



Commission Internationale de Microflore (Microfossiles Organiques) du Paléozoïque

NEWSLETTER

14

DECEMBER 1976

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INTERNATIONAL PALYNOLOGICAL
COLLOQUIUM 5 TO 10 SEPTEMBER 1977



WHO? Prospective participants in the Ninth International Congress of Carboniferous Stratigraphy and Geology—called IX-ICC for short.

WHAT? THE NINTH CONGRESS. This is the first International Carboniferous Congress to be held outside Europe. The first Carboniferous Congress was held in Heerlen, The Netherlands, in 1927; since then the Congress has expanded in scope and increased in size.

WHY? One general purpose is to discuss all aspects of geology of the Mississippian/Pennsylvanian and equivalent strata throughout the world. Another purpose is to examine rocks of these ages in classic field areas of the United States and share views on the geology of these systems of rocks, and their economic products.

WHEN? Pre-Congress field trips will begin about the middle of May, 1979. Technical sessions will be held May 21 through 25. The post-Congress field trips will begin May 26 and end early in June of 1979.

WHERE? Pre-Congress field trips will include opportunities to examine Pennsylvanian rocks of the Appalachian Mountains and other areas. Committee meetings and the opening Plenary Session will be in Washington, D. C. (May 17-19, 1979).

HOW? Technical sessions will be on the campus of the University of Illinois, Urbana, Illinois (May 21-25, 1979). Post-Congress field trips will visit the type Mississippian and other areas of geologic interest in the midwestern and far western states.

Participants may attend field trips, technical sessions, or both. The first circular will be issued early in 1977 and will include a call for papers. To obtain the circular, please fill out and return the form below. Anyone concerned with any aspect of Mississippian/Pennsylvanian geology is urged to attend. We solicit your help in disseminating information about the Congress. Please pass this announcement on to a colleague to help spread the news about IX-ICC.

Please place the following person on the IX-ICC mailing list:

Name _____
Address _____

Please return this form to: IX-ICC, 1979
Museum of Natural History
Washington, D. C. 20560

Would you like CIMP organising a technical session
in Urbana (May 21-25, 1979)? yes no
If yes, on which topic(s):

NAME

Address:

Please, return this form to M.STREEL, Paleontology, Univ.
(Belgium) 7, pl. du 20 août. 4000 LIEGE.

The first circular has been sent to all CIMP members (and many others) in July 1976. Extra copies are still available from the local Secretary, F. CRAMER (see address below) and also from the Secretary General. ATTENDANCE AT LEÓN PROMISES TO BE VERY HIGH!

The 2nd circular is expected in January, for those palynologists who have answered to the 1st one.

The following instructions are recalled but have been sent to all possible contributors: please CHECK THE DEADLINE 1-1-77 for submitting the definitive title of your paper

1. Papers. The time available for each paper will be 20 minutes, followed by 10 minutes for discussion. If you expect to need more time, kindly note this on the sheet we ask you to return to us. We should like to have the definitive title of your paper by: 1 January 1977.

2. Instructions to authors. The Board of Trustees of the I.I.P. has kindly approved the publication of the Proceedings of the Colloquium as a special volume of PALINOLOGIA (which is the publication of the I.I.P. edits beginning 1977).

3. Abstracts. You will receive an abstract form plus instructions in January 1977. Abstracts are due in 30 April 1977.

4. Projection facilities. Only 35 mm slides can be accommodated. No lantern slides, no overhead projection. We ask you to keep this in mind when you make your figures.

5. Program. We at the I.I.P. will compile the titles of papers, and send them directly to the Convenors of the different sessions.

6. In response to the many suggestions we have received: (1) there will be ample facilities for informal discussions; (2) practically all participants speak English well enough to permit normal discussions; moreover during some of the time translation services (Spanish/English) will be available; (3) even if you don't understand a word of Spanish, we don't expect you to have trouble in communicating your wishes in hotels or restaurants; (4) if sufficient people are interested, the I.I.P. will organize excursions to areas of social, gastronomic, archaeological, or geological interest; further information will be given in the third and last circular; (5) to be able to accommodate as many palynological topics as possible, we will add one session to the program: various topics, on Thursday.

