410927; *Fax:* +39.0871.410927; *url:* www.unich.it/museum; *Email:* l.capasso@unich.it

Interests: Pycnodonts anatomy and paleoecology, fossil fish reproduction, palaeophysiology.

Faggotter, Stephen John 53 Zetland Street, Upper Mount Gravatt, 4122 Brisbane, Australia *Tel.:* +61402474481
Email: s4107538@student.uq.edu.au

Interests: Cretaceous (Albian-Cenomanian) fishes from Winton Formation of Central-Western Queensland, Australia.

Hagdorn, Hans Muschelkalk Museum, Schloss-Str. 11, 74653 Ingelfingen, Germany *Tel:* 0049 (1) 7940-59500 *Email* encrius@hagdorn-ingelfingen.de

Interests: Palaeobiogeography and palaeoecology of Triassic fishes.

Hamm, Shawn A. 1030 Grimes Dr., Forney, Texas 75126-5129 USA *telephone:* 972-564-2445 *Email* sahamm@sbcglobal.net

Interests: I am currently researching the stratigraphic and geographic distribution of the Cretaceous shark genus *Ptychodus* within the Western Interior Seaway. I am also interested in all Carboniferous and Mesozoic fishes.

Irwin, Kelly Arkansas Game & Fish Commission, 915 E. Sevier St., Benton, Arkansas 72015 USA *Telephone:* (877)847-2690 *Email:* kirwin@agfc.state.ar.us

Interests: Late Cretaceous marine vertebrate communities. Currently (Jan. 2008) I am working on a paper, in collaboration with Chris Fielitz, reporting the first records of ichthyodectiform fishes (*Saurocephalus* & *Xiphactinus*) from Arkansas, USA.

Jawad, Laith A. 15 Birkinshire Grove, Upper Hutt, Wellington, New Zealand *Email:* Laith.jawad@hotmail.com

Interests: I am interested in fish otoliths, osteology and scale morphology.

Khare, Praveen NBFGR Lucknow, India
Praveen.khare@gmail.com

Klug, Stefanie Museum für Naturkunde Berlin Paläontologie Invalidenstraße 43, 10115 Berlin, Germany *Tel:* 0049 30 2093 8658 *Fax:* 0049 30 2093 8868 *Email:* stefanie.klug@museum.hu-berlin.de

Interests: Taxonomy and systematics of Mesozoic neoselachians. I am currently preparing my Ph.D. thesis on the phylogeny and diversity of basal galeomorph sharks.

Ladwig, Joachim Pastoratstoft 1, Norderbrarup D-24392 Germany *telephone:* 0049-4641-988140 *Email:* joachim.ladwig@gmx.de

Interests: I’m interested in Mesozoic sharks and the evolution of sharks of all ages. My main interests are the sharks of the Cretaceous. I’m working on Cretaceous bony fishes, too. (I’m especially interested in *Cylindracanthus cretaceus*, as I’ve just found an interesting fossil of it. Does anyone have good literature on *Cylindracanthus cretaceus*?).

Near, Thomas J., Dept. Ecology and Evolutionary Biology, Yale University, New Haven, Connecticut, 06520-8106 U.S.A. *Telephone:* (203) 432-3002 *Email:* thomas.near@yale.edu

Interests: I am engaged in several research projects that are attempting to use the fossil record of actinopterygians to calibrate molecular phylogenies. Time-calibrated phylogenies are being used to investigate patterns and tempo of diversification for many actinopterygian clades.

Also, I am developing methods to assess sampling of fossil information in calibrating molecular phylogenies. Many of my current projects are utilizing

Mesozoic fossils and paleogeographic events.

NuXez, Matias Soto 1663 Constituyente St., C.P. 11200 Montevideo, Uruguay *Telephone:* 401 08 09
Email: soto@adinet.com.uy

Interests: Currently working with Late Jurassic-Early Cretaceous ichthyofaunas of Uruguay (South America), including hybodontid sharks (*Priohybodus*), ceratodontiform dipnoans (*Asiatoceratodus/Arganodus*) and semionotids (cf. *Lepidotes*).

