



**RUSSIAN ACADEMY OF SCIENCES**  
**Earth Science Department, RAS**  
**Geological Institute, RAS**  
**Paleontological Institute, RAS**  
**IGCP National Committee of Russian Federation**  
**Monash University (Melbourne)**  
**South Australian Museum (Adelaide)**

**International Conference**  
**“The Rise and Fall of the Vendian/Ediacaran Biota**  
**Origin of the Modern Biosphere”**

**20-31 August 2007**  
**Moscow**

**Second Circular**

**Moscow 2007**

## **Dear colleagues!**

The Organizing Committee invites you to take part in the concluding events related to IGCP Project 493 "The Rise and Fall of the Vendian/Ediacaran Biota," an International Geoscience Program (UNESCO), which will take place from 20 to 31 August 2007 in Russia. This is the final meeting for IGCP493. It will bring together researchers from many disciplines to present papers on interpretation of Ediacaran organisms and the evidence supporting each interpretation. Papers are invited from morphologists, molecular and evo-devo biologists, stratigraphers, biogeographers, paleoclimatologists, geochemists, etc. The hope is to encourage discussion regarding the nature of Ediacarans and also the climate, environments and geography which nurtured these unique organisms and brought about extinction of some, while others became ancestors of modern phyla – the rise and fall of the Ediacarans in the Neoproterozoic and early Paleozoic.

### **Program of the events:**

Field Excursion (Winter Coast, White Sea)	20-27 August, 2007
Symposium (Geological Institute, RAS)	29-30 August, 2007
Examination of the Vendian Collection (PIN)	31 August, 2007

### **Organizing Committee:**

Chairmen: M. G. Leonov, M. A. Fedonkin

Vice-Chairmen: M. A. Semikhatov, N. M. Chumakov

Members: P. Vickers-Rich, J. Gehling, A. Yu. Ivantsov, M. V. Leonov, A. L. Ragozina,  
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Secretariat: N. V. Bochkareva, A. V. Krayushkin, M. Zakrevskaya

### **Themes of the Symposium:**

1. State of the Art of Ediacaran interpretation and their environs
2. Neoproterozoic utotrophic communities
3. Global changes and climate during the late Proterozoic
4. Paleogeography of the Riphean and Vendian world
5. Taphonomic reconstructions
6. Origin of the main eukaryotic lineages
7. The rise of the modern biosphere.

Two days of the Symposium will involve presentation of papers and discussion at the Geological Institute RAS. Specialists representing the Earth and Life Sciences (paleontology, stratigraphy, paleobiogeography, paleoclimatology, geochemistry, geophysics, zoology and molecular biology) are to be the participants. The synthesis reached by use of the methodologies from all these and other disciplines will lead to a deeper understanding of the nature, dynamics and interplay of the processes in the Neoproterozoic – a plexus that has led to the modern style biosphere.

One full day will be devoted to study and discussion of the collections of the Vendian fauna and flora housed at the Paleontological Institute RAS in Moscow. This collection is now stored in new quarters organized and underwritten by a joint program between the PIN and UNESCO IGCP 493. This collection has been entered on a database, which will be launched at this meeting and available for future use globally.

## **Publications:**

A Short Paper volume will be published by the Geological Institute. Participants should provide a final copy of their presentation to the conveners at the time of the Symposium. Abstracts (up to 5 pages) of the participants will be needed by 1 June 2007 and should be sent via email to [mfedon@paleo.ru](mailto:mfedon@paleo.ru) and [pat.rich@sci.monash.edu.au](mailto:pat.rich@sci.monash.edu.au) The Organizing Committee will publish the abstract volume before the Symposium.

An electronic version of the text can be sent in RTF or Word formats. Maximum length of the pre-Symposium publication is 5 pages (Times New Roman 12, interval 1.5, illustrations and references are included). The manuscript should be supplied with a list of the illustrations along with full explanatory notes to the figures. Illustrations should be submitted as separate files (300 dpi for half-tone figures and no less than 600 for the line images, formats TIFF, EPS, JPEG, vector images in the formats of Adobe Illustrator (.ai), Illustrator eps (.eps), Free Hand eps (.eps), Corel Draw (.cdr). The images should be reducible to a final size 11.5-17 cm. The paper can be in either Russian or English. Manuscripts need the author's full name(s), name and address of the organization, telephone contact and e-mail address.

Registration cost \$US150 and will include Short Paper Volume. A conference dinner will be arranged and costs will be available upon registration.

**Accommodation:** Two hotels are within walking distance of the Paleontological Institute, the Pallada and the Uzkoie. Rates are available on request and reservations should be made by 1 June because of the heavy use of these hotels during the summer season. Please send requests for accommodation along with abstracts.

**Field Excursion:** The Vendian fossiliferous deposits exposed on the Winter Coast (Zimnii Bereg), White Sea. **Trip details:** Moscow-Arkhangel'sk-Moscow by train (or by air), Arkhangel'sk-Winer Coast-Arkhangel'sk by helicopter. 20 participants maximum, \$US650 per person.

*We look forward to seeing you in Moscow and on the White Sea!*

## **Leaders of the IGCP Project 493:**

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