For further details, write I.I.P., Apartado 244, León, Spain.

The 9th Annual Meeting of AASP was held jointly with the CIMP from October 12th to 15th, 1976, at Chateau Halifax, HALIFAX, Canada. An address of welcome was given by Mr. John Smith, Deputy Minister of Mines of Nova Scotia.

Attendance was rather high. See the list of registrants with address on pages 3 and 4. But only a dozen of non North American CIMP members crossed the oceans.

There were four papers presented in the Acritarch Forum and six in the Dino Update sessions. Forty-three papers were presented in the Technical Sessions: Continental Drift and Floral Provincialism with ten papers, including two invited speakers; Correlation Techniques with one invited and two twenty-minute presentations; two sessions of Paleozoic Palynology with fourteen papers, including two invited; General Palynology with nine papers; and Palynology of Continental Margins with seven papers, including one invited paper.

Abstracts, when not included with this Newsletter, can be obtained from Jack Burgess for the cost of handling and mailing. Most of the papers will be published in the new AASP Journal "Palynology".

On Saturday, fifty-six persons enjoyed a splendid excursion to the Annapolis Valley of Nova Scotia which gives us opportunities to sample the Tournaisian Horton Bluff.

CIMP is deeply grateful to AASP for the special kind of welcome received by their "overseas" members. Mutual contacts have proven to be excellent and the idea of a CIMP-AASP meeting in Europe is not lost. Efficiency of one of the largest Palynological Body in the world has been particularly noticed. We wish them much success on the tracks of their 10th anniversary. Special vote of thanks is due to the local organisers of the meeting and first of all to Sedley Barss.

M. STREEL

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Vient de paraître aux Annales de la Soc. géologique du Nord (France), 9/6, XCVI, 2, pp: 157-172:

Stratigraphie du Westphalien d'Europe occidentale et de Pologne à la lumière des études palynologiques (microspores)

par S. LOBOZIAK (*), R. COQUEL(*) et A. JACHOWICZ (**)
(Planches V et VI)

Sommaire. — Quatre zones palynologiques d'association sont définies dans le Westphalien entre les bassins houillers d'Europe occidentale d'une part, et de Pologne, d'autre part.

Des zones de transition, qui ont été confrontées aux limites d'étages et de subdivisions de la classification de Heerlen, constituent les termes de passage entre les zones principales.

Summary. — Four principal coenozones are defined, in the Westphalian, between the Western Europ and Poland coalfields.

Transition zones, compared with the subdivisions limits of the Heerlen classification, represent the boundaries between the coenozones.

(*) Laboratoire de Paléobotanique de l'Université des Sciences et Techniques de Lille (France).

(**) Instytut Geologiczny, ul. Białego 5, Sosnowiec (Pologne).

Réunion du groupe megaspores de la C.I.M.P. à KOZUBNIK (Pologne) du 29.8.76 au 4.9.76

Le groupe de travail megaspores de la C.I.M.P. composé de :

- Sonia DYBOVA-JACHOWICZ (Inst. Geologiczny, Sosnowiec)
- Alexandre JACHOWICZ (Univ. Łódź, Sosnowiec)
- Jevdiga KARCEWKA (Univ. Přerov, Přerov)
- Milada KALIBOVÁ-KAISEROVÁ (Ústřední ústav Geologický, Praha)
- Georges LACHKAR (C.N.R.S. - Université Paris VI)
- Stanislas LOBOZIAK (C.N.R.S. - Université des Sc. et Tech. de Lille)
- Pierre PIERART (Université de Mons)
- Elzbieta TURNAU (Polish Academy of Sciences)
- Zofia ZÓDANI (Inst. Geologiczny, Sosnowiec)

s'est réuni à KOZUBNIK du 29.8.76 au 4.9.76 pour examiner les principes de la classification et de la nomenclature des megaspores à gula.

Dans ce but, le groupe a redéfini la notion de gula et proposé la distinction de quatre types de gula : Hologula, Subgula, Angulicula et Crassigula.

