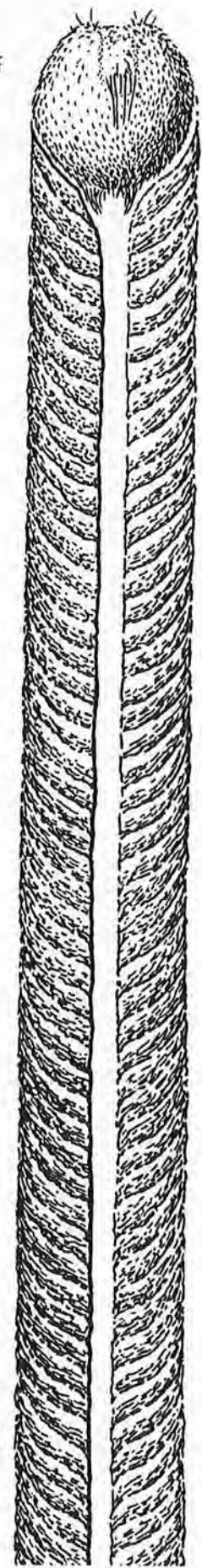
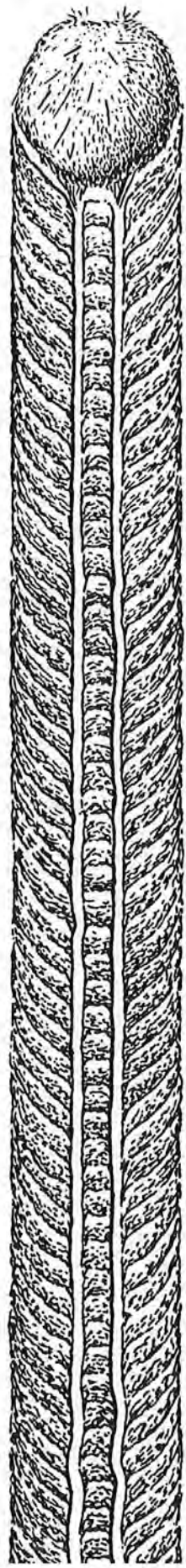
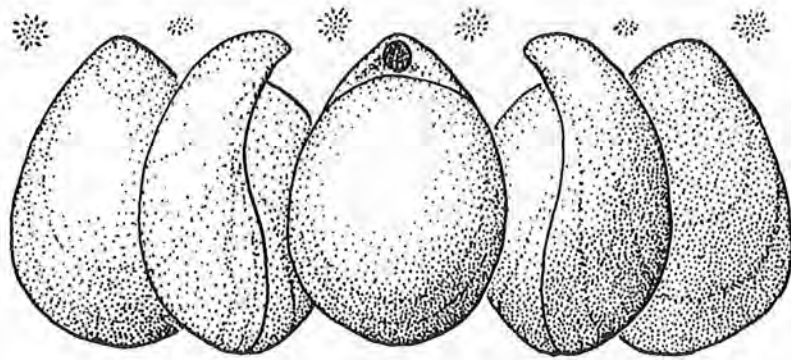




# Ichnology Newsletter

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Andrew K. Rindsberg  
&  
Alfred Uchman  
Coeditors



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## **Front Cover**

### **Ichnological frameup**

#### **Richard G. Bromley**

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Left: A non-echinocardiid spatangoid echinoid producing a twin-drained *Scolicia*.

Right: An echinocardiid producing a single-drained *Bichordites*.

Bottom: Terebratulacean brachiopods and their pedicle etching traces *Podichnus*.

Top: Rhynchonellaceans and their *Podichnus*.

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<i>Bibliographia Ichnologica 1990-95</i>	2001		24.00
<i>Bibliographia Ichnologica to 1899</i>	2003		to be announced on SKOLITHOS

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**Please contribute your news, announcements of meetings, current activities (2001-2002), and 'ichnovaria' (humor, quotations, memories, etc.) – and especially your bibliography. Reprints are very welcome.**

# **Ichnology Newsletter, no. 24**

## **June 2002**

Coeditors  
Andrew K. Rindsberg and Alfred Uchman

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## Introduction

Andrew K. Rindsberg & Alfred Uchman

**T**HE YEAR 2001 WAS BLIGHTED by turmoil in the US, Argentina, Israel, and Islamic world. Economic chaos rattled scientists in Argentina, where some of the most interesting work in ichnology is being performed today. After the terrorist attacks of 11 September, scientific discussion slowed dramatically on paleontologic listservers for months afterward. The taphonomic listserv, DDDNet, already moribund, died early in 2002.

Even so, there were several interesting developments in ichnology that made the news. Particularly impressive was the US Congress' decision to set aside dinosaur trackways at St. George (Utah) only days after the attacks (107th Congress, 1st Session, House of Representatives Bill 2385).

The debate begun by **Seilacher** and others (1998) over possible billion-year-old trace fossils in the Vindhyan Series of India continued in 2001 (Anonymous, 2002a). The discussion took an interesting new turn as **Birger Rasmussen** and others reported other trace fossils in strata 1.2 Ga old in Australia (Anonymous, 2002b; Whitfield, 2002).

Also in 2002, **Johann Koller** and others reported the world's oldest human fingerprint, about 80 ka old, in pitch from the Harz Mountains of Germany (Koller et al., 2001; Anonymous, 2002a). Because the pitch was manufactured as glue for a tool, this suggests that the Neanderthals had a more sophisticated technology than previously known.

**Winfried Lachauer** (2000) made a film on the life of an ichnologist, *Der Sherlock Holmes der Paläontologie – Professor Adolf Seilacher*. Late news to be sure, but interesting all the same.

**Ichnos** found a new publisher, Taylor & Francis. Back issues are expensive, but individual subscriptions are reasonably priced and it is a tremendous relief to have our field's flagship journal published on a regular basis again.

Biologist **Gilbert Franck** (Laboratoire d'Océanologie et de Biogéochimie, Marseille) invites us to subscribe to the Bioturbation mailing list at <http://com1.com.univ-mrs.fr/listes/info/bioturb>. And a new listserv, **PaleoWasteLand**, was started in 2001 for discussion of coprolites, with **Michael Orock** contributing many of the messages (PaleoWasteLand@topica.com).

**L'Ichnospace**, an ichnologic museum, opened in Luzech near Cahors in southern France (Anonymous, 2002c, d). The museum was conceived by **Brigitte Lange-Badre** (Université P. & M. Curie, Paris) and highlights local Upper Jurassic sauropod trackways on a 60-m<sup>2</sup> surface as well as pterosaur tracks and general exhibits.

In Golden, Colorado (USA), within walking distance of the Colorado School of Mines, a hubbub started over Cretaceous ceratopsian and other dinosaur tracks studied since 1988 by **Martin Lockley**. What should be done with the tracks as the old strip mine was converted into a golf course? After a widely reported public debate, at least limited public access was assured (Anonymous, 2001; Vendetti, 2001).

A Permian eurypterid trackway in Cape Province (South Africa) also received international attention, especially for the difficulty of casting it on a steeply dipping bedding plane (Anonymous, 2002e; Yeld, 2002). **Roger Smith** helped John **Almond** to reproduce it, first in 'pizza' dough made of flour and water, then in silicone rubber backed by plaster of Paris, and finally in fiberglass.

We are fast losing track of new websites and would appreciate your help in keeping up with them. A few new ones are listed in the references at the end of this note. Of particular interest may be CyberTracker, freeware designed for recording information about tracks in the field using a PalmPilot handheld computer.

### This issue

This is the fifth issue of the new *Ichnology Newsletter*, and we would like to thank all those who have helped us produce it over the years. The best part has been the opportunity to converse with so many researchers about their work while it is happening.

We are proud to present a report by the **Frankfurt group** on their research in microbioerosion; an interview of **Florencio Acenolaza**; and reminiscences of a prominent ichnologist, **Kent Chamberlain**. In addition, there are some shorter articles, notices of events and books, and the usual features such as the bibliography.

### Transitions

Congratulations to **Richard G. Bromley**, who achieved Professor Emeritus status in 2001. **Alfred Uchman** was promoted to Professor in 2001, and then elected Director of the Geological Institute in 2002. **Steve Donovan** began a new position at the Nationaal Natuurhistorisch Museum (Naturalis) (Leiden), and **Steve Hasiotis** began work at the University of Kansas (Lawrence). **Duncan McIlroy** announced a move to the University of Bergen, effective January 2003; he still holds the StatOil chair.

Among the vertebrate ichnologists, there was a real shuffle in 2002 as **Emma Rainforth** began work at Mesalands Community College (Tucumcari), taking up the position that **Adrian Hunt** vacated to become Director of the New Mexico Museum of Natural History (Albuquerque) and work with **Spencer Lucas**. And **Marilyn Wegweiser** began work at Georgia College & State University (Milledgeville).

Best wishes to **Ludvig Löwemark**, who completed his doctoral degree at the Universität Kiel (2001) and took up a new position at the Academia Sinica in Taipei. **John-Paul Zonneveld** finished his doctoral work at the University of Alberta (Edmonton) and started work with the Geological Survey of Canada (Calgary). Congratulations also to **Michael Schlirf** for completing his doctorate at the Universität Würzburg.

Congratulations also to **George Pemberton**, who was elected as a Fellow of the Royal Society of Canada (Société royale du Canada) for advancing 'our understanding of the role of organisms as sedimentologic and diagenetic entities and refining clastic facies models through the combined study of physical and biogenic sedimentary structures and their palaeoecological significance.' He is the second Canadian ichnologist to be so honored, the first being **William A.S. Sarjeant** in 1995.

Sadly, the ichnologic community lost some great men in the past year. **Stanislaw Dzulynski**, known for his work on the sedimentology of flysch, died on 28 June 2001. The celebrated explorer and ichnologist **Ardito Desio** died on 12 December 2001 at the age of 104. And on 3 February 2002 we lost **Nicolás Muñoz**, who convened the Sixth International Ichnofabric Workshop for its first time in South America. He had attended every one of the previous workshops as well. To Nicolás this volume is affectionately dedicated.

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\* \* \* \* \*

Do not be surprised, therefore, Most Serene Prince, if, for a whole year's time, and, what is more, almost daily, I have said that the investigation ... was very near an end.

Nicolaus Steno (1669, *Prodromus*; translated by Winter, 1916)



# Microborings: current studies and goals of the Frankfurt group

**Klaus Vogel<sup>1</sup>, Marcos Gektidis<sup>1</sup>, Ingrid Glaub<sup>1</sup> & Gudrun Radtke<sup>2</sup>**

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## Introduction

The Frankfurt research project on microborings was established in 1984 by Klaus Vogel. Research interests mainly focus on the role of modern and fossil microborings in bathymetry and bioerosion. In marine environments, endolithic microorganisms are omnipresent in various calcareous substrates. By definition, the tube diameters of the resulting microborings range in size from 1 µm to 100 µm. As is so far known from modern studies, the majority of microborings is produced by cyanobacteria, green algae, red algae, fungi, and foraminifers. Distinct external features of the euendolithic soft body are copied by the morphology of the boring system. This fact favors comparison with modern fossils and aids in matching the possible producer of a fossil microboring system. For an overview of relevant publications, see Radtke et al. (1997b).

The traces of microendolithic cyanobacteria and algae turn out to be useful as bathymetric and paleobathymetric indicators, owing to the adaptation of their producers to different light intensities and wavelengths (Glaub, 1994; Vogel et al., 1995; Vogel et al., 2000). A euphotic zone (with subzones), a dysphotic, and an aphotic zone have been characterized and defined by typical ichnocoenoses. They are named according to the two or three most important ichnotaxa (fig. 1) (Glaub, 1994; Vogel et al., 1995). The essential characteristics of the bathymetric scheme of index ichnocoenoses are present from the Silurian onwards, hitherto the oldest geological period we have investigated.

## Previous studies

Members of the Frankfurt research team have investigated microborings from different periods, addressing taxonomy and paleobathymetry: Silurian (Glaub & Bundschuh, 1997; Bundschuh, 2000), Devonian (Vogel et al., 1987), Permian (Balog, 1996, 1997), Triassic (Balog, 1996; Schmidt, 1990, 1992), Jurassic and Early Cretaceous (Glaub, 1994), Late Cretaceous (Hofmann & Vogel, 1992; Hofmann, 1996), and Tertiary (Radtke, 1991). The bathymetry of reefs accumulated at different ages and built by different organisms was treated by Vogel et al. (1999).

In 1991, we extended our research to modern environments: Schmidt (1990), Radtke (1993), Schmidt & Freiwald (1993), Radtke et al. (1996, 1997a, c), Kiene et al. (1995), Gektidis and Golubic (1996), Golubic et al. (1996), Gektidis (1997a, b, 1999), Kiene (1997), Krutschinna (1997), Vogel et al. (2000). Most of these publications relate to the tropical and subtropical realms.

The second focus of our studies on microendoliths consists of experimental studies on bioerosion rates of these organisms. Investigations have been carried out at the Bahamas and at the Great Barrier Reef, Australia (Kiene et al., 1995; Vogel et al., 1996, 2000; Gektidis, 1997a; Kiene, 1997).

The main controlling factor for the abundance and bathymetric distribution, as well as for bioerosion rates, of microendoliths is light. But we have also investigated the


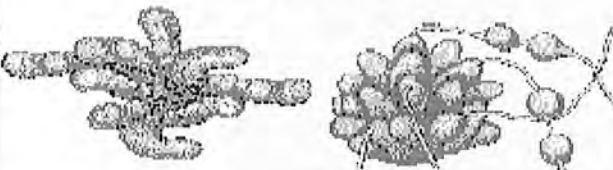


Photic Zones		Index Ichnocoenoses of Microborings	General Characteristics
Euphotic Zone	I	Index Ichnocoenose not yet defined	Dominance of cyanobacteria with sheath pigmentation
	II	<i>Fasciculus acinosus</i> / <i>Fasciculus dactylus</i> - <b>Ichnocoenose</b> 	Dominance of cyanobacteria, vertical orientation of borings
	III	<i>Fasciculus dactylus</i> / <i>Palaeoconhocelis starmachii</i> - <b>Ichnocoenose</b> 	Cyanobacteria abundant, + eucaryotes, change from vertical to horizontal orientation
	Deep Euphotic Zone	<i>Palaeoconhocelis starmachii</i> / <i>Reticulina elegans</i> - <b>Ichnocoenose</b> 	Dominance of eucaryotes, mainly rhodophyta and chlorophyta, horizontal orientation, heterotrophs increasing, maximum of diversity
Dysphotic Zone	Index Ichnocoenose not yet defined	Dominance of heterotrophs, + <i>Reticulina elegans</i> and/or <i>Scolecia filosa</i>	
Aphotic Zone	<i>Succomorpha clava</i> / <i>Orthogonum lineare</i> - <b>Ichnocoenose</b> 	Only heterotrophs	

FIGURE 1 Index ichnocoenoses of microborings related to the photic zonation, with general characteristics (from Glaub et al., in press).

influence of substrate types, exposure periods, and the impact of inorganic nutrients (Gektidis, 1997a, 1999; Kiene, 1997; Vogel et al., 2000). The bioerosional notch along tropical limestone coasts with its complex ecological system was studied by Radtke et al. (1996, 1997a).

#### Current studies

Currently, we are investigating the influence of low (non-tropical) temperature and high latitude position at Recent sites and in fossil strata. The Recent sites are in shelf regions of the North Atlantic, i.e., at the Spitsbergen Bank and Tromsø, northern Norway (Gektidis), at the west coast of Scotland and the upwelling region off Mauritania, northwestern Africa (Glaub). The fossil strata are Tertiary sediments of Alaska, USA (Vogel & Marincovich) and deposits of the same age in eastern Andalusia, Spain (Vogel & Betzler). A new project will be focused on the impact of low salinity, again with modern and fossil examples. The distribution of microendoliths in modern brackish water environments shall be tested in the Baltic Sea (northeastern Germany), and their occurrence under low-salinity conditions in fossil strata shall be studied in the Tertiary of the Vienna Basin, Austria (Vogel & Radtke).

Further on, we plan to investigate the geological record of microendoliths and of the bathymetric index ichnocoenoses. For this purpose we have started a project in the Ordovician of Ohio and Kentucky, USA (Vogel & C. Brett).

#### Perspectives

The long-term goal is to provide index ichnocoenoses applicable to reconstruct paleodepths in different environments, back to the early Paleozoic.

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\* \* \* \* \*

*Freude trinken alle Wesen  
An den Bursten der Natur;  
Alle Guten, alle Bosen  
Folgen ihrer Rosenspur.*

Joy is drunk by every being  
From kind nature's flowing breasts,  
Every evil, every good thing  
For her rosy footprint quests.

Friedrich Schiller (1785)  
'An die Freude (Ode to Joy)'  
Translated by William F. Wertz  
Schiller Institute, Washington, DC

## Interview of Dr. Florencio Aceñolaza: the rise of ichnology in South America

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The interview was conducted in Spanish by Gabriela Mángano and Luis Buatois at the Horco Molle office of the Instituto Superior de Correlación Geológica (INSUGEO) in December 2000 and subsequently translated into English. During the recent 4th Argentinean Meeting of Ichnology in San Miguel de Tucumán, Dr. Aceñolaza was awarded the 'Golden Oldhamia' in recognition of his pioneer work in South American ichnology. Gabriela and Luis thank Rodolfo Aredes, who transcribed the interview.

**Q:** How and when did you hear about ichnology for the first time?

**A:** When I started to work on my PhD dissertation on lower Paleozoic successions of northwest Argentina I had to deal with strata having abundant *Skolithos* and *Cruziana*. At that moment I contacted Borrello, who had been working along similar lines on the ichnology of the mountain ranges of southern Buenos Aires province.<sup>1</sup> Anyway, I didn't pay a lot of attention to ichnology at that time, but the topic remained there until 1970 or 1971. By that time, I became interested in the connection between the lower Paleozoic basin of northwest Argentina with the Precordillera and Famatina, following ideas of my former PhD supervisor Armando Leanza.<sup>2</sup> By the early seventies, the so-called 'crystalline basement' (Puncoviscana Formation and equivalents) of northwest Argentina was regarded as Precambrian by all geologists. One day, Juan Carlos Mirré, who was doing fieldwork, came into my office with some rocks having trace fossils that he found in the Sierras de la Ovejera (western margin of the Aconquija Range). I immediately began to study this material and by comparison with the available literature I realized it was *Oldhamia*, a typical form of the Lower Cambrian. I couldn't believe it! The regional and chronostratigraphic implications were huge; the finding had a strong impact. Ironically, Borrello was one of the supporters of a Precambrian age. By that time he had had a heart attack and he told me 'Aceñolaza, what are you doing? This is going to cause me another heart attack!' Following ideas of Belousof and Auboin, he had produced a geologic model of northwest Argentina in his book *Los Geosinclinales de la República Argentina*, and this finding was terrible for his own model. Anyway, he was really excited about the finding of *Oldhamia*. He was cooperative even though we didn't meet very often, because traveling inside Argentina by that time was not as easy as it is now! Borrello was in La Plata, more than 1000 km from Tucumán. Then, during 1972-1973, I got more and more involved in the study of the metasedimentary basement and I made a large collection of trace fossils from the Puncoviscana Formation.

