4th Circular

CONFERENCE
XV IPC - XI IOPC
PRAGUE 2024

Since 2009, the world community of palynologists and palaeobotanists has been meeting every four years to discuss the latest research, and to share experience. This time, however, the 15th International Palynological Congress (IPC-XV 2024) and the 11th International Organisation of Palaeobotany Conference (IOPC-XI 2024) will take place after an eight-year interval due to the world pandemic.

This upcoming joint congress will be held in Prague, hosted by Czech palynologists and palaeobotanists, on 27–31 May 2024. Year 1820 is considered the starting point for palaeobotanical nomenclature. By then, Caspar Maria Sternberg published the first volume of his *Flora der Vorwelt*.

200 years of palaeobotany will be honoured by this year's conference. It will be an excellent opportunity for the Czech Republic (a country rich in plant fossil finds, palynological sites, and palynological and palaeobotanical history) to host leading experts in various disciplines, and to promote scientific innovations. Joint symposia are planned to foster interaction and integration between palynologists and palaeobotanists, also including plenary sessions of general interest. The meeting is promoted by the collective efforts of the International Federation of Palynological Societies (IFPS) and the International Organisation of Palaeobotany (IOP).



Abstract submission deadline 17 January 2024

Sessions, workshops and colloquia

Every participant can present only one talk OR one poster as the presenting author. Please select the most suitable for your presentation during your online abstract submission:

Please note that if the session of your choice does not open, your presentation will be moved to another appropriate session.

Oral presentation / Poster: in highly attended sessions, you may be asked to change your oral presentation for a poster. You will be informed in advance.

Sessions

- **A01** Late Precambrian to early Paleozoic OWM (Organic-Walled Microfossils) and SCF (Small Carbonaceous Fossils)
- **A02** Advances in Devonian palaeobotany
- **A03** Permian plant succession and the global climate changes
- **A04** Glimpses into the evolution of Fungi
- **A05** Late Palaeozoic continental ecosystems of Gondwana
- **A06** Palaeozoic palaeobotany: taxonomy, diversity and palaeoecology
- **B01** From snowball to hyperthermals: Palaeobotanical and palynological signatures of Earth's extreme climate events
- **B02** Permo-Carboniferous peat-forming tropical forests buried in situ by volcanic ash in the light of palaeobotanical and palynological research; results from the Czech Republic and China
- **B03** CIMP sponsored symposium on Palaeozoic palynology
- **B04** Gymnosperm cones across time and phylogeny
- **C01** Paleo-evo-devo: reciprocal illumination between the fossil record and evolutionary developmental biology

C02 The Legacy of Plant diversity and environmental background across the critical intervals of the Mesozoic

C03 Vegetation history and evolution of terrestrial ecosystems in Southern Africa, from early land plants to modern vegetation

C04 Mesozoic plant cuticles: implications for evolution and palaeoenvironment

C05 Recent advances in the study of Cretaceous angiosperms

C06 Early Cretaceous and Jurassic floras of Asia

D01 In situ and adhered pollen from fossil flowers and animals and their associated paleofloras

D02 Reproductive organs of fossil plants and their in-situ spores and pollen

D03 Global insights into the evolutionary origin of Mediterranean-type ecosystems: taxonomy, palaeoecology, palaeogeography, and taphonomy H01 Quantitative reconstruction of Holocene land-use and land- cover change: advances and applications H02 Forward to the past – research development on quantifying land cover change and its implication for the biosphere

H03 Application of palynological and palaeoecological information in conservation and restoration

H04 Back to the Future? Sub-boreal vegetation and climate as a reference for future environmental dynamics

H05 Changing Island Ecosystems

H06 Long-term tropical forest dynamics; critical knowledge in a changing world

H07 Mountain Palaeoecology on the move: The future of mountain ecosystems – perspectives through palaeoecology

H08 Big events – Big Impacts. Success and adaptation strategies of ancient populations to climate changes

M01 Modern pollen-vegetation studies for past land-cover reconstructions and calibration of the fossil pollen record

M02 Recent advances in dinoflagellates and their cysts as environmental tracers

M03 Extra microfossils in pollen slides: from environmental indicators to biotic interactions

