

# MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL SDS BUSINESS MEETING, ERFOUD, MOROCCO, MONDAY, MARCH 25, 2013

**L.SLAVÍK & C.E. BRETT**

**Attendance:** The Chairman (J. MARSHALL), Vice-Chairman (C.E. BRETT), Secretary (L. SLAVÍK) **TMs:** T. BECKER, A. HASSANI, N. IZOKH, U. JANSEN, M. NARKIEWICZ, J. OVER, E. SCHINDLER, J.I. VALENZUELA-RÍOS; **CMs:** O. ARTYUSHKOVA, N. BAKHAREV, P. BUDIL, R. BROCKE, P. BULTYNCK, C. CLUG, C. DOJEN, R. FEIST, J. FRÝDA, Y. GATOVSKY, S. HARTENFELS, H. HÜNEKE, A. KURILENKO, S. NIKOLAEVA, O. OBUT, M. SCHEMM-GREGORY, K. TRINAJSTIC, A. YAZIKOV, J. ZAMBITO; **GUESTS:** A. ALEKSEEV, T. ALEKSEEVA, M. AMLER, M. ARETZ, O. BÁBEK, S. EICHHOLT, A. ERNST, S. HELLING, H.-G. HERBIG, P. KOENIGSHOF, T. KHLEBNIKOVA, J. LAKIN, J.-C. LIAO, E. NARDIN, B. RICHARDS, R. TAGARIEVA, J. WATERS. This is one of the most complete attendance in past couple of years.

## **1. Introductions and apologies for absence**

The meeting started in the foyer of hotel Palm Erfoud at 21.00 and was opened by the CHAIRMAN. Agenda was circulated well before the meeting. The chairman expressed thanks to the former team of SDS officers, especially to former chairman T. Becker for his successful and efficient leadership. He also expressed very sincere thanks to TM A. El Hasani and members of the local organizing team for a wonderfully organized and spectacular meeting in Morocco.

**Apologies were received from: TMs:** A. Blieck, G. Casier, C. Corradini, J. Day, Ma X., T. Uyeno; **CMs:** A. Bartolomew, I. Boncheva, L. Ferrová, O. Izokh, J. Hladil, A. Kim, L. Koptíková, H. Matyja, C. Ver Straeten, J. Talent and S. Vodrážková.

## **2. Approval of 2012 Minutes**

The Minutes of the Brisbane Business Meeting were circulated by e-mail in the middle of March. The Minutes were approved after some minor corrections.

## **3. Chair's Business**

### **3.1. Obituaries**

Fortunately, no SDS members losses in 2012 were announced.

### **3.2. New Officers**

The CHAIRMAN introduced the new officers for the new period. Complete officer team was present at the meeting and thus we had extraordinarily strong representation, also, as regards the membership presence. The Chairman expressed thanks to T. Becker for continuation of SDS newsletter editing and to C. Corradini for the SDS webpage maintenance.

### **3.3. Other topics**

The CHAIRMAN opened the issue of Substage definitions. He invited SDS members to submit formal proposals for substages that would then be ratified and published in ICS journal - Episodes. The formal descriptions of substage levels has not yet been finished. The base of the Emsian is the major problematic boundary in the Devonian. The teams should finish the mid-upper Frasnian substage boundary (J.Over), middle Givetian boundary and the upper Givetian boundary (Aboussalam and Becker). TM T. Becker commented to start quickly with the formal proposals to be submitted to Lethaia in order to speed the formal ratification. The Lethaia paper does not have to propose formal stratotypes.

The CHAIRMAN drew attention to the recently published book Geological Time Scale 2012 by Gradstein (Ed.) as a remarkable stratigraphic overview. TM Becker commented the fact that the book contains high quality stratigraphic information, it is not an official publication of the ICS. TM Valenzuela-Ríos pointed to some mistakes in Lower Devonian conodont zonations that appeared in the book.

The Chairman informed that the Annual report of the SDS 2012 for the ICS will appear in the forthcoming issue of the SDS newsletter.

## **4. ICS Matters**

The CHAIRMAN mentioned that the future formal definition of substages should serve as a template for other formal proposals to the ICS. He referred to a document on the Toarcian Stage that might be used as a model as to how to go about drafting substage definitions.

ICS will hold a meeting in Lisbon - 1st Congress on Stratigraphy "Strati 2013", 1<sup>st</sup> to 7<sup>th</sup> of July in Lisbon. The congresses will be organized every four years and will partly replace local European meetings with stratigraphical topics (e.g., French stratigraphical meeting). The CHAIRMAN will take part in Lisbon meeting this July, although he commented the high registration fee that would reduce the attendance of the congress.

## **5. Revision of GSSPs**

### **5.1. Pragian-Emsian**

TM VALENZUELA-RÍOS provided a short overview of the history of problem of the definition of the Pragian/Emsian boundary in Uzbekistan and listed the statements that were concluded by the SDS directly at the meeting in the Kitab State Reserve in 2008. The informal SDS working group is following up on these statements and plans to run a new sampling campaign in the GSSP section. TM Becker mentioned the *Devonobactrites* Shale interval above the Pragian Limestone that has been shown during the Moroccan field trip in El Khraouia (South Tafilalt). These shales may correspond to the Bohemian graptolite Event in the uppermost Praha Fm. in the Prague Synform as a good indicator of prospective future basal Emsian boundary. He expressed a wish to discuss and correlate the icriodontid (conodont) ranges that were documented in Morocco with those in Celtiberia (e.g. *C. sigmoidalis*). TM Izokh reminded that the clue for the future boundary definition still is in Zinzilban and, as it has been presented in talks, the future interval for sampling should be much higher than the previous attempt of 2008. The Secretary asked whether it is possible to go there in near future in order to finish the resampling of the GSSP section. TM Izokh remarked that a small group (2-3 people) would be able to go there without a problem. TM Becker urged that the future GSSP must have much higher correlation potential (e.g., -be correlatable in both shallow and deeper environments) and that multiproxy data should be provided (e.g., geochemistry, etc.) according to present demands of the ICS. The new definition will also have to include data other areas and additional fossil taxa beyond conodonts (e.g., dacryconarids).

### **5.2. D/C Boundary**

This point was skipped because of forthcoming D/C task group meeting in few days. Many SDS members joined this meeting of the Carboniferous Subcommittee and the D/C Boundary Task Group. The meeting was conducted by Markus ARETZ, the D/C TG Chairman, and secretary of Carboniferous Subcommittee. In the discussion many different opinions were expressed. The main problem is the incoherence between geochemical signals and their rather indistinct excursions and biostratigraphical problems (conodont *S. sulcata* problem). The discussion of whether to choose an alternative biostratigraphic marker for the boundary definition or to rely on geochemical or geophysical signals, which may not be easily followed and reproduced in many sections, will continue as no definitive conclusion has been made.

## **6. Devonian Substages**

### **6.1. Pragian**

The Pragian will need to have two substages as has been shown in the talks during scientific sessions. The fundamental issue is still the upper Pragian boundary and that depends on basal Emsian boundary redefinition

### **6.2. Emsian**

See Revision of the Pragian/Emsian boundary. There is a new paper on the Daleje Event and dacryconarid faunas by L. Ferrová et al. (2012) that might be a significant contribution for the future Emsian subdivision.

### **6.3. Famennian**

TM Becker noted that this year there should be a formal vote for the Upper Famennian substage. The document for the formal vote will be sent out soon. TM Becker also noted that he had proposed that the base of the upper Famennian be placed at the base of the *annulata* Event; there had been no comment on this from the membership, to date.

## **7. SDS Membership**

Titular members (TM's) are nominated every four years. No changes for this year will be made.

### **New CMs**

Michal Mergl (University of West Bohemia, Czech Republic, brachiopods)

Jau-Chyn Liao (University of València, Spain, conodonts)

Egberto Pereira, Departamento de Estratigrafie e Paleontologia Faculdade de Geologia, UERJ (Universidade do Estado do Rio de Janeiro), Rio de Janeiro, Brasil, [egberto@uerj.br](mailto:egberto@uerj.br)

Mercedes Di Pasquo, Palinoestratigrafía, Investigadora Independiente (Senior Res.), CICyTTP-CONICET, Dr. Matteri y Espana, Diamante – CP E3105BWA, Entre Ríos, Argentina, [medipa@cicyttp.org.ar](mailto:medipa@cicyttp.org.ar)

Yury Gatovsky (Moscow State University, conodonts)

The Chairman asked the membership to find somebody from Asia and South America to complete the SDS community representation. TM Becker asked the new members to provide Devonian publication lists for the SDS newsletter.

## 8. SDS Publications:

Proceedings of the symposium of IGC 596 held at the IGC in Brisbane (plus papers from the London meeting of IPC in 2010) shall be published as a special volume: “Devonian Climate, Sea Level and Biological Events” in the *Special Publications* series of the *Geological Society of London*, with R.T. BECKER, P. KÖNIGSHOF & C. BRETT as editors. TM Becker reported that about 22 manuscripts had been announced. There is some delay and the original submission deadline of July was slightly postponed to the end of October. The volume should have at least about 300 pages and would be published on-line immediately after final submission.

The planned Proceedings Volume of the Novosibirsk meeting in *Palaeodiversity and Palaeoenvironments* (chief editor P. KÖNIGSHOF) of the Senckenberg Institute was delayed. There are not many contributions and the editorial work has not yet been finished. However, CM O. Obuts said that of 10 promised contributions nine were already in hand; they are now going to be edited for English with assistance from Svetlana.

It was announced that a comprehensive thesis by S. Hartenfels on late Devonian Ammonoids has been published.

TM Becker asked SDS members to send contributions to the SDS newsletter, especially proposals for substages (Givetian, Frasnian and Famennian).

## 9. Future meetings

*STRATI 2013, 1<sup>st</sup> International Congress on Stratigraphy*, 1<sup>st</sup> to 7<sup>th</sup> July 2013, Lisbon, Portugal. The chairman will take part.

2013 *ICOS* (Conodont) meeting, July 15-19, 2013 Mendoza, Argentina

2013: *IGCP 596 meeting* joins the *International conference on Paleontology of SE Asia*, Malaysia-Vietnam, September- October.

2014: *Fourth International Paleontological Congress*, in Mendoza, Argentina, September 28 to October 24, 2014 will be joined with the IGCP 596 meeting. Most of conodont workers will not probably come again because of *ICOS* (Conodont) meeting at same place this year.

2015: *Final meeting of IGCP 596* is planned to be in Frankfurt, Germany. Field trips will be offered to Eifel and Sauerland

2016: *IGC - International Geological Congress in South Africa*: the possibility of join the SDS meeting with excursion to the Devonian of South Africa is being considered.

2017: *ICOS (International Conodont Symposium)* will be probably proposed in Europe.

2018? An SDS meeting in New York State or in Bulgaria is being discussed.

## 10. Financial Report

The CHAIRMAN reported that from the budget (\$1,600 USD), \$600 USD will be allocated for SDS Newsletter. The subvention from the ICS for 2013 is \$1,400 USD. The balance from last year is \$156.00

## 11. Other business

CM Frýda asked who is working on subdivision of the Emsian. TM Becker mentioned that Ruth Mawson was working on this but she has had health problems that have delayed progress. He noted work by the Senckenberg and North American teams. However, he emphasized that ICS Chair, Stan Finney, has stated that there can be no formal substage division until all stage boundaries are formalized.

CM Schemm-Gregory discussed the on-going revision of the Krantz brachiopod collection in Coimbra University Science Museum. P. Koenigshof reported on the good evaluation of the IGCP 596 and about the forthcoming meeting in Malaysia and Vietnam. J. Waters discussed problems with organization of the Mongolian meeting that was planned for 2014.

The Chairman again expressed thanks to the organizers of the International Field Symposium in Morocco and to excursion guides and editors and contributors to the Field Guidebook. The meeting adjourned shortly after 10 p.m.