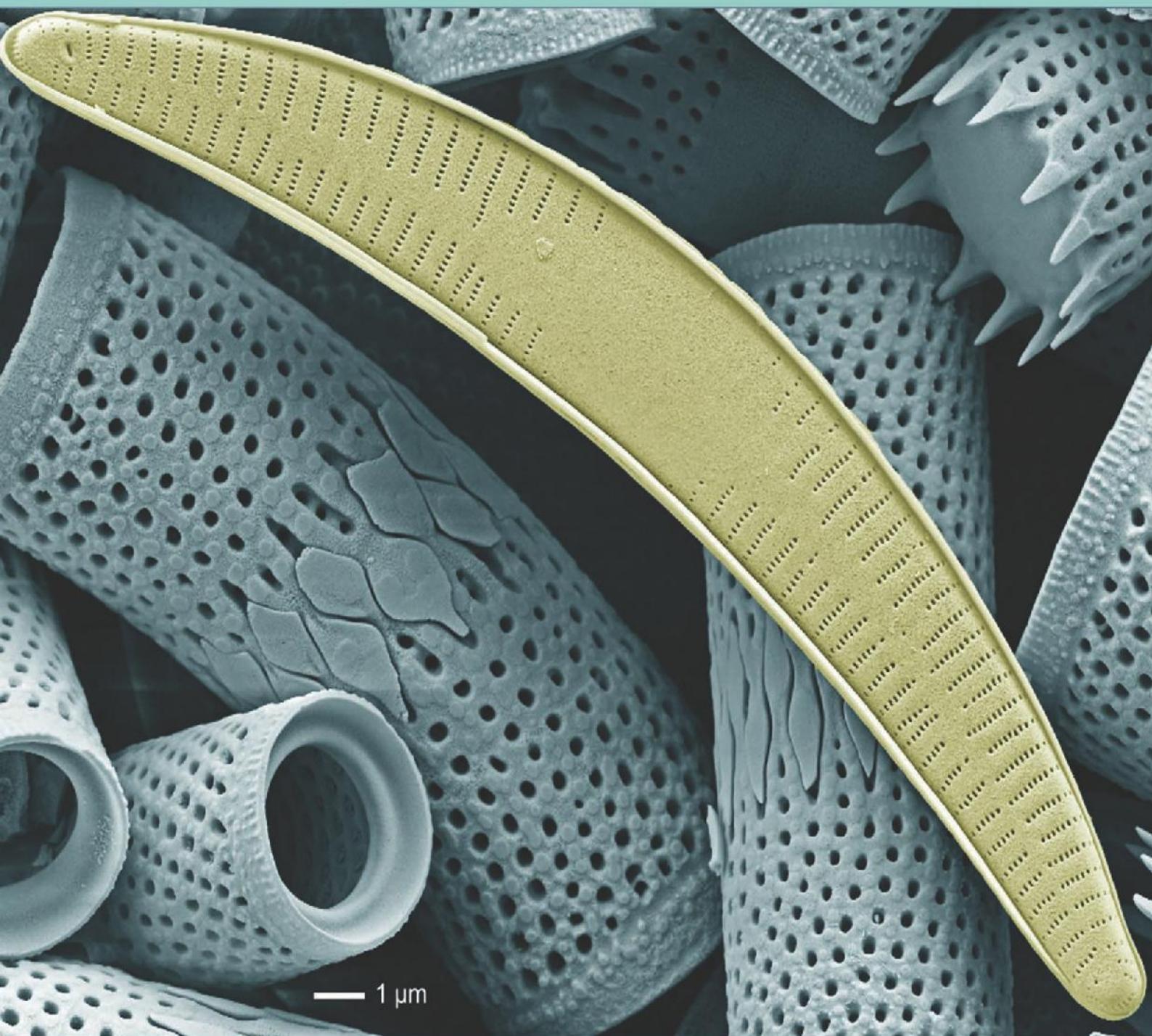


# Newsletter of Micropaleontology

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**Cover image:** Freshwater diatoms, *Fragilaria flexura* surrounded by specimens of *Aulacoseira subarctica*. Ca. 850 calendar years old, from Two Yurts Lake, Kamchatka, Russia. Image by Ulrike Hoff, UiT, the Arctic University of Norway, Tromsø.

