

Workshop on the Graptolite Volume of the *Treatise on Invertebrate Paleontology* and Graptolite Working Group Meeting



Svatý Jan pod Skalou, Czech Republic, 16–24 July 2008

Editorial preface by PETR ŠTORCH and DAVID LOYDELL

The thematic series of five short papers published in this issue of the *Bulletin of Geosciences* arises from the ‘Workshop on the Graptolite Volume of the *Treatise on Invertebrate Paleontology* and Graptolite Working Group Meeting’ held in Svatý Jan pod Skalou near Prague, Czech Republic from 16 to 24 July 2008. The workshop and meeting saw the presentation of a wide range of studies and progress reports, more or less tightly related to the current preparation of a new edition of the graptolite volume of the *Treatise on Invertebrate Paleontology*.

Topics covered by this thematic issue of the *Bulletin of Geosciences* range from high-level taxonomy and phylogeny based upon cladistic analyses (‘Graptoloid cladistics, taxonomy and phylogeny’ by Jörg Maletz, Jesse Carlucci & Charles Mitchell), through to new FEM observations on graptolite ultrastructures (‘Ultrastructural observations on some dendroid and graptoloid graptolites and on *Mastigograptus*’ by Denis Bates, Anna Kozłowska, David Loydell, Adam Urbanek & Stephen Wade), to more specific case studies on graptolite taxonomy and phylogeny (‘What is *Diplograptus*?’ by Charles Mitchell, Jörg Maletz & Daniel Goldman) and biostratigraphy (‘Graptolite biostratigraphy of the Shihtien Formation (Darriwilian) in West Yunnan’ by Zhang Yuandong, Fan Juanxuan & Liu Xiao; and ‘Graptolite faunas of the Llandovery “phtanites” at les Fresnaies (Chalonnnes-sur-Loire, southeastern Armorican Massif): Palaeontology and biostratigraphy’ by José Piçarra, Michel Robardet, José Oliveira, Florentin Paris & Hubert Lardeux).

The conference papers are supplemented by a comprehensive regional study on Silurian graptolites from the slightly metamorphosed Hlinsko Zone unit of the Bohemian Massif [‘Graptolite assemblages and stratigraphy of the lower Silurian Mrákotín Formation, Hlinsko Zone, NE interior of the Bohemian Massif (Czech Republic)’ by Petr Štorch & Petr Kraft].

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Conference excursion participants in front of the Silurian-Devonian GSSP monument at Suchomasty, near Beroun. From the left: Petr Štorch (Institute of Geology, Academy of Sciences of the Czech Republic, Prague), Stan Finney (California State University, Long Beach), Chuck Mitchell (The University at Buffalo, Buffalo), Mike Melchin (Saint Francis Xavier University, Antigonish), Jörg Maletz (University at Buffalo, Buffalo), Alf Lenz (University of Western Ontario, London), Anna Kozłowska (Institute of Paleobiology, Polish Academy of Science, Warszawa), Jan Zalasiewicz (University of Leicester, Leicester), Denis Bates (Aberystwyth University, Aberystwyth), Zhang Yuandong (Nanjing Institute of Geology and Palaeontology, Chinese Academy of Science, Nanjing), David Loydell (University of Portsmouth, Portsmouth), and Philippe Legrand (Gradignan).

