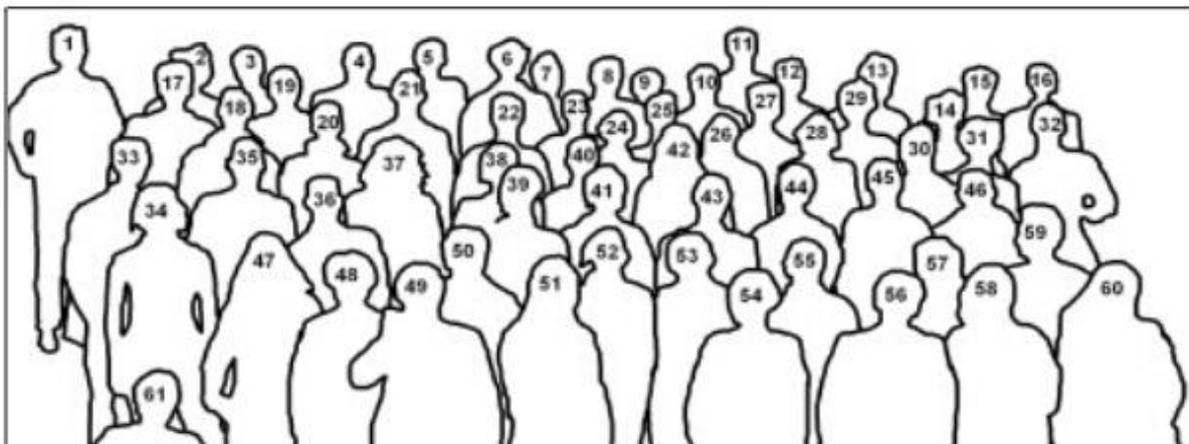


5th IRGC Symposium, Rostock



1. Jean-Nicolas Haas 2. Hidetoshi Sakayama 3. Anders Langangen 4. Ronny Marquardt 5. José-Luis Alonso-Guillén 6. Jacek Urbaniak 7. Ralf Schaible 8. Uwe Raabe 9. Rudolf Ehwald 10. Samit Ray 11. Hendrik Schubert 12. Emile Nat 13. John Bruinsma 14. Leeli Amon 15. Nick Stewart 16. Christian Breithaupt 17. Wang Qifei 18. Wang Hailei 19. Robin Scribailo 20. Milena Primavera 21. Carles-Martin Closas 22. Irmgard Blindow 23. Doreen Richter 24. Branka Stevanović 25. Kerstin Wallström 26. Anastasiia Kovtun 27. Guy Yehuda 28. Kaire Torn 29. Michelle Casanova 30. Egita Zviedre 31. Nadezda Krstić 32. Rafael Faria 33. Michael Bögge 34. Susanne Schneider 35. Gustav Johansson 36. Joakim Hansen 37. Marian Yallop 38. Chloe Onoufriou 39. Antonio Vázquez 40. Annika Grage 41. Rosa Utrilla 42. Tina Kyrkander 43. Marja Koistinen 44. Roland Bengtsson 45. Erik Ljungstrand 46. Lothar Ratai 47. María A. Rodrigo 48. Jun-ying Liu 49. Jelena Blaženčić 50. Sofia Zinkevičienė 51. Laura Kipriyanova 52. Adriana García 53. Ingeborg Soulié-Märsche 54. Elena Chemeris 55. Angela Doege 56. Mary Beilby 57. Aurélie Rey-Boissezon 58. Mary Bisson 59. Dominique Auderset 60. Anette Kossler 61. Helle Mäemets (About 12 colleagues from Bangladesh, Brazil, India, Macedonia, Poland, Russia, Spain and Germany were busy elsewhere during the photo-session)

The extremely successful meeting was organized by Prof. Hendrik Schubert (University of Rostock) and Dr Irmgard Blindow (University of Greifswald), who are warmly thanked for providing a very efficient working atmosphere during the meeting, workshops and excursions. It was attended by more than 80 participants from 25 different countries. All continents (with the

exception of Africa) were represented. Obviously, charophytes have become a matter of wide interest.

