



NECLIME NEWSLETTER 2025

Dear colleagues and members of NECLIME,

This newsletter provides a brief overview of the main activities and achievements of NECLIME over the past year for your information. We also invite you to take a look at the job announcements and share this information with colleagues who may be interested.

The past year has been busy for the NECLIME community. We had an outstanding annual meeting in Croatia, and we hope anyone who attended enjoyed it. The next annual conference will in Xishuangbanna, China, and we are looking forward to seeing you there and enjoying stimulating scientific exchanges.

As always, we would like to note that if you are aware of any events, open positions or funding opportunities that you consider relevant to the NECLIME community, please let us know and we will be happy to distribute them via our mailing list and to post them on our website (<https://www.neclime.de/>). NECLIME is a very active network and an excellent opportunity for sharing ideas, so if you have any initiatives you would like to share with other colleagues do not hesitate to make full use of our channels!

We wish you all a happy, peaceful and successful 2026!

The NECLIME coordination team

Manu, Marianna, Martina, Dana, Torsten, and Angela

PUBLICATIONS

NEW SPECIAL ISSUE - NECLIME CONTRIBUTIONS TO CENOZOIC PLANT DIVERSITY IN EURASIA

Guest Editors: Manu Casas Gallego, Marianna Kováčová, Martina Stebich, and Torsten Utescher

The initiative for a new special issