

**First Circular**  
**Palaeozoic Echinoderm Conference, 2015**

**In honour of Dr. Andrew B. Smith**

14<sup>th</sup>–21<sup>st</sup> June 2015, Zaragoza, Spain



*Figure 1. Moncayo Natural Park (Iberian Chains, Spain), which contains Cambrian outcrops with spectacular echinoderm fossils.*

### **General Information**

This conference will celebrate the career of our colleague and friend Dr. Andrew Smith, a world-renowned specialist in echinoderms who retired in late 2012.

Andrew spent the majority of his career at the Natural History Museum of London (1982–2012), where he carried out remarkable research on a diverse range of topics, including echinoid taxonomy, Phanerozoic marine diversity and primitive echinoderms.

The conference will be focused on Palaeozoic echinoderm communities, a major area of interest for Andrew. Contributed presentations will review the current state of knowledge for a range of groups, highlighting recent advances, but more importantly identifying topics of uncertainty and possible future research paths. Andrew will provide a plenary talk about the earliest steps of echinoderm evolution. In addition, there will be short workshops on Spanish fossil material and new analytical techniques for studying early echinoderms (e.g. tomography, computer modelling and 3-D printing). Finally, there will be a field trip to visit several important Palaeozoic outcrops in northern Spain, which have yielded a wide variety of fossil echinoderms.

The presentations and workshops will take place in Zaragoza, a welcoming city, which has been influenced by four cultures (Iberian, Roman, Arabic and Christian) that have marked its character in diverse ways. The field trip will take place close to Zaragoza (Iberian Chains) and in the north western part of Spain, between the cities of León and Oviedo (Cantabrian Mountains). Details of the field trip will be provided in the second circular, but we propose to visit Cambrian, Ordovician, Silurian and Devonian outcrops.



*Figure 2. A selection of Palaeozoic echinoderms from outcrops that will be visited during the field trip.*

### **Organizing Committee**

Samuel Zamora (Museo Geominero, IGME, Zaragoza, Spain)

J. Javier Álvaro (Centro de Astrobiología, Madrid, Spain)

Miguel Arbizu (Universidad de Oviedo, Oviedo, Spain)

Jorge Colmenar (Universidad de Zaragoza, Zaragoza, Spain)

Esperanza Fernández (Universidad de León, León, Spain)

Juan Carlos Gutiérrez-Marco (Instituto de Geociencias, CSIC, Madrid, Spain)

Isabel Rábano (Museo Geominero, IGME, Madrid, Spain)

Imran Rahman (University of Bristol, UK)

Enrique Villas (Universidad de Zaragoza, Zaragoza, Spain)

## **Preliminary Programme**

14<sup>th</sup> June 2015: Registration and evening icebreaker

15<sup>th</sup> June 2015: Registration, welcome, talks and posters

16<sup>th</sup> June 2015: Talks and posters in the morning, workshops in the afternoon

17<sup>th</sup> & 18<sup>th</sup> June 2015: Field trip in the Iberian Chains

19<sup>th</sup> June 2015: Travel to the Cantabrian Mountains (free evening)

20<sup>th</sup> & 21<sup>st</sup> June 2015: Field trip in the Cantabrian Mountains and return to Zaragoza.

---

## **Institutional Support and Sponsors**

Sponsors and institutional supporters will be announced in the second circular.

## **Costs**

Further details will be provided in the second circular, including confirmed costs. The following are provisional estimates only.

The registration cost for the scientific sessions in Zaragoza is expected to be approximately €120, which will include full registration, a printed abstract book and field guide, the icebreaker reception and tea/coffee breaks.

A gala dinner will be held in Zaragoza on the evening of 16<sup>th</sup> June. It is expected to cost approximately €50.

The cost of the field trip focused on Palaeozoic outcrops with exceptional preservation of echinoderms is expected to be approximately €650, which will include transport, food and accommodation.

## **Publications**

Extended abstracts will be published in a volume of the monographic series edited by the Spanish Geological Survey (*Cuadernos del Museo Geominero*), together with the field guide.

In addition, a special volume dedicated to Andrew containing longer papers will be published in an indexed journal. Further details will be provided in the next circular.

### **Important deadlines**

First circular: February 2014

Second circular with confirmed costs and details of field trip: September 2014

Abstract submission and registration deadline: January 2015

Third circular with final details: March 2015

Article submission: October 2015

### **Contact**

For general questions about the meeting or scientific sessions, please contact Samuel Zamora ([s.zamora@igme.es](mailto:s.zamora@igme.es)).