Popov, Evgenii Valerievich Department of Paleontology, Geological Faculty, Saratov State University, 83 Astrakhanskaya Str., Saratov 410012, Russia *telephone:* +7 8452 527545; *Email:* popovev@san.ru

Interests: Chondrichthyan fishes: Mesozoic and Cenozoic chimaeroid fishes (Holocephali), worldwide; Triassic Paleogene elasmobranchians (sharks, rays and skates) from European Russia. Vital function traces (coprolites) of chondrichthyan fishes.

Spears, Sarah Zoanne Dinosaur Discovery Site at Johnson Farm, 2180 E Riverside Dr., Saint George, Utah 84790-2483 USA *Telephone:* 435-660-1186. *URL:* <http://www.dinotrax.com> *Email:* sarah.spears@sgcity.org

Interests: I am currently researching Late Triassic/Early Jurassic semionotids and paleoniscoids from the Chinle, Moenave, and Kayenta Formations in Southern Utah. ■

Email/Snail Mail Address

Updates:

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New website:

<http://www.fossil-shark-research.com>

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1170 Brussels, BELGIUM email: louis.taverne@gmail.com

Squish Fisch Fiche: Recent Publications

Adnet, S., & Cappetta, H. 2001. A palaeontological and phylogenetical analysis of squaliform sharks (Chondrichthyes: Squaliformes) based on dental characters. *Lethaia*. **Vol. 34**:234-248.

Arratia, G., & Schultze, H.-P. 2007. *Eurycormus* - *Eurypoma*, two Jurassic actinopterygian genera with mixed identity. *Fossil Record*. 10:17-37.

Babcock, L. E., Leslie, S. A., Elliot, D. H., Stifall, A. L., Ford, L. A., & Briggs, D. E. G. 2006. The “Preservation Paradox”: microbes as a key to exceptional fossil preservation in the Kirkpatrick Basalt (Jurassic), Antarctica. *The Sedimentary Record*. **Vol. 4**(4):4-8.

Bardet, N., Houssaye, A., X. Pereda Suberbiola, X., & Rage, J.-C. 2007. The marine squamates (reptiles) from the Cenomanian-Turonian of the Tethys: a noteworthy radiation. pp. 26-28. *IN*: Bulot L. G., Ferry, S., & Grosheny, D. (eds.) *Notebooks on Geology: Memoir*. [Relations between the northern and southern margins of the Tethys ocean during the Cretaceous period]. Réunion thématique 2006 du Groupe Français du Crétacé. . Vol. 2007/02 (CG2007_MO2). École des Mines de Paris (27 et 28 Novembre 2006). 59 pp.

Bean, L. B. 2006. The leptolepid fish *Cavenderichthys talbragarensis* (Woodward, 1895) from the Talbragar Fish Bed (Late Jurassic) near Gulgong, New South Wales. *Records of the Western Australian Museum*. **Vol. 23**:43-76.

Becker, M. A., Chamberlain, J. A., Jr., & Wolf, G. E. 2006. Chondrichthyans from the Arkadelphia Formation (Upper Cretaceous: Upper Maastrichtian) of Hot Spring County, Arkansas. *Journal of Paleontology*. **Vol. 80**:700-716.

Blanco-Piñón, A. 2005. Lamnoid vertebrae from the Agua

Nueva Formation (Upper Cretaceous: Lower Turonian), northeastern Mexico. *Revista Mexicana de Ciencias Geológicas*. **Vol. 22**:19-23

Brinkman, D. B., Russell, A. P., & Peng, J.-H. 2005. Chapter 5. Vertebrate microfossil sites and their contribution to studies of paleoecology. pp. 88-98. *IN*: Currie, P. J., and Koppelhus, Eva B. (ed.). *Dinosaur Provincial Park. A Spectacular Ancient Ecosystem Revealed*. Indiana University Press, Bloomington, Indiana. 648 pp.