**Q:** By that time were you familiar with Seilacher's ideas?

**A:** Yes, when we started to collect specimens from the Puncoviscana Formation we became more familiar with the ichnologic literature. I had a student, Felipe Durand, who was going with me to the field and became interested in the topic. One day he told me that Seilacher was coming to Argentina, invited by Arturo Amos to give some talks, and we decided to invite him to Tucumán. When Seilacher saw the collection he was really impressed. He had planned to go with his family to Río de Janeiro after the talk, so he flew with them to Río, but came back to Tucumán to draw specimens. We were together two weeks and we took him to the field to different places in Salta and Jujuy provinces. A few months later we submitted the first general manuscript on the Puncoviscana ichnofauna to a Bulletin edited by the Geological Society of Córdoba, a rather obscure journal, but we distributed reprints among several people and it became a classic in the Precambrian-Cambrian literature [Aceñolaza & Durand, 1973]. Since then, it has been cited in many subsequent papers.

**Q:** It is even mentioned in chapter 2 of Frey's book [1975] as an example of ichnofossils preserved in metamorphic rocks.

**A:** Yes, that's right.

**Q:** What was the situation of ichnology in Argentina and in Iberoamerica in general when you started to work in the early seventies?

**A:** I think that in Argentina Borrello was the only one working besides me and he died around 1971. By the late sixties, Macsotay [1967] was working on the Cretaceous-Tertiary successions of Venezuela. However, at the beginning of the 20th century Steinman, a German working in Peru and Bolivia, did some descriptions and trace fossil collections and, of course, we had d'Orbigny [1837-42], who did a lot of work during the 19th century and proposed the ichnogenus *Cruziana* based on specimens from Bolivia. Ah! Lange [1942] was in Brazil working on *Arthropycus* and *Fraena* (this is how they called *Didymaulichnus* by that time). We may say there was no real ichnologic school by those days, only geologists finding trace fossils and trying to take note of them. I forgot to mention, also in Brazil, Gerardo Muñiz and Antonio Carlos Fernandes. Another working on ichnology in Argentina was Rodolfo Casamiquela.<sup>3</sup> By that time I had found several specimens of *Orchesteropus atavus* in La Rioja and I was in contact with him.

**Q:** Did you meet Lucas Roselli, the Uruguayan who pioneered the study of insect nests [1938]?

**A:** Not really. In Uruguay, during the sixties, I was in contact with Mendez Arzola, who was a kind of Father of Uruguayan Geology. I think that it was not until a few years ago that we incorporated insect nests into the realm of ichnology, essentially due to the studies by Jorge Genise. This is interesting. I have already told you that my PhD supervisor was Leanza. Do you know who was Leanza's PhD supervisor? Frenguelli.<sup>4</sup> So Frenguelli becomes your great-grandfather. Leanza told me that he learnt a lot from him. He was quite productive and gave him a lot of freedom to do research.

**Q:** And what happened in Spain by that time?

**A:** Well, during Franco's time Spain was quite isolated, but the paleontologist Bermudo Meléndez [1950] paid some attention to ichnofossils in his textbooks. They had a lot of descriptions of *Cruziana*. I remember revising collections on some of my trips to Spain and finding tens of *Cruziana* ichnospecies defined! Most of the specimens were fragmentary and with minor variations in the angle of scratching or in the depth of the structure; they received different names by authors from the end of the 19th century and beginning of 20th century.

**Q:** Then you have the study of Azpeitia-Moros [1933] on the ichnology of turbidites. We have seen the collection at the museum in Madrid.

**A:** Yes.

**Q:** Which other ichnologists have influenced you most, either personally or through their publications?

**A:** Well, Seilacher, of course, and Bob Frey. I have never met personally with Bob Frey, but we were in contact by letter for a long time. Peter Crimes visited Tucumán about 15 years ago and I visited him in Liverpool in the early nineties. We were together in the field. Being in contact with all these people was really very important.

**Q:** Are you surprised by the ichnologic boom in Argentina?

**A:** I think that the boom is related to a very active group that is making interesting discoveries, such as both of you, Ricardo Melchor and Jorge Genise, people with very different backgrounds. Back in time, I think that the meeting on paleoecology that the Argentinean Paleontological Association organized in 1978 was very important.

**Q:** The papers were presented in a special issue of *Ameghiniana* in 1978. Your paper on lower Paleozoic ichnofacies from Argentina is there. That's interesting. Some English ichnologists considered that for them the book on paleoecology by Derek Ager (with a chapter on ichnology) [1963] was very important in promoting ichnology there.

**A:** Some people got interested on the topic after that and in the long term this led to the First Argentinean Ichnological Congress in La Pampa in 1993. During the nineties there was a huge expansion. I don't know how many people working on ichnology we have now, probably no more than 20 or 30 anyway.

**Q:** Probably there is not a huge number of ichnologists, but there is an increased number of people that are becoming aware that ichnology may provide crucial data in their fields of expertise.

**A:** This is important; to promote the idea that trace fossils are useful for geologists.

**Q:** Do you think there is something like an Argentinean school in ichnology? Any peculiarity?

**A:** What we have is a growing group of people; nobody is saying, 'This is what you should do,' everyone is trying to develop his or her own ideas and approach.

**Q:** So you see it like separate lines.

**A:** Yes, we had Borrello, then other people, after that there was an effort to adapt to international standards and topics, and all these led to an expansion.

**Q:** Definitely, the group is not isolated, it is not an endemic community. And it has crossed the linguistic barrier by publishing in international journals.

**A:** Yes, even publishing in Spanish we got some good diffusion. *Ichnology Newsletter* was essential in this sense. It is a pity it was cut for so long.

**Q:** Coming back to the point of independent lines, we remember that Jorge Genise and us worked totally independent at the very beginning. We met in La Pampa in 1993 and we realized that we were working separately on topics that were totally complementary.

**A:** I think that the process is like opening a book. Originally the book was closed. Then Borrello came and opened the book to take a look at it. After that I opened another page, the Precambrian-Cambrian one, to subsequently move to other Paleozoic pages. Later both of you started to open other pages, now you have a PhD student opening another one. Each of us is opening different pages, but the important point is not how many pages have you opened; what is really important is that there may be another person close to you glancing at the book that gets interested and suddenly ask you to give him/her the book. It is not that one is 'teaching ichnology,' I think that the main point is being able to promote the whole thing.



### Notes by MGM & LAB

1. A. Borrello did some research on ichnology, mostly in the sixties; he is the author of the first ichnologic lexicon in Spanish: *Vocabulario icnológico* (Borrello, 1971).
2. A. Leanza was an ammonoid and trilobite specialist; he was coauthor with Horacio Harrington, another Argentinean paleontologist, of *Ordovician Trilobites of Argentina* (Harrington & Leanza, 1957).
3. R. Casamiquela, an amateur naturalist, is still active in Patagonia. During the fifties, he was the author of a series of innovative ichnologic papers, mostly on vertebrates.
4. J. Frenguelli did research on insect fossil nests during the thirties [e.g., 1939].

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\* \* \* \* \*

*Vidi ego, quod fuerat quondam solidissima tellus,  
Esse fretum: vidi factas ex aequore terras;  
Et procul a pelago conchae jacuere marinae.*

I myself have seen what once was quite solid ground,  
now a strait; I have seen earth made from the level sea,  
and seashells cast up far from the ocean.

Ovid, *Metamorphoses*, xv.262

## Reminiscences of tracking, or 'My theses was feces'

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From my childhood, I was pre-positioned to study geology. I was always running off to the small hills around Cedar City, Utah, to pick up flint, chert, jasperoids, obsidian, and arrowheads made of these. I was predisposed to scrutinize the lay of the land, especially living on the boundary of the Great Basin and the Wasatch Plateau and amidst the wondrous parks of southern Utah. I very much admired the rock collection of a kindly, older gentlemen in Cedar City whose yard featured a rock fountain and rock walls decorated with pyrite, chalcopyrite, jasperoids, malachite, and azurite, and an agglomeration of local rocks and minerals: a sort of geologic fairyland. The log house and buildings were sheltered in large pine trees. It was a mystical place to visit.

In junior high I was an average or worse student. My parents had moved to Provo, Utah, so that one of their five children might choose to attend Brigham Young University (BYU). They bribed me to attend BY High. There I steadily got better grades. I even took advanced chemistry that allowed me to make Thermit bombs and other things that stunk or exploded.

As early as junior high, I was planning to be an architect. A neighborhood friend was going to be a geologist. We decided to work together on the Architecture and Geology Merit Badges for the Boy Scouts of America. We visited the home of a neighbor who was a professor of geology at BYU. He had a spectacular mineral collection. I was converted. From then on I was going to be a hard rock geologist. My friend became an architect and I became a geologist. I never did the Geology Merit Badge. After college I did and still do work in Scouting.

I spent half my time in high school and at home reading geology. I took many field trips to the local mining areas and known mineral sites; including deep into an abandoned mine at Park City before it was commercialized. You could see high up into the open stopes and deep down into the shafts filled with blue water. I brought back some 'ruby silver' that my mineralogy professor, Revell Phillips, suggested I give a streak test. Hematite! I always wondered if the good ol' boy that sent me after the valuable 'ruby silver' knew what he was doing.

Under the influence of J. Keith Rigby, Sr., the sponge expert, I was converted to soft rock – to paleontology, sedimentology, and stratigraphy. Taking calculus and differential equations was also an encouragement to steer clear of hard-rock mining geology.

J. Keith said there were a million trilobites in the Pennsylvanian-Permian Oquirrh Formation and that I might want to study them. I thought him wrong. At the end of the

first week of fieldwork I knew he was right and wrong. There were a billion, well silicified and throughout most of the Oquirrh Group. In some places, spread on the surface like plums. Consequently, for my Master of Science Thesis I studied and published on Mississippian through Permian trilobites from central Utah. It was selected by the Society of Sigma Xi, BYU Chapter, as the Best Thesis in the Physical Sciences for 1966-67.

When I returned to BYU after having been drafted into the US Army (too late for Korea, too early for Vietnam), I met James D. Howard. He had come to BYU from Kansas to work under Dr. Kenneth Hamblin who had joined the BYU faculty. The story was that Hamblin had discouraged Jim from coming, believing he would have a hard time adapting to BYU's special [Mormon] code of conduct. I remember walking down the hall the first day Jim was in his office and smelling coffee. I knew that was not going to last. Shortly thereafter, he was informed the code he had signed as a condition of enrollment meant no coffee anywhere or anytime he represented BYU. Jim stayed, and did well.

As graduate students, we went on a field trip to see Jim's work on the sedimentology, stratigraphy, and ichnology on the Panther Tongue (or Member), Star Point Formation, Mesaverde Group. I was fascinated with the trace fossils and their paleoenvironmental relationships in this one unit that stretched only a few miles and showed bathymetric changes in the trace-fossil assemblages. Later, Jim and I had several discussions, especially because of his disdain for taxonomy and my growing expertise in taxonomy (of trilobites). Jim had no intention of giving formal names to the trace fossils. He had recognized clusters of curving tubes and asked for a name. Flippantly I said 'pleural curving tubes.' The name stuck (Howard, 1966; Frey & Howard, 1970) until Howard and Frey (1981) gave them the longer name of *Schaubcylichnus*. I would have to give Jim credit for my eventual interest in trace fossils.

The summer after I finished my MS at BYU, I was accepted to the NSF-Leigh University Sediment-Organism Seminar in Bermuda. Robert Ginsburg, Keith Chaves, Gene Shinn, Bob Dunham, and some other prominent geologists were there and blew up a piece of the reef. They hauled large blocks off for slabbing and study. I probably missed my chance to go into the boring side of traces then. Shinn, an AAU champion diver according to the rumors, was able to dive about 15 feet [5 m] and swim for what seemed like several minutes along the bottom viewing and collecting. My technique was to dive down fast, grab something, rush back to the air at the surface, and then watch Shinn.

Jim went off to Sapelo Island and began his research on sedimentary structures and on modern spoor, especially in boxcores. I went to the University of Wisconsin-Madison (UW-M) in their graduate program as a PhD candidate. At Wisconsin I met Dr. Lewis Cline, who did research in the Ouachita Mountains of Oklahoma. His students did theses and dissertations ranging from sedimentology, stratigraphy, structure and biostratigraphy. He invited me to consider a thesis there. I met Jim Bird at UW-M, who had a copy of Seilacher's work on trace fossils for Humble (now Exxon). That report included trace fossils from the Ouachitas. Although not an original idea to me, I could not resist doing a dissertation on deep-water trace fossils in the Ouachitas. I did run the risk of not coming up with much new; perhaps my contribution was bringing to the public what Seilacher could not publish at the time. Before I committed to the dissertation under Cline, I learned he didn't have much time for his students. However, Dr. David L. Clark, a conodont, foram, and ammonite specialist who taught invertebrate and vertebrate paleontology, had plenty of time for his students, was active on department and university committees, and obtained grants, and published. It worked out well to have Cline as the field advisor and Clark as the dissertation advisor.

No one in the USA had done nor was doing a deep-water trace-fossil study of which I am aware. Essentially there was Howard's work in 1966 in the shallow Cretaceous of Utah, Frey's work in 1970 in the shallow Cretaceous Niobrara of Kansas,

Osgood's in 1970 in the shallow Ordovician of Ohio, and Siemer's (1971) in the shallow Cretaceous Dakota of Kansas.

It was probably that first summer after I went to Wisconsin that I met Dolf Seilacher on a spring field trip to the Ouachitas. (I cannot find any notes on the trip.) Although I was committed to a trace-fossil dissertation, I hadn't done much reading or research on trace fossils and naively ask Seilacher if he would send me a copy of any bibliography he had developed. He smiled, maybe smirked, and suggested something that amounted to, 'Wisconsin has a good library that I might use.' Not only did I need to have the benefit of my own literature search, I had made an unreasonable request. A few years later, after I had published some papers and spent more time with Dr. Seilacher, I mentioned the incident. He remembered it and we laughed.

(One of my favorite stories that Dr. Seilacher tells is having gone to Grand Canyon to look at the grandeur of the Canyon and to collect Cambrian trace fossils. He told of hauling many samples from the lower reaches of Grand Canyon. He also told of being without sufficient money, but having lunch at the way-stations where the tourists threw away untouched parts of the packaged lunches. He said he had had prior experience in garbage because he had applied for work in the Navaho Rodeo. They didn't need a paleontologist, but gave him work in garbage cleanup. He got many candid pictures of the Navahos as he worked among them.)

The Ouachita study was a great choice that enthralled my UW-M dissertation committee. Consequently, I breezed through the prospectus for the dissertation committee and later the defense. (Passing foreign language as a PhD candidate was not a breeze; I studied German on my own, but could never get a high pass so I combined it with a low pass in French that I had taken in high school.) The final write-up of the dissertation was weak because I had a job waiting and Clark was leaving for Spain. Nevertheless the interpretation was published in the *AAPG Bulletin* and later in the *AAPG Reprint Series*, and the systematics in the *Journal of Paleontology* (Chamberlain, 1971a, b, 1973).

For several years I was able to attend both the national Geological Society of America (GSA) and American Association of Petroleum Geologists/Society of Economic Paleontologists and Mineralogists (AAPG-SEPM) Meetings, where I was in regular contact with geologists in industry and geologists in academe (e.g., Chamberlain, 1974, 1980). The open forum of the Trace Fossil Research Group (TFRG) of SEPM was great fun and tremendous learning. Usually a free discussion of varied topics, experiences, concerns. Commonly an informal talk, slide show, or specimen display by participants. I believe that is where I first met Robert W. Frey and Richard Osgood; Chuck Siemers, and perhaps also John Warme. (He was at Rice when I lived in Houston, which is where I met Tony Ekdale when he was a graduate student.) Many discussions in the TFRG focused on taxonomy. I was adamant about following the International Code of Zoological Nomenclature (ICZN) and using the strict morphology of a type specimen. Now, although trace fossils are accepted in the ICZN, some would have us use another code and I have concerns about strict morphology when biologic affinity is known or strongly suspected.

The first trace-fossil short course in which I taught was sponsored by the US Geological Survey (USGS) and held in Golden, Colorado, in 1976. Bob Frey talked principles. My part was the field trip to the Lower Cretaceous sequences along the Front Range.

The most memorable short course to me was in 1978 and included Paul Basan, myself, Robert W. Frey, James D. Howard, Adolf Seilacher, and John E. Warme. I presented 'Recognition of Trace Fossils in Cores' (Chamberlain, 1978), a topic that I hesitated to present because I thought it was obvious. It got good reviews and comments from petroleum geologists stating that it was the most practical trace material they had seen and that it finally enabled them to understand traces they had seen in cores. My experience leading to that paper was from studying cores for Texaco, from the Deep Sea

Drilling Project (DSDP) collections, and from slabbing trace fossils from the Paleozoic of the Great Basin and Ouachitas, from the Cretaceous of the Western Interior, and from the Tertiary of Oswald West, Oregon.

A field trip to the Ouachita Mountains followed the short course (Chamberlain and Basan, 1976). The field trip was led by Basan and myself; Peter Crimes earlier provided welcome insight when he joined us for the pretrip run for the field trip. (I learned that Peter and family spent most summers in first-class berths on luxury liners going to European ports, mostly in the Mediterranean, where he gave port lectures to the tourists.) There were 43 participants on the Ouachita field trip, essentially the same people who had either presented or taken the short course (*see back cover*). I didn't recognize until now how cutting-edge those courses and field trips were.

Bob Frey had not asked me to write a chapter for his 1975 book, *The Study of Trace Fossils*. When I asked him why not, he explained he thought I was too busy, and all the appropriate topics were taken. Hummm...!?!? As a consolation he invited me to write about freshwater traces. The zoologists who were invited to write that topic had declined. I had been studying recent traces in the bayous near my home in Houston. Consequently, I agreed and wrote chapter 19, entitled 'Recent Lebensspuren in Nonmarine Aquatic Environments'. Reviews by the zoologists were that it was a weak, pedestrian chapter. Well yes, but that didn't bother me. Where were they before? It gave me the broad range of experience from deep-sea to nonmarine.

My work on the cores from Deep Sea Drilling Project (Chamberlain, 1974, 1975) came as a suggestion from Robert S. Yeats. Bob and I were teaching at Ohio University and taught Summer Field Geology in Nevada together. Bob was then, and more so later, involved in the DSDP. For me it was a natural tie to the study of deep-water traces from the Ouachita Mountains and from the Oquirrh Basin. I didn't know until later that Tony Ekdale was also deep into studying that material [Ekdale, 1973, 1977].

Overall the short courses and field trips were a great experience. The last short course I gave was for the Rocky Mountain Association of Geologists at the USGS Core Library at the Denver Federal Center nearly ten years ago. The course received good reviews. I intended to improve the course and market it to industry, but I got busy at environmental work that paid money. Geologists in petroleum companies tend to do permeability and porosity and a brief lithologic description on the expensive cores they collect. Marketing to industry requires demonstrating that defining the geometry and limits of a reservoir rock requires also defining the environments of deposition from all sources of data. The cost to collect core is high, and dictates spending the time and money to get all the data available from them. Trace fossils can give tremendous information beyond what most geologists, and especially managers, know. Marketing has been damaged by people who are weak in trace fossils using them loosely and incorrectly, tarnishing their image and diluting their usefulness.

My career has taken diverse paths that started in exploration for Texaco in Denver. Texaco wasn't supportive of my extracurricular work on the Cretaceous trace fossils and environments of deposition along the Dakota Hogback (Dinosaur Ridge) west of Denver (Chamberlain, 1976, 1980, 1998). Eventually they recognized a play in those same Cretaceous rocks and solicited my expertise. I chided them that I could not share what they had not been interested in supporting. My work on those trace fossils put me in the position to show the dinosaur tracks to Drs. Adolf Seilacher, Georges Demathieu, and Martin Lockley. They were all quite excited with them: Seilacher and Demathieu over some of the larger and less-known sets, Lockley over the large trackways. I thought the dinosaur tracks interesting, but had no clue how much public interest Lockley was going to bring to them. After all, what could a few dinosaur tracks on three or four horizons tell you about environments and paleoecology compared to the thousands of invertebrate trace fossils on numerous surfaces?