Scientific report

Rostock (Germany)

24-26 September 2008

Wednesday 24 September 2008

The conference started Wednesday 24. After a short opening and welcoming session, the scientific sessions began with oral presentations dedicated to Fossil Charophytes. In the first session with Ingeborg Soulié-Märsche as chairman we had the oral sessions by **Carles Martín-Closas** and **Wang Qifei** about *Cosmopolitanism in Clavatoraceae (Cretaceous Charophyta) from the Northern Hemisphere*, and by **Qifei Wang**, **Carles Martín-Closas** and **Huinan Lu** entitled *Late Cretaceous charophyte distribution and paleogeography in China*. After a coffee break the fossil session continued moderated on this occasion by Carles Martín-Closas. **Nadežda Krstić**, **Ingeborg Soulié-Märsche**, **Jugoslav Zic** and **Desa Milutinović-Djordjević** presented the speech entitled *Miocene Charophyta of Maoče, Pljevlja (Montenegro Dinarides)*. **Adriana García** on behalf of **Eduardo A. Musacchio** presented the *Charophyta of the Mercedes Formation, Uruguay*, and **Wang Hailei**, **Liu Junying** and **Zheng Mianping** showed the *Preliminary Study on the Late Part of the Late Pleistocene Microfossil and Environment Change in Zaxi Lake, Central Tibet*.

After the lunch break a session on Charophyte Ecology started with Branka Stevanović as chairperson. **Andrzej Pukacz**, **Mariusz Pelechaty** and **Aleksandra Pelechata** talked about *The use of charophytes for the determination of habitat differentiation of lakes. Case study from mid-Western Poland*. **Helle Mäemets'** presentation was about the *Ecological status of charophyte-rich lakes in Estonia*. **Marian L Yallop** and **Chloe Onoufriou** talked about the *Persistence of Charophyte Communities in Restored Gravel Pit Lakes* and **Laura Kipriyanova** presented about Ecology and syntaxonomy of charophytes communities in the South of West Siberia (Novosibirsk Region).

After a short break for coffee, the next session also dedicated to ecology was conducted by Ralf Schaible. **Marius Pelechaty** and co-workers gave an oral presentation about *Lychnothamnus barbatus* in Poland: habitat conditions and social interrelations with other aquatic plants. **Shashi Bhushan Bhatia** talked about *Lamprothamnium papulosum (Wallroth) J. Groves (Charales): key indicator of paleosalinity variations in middle Holocene palaeolakes of southwestern Haryana, India*. **Branka Stevanović** spoke about the *Distribution and ecology of Nitellopsis obtusa (Desv. in Lois.) J. Grov. in Western and Central Balkan*. **Rajat Chakraborty**, **Srinarayan Ojha** and **Samit Ray** talked about the *Determination of richness, evenness, diversity indices and interspecific association of some characean species in certain freshwater bodies of the state of West Bengal, India*. With this last talk the session dedicated to oral presentations ended and the poster session started. At least 27 posters of very different topics related to fossil and extant charophytes were presented and during almost two hours the conference participants discussed the posters with their authors.

Thursday 25 September

The program on this day started with the IRGC General Assembly where the results of the voting were given and the new Executive Committee was proclaimed. The scientific program started with a session dedicated to Laboratory Studies on charophytes. Mary Bisson was the chairperson of this session. We had two oral presentations: **Ralf Schaible** talked about *Sexual vs. parthenogenetic reproduction in Chara canescens* and **Mary J. Beilby** spoke about *Membrane potential oscillations in salt-stressed Chara australis*. After the lunch break the sessions continued (conducted by Mary Beilby). **Susanne Schneider** reported about *Chara - Morphology, Ecophysiology and Genetics: Conflict or Complement?* **Ronny Marquardt** talked about *Photosynthetic performance of Chara vulgaris in bioremediation ponds – analysis of the relation contribution of morphological and physiological acclimation*.

We stopped for a coffee break and also we took the traditional group photograph outside the buildings of the Faculty of Mathematical and Natural Sciences. Most people used the coffee break to continue looking at the posters.

