

The Compleat Mesoangler

A Newsletter About Mesozoic Fishes

Volume 5, Number 1

May 29, 1998

Paleoichthyologists Will be Missed

by Mark Wilson

The community of those interested in fossil fishes became poorer this past year by the untimely passing of several well-respected and well-liked researchers. They were not all Mesozoic fish specialists, but we shared with them many common interests and good times.

Colin Patterson, of the Natural History Museum in London, was a leading figure in the study of fossil fishes, extant fishes, and systematic principles. A measure of his scientific stature across disciplines is that he was awarded



the Romer-Simpson Medal by the Society of Vertebrate Paleontology in 1997 and was honoured on the occasion of his retirement by a special symposium at the 1995 American

Society of Ichthyologists and Herpetologists meeting and the dedication of the 1997 volume *Interrelationships of Fishes*.

Mahala Andrews attended the Circumarctic Paleozoic Vertebrates meeting in Buckow (see photo top right) shortly before her death. A

specialist in crossopterygians and other primitive fishes, her lasting contributions include editing the still-useful *Problems in Vertebrate Evolution* published in 1977.



Lorenzo Sorbini of the Museo Civico di Storia Naturale, Verona, was a specialist on Cenozoic fishes and the leading authority on the fishes of the Monte Bolca site in Italy. The photo at left was taken during the 1993 Mesozoic Fishes field trip to that site.

Erik Jarvik was best known for his work on *Eusthenopteron foordi*. An obituary written by Hans Bjerring can be seen on the Palaeozoic Microvertebrates web page. ■

Mesozoic Fish Tales:

News from Readers

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Current Research: Dabbling in all sorts of things, particularly *Priohybodus arambourgi* from the Early Cretaceous of Libya, an articulated *Sphenodus* from the Plattenkalk of Nusplingen (with Detlev Thies and Ronald Bottcher), *Lissodus* from the Jurassic of France (with Oliver Landemaine), and a revision of Late Jurassic articulated chimaeroids from the German Plattenkalk.

New Members:

Patrizio Bronzi via Campo di Bove, 5, 62010 Appignano (MC), Itazly Telephone: 0733/57627 Email: aghiando@tin.it

I am a geologist graduated in 1984 from Camerino University. I am a member of PANGEA S.C.A.R.L. (Archeological and Paleontological Research Society) and director since 1987. I am a natural science teacher at

G. Arratia & G. Viohl, eds.

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secondary level degree school in Macerata. I am a member of the directive council of C.S.R. (Centro Studi e Ricerche paleontologiche located in Sigillo Umbro). I am a researcher interested in the study of Mesozoic and Cenozoic fossil fishes, especially in articles related to Late Cretaceous and Tertiary fishes and opening a dialogue with other researchers.

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I am a Ph.D. student at Lund University. I am currently working on Jurassic and Early Cretaceous sharks from southern Sweden and Bornholm, Denmark. My research interests are in the palaeobiology of hybodont sharks and the early radiation of neoselachians.

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Squish Fisch Fiche: Recent Publications

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The Compleat Mesoangler

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- employment & grad school opportunities available or needed
- publications (since 1992, not listed before; reprints are greatly appreciated)

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International Symposium:

Palaeodiversifications: Land and Sea Compared

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Journal of Vertebrate Paleontology Vol. **17**(4):642-652.

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Joint EPA/Palaeontological Association Workshop on Cretaceous Biodiversity

Department of Geology, University of Portsmouth, UK, July 10, 11, 1998

This workshop is designed to bring together palaeontologists from a number of taxonomic areas to discuss the biodiversity of their chosen group. The aim is to promote discussion on rates of speciation, extinction and modes of adaptation.

One day is given to talks and one day will be spent in the field examining marine and non-marine fossiliferous Cretaceous rocks of the Isle of Wight.

Participants are expected to arrange their own accommodations.

Speakers include:

Dr. David M. Unwin (Bristol) Diversity in Cretaceous pterosaurs
Professor Mike Benton (Bristol) Diversity in European Cretaceous dinosaurs
Dr. Dave Martill (Portsmouth) The Crato Formation: a window on Cretaceous biodiversity
Dr. Paul Davis (Surrey Museums) Bird diversity in the Cretaceous
Dr. Susan Evan (London) Small reptiles and amphibians
Dr. Andre Nel (Paris) Diversity among Cretaceous dragonflies
Professor Malcolm Hart (Plymouth) Biodiversification of Cretaceous planktonic

foraminifera

There will be a display of exceptional fossils from the Crato Formation of Brazil, one of the most important Cretaceous fossil Konservat Lagerstätten.

