



REPORT

NECLIME-ECR (Early Career Researchers) Workshop on STARTING THE IDENTIFICATION PROCESS: TAXONOMIC AND TAPHONOMIC ISSUES March 15-16, 2022

Organized by Arindam Chakraborty (India), Astghik Papikyan (Armenia) and Gabriele Niccolini (Italy)

Dear friends and colleagues of NECLIME and NECLIME-ECR,

A new platform within the NECLIME network was suggested and the ECR group was established at the end of 2021. Thank you all for your responses and registration for the first NECLIME-ECR Workshop on “STARTING THE IDENTIFICATION PROCESS: TAXONOMIC AND TAPHONOMIC ISSUES”. The workshop was held online through Zoom. The online format was very well received among the ECR community and has proven very effective for the network to stay connected not only during the pandemic situation.

In this workshop, 18 participants registered from 4 countries namely, Armenia, India, Italy, and UK.

The workshop started at 10:00 am European wintertime (CET). We aimed to meet for about 2 hours each day but extended for around 30 minutes each day due to the lively discussions which show the positive response from the participants.

During the **first day** (15 March 2022), first Arindam Chakraborty introduced the NECLIME-ECR group to the participants and keynote speakers. There were two presentations (15 minutes each) by the ECR group members. The first one by Astghik Papikyan (A. Takhtajyan Institute of Botany, National Academy of Science, Armenia) on plant macrofossils and step by step procedures from field sampling to species identification. The next talk was delivered by Gabriele Niccolini (Dipartimento di Scienze della Terra e Geoambientali, Università di Bari Aldo Moro, Italy) on a case study on the pollen flora from post-evaporitic deposits of Late Messinian, Piedmont Basin (Northwest Italy) and its taphonomic and taxonomic considerations. After a brief break we continued to hear from three key note speakers. Dr. Amit K Ghosh from Birbal Sahni Institute of Palaeosciences, Lucknow, India, enlightened us on several taxonomic and taphonomic issues with special reference to plant macrofossils. He also introduced in brief about the international code of nomenclature, which was extremely useful for the early career researchers. Further, the talk by Dr. Angela Bruch from ROCEEH

Research Centre, Frankfurt, Germany, was specific about plant taphonomy, its processes and probable explanations. At last, Prof. Kevin McCartney from University of Maine, Presque Island, USA, introduced a very interesting marine microfossil group Silicoflagellates with its variability, taxonomy and taphonomy in the geologic past. The sessions of this day ended with a general discussion, where the participants raised several questions regarding identification and taphonomic processes.

At the beginning of the **second day** (16 March 2022) all ECR participants introduced themselves and get accustomed with each other. Furthermore, the moderators discussed the following questions with the participants which reflect the challenges that the ECRs face during their daily research.

1. How to start and implement the identification process
2. The main taxonomic and taphonomic problems
3. Using open nomenclature terminology (cf., sp. etc.)

After a short break, ideas and questions of the group were exchanged with the specialists. At the end of the meeting, a potential topic, probable dates, and volunteers for the next ECR meeting were selected by the ECRs together with Angela Bruch. The topic chosen for the next meeting is on ‘Scientific writing and publishing’ which will also include considerations on good scientific practice. We appreciate the offer of Matteo Pili, Narine Hayrapetyan and Elen Hakobyan to lead the next meeting, which is anticipated to be held beginning of October 2022.

The success of this workshop could not have been possible without the constant support from NECLIME committee members specifically Angela Bruch.

Some impressions of the NECLIME-ECR (Early Career Researchers) Workshop are:

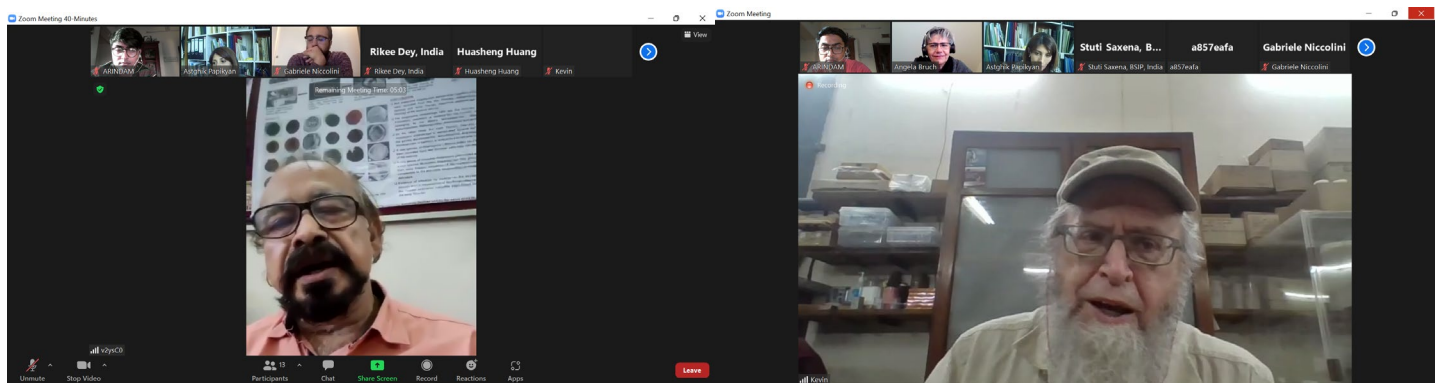


Fig. 1. Our keynote speakers Dr. Amit K Ghosh (India) and Prof. Kevin McCartney (USA).



Fig. 2. During the last minutes of a lively discussion...

Thank You