

# Newsletter of Micropaleontology

Number 94, August 2016

[www.tmsoc.org](http://www.tmsoc.org)



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The  
Micropalaeontological  
Society

ISSN 2398-2098  
Registered Charity No. 284013

**Cover image:** An adult shell of the ostracod *Cyprideis torosa* filled with juvenile shells, and frustules of the diatom *Campylodiscus* (coloured orange). From Lake Balkhash in Kazakhstan, this ostracod has disappeared from some regions of the lake in the last few decades due to major human impact on inflowing water volume and probably also water quality. Image by Steffen Mischke of University of Iceland, Reykjavík.

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## Correspondence

Please send items of news, comments, letters or articles for publication such as conference reports or meeting announcements to the editor. These should be supplied as plain text files or as Word documents. Photographs or illustrations to accompany articles are also welcome. Please send photos as high resolution JPEG images. Please send all correspondence to the editor: Claudia Cetean, Robertson Ltd. (UK), Tyn y Coed, Llandudno, North Wales LL30 1SA, UK, or by email to newsletter@tmsoc.org.

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The *Newsletter of Micropalaeontology* is published by The Micropalaeontological Society twice yearly in January and August. The copy dates for each issue are 1st December and 1st July.

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## Specialist Group News

### **Nanno News - updates from the TMS Nannofossil Group and the International Nannoplankton Association**

Cherry Newsam & Simon Cole & Jeremy Young

#### Recent Meetings

##### **Jurassic Workshop, Lyon 12-14th May 2016**

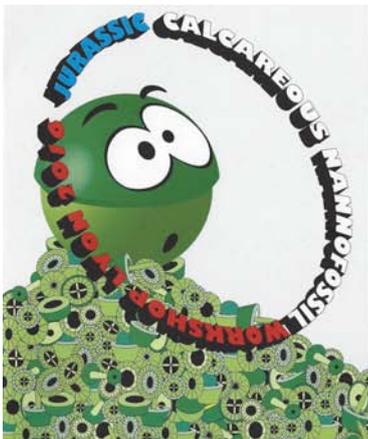
As promised at the INA conference in the Philippines last year Emnuela Mattioli and Fabiene Giraud organised a workshop on "Jurassic Calcareous Nannofossils: Taxonomy, Biostratigraphy, Evolution, Paleoecology". This proved a really excellent idea. The workshop was very well attended with over twenty nanno workers with specialist interest in the Jurassic, including Dave Watkins and Eric de Kaenel who came over from the USA for the workshop. The godfather of American nannofossil research, Woody Wise was not able to join us as he was having his retirement party in Tallahassee, but we did send him a video message. We had a series of talks on the first day covering recent research on Jurassic nannofossils and allowing the participants to get to know each others work. This was followed by an excellent group dinner in the centre of Lyon, actually at the same rather splendid restaurant as we had the INA conference dinner in 2008.

On the Friday we continued more informally discussing the taxonomy of various groups of Jurassic nannofossils - notably including the Biscutaceae and Watznaueriaceae. As always with this type of discussion there were conflicting opinions and progress was fairly slow but it was a very informative experience for all involved and in several areas fairly clear consensus emerged- and most of this got transferred into notes on nannotax. Finally on the Saturday there was a field trip to the Middle Jurassic sites of the Ardeche Region -which apparently went very well, despite a certain amount of rain, although sadly I had to head home the night before.

##### **TMS Foraminifera and Nannofossil meeting June 2016 and Beyond Biostratigraphy workshop**

After Lyon our next nannofossil gathering was on the other side of France at Angers, a beautiful medieval city on the Rhone, and with lots of friendly bars to watch the Euro2016 football. This was the annual TMS Foram and Nannofossil Groups meeting which has evolved into a substantial conference. Indeed it was attended by about 130 participants. Benthic foraminiferal specialists have tended to particularly value these meetings and as this one was hosted in the largest centre of benthic foram research in Europe (if not globally) this trend continued. However the organisers - Frans Jorissen and Meryem Mojathid had ensured that nannofossil workers were very welcome and well-represented. Talks and poster sessions were organised thematically, nannofossils were represented in most sessions and Clara Bolton gave a keynote talk on nannofossil palaeoproxies.