M04 Fire as an ecological and evolutional driver of terrestrial biota

M05 Molecular proxies in palaeoecology: recent developments and their implications for understanding past environments and ecosystems

M06 Morphological disparity and evolution in the plant fossil record

M07 Applied palynology: methodological innovations

M08 Open symposium on basic (LM, SEM, TEM) and applied palynology (melissopalynology, aeropalynology, forensic palynology)

Q01 Biogeographical history of tree taxa: past trends and modern frameworks

Q02 Exploring ecological concepts in the Quaternary Q03 Glacial-interglacial cycles as natural experiments T01 Challenges in studying Cenozoic vegetation history – In memoriam Zlatko Kvaček (1937–2020)

T02 Cenozoic continental climate and vegetation patterns on both sides of the North Pacific – an open NECLIME symposium

T03 Identifying Cenozoic fossil fruits and seeds: challenges and progress

T04 The evolution of plant diversity under paleoenvironmental changes in the Qinghai-Tibetan Plateau Region

T05 Insights on Southern Hemisphere Cenozoic Paleobotany

Z01 IAWA Fossil Wood Symposium

Z02 Palaeobotany at the forefront of gender equality

Z03 Phylogenetic Palaeobotany

Z04 Palynology and palaeobotany in the digital era

Z05 Plant-insect interaction and their co-evolution during deep time Workshops & colloquium

Workshops & Colloquium

W01 Estimating pollen productivity with R tools/ discover package

W02 Whole-plant functional traits from the fossil record: a consortium for critical assessment and development

CQ01 Botanical Nomenclature in Palaeobotany and Palaeopalynology, Colloquium



Fees and deadlines

Regular registration

590 € delegate fee / 490 € student fee
21 December 2023 – 29 February 2024

Late / onsite registration

690 € delegate fee / 590 € student fee
1 March – 27 May 2024

Please complete the registration form online:

https://prague2020.cz/registration-guidelines/

Registration fees cover admission to Ice Breaker Party, admission to all sessions, refreshment during coffee breaks, lunches, conference materials (abstract book – on-line, participants will receive a password).

Sternberg Dinner

Caspar M. Sternberg was not only the founder of palaeobotany but also a key founder of the National Museum in Prague. In honour of his significance to the institution, Sternberg Dinner will take place in the Historical palace of the National Museum (Václavské náměstí Square).

Abstract book

Abstracts will be published only if the related payments are made before 31 January 2024.



Programme

	Saturday	Sunday	Monday		Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
	25 May	26 May	27 May		28 May	29 May	30 May	31 May	1 June	2 June
08:30	Field Trip				Registration	Talks	Talks	Talks	Post-Conference Field Trips	
					Opening & Keynote Talks					
10:30					Coffee Break	Coffee Break	Coffee Break	Coffee Break IOP/IFPS officers meeting		
11:00					Talks	Talks	Talks	Talks		
13:00			Workshop 13:00–18:00 Charles University		Lunch	Lunch	Lunch	Lunch		
14:30					Talks	Talks	Talks	Talks		
16:30			Workshop & Nomenclatural Colloquium 14:00–17:00 National Museum	Registration open 15:00–18:00	Coffee Break	Coffee Break	Coffee Break	Coffee Break		
17:00					Talks 17:00–19:00	Talks & Poster Session 17:00–19:00	Talks & Poster Session	Closing Ceremony		
18:00					IFPS outgoing council 18:00–19:00	IFPS incoming council 18:00–19:00				
19:00					Ice Breaker Party Clarion hotel	Sternberger's Dinner National Museum	IOP meeting			
19:30										

Field trips

Detailed information for all field trips is available on the website: https://prague2020.cz/field-trips/

Each 2-days trip includes:

- Transportation from / to Clarion Congress Hotel Prague
- Expert Guides
- 2× Lunch box
- Dinner
- Accommodation in double rooms incl. breakfast
- Admissions to parks / museums where applicable
- Field trip book guide

Each 1-day trip includes:

- Transportation from / to Clarion Congress Hotel Prague
- Expert Guides
- 1× Lunch box
- Admissions to parks / museums where applicable
- Field trip book guide



FT 1 – Postglacial period of the Šumava National Park

Pre-Conference Field Trip, 2 days

25–26 May 2024

239 €

Expected length: 400 km (bus), 17 km (walk)

Guides: Petr Kuneš, Dagmar Dreslerová, Pavel Hubený

Special requirements: The visited sites are situated in a quite remote part off the road, only accessible on foot. **The total walking distance is about 17 km (10 km first day + 7 km second day)**. Only participants in a condition for such a long walk can register! Bring walking shoes and outdoor clothing (altitude of 1100 m) and be prepared for possible wading to cross the river.