Se basant sur les types de gula, il a distingué les genres suivants :

1. LAGENICULA sensu stricto emend.
2. LAGENISPROTES emend.
3. SUBLAGENICULA nov. gen.
4. SEVOSISPORITES emend.
5. AURITOLAGENICULA nov. gen.
6. CRASSILAGENICULA nov. gen.

En plus, le groupe a créé le genre ZONOLAGENICULA afin de classer les formes présentant une gula et une formation équatoriale. Ce dernier genre entraîne l'introduction dans la classification des megaspores de la Suprasubturma ZONOLAGENTRILETES et de la Subturma ZONOGULATI.

Le groupe a enfin établi un tableau stratigraphique des principaux genres ainsi qu'un tableau provisoire des espèces.

Ces données seront publiées dans GEOLOGIA, Nr 2, WYD. UNIW. ŚL., KATOWICE.

P. PIERART

Responsable du groupe megaspores C.I.M.P.

Le groupe Mégaspores représenté par G. LACHKAR, S. LOBOZIAK et P. PIERART s'était réuni à Mons, Belgique, les 9 et 10 juin 1976 pour préparer cette réunion.

RELATION ICP-CIMP, a reply

ICP officers have reacted to our comment as reported on page 4 of the CIMP Newsletter 13:

- 1.:our wording concerning "federation" has been examined and since then adopted (see ICP Final Draft Constitution).
- 2.:subscription of CIMP :our comment were believed reasonable.It is in any case ICP purpose that CIMP should be an individual special case.
- 3.:division of ICP members into 3 categories: ICP intentions are that all these categories will stand.They are convinced that they harm no-one and yet allow everyone to join,which is their object.
- 4.:complementary role of ICP vis-à-vis R/N/S societies:the detailed wording of part of our printed comments on this topic (CIMP Newsletter 13 page 4, right)are regarded by ICP Officers as rather offensive.They specify that there are no working groups of ICP in the CIMP field and that none of the Lucknow conference symposia are styled "working group".

ICP President warn us that although ICP does not yet have groups working on either the Triassic or the Precambrian,they regard them as outside the CIMP field and that they reserve the right to cover these fields or part of them if they consider it advisable.

CIMP still believes that ICP role must be mainly of coordination and information about the existing society activities. We wonder whether a true Federation role should not be ,for instance,to advertise palynologists about the existence of a CIMP Permian-Triassic working group (see the Boussens volume) which in fact covers most of the Triassic , or perhaps also,to accelerate the contacts between a specialist society like CIMP and a new related working group originating from outside palynology,like the Precambrian Biostratigraphy WG proposed by IUGS.

LUCKNOW (India) 29 DEC. - 5 JAN. 77

Division III : Palynological Stratigraphy & Exploration of Fossil Fuels

Divisions with

Palaeozoic related symposia

1. Early Gondwana stratigraphic Palynology (intercontinental)
—Dr. Elizabeth M. Kemp
2. Palynology of Permian/Triassic transition
—Dr. H. Grebe
3. Triassic-Liassic Palynology
—Dr. B. W. Schuring
4. Palynology of Jurassic/Cretaceous boundary
—Dr. S. J. Pocock
5. Palynology of transition from Aptian to Albian
—Dr. S. K. Srivastava
6. Palynology of Marginal facies
—Prof. E. D. Zaklinskaya

Division I : Morphology, Taxonomy & Physiology: Spores & Pollen Grains

Title

Convener

1. Palynology of Pteridophytes
—Prof. B. K. Nair
2. Ultra-structural research in spores and pollen grains
—Prof. J. Ueno
3. Palynological terminology
—Dr. S. Nilsson
4. Pollen Morphology
—Dr. Sunirmal Chanda
5. Fungal spores through the ages
—Dr. K. A. Pirozynski
6. Pollen physiology relating to germination
—Prof. C. P. Malik
7. 1. Diagenesis of miospores and methods of palynological preparations
—Dr. J. Brooks
2. Optical properties of palynomorphs, relations with palacotemperatures and petroleum potential
—Dr. B. Alpern

Division II : Morphology & Taxonomy: Dinoflagellates, Acritarchs, Diatoms, Coccoliths, Chitinozoa, Radiolarians & Microforams

