

THE 2ND ROMANIAN SYMPOSIUM ON PALEONTOLOGY

The 2nd Romanian Symposium on Paleontology was held between 1-3 October 1999 at the Babeş-Bolyai University in Cluj-Napoca. It was organised by the Geology-Paleontology Department under the aegis of the Romanian Paleontological Society.

In order to increase its impact on a national and European level, an attempt (successful, we believe) has been made to give this symposium an international scope. The symposium was attended by over 70 researchers in the field of paleontology-micropaleontology and related fields, 21 of whom came from abroad (France, Italy, Germany, the United Kingdom, Norway, Austria, Poland, Hungary, Yugoslavia, the United States of America, Egypt). Romanian paleontology was widely represented by outstanding researchers from the Romanian Geological Institute, the University of Bucharest, the Al. I. Cuza University in Iaşi, the Babeş-Bolyai University in Cluj-Napoca, the Emil Racoviţă Speological Institute in Bucharest, and by researchers interested in paleontology who work in various other institutions in the country (the Oil and Gas University in Ploieşti, the University in Petroşani, the Ştefan cel Mare University in Suceava, the Biological Research Institute in Cluj-Napoca, the Ţara Crişurilor Museum in Oradea and the Museum in Craiova).

The opening session of the symposium comprised several papers on the evolution of paleontologic and micropaleontologic research in Romania presented by professor Theodor Neagu (Corresponding Member of the Romanian Academy and Honorary President of the symposium), dr. Costin Rădulescu (Corresponding Member of the Romanian Academy), professor Ovidiu Dragastan (Head of the Geology-Paleontology Department of the Bucharest University) and professor Leonard Olaru (Head of the Geology-Paleontology Department of the Iaşi University).

Professor Ioan Bucur made a brief address on the life and work of professor Ovidiu Dragastan on his 60th anniversary. The opening session ended with the invited-paper "Towards a consensus geological time scale" presented by dr. Felix M. Gradstein (SAGA Petroleum, Norway).

The papers and discussions were conducted in English and subsidiary in French. The symposium was structured into 4 main sections: (1) Paleobotany and Palynology (section dedicated to professor Ovidiu Dragastan on his 60th anniversary); (2) Micropaleontology and Biostratigraphy; (3) Invertebrate Paleontology, Paleoecology and Stratigraphy and (4) Vertebrate Paleontology. A poster session was also organised and the annual meeting of the Romanian Paleontological Society was held, where it was decided that the 3rd Romanian Paleontologica Symposium on Paleontology be held in Iaşi in the autumn of 2001.

The abstracts of all papers and posters sent to the organising committee of the 2nd Romanian Symposium on Paleontology (amounting to 91) have been published in an abstract volume, which also comprise the guide of the field trip in the Cluj-Zimbor-Jibou area that concluded the Symposium.

All feed-back received from symposium participants was positive, and this allow us to regard the symposium as a successful one, which attained the European level aimed at.

The present volume is the second volume of *Acta Palaeontologica Romaniae* and comprises the opening speeches and most of the papers (*in extenso*) presented at the symposium.

Thanks are due to all participants, members of the organising committee, and especially the symposium secretariate, as well as the sponsors that made possible the organisation of the 2nd Romanian Symposium on Paleontology and the publication of the present volume: ROMGAZ S.A., EXPROGAZ S.A., DAFORA S.A. (Mediaş), Carl Zeiss Gmbh (Vienna-Bucharest), Babeş-Bolyai University Cluj-Napoca and the Botanical Garden in Jibou.

General Secretary of the Organising Committee

Professor Ioan Bucur