Brinkman, D. B., Braman, D. R., Neuman, A. G., Ralrick, P. E., & Sato, T. 2005. Chapter 26. A vertebrate assemblage from the Marine shales of the Lethbridge Coal Zone. pp. 486-500. *IN*: Currie, P. J., and Koppelhus, Eva B. (ed.). *Dinosaur Provincial Park. A Spectacular Ancient Ecosystem Revealed*. Indiana University Press, Bloomington, Indiana. 648 pp.

Cappetta, H., Buffetaut, E., Cuny, G., & Suteethorn, V. 2006. A new elasmobranch assemblage from the Lower Cretaceous of Thailand. *Palaeontology*. **Vol. 49**:547-556.

Cavin, L. 1997. New Teleostei from the Lower Turonian locality of Goulmima (Morocco). *C. R. Acad. Sci. Paris, Sciences de la terre et des planetes/Earth and Planetary Sciences*. **Vol. 325**:719-724.

Cavin, L. 1996. *Goulmimichthys arambourgi* n. g. n. sp., un Pachyrhizodontidae (Actinopterygii, Teleostei) d'une nouvelle localité à nodules fossilifère du Turonien inférieur marocain. *C. R. Acad. Sci. t. 321, série IIa*:1049-1054.

Cavin, L., Cappetta, H., & Séret, B. 1995. Révision de *Belemnobatis morinicuws* (Sauvage, 1873) du Portlandien du Roulonnais (Pas-de-Calais, France). Comparaison avec quelques Rhinobatidae Jurassiques. *Geologica et Palaeontologica*. **Vol. 29**:245-267.

Cavin, L., Forey, P. L., Buffetaut, E., & Tong, H. 2005. Latest European coelacanth shows Gondwanan affinities. *Biology Letters*. doi:10.1098/rsbl.2004.0287:1-3.

Cavin, L., & Grigorescu, D. 2005. A new *Crossognathus* (Actinopterygii, Teleostei) from the Lower Cretaceous of Romania with comments on *Crossognathidae* relationships. *Geodiversitas*. **Vol. 27**:5-16.

Cavin, L., Suteethorn, V., Buffetaut, E., & Tong, H. 2007. A new Thai Mesozoic lungfish (Sarcopterygii, dipnoi) with an insight into post-Palaeozoic dipnoan evolution. *Zoological Journal of the Linnean Society*. 149: 141-177.

Cione, A. L., & Prasad, G. V. R. 2002. The oldest known catfish (Teleostei: Siluriformes) from Asia (India, Late Cretaceous). *Journal of Paleontology*. **Vol. 76**:190-193.

Cook, T. D. 2006. Upper Cretaceous Selachian teeth from the Kaskapau Formation near Watino Alberta. ABSTRACT OF POSTER NO. 21. p. 127. *IN*: Abstracts of the CSZ / SCZ 45th Annual Meeting / 45ième reunion annuelle. May 3- May 6, 2006. University of Alberta, Edmonton, Alberta, Canadian Society of Zoologists, University of Alberta, Edmonton, Alberta. 157 pp.

Courville, P. 2007. [Late Cretaceous faunal exchange and colonization (Ammonitina) between the Tethys and the South Atlantic: Atlantic or Saharan routes?]. pp. 16-19. *IN*: Bulot L. G., Ferry, S., & Grosheny, D. (eds.) Notebooks on Geology: Memoir. [Relations between the northern and southern margins of the Tethys ocean during the Cretaceous period]. Réunion thématique 2006 du Groupe Français du Crétacé. . Vol. 2007/02 (CG2007_MO2). École des Mines de Paris (27 et 28 Novembre 2006). 59 pp.

da Silva, H. M. A., & Gallo, V. 2007. Parsimony analysis of endemism of enchodontid fishes from the Cenomanian. Notebooks on Geology - Letter **CG2007_L01**: 1-8.

Dietze, K. 2007. Redescription of *Dastilbe crandalli* (Chanidae, Euteleostei) from the Early Cretaceous Crato Formation of North-Eastern Brazil. *Journal of Vertebrate Paleontology*. **Vol. 27(1)**:8-16.

