



2nd Palaeontological
Virtual Congress

May 1st–15th, 2020

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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,



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The Organising Committee of the 2nd PVC

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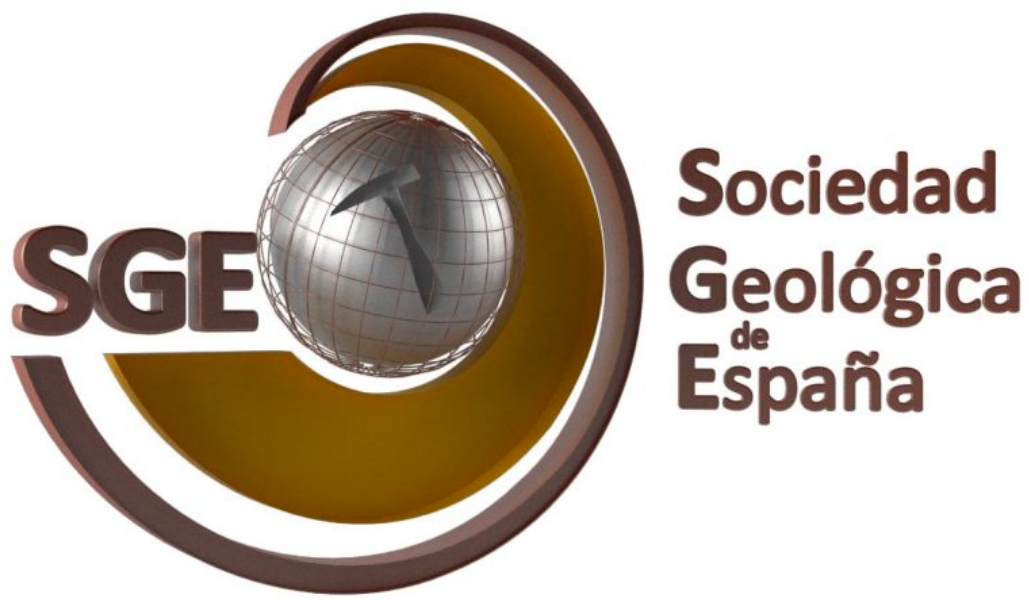
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Contributions



Updated description of the *Dicynodontipus*- and *Chirotherium*-bearing slab from the Solling Formation, Hildburghausen Town, Germany

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A track-bearing slab (MNHN.F.AC10007) from the Solling Formation of Hessberg (Hildburghausen, Thuringia, central Germany) is housed in the Muséum national d'Histoire naturelle of Paris, France, since 1835. The Solling Formation, Olenekian–Anisian in age, pertains to the lowermost part of the Germanic Triassic and records the evolution of a fluvial palaeoenvironment characterised by braided to sinuous meandering channels. Footprints are reported from floodplain facies. Originally, the slab was about 2.21 m long and 1.56 m maximum width, while nowadays the maximum wide is 1.36 m, seeing that a portion has been lost. On the slab, four vertebrate trackways are preserved as concave epirelief and interfered with polygonal cracks, likely testifying a desiccation event. One trackway, holotype of *Dicynodontipus hildburghausensis* Rühle von Lilienstern, 1944, is composed of six manus-pes sets, plus a further set in the lost portion. The rest of the footprints are assigned to the ichnogenus *Chirotherium* Kaup, 1835. *Chirotherium barthii* Kaup, 1835, is represented by a trackway composed of six manus-pes sets preserving skin impressions, while a trackway of two manus-pes sets and a footprint, with a fourth set in the lost area, is referred to as *Chirotherium sickleri* Kaup, 1835. Finally, a trackway composed of three manus-pes sets, not identified in previous studies, shares some features with *Chirotherium*, although ichnotaxonomical assignment is to date prevented. Further up-to-date studies are currently underway, including 3D photogrammetric models, to provide a thorough re-discussion of the trackways, as well as their ichnotaxonomical and palaeobiological significance.

 *Dicynodontipus*
Chirotherium
Ichnotaxonomy
Triassic



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