This excursion will cover late Quaternary vegetation changes and human impact in the largest national park in Czechia and the largest forested complex in Central Europe (https://www.npsumava.cz/en/).

We will take you to the most beautiful part of the park. We will concentrate on the long-term dynamics of natural mountain spruce forests and their disturbances and visit an investigated lake of glacial origin and a peat bog where results from sedimentary archives will be presented. We will also introduce you to the prehistory of Šumava and show you places to let your imagination run wild. Along the trail, we will observe mountain spruce forests that have recently been affected by severe bark beetle and wind disturbances and are in the process of regeneration.

The excursion will lead through the most strictly protected parts of the national park, only accessible on foot. Two hikes leading from a bus parking lot to an archaeological site and a glacial-origin lake are planned for a maximum length of 18 km.



FT 2 – Lower Paleozoic of the Barrandian area

Post-Conference Field Trip, 1 day

1 June 2024

92 €

Expected length: 150 km (bus), 2 km (walk)

Guides: Oldřich Fatka, Vojtěch Kovář, Milan Libertín, Jakub Vodička

Special requirements: Geological hammer is recommended. The excursion will provide a brief review of the Cambrian, Ordovician and Silurian stratigraphy of the Barrandian area. Five visited outcrops comprise: middle Cambrian at Medalův Mlýn (greywackes containing prasinophytes and cyanobacteria), Middle/Upper Ordovician site at Kazín (shales with abundant chitinozoans), Upper Ordoviciansite at Hlásná Třebaň (shales with abundant cryptospores), Wenlock site of Vyskočilka in Prague (black shales and limestones with common chitinozoans), and Přídolí site at the Kosov quarry near Beroun (limestones with tuffites containing remains of early land plants).



FT 3 – Late Cretaceous of the Bohemian Cretaceous Basin

Post-Conference Field Trip, 1 day

1 June 2024

75 €

Expected length: 150 km (bus), 3 km (walk)

Guides: Jiří Kvaček (palaeobotany), David Uličný (geology), Marcela Svobodová (palynology)

Special requirements: Pecínov site is situated in an opencast claystone mine, so solid shoes are needed. Geological hammer is recommended.

A field trip to two localities: Vyšehořovice and Pecínov, where freshwater sediments of the Peruc-Korycany Formation (Cenomanian, Late Cretaceous) contain rich angiosperm-dominated flora. Information on palaeobotany and sedimentology of the mid-Cretaceous part of the Bohemian Cretaceous Basin will be provided. At Pecínov, collection of fossils and sampling for microfossils will be possible. Historical site of Vyšehořovice is protected as a geoscience site.



FT 4 – Neogene of north-western Bohemia

Post-Conference Field Trip, 1 day

2 June 2024

78 €

Expected length: ca. 220 km (bus)

Guides: Jakub Sakala (palaeobotany), Karel Mach (geology)

Special requirements: The visited site (Bílina Mine) is situated in an open-cast lignite mine, so solid shoes are needed. Geological hammer is recommended.

Eocene to Pliocene sediments are preserved in depressions and grabens along the Krušné hory Mts. Besides freshwater coal-bearing deposits, products of volcanic activity occur in western and northern Bohemia, forming the eastern branch of the European Cenozoic Volcanic Alkaline Province.

We will visit lower Miocene sediments of the Most Basin with the Bílina Mine. This main stop will be aimed at overall geological setting in which sediments were deposited, from the basement to the uppermost parts, situated in the MMCO, with collection of fossil plants just above the main lignite seam. We will also visit two museum expositions: Museum of Louny exposition called "Petrified Forest" with very rich local collection of fossil woods, Carboniferous to Neogene in age (on our way to Bílina); Museum of Most (on our return), where many Neogene and Paleogene plants are displayed in a modern and well-arranged exposition.