Anyone wishing to contribute short discussion papers or present poster displays should contact the convenor. For further information, including a map of the venue please contact:

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Third international meeting MESOZOIC FISHES (2000 or 2001?)

Dear Colleagues:

During the Second Meeting Mesozoic Fishes - Systematics and the Fossil Record, we didn't have any offer for the next meeting place. During the past few months, I received two proposals which I would like to discuss with you. The biggest problem preventing participants from attending meetings is financial. Therefore, I ask you, before making any decision, to consider very carefully your own situation and to consult a tourist agency for cost estimates.

Please keep in mind also that:

- 1) The meetings on Mesozoic Fishes should mainly concentrate on Mesozoic research. However, we welcome also comparative work considering fishes of other geological periods, research in general morphology, studies on systematics of fossil and extant forms, etc.
- 2) We prefer to keep the meeting small to pre-

serve the 'familiar' atmosphere; and

3) G. Arratia will continue as editor of the Mesozoic Fishes volumes, independent of the organization of the meeting and the host.

First, I will present the proposals, and at the end you are asked to mark your preference.

Please, feel free to present comments, additional proposals, complaints, etc.

A. BEIJING, CHINA: INSTITUT OF VERTEBRATE PALEONTOLOGY AND PALEOANTHROPOLOGY (IVVP).

1) Organizers: Min Zhu and Mee-mann Chang. They think that the Chinese Academy of Sciences could help to support the attendance of some Russian and Indian colleagues, but not participants from western countries.

2) Place: Probably Beijing (I have not been informed in which place in the city) because the accommodation in first class hotels in the big

city is cheaper (about 40-50 dollars in a first class hotel) than in surrounding areas.

3) Lunch and dinner should be taken care of by the participants, but a list of possible choices will be presented by the organizers.

4) Oral presentations will be during one week from Monday to Friday.

Following a field trip to some interesting Chinese localities is planned. The field trip will take a few days because of the distance. The Chinese colleagues still do not have information on prices or on possible sites, but they will propose at least two different trips so that the participants can decide.

5) Informal talks in the evenings are planned.

6) The registration fees correspond to those of international meetings at about 300 dollars.

B. DARMSTADT, GERMANY: HESSISCHES LANDESMUSEUM.

1) The meeting would be co-organized by Hessisches Landesmuseum, Darmstadt (Norbert Micklich) and Naturkunde Museum, Berlin (G. Arratia and H.-P. Schultze). To solve problems with economical support of the meeting itself and to assist some participants with travel and accommodation support, H.-P. Schultze & G. Arratia will search for financial support.

2. Place: N. Micklich thinks that Darmstadt still is a nice small town with somewhat 'provincial' atmosphere, but still large enough to have additional possibilities for shopping and amusement for accompanying persons. The nearest international airport is Frankfurt (distance about 20 km).

3) Accommodation plus breakfast will be in smaller hotels either in the center of town or within a 15 minute distance easily accessible by bus or tram. Lunch and dinner should be organized privately in the fastfood and other cheap restaurants in the vicinity of the museum.

4) N. Micklich's proposal is to have oral talks from Monday to Friday and field trips (e.g., Oligocene Frauenweiler, Oligocene

'Meeressande' Rheinhessen, Messel) on Saturday and Sunday.

5. Social informal talks in the evening can be done in the 'Rodensteiner Hof' inside the museum. Norbert proposes to have public lectures in the evenings just showing nice localities and fossils which may be attractive to all kinds of visitors.

6. The cost of the registration fees is unknown yet, but it will be as low as it can be.

C. SEARCH FOR A SMALL TOWN WITH A NICE LANDSCAPE WHERE ALL PAR- TICIPANTS CAN BE TOGETHER AND THE PRICES ARE REASONABLE.

Please, mail or e-mail your answer to:

G. Arratia

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Clip and mail this form, or send an e-mail with the same information:

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2000: ____ or 2001: ____

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