The last session devoted to laboratory studies on charophytes was led by Susanne Schneider. The first presentation was given **Adriana García**, who presented the collaborative paper by A. García, H. Sakayama, H. Nozaki, M. Ito and A. Chivas entitled *Taxonomy of species of Nitella subgenus Tieffallenia and subgenus Hyella: phylogeny based on rbcL gene sequences and oospore morphology*. Then **Michelle T. Casanova** developed results about *Morphological responses of charophytes to salinity variation*. The last session of the day was dedicated to a new topic: Taxonomy & Conservation. **Robin W. Scribailo** presented a talk entitled *Forty years after Wood and Imahori; progress toward the development of a revised key to charophytes of North America*.

After the end of lectures most conference participants went to the city centre for a guided city tour. There, a tourist guide was waiting for us and she kindly showed and explained the most important monuments and places of Rostock. We could admire the fascinating astronomical clock in Marias' church, the oldest still working in Europe. We also enjoyed the city wall and the old university building. After the interesting city tour the conference dinner was reserved at a typical German brewery. We enjoyed a very good dinner in a quiet place, where excellent beer was served, produced in the same restaurant. There, we could admire the devices used for beer making.

Friday 26 September

This was the last day of the conference. The scientific sessions began with the topic already started the day before: Taxonomy and Conservation. Dominique Auderset Joye conducted the two oral presentations: *Taxonomy and phylogeny of the extant genus Nitella* by **Hidetoshi Sakayama, Adriana García, Allan Chivas, Hisayoshi Nozaki and Motomi Ito** and *Critical taxonomical studies in Charophytes -section Hartmania R. D. Wood* by **Jacek Urbaniak**. After a coffee break the last part of the taxonomy and conservation session was led by Adriana García. **Nick Stewart** talked about *Charophyte conservation in Britain* and **Dominique Auderset Joye** about the *First application of the IUCN Red List Categories and Criteria to Charophytes species found in Switzerland*. After a break, the next session about charophytes at a regional scale started. Robin Scribailo was the chairman of this session. **Egita Zviedre** presented the *Freshwater charophyte distribution and occurrence in Latvia* and **Lothar Ratai** talked about *The distribution of characeans in the ditches of fen meadows in the Neustrelitz district*.

After the lunch break the session about regional studies ended with three oral presentations: **Anders Langangen** talked about *Charophytes in alpine alkaline lakes in Glomfjellet mountains, Northern Norway and remarks on the distribution of Tolypella canadensis Sawa*, **Laura Kipriyanova** on behalf of **Roman Romanov** presented the speech about *The charophytes of Western Siberia* and **Sabrina Naz** and **Nasrin Jahan Diba** talked on *Diversity of charales, past and present scenario of Bangladesh*. This session was conducted by Michelle Casanova. After a coffee break the last session of the conference dealt with Charophyte Oospores and Propagules. Mariusz Pelechaty was the chairman. We had 4 presentations: **Chloe Onoufriou** and **Marian L Yallop** presented the *Distribution of Charophyte propagules in restored gravel pit lakes*. **Jose L. Alonso-Guillén, María A. Rodrigo** and **Ingeborg Soulié-Märsche** presented the *Study of the oospore bank in sediments from a coastal lagoon for restoration purposes*. **Leeli Amon** talked about the *Occurrence of Charophyte oospores in Estonian Late-glacial sediments* and **Rudolf Ehwald, Inka Erichsen** and **Heidemarie Schneider** spoke about the *Viability test for the Chara oospores based on differential permeability of the sporopollenin envelope and the plasma membrane*.

After that we had the official closing of the conference. We were also given information about the post-conference excursion to Gotland and the planned workshops and a new one was

proposed: European Red List for Charophytes: discussion about possibilities and difficulties. The day ended with this workshop.

Finally, I would just like to stress that the conference was very well organized, all sessions and activities were on time. Thus, I wish to thank the organizers and also the participants for making the 5th IRGC conference 2008 in Rostock a real success.

María A. Rodrigo, Spain