FT 5 – Late Pleistocene and Holocene of the Bohemian Paradise

Post-Conference Field Trip, 1 day

1 June 2024

73 €

Expected length: 250 km (bus), 1 km (walk)

Guide: Petr Pokorný

Less than an hour and a half from Prague, "rocky cities" built of Cretaceous sandstones offer an opportunity to enjoy picturesque, rarely seen landscapes, and to visit some classical as well as freshly investigated Late Pleistocene and Holocene sites.

Emphasis will be given to stratified archaeological sites under rock shelters and to adjacent wetlands, which together provide a wealth of environmental proxies. No special clothing or shoes are required. All places visited will be easily accessible on foot. The walking distance from the bus is within one kilometre. We will make several stops to show the methods of field research and the results of palaeobotanical investigations.





FT 6 – Modern pollen deposition in relation to Holocene vegetation changes in the Krkonoše Mts.

Post-Conference Field Trip, 1 day

1 June 2024

77 €

Expected length: 300 km (bus), 7 km (walk)

Guide: Helena Svitavská-Svobodová

Special requirements: The visited sites are situated in a quite remote area, away from the road, only accessible on foot. The total walking distance is about 7 km. Only participants in a condition for such a long walk can register! Bring walking shoes and outdoor clothing (altitude of 1400 m). This trip takes you to the highest mountain range in NE Bohemia. In this iconic landscape covered in its highest part by azonal tundra accompanied by many peatbogs, a long-term pollen monitoring project has been run since 1997.

We will concentrate on the results of pollen monitoring in relation to Holocene development of mountain tundra and mountain forest. Two or three hours' walk on the Krkonoše plateau at the altitude of 1200 to 1400 m are planned: Vrbatova bouda Chalet – Pančava Waterfall – Labská louka meadow – Labská bouda Chalet – Labe (Elbe) Waterfall – the spring of Labe (Elbe) river – Pančava mire – Harrachovy kameny rocks – Kotelní jámy (Kettle holes) – Vrbatova bouda Chalet; 7 km.

FT 7 – Fire history of the Bohemian Switzerland

Post-Conference Field Trip, 1 day

1 June 2024

78 €

Expected length: 260 km (bus), 5 km (walk)

Guide: Přemysl Bobek

Special requirements: hiking boots.

The spectacular landscape of the Bohemian Switzerland National Park is known for its unique relief of sandstone cliffs covered with pristine pine forests. Our focus will be on the natural heritage and environmental history of this landscape, with particular emphasis on palaeoarchives – peat bogs, cave deposits and archaeological sites. The region is one of the most fire-prone in central Europe. However, the charcoal record suggests that fire has shaped the ecosystem here throughout the Holocene. Along the way, we will see traces after the recent forest fire, largest in the Czech Republic, which burned almost 1300 hectares of forest.





FT 8 – Permo-Carboniferous of the Krkonoše Piedmont Basin

Post-Conference Field trip, 2 days
1–2 June 2024
260 €
Expected length: 340 km, (bus), 2–3 km (walk)

Guides: Zbyněk Šimůnek, Václav Mencl, Jana Drábková

Special requirements: Field dress and shoes, geological hammer.

Day 1: Arrival at the Nova Paka Museum (Klenotnice), which is well known for its large collection of gemstones and silicified woods. The Pecka Castle ("pecka" = nodule) will be visited. This castle was built on Carboniferous (Kasimovian) rocks of the Kumburk Formation, containing silicified woods. A site with silicified woods near Nova Paka will be visited, followed by a field with occurrences of silicate rocks and silicified woods. At the end of the day, we will travel to the town of Vrchlabí for an overnight stay. This town lies on the northern edge of the Krkonoše Piedmont Basin with a nice view of the Krkonoše (Giant) Mountains.

