

Mikro-2011 and TMS Foram/Nannofossil group annual meeting in Krakow

- a personal note by participant Michael Hesemann, Foraminifera.eu Project, Krakow, 1st of July 2011



Prof. Michael A. Kaminski and Prof. Adam M. Gasinski showing us the rooms of the Grzybowski Foundation

From my point of view the joint Mikro-2011 has been a very rich and intense 4-days meeting of European foraminiferal and nannofossil researchers. The organizing committee did a great job in smoothly balancing a wide range of topics (new studies on recent and paleo material, techniques and tools, forams in the internet ...) with a well prepared field trip and several social events. All of the more than 100 participants - though not always present - got the chance to talk to everybody and listen to the presentations in English. Enough time was given in breaks and evening events for personal talks. Prof. Malcolm Hart was honored with the Grzybowski award 2011 and one of his students for the best poster. For me as a first-time visitor and newbie it was the perfect setting to present the foraminifera.eu project and get in touch with potential scientific contributors.

I was very happy to meet quite a few contributors again and Andras Szabolcs Soron for the first time.

Furthermore a substantial number of participants outed themselves as users of foraminifera.eu in many cases with the promise to contribute sediment, specimens and most important images of specimens classified by specialists. Most likely we will be flooded with work but will do our best to integrate all the valuable contributions in due time. We just started with 42 images of lectotypes.

Preparation, Documentation and new scientific results

Mikro-2011 is well prepared and documented by Dr. Marta Bak, Dr. Anna Waskowska and Prof. Michael A. Kaminski with the hard covered Grzybowski Foundation Special Publication No. 17. It comprises 61 pages on the geological and paleontological setting of the Outer Carpathians plus the abstracts. Special workshops were offered on statistical dataanalysis with PAST by Dr. Oyvind Hammer, on the TimeScale Creator by Eric Anthonissen and on foram extraction from lithified porous rock with liquid nitrogen by Zbigniew Remin and his team. Dr. Joachim Schönfeld reported from the FOBIMO- workshop on bio-monitoring with Forams - the effort to establish a standardized method to be approved by the EU on environmental monitoring in marine environments. He invited the participants to join in.

Probably the most challenging new result was presented by Dr. Claudia G. Ceteau by showing images of cancellate planktonic foraminifera from the lower Jurassic so far not observed in the Jurassic at all. Eiichi Setoyama did a great overnight job to back up his work on the Late Cretaceous of the Tethyan-Artic area with PAST two days after Oyvinds talk. The rising importance of DNA-barcoding of recent forams was reflected in different talks on the subject. I apologize for not mentioning the many other talks.



The Liquid Nitrogen cracking method demonstrated by Zbigniew Remin and his team on lithified porous rock

The excellent Field Trip

Prepared by the textbook and the well done field guide we started into our 12h field trip to 5 outcrops in the Silesian and Magura Nappes of the Outer Carpathians plus the traditional polish highland diner. To observe the influence of heavy water-run-off and weathering on rock formations we came on the very best day



Cenomanian / Lower Turonian section in the Barnasiowska quarry in almost upright position

of the Carpathian monsoon season. Prof. Jan Golonka and Dr. hab. inz. Marek Cieszkowski explained the geological setting in the bus and at the outcrops. Dr. Anna Waskowska indicated in detail where to take the best samples for the few people sampling such as Dr. Miroslav Bubik, Eiichi and me. At the first stop Dr. Marta and Dr. Krzysztof Bak had placed markers on the according layers to nicely illustrate the thin laminated setting of Cenomanian units deposited below the CCD. Altogether I sampled 5-6kg and hope e.g. to find the prominent Eocene marker *Haplophragmoides parvulus* Blacher, 1961 from the last outcrop.

My impression is that not only for me as a newbie Mikro2011 has been a very rich event. People who missed it, may consult the Grzybowski Foundation Special Publication No. 17.