After Denver I went to Bellaire, Texas, and worked in the Texaco research lab in paleontology, mostly on palynology, and wrote an in-house trace-fossil manual. Leaving

Texaco, I taught at Ohio University, where I continued diverse trace-fossil work. Teaching summer field geology in Nevada was a great deal of fun, and exposed me to early to late Paleozoic trace fossils of the Great Basin. Enrollment declined at Ohio University at the end of the Vietnam War, and Geology was forced to cut a position (later restored, but I was already committed elsewhere). I sought and took a job back in the West at the University of Nevada at Las Vegas, where I established the short-lived Center for Trace Fossil Research. My wife was having health problems and the job did not work out well. I went back into industry with Cities Service in Denver, and did little trace-fossil work. I worked full-time in exploration, raised a family, and did community and religious service work. No time for fossil 'worm droppings'. When the petroleum industry had a 1980s boom I went through several small companies in Denver as they opened and closed. In the eventual decline I worked five years for the US Public Health Service, Department of Federal Occupational Health, doing environmental work. Mostly asbestos audits and oversight of removal – 'We got paid as geologists to take it (asbestos) out of the ground, and then we got paid to put it back in.' I got paid to go to Mount Rushmore for a week, James A. Garfield National Historical Site for a week, to Carlsbad Caverns for a few days, Fort Smith National Historical Site for a week, Las Vegas for several weeks, and numerous federal buildings in Montana, North Dakota, South Dakota, Utah, and Wyoming. I came to the Bighorn Basin with KCS Mountain Resources, who put themselves in Chapter 11 bankruptcy and left me stranded in the Bighorn Basin doing wellsite work.

The geology is spectacular. Trace fossils range from Cambrian *Skolithos* and *Rusophycus* to Tertiary freshwater traces. It has taken nearly twenty years to get a paper on Tertiary trace fossils from Oregon rejected by the *Journal of Paleontology*. Currently I am planning on updating the trace-fossil short course and marketing it to industry.

Through this career path, living in Denver, Houston, Athens, Las Vegas, Denver, and Worland, my wife Nancy and I raised two children. Our son Jason is the testing and design engineer for Specialised Bike in Morgan Hill, California, and occasionally narrates bike races for Fox Network. He has a two-year-old son who appears to be quite precocious. Our daughter Susan is a housewife in Boise, Idaho, working it out with three delightful children.

I haven't skied since I left Denver, but I do get to look at amazing outcrops. The latest traces include large, world-class *Ophiomorpha* in beach sands under a bentonitic shale, and two hundred miles away small *Ophiomorpha* in nearshore bentonitic sandstone. Both in the Mesaverde at about the same time line. What do I suppose it means? Hummmm.....!?!?

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# Evidence of a mysterious predator of land snails: an update

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Some time after I wrote the original article (Örstan, 2001), I showed the shells to Tim Pearce (Delaware Museum of Natural History) and he offered a partial solution to the puzzle. I was thinking that those parallel traces on the shell (fig. 1) had been carved from the outside by a predator. But Tim convinced me that those traces came from within and were indications that the mantle had been injured. I previously mentioned that those traces usually start at a spot where there is a large scar on the shell; they extend out spirally in the direction the shell grew, get weaker and finally disappear. Tim's explanation made sense because the scar on the shell would be the spot where the predator bit into the shell and the snail. The snail somehow survived the attack with an injury to its mantle. It repaired the shell at the site of attack, which resulted in a scar, then it continued to grow but the mantle injury resulted in those traces, which eventually disappeared because the mantle healed. However, the identity of the predator remains unknown, as does also the mechanism by which some snails escape the predator albeit injured.

A paper by Cadée (1999) got me interested in the question of how long empty snail shells last in the woods. Last May and also in September, I put out some *Neohelix* shells in the woods near my house. I have been monitoring them periodically (which involves bringing them back home and weighing them). I will let you know how it goes.

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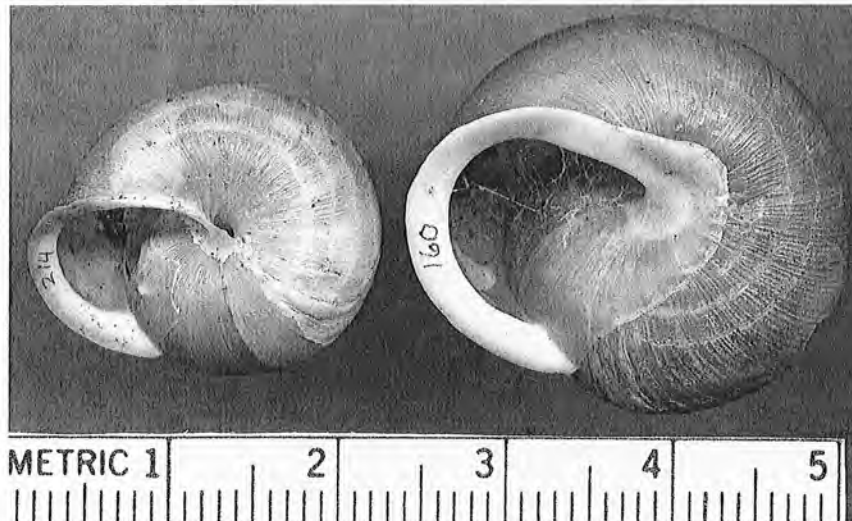


FIGURE 1 – Possible tooth traces on land snails.  
Left: *Mesodon thyroideus*. Right: *Neohelix albolabris*. Collection of A. Örstan. Scale in cm.

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## Keeping track

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Footprints are where you look for them. Ordinary language is full of idioms and phrases that refer to ichnology, especially to footprints. I often play a game with myself while reading a novel: How long will it be before the author refers to tracks or the other subject matter of ichnology? So far, I have not found a novel that does not refer to tracks, and some are full of such references. *Robinson Crusoe* and *The Lord of the Rings* each contain long sections that focus on tracking and indicate considerable thought on the matter (Defoe, 1719; Tolkien, 1954). But most authors use tracking as a metaphor for other thoughts. The English language is rich in idioms on tracking. Let's look into a few of them.

### Tracks and trails and traces

#### *Track, trace*

First, we have to trace the word *track* itself. *Track* has many meanings and can be used as noun and verb. The word derives chiefly from Middle English *trak*, which came from Middle French *trac*, evidently of Germanic origin, and ultimately from a Proto-Indo-European root reconstructed as *\*tragh-*, to draw, drag, or move (Partridge, 1963; Barnhart, 1988; Watkins, 2000). *Trek* is a related word borrowed from Afrikaans, and attested in Middle Dutch as *treck*, to pull or haul. These words seem to be related to *drag* and *draw*, in the sense of pulling, and the connection is likely that sledges and wheeled vehicles make long grooves in the ground: *tracks*. Thus, it should not be surprising that a *track* can be a forest path, a narrow dirt road, the grooves made in the ground by cars, the imprint made by animals' feet, or an individual imprint. Each meaning led to the next, perhaps as children or other people learning the language guessed at the meaning, or perhaps as the result of creative speech in jokes or poetry.

In Middle and Modern Dutch, *trecken* or *trekken* means to draw something (especially a ship) along, and this usage was brought into English as well. We still speak of a ship's track.

A *track* can also be a racecourse (a round dirt track), the path along which anything has moved, or even the course on a map showing where something has moved. A *track* can be a sequence of events or ideas, or even the awareness of the sequence of the ideas' connection, as in *keep track* or *lose track*. A *track* can even be a remnant or vestige.

*Railroad track* requires a special explanation: At first such tracks were grooves cut in a hard surface for wheels to roll along; only later did grooved wheels run on the raised rails that we now call *tracks*. Many idioms using the word *track* refer to railroads: *sidetrack*, to distract, comes from a short piece of railway track next to the main route.

The verb *to track* developed much later than the noun. *To track* someone is to follow his tracks (Partridge, 1963).

With all these different meanings for *track* that developed in just one language, it will not surprise the reader to learn that English has borrowed or developed several other words related to *track*, sometimes with the sense of pulling or dragging still somewhere close to the core: *draft*, *drain*, *drawl*, *dray*, *dredge*, *tract*, *trail*, *train*, *trait*, *trawl*, *treat*, to name only the shortest. But not *tramp* or *tread* or *trip*, despite the similarity in sound.

As ichnologists, we are particularly interested in the word *trace*. In common parlance, *trace* is any sign of the passage or former existence of a person, animal, or object. This can be a footprint or trail, or in archaic usage a road. By extension, it can also be a line sketched on a rolled piece of paper by a scientific instrument, or a tiny amount of a chemical element or compound. In contrast to the word *track*, which

developed a noun from a verb, *trace* was a verb first and then a noun. It comes from Old and Middle French *tracier*, to trace, probably from an intensified form of Latin *trahere*, to draw or drag. So Germanic-derived *track* and Latin-derived *trace* have a common origin, and perhaps also Greek *trekhein*, to run (Partridge, 1963).

A *trace fossil* is ancient evidence of a trace. If the phrase had originated in English, it would probably have been *fossil trace*, but instead it originated as a translation from German *Spurenfossil* (e.g., Krejci-Graf, 1932) and French *trace fossile* (Lessertisseur, 1956); one of the earliest to use the English phrase was Simpson (195\_).

#### *Backtrack and trace back*

To *backtrack* is literally to walk a trackway backward, generally to *retrace* one's own steps, but this core meaning is not the one that most people use in ordinary speech. They use the word in its extended sense of reversing one's position on a subject, particularly when a person contradicts himself in doing so. In this sense, *backpaddle* (reversing direction while paddling a canoe) is a synonym of *backtrack*.

One can also *trace* something *back* to its origin, but this is not the same as backtracking. In this case a hunter searches backward along a trackway. By extension, a researcher can *trace* the origin of something as abstract as a word or an idea.

#### *Back on track*

To return to the topic is to get *back on track*.

#### *Warm and cold trails; hot on the trail*

Obviously, footprints do not stay warm long enough for the prey to get out of sight of the hunter. But it might make a good joke to pretend that they do. Also, trackers sometimes follow a series of campfires, whose ashes may still be warm if the prey is near. Conversely, if the trail is old, it is *cold*. But a hunter who is *hot on the trail* (or a hound that is *hot on the scent*) is one who is getting warm from exercise.

#### *Cut for sign, cut for trail*

A tracker who has lost the trail (*sign*) may be able to find it again by circling abruptly (*cutting*) to the right or left. This is only occasionally used as a metaphor.

#### *The end of the trail*

*The end of the trail* (or *road*), is metaphorically the termination of the current work or sequence of events. Not necessarily a dead end, this may mark an opportunity for a new start.

#### *False trail*

A false or misleading clue, a trail that leads nowhere.

#### *Eye tracks*

In nineties slang, people who don't want to be watched complained that the watchers left *eye tracks* on them, as if they felt grimy. This creative use of the language was intended to be humorous, and when the joke became commonplace, it lost much of its humor. If the phrase survives, it would become a cliché, a sort of fossilized *bon mot*.

#### *Follow in his footsteps*

This one is biblical: in one translation, 'Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example that you should follow in his footsteps' (1 Peter 2: 21). A search on Yahoo! yielded no less than 7090 references to this phrase, not all of them religious.

#### *Gone without a trace; not a trace; no sign of him*

Someone who has utterly vanished is *gone without a trace; not a trace* is left, but the mystery remains. These and similar phrases are common in speech and literature.

### *Kick over the traces*

To *kick over the traces* (to cast off restraint) is actually not an ichnologic metaphor. In this case, *traces* are reins – leather straps that are pulled to control a horse. In the old days, a carthorse that literally kicked over the reins would then be out of control.

### *Trackless waste, traceless wilderness*

A *trackless waste* or *traceless wilderness* has no road or even human sign. By extension, it is a land (or area of research) that is worthy of no one's attention, or perhaps one that has simply been overlooked.

### *Keep track; lost track*

If one continues to pay attention to a series of footprints (or to a series of thoughts), then one *keeps track* of them. Otherwise, one *loses track*.

### *Make tracks*

Another joke: To *make tracks* is to run, or at least to make progress.

### *Sidetrack, on the right (or wrong) track, on (or off) track*

To sidetrack someone is to *distract* them, an interesting parallelism because the word *tract* too is a cognate of *track*, from Latin *tractus*, dragged. But the original sidetrack is a railway siding (OED), so this is not very ichnologic. Other railway usages of *track* perhaps include *on the right track* (i.e., to be deducting correctly) and *on the wrong track* (to be mistaken). More simply, one is *on track* or *off track*.

### *Stop still in one's tracks; halt dead in one's tracks*

Variations on the theme of stopping suddenly. Originally it must have been a humorous or poetic usage, but the joke has long since worn thin.

### *Track in, track up, track off, track down, trail off, trail away*

English is full of verbs with prepositions attached. One can *track in* dirt to a house, *track up* (dirty) a floor, *track off* (walk away, often but not necessarily angrily), or *track down* (find) a person or a clue. Something that dwindles is said to *trail off* or to *trail away*.

### *Tracker*

A *tracker* is someone who tracks animals or persons. The occupation is rare nowadays and implies great knowledge of nature and powers of observation. Thus, when Geo (now Chevrolet) designed a sport utility vehicle, they named it 'Tracker', perhaps appropriately.

In Britain, a *tracker* can also be someone who tracks (tows) a boat (Brown, 1993).

### *Trailblazer*

To *blaze a trail* is to mark trees or other objects along a path; from this was derived the sense of a pioneer, i.e., one who prepares the way for others (Barnhart, 1988).

### *Trail of Tears*

In 1838-39, the United States government forcibly removed most of the Cherokee Nation from its Southeastern ancestral lands to Oklahoma. Conditions were grim and one-fourth of the Cherokees died on the way. The route is now called the *Trail of Tears*. By extension, any tragic journey could now be called a *trail of tears*.

## **Discussion**

The English connection between *track* ('footprint') and *track* ('path', 'imprint of a wheel or sledge') is not a common one among the world's languages. The word for *track* in the sense of *footprint* has a different set of related meanings in some other languages.

In some languages, the word for footprint also means 'vestige' or 'remnant', so the phrase *lost without a trace* translates well, and the word resonates with the sense of loss and history: Japanese *ato*, Latin *vestigium*. In many languages, a *track* is a *footprint*, the imprint of a foot. In some languages, a track was originally that which was smelled by hunters' dogs (*hot on the scent*). In others, a track was seen, and in still others, it was followed or sought. The origin of Greek *ichnos* is unknown; it has no known cognates in other languages. That the current meanings of these words derives from a cultural history cannot be denied. Perhaps one day we will track down their significance.

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\* \* \* \* \*

Then morning came and many a warrior  
gathered, as I've heard, around the gift-hall,  
clan-chiefs flocking from far and near  
down wide-ranging roads, wondering greatly  
at the monster's footprints. His fatal departure  
was regretted by no-one who witnessed his trail,  
the ignominious marks of his flight  
where he'd skulked away, exhausted in spirit  
and beaten in battle, bloodying the path,  
hauling his doom to the demons' mere.

*Beowulf*, lines 836 to 845  
Translated by Seamus Heaney (2000)

## Alan D. Ansell, marine ecologist, 1934-1999

### Andrew K. Rindsberg

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Alan D. Ansell was a marine ecologist who worked from 1969 onward at the Dunstaffnage Marine Research Laboratory in Oban, Scotland. He studied the behavior, functional morphology, locomotion, reproduction, predation, and other aspects of shallow-marine invertebrates, particularly bivalves (among them *Donax*, *Venus*, *Lima*, *Nucula*, *Tellina*, *Chlamys*, *Abra*, and *Petricola*). Between 1960 and 2000 he wrote at least 30 papers with significant ichnologic content, especially on the burrowing and boring behavior of bivalves, naticid gastropods, and echiurans. His findings are basic to our current understanding of invertebrate locomotion in soft substrates. He collaborated extensively in this work with E.R. Trueman, N.B. Nair, R.J.A. Atkinson, and D.J. Hughes. A scientific biography and bibliography are given in the 2000 volume of *Oceanography and Marine Biology: an Annual Review*, which was dedicated to Ansell.

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\* \* \* \* \*

## Ardito Desio, 1897-2001

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Many of you will recognize the name of Prof. Ardito Desio, who wrote a seminal paper on Libyan trace fossils in which he named the ichnogenus *Bifungites* (1940), a significant work on the classification of trace fossils (1950), and articles on *Lorenzina* and other trace fossils.

But Prof. Desio was also a celebrated mountaineer and explorer, whose very name, Ardito, means 'brave'. He participated in the discovery of oil in Libya. He organized an Italian expedition to K2, the world's second tallest peak, and climbed nearly to the top while two members of the team attained the summit. He wrote broadly on mountaineering, Antarctica, and caves as well as on ichnology. A Web search for his name yields hundreds of entries.

Prof. Desio lived an extraordinary life, and an extraordinarily long one. He was born before the twentieth century and died after it, only last Wednesday. He was 104 years of age.

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\* \* \* \* \*

*Natura il fece, e poi ruppe la stampa.*

Nature made him, and then broke the mold.

*Ariosto, Orlando Furioso (canto x, stanza 84)*

Nicolás Muñoz:  
remembrances posted on the SKOLITHOS listserver

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3 February 2002

Dear friends,

It is with great regret that I have to inform you that Nicolás Muñoz died in Caracas a few hours ago after a brave battle against cancer. Those of us who attended the Sixth International Ichnofabric Workshop in Venezuela last year will remember how he managed to organize a superb meeting in the middle of his terrible illness. For those who were not there, it will be difficult to believe that he was in the middle of a chemotherapy treatment at the very time as the meeting, flying to Caracas to stay in the hospital for a few hours and coming back to Puerto La Cruz the same day to share with his ichnofriends what I think was one of the happiest achievements in his professional life.

I have been lucky of teaching with him several ichnology courses in Venezuela and I learnt a lot from him, particularly about how ichnology can solve practical problems in the petroleum industry. He was one of the first ichnologists to bridge the gap between the academy and the industry in his double function as university professor and independent consultant. He was highly respected and loved by his students and he will be really missed by all of us.

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I believe that many of you had the opportunity (the luck, I should say) of having met Nicolás, and so, you will be as shocked as I am with the bad news. Luis has expressed very well our shared pain for the loss. I regret now not to have gone to the Venezuelan workshop. However, I still have my memories of Nicolás. In them, I can see him laughing, making jokes and playing dominoes, showing what he was: a very enjoyable person and a good friend.

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I am extremely sad to learn of the death of Nicolás Muñoz. He was a very nice person, a good friend, and an enthusiastic supporter of the valuable applications of ichnology in the pragmatic world of petroleum exploration. I am certain that he is truly missed by many of us who called him friend and colleague.

\* \* \* \* \*

We will be known forever by the tracks we leave.

Dakota proverb

## Ichnologic meetings and events, 2001 onward

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The *Ichnology Newsletter* is the journal of record for events in ichnology. Reviews and announcements of some of these meetings are included in this and earlier issues.

### 2000

19-20 April. International Conference on the Role of Paleocology in Biological and Geological Studies (on Celebration of the 100th Anniversary of the Birth of R.F. Hecker), Paleontological Institute of the Russian Academy of Sciences, Scientific Council on Paleobiology, and Moscow Society of Nature Explorers. Summary: *Paleontological Journal*, 35(1): 105-107 (2001).