Day 2: Study of the Vrchlabí section that encompasses practically the whole of the Rudník Horizon (Permian, Asselian). This horizon, about 180 m thick, forms an outcrop 600 m in length. Of nine fossiliferous beds, about five are still accessible. 39 plant species have been identified: sphenopsids (*Calamites*, *Annularia*), marattialean ferns, pteridosperms (e.g., *Odontopteris*, *Autunia*), cordaitaleans and conifers (*Culmitzschia*, *Ernestiodendron* and *Walchia*). Animal remains include sharks, acanthodians, actinopterygians, amphibians, molluscs and conchostracans. In the afternoon, a visit of localities with silicified woods is planned, namely in the vicinity of the Bítouchov village. If possible, also the secondary site of silicified woods at Lhota will be visited. Return to Prague is planned for the evening.

FT 9 – Miocene to Quaternary of southern Moravia

Post-Conference Field Trip, 2 days
1–2 June 2024
340 €
Palynology: Carpathian Foredeep, Moravian Karst, archaeological sites.
Expected length: 730 km (bus), 2–3 km (walk)

Guides: Nela Doláková, Eva Břízová, Marianna Kováčová

The area of southern Moravia is known not only for vineyards and wine cellars (Mikulov), but also for Miocene deposits of the Carpathian Foredeep, several prehistoric localities, and the Moravian Karst, with 15 palynologically significant caves.

Day 1: Kůlna Cave (known for Neanderthal man skeletal remains), Podbřežice (Langhian marine sediments, bryozoan limestones), Pavlov (Archeopark – an Upper Paleolithic settlement), Mikulov (wine cellars in the evening);

Day 2: Hevlín (Upper Burdigalian deposits), Pohansko (an Early Medieval settlement), Čejč Lake deposits (Pleistocene–Holocene).



Practical hints

Climate

May brings beautiful sunny days to the city of Prague, with occasional showers. Daylight lasts for about 15 hours every day. Temperatures are moderate, 8.3 °C (46.9 °F) to 19.4 °C (66.9 °F). If you travel to Prague in May, expect warm weather, but also pack a light rain jacket and a sweatshirt to cover most conditions.

Transportation

Arrival by plane – Václav Havel Airport is served by many international airlines. It is located 15 km from the city centre and 18 km from the conference venue. Taxi from the airport to the venue costs about €35. Connection to the city is operated by bus line 119: exit at the terminal at Veleslavín subway station and take subway line A to Můstek, transfer to line B and proceed to Vysočanská subway station (see City transportation).

Arrival by train or car

Prague is easily reached by train or by car. If you arrive by train, you will find subway stations (line C) at the Central Railway Station and at the Holešovice Railway Station. From either you can go to Florenc station and transfer to line B, proceeding to Vysočanská station.

Parking

Clarion Congress Hotel has its own parking area subject to a fee of 400 Kč / car / day.

City transportation

City Transportation Prague runs a comprehensive network consisting of three subway lines and many tram and bus lines. Single tickets or travel passes can be purchased at most newspaper stands or from coin machines at subway stations.
https://www.dpp.cz/en/fares/fare-pricelist

Car rental

Most of the major car rental companies (e.g., Avis, Sixt) have offices in Prague. Detailed information is available from the Symposium secretariat.
We recommend making reservations in advance.

Currency

Official currency is the Czech Crown (Kč). The present exchange rate is about 24 CZK per 1 Euro. Major credit cards are accepted in most shops, restaurants and hotels. You can buy Czech Crowns at banks and other authorized money exchange offices. ATMs accept most bank and credit cards. Traveller cheques are only accepted by leading banks.

Visa Policy

Participants from most European countries and the USA can enter the Czech Republic without a visa. Other participants are advised to check requirements at their closest Czech embassy or consulate and make their own arrangements. For detailed information see: https://www.mzv.cz/jnp/en/information_for_aliens/types_of_visas/index.html
The Visa invitation letter for visa purposes only can be downloaded from the Online Registration Portal after the registration is confirmed and paid in full. The letter is intended to help delegates obtain a visa but does not imply provision of any financial support.

Insurance

The Organizing Committee does not accept any liability for personal injuries, or loss or damage to property belonging to participants or accompanying persons. Kindly check your personal and travel insurance before you travel.

Electricity

Electricity supply is 230 V, 50 Hz. Please check if your plug type is compatible with EU electrical outlets.
Tips for Prague visitors
Honest Guide:
https://youtu.be/BFKzX7u-3yg
https://youtu.be/_xnEzBFlVyY