

IGCP PROJECT 493 THE RISE AND FALL OF THE VENDIAN BIOTA WORKSHOP

Workshop of the International Working Group

Venue: Monash University Centre, Prato, Italy
See <http://ita.monash.edu>

Date: 30-31 August 2004

Convenors: Dr Mikhail Fedonkin, Prof. Patricia Vickers-Rich, Dr Jim Gehling

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Topics related to the Vendian (Ediacaran) Biota to be discussed at workshop:

- Systematics
- Palaeoecology
- Taphonomy
- Stratigraphic and Palaeogeographic Distribution
- Palaeomagnetic Calibration
- Radiometric Dating
- Palaeoclimatic Effects

Schedule of Workshop

Day 1: Calibration of Animal Evolution and Environmental Change across the Vendian (Ediacaran) - Cambrian transition (palaeomagnetism, stable isotope geochemistry, geochronology, biostratigraphy).

Day 2. Biological Models for Vendian (Ediacaran) Organisms. What are these organisms – vendobionts, giant protists, fungi, metaphytes, metazoans or some combination of all of these. This workshop seeks testable corollaries for each model, e.g. metazoans are capable of leaving locomotion, resting and feeding traces. If metazoans, which phyla or stem-group phyla are represented.

This is a call for expressions of interest and submission of extended abstracts for this meeting.

Presentation Instructions

Papers to be of 15 minutes, with 5 additional minutes of questions
Poster papers also accepted.

Publication

Extended abstracts will be published by the Monash Science Centre, Monash University, Melbourne, and will bear an ISBN number. These abstracts can contain figures and can be up to 10 pages in length.

Abstracts are to be up to 3 A4 sized printed pages and can be submitted by email to:
pat.rich@sci.monash.edu.au

Deadline for submission of abstracts: 30 June 2004

Facilities

Overhead projector, slide projector and power point will be provided. Other facilities of the Monash University Prato Centre can be accessed on:

<http://ita.monash.edu/conference.html>

Fee: \$120 Euros, which includes full buffet lunch on each of the two days, with excellent wine, two splendid coffee/tea breaks a day, a cocktail reception on the first evening, followed by a superb dinner with distinctive wines from the nearby fields. Each participant will receive the Extended abstract volume as well. Payment for registration and accommodation should be made by the 30th of June 2004 and either by cheque addressed to Monash University (attn. P. Vickers-Rich at above contact address) or by credit card (details sent to pat.rich@sci.monash.edu.au).

How to Get There:

Prato is a northern Tuscan town, only a short distance from Florence and is well serviced by trains and buses. Florence is about 30-35 minutes from Prato by train and the train station is about a 10 minute walk from the Monash Prato Centre. See the following web site for instructions and maps:

<http://ita.monash.edu/cartina-02.html>

Accommodation:

Since the workshop runs over two days it is advisable that accommodation be booked in Prato itself. This will allow a workshop dinner to be organized the evening of the first day. If there is sufficient interest, rooms at the Hotel Flora or Residence Manassei (<http://www.mresidence.it>) can be organized in advance – this is the closest hotel to the Prato Centre and an old-style Italian hotel with a great warmth and reasonable prices.

Please advise if accommodation is needed by June 30th and we can arrange – pay will be by cheque (made out to Monash University) or credit card (please advise pat.rich@sci.monash.edu.au). It is possible to use accommodation in Prato during the Florence conference if you are prepared for the 30 minute train ride. Rates begin at \$52 Euros a night.