### 2001

- 19 January to 1 April. *Fossil Art* was displayed at the Pratt Museum at Amherst College (Amherst, Massachusetts, USA). Thereafter it returned home for refurbishment and expansion, and will be sent to Japan next. The exhibit continued to provoke discussion on whether art consists of made objects or of perception. Friedrich Pflüger (Vassar College) spoke on 'Incidents from Deep Time: Early Life and the Making of "Fossil Art"' at the Pratt Museum of Natural History at Amherst College on February 9. And on August 1, a roundtable discussion, 'Fossil Art – ist das Kunst? [*Fossil Art* – Is It Art?]' was held among Anette Michels (Graphischen Sammlung), Frido Hohberger (Zeicheninstitut), and Adolf Seilacher at the Tübingen Universität. For an interesting view of the exhibition, see <http://www.uni-tuebingen.de/geo/gpi/ag-seilacher/fossilart.html>.
- 3-6 June. 'Using Ichnofacies to Delineate Stratigraphic Sequences, Interpret Environments, and Improve Reservoir Characterization,' American Association of Petroleum Geologists – Society for Sedimentology Annual Convention, Denver, Colorado (USA). Convenors: James MacEachern & Stephen A. Hasiotis.
- 26 June to 1 July. 'New Interpretations of Complex Trace Fossils,' symposium, Seventh North American Paleontological Conference, Berkeley, California (USA). Convenor: William Miller III. Papers from this symposium will be published as a theme issue of *Palaeogeography, Palaeoclimatology, Palaeoecology*.
- 9-13 July. 'Burrowing Crustaceans,' 5th International Crustacean Congress (ICC5), Melbourne, Australia. Convenor: Fiona Bird.
- 12-14 July. Sapelo Island Ichnology and Taphonomy Field Trip, Georgia, USA. Leader: Anthony J. Martin.
- 14-20 July. Sixth International Ichnofabric Workshop, Isla de Margarita and Puerto La Cruz, Venezuela. Organizers: Nicolás G. Muñoz J. et al.
- 24-28 September. IV Reunión Argentina de Icnología y II Reunión de Icnología del Mercosur (Fourth Argentinian Meeting of Ichnology and Second Ichnology Meeting of the Mercosur), San Miguel de Tucumán, Argentina. Convenors: Luis A. Buatois & M. Gabriela Mángano. [Reviewed in this issue by Renata Guimaraes Netto and Ricardo Melchor.]
- October. First Ichnology Workshop of China, Institute of Technology, Jiaozuo, Henan, China. [Sixty-five ichnologists and sedimentologists attended, spending two days with short talks and then two field days on Mesozoic lacustrine deposits (R. Goldring, written communication, 2001).]
- 7 November. "'Traces" of Soil Ecosystems through the Phanerozoic: New Insights into Terrestrial Paleocology, Paleohydrology, and Paleoclimate', Geological Society of America, Annual Meeting, Boston, Massachusetts (USA). Organizers: S.T. Hasiotis & M.D. Wegweiser.
- 8 December. Track Meet 3, Birmingham Paleontological Society, Anniston Museum of Natural History, Anniston, Alabama (USA). Organizers: Tim Moon & Ashley Allan.



## 2002

- 14-16 February. Taphos 2002, 3rd Meeting on Taphonomy and Fossilization, Universidad Internacional Menéndez Pelayo, Valencia, Spain. Organizers: Miquel De Renzi et al. Proceedings will be published as a book, *Taphonomy and Fossilization*. Website: <http://paleopolis.rediris.es/paleontologia/Taphos2002/Introduction.html>
- 18-19 May. 'Application of Ichnology to Petroleum Reservoirs, Exploration and Sequence Stratigraphy', short course, Annual Meeting, American Association of Petroleum Geologists, Houston, Texas (USA). Organizers: Bo Henk & Murray Gingras.
- 6-10 July. 'Trace Fossils', symposium, First International Paleontological Congress, Macquarie University, Sydney, Australia. Organizers: Barry Webby ([bwebby@laurel.ocs.mq.edu.au](mailto:bwebby@laurel.ocs.mq.edu.au)) & M. Gabriela Mángano ([ichnolog@infovia.com.ar](mailto:ichnolog@infovia.com.ar)). Website: <http://www.es.mq.edu.au/mucep/ipc2002/index.htm>
- 8-12 July. 'Applications of Ichnology: Retrospectives, Current Perspectives and Prospects', symposium, 16th International Sedimentological Congress, International Association of Sedimentologists. Organisers: James MacEachern ([jmaceach@sfu.ca](mailto:jmaceach@sfu.ca)) & George Pemberton ([gpembert@pop.srv.ualberta.ca](mailto:gpembert@pop.srv.ualberta.ca)).
- 31 July to 4 August. First European Conference on Behavioural Biology, European Societies for Behavioural Biology, Münster, Germany. Organizers: Norbert Sachser & Nico Michiels. Website <http://www.behaviour2002.de/>
- 15 July to 17 August. 'Taphonomy: Learning from the Dead', field course, Friday Harbor Laboratories, University of Washington. Organizers: Michael LaBarbera ([mlabarbe@midway.chicago.edu](mailto:mlabarbe@midway.chicago.edu)) & Michal Kowalewski ([michalk@vt.edu](mailto:michalk@vt.edu)).
- 4-7 September. 'Bioerosion in Reef Environments', International Society for Reef Studies (ISRS), Cambridge, England. Organizer: Marcos Gektidis ([info@gektidis.de](mailto:info@gektidis.de)).
- 9-14 September. Second Workshop on Ichnotaxonomy (WIT2), Carpathians, Poland. Convenor: Alfred Uchman ([fred@ing.uj.edu.pl](mailto:fred@ing.uj.edu.pl)).
- 11-13 September. 'Palynomorphs in Dung, a Key to Diet, the Environment and Evolution', joint meeting of British Micropalaeontological Society, North American Micropaleontology Section of the Society for Sedimentary Geology, and American Association of Stratigraphic Palynologists, University College, London, England. Organizers: Owen Davis ([palynolo@geo.arizona.edu](mailto:palynolo@geo.arizona.edu)) & Suzanne Leroy ([suzanne.leroy@brunel.ac.uk](mailto:suzanne.leroy@brunel.ac.uk)). Website: <http://www.geo.arizona.edu/palynology/dung/>
- 22-28 September. Fourth International Bioerosion Workshop, Caribbean Marine Research Station, Lee Stocking Island, Bahamas. Organizer: Bill Kiene ([kiene@snhm@si.edu](mailto:kiene@snhm@si.edu) ; [wkiene@wcs.org](mailto:wkiene@wcs.org)).
- 6-8 October. 'Tracking Dinosaurs in No Man's Land', pre-meeting field trip, 62nd Annual Meeting, Society of Vertebrate Paleontology, Oklahoma (USA). Co-leaders: Martin Lockley ([mlockley@carbon.cudenver.edu](mailto:mlockley@carbon.cudenver.edu)) & Brooke Wilborn ([paleochick@ou.edu](mailto:paleochick@ou.edu)).
- 9-12 October. '200 Years of Vertebrate Paleoichnology', 62nd Annual Meeting, Society of Vertebrate Paleontology, Norman, Oklahoma, USA. Convenors: Richard T. McCrea ([mccrea@ualberta.ca](mailto:mccrea@ualberta.ca)), Emma C. Rainforth ([emmar@ldeo.columbia.edu](mailto:emmar@ldeo.columbia.edu)), Joanna Wright ([jwright@carbon.cudenver.edu](mailto:jwright@carbon.cudenver.edu)), and Paul E. Olsen ([polsen@ldeo.columbia.edu](mailto:polsen@ldeo.columbia.edu)). You may send an undirected email to [ichno2002@ichno2002.freesevers.com](mailto:ichno2002@ichno2002.freesevers.com). Symposium website: <http://ichno2002@ichno2002.freesevers.com/index.html>. Meeting website: <http://www.vertpaleo.org>
- 26 October. 'The Fossil Record of Predation', short course, Annual Meeting of the Geological Society of America, Denver, Colorado, USA. Sponsored by the Paleontological Society. Organizer: Michal Kowalewski ([michalk@vt.edu](mailto:michalk@vt.edu)).

## 2003

- 24 February. 'The Application of Ichnology to Stratigraphic Analysis', Geological Society of London, Lyell meeting. Organiser: D. McIlroy.
- 14-19 July. Seventh International Ichnofabric Workshop, Basel, Switzerland. Andreas Wetzel.
- 15 October. 63rd Annual Meeting, Society of Vertebrate Paleontology, St. Paul, Minnesota (USA). Website <http://www.vertpaleo.org> .

## 2004

- April. Ichnia 2004, International Congress on Ichnology, Trelew, Patagonia, Argentina. Organizers: Jorge Genise et al. (website [www.ichnia2004.com](http://www.ichnia2004.com)).

‘Using Ichnofacies to Delineate Stratigraphic Sequences,  
Interpret Environments, and Improve Reservoir Characterization’,  
American Association of Petroleum Geologists – Society for Sedimentology  
Annual Convention, Denver, Colorado (USA), June 3 to 6, 2001

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- R.R. McDowell, D.L. Matchen, K.L. Avary.** Bioturbation and reservoir flow characteristics: Where did the permeability go?
- S.M. Hubbard, M.K. Gingras, S.G. Pemberton.** The significance of ichnologic variability in wave-dominated estuarine deposits: Implications on the mapping of reservoir facies in the Bluesky Formation, Alberta.
- F. Henk, S.G. Pemberton, S. Shaver.** Reservoir Ichnology of the Subclarksville 'A' Sandstone, BSR Field, east Texas, through an integrated ichnology, petrology and reservoir properties data set.
- F. Henk, G.S. Ward.** The Bridport Sandstone of the Wytch Farm Oil Field, a shelf sandbody or shoreface? An ichnological and 3-D seismic sequence stratigraphic investigation into the shallow marine origin.
- E.K. Kimball, C.A. Bagdan, B.A. Cheadle, A. Paul, S.G. Pemberton.** Application of sedimentology and ichnology for facies delineation and reservoir characterization of the McMurray Formation, Alberta, Canada.
- C.R. Harris, M.K. Gingras, S.G. Pemberton.** Ichnofossil evidence from the estuarine facies of the McMurray Formation, northeast Alberta: facies interpretation and possible production enhancement.
- G.W. Fong, S.G. Pemberton, M.K. Gingras, B. Henk.** Assessing the reservoir quality of burrow-mottled carbonates in the Devonian Wabamun Group, Pine Creek area, northwest Alberta, Canada.
- K.L. Bann, C.R. Fielding.** High resolution sequence stratigraphy of reservoirs in the Permian Bowen Basin, Queensland, Australia, facilitated by ichnological analysis.
- J.-P. Zonneveld, S.G. Pemberton.** Ichnology of the lower Montney Formation (Lower Triassic), Kahntah River and Ring Border Fields, northeastern British Columbia, Canada.
- F.E. Burns, E. Hooper.** Omission colonisation surfaces within the Lower Cretaceous Mardie Greensand, northern Carnarvon Basin, NW Shelf, Australia.
- D.G. Poire.** *Gyrochorte* as trace fossil indicator of storm events in the Neuquen Basin, Argentina.
- S.T. Hasiotis.** The continental ichnology Swiss Army knife – a new and innovative tool in reservoir analysis for delineating stratigraphic sequences, interpreting environments, and understanding paleoclimates.
- M.D. Wegweiser.** Dinosaur trackways in the Upper Cretaceous Two Medicine Formation: dinosaur ichnofacies as a tool to improve sequence stratigraphic interpretation, an aid in identifying reservoir rock.
- N.E. Tibert, H.A. Curran, J.H. Hartman, E.S. Belt, J.A. Diemer.** Marine flooding intervals within the freshwater Tongue River Member (Fort Union Formation - Paleocene), western Williston Basin, U.S.A.
- L. Coates, J.A. MacEachern.** Ichnological and sedimentological criteria for differentiating between river-dominated deltas, wave-dominated deltas, and shorefaces: examples from the Cretaceous of western Canada.
- K.L. Treptau, J.A. MacEachern, P.S. Mustard.** An integrated sedimentological-ichnological analysis of a distal submarine fan succession: Upper Cretaceous Cedar District Formation, Nanaimo Group, southwest British Columbia, Canada.
- J.M. de Gibert, P. Arbués, M. Puig, M. Marzo.** Ichnological signatures of turbidite channels from the Eocene Ainsa Slope Complex (Spanish Pyrenees).

**4th Argentinian Ichnological Meeting  
and 2nd Ichnological Meeting of the Mercosur,  
San Miguel de Tucumán, Argentina, 24 to 28 September, 2001**

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Toward the end of September, part of the South American ichnological community joined at San Miguel de Tucumán, Argentina, to attend the 4<sup>th</sup> Argentine Meeting of Ichnology and 2<sup>nd</sup> Meeting of Ichnology of the Mercosur (the name we use for the Common Market of South America). It was a splendid meeting, full of new, interesting contributions and carefully organized by Luis Buatois and Gabriela Mángano with the assistance of undergraduate and graduate students from Tucumán. About 60 participants attended the meeting, half professionals, half students, most of them from Argentina, but with representatives from Brazil, Uruguay, Venezuela, Chile, and Paraguay. About 62 abstracts of conferences and regular contributions were printed in an abstracts volume that was ready for use at the beginning of the meeting. Richard Bromley, Alfred Uchman, Conrad Labandeira, Jordi de Gibert, Jorge Genise, James Powell and Florencio Aceñolaza were the invited lecturers, speaking on several themes in ichnology. The meeting offered also a living experience in the jungle near the city to observe insect-plant interactions, guided by Conrad, and an exciting post-meeting field trip, visiting the early Paleozoic deposits from the northwest of Argentina (Salta and Jujuy provinces), where we had the opportunity to see magnificent landscapes and outcrops with 'beautiful trace fossils' (using the newest Richard's categories to describe trace fossils).

The Argentine ichnological meetings started in 1993, at Santa Rosa, La Pampa, convened by Ricardo Melchor (Pemberton, 1994) and subsequently the meeting was held at San Juan (1995) and Mar del Plata (Poiré, 1998). Always bringing together people interested in ichnology, Argentine meetings have an interesting peculiarity: Half of the participants are professionals from various countries in South America, *but* half are graduate and undergraduate students from various places in Argentina, who go to the meeting looking for improvement in their ichnological knowledge. This was one of the original goals of the first meeting that was satisfactorily achieved in all aspects of the event. At the end of the meeting there was an informative talk about the organization and main features of the First International Congress of Ichnology (Ichnia 2004), to be held at Trelew (Patagonia, Argentina). We are confident that all the people who went to Tucumán really enjoyed the meeting as much as we did, and this is largely due to the excellent and timely organization by Luis and Gabriela.

#### **References**

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- Pemberton, S.G. 1994. First Argentine Meeting of Ichnology (conference report). *Ichnos*, 3: 141.
- Poiré, D.G. (ed.). 1998. Tercera Reunión Argentina de Icnología, Primera Reunión de Icnología del Mercosur, Mar del Plata, 31 de marzo al 3 abril de 1998, Resúmenes, 32 pp.

## Program

- Mariano Verde.** New ichnospecies of *Gastrochaenolites* and *Rosselia* from the late Miocene Camacho Formation of Uruguay: Sedimentological significance of a densely bored surface at the top of the Camacho Formation (late Miocene) of Uruguay.
- Ricardo Astini.** Mid-Late Ordovician *Trypanites* borings in solitary *Solenopora* from the Argentine Precordillera.
- Fernando J. Gomez & Ricardo A. Astini.** Ichnofabric patterns in shallow-marine carbonate tidal flats? Of the middle Cambrian in the precordillera.
- Ricardo Astini.** Omission surfaces related to time-averaged grainstones and their bearing in Middle Ordovician carbonate remnants in the Argentine Precordillera
- Elizabeth Chácón Baca, P.P. Morales, A.E. Cienfuegos, H. Beraldi & S.R.S. Cevallos-Ferriz.** Preservación en sílice en pedernal asociado a Estromatolitos Cretácicos.
- Jordi de Gibert.** Conferencia: Convergencia evolutiva del comportamiento y trazas fósiles.
- Mariano Verde & Sergio Martínez.** A new crustacean trace fossil from the late Miocene Camacho Formation of Uruguay.
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Thomas M. Bonnicksen (2000)  
*America's Ancient Forests*, p. 54

4th Argentinian Ichnological Meeting  
and 2nd Ichnological Meeting of the Mercosur,  
San Miguel de Tucumán, Argentina, 24 to 28 September, 2001

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Toward the end of September, part of the South American ichnological community joined at San Miguel de Tucumán, Argentina, to attend the 4<sup>th</sup> Argentine Meeting of Ichnology and 2<sup>nd</sup> Meeting of Ichnology of the Mercosur (the name we use for the Common Market of South America). It was a splendid meeting, full of new, interesting contributions and carefully organized by Luis Buatois and Gabriela Mángano with the assistance of undergraduate and graduate students from Tucumán. About 60 participants attended the meeting, half professionals, half students, most of them from Argentina, but with representatives from Brazil, Uruguay, Venezuela, Chile, and Paraguay. About 62 abstracts of conferences and regular contributions were printed in an abstracts volume that was ready for use at the beginning of the meeting. Richard Bromley, Alfred Uchman, Conrad Labandeira, Jordi de Gibert, Jorge Genise, James Powell and Florencio Aceñolaza were the invited lecturers, speaking on several themes in ichnology. The meeting offered also a living experience in the jungle near the city to observe insect-plant interactions, guided by Conrad, and an exciting post-meeting field trip, visiting the early Paleozoic deposits from the northwest of Argentina (Salta and Jujuy provinces), where we had the opportunity to see magnificent landscapes and outcrops with 'beautiful trace fossils' (using the newest Richard's categories to describe trace fossils).

The Argentine ichnological meetings started in 1993, at Santa Rosa, La Pampa, convened by Ricardo Melchor (Pemberton, 1994) and subsequently the meeting was held at San Juan (1995) and Mar del Plata (Poiré, 1998). Always bringing together people interested in ichnology, Argentine meetings have an interesting peculiarity: Half of the participants are professionals from various countries in South America, *but* half are graduate and undergraduate students from various places in Argentina, who go to the meeting looking for improvement in their ichnological knowledge. This was one of the original goals of the first meeting that was satisfactorily achieved in all aspects of the event. At the end of the meeting there was an informative talk about the organization and main features of the First International Congress of Ichnology (Ichnia 2004), to be held at Trelew (Patagonia, Argentina). We are confident that all the people who went to Tucumán really enjoyed the meeting as much as we did, and this is largely due to the excellent and timely organization by Luis and Gabriela.

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## Program

- Mariano Verde.** New ichnospecies of *Gastrochaenolites* and *Rosselia* from the late Miocene Camacho Formation of Uruguay: Sedimentological significance of a densely bored surface at the top of the Camacho Formation (late Miocene) of Uruguay.
- Ricardo Astini.** Mid-Late Ordovician *Trypanites* borings in solitary *Solenopora* from the Argentine Precordillera.
- Fernando J. Gomez & Ricardo A. Astini.** Ichnofabric patterns in shallow-marine carbonate tidal flats? Of the middle Cambrian in the precordillera.
- Ricardo Astini.** Omission surfaces related to time-averaged grainstones and their bearing in Middle Ordovician carbonate remnants in the Argentine Precordillera
- Elizabeth Chácón Baca, P.P. Morales, A.E. Cienfuegos, H. Beraldi & S.R.S. Cevallos-Ferriz.** Preservación en sílice en pedernal asociado a Estromatolitos Cretácicos.
- Jordi de Gibert.** Conferencia: Convergencia evolutiva del comportamiento y trazas fósiles.
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Ancient people, or Paleoindians, left the first footprint on North America about 15,000 years ago. Some scientists think it might have been much earlier, yet no convincing evidence exists to support the claim. This Paleoindian lacked the drama of the first person to step on the moon. However, it altered our destiny in ways that are no less profound.