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Messel on Tour

Touring Exhibition with Eocene Treasures from the German World Heritage Monument Messel Pit Available for Booking.

The Grube Messel fossil site was inscribed in the World Heritage List of the UNESCO in 1995. It is an Eldorado for palaeontologists because its rich and highly diversified invertebrate and vertebrate fauna reflects a 47-million-year-old ecosystem right down to the smallest details. Especially the mammals are world-famous because of their diversity and excellent preservation. The Hessisches Landesmuseum houses the oldest and one of world's most important Messel collections and is intensively engaged in the field work, research activities, the curation and the public presentation of the respective fossils for decades of years.

In 2001, it acquired an excellent private collection which consists exclusively of aesthetically pleasant and very rare Messel fossils. The approval of monetary support for this acquisition was combined with the obligation to make it available to the general public. The 10th anniversary of the inclusion of the Messel Pit in the UNESCO World Heritage List is yet a good reason to fulfil this duty in form of an exhibition that is able to travel around the world. This exhibition will not only present the 2001 acquisitions, but all other important original specimens from the HLMD Messel collection. Among them is the unique, world famous anteater *Eurotamandua joresi*, the primeval tapir *Hyrachyus minimus*, and, of course, the famous primeval horses of the genus *Propalaeotherium*. It will be the most complete and spectacular assemblage of rare and famous Messel fossils that has ever been brought together and arranged as a touring exhibition ready for public display.

The exhibition will be presented at HLMD and other

museums in Germany at first and presently is available for further bookings from autumn 2008. A pdf with more comprehensive information is available at <http://www.hlmd.de/w3.php?nodeId=573>. You may also contact us at messel-on-tour@hlmd.de. ■



Thaumaturus intermedius HLMD-Be 17

ONLINE INFORMATION ON FOSSIL FISHES, AMPHIBIANS, & REPTILES (TRIASSIC to RECENT, especially NEOGENE)

<http://www.wahre-staerke.com/>

As of April 18, 2006, there were 2656 localities with 10997 records of 1796 taxa with 1518 references from 89 countries recorded, and is still growing. The database of Lower Vertebrates is a relational MySQL database running under LINUX on a webserver. The data are compiled by Madelaine Boehme, Munich and August Ilg, Duesseldorf. Additional information can be found on Madelaine's homepage (<http://www.wahre-staerke.com/~madelaine/>). Cite the data as reference:

Boehme M., Ilg A. 2003: fosFARbase, www.wahre-staerke.com/

The database was started within the EEDEN programme (Environments and Ecosystem Dynamics of the Eurasian Neogene, 2000-2004). We acknowledge the support of the ESF (European Science Foundation) during this time. Email contact: Madelaine Boehme: m.boehme@lrz.uni-muenchen.de, August Ilg:

August.Ilg@t-online.de ■

New Books:

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Adnet, Sylvain. 2006. Nouvelles faunes de Sélaciens (Elasmobranchii, Neoselachii) de l'Eocène moyen des Landes (Sud-Ouest, France). *Palaeo Ichthyologica* VOL. 10:1-128 pp. 40 plates, 12 figures, 1 tables, 30cm. Paperback. ISBN:9783899370690 Inventory number: 004287

Paleontological explorations in the paleogene deposits from the southern part of the Aquitanian basin led to the discovery of two new fossil selachian associations in the bathyal marls of Landes (South-western of France). These new associations come from two old marl quarries: Tailledis (Saint-Géours-d'Auribat) and Miretrain (Angoumé) and are dated to the Ypresian/Lutetian limit and the Middle Lutetian-lower Bartonian respectively. 91 species are reported and 73 are illustrated. The fauna consists of 29 new taxa in open nomenclature and 27 taxa described as new species. French text.

