

The Compleat Mesoangler

A Newsletter About Mesozoic Fishes

Volume 4, Number 2

December 28, 1997



Second Mesozoic Fishes Meeting Held

by Mark Wilson

Once again, Mesozoic Fish enthusiasts are indebted to Gloria Arratia, for her efforts – with the assistance of Hans-Peter Schultze and other representatives of the Institut für Paläontologie, Museum für Naturkunde der Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin – in organizing an international meeting on Mesozoic Fishes. This, the second such meeting, was held in Buckow, a small town east of Berlin, Germany. The first meeting had been held in 1993 in Eichstätt.

As you can see from the group photograph above, the meeting was attended by more than 40 people from all over the world. Scientific contributions spanned the geologic column from the Triassic through the Jurassic and Creta-

ceous, to the Recent, and addressed issues as diverse as paleoecology, paleogeography, anatomy, development, and phylogeny (topics were summarized in the previous issue of *The Compleat Mesoangler*). Manuscripts are currently in review for potential inclusion in an edited volume to be published by Verlag Dr. Friedrich PFEIL.

The weather as well as the hotel accommodations and food during the conference were excellent, and the small-town setting surrounded by small lakes and walking trails proved ideal.

I'm already looking forward to the next opportunity to get together with my agreeable and creative colleagues! ■

Mesozoic Fish Tales:

News from Readers

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Current research: I work now in the Musée des Dinosaures, Espéraza, Southern France. The Museum is managed by a private association, Dinosauria (see above WWW address). I work on Late Cretaceous actinopterygians, mainly on a Moroccan marine fauna (Goulmima) and European continental assemblages.

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Current research: I have started my own consulting business (Pacific PaleoQuest). I hope to continue some ichthyolith biostratigraphic and thermal work and to undertake foraminifer biostratigraphic and paleoenvironmental projects.

G. Arratia & G. Viohl, eds.

Mesozoic Fishes: Systematics and Paleoecology

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Current research: I am presently preparing a rather long (40 cm) "complete" part of a rostrum of the Mesozoic ?sclerorhynchid chondrichthyan *Schizorhiza stromeri*. As far as I know no other articulated find of this peculiar fish has been recorded previously. The genus is well known only by single rostral teeth. After preparation is finished I will submit the manuscript for publication.

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Current research: My paper on the Morrison Fm. fishes comes out in Modern Geology this fall. It will also be included in a separate volume on the Morrison to be published by MG later.

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Current research: A small study-group was established at the Geology Department of Hessisches Landesmuseum. Current projects are: Age and growth of Eocene gars, especially those from the Messel Formation. Scale articulation patterns in fossil and extant "ganoid" fishes with special respect to gars. Description of new gars from the Eocene Messel Formation. Taphonomic investigations in fossil and extant bowfins. Percoids and lower bony fishes of the Messel Formation. Oligocene marine bony fishes from the western Parathethys.

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Current research: I am a part-time paleontology and geology student at the University of New Mexico and also work as a volunteer preparator and collector for the New Mexico Museum of Natural History. My field work includes collecting Jurassic fish and insects in New Mexico's Todilto Formation.

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Current research: Dr. Detlev Thies (University Hannover) visited Brisbane in September (1997) and he and Sue Turner looked over Mesozoic fishes in the QM collection; they will prepare a short note on a Jurassic fish from Monto in SE Queensland which Sue showed in her poster at the Eichstätt meeting. The fish appears to be *Lepidotes* - a first record for the Jurassic of Australia.

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Squish Fisch Fiche: Recent Publications

Bemis, W. E., Findeis, E. K., & Grande, L. 1997. An overview of Acipenseriformes. *Environmental Biology of Fishes* **48**: 25-71.

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The Compleat Mesoangler

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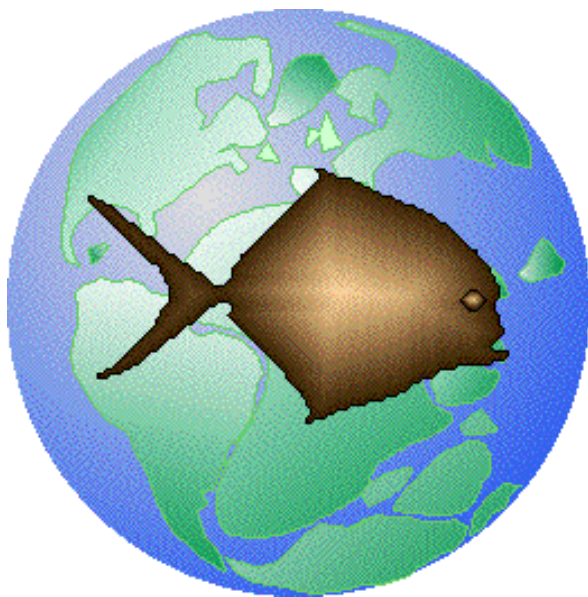
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Symposium on Fish Palaeontology

At CEI 9 (Trieste, August 1997)

by Norbert Micklich

For the very first time, a symposium on fish paleontology was included in the programme of a CEI conference. One plenary lecture, two keynotes, fourteen "regular" oral talks and five posters were presented. Starting with the Middle Triassic, all periods in earth history were covered and freshwater and marine taxa and biotas were considered as well. Most talks were focused on European fishes and fish localities, but there also were comparisons with those from North America and other regions.

Various aspects of the question in what ways ancient fish taxa and ancient fish faunas can shed light on the respective relationships of extant ones were discussed. It was demonstrated that **1)** they bear essential information for the reconstruction of the interrelationships of bony fish groups at various taxonomic levels; **2)** they are important for the understanding of present day dispersal and diversification patterns; and, **3)** they are also useful for the reconstruction of ancient ecosystems. Much of the former information from the fossil record that seemed poor when compared with those derived from extant fishes, was simply because of the application of old-fashioned excavation, preparation and investigation methods, or the overall insufficient exploitation of appropriate fossil sites. In the final discussion, another "palaeofish symposium" at the next CEI was encouraged. However, further efforts are needed to get more "extant fish" colleagues interested and involved in these sessions and to initiate joint research projects that could be – as demonstrated with a few examples during the conference – very fruitful. ■