Thomas M. Bonnicksen (2000)  
*America's Ancient Forests*, p. 54

Ichnology Newsletter 24: 35-38 (2002)

“Traces” of Soil Ecosystems through the Phanerozoic:  
New Insights into Terrestrial Paleoecology,  
Paleohydrology, and Paleoclimate’,  
Geological Society of America, Annual Meeting, Boston, Massachusetts (USA),  
November 7, 2001

**Stephen G. Hasiotis<sup>1</sup> & Marilyn D. Wegweiser<sup>2</sup>**

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2. Georgia College & State University  
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**Talks**

- M.D. Wegweiser.** Barbecued dinosaur bones: traces of a paleowildfire near the end of the Cretaceous.
- Steven G. Driese, Cynthia A. Stiles, Claudia I. Mora, Lee C. Nordt & Larry P. Wilding.** New insights into Phanerozoic terrestrial paleoclimate using plant and animal traces and element translocations observed in a modern vertisol climosequence.
- Richard Beerbower.** A canon for early Paleozoic continental ecosystems.
- Nathan D. Sheldon.** Pedogenesis and geochemical alteration of Columbia River basalt lavas.
- Paul D. White & Judith A. Schiebout.** Pedogenesis and global warming: a perspective from the ancient.
- G.A. Ludvigson, D.F. Ufnar, L.A. Gonzalez, B.J. Witzke & R.L. Brenner.** Pedogenic sphaerosiderites as traces of ancient saturated soils: new insights on changes in the hydrologic cycle during Earth history.
- Natasa J. Vidic & Isabel P. Montanez.** Short-term variations in paleoclimate and vegetation as revealed by stable isotope compositions of pedogenic carbonate nodules and soil organic matter in selected Chinese loess paleosols.
- Emma C. Rainforth.** Tetrapod ichnology of the Early Jurassic Navajo Sandstone: implications for the ‘vertebrate ichnofacies’ concept.
- Brent H. Breithaupt, Elizabeth H., Southwell, Thomas L. Adams & Neffra A. Matthews.** Preservational and morphological variations in theropod tracks and trackways on a Middle Jurassic tidal flat: implications for paleobiological and paleoecological analysis.
- Gregory J. Retallack.** Phanerozoic non-marine ichnofacies and atmospheric change.
- Stephen T. Hasiotis.** ‘Traces’ of hidden biodiversity in paleosols: examples from Phanerozoic terrestrial deposits.
- James D. Myers & Travis J. McElfresh.** A relational database schema for managing geochemical and visual data: the Aleutian Arc Data System (AADS).

\* \* \* \* \*

The brown earth moves with multitudes,  
unknown hordes of barbarians and sophists,  
that leave broad, silvered trails, narrow  
trenches, like wheel-ruts; funnels and  
delta-fans of masticated soil.  
innumerable unnamed beings  
turning soil in million mouthful lots,  
inheriting the earth.

D.L. Emblen (1947), “Livestock”  
*There are Sea Gulls on Our Lawn*

'Application of Ichnology to Petroleum Reservoirs,  
Exploration and Sequence Stratigraphy',  
AAPG, May 18-19, 2002

**Bo Henk<sup>1</sup> & Murray Gingras<sup>2</sup>**

1. ARCO Exploration & Production Technology,  
Plano, TX 75075-8499, USA
2. Department of Geology, University of New Brunswick  
Fredericton, New Brunswick E3B 5A3, Canada  
mgingras@unb.ca

**Objectives and content**

This two-day short course is designed for all explorationists, reservoir geologists and engineers interested in improving descriptions and interpretation of bioturbated siliciclastic petroleum reservoirs. We will cover the basics of Ichnology as a science – its history, its development in the last 40 years and the applications we have arrived at today. Ichnofacies, depositional environments, marine processes/ecology and controls on assemblages will be discussed. The neoichnology and sedimentology of modern intertidal sand and mud systems will be examined from the Bay of Fundy, Canada, Willapa Bay, Washington State and the Firths of Scotland.

Applying Ichnology to core descriptions and facies analysis as well as assigning a sequence-stratigraphic significance to litho-ichno-assemblages and significant surfaces such as the *Glossifungites* Ichnofacies will be discussed. Reservoir Ichnology application will be a topic covered with numerous subsurface field examples of actual measurements where porosity and permeability is controlled by the burrowing behavior of the organisms. Core from several North Slope reservoirs will be laid out and discussed, including the Kuparuk C interval and the Shublik-Sag River interval.

**Instructors**

**Bo Henk**, President of the Pacheron Group – an oil and gas consulting company. Bo spent 19 years with ARCO in Domestic and International Exploration and Development and most recently in Research working on a PhD on reservoir ichnology under the tutelage of Dr. S.G. Pemberton at the University of Alberta in Edmonton. His time in exploration covered the globe from Greenland to Africa to Asia-Pacific and his work helped find and define large oil and gas reserves for ARCO. His interests switched to detailed reservoir descriptions and quantifying the effects of bioturbation upon reservoirs starting in 1993 when he first began working with Dr. Pemberton in Indonesia on two of ARCO's largest new finds – Terang – Sirasun and the Tanguhh project. Since that time he has examined numerous North Sea and North Slope as well as Lower 48 reservoirs which span the spectrum from carbonates to clastics. He is currently owner of his own company, enrolled as a PhD candidate at the University of Alberta, adjunct professor at Texas Christian University in Fort Worth, and sits on the board of external advisors for the TCU Science and Engineering School.

**Murray Gingras**, Associate Professor of Geology at University of New Brunswick, Canada. Murray received his PhD in 1998 at the University of Alberta, Edmonton under S.G. Pemberton, has completed a postdoc in 1999 (U of A, Edmonton) and has been at New Brunswick since 2000 and is currently researching neoichnology in the Bay of Fundy and the subsurface of New Brunswick and Nova Scotia and continues to run industry field trips to the Bay of Fundy, Cretaceous sands in the Tar Sands in Alberta and to Willapa Bay, Washington. Murray has examined the effects of bioturbation and quantified the porosity-permeability controls in the mid-continent carbonates as well as analyzed the biochemical diagenesis of sediments by the marine invertebrates. He is an expert in estuarine facies analysis and modern tidal flat organism-sediment relationships.

**4th International Bioerosion Workshop**  
Lee Stocking Island, Bahamas, 22 to 28 September 2002

**William E. Kiene**  
Asian Coral Reef Field Coordinator  
Wildlife Conservation Society  
wkiene@wcs.org

**Theme: Using bioerosion to diagnose marine ecosystem health**

This is the first announcement inviting participation in the 4th International Bioerosion Workshop.

Following on from the previous workshops held at Bornholm Denmark (1996), Ft. Pierce Florida (1998), and Barcelona Spain (2000), the next International Bioerosion Workshop will take place 22-28 September 2002 at the Caribbean Marine Research Center (CMRC) at Lee Stocking Island in the Exuma Islands of the Bahamas.

The purpose of this workshop is to evaluate the processes by which organisms erode hard substrates in the sea, and how these processes can be used to assess the health and condition of marine ecosystems. The maximum number of participants that can attend the Workshop is limited to 35 people. Therefore, if you are interested to attend, present results of recent research and help to synthesize the state of our knowledge about how bioerosion responds to environmental change, I urge you to respond soon in order to secure your participation.

CMRC and Lee Stocking Island as a venue for this workshop will provide an unprecedented opportunity for interdisciplinary scientists to observe bioerosion processes in a wide variety of living and fossil tropical marine environments. At the same time it will provide meeting and laboratory facilities where the participants can examine and discuss the organisms involved in the alteration and breakdown of hard substrates in coral reef and carbonate sedimentary environments. A wealth of knowledge about the coral reef and other habitats near Lee Stocking Island has been collected over the last decade. This knowledge makes CMRC an ideal place to host this meeting and observe how recent environmental changes may have influenced bioerosion. Within easy access of CMRC are living coral reefs, oolite shoals, fossil reef and carbonate sedimentary environments, and giant 'living' subtidal stromatolites. For more details of CMRC and Lee Stocking Island, see [www.cmrc.org](http://www.cmrc.org).

The goals of the workshop are to:

- 1) Review recent research on bioerosion.
- 2) To address how bioerosion has been used, and can be used, to assess and monitor reef and other environments for human and environmentally produced change.

The plan is to have each participant collaborate within work-groups depending on their expertise. Possible work-group subjects include microbial borers, macro-borers, and grazers (invertebrate and fishes). Each work-group would address:

- 1) The factors that control the distribution and abundance of particular bioeroders.
- 2) What the geological record has revealed about these factors.
- 3) How the distribution and abundance of bioeroders or their consequences (destruction, borings, traces) can be used to assess environmental conditions.
- 4) What bioerosion monitoring and assessment techniques can evaluate change in these environmental conditions.

It is anticipated that the results of the workshop will be published and become a valuable tool for marine researchers and managers to use in designing and undertaking studies of coral reefs and associated environments.

Cost per person including accommodation and all meals: USD 360.00.

Lee Stocking Island is located north of Great Exuma Island. Participants should make their own arrangements to arrive Sunday 22 September 2002 in Georgetown, Great Exuma. Taxi and small boat will transport you to Lee Stocking Island. Georgetown is served by American Eagle Airlines from Miami International Airport. Bahamas Air also

flies to Georgetown from Nassau (however, American Airlines via Miami is preferred). Participants will be transported back to Georgetown Airport for departure on Saturday 28 September.

To indicate your desire to participate, please send the following information via email to [wkiene@wcs.org](mailto:wkiene@wcs.org) by 15 January 2001.

I am presently in Papua New Guinea leading a coral reef research team for the Wildlife Conservation Society. These studies will be ongoing in SE Asia until 2003 and I will be organizing the Workshop from a distance away (the wonders of an electronic world!). At this time I can only be contacted by email. If you would like to make direct inquiries about registration, the CMRC facilities or logistics of getting to Lee Stocking Island, you can go to [www.cmrc.org](http://www.cmrc.org) or contact:

Dr. Craig Dahlgren  
Science Director  
Caribbean Marine Research Center  
Lee Stocking Island, Bahamas  
Tele. and Fax: (242) 355-5557  
[cdahlgren@cmrc.org](mailto:cdahlgren@cmrc.org)

See you at Lee Stocking Island next year!

\* \* \* \* \*

We have found a strange footprint on the shores of the unknown. We have devised profound theories, one after another, to account for its origin. At last, we have succeeded in reconstructing the creature that made the footprint. And Lo! it is our own.

A. S. Eddington (1920)  
*Space Time and Gravitation*, p. 201

International Ichnofabric Workshop VII: first circular  
14 to 19 July 2003

**Andreas Wetzel**

Geologisch-Paläontologisches Institut der Universität Basel  
Basel, Switzerland  
andreas.wetzel@unibas.ch

**Date.** Monday, 14 July to Saturday, 19 July, 2003

**Arrival** in Basel during 13 July and

**Departure** from Switzerland Saturday (**late**) evening or Sunday morning.

When returning from the field trip we will pass Zürich. Those who have flights from Zürich may reach their flights (Saturday evening) or stay overnight in Zürich – I will provide a list of suitable hotels with one of the next circulars.

**Presentations.** Oral and Poster Session will be held in the Geological Institute of the University Basel during *Monday, Tuesday* and *Wednesday*. Depending on the number of contributions, it is planned to leave for field trip during Wednesday afternoon.

**Accommodation.** For the participants two types of accommodation are available, both close to the Institute.

(1) "Normal" accommodation in a **hotel (double room)** for those who have sufficient travel fund (about 90 CHF/night)

(2) Student hostel (**without any service, no breakfast or anything like that**) for those who are short in money, but note, there are only 6-8 of such places available (about 120 CHF for the whole stay in Basel) – single rooms

**Field trip.** After presentation of talks and posters a field trip will be arranged during that some classical trace fossil localities in Switzerland will be visited.

The field trip is planned for Wednesday (afternoon) to Saturday. Costs for field trip are in the order of 230 CHF per day (including accommodation, travelling, meals, but not the drinks in the evening).

<b>Costs.</b> Accommodation in Basel	<i>type I</i>	270	<i>type II</i>	120
(Sunday-Wednesday)				
Registration including T-shirt		140		140
Field trip		690		690
(Wednesday-Saturday)				
Total (estimate)		1100		950
Plus additional night after field trip		120		000 in Basel

**Please notice, this is a very rough estimate of the costs and I will try to keep them as low as possible. To negotiate with hotels, rent-a-car companies, etc., I need to know the number of attending people as soon as possible.**

**Please provide me information about the following aspects:**

- (1) Are you interested in attending the IIW VII?
- (2) Which would you prefer: hotel accommodation or student hostel?
- (3) If you choose hotel (double room), have you any preference with whom you want to stay?
- (4) Have you any idea yet about your contribution, talk or poster? Or even a title?
- (5) Would you like to see a special discussion round be organized during the workshop (i.e., in the evening) or during the field trip?
- (6) Do you wish to visit a particular 'classical' trace fossil locality during the field trip?
- (7) Please check the attached list of persons. Do you know someone who would be interested in participating and is not yet on the list? Please communicate the address and e-mail as soon as possible to me.

**Please notice, to keep the costs low, I will do all the communication via e-mail. For this purpose, I would like to ask you to inform me about any change of your e-mail address.**

## New books on ichnology, 2001

### Andrew K. Rindsberg

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In *Ichnology Newsletter* nos. 20 to 23, we presented lists of 81 book-length works on ichnology published from 1990 to 2001, including monographs published within serials, but not theses (which may form the basis of a future list).

### Additional ichnologic books, 1990 to 2002

- Bromley, R.G. 1999. *Spurenfossilien – Biologie, Taphonomie und Anwendungen*. Springer, 347pp. Translators P. Suhr, H. Walter & W. Engel. [German translation of the 1996 edition of *Trace Fossils*. A Japanese translation of the first (1990) edition was published in 1993.]
- Bouchner, M. 1990. *A Field Guide in Colour to Animal Tracks*. Leicester, Blitz Books.
- Bouchner, M. 1994. *Przewodnik – Śladami zwierząt*. Warszawa.
- Bouchner, M. 1998. *Animal Tracks: A Field Guide in Colour*. Leicester, Silverdale Books, 264 pp. ISBN 1-85605-442.
- Buatois, L., Mángano, G. & Acenolaza, F. 2002. *Trazas Fosiles: Señales de Comportamiento en el Registro Estratigráfico*. Museo Paleontológico Egidio Feruglio, Edición Especial, 2: 350 pp. Trelew, Argentina. [See table of contents in this issue.]
- Bullion, S. 2001. *A Key to Mammal Tracks and Signs*. Field Studies Council & Mammal Society.
- Elbroch, M. & Marks, E. 2001. *Bird Tracks & Sign: a Guide to North American Species*. Stackpole Books, Mechanicsburg, Pennsylvania, 456 pp. ISBN 0-8117-2696-7.
- Halfpenny, J.C. 1997. *Tracking: Mastering the Basics*. A Naturalist's World, videocassette, 180 minutes.
- Halfpenny, J.C. & Telander, T. 2001. *Scats and Tracks of the Rocky Mountains* (2nd edition). Falcon Publishing, Helena, Montana, 144 pp. ISBN 0762712414. [First edition: 1998.]
- Halfpenny, J.C. & Bruchac, J. 2002. *Scats and Tracks of the Southeast: a Field Guide to the Signs of Seventy Wildlife Species*. Falcon (Globe Pequot Press), Guilford, Connecticut, xxxvii + 149 pp. ISBN 0-7627-1140-X.
- Liebenberg, L. 1990. *The Art of Tracking: the Origin of Science*. David Philip, Cape Town.
- Mángano, M.G., Buatois, L.A., West, R.R. & Maples, C.G. 2002. *Ichnology of a Pennsylvanian Equatorial Tidal Flat – the Stull Shale Member at Waverly, Eastern Kansas*. Kansas Geological Survey, Bulletin 245.
- Strachan, R. 1995. *Mammal Detective*. London, Whittet Books, 128 pp. ISBN 1873580207.
- Stuart, C. & Stuart, T. 2000. *A Field Guide to the Tracks and Signs of Southern and Eastern African Wildlife* (2nd edition). Halfway House, Southern Book, 310 pp. ISBN 1868127648.
- Uchman, A. & Rindsberg, A.K. 2001. *Bibliographia Ichnologica, 1990-1995*, 154 pp. Kraków. [Available from Alfred Uchman; see announcement, this issue.]

### Other books of interest to ichnologists

- Briggs, D.E.G. & Crowther, P.R. 2001. *Paleobiology II* (2nd edition). Blackwell Science Ltd., Oxford, xv + 583 pp.
- Goldring, R. 1999. *Field Palaeontology* (2nd edition). Longman, Harlow, UK, xv + 191 pp. ISBN 0-582-35625-3.
- Martin, A.J., 2001. *Introduction to the Study of Dinosaurs*. Blackwell Science, Malden, Massachusetts; Winnipeg, Manitoba; Carlton, Victoria; Abingdon, UK, xiv + 426 pp. Perfect bound, ISBN 0-632-04436-5, blackwellscience.com. USD 75.
2002. *Current Topics on Taphonomy and Fossilization*. Valencia, 544 pp.

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## Bibliographies of ichnology

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Scientists since the days of Newton have complained that it is difficult to keep up with the surge of new literature. The ichnologic literature is more scattered than most, but Alfred Uchman and I are attempting to compile it as a digital work-in-progress. This *Bibliographia Ichnologica* now stands at about 24,800 references. No paper copies exist.

Since 1998, we have been compiling annual bibliographies of ichnology for the *Ichnology Newsletter* – following the custom begun in the original series of the *Ichnology Newsletter* from 1968 to 1990. The literature from 1968 to 1973 was gathered for a special issue of the old *Newsletter*. Of course, copies of old issues are now hard to find.

For those who are in need of ichnologic bibliographies without delay, there are several excellent printed sources in addition to commercial databases and website bibliographies. Among the website bibliographies I especially recommend those of Wilson (*Bibliography of Marine Bioerosion*), Neto de Carvalho (*Bibliography of the Ichnology of Portugal*), and Beaudoin (*The Dung Files*).

Printed sources include general bibliographies, topical bibliographies (borings, microborings, coprolites, invertebrate trace fossils, vertebrate trace fossils), regional bibliographies (Brazil, France, Germany, Great Britain, Japan, South America). There are also bibliographies of individuals, which are posted on many researchers' websites, but in print are generally posthumous.

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- Bromley, R.G., 1996, Trace fossils: biology, taphonomy and applications (2nd edition): Chapman & Hall, London, xvi + 361 pp.
- Casamiquela, R.M., Demathieu, G.R., Haubold, H., Leonardi, G. & Sarjeant, W.A.S. 1987. Glossary and manual of tetrapod footprint palaeoichnology. Brazil, Departamento Nacional da Producao Mineral, 117 pp., 20 pl. Brasilia.
- Clapp, W. F. & Kenk, R. 1963. Marine borers: an annotated bibliography. U.S. Department of the Navy, Office of Naval Research, ACR-74: 1336 pp.
- Fernandes, A.C.S. 1993. Bibliografia indexada sobre estudos e registros de estruturas biogenicas no Brasil [Indexed bibliography of studies and accounts of biogenic structures in Brazil]. *Acta Geologica Leopoldensia*, 16(37): 49-106.
- Frey, R.W. (ed.). 1975. The study of trace fossils: a synthesis of principles, problems, and procedures in ichnology. New York, Springer Verlag, 568 pp. [Well-chosen references at end of each chapter, unfortunately now out of date.]
- Häntzschel, W. 1965. Vestigia invertebratorum et Problematica. *Fossilium Catalogus*, ser. 1. Animalia, 108: 142 pp. [Bibliography of invertebrate trace fossils and problematica. Most references also included in the *Treatise*.]
- Häntzschel, W. 1975. Trace fossils and problematica. In Teichert, C. (ed.). *Treatise on Invertebrate Paleontology*, part W, Miscellanea, supplement 1, W269 pp. Boulder, Colorado, Geological Society of America, and Lawrence, Kansas, University of Kansas Press.
- Häntzschel, W., El-Baz, F. & Amstutz, G.C. 1963. Coprolites: an annotated bibliography. *Geological Society of America, Memoirs*, 108: 132 pp., 11 pl.
- Kobluk, D.R. & Kahle, C.F. 1977. Bibliography of the endolithic (boring) algae and fungi and related processes. *Bulletin of Canadian Petroleum Geology*, 25(1): 208-223.
- Kuhn, O. 1963. Ichnia tetrapodorum [Ichnites of tetrapods]. *Fossilium Catalogus*, ser. 1. Animalia, 101: 176 pp., 12 pl.
- Leonardi, G. 1994. Annotated atlas of South America tetrapod footprints (Devonian to Holocene). Brasilia, Ministério de Minas e Energia, Companhia Pesquisa de Recursos Minerais, xxiv + 248 pp., 35 pl.