1. Morphology and biostratigraphy of Nannofossils
—Dr. S. A. Jafar
2. Dinoflagellates morphology, ecology & evolution
—Dr. G. Norris
3. Acritarch wall structure, evolution and stratigraphy
—Dr. F. H. Cramer

Division V : Palynological Data Handling and Palaeogeography

1. Palynologic data handling
—Prof. G. O. W. Kremp
2. Palaeozoic floral migrations
—Dr. J. B. Richardson
3. Cretaceous-Paleogene floral migration in southern latitudinal countries
—Dr. S. K. Baksi

ICP Final Draft Constitution (October 1976)

The President may not stand for a second consecutive period of office in the same capacity. Other Councilors may not stand for more than two consecutive periods of office.

The Secretary shall request nine months before a General Assembly that all Regional, National and Specialist Societies in contact should elect Councilors on the basis of Paragraph 7; the Secretary shall report the results of these elections before the opening of the General Assembly. If no General Assembly is held, elections shall be held and they shall be announced by ICP Circular not later than five years after the previous General Assembly.

9. Any motions passed by a General Assembly shall be referred to Council, and shall be considered by Council.

10. The existing Council shall retire at the conclusion of a General Assembly at which the names of a newly elected Council have been announced.

11. The Constitution shall only be amended at a General Assembly or at an extraordinary General Assembly called by the Council. In either case the text of any proposed amendment shall be circulated six months before the meeting to all members in good standing in categories (a) and (b).

12. Audit. The accounts of ICP shall be made up annually on 31 December and submitted to an auditor approved by Council. Abstracts of accounts shall be presented at each General Assembly and on request to subscribing Regional, National and Specialist Societies.

13. Dissolution. The Commission (ICP) shall be dissolved only at a General Assembly or extraordinary General Assembly, which has been called for this purpose, by a majority vote of the members present. In the event of such dissolution, any property or assets of the Commission shall be disposed of by gift to one or more international organisations concerned with the furtherance of palynology.

Draft Bye-Laws (October 1973 and January 1976)

1. The Council shall organise an 'International Conference on Palynology' at intervals of four or five years, and a General Assembly shall be called at such meetings.

2. The annual membership subscription shall be US \$ 1.00 per annum, payable through Regional, National and Specialist Societies by 1 May.

3. Amendments to Bye-Laws may be made by Council and will be considered effective six months after being notified to the membership in a General Circular.

Draft Intentions

(These are informal and explanatory; they are intended to represent the opinion of the present Council).

1. Adherence by ICP to both IUBS and IUGS is intended.

2. Aim. The purpose of ICP is for stimulation, and not in any sense for regulation. Willing enthusiastic officers and Council are therefore essential. ICP is complementary to Regional, National and Specialist Societies.

3. Council Representation. The co-opted members (Constitution, para 7) are inserted so that a regional balance may be maintained without making the election too complicated. It is intended that the Council period of office shall not normally exceed five years.

1. The Commission shall be named the 'International Commission for Palynology' (ICP).

2. The International Commission for Palynology (ICP) shall be an international federation of Regional, National and Specialist Societies. The aims of ICP shall be to advance knowledge in palynology and related subjects by the promotion of international co-operation and meetings between scientists of all regions and countries.

3. Meetings of ICP may be organised independently or in conjunction with other international meetings such as those sponsored by the International Union of Biological Sciences and/or the International Union of Geological Sciences.

4. The General Assembly of ICP shall consist of those members present at a general meeting of palynologists for which notice of one year has been given by the ICP officers to those Regional, National and Specialist Societies in contact with ICP.

5. Members of ICP shall be all palynologists who desire to belong to ICP; they are divided into three categories.

Members

(a) Members who belong to ICP through their membership of Regional, National and Specialist Societies and for whom a small unit subscription is paid annually by the Regional, National and Specialist Society to ICP Treasurer on the basis of Society Membership numbers; the amount of subscription shall be determined by ICP Council; Regional, National and Specialist Society membership lists shall be sent to ICP Secretary. These members are kept in touch with ICP through their Regional, National and Specialist Societies to which ICP Circulars will be sent for further distribution.

