

The 8th Symposium of IGCP 506 *Marine and non-marine Jurassic: Global correlation and major geological events* in Bucharest, 28 August – 3 September 2009

Between 28 August and 3 September 2009, the University of Bucharest was the host of the 8th Symposium of IGCP 506 *Marine and non-marine Jurassic: global correlation and major geological events*. The meeting was organized by Ioan Bucur (Babeş-Bolyai University, Cluj-Napoca), Iulia Lazăr and Mihai E. Popa (University of Bucharest), it included two days of talks within the Faculty of Geology and Geophysics and a field trip in the South Carpathians, for marine and non-marine Jurassic formations of the Getic, Severin and Danubian units.

The IGCP 506 project has a steering committee represented by Jingeng Sha, Vice Chair of ISJS, Leader of IGCP 506 (Nanjing, China), Yongdong Wang, Co-leader and Secretary of IGCP 506 (Nanjing, China), Nicol Morton, Former Chairman of ISJS, Co-leader of IGCP 506 (Vogüé, France), Josef Palfy, Chair of ISJS (Budapest, Hungary), Steven Hesselbo, Secretary General of ISJS (Oxford, UK), Alberto Riccardi, IUGS President, Co-leader of IGCP 506 (Universidad Nacional de La Plata, Argentina), Paul Olsen, Co-leader of IGCP 506 (New York, USA), Grzegorz Pienkowski, Co-leader of IGCP 506 (Warsaw, Poland), and William Wimbledon, Co-leader of IGCP 506 (Bristol, UK).

The project aims to understand better the marine and non-marine biotas and evolutionary trends related to major geological events, to refine the T/J and J/K boundaries, and to refine our knowledge on the major geological events recording during the Jurassic time interval. Previous IGCP 506 meetings were successfully organized in China (2005, 2006, 2010), Poland (2006), Norway (2007), Tunisia (2008), among other countries. IGCP 506 includes participants from 44 countries of all continents, each symposium recording large numbers of participants and substantial lists of publications.

The organizers of the meeting in Bucharest were honored to receive guests from Bulgaria (Iskra Lakova), Ireland (Karen Bacon), Poland (Grzegorz Pienkowski, Artur Kedzior, Andrzej Wierzbowski, Michal Krobicki), Thailand (Assanee Meesook), Japan (Keisuke Ishida, Akira Ishida), Hungary (Joseph Palfy) and Czech Republic (Petr Skupien). The talks given during the meeting were high level presentations which ranged from Jurassic Paleontology to Tectonics and Sedimentology of marine and non-marine deposits, encompassing Greenland, Europe and Asia.

The field trip followed the Bucharest – Turnu-Severin – Moldova Nouă – Anina – Bucharest route, focusing during the first part on the Danubian and Severin Units outcropped along the Danube Gorges, and on the Getic Nappe during the second part. Key profiles of the Danubian Units such as Cioaca Borii and Svinița for continental Jurassic deposits, and Munteana–Dumbrăvița for Jurassic continental and marine formations were demonstrated and studied. These key profiles proved their high international significance, particularly the profile of Munteana–Dumbrăvița which records complete Lower Jurassic-Lower Cretaceous sediments, frequently highly fossiliferous, and outcrops ideally along the Danube's Romanian bank. For the Getic Nappe, key sections of Miniș Gorges and Anina were demonstrated. Anina is a fossil Lagerstätte locality for Early Jurassic biotas, and during the visit of Colonia Cehă open cast mine, sauropod tracks were discovered by Grzegorz Pienkowski (Poland), for the great enjoyment and amazement of the whole team. Such a beautiful finding was quickly published in 2009.

During the field trip, local authorities and representatives were involved in the meeting. The mayor of Anina, Mr. George Neicu, attended the meeting, as well as representatives of Tomini Trading ltd. lead by Mr. Takis Vatistas. The idea of a future geopark in Anina was discussed, as all foreign participants supported the idea, for the better preservation of the geological, paleontological and historical heritage of Anina. All local representatives kindly supported the meeting and we were all honored for their help.

I conclude that the meeting was a success. First of all thanks to the participation of the foreign colleagues and guests, but also for the kind help of local representatives in the field. Another significant gain was the new series of strong collaborations established between Romanian and foreign geologists and paleontologists. We all wish to thank our colleagues, as they are always welcome back to Romania.

Mihai E. Popa