- Lessertisseur, J. 1956. Traces fossiles d'activité animale et leur signification paléobiologique [Fossil traces of animal activity and their paleobiologic significance]. Mémoires de la Société Géologique de France, 37(74) (for 1955): 150 pp., 11 pl. [Includes a long and relatively complete bibliography with particular emphasis on French literature.]
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- Wilson, M.A. 2000-02. Bibliography of marine bioerosion. URL <http://www.wooster.edu/geology/Bioerosion/BioerosionBiblio.pdf>

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I once wrote a paper on the burrowing habits of the brachiopod *Lingula*. It was accepted for publication in our own Transactions. If I remember rightly, it ran to some 20 pages in length. Seventeen years later, I can convey my point more briefly. The essence of my story was that *Lingula* burrows vertically, anterior end uppermost and always did.

G.Y. Craig (1969,  
'Communication in geology', Scottish Journal of Geology, 5: 306)

Review of *Introduction to the Study of Dinosaurs*  
by Anthony J. Martin

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Cool cover! The photograph would be just as appropriate on a book of horrific verse, and what better recommendation could there be for the cover of a volume aimed at undergraduate students? Inside, Martin's new book does not disappoint, but before I get into the nitty-gritty, I should answer this question: What is there that's ichnological about a book on dinosaurs? What's ichnological about it? What isn't! Tony Martin has almost, but not quite, put too much ichnology in what is, after all, a textbook on dinosaurs. One of the book's best features is the seamless, pervasive, and persuasive way in which traces (and the behavior and ecology they illumine) are married to bone studies and sedimentology to present a well-rounded picture of what dinosaurs were all about.

*Introduction to the Study of Dinosaurs* is organized in five sections, though they are not labeled as such. Chapter 1 is an introduction to what dinosaurs are, including their influence on popular culture. Chapters 2 and 3 cover the scientific method and basic principles of geology and paleontology. This section accounts for 47 pages, and could be skipped if the book is used for a graduate course. Chapters 4 through 10 are the meat of the book as far as I am concerned, and encompass about 170 pages. This section addresses the history of dinosaur studies, dinosaur paleobiology (including skeletal anatomy, taphonomy, tracks, eggs and nests, and feeding habits), and dinosaur evolution. Martin is actually using this section to teach not just dinosaurs but paleobiology itself, and doing a pretty good job. Some things cannot really be covered in a book that focuses almost exclusively on vertebrates, but it may be surprising how many principles can be explicated this way. Section four includes chapters 11 through 15 (120 pages) and covers the major groups of dinosaurs. Each chapter focuses on constituent clades and species, paleobiogeography and evolutionary history, and dinosaurs as living animals. The final chapter deals with the extinction of dinosaurs, as well as their relationship to birds.

I particularly like the time spent in showing how to do paleontology right. Multiple lines of evidence, multiple working hypotheses, peer review, quantitative studies, uniformitarianism, and so on, are all included in the most natural way possible. I also like the way Martin has explained and used cladistics. The method can be confusing to novices, but I don't think many will be confused by the clear presentation in this book. Another strong point of the book: the questions for discussion at the end of each chapter. Discussion-questions are often afterthoughts, and these are even labeled 'Dino Afterthoughts', but they are anything but. These questions are actually thought-provoking and will test students' comprehension in fruitful ways.

I hate the price. Maybe I'm old-fashioned, or maybe it's because my eldest is a freshman in college right now, but USD 75 seems too much for one textbook, especially one that is not a hardback. I don't really think textbooks should be published in paperback anyway. This book was written to last and it should have been made to last. Another thing I don't care for is the absence of references, which have been replaced by web links. The Internet is an unstable medium, and I don't see the point of putting web links in a textbook. It would have been better to have a book website, which could have been updated as needed (this is something the author wanted to do, by the way).

If you are teaching a course about dinosaurs to intelligent and motivated college freshmen, or any other group able to work at the same level, you should be using this book. It is modern, well written, comprehensive, coherent, well organized, and well illustrated. The book will work just as well in a graduate course or a class for scientifically literate adults. Or what about a summer workshop for high-school earth-science teachers

or for anyone with sufficient time and interest? You can teach paleontology using dinosaurs as a sort of extended case study, and covering why we do it, what paleontology teaches us and why that is important, how it's done, how it's *not* done, and what makes it so much fun. *Introduction to the Study of Dinosaurs* is made for a course like that.

If you are not a vertebrate paleontologist, and you like dinosaurs, you should read this book. The going will be rough for those lacking college-level science training, because the book is not dumbed down. However, a serious effort has been made to help the motivated student 'get' the material. There is a pretty good glossary, which, if you are an amateur dino-enthusiast, you will probably soon be familiar with. The book is probably beyond the reach of most high-school students.

For the vertebrate paleontologist there will be little that is new; the book is, after all, a textbook. Still, I recommend reading it. Good writing and an interesting subject make for reading pleasure, and I enjoyed this book.

#### Reference

Martin, A.J., 2001, *Introduction to the Study of Dinosaurs*: Blackwell Science, Malden, Massachusetts; Winnipeg, Manitoba; Carlton, Victoria; Abingdon, UK, xiv + 426 pp. Perfect bound, ISBN 0-632-04436-5, blackwellscience.com. USD 75.

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... Native Americans learned to be attuned to their 'natural' environment. They could see and interpret tracks on the ground that the literate could neither see nor interpret. Were their brains any different? Not before the pruning of maturation had set in.

Will the information age change how our brains work? Undoubtedly. But how?

That is the sixty-four-dollar question. In this technological world of abstract, nonverbal symbols, our brains may be developing an entirely different, nonlinear way of organizing information. Perhaps we will use not lists and definitions to organize our world, but trees, trees covered with pictures and symbols to which none of them have words attached. Could we become more like native Americans following a trail than Abe Lincoln at the fireside reading a book?

Harold Klawans (2000)

'One of these things is not like the others: How literacy changes the brain,' *Strange Behavior: Tales of Evolutionary Neurology*, p. 120

## Review of *The Tracker*, directed by John Guillermin

### Andrew K. Rindsberg

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In *The Tracker*, a Western movie made for television, Kris Kristofferson plays the role of Noble Adams, a former Army scout who has settled down as a rancher in Arizona. His son (Mark Moses) has just completed law school in Philadelphia, and has some impressive skills, but still has much to learn. Enter Red Jack Stillwell (Scott Wilson), the leader of a small band of escaped convicts who leave a trail of bodies. Noble Adams does not want his son to see the old, dark side of his life as a tracker of men, but the sheriff (David Huddleston) persuades him to come out of retirement to pursue the killers.

The plot is simple and the acting is not as good as it should be, but one cannot fault the scenery. I saw no signs of modern activity in this film, neither asphalt roads nor wires. I did see sagebrush, sandstone, basalt, shallow rivers, pueblos, and other beautiful views typical of northern New Mexico and southwestern Colorado.

The long search for the outlaws includes several scenes that emphasize the importance of close observation and especially of tracking. It does not start out well. Immediately after accepting the sheriff's request to come out of retirement, Adams turns around and asks "Who's there?" as someone comes out of the house behind him. As there are only two people in the house and he has known both of them for years, a good tracker should not have to ask. However, after this false start, Adams proves his mettle and it is satisfying for the evidence of footprints to be shown on film. Still, there is an awful lot of killing in this film, and some of it is surprisingly brutal for television. *The Killer* would have been an equally appropriate title.

*The Tracker* is not a great movie; its best feature is the natural Western landscape. However, as one of the few films that includes tracking at all, it may be worth your attention.

### Videography

Guillermin, J. (director). 1988. *The Tracker*: Lance Hool Production, 100 minutes. DVD edition: 2000, including brief cast biographies and the option for subtitles in English, French, and Spanish.

\* \* \* \* \*

There is no den in the wide world to hide a rogue. Commit a crime and the earth is made of glass. Commit a crime, and it seems as if a coat of snow fell on the ground, such as reveals in the woods the track of every partridge, and fox, and squirrel.

Ralph Waldo Emerson

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## Repositories of type and other specimens of trace fossils, 2

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For the convenience of ichnotaxonomists, here is a list of a few of additional (or corrected) repositories of trace fossils, especially type specimens, arranged by author. Dates are given where known. If you know of corrections or additional repositories, please inform us so that they may be published in the next issue. It will be of great help to taxonomists, not least to the authors of the revised *Treatise* on trace fossils.

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#### Acknowledgments

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Bibliographia Ichnologica 2001  
with complementary data for 1990 to 2000

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This part of the ongoing *Bibliographia Ichnologica* includes some new features. Now that the section for 1990 to 1995 has been published (Uchman & Rindsberg, 2001), we can now update the list with material dating back to 1990. Also included is an index of the new ichnotaxa named in the current bibliography, insofar as we have been able to check.

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 Lumbricariidae Schweigert, 2001  
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*Pelaeichnus* Yang, Deng, Zheng & Liu, 2001  
*Pelaeichnus antarcticus* Yang, Deng, Zheng & Liu, 2001  
*Phycodes fusiforme* Seilacher, 2000  
*Phycodes parallelum* Seilacher, 2000  
*Psilonichnus quietis* Myint, 2001  
*Rusophycus verans* Schlirf, Uchman & Kümmel, 2001  
*Scalichnus phiale* Hanken, Bromley & Thomsen, 2001  
*Scoyenia beerboweri* Retallack, 2001  
*Spongeliomorpha chevronensis* Muiz & Mayoral, 2001  
*Spongeliomorpha sinuostriata* Muiz & Mayoral, 2001  
*Stellatichnus* Nielsen & Nielsen, 2001  
*Stellatichnus radiatus* Nielsen & Nielsen, 2001

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*Alaripeda lofgreni* Sarjeant & Reynolds, 2001  
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*Puertollanopus* Soler-Gijón & Moratalla, 2001  
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*Rhyncosauroides rdzaneki* Ptaszycki, 2000  
*Synaptichnium kotanskii* Ptaszycki, 2000  
*Undichna gosiutensis* Gibert, 2001  
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*Undichna westerbergensis* Schweigert, 2001

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## Current activities of ichnologists

39 authors:

**Nasrollah ABBASSI, Silvia ARAMAYO, Christopher BALDWIN, Eduardo S. BELLOSI, Richard G. BROMLEY, Luis A. BUATOIS, Noelia CARMONA, DÁVID Árpád, William DOLEMAN, Stephen K. DONOVAN, Jorge F. GENISE, Michael A. GIBSON, Ingrid GLAUB, Stjepko GOLUBIC, Yuri M. GUBIN, Stephen T. HASIOTIS, Ludvig LÖWEMARK, María I. LÓPEZ C., Robert B. MACNAUGHTON, Jacqui MALPAS, M. Gabriela MANGANO, Ronald MCDOWELL, Ricardo Néstor MELCHOR, Radek MIKULAS, William MILLER III, Masakazu NARA, Eduardo B. OLIVERO, Jonathan D. RADLEY, Gudrun RADTKE, Emma C. RAINFORTH, Greg RETALLACK, Andrew K. RINDSBERG, Michael SCHLIRF, Christine SCHOENBERG, Günter SCHWEIGERT, Ray STANFORD, Alfred UCHMAN, John-Paul ZONNEVELD**

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My next ichnological research focuses on the study of diverse ichnofossils of the Angahran Unit (late Oligocene to early Miocene), which were sampled north of Kahurakan village, Nikshahr area, Makran Range, SE Iran. These trace fossils are a deep marine assemblage and include *Paleodictyon* sp., *Gordia marina*, *Lorenzina* sp., *Helminthopsis* sp. and so on.

In addition is a study on the avian and mammalian footprints that have been discovered in the Karaj Formation (Eocene), Tarom Mountains, north Iran, with the cooperation and joint effort of Prof. **Martin Lockley**. This was first reported in the 5th Symposium of the Geological Society of Iran on 28-29th August 2001 in Tehran University. The expanded report and paper are in hand and will be published as soon as possible.

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Last July, I attended the 6th International Congress of Vertebrate Morphology, held at Jena, Germany. In that event, I presented: a poster titled: 'Palaeoichnology of Ground Sloths'. Abstract in: ICVM-6: 202. I also attended the Symposium titled: 'Morphological studies in fossil & extant Xenarthra', which was a very interesting meeting.

Last week in Tucuman, Argentina (September 24 to 28), the IV Reunión Argentina de Icnología y 2º Reunión de Icnología del Mercosur took place. There I presented:

- Aramayo, S. & Bocanegra, L. Icnofacies de *Scoyenia* en el Miembro Candeleros, Formación Río Limay (Grupo Neuquén, Cretácico tardío) Provincia de Neuquén, Argentina. Resúmenes: 23.
- Aramayo, S., Manera de Bianco, T. & Bocanegra, L. Presencia de *Taenidium* Heer, 1877 en el yacimiento paleoicnológico de Pehuen-Co (Pleistoceno tardío) Provincia de Buenos Aires, Argentina. Resúmenes: 24.

Both titles will be published as extended papers in a special publication of the Asociación Paleontológica Argentina.

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I have recently returned to teaching and research after a sojourn as Associate Dean at Boston University, and more recently as Dean of Arts and Sciences here at Sam Houston State University. I have a couple of projects that involve trace fossils.

### *Arthropycus Project*

I am working with students to unravel the kinematics of trace production. We are slicing and x-raying specimens collected from the Tuscarora of Pennsylvania – a sequence that **Paul Strother** and I worked on with graduate students at Boston University (fig. 1). With the help of people from our Art Department we are going to reconstruct these traces using a graphics movie program called Carrara™.





FIGURE 1. *Arthropycus* from the Silurian of Pennsylvania. Note the 'stitched' or *en-echelon* form similar to *Phycodes*.

*Bright Angel Shale, Grand Canyon Project*

I am working with **Paul Strother** (Boston College), **Eben Rose** (University of Northern Arizona) and **John Beck** (Boston College) on the paleoenvironmental context of micro fossils that appear to have a rather distinctive terrestrial – (certainly not 'normal marine' signature). The Bright Angel Shale is in some sections surprisingly rich in these problematic remains and we are trying to refine the facies context using, among many other things, trace fossils. What makes our interpretations difficult are rich *Skolithos* and *Cruziana* facies traces on the casting sandstone but seemingly paralic or terrestrial 'food' in the muds. **John Beck** and I are just beginning to go to school on some of **Don Rhodes'** work on the distribution of organics and we have some interesting sets of well-preserved *Phycodes*-like traces to work on from the perspective of depth controls on burrowing and furrowing.

**Eduardo S. BELLOSI**

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After my friend **Jorge Genise** moved to Patagonia, I took direction of the Ichnology Division of the MACN, working together with **José Laza** (fossil insect nests and curator), **Mirta González** (micromorphology of paleosols and trace fossils) and **Marcela Cosarinsky** (termite nests).

The activities of the Division are focused in four projects:

- *Insect ichnology and paleosols of the loessite Sarmiento Formation (Eocene-Miocene, central Patagonia)*. This project is funded by NSF (directed by Prof. **R. Kay** and **R. Madden**, Duke University). These mammal-bearing tuffs (including five South America Land Mammal Ages) are excellent examples to study bee, coleopteran, termite and probable ant nests in loess-paleosol sequences.
- *Ichnology of siliciclastic shallow-marine early Miocene sequences from Patagonia*, together with **L. Buatois**, **M.G. Mángano**, **N. Carmona** (INSUGEO, Tucumán) and **R. Bromley** (University of Copenhagen).
- *Ichnology of the continental Triassic Ischigualasto Basin, Argentina*. The associates on the project include **Jorge Genise** (MEF, Trelew) and **Ricardo Melchor** (La Pampa University).
- *Ichnology of Late Miocene-Pleistocene loess deposits of the Pampean region, Argentina*. In collaboration with **J. Laza** and **M. González**.

My research projects were dominated by two main groups in 2001: the finishing of the SEPM *Atlas of Ichnofabrics*, co-edited with **John Pollard**, **Al Curran** and **Tony Ekdale**, and the book that is emerging from the symposium on Complex Trace Fossils organized by **William Miller III** at the NAPC-2001 meeting. Under preparation for this NAPC book are three projects. With **Tony Ekdale**, the complex *Thalassinoides* from the Swedish Lower Ordovician Limestones; with **Murray Gregory**, **Alfred Uchman** and **Tony Martin**, a highly complex trace fossil in Paleocene canyon-fill sediments of southern California; and with **Nils-Martin Hanken**, the Pliocene *Zoophycos* of Rhodes, Greece.

**Alfred Uchman** and I are finishing off a paper on the ichnology of Jurassic sands on the Baltic island Bornholm and have several other on-going projects on Bornholm and Rhodes. I am enjoying fieldwork with **Luis Buatois** and **Gabriela Mángano** on beautiful Miocene ichnofabrics of Patagonia, Argentina.

For 2002 I am intending to make progress on the *Treatise*. My main tasks are the lithic bioerosion ichnotaxa plus the glossary. I am pretty well up-to-date with the literature and it will be fun to get the microborings and macroborings under one roof.

I am now publishing projects faster than I am initiating new ones. If this continues, then older but no less important projects will ultimately be exhumed!

**Luis A. BUATOIS**  
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During 2001 I was involved in a series of ichnologic projects with several colleagues.

- First, our ichnology textbook, *Trazas fósiles: Señales de comportamiento en el registro estratigráfico* (together with **Gabriela Mángano** and **Florencio Aceñolaza**), is finally ready and it was published by the Paleontologic Museum Egidio Feruglio, Trelew in 2002.
- I also keep on working on the ichnology of late Paleozoic continental to marginal marine deposits of northwest and west Argentina. Focus is on the ichnofaunas associated with the Namurian-Westphalian postglacial transgression.
- A paper dealing with ichnofacies in Carboniferous floodplain deposits from western Argentina, including additional comments on the *Scoyenia* and *Mermia* ichnofacies, is in press in *Palaeo-3*.
- With **Richard Bromley**, **Gabriela Mángano**, **Noelia Carmona** and **Eduardo Bellosi**, we are studying Miocene shallow marine ichnofaunas from Patagonia. At present we are in the process of finishing a couple of manuscripts on this topic. Tiering structure of these lower shoreface ichnofaunas is particularly complex.
- Progress is being made on the study of Precambrian-Cambrian trace fossils from the Puncoviscana Formation of northwest Argentina together with **Gabriela Mángano** and **Florencio Aceñolaza**. This ichnofauna is one of the most diverse for that time and we are reinterpreting its paleoecological and paleoenvironmental significance in the light of recent ideas on microbial mat ecosystems.
- Finally, I have been involved in the organization of the Fourth Argentinean Ichnologic Meeting and Second of Mercosur that was held in Tucumán last September and keep on working on the organization of Ichnia 2004 with other South American colleagues.