(b) Individual members who belong to ICP directly by paying to ICP Treasurer an annual subscription of not less than five times and not more than ten times the Society unit subscription rate per member; the correct subscription rate shall be determined by ICP Council and particulars will be forwarded on application to ICP Secretary. These members will be kept in touch with ICP by direct mailing of ICP circulars to them.

(c) Members who are unable to pay a subscription by either of the methods (a) and (b). These members will not be directly in touch with ICP but may receive information if they are known to other members who receive primary circulation.

6. Business of ICP shall be conducted by the elected Council of the Commission, and by committees appointed by Council.

7. The Council of ICP shall consist of the following members: a President, the Past-President, a Secretary/Treasurer, and Councilors to the number of one for each Regional, National and Specialist Society (or two for any Regional, National and Specialist Society with more than 200 members); two additional Councilors may be co-opted for purposes of subject or regional balance. There shall be three Vice-Presidents and they shall include representatives of Actinopalynology and Palaeopalynology.

8. Elections. The new President shall be elected by the 'old' Council. The Secretary/Treasurer shall be nominated by the President-elect, and confirmed by the new Council. The Councilors shall be elected by the Regional, National and Specialist Societies. The two co-opted Councilors may be elected by the new Council. The Vice-Presidents shall be elected by the new Council.

4. Membership arrangements are designed to avoid collecting small subscriptions centrally, i.e. across national frontiers. Such collection is too expensive in time and money.
5. Individuals. Palynologists not wishing to join any affiliated Regional, National or Specialist society may become members of ICP by joining as individuals. No palynologist would be excluded from membership of Conferences, whether listed as an ICP member or not.
6. Publication. ICP should by its activities stimulate publication through normal channels, but does not seek to use or to organise a journal of its own. Circulars are ephemeral and are most effectively circulated by ICP; printing of circulars in established journals may be accepted if offered but is usually unlikely to be quick enough.

N. P. Hughes

President ICP for Council

ICP NEWS

From the ICP General Circular n° 10, we have selected the following data which could interest CIMF activities. Members wanting to obtain a copy of this circular should write to the CIMF Secretary

General Circular No. 10

From: President and Secretary of ICP
19 Oct 76

To: All palynologists; direct or secondary circulation (see (1) below)

1. General Circular Distribution. Copies of this and previous circulars can be obtained by writing to the Secretary.

2. LUCERNE CONFERENCE
(Fourth International Palynological Conference)

Third Conference Circular: Will be issued in early November.

Field Trips (pre-Congress): A (South India) and B (North-Western India) will run as stated in Conference Second Circular; C and D will not run.

Field Trips (post-Congress): All four field trips A, B, C and D will run. Associate Members: A full programme will be run in Lucknow for accompanying members.

Registration: Conference participants may still register, but should do so quickly; some accommodation is still available, but please apply immediately.

Telephone: Lucknow 28474 (Birbal Sahni Institute) will reach Dr. Bhavadra, or Dr. Sah.

3. ICP Constitution. A copy of the Final Draft Constitution (October 1976) is enclosed with this circular. It will be presented in this form at the Fourth International Conference (Lucknow).

4. ICP Working Groups (please contact convenors for detailed information).
The following groups will hold symposia in Lucknow:

b) PALAEOPALYNOLOGY

P1. 'Diagnosis of microspores and methods of palynological preparation'.
Convenor: Dr. J. Brooks, School of Chemistry, The University, Bradford, West Yorkshire BD7 1DN, United Kingdom. Secretary: Dr. S. Sengupta, Department of Geology, Royal School of Mines, Prince Consort Road, London SW7 2BP, United Kingdom.

P3. 'Palynological correlation close to the Jurassic-Cretaceous period boundary'.
Convenor: Dr. S.A.J. Pocock, Imperial Oil Limited, 339 50 Avenue SE, Calgary, Alberta, Canada T2G 2R5.

6. International Palaeontological Association (IPA)

At meetings in Sydney, Australia (August 1976), Dr. C. Teichert was elected President and Prof. O.H. Walliser Secretary for the next session.

