

2nd Palaeontological Virtual Congress

May 1st-15th, 2020

Book of Abstracts

Palaeontology in the virtual era

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A new way to make science

2nd **Palaeontological Virtual Congress**Book of Abstracts Palaeontology in the virtual era

From an original idea of Vicente D. Crespo

Published by Evangelos Vlachos, Esther Manzanares, Vicente D. Crespo, Carlos Martínez-Pérez, Humberto G. Ferrón, José Luis Herráiz, Arturo Gamonal, Fernando Antonio M. Arnal, Francesc Gascó, and Paolo Citton

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Presentation

After the great success of the 1st Palaeontological Virtual Congress (PVC) organised in December 2018, we are back with the 2nd edition of the first Palaeontological meeting completely developed in a virtual environment. The original idea of implementing this format in our discipline was the natural consequence of the emergence of new technologies, which allow the wider range of communication possibilities. The importance of this kind of initiatives, that allow communication among peers without being physically present, is even more evident with the dramatic changes and exceptional situation that our society has been experiencing in the last few months. Within this context, the origin of the PVC represented the first attempt in palaeontology to take advantage of these new possibilities, becoming nowadays the most important international palaeontological congress developed in the net. This online meeting offers an exclusively virtual-developed environment to researchers all around the globe. The novelty of this project is its simplicity, and one of our main goals is to give international projection to the palaeontological research carried out by groups with limited economic resources; allowing to save expensive registration fees, travel, accommodation and maintenance expenses.

The soul of our congress has not changed, and that is trying to combine the benefits of traditional meetings (i.e., providing a forum for discussion, including guest lectures, field trips or the production of an abstract book) with the advantages of online platforms. These allow reaching a high number of researchers along the world, promoting the participation of palaeontologists from developing countries and providing a comprehensive forum for the exchange of ideas and discussion with specialists in the target field. This abstract book is the best evidence of the success of the initiative, whose figures are increasing edition after edition.

At the moment of publishing this abstract book, more than **363** researchers on palaeontology from **44** different nationalities, and **six** continents (Europe, Africa, North and Central America, South America, Asia, and Oceania), have taken part in this initiative. It is important to highlight the numerous contributions from South America, Africa, Asia, Middle East and Eastern European Countries strengthening our main goal of a palaeontological congress without barriers.

The 2nd PVC is organised in four general theme sessions (Palaeozoic, Mesozoic, Cenozoic and General Palaeontology), trying to span the whole variety of potential contributions. However, taking advantage of the flexibility that virtual platforms offer, five specific thematic sessions, encompassing topics such as evolution and palaeobiodiversity in islands, fossil insects, palynology, outreach and an specific session for palaeontologists in their early career Stage to present their works in an completely friendly environment. In total, **161** contributions are compiled in this Abstract Book, including four key-notes presented by Dr. Michael J. Benton "Identifying the drivers of macroevolution - methods and pitfalls"; Dr. Anne-Laure Decombeix "Reconstructing the biology of Palaeozoic trees"; Dr. James Kirkland and Dr. Don DeBlieux "Constraining the Jurassic - Cretaceous terrestrial biota: new data from Utah helps close the gap across the atlantic basin" and Dr. Jesús Lozano-Fernández "The conquest of land by arthropods". All those contributions presented in this volume, somehow, summarize the good health and multidisciplinary nature of our science.

Finally, we would like to thank all our colleagues for organising and coordinating the different workshops. We also want to thank all the authors for submitting their contributions and the numerous reviewers that have made this volume and congress possible. We would also like to give special thanks to all Palaeontological and Geological Societies, Editorials, Museums, and Universities, that have supported this initiative.

Thank you all,

The Organising Committee of the 2nd PVC

MAIN MENU



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Palaeontological Societies





Universities and Museums





















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Contributions



Upper Jurassic caryophyllids from condensed pelagic deposits of the Umbria-Marche Apennine (Central Italy)

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Here we report newly collected corals from Kimmeridgian-Tithonian pelagites of Central and Northern Apennines. They grew on intrabasinal structural highs (Pelagic Carbonate Platforms or PCPs). The highs originated from dismembering and drowning of a vast peritidal carbonate platform during the Early Jurassic Western Tethys rifting stage. The drowning was followed by condensed pelagic sedimentation on the top of PCPs. Findings of both zooxanthellate and probably azooxanthellate corals in these facies shed new light on the Jurassic-Early Cretaceous paleogeography, paleoenvironment and paleoecology of PCPs. The occurrence of zooxanthellate corals in PCP-top condensed successions recently allowed to constrain the bathymetry of these depositional systems to the photic zone (40 – 150 m). The studied material is mostly represented by solitary, probably azooxanthellate corals, associated with light dependent organisms. These specimens usually display elliptical to circular calices and have ceratoid attached morphologies, finely granulated costosepta with a clear crown of palis. Pending a more detailed study of their microstructure, these features suggest an assignation to the scleractinian extant family Caryophyllidae. The collected azooxanthellate fauna is oligotypic but abundant, as a possible result of very slow sedimentation rates and extreme condensation. Most of the corals do not display in-life position, being detached from the substrate and randomly arranged within the pelagic deposits; others are attached on ammonites pseudoshells or on other corals. The new occurrence improves the Late Jurassic record of caryophyllids, providing additional constraints on their paleoecology and on the paleoenvironmental evolution of this sector of Western Tethys.

Caryophyllidae Upper Jurassic Tethys Corals Umbria-Marche Apennine



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