For recent publications, see Bibliographia Ichnologica under BUATOIS and also under BYRNES; CARMONA; MÁNGANO; NETTO.

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I am starting with my Ph.D thesis on Miocene trace fossils of Patagonia (Argentina). Now, I am preparing a paper with **Luis Buatois** where we discuss with more detail some aspects of the crustacean burrows of Patagonia, including some evolutionary points comparing behavioral characteristics of modern decapods with the Miocene ones. I am also involved in a project with **Gabriela Mángano** and **Luis Buatois** that deals with Precambrian-Cambrian trace fossils of North Argentina.

For recent publications, see Bibliographia Ichnologica under CARMONA and also under BUATOIS.

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- Bioerosion on/in the shells of Tertiary Molluscs collected at selected localities of Hungary
- Bioerosion in the tests of Tertiary solitary corals in Hungary
- Bioerosion in the shells of Tertiary oysters of Hungary
- Ichnological examination of Hungarian fossil rocky shores
- Bioerosion of Clionidae in the Hungarian Tertiary
- Activity of Naticidae on corbulid bivalves collected at different Tertiary localities of Hungary

For recent publications, see Bibliographia Ichnologica under ÁRPÁD and also under FODOR.

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I'm looking at bioturbated (by cicadas, rodents & ?) sheet-sand deposits in central New Mexico and am in search of other bioturbation references, particularly in desert and eolian contexts.

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Current research continues to be based in the Caribbean. **Ron Pickerill** (University of New Brunswick) and I are two of five investigators working on my National Geographic Society grant "Miocene environments and tectonic history of Grenadines, Lesser Antilles". The middle Miocene Grand Bay Formation has yielded a diverse ichnofauna that has supported a deeper water island shelf origin of this unit, associated with bored valves of benthic molluscs derived from shallower water. Fieldwork in Jamaica in May/June 2001 yielded a late Pleistocene shell of the gastropod *Strombus gigas* bored by *Gastrochaenolites* showing lateral spreite, suggesting sideways movement.

For recent publications, see Bibliographia Ichnologica under DONOVAN and also under PICKERILL.

**Jorge F. GENISE** jgenise@mef.org.ar  
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Having finally settled in Trelew at the Museo Paleontológico Egidio Feruglio (MEF), where I am in charge of the Scientific Department, I have begun to build up a regional collection of trace fossils and to teach ichnology as a regular course at the University of Patagonia. Together with

other Argentinean and South American colleagues, we are organizing the First International Congress on Ichnology (Ichnia 2004) at Trelew.

**Eduardo Bellosi** is now in charge of the Laboratorio de Icnología at the Museo Argentino de Ciencias Naturales in Buenos Aires. There, **Jose Laza** (curator of the collection) is preparing a revision of ichnogenus *Coprinisphaera*; **Mirta Gonzalez** continues with her work on micromorphology of trace fossils and paleosols, and **Marcela Cosarinsky** with her termite nests. We are developing two funded projects, one by the National Research Council: 'Trazas Fósiles del Grupo Chubut: Icnotaxonomía y Paleoecología', to study continental trace fossils of different Cretaceous formations of Patagonia. The main results of this project are now in press in *Palaeo-3*. The other grant, 'Ichnology of the Triassic Ischigualasto-Villa Union Basin', in which **Ricardo Melchor** also participates, supports our research on invertebrate neo- and paleoichnology from continental bodies of water. In addition, for this project, a graduate student, **Silvina de Valais**, is working on vertebrate footprints here at the MEF. Beside these two projects, we continue with our research on different aspects of insect neo- and paleoichnology from different formations, localities and ages in Argentina.

**Michael A. GIBSON**

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My work on Lower Devonian trace fossils from West Tennessee continues as part of an overall study of the paleoecology of these rock units. I have returned to the Cretaceous to pick up work on trace fossils from the type locality and surrounding exposures of the Coon Creek Formation. This work is being conducted with **Stan Dunagan** at Austin Peay State University and **students from UT Martin**. We have enlisted the help of **Karen Chin** to look at the coprolites that 'litter' the area. Plans are being finalized for a two-day field trip to this site in conjunction with the 2003 Southeastern Regional Section of GSA. We plan on a volume of papers to coincide with the field trip.

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Current work in ichnology (together with **Marcos Gektidis** and **Klaus Vogel**):

*Studies on microendoliths in selected North Atlantic shelf areas –*

*Variability of the euphotic zone extension and consequences for paleo-depth reconstructions*

Our field of research are modern and fossil microborings in marine environments. Microborings are omnipresent in calcareous substrates. They are known from the supratidal to the deep sea. Earliest microborings are recorded from the Precambrian. As it is well known for modern environments, many microborings are produced by obligate photoautotrophic organisms. Boring systems similar to those are identified in the fossil record, too. As a consequence, we use a photic zonation standard, distinguishing a euphotic zone, a dysphotic zone and an aphotic zone. The euphotic zone can be subdivided by microboring associations into four subzones. Further studies demonstrated that this scheme is applicable to sedimentary basins from the Silurian onwards (e.g., Vogel et al. 1999). The composition of assemblages as well as their vertical sequence show astonishing constancy through Earth history.

Thus, microborings turned out to be important for relative paleobathymetric reconstructions. In a second step we are approaching an estimation for the absolute depth of the individual zone boundaries in the ancient basin in question. For this approach it is necessary to find a modern analog of the fossil environment investigated. This is one of the reasons, why we have been studying microboring communities in different modern environments (Bahamas, Mauritania, Scotland, Norway and Spitsbergen). The lower limit of the euphotic zone is according to the definition we follow characterized by the level where the photosynthesis rate equals the respiration rate of photoautotrophic organisms. This is at the same time almost identical with the depth, in which the surface light (between 350 and 700 nm) is reduced to 1%. The lower limit of the euphotic zone was identified off Mauritania (19°N, upwelling area) in about 40 m water depth, off the Bahamas (25°N) in about 120 m, off Scotland (56°N) in about 20 m, and off Norway (70°N) in about 16 m.

For recent publications, see Bibliographia Ichnologica under GLAUB and also under VOGEL.

**Stjepko GOLUBIC**  
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- Morphometry of microboring traces
- Ichnological nomenclature
- Fossil and Recent microbial endoliths in ooids and marine bioclasts

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The team under Y.M. Gubin spent field season 2000 in the North of Russia (North Dvina and Suchona River basins). At the end of the trip, a huge field of footprints and trackways of big Late Permian tetrapods was discovered on the bench of a lower part of the Suchona River. The length of the field is about 500 m and the width in some places up to 2 m. There were excavated two trackways (12 steps each) and more than 200 separate imprints with a length of 10 to 30 cm. The most unusual feature of the imprints is their direction – forelimbs (hands) in perpendicular position and hindlimbs (feet) parallel to the midline of the trackway. Preliminarily we refer them to pareiasaurs or dicynodonts. Next year the excavation of this locality will be continued.

The year 2001 was at least on the same level of interest or even more interesting than 2000. The lower part of Suchona River has a lot of small tributaries and one of them gave us beautiful results. The Strelna River is a tributary on the right hand of the Suchona, about 60 km upriver from the town of Veliki Ustyug. The bottom of this short, shallow river in many places is covered by a thick horizontal layer of chemogenic limestones with a lot of trackways. The water made us unable to excavate footprints out of the water, but we pictured them, measured, painted, etc. Footprints were met with in three places with the distance between them 200 to 300 m or more. The biggest trackway, which crosses the river from one side to the other, is about 100 feet long with beautiful imprints of fingers and other soft parts of feet.

Stratigraphically, the footprint-bearing limestones belong to the late Tatarian age of the Late Permian, and differ by some meters from the Suchona footprint limestones. New trackways were made by the same kind of animals as the footprints from the Suchona River, and to our mind belong to pareiasaurs of the family Bradysauridae. They were of about the same size as pareiasaurs from the Late Permian locality at Kotelnich and differ from classic pareiasaur *Scutosaurus* in having smaller size and length of limbs, and very likely more terrestrial kind of life. It's interesting that this footprints differ from the famous pareiasaur(?) footprints from Italy (*Pachypes dolomiticus*) in the form of manus, position of imprints in the trackway, length of fingers and distribution of pressure on the substrate. One of the new footprints found on the bank of Suchona River, with long, separated fingers, may belong to another kind of animals. The description of the new findings will be published later.

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On May 15th, 2001, I finally defended my Ph.D. thesis, *Biogenic Traces as Palaeoceanographic Indicators in Late Quaternary Sediments from the SW Iberian Margin*. The thesis consists of three parts:

1. Ichnological changes as response to variations in the Mediterranean Outflow Water (MOW) and North Atlantic Deep Water (NADW) formation from the last glacial maximum to the present,

2. An attempt to automatically quantify a part of the ichnofabric in X-ray radiographs using the digital image analysis program DIAna,
3. A detailed study of the ethology of the modern *Zoophycos* and of its impact on AMS <sup>14</sup>C-dating of marine sediments.

On August 1st, I started a postdoc position at the Institute of Earth Sciences, Academia Sinica in Taiwan. Here I will work on Late Quaternary climate changes in close contact with the Taiwanese IMAGES-team. I also hope to be able to continue on trace fossils although probably to a smaller extent.

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I am working with **E.B. Olivero** on trace fossils collected from Cretaceous and Tertiary rocks in Tierra del Fuego and Antarctica. In Antarctica we are studying a *Neonereites*-dominated ichnocoenosis recorded in tidal deposits. After two years of summer field works I made my first 'ichnocontribution' on estuarine, shelfal, and slope ichnocoenosis from the Eocene of Tierra del Fuego. The study is based on superbly preserved material assigned to the *Curvolithus* ichnocoenosis, estuarine settings; *Cruziana* ichnofacies, shelfal settings; and *Zoophycos* ichnofacies, slope settings. We are looking forward to initiate in 2002 a study of flysch ichnofossils from Paleocene-Eocene rocks of Tierra del Fuego.

**Robert B. MACNAUGHTON**

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My work with the Geological Survey of Canada continues to provide opportunities to indulge my ichnological propensities. In addition to ongoing work with **Simon Braddy** on arthropod trackways in the Cambro-Ordovician Potsdam Group of eastern Canada, I have recently undertaken two other projects.

The first of these is a serendipitous outcome of my involvement in the Central Foreland NATMAP Project, a major regional mapping initiative in northwestern Canada. Part of my time on this project has been spent in measuring stratigraphic sections in the Triassic succession of the southeastern Yukon Territory. These siliciclastic strata are of mid- to shallow-shelf origin and yield very well-preserved trace fossil assemblages of relatively high diversity, including abundant arthropod-produced traces. I'm still in the early phases of getting to grips with this material.

The second project is a study of *Oldhamia* and associated ichnotaxa from a deep-water Cambrian succession in the British Mountains in the northern part of the Yukon Territory. This work is based on collections made by my colleague **Larry Lane** during regional mapping in the early 1990s. (Earlier collections from further north in the British Mountains were included in a 1995 paper by **H.J. Hofmann**, **M.P. Cecile**, and **L.S. Lane**, in *Canadian Journal of Earth Sciences*, v. 31, p. 767-782.) Having worked on Lower Cambrian shallow-marine trace fossils, I am enjoying the opportunity to study deep-marine assemblages from roughly the same time period. Larry and I presented a paper on this material at this year's Canadian Paleontology Conference in London, Ontario.

**Jacqui MALPAS**

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Basin Studies Research Group, Dept. of Earth Sciences, Manchester University, Manchester, UK

I am a mature student who came to geology through the Open University in the UK. I am now in my final year of my PhD and ichnology is a significant part of my research. The title of my project is: *Palaeontological, sedimentological and diagenetic analysis of marine flooding surfaces: A case study of the Miocene, Suez Rift, Egypt*.

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Many things happened during the last year. Perhaps the most important is that we managed to accomplish a series of long and never-ending projects, the Waverly monograph and the Trace Fossil book. Personally, the Waverly monograph represents a lot to me. It summarizes one of our projects in Kansas: the detailed study of a Carboniferous tidal flat ichnofauna. It is being

published by the Kansas Geological Survey. We also enjoyed writing the book (an ichnology book in Spanish published by the Museo Paleontológico Egidio Feruglio) and appreciated the opportunity of leaving an imprint of our personal understanding of the study of trace fossils. We hope to reach the Ibero-American community and, why not? to offer other colleagues the challenge (hopefully for a good reason!) to read a book in Spanish.

In terms of research projects, my main interests were concentrated on Lower Paleozoic trace fossils, particularly Cambrian and Ordovician rocks of Northwest Argentina. I have also had the opportunity to work on some Laurentian *Cruziana* (thanks to the invitation of **Ricardo Astini**), and to explore paleoecologic and paleobiologic implications of marginal marine *Cruziana* ichnofacies. Right now, I am also working on some *Psammichnites* from the Carboniferous of western Argentina. We have started a long-term project revising the Vendian-Lower Cambrian Puncoviscana Formation. It is an ambitious project that emphasizes the environmental and paleobiologic implications of this important ichnofauna.

The Patagonia ichnologic group (**Richard Bromley**, **Luis Buatois**, **Noelia Carmona**, **Eduardo Bellosi** and myself) is very active and promises to produce some results in 2002. I have been more involved in IGCP 410 Project (The Ordovician Biodiversification Event). Last February, I joined a field trip to the Moroccan High Atlas and AntiAtlas (led by **Naima Hamoumi**) that was really significant to my understanding of Ordovician Gondwanic successions. In June, I participated in the regional IGCP 410 meeting in Riverside (California), where I presented a draft (coauthored by **Mary Droser** and **Sören Jensen**) of ichnodiversity trends during the Ordovician. A manuscript on this topic is in progress and hopefully will be published as part of a book on the Ordovician Radiation that will be published by Columbia University Press.

Regarding the First International Paleontological Congress (July 2002, Australia), **Barry Webby** has kindly invited me to coordinate with him a Trace Fossil Symposium. I hope to be able to gather a representative sample of the international trace fossil community. Please, keep in mind that I count on your support!

For recent publications, see Bibliographia Ichnologica under MANGANO and also under BUATOIS; BYRNES; CARMONA; NETTO.

**Ronald McDowell**

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For the past three years, I've been a participant in a project sponsored by the United States Department of Energy involving reservoir characterization in an old oil field here in West Virginia. A major part of my duties was to acquire permeability data directly from outcrop and drill core using an inert-gas injection permeameter. Basically, this instrument injects nitrogen gas into the rock at a known rate, pressure, and temperature through a probe of known geometry held against the rock face. Using feedback on the rate that gas pressure builds up against the rock surface, the instrument computes the permeability of the rock. All of this sounds very esoteric, and it is, except for the fact that the drill cores from the reservoir (Upper Devonian siliciclastics) contain a number of highly bioturbated intervals with well-preserved (although mostly nondescript) ichnofossils.

Permeability and extent of cementation were found to be 'patchy' and difficult to predict for this reservoir – hence the reservoir characterization study. Towards the end of the project, I realized that our permeability equipment had the capability of measuring the permeabilities of very small features because it came with interchangeable probe tips with inside diameters of 0.125" (3.2mm) and 0.0625" (1.6 mm). I decided to measure permeability at selected positions in the drill core to allow a comparison of the permeability characteristics of burrow fillings to the enclosing sedimentary rock. The results of this study were summarized in a poster session presented at the American Association of Petroleum Geology Annual Meeting in Denver, Colorado in June, 2001. The reference for this study is: McDowell, R., Matchen, D. & Avary, K., 2001, *Bioturbation and reservoir flow characteristics: Where did the permeability go?* AAPG 2001 Annual Convention Program, 10: 131.

Briefly, I found that sand-filled vertical and oblique ichnofossils (e.g., *Skolithos*, *Diplocraterion*, or *Arenicolites*) retained no permeability whatsoever. Horizontal ichnofossils (e.g., *Planolites* or *Chondrites*) still had existing permeability even when enclosed in impermeable shale or siltstone. More importantly, the permeability encountered in some of the horizontal traces was nearly 100 millidarcies, which is as high as that found in much of the productive portion of the reservoir. Figure 3 shows a permeability map of a segment of core from the field.

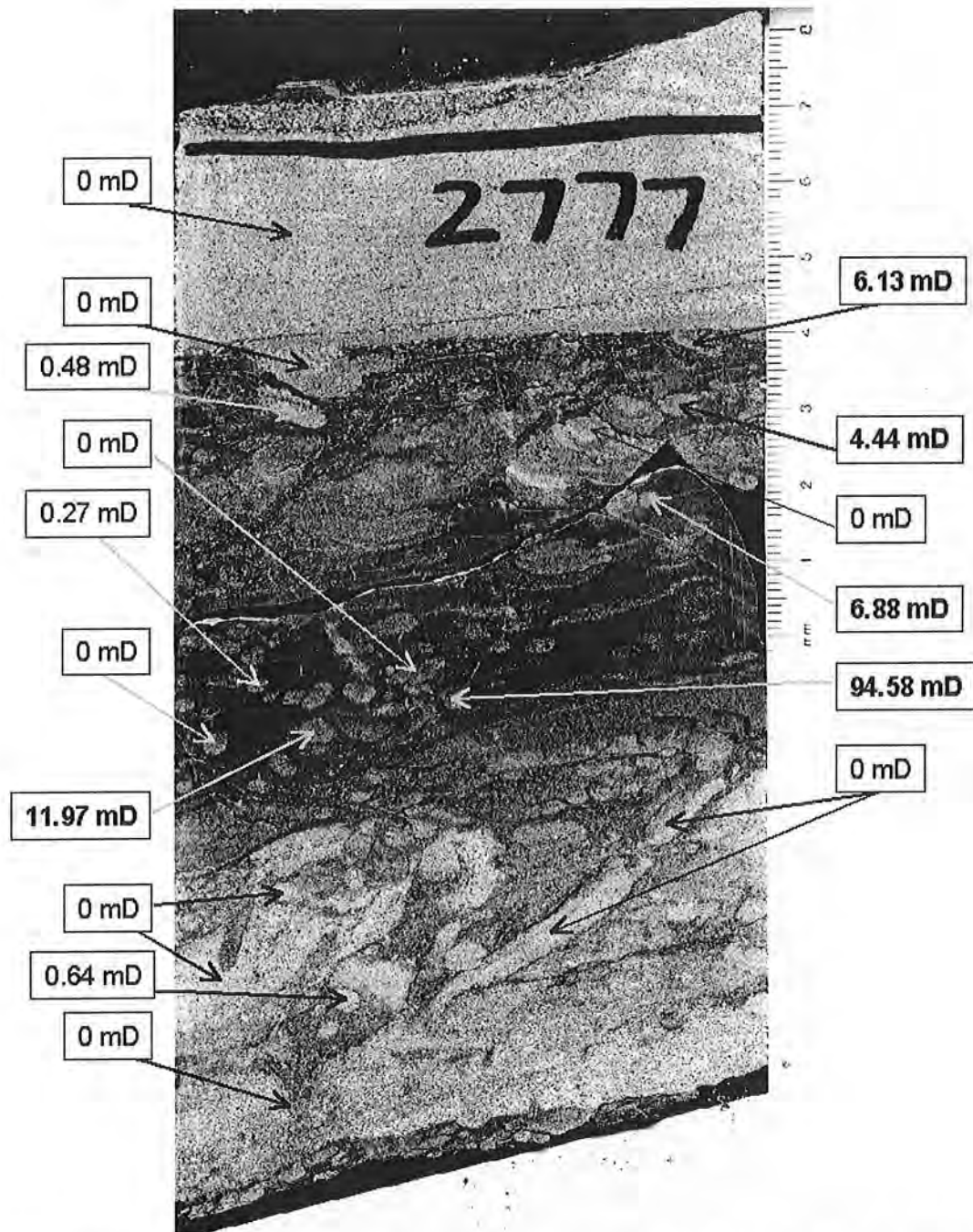


FIGURE 3. Permeability map for core from Thompson Heirs #8 (095-1124) – from a depth of 2777.0'. Fillings in vertical and 'oblique' trace fossils show no permeability; enclosing sandstones and siltstones show no permeability. Horizontal burrow fillings exhibit permeabilities ranging from < 0.5 mDarcies to > 90 mDarcies.