9783899370690. Nouvelles faunes de Sélaciens (Elasmobranchii, Neoselachii) de l'Eocène moyen des Landes (Sud-Ouest, France)., Adnet

Price = 100.00 GBP ■

9th Annual Paleontology Symposium, University of Kansas

At the Kansas Academy of Science annual meeting. Abstracts are due by February 29, 2008. Mike Everhart will be hosting the 9th annual Paleontology

Symposium during the 140th annual meeting of the Kansas Academy of Science at Emporia State University, Emporia, Kansas, on Saturday, March 29, 2008. More information about abstracts and registrations for the 140th KAS annual meeting can be found at: <http://www.washburn.edu/kas/meeting.html> Or, through Mike Everhart's Paleontology Symposium 2008 web page: <http://www.oceansofkansas.com/KAS2008.html> Joining the Kansas Academy of Science is simple and inexpensive!!

<http://www.washburn.edu/kas/membership.html> ■

The Compleat Mesoangler

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Website for Mesozoic fish references updated

Ever wonder how many described species of Mesozoic fishes there are? The Compleat Mesoangler list of 1921 abstracted Mesozoic fish references has been updated as of November 9, 2006. The list of species and genera now numbers 6636. Users will find the number of shark papers greatly increased and improved. Formatting has also been improved. A new list has been added of formations, or rock units, containing Mesozoic fossil fishes. Although the original emphasis of these lists of fish references was on North American Mesozoic fish papers, Mesozoic fish papers from many other world localities are included. The current endnote file not yet on the website contains 1981 references.

The web site is accessible here:

<http://www2.biology.ualberta.ca/wilson.hp/mesofish/MFNA.codes.HTM> ■

ASIH GIBBS AWARD TO GLORIA ARRATIA

Quoting from the award citation: “The Robert H. Gibbs Jr. Memorial Award for Excellence in Systematic Ichthyology is presented by the ASIH to a citizen of a Western Hemisphere nation for “an outstanding body of published work in systematic ichthyology.” The award was established in 1988 to honor the memory of Bob Gibbs who was an active member of ASIH for over 30 years. He served four terms on the Board of Governors and was treasurer from 1967–1972. He served also on many of the Society’s committees, as well as on the editorial board of *Copeia*. In 1988, he was nominated as a Distinguished Fellow, and was elected posthumously. The Gibbs Award for excellence in systematic ichthyology, made possible by a gift from his wife, Frigga, was established by the Society following Bob’s untimely death in 1988, just short of his 59th birthday. The award is offered annually and consists of a plaque and a cash prize.”

The winner of the award for 2007 is none other than our own Dr. Gloria Arratia. The award presentation took place, rather by coincidence, at the same meeting of ASIH at which a symposium was organized in her honor by Joe S. Nelson, Mark V. H. Wilson, and Hans-Peter Schultze. The subject of the symposium was the origin and early radiation of the Teleostei. It was extremely well attended and many colleagues presented talks and congratulated Gloria on her achievements.

Gloria had previously been made an Honorary Member of ASIH. Honorary membership is itself a great honor, Imagine Gloria’s surprise, then, when the awards presenter began to describe the outstanding career and accomplishments of someone who worked in fields that were very similar to her own interests. Not until the speaker mentioned that the winner was the first female recipient in the award’s 19 year history, and gave additional details about the winner’s accomplishments, did she begin to realize that it might be her.

The award citation says, “This woman is a world-class leader in studies of comparative morphology and evolutionary relationships of actinopterygian fishes. In particular, her research on basal fossil teleosts has been fundamental to our understanding of the



Gloria Arratia attending the St. Louis meeting of the American Society of Ichthyologists and Herpetologists in 2007, where she received the Robert H. Gibbs Award for outstanding contributions to systematic ichthyology.

origin and early evolution of this largest group of vertebrates. Her morphological analyses are paradigms of careful description and synthesis. Combined with modern methods of phylogenetic analysis, her detailed studies have provided new insights into early teleost evolution, leading the path to a better understanding of both fossil and living groups. Although perhaps best known for her work on fossil actinopterygians and relationships of higher groups, she has also made many substantial contributions to the systematics of catfishes.”

Gloria has published more than 100 refereed papers and has edited at least six books. She of course is the chief organizer of the Mesozoic Fishes group of colleagues and has initiated most of its meetings. Congratulations, Gloria, from your friends!

Mark V. H. Wilson