7. International Organisation for Palaeobotany (IOP)

President: James M. Schopf (Columbus, Ohio, USA). IOP Newsletter No. 2 was received (August 1976) from Dr. Hans Tralau (Editor), The Swedish Museum of Natural History, 104 05 Stockholm, Sweden.

8. Meetings of other Societies.

Palaeontological Association meeting on 'Morphology'; 16 - 18 December 1976, Liverpool, England.

Fourth International Gondwana Symposium: 17 - 22 January 1977, Calcutta, India. Second Circular issued September 1976.
Secretary: c/o Geological Survey of India, 27 Jawaharlal Nehru Road, Calcutta 700016, India.

North American Paleontological Convention II: 8 - 10 August 1977, Lawrence, Kansas, USA. Includes two symposia of particular interest: 'Biotratiography of Fossil Plants', Secretary Prof. D.L. Dilcher, Department of Plant Sciences, Jordan Hall, 138, Indiana University Bloomington, Indiana 47401, U.S.A. 'Community paleoecology', Secretaries W.R.N. Berry, A.J. Boucot, and Prof. Jane Gray, Department of Biology, University of Oregon, Eugene, Oregon 97403, U.S.A.

9. Thanks to correspondents.

As this is likely to be the last ICP Circular sent out by the present officers, we thank everyone who has contributed to the running of ICP in this way.

N.F. Hughes
President

M.D. Muir
Secretary

NEW IUGS WORKING GROUP

ON PRECAMBRIAN BIOSTRATIGRAPHY

Dr. M. D. MUIR has kindly provided us recently with copies of reports, letters and statements on taxonomy in Precambrian palaeontology, which are the results of a proposal by the IUGS Subcommittee on Precambrian Stratigraphy. These copies are now in hand of Prof. Ch. DOWNIE, in charge of the CIMP pre-Devonian Working group.

General circulars 1 & 2 (see below) clearly demonstrate the intention of the initial members to keep the informations opened to everyone.

Chairman pro tem: Dr. M. D. Muir Department of Geology, Royal School of Mines
 Prince Consort Road, London SW7 2BP
 Telephone: 01-589 5111 Telex: 261503

GC/1/6/76

From General Circular No. 1.

1. Circulation. Replies have been received from 19 of those originally circulated, and following suggestions made, six others were also circulated. These are Professor S.K. Runcorn, Dept. of Physics, University of Newcastle upon Tyne, England, Dr. S. Sengupta, Dept. of Geology, Royal School of Mines, London, England, Dr. M.S. Yakshin, Institute of Geology and Geophysics, 90 Novosibirsk, U.S.S.R., and Dr. Gerd Germs, Geological Survey, Windhoek, South West Africa, and Drs. J.D. and D.Z. Oehler, c/o Baas Becking Laboratory, Bureau of Mineral Resources, Canberra, Australia. If you know of anyone else who was not on the first list, and whose name has not been added here, please show them this circular, or send them a photocopy, and ask them to contact the Chairman pro tem (address above).

3. Liaison with other groups. We will, naturally, maintain close links with the Subcommittee on Precambrian Stratigraphy, and inform them of all our activities and results therefrom. We must also establish contact with the I.G.C.P. Working Group on Upper Precambrian Correlation, and this might initially be achieved through Malcolm Walter, who is also a member of that Group. Three other bodies with which, perhaps, links ought also to be forged, are the International Commission for Palynology, the International Palaeontological Association, and the Commission Internationale du Microflore du paléozoïque. Members are asked for suggestions about other groups with whom we ought to exchange circulars and other information.

From General Circular N° 2 GC/2/10/76

1. Circulation. This circular is being sent to everyone who had the First Circular. Some of these people indicated that they could not be



1. My address is correct as shown below.....
 2.

3. Stratigraphically, my main area(s) of interest is:

- 3.7 - 2.5 X 10⁹ years
- 2.5 - 1.9 X 10⁹ years
- 1.9 - 1.2 X 10⁹ years
- 1.2 - 0.8 X 10⁹ years
- 0.8 - 0.6 X 10⁹ years
- 0.6 - present

4. Geographically, my main area(s) of interest is:
 (Please specify continent, region, etc)

5. Please indicate the names and radiometric ages of formations on which you are working:

6. Lithologies: most of my work is concerned with:

- carbonates.....
- cherts in carbonates.....
- other cherts (specify).....
- shales.....
- banded iron formations.....
- other lithologies (specify).....