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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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## Specialist Group News

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

Cherry Newsam & Simon Cole & Jeremy Young

The TMS AGM in November 2015 was a successful event, hosted by Fabienne Marret-Davies and Alan Bowden at the University of Liverpool. There was good attendance from academic and industry nannofossil workers alike. Katy Prentice, a recently qualified nannofossil PhD student received the Charles Downie Award for her paper "Trace metal (Mg/Ca and Sr/Ca) analyses of single coccoliths by Secondary Ion Mass Spectrometry", which she gave a short presentation on at the meeting. There were also a number of nannofossil posters presented by early career researchers, including a number of Birmingham MSc students.

Following the TMS AGM we now look forward to upcoming nannofossil meetings; a nannofossil workshop and the annual TMS Foraminifera and Nannofossil group meeting this summer and we await INA16 the following year.

#### Future Meetings

##### Jurassic Workshop - May 2016

During the INA15 conference there was a short workshop on Jurassic nannofossils and it was decided that it would be useful to have a proper workshop on them to synthesise recent developments of knowledge on Jurassic nannofossils and work toward revision of the Jurassic zonation. Emanuela Mattioli agreed to organise this and it is now timetabled for Lyon

(Université Lyon 1) on Thursday and Friday 12 and 13 of May, with a fieldtrip to the Lagerstätte of La Voulte-sur-Rhône (Callovian) on Saturday 14 May. Please contact Emanuela by email ([emanuela.mattioli@univ-lyon1.fr](mailto:emanuela.mattioli@univ-lyon1.fr)) if you wish to be informed about this meeting.

##### TMS Joint Foraminifera and Nannofossil meeting - June 2016

The next joint Foraminifera and Nannofossil meeting will be held at the University of Angers from the 19<sup>th</sup>-24<sup>th</sup> June next year. The conference has four themes biology/ecology, proxy development, Mesozoic-Tertiary paleostudies and Quaternary/Holocene paleostudies. We strongly encourage nannofossil workers to consider submitting abstracts for oral and poster presentations. The conference will follow the typical structure of a two day conference, followed by a day field trip to the island of Noirmoutier and then a day available for a workshop.

The workshop topic of *Beyond Biostratigraphy: information retrieval from calcareous nannofossils* has been accepted and this workshop will be organized by Clara Bolton with the TMS group representatives Simon Cole and Cherry Newsam, also



Where to go next - a quick guide to future destinations for nannofossil enthusiasts - apparently it is time to improve our French

assisted by Jeremy Young. We plan to include both invited speakers reviewing state of the art in relevant fields and open discussion to help establish which techniques and approaches are most promising and what studies are need to develop them.

### INA16, Athens September 2017

Following the conference in Bohol, a trip to Europe will be in store for the next INA meeting with INA 16 to be held in September of 2017 in Athens, Greece, hosted by Maria Triantaphyllou. This is now time tabled for 24-27 september 2107. It will be centered on hotel, Divani Palace Acropolis in the historic heart of Athens with post fieldtrips to the Greek Islands. The conference will encompass both palaeontological and biological research on coccolithophores including sessions on recent IODP drilling, especially in the Indian Ocean, and on geobiology of coccolithophores.

### **Nannotax update - by Jeremy Young**

Since the last newsletter was published I have spent two months at sea on IODP expedition 359 to the Indian Ocean. This has inevitably meant that development of the system has been slower. On the other hand there is now a copy of the system on the *JOIDES Resolution* - this is a static version which does not directly access the database but it does work reasonably well and avoids the need for an internet connection. Participating on the leg also highlighted the need to improve stratigraphic data in the system.

So, there are no dramatic improvements to report but have been incremental improvements in the

system most obviously this has included addition of about 2500 more images, predominantly from classic Mesozoic papers, which is a major improvement on Mesozoic coverage and there has been general improvement of Mesozoic taxonomic data as well. Hopefully we will use the upcoming Jurassic workshop as a focus to further improve the Jurassic coverage. I also have included a collection of new colour light micrographs of modern and Neogene specimens collected during the IODP expedition.

Perhaps the most important development is that we (Paul Bown and I) have secured funding in collaboration with Brian Huber of the Smithsonian Museum and Bridget Wade of UCL to develop a planktonic foram database based on the nannotax system and content from the previous *Chronos* planktonic foram database. This project will also fund development of the underlying system and especially of more user-friendly interfaces for developers so as to allow more people to contribute to the system. In preparation for this I have also done a lot of work on the image database, improving the metadata and transferring it into an SQL database. There now nearly 20,000 images in the system and for the vast majority of them good quality data on collection location, publication source, geological age is available. This will allow variable searches in the future.



*Slightly spurious photo of the JOIDES Resolution with size-sorted nannofossil team of Santi Pratiwi of Akita University Xiang Su from Guangzhou and Jeremy Young*