It appears that following shallow burial, vertical and oblique ichnofossils provided a conduit between sedimentary layers allowing fluids to pass from layer to layer. Petrographic examination showed that the reservoir rock contains a good deal of calcite cement formed during early diagenesis. Since this cement is very concentrated in bioturbated intervals and appears to be the 'destroyer of permeability' in vertical burrow fillings, I suggest that the susceptibility of vertical traces to fluid migration may have actually enhanced and localized early



calcite cementation in bioturbated intervals. Furthermore, the intensity of calcite cementation is greatest where the density of vertical traces is greatest.

So why do the horizontal traces still retain relatively high permeabilities? My 'guess' is that the answer lies in the chemical conditions within the burrow fillings during diagenesis. Shallowly buried vertical traces were filled with fluids from different stratigraphic levels with variable chemical composition, pH, and oxygen content. On the other hand, shallowly buried horizontal traces were filled with fluids from the same stratigraphic level with a 'uniform' or at least not highly variable chemical composition, pH, and oxygen content. During diagenesis, there's nothing like a gradient or abrupt change in the chemical microenvironment to cause precipitation of cement. I believe that the sediment-filled vertical traces allowed just such a situation. On the other hand, the horizontal traces experienced a more stable chemical microenvironment and their fillings retained permeability into the late stages of diagenesis and beyond. The net result was to produce an ichnological component of reservoir heterogeneity.

Currently, I am investigating the possibility of using a trace fossil as an index fossil or at the very least a stratigraphic 'indicator' to help in the recognition of the Upper Devonian Brallier Formation during reconnaissance mapping. As geologic workers in the Appalachian region know, exposures here are frequently few and far between. Two units, the Brallier and overlying Foreknobs formations, have been problematic because they both contain thick intervals (200 to 300 meters or more) of olive-green, quartz siltstone, generally devoid of marker horizons or

identifiable fossils. After several field seasons trying to differentiate between these two formations in isolated outcrop, my colleagues and I are coming to the conclusion that the ichnofossil *Pteridichnites biseriatus* Clarke and Swartz, 1913 (fig. 4) is restricted to the lower Brallier. We are currently (when the opportunity presents) examining correlative strata in other states to determine the geographic and stratigraphic range of this ichnofossil. A short paper is in preparation proposing the stratigraphic utility of *P. biseriatus* and reinterpreting its original designation as the 'probable tracks of crustaceans or possibly of annelids' to the locomotory impressions of the tube feet of an echinoderm, either an asteroid or ophiuroid.



FIGURE 4. Examples of *P. biseriatus* from the Brallier Formation north of Elkins, West Virginia. Arrows point to impressions that appear to be of the oral surface of an asteroid or ophiuroid; these organisms are suggested as the tracemaker.

Ricardo Néstor MELCHOR

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During the last year we continued the study of Triassic continental ichnocoenoses from Argentina, mainly from the Ischigualasto - Villa Unión basin. This is a joint project with **Jorge Genise**, **Eduardo Bellosi**, **Miguel Archangelsky**, and **Silvina de Valais**, who recently joined the group. Fieldwork was conducted in a number of localities of the lacustrine Los Rastros Formation at Ischigualasto and Talampaya Parks and also on the floodplain facies of the overlying Ischigualasto Formation. We also started to work in the northern area of the Triassic Cuyo basin (northern Mendoza Province, central-west Argentina), mainly at renowned localities (Sierra de Las Peñas y de Las Higueras) for twentieth-century findings of tetrapod footprints (mostly unpublished). From these localities, a relatively diverse assemblage of vertebrate and invertebrate trace fossils was recorded from sheetflood - playa lake facies, and is in the process of study. We also started to revise the ichnologic knowledge of the Jurassic La Matilde Formation from Patagonia and described distinctive arthropod trackways (mostly the work of **Silvina**). This ichnofauna has become famous by the excellent preservation of tiny mammal-like footprints (ichnogenus *Ameghinichnus*) and small dinosaurs. The work on Triassic invertebrate and vertebrate ichnofaunas from Argentina will (hopefully) continue for at least two more years.

For recent publications, see Bibliographia Ichnologica under MELCHOR and also under VALAIS.

**Radek MIKULÁŠ** mikulas@gli.cas.cz  
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Surprises of the field season 2001 have been:

- The ichnogenus *Helicodromites* and adjacent ichnoassemblage from the Badenian claystones at Brno, Czech Republic (locality visited by **Alfred Uchman** with **Miroslav Bubik** and me);
- A *Circolites* – dominated ichnoassemblage on the Neogene rockgrounds at Brno, Czech Republic (locality visited with **Alfred Uchman** and **Miroslav Bubik**);
- Ichnologically controlled grooves and ridges on thin carapaces of the Cambrian to Silurian eurypterids (joint project with **Ivo Chlupac**); plug-shaped trace fossils from cherts and calc-flints of the Pridoli Formation (Silurian) of the Barrandian area (with **Radvan Horny** and **Pavel Cap**);
- '*Megaplanolites*' from the Cretaceous thick-bedded sandstones (Czech Republic);
- Extremely large ?*Gastrochaenolites* cf. *G. ornatus* Kelly & Bromley with the tracemakers (?*Pholadonia* sp. – a non-pholadid bivalve!) *in situ* (Cretaceous, Czech Republic; with **Jiri Zitt**);
- Numerous *Teredolites* from the Bohemian Cretaceous basin (with **Jiri Kriz**);
- Ichnological aspect of fossiliferous nodules of the Ordovician in the Barrandian area;
- Ichnofabric of the Culm facies of the Lower Carboniferous (Moravia and Silesia, Czech Republic; with **Ondra Babek**).

Beside these new items, I continue (or I hope to continue) with some ichnological topics announced already in *IN* 22 and 23, namely:

- The Ordovician ichnofabrics of the Barrandian area (Czech Republic);
- Hymenopterous and mammal burrows in the Bohemian Oligocene;
- Early bioerosion in Devonian bioclasts of the Prague Basin;
- Bioturbation in submarine karst cavities at Štramberk (Jurassic to Cretaceous; with **Alfred Uchman**);
- Lateral holes (predators, parasitoids, cleptoparasites) in insect brood chambers (with **Jorge Genise**).

**William MILLER III** wm1@axe.humboldt.edu  
Humboldt State University, Arcata, California, USA

This has been a productive twelve months or so. I continue to work on deep-marine trace fossil assemblages in northeastern Italy, started to see some of this work published, and convened the symposium 'New Interpretations of Complex Trace Fossils' at the North American Paleontological Convention. The work in Italy is moving from description and interpretation of assemblages in Late Cretaceous-Early Paleogene pelagic limestones to new work on the Eocene Belluno Flysch (with **Paolo Grandesso** and **Cristina Stefani** of Universita di Padova). The symposium at NAPC was a tremendous success; the room was packed most of the time and I have heard only favorable reactions from those who saw the presentations. *Palaeo-3* will publish the contributions, together with a few additional papers solicited to complete coverage of the topic, as a special volume probably in late 2002 (if we keep to schedules). I am growing more interested in the biologic properties of complex trace fossils, such as *Zoophycos*, compounds, and independent traces that occur in repeated, intimate associations, and will spend some time in the coming year trying to relate 'extended organism' concepts to the interpretation of these complicated patterns.

For recent publications, see Bibliographia Ichnologica under MILLER.

**Masakazu NARA** nara@sci.ehime-u.ac.jp  
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I am working on sedimentology and ichnology of Cenozoic shallow-marine to marginal-marine deposits of Japan. My main field of interest is to reveal impact of Pleistocene short-term sea-level changes on shallow-marine ecosystems.

In Japan, there are lots of splendid exposures of Cenozoic strata formed in various depositional environments. I also enjoy studying them. In addition, together with **Alfred Uchman** and **Michael Schlirf**, I have started reevaluation of ichnotaxonomy of rosselian traces.

**Eduardo B. OLIVERO**

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Present research is focused on the sedimentology and ichnology of estuarine and tidal deposits from the James Ross Basin in Antarctica and the Austral-Malvinas basins in Tierra del Fuego. The ichnologic study is carried out together with **María I. López C.** We have a fine collection of *Nereites* from the Upper Cretaceous of Antarctica, consisting mostly of the so-called *N. biserialis*-*N. uniserialis* preservational variants and we are trying to clarify the problem through the study of thin and polished sections. We have produced a short abstract with preliminary results to be presented in the IX Reunión Argentina de Sedimentología (Córdoba, Argentina, May 2002) and full results are expected to be submitted at the end of 2002. In Tierra del Fuego we are studying an estuarine ichnocoenosis dominated by *Macaronichnus*, *Curvolithus*, *Gyrochorte*, and trace fossils similar to those frequently assigned to the activity of gastropods. Preliminary results were published in the Fourth Argentinian Ichnologic Meeting and Second Ichnologic Meeting of the Mercosur (S.M. de Tucumán, September 2001).

In 2002 we plan to begin ichnologic studies on the Paleogene turbidite systems of the Austral-Malvinas basins in Tierra del Fuego.

**Jonathan D. RADLEY**

Warwickshire Museum, Warwick & University of Portsmouth, UK

Ichnological research: Non-marine Lower Cretaceous of the Wessex-Weald Basin (southern England) and the marine Upper Triassic-Middle Jurassic of the East Midlands Shelf (central England).

The non-marine Lower Cretaceous (Purbeck-Wealden) succession of southern England yields well-preserved, low-diversity, vertebrate (chiefly dinosaur) and invertebrate ichnofaunas, principally in meanderplain and marginal lacustrine-lagoonal environments. Many of these are poorly documented. Current investigations are addressing their taphonomy and sedimentological significance. The marine Upper Triassic to Middle Jurassic succession on the Central English East Midlands Shelf is rich in pebble beds and skeletal concentrations, many previously unrecognised. The lithoclasts and bioclasts frequently display shallow-tier bioerosive traces which appear to be bathymetrically controlled. Ongoing research is revealing the importance of hard substrate grazing as a bioerosive agent, in siliciclastic and carbonate facies as old as Rhaetian.

**Gudrun RADTKE**

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Hessisches Landesamt für Umwelt und Geologie, Wiesbaden, Germany

- Morphometry of microboring traces
- Ichnological nomenclature
- Microbial traces in shells in Safaga, Red Sea (Egypt)
- Tertiary fossil microborings of Germany

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**Greg RETALLACK**  
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Greg Retallack is getting more and more into trace fossils, with recently published studies identifying supposed Ordovician millipede burrows as *Scoyenia*. He is also fascinated by the alternation of *Edaphichnium* and *Taenidium* trace fossil assemblages in the Eocene-Miocene John Day Formation of Oregon and Renova Formation of Montana. As in comparable trace fossil assemblages of the Pleistocene Palouse loess of Washington described by Toby O'Geen and Alan Busacca, these assemblages may represent alternation of grassland and sagebrush communities on Milankovitch frequencies (40 ka). This alternation of carbon-sequestering grassland soils stuffed with earthworm pellets and carbon-oxidizing sagebrush riddled with cicada burrows, has got him thinking that soil ichnofacies on longer time scales may play a role in greenhouse-icehouse alternation. Ordovician *Scoyenia* ichnofacies are supplemented by Carboniferous *Coprulus* ichnofacies, then Triassic *Termitichnus* and Cenozoic *Coprinisphaera* ichnofacies. What is the connection, if any, between trace fossils of soil organisms and global change?

**Andrew K. RINDSBERG** arindsberg@gsa.state.al.us  
Geological Survey of Alabama, Tuscaloosa, Alabama, USA

Family illnesses cut deeply into my research time during the past two years, but I am catching up now. I was delighted to receive visitors including **Richard Bromley**, **Mary Droser**, **Jerry MacDonald**, **Tony Martin**, and **Alfred Uchman** in 2001 and early 2002. Several large projects are underway:

- Coordinating the revision of the trace-fossil part of the *Treatise* (with several contributing authors)
- Continuing work on the *Bibliographia Ichnologica*, a general bibliography on traces (with **Alfred Uchman**)
- Contributing to, and helping to edit, a book being prepared by amateurs and professionals of the Birmingham Paleontological Society on the Union Chapel tracksite (Pennsylvanian, Alabama) (with **Ron Buta**, an astronomer at the University of Alabama; and **David Kopaska-Merkel**, Geological Survey of Alabama)

**Alfred Uchman** and I completed a bibliography of the 'lost years' between the two *Ichnology Newsletter* series, 1990 to 1995; we are tackling the years before 1900 next.

Also, **Tony Martin** and I recently completed a manuscript on *Arthropycus*, which turns out to have some surprising interrelationships with other ichnogenera in the Silurian of Alabama. We appreciate the help we received from the ichno-community through the SKOLITHOS listserver.

For recent publications, see *Bibliographia Ichnologica* under RINDSBERG and also under MANGANO; UCHMAN.

**Michael SCHLIRF** michael.schlirf@mail.uni-wuerzburg.de  
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Besides continuous efforts in improving my knowledge on ichnotaxonomy and finding ways of uniform methods in how to handle trace fossils, I am currently working on Upper Triassic trace fossils from the Germanic Basin and their palaeoecological significance. Together with **Mario Werner** I am still working on the Permian trace fossils from Namibia – which hopefully will soon result in a publication on a very interesting new ichnogenus (see IN23). Together with **Alfred Uchman** I will work on the type material of *Rosselia* Dahmer. Some new material of *Steigerwaldichnium* Kuhn, 1937 has been discovered and is waiting for being described. A revision of *Minichnium* Pfeiffer is in progress. Last but not least I will keep on opening ichnological Pandora boxes on SKOLITHOS and elsewhere to entertain the ichno-community.

For recent publications, see *Bibliographia Ichnologica* under SCHLIRF.

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**Günter SCHWEIGERT** schweigert.smns@naturkundemuseum-bw.de  
Staatliches Museum für Naturkunde, Stuttgart, Germany

Working for several years on lithographic limestones of the Upper Jurassic in southwestern Germany, I have been astonished by the poorness of knowledge concerning trace fossils in these laminated sediments, which are, in comparison with other fossils, equally or even more important for understanding the palaeoecology and genesis of such kinds of famous fossil-lagerstätten. In the past they were often overlooked and hence missing in older collections because they have little economic value for fossil traders. Starting with the Nusplingen Lithographic Limestone, I am continuing to work on trace fossils (and 'pseudo'-trace fossils as well!) from several lithographic limestone deposits in Bavaria, together with **Martin Röper** from Solnhofen, one of the best local specialists on the Bavarian lithographic limestones. At the least, I am also interested in decapod microcoprolites found in thin sections of rocks from the Mesozoic and Cenozoic.

For recent publications, see Bibliographia Ichnologica under SCHWEIGERT.

**Ray STANFORD** dinotracker@earthlink.net  
Mesozoic Track Project, College Park, Maryland, USA



I am an amateur paleoichnologist (age 64 in June 2002) who, after retirement from unrelated work, began almost literally stumbling upon dislodged ('float') pieces of track-bearing Early Cretaceous substrate in Maryland while walking stream beds with my three children in the summer 1993. After learning that Early Cretaceous tracks had been unknown in this state before my finds, I began the Mesozoic Track Project, with advice from professionals, to collect, conserve, and catalog such float finds as well as to locate parent substrates and record appropriate data. The substrates containing tracks are of the Potomac Group, evidently from its Patuxent Formation, and seem to be of late Barremian to early Aptian age, based on pollen and stratigraphic studies (with help from Robert Weems, USGS, Reston,

Virginia).

Maryland finds include:

- Diagnostic hypsilophodontid manus/pes imprint sets
- Slabs with multiple trackways, including two with three distinct ichnospecies represented, one of which includes four trackways comprising 22.5 tridactyl footprints, avian footprints and trackways of various foot sizes, and the smallest foot-size dinosaurian trackways ever reported
- Ten tracks (including two successive tracks on one slab) realistically attributable to dromeosaurids progressing in soft substrates (Teeth of dromeosaurids have been found locally in the Arundel Clay.)
- At least a dozen distinct ichnospecies of tridactyl footprints, including ornithopod tracks of various sizes attributable to iguanodontids
- Four examples of coprolites with tridactyl footprints impressed into them;
- Over a dozen sauropod manus imprints, ranging from tiny (two are 3.8 cm across) to large but probably sub-adult examples; four sauropod pes ichnites, the largest 67 cm across
- Several sizes of 'croc' type footprints
- Perhaps five varieties of mammal imprints
- A diagnostic nodosaur hatchling fossil, the first found in this hemisphere
- Perhaps the finest nodosaur(?) pes imprint ever found

- Two excellent nodosaur manus prints
- Pes and manus imprints attributable to a basal neoceratopsian.

On April 4, 2002, I recovered a tridactyl dinosaur footprint, the first ever found from Maryland's Late Cretaceous Magothy Formation. It is of Santonian age (roughly 84 Ma).

My Texas finds include detailed sauropod footprints, the smallest ever reported, world-wide, and found in Edwards Limestone 'member # 3' (middle Albian, about 100 Ma) of Travis County, Texas. They comprise a single trackway and consist of left and right pes imprints only 58 mm long by 50 mm wide, a left manus imprint 23 mm long by 30 mm wide, and a right manus print partly overprinted by the right pes. The diminutive imprints are attributable a hatchling and suggest the possible presence of a nesting site in the surroundings. Although shallow, the outlines of the three complete footprints are clear, displaying rather typical *Brontopodus birdi* morphology.

Abstracts of the three papers I presented at Dinofest '98 in Philadelphia, may be seen in the event's book of abstracts. (The Dinofest '98 conference proceedings were, alas, never published by the promoter.)

Should researchers wish to visit and see things, first hand, please contact me.

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Apart from work on *Ichnology Newsletter* and *Bibliographia Ichnologica* (with **Andy Rindsberg**), I visited Wiesbaden Museum and the field (Germany) to examine type material of *Rosselia socialis* and other ichnospecies named by Dahmer (1937) (with **Michael Schirf** and **Masakazu Nara**). **Richard Bromley**, **Murray Gregory**, **Tony Martin**, and I examined Point Lobos, California (USA), for a Paleocene trace fossil described by Gary Hill (1981). With **Radek Mikuláš**, we examined a Miocene clay pit with *Helicodromites* and other trace fossils, near Brno in the Czech Republic. With **Richard Bromley**, I examined flysch and non-flysch trace fossils in Rhodes, Greece. There are also several unfinished projects from former years, with many coauthors from different countries, and never-ending researches in the Carpathian Flysch.

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\* \* \* \* \*

If he for whom I have waited  
Should even now end by coming,  
What should I do?  
He will be wanting to tread  
The (fresh) snow of the garden.

*Matsu hito no  
Ima mo ki-taraba,  
Ikaga semu?  
Fuma-maku-hoshiki  
Niwa no yuki kana.*

Izumi no Shikibu, Shikwa 156  
Translated by Arthur Waley (1919)



**Ichnia 2004**

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Trelew, Patagonia, Argentina  
Museo Paleontológico Egidio Feruglio, April 2004**

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