The prime focus for nannofossil workers at the conference was an all day workshop on the Thursday on theme of "Beyond Biostratigraphy - information retrieval from coccoliths". For this workshop Clara Bolton and Jeremy Young had invited a range of specialists covering both biological and palaeoceanographic topics and we were very gratified that almost all the invitees were able to attend. So we had a very useful set of seven speakers: Tom Dunkley-Jones (Birmingham), Patrizia Ziveri (Barcelona),



*Nannofossil workers in Lyon - singing to Woody Wise in Florida*

Gerald Langer (Plymouth), Heather Stoll (Oviedo), Fabrice Minoletti (Paris), Sarah O'Dea (Bristol) and Ian Probert (Roscoff). In addition about a dozen other nannofossil workers from across Europe, China and Turkey attended. The format we adopted was to ask each of the speakers to give a review of recent progress in a field closely related to their core research interest, and then to encourage extensive discussion after each talk. This worked well with a lot of exchange of ideas

between the specialists. Indeed we all felt the workshop could usefully have been a lot longer and we plan to develop the topics further at the Athens conference next year. More fundamentally the participants discussed the possibility for a multidisciplinary research programme on coccoliths bringing together the strands discussed.



*TMS FNG meeting - evidence both that Angers is a beautiful city, and that we did spend a lot of time learning more about micropaleontology.*

## Future Meetings

### TMS AGM 2016 Lille, November 2016

The France 2016 theme will continue with the TMS AGM 'Integrating Micropalaeontology to Molecular Biology; Insights into Evolution and Geobiology' which will be held in Lille (17th-18th November). There will be keynote speakers and the society business held on the afternoon of Thursday 17th with a poster session and open talks on micropalaeontology on Friday 18th. The deadline for poster and presentation abstracts is the 18th September.

### TMS Foraminifera and Nannofossil meeting 2017

On the Tuesday of the Angers meeting there were presentations and a vote on where to hold the next FNG meeting. Silvia Spezzaferri gave a warm invitation for the meeting to be held in the Swiss Alps in the ancient city of Fribourg with added attraction of fondues and the best Swiss chocolate. Tom Dunkley Jones and Kirsty Edgar countered with the attraction of Birmingham's campus, curries and canals. The meeting voted narrowly to remain with the British/EU venue - which is a bit ironic given that the Brexit referendum took place only two days later. We also decided that in 2018 the meeting will form part of the Forums 2018 conference in Edinburgh and, finally, that in 2019 we would accept Silvia's invitation and go to

Fribourg.

For the nannofossil group Birmingham is a welcome venue since we have Tom Dunkley-Jones as the local host and it is ideally located for the large community of industrial nannofossil biostratigraphers in the UK. We would welcome suggestions for a workshop but most likely it will have a strong applied biostratigraphy theme.

### INA16, Athens September 2017

INA16 is to be held from 24th to 28th September 2017 in Athens, Greece, hosted by Maria Triantaphyllou. The website is now up and running and the first circular is available. There will be particular focus on ocean acidification and beyond; nannofossil biostratigraphy; coccolithophores and environmental change; coccolithophore ecology and palaeoceanography from the Indian Ocean and West Pacific. A post meeting fieldtrip will run from the 29th September to the 2nd October - a transverse along the Corinth Gulf Rift to Zakyntos Island.

### Proposed Committee Changes

Both Cherry Newsam (Secretary) and Simon Cole (Chair) are coming to the end of their terms as the TMS Nannofossil Group representatives. Simon is looking to stand

down but Cherry is happy to do another term. Mike McKnight (biostratigrapher at CGG Robertsons) has cheerfully agreed to be volunteered. So the tentatively proposed committee for the next two year (2017-2018) is Cherry Newsam (Chair) and Mike McKnight (Secretary) - BUT if anyone else would like to volunteer please do get in touch.