7. I am most interested in

- stromatolites
- microfossils
- trace fossils - animals
- trace fossils - plants
- body fossils - animals
- body fossils - plants

8. Material I use for my research:

- petrographic thin sections.....
- polished thin sections.....
- polished sections.....
- multiple sections for reconstructions.....
- macerations.....

9. Methods I use:

- light microscope, transmitted light.....
- light microscope, reflected light.....
- scanning electron microscope.....
- transmission electron microscope.....
- X-ray microanalysis in probe.....
- X-ray microanalysis in SEM.....
- wavelength dispersive spectrometers.....
- energy dispersive spectrometers.....
- cathodoluminescence.....
- UV fluorescence microscopy.....
- wet chemistry.....
- infrared spectroscopy.....
- pyrolysis/ozonolysis.....
- GC/MS.....
- ion probe.....
- other methods (specify).....

10. I am most interested in:

- origin of life.....
- evolution of life.....
- palaeobiology.....
- palaeoenvironmental studies.....
- biostratigraphy.....

PLEASE RETURN THE COMPLETED QUESTIONNAIRE TO:

Dr. M. D. Muir,
 Department of Geology,
 Royal School of Mines,
 Prince Consort Road,
 London, SW7 2BP, U.K.

active participants in the Working Group, but because of the questionnaire which accompanies this letter, which the chairman hopes that everyone will complete, it seemed desirable to try to get as many replies as possible. Please try to return the questionnaire and make sure that as many students/friends/colleagues etc as possible also fill it in.

2. Attendance of Working Group members at the 25th International Geological Congress. A copy of a brief report on the two meetings held, compiled by Dr. M.R. Walter, is included with this Circular.

Report on two meetings held during the IGC in Sydney, August 1976, to consider the establishment of a Working Group on Precambrian Biostratigraphy, under the auspices of the IUGS Subcommission on Precambrian Stratigraphy. M.R. Walter. 15/9/76.

The following persons were present for at least one of the meetings: S.M. Avramik, H.J. Hofmann, H. James, I.N. Krylov, M.D. Muir, D.Z. Oehler, J.H. Oehler, K.A. Plumb, W.V. Preiss, J.W. Schopf, M.R. Walter. In addition, M.P. Glaessner attended the second meeting as a representative of the Subcommission on Precambrian Stratigraphy.

There was considerable discussion as to whether the establishment of a working group is necessary. The minority opinion was that it is not, as its potential functions can be, and to some extent already are, undertaken by the IUGS Upper Precambrian Correlations Working Group. This view was not accepted because this latter working group limits itself to considering rocks younger than 1000 m.y. It was also believed by some participants in the discussion that the aims of the two groups are different.

Possible functions suggested for a working group were:

1. to inter-relate and integrate the various biostratigraphic approaches used for Precambrian rocks (the approaches employing stromatolites, chert microfossils, acritarchs from shales, and metazoan trace and body fossils);
2. to facilitate the exchange of information among specialists;
3. to compile annotated bibliographies.

It was generally agreed that the Stromatolite Newsletter would be a suitable medium for the gathering and exchange of information, perhaps supplemented each alternate 6 months by a newsletter concerned mainly with the business of the group.

Field trips to key areas would further the aims of the group, and the areas suggested were the Grand Canyon, the Adelaide Geosyncline and Amadeus Basin, the Uchur-Maya region, and northern Siberia. A field meeting could probably be held before the Paris congress, and the group could convene a symposium at that congress.

It was agreed to draft a proposal for the IUGS and meanwhile to set up a working group. Dr Muir was elected chairman of the group, with Prof. Avramik as secretary. Dr Muir will distribute a form letter to elicit the views of each working group member on the aims and functions of the group.