



Dear colleagues and members of NECLIME,

Thank you very much to all of you for your dedication and active roles in the network during this year – from contributions and discussions at our meetings to introducing and promoting NECLIME to your students and to a wider scientific community. An active and visible NECLIME which attracts new colleagues ensures not only the future of our network but also its growing relevance for climate and biodiversity research.

We would also be happy to support your activities at any time and distribute information to the NECLIME network. Take advantage of our email list and keep in touch!

We wish you all a happy, peaceful and successful 2024!

The NECLIME coordination team

Marianna, Martina, Torsten, Dana, and Angela

Past meetings of 2023

NECLIME Annual Conference, Matsudo/Chiba (Japan), 2023

This year's annual conference of the NECLIME (Network on Cenozoic Climate and Ecosystems) group was held in Matsudo, Japan, at the Graduate School of Horticulture, Chiba University. For the first time such a meeting was held in a hybrid format. This challenge was perfectly mastered by the local hosts and allowed the participation and presentations of colleagues from remote.

In total 60 colleagues from 18 countries joined the conference, out of which 30 attended in person. 32 oral contributions were presented. This might have been the largest number of oral presentations in the history of NECLIME events and certainly is due to the hybrid format.

Thanks to the dedication of our hosts the perfectly organized and enjoyable meeting was a great success. After two days of scientific sessions, a one-day and a 4-day excursion led us to the diverse warm-and cool- temperate forests of Mt. Takao (west Tokyo), Mt. Kasuga (Nara), and Mt. Odaigahara



(south Nara), as well as to the fossil forest of Konan (Shiga), and the excellent Lake Biwa Museum of natural history.

Thanks again to all colleagues involved in organizing this conference before and during the event!

And thanks to all participants for their contributions and lively discussion – online and offline!

The full report of the conference, program and abstracts are available on the website at

<https://www.neclime.de/conferences-retro.html>

NECLIME meeting of the working group on palynology 2023, Antalya, Turkey, 18-19 October

The 12th NECLIME workshop on the taxonomy of the Neogene palynomorphs, hosted by M. Serkan AKKİRAZ and Erdal KOŞUN, was held at the Faculty of Engineering, Akdeniz University in Antalya. A total of 13 colleagues attended the workshop. After the opening speeches by the dean of the engineering faculty of Akdeniz University and the head of the geological engineering division, eight papers were presented on October 18 (Wednesday). On the second day of the workshop (19 October), there were three presentations in the morning and a round table discussion in the afternoon. As usual, the participants shared their research results and discussed specific taxonomical issues, including some microscopic images of palynomorphs and NPP.

The full report, program and abstracts are available on our website at

<https://www.neclime.de/workshops-retro.html>

Evidence and drivers for origin and appearance of modern plants and vegetation types - A macroevolution workshop, online, December 2023

A new and exciting initiative of our members led to the organization of a workshop which was held online (Zoom), on Friday December 1, and Monday December 4. This workshop attracted more than 30 colleagues studying the evolution of plants during the Cenozoic. Besides 14 oral presentations, there were lively and inspiring discussions on the questions of ‘What is plant modernization?’ and ‘When did vegetation get modern?’.

As an outcome of this first workshop, a review article is planned to define more precisely the concept of plant ‘modernization’, its use in the past, and evidences from the fossil record. Also, an informal meeting will be organized during the IOPC (Prague, May) to take stock of this first project. In the longer term, if this thematic group works out, these collaborations may be formalized by creating a specific macroevolution group within the NECLIME network and organize further meetings or projects.

The full report, program and abstracts will be available on our website soon.



Forthcoming meetings 2024

NECLIME annual conference, Almaty, Kazakhstan, September 8-15 2024

The next NECLIME annual meeting will be held in Almaty, Kazakhstan, organized by Saida Nigmatova, Svetlana Popova and colleagues. Scientifically, the focus will be put on Cenozoic climate and ecosystem evolution in Central Asia, especially the dry climates of the continental interior. Excursions are planned to Paleogene-Neogene deposits of South-East Kazakhstan in Altyn-Emel National Park with Miocene fauna and flora.

The first circular is attached and will be available on our website.

NECLIME meeting of the working group on palynology, Krakow, autumn 2024

The next meeting of the working group is planned for end of next year and will kindly be hosted by Elżbieta Worobiec and Grzegorz Worobiec at W. Szafer Institute of Botany, Polish Academy of Sciences, in Krakow, Poland. The first circular will be distributed early 2024.

Related event: IPC/IOPC Prague, Czech Republic, 23-31 May, 2024

The joint International Palynological Congress (IPC) and International Organisation of Palaeobotany Conference (IOPC) will be held in Prague in the center of Europe and will be a great opportunity to learn about new research and to meet many of our colleagues in person.

Sessions organized by our members:

T01 Challenges in studying Cenozoic vegetation history – In memoriam Zlatko Kvaček (1937-2020); organized by Boglarka Erdei, Steven Manchester, Edoardo Martinetto, Johanna Kovar-Eder, Lutz Kunzmann

T02: Cenozoic continental climate and vegetation patterns on both sides of the North Pacific – an open NECLIME symposium; organized by Torsten Utescher, Yusheng (Christopher) Liu, Cheng Quan & Atsushi Yabe

T04 The evolution of plant diversity under palaeoenvironmental changes in the Qinghai-Tibetan Plateau Region; organized by Tao Su, Yong-Jiang Huang & Robert A. Spicer

Z01 IAWA Fossil Wood Symposium; organized by Jakub Sakala, Vít Koutecký & Dimitra Mantzouka

Abstracts are due January 17. More information on IPC/IOPC Prague 2024 can be found at <https://prague2020.cz>



Related event: 20th IBC, Madrid, Spain, 21-27 July, 2024

The next International Botanical Congress will take place in Madrid (Spain) on the following dates:
Nomenclature Section, 15–19 July 2024; Congress, 21–27 July 2024.

Session organized by our members:

The origin and evolution of modern plant diversity: insights from multiple disciplines; organized by Su Tao, Alexandra Müllner-Riehl, Gaurav Srivastava, Agathe Toumoulin

More information about 20th IBC in Madrid 2024 can be found at <https://ibcmadrid2024.com>

Launch of a new journal – *Earth history and biodiversity*

Based on an initiative of Tao Su, Elsevier will launch a new open access journal early next year. The aims and scope of the journal widely overlap with the NECLIME scientific topics, which makes it a perfect place to publish NECLIME related content.

During the initial phase the journal will be sponsored by Elsevier and the first issues will be published free of charge. We strongly encourage the NECLIME community to consider submission of their respective research. Any suggestions for a topical special issue are highly welcome. Please get in touch!

Editor-in-chief Tao Su, Associate Editors José Carrion and Angela Bruch