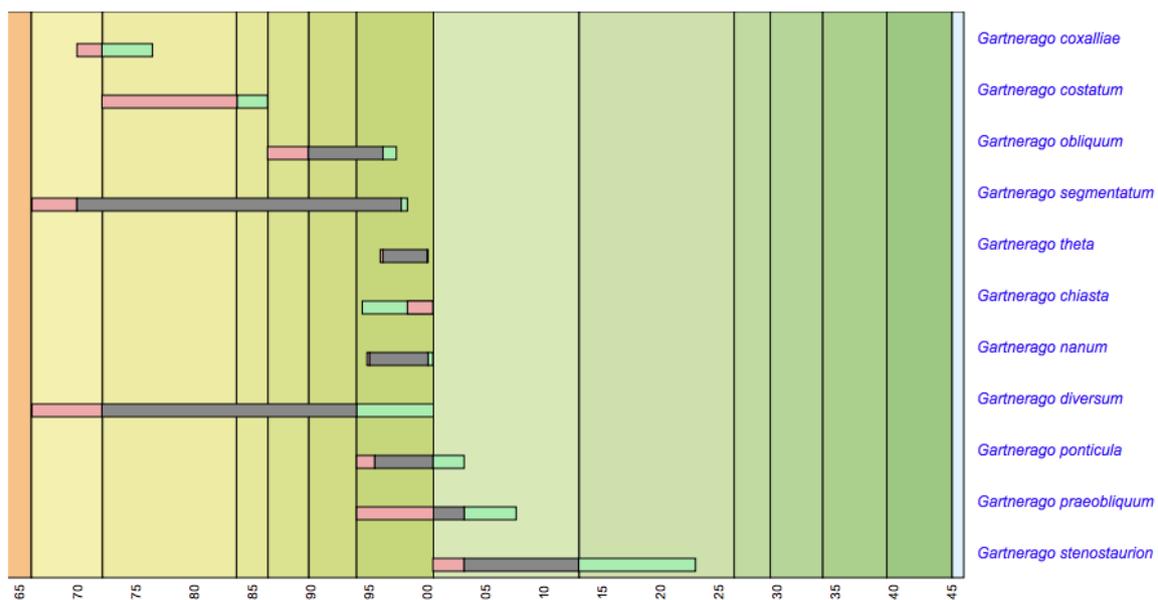
### Nannotax update - by Jeremy Young

Jurassic updates - In terms of content we made a special effort to increase the coverage of Jurassic nannofossil prior to the Jurassic workshop - with illustrations from numerous classic papers being input into the system. As explained in the section on the workshop we also used Nannotax extensively during the workshop and a series of edits and corrections resulted from these discussions.

The big development, however, is that early this year we obtained funding from the UK NERC for a second phase of the Nannotax project - this time focused on creating a database of planktonic foraminifera. Or rather the objective is to transfer the content already created by the very successful planktonic foraminifera working groups into the nannotax database system so it will become more user-friendly and more widely accessible. Leaders of the project include planktonic foraminiferal specialists Bridget Wade (USL) and Brian Huber (Smithsonian, USA), along with Paul Bown and myself. To enable this migration and to allow many more people to contribute to the system I have done a lot of work on the behind the scenes parts of the system.

One obvious outcome of this work is that the system for plotting range data has been overhauled. Each higher taxon page now has a summary of the ranges of all the daughter taxa on it - as shown below. These plots also allow us to give some indication of the uncertainty in ranges. The bars are colour-coded with a pink box indicating the interval in which the top of the taxon occurs and a green box indicating the interval in which its base occurs. On species pages there is just a plot for the species but it also shows occurrence data from the Neptune database. Finally, you can plot custom range charts of any taxa you choose on a separate page (look under the Tools menu). This can be used for example to make charts for reports showing the ranges of all taxa cited in the report.

The plotting of range data hopefully also makes it easier to spot mistakes or missing information - as ever we would love to have comments and contributions from users. You can send email comments direct to me ([jeremy.young@ucl.ac.uk](mailto:jeremy.young@ucl.ac.uk)) or add comments at the bottom of any page (I get notified of all comments and they also appear on the recent comments page so they will be seen and replied to!)



An example of the new style of range chart we have added to Nannotax. these appear on all taxon pages and you can make customised ones from:  
<http://ina.tmsoc.org/Nannotax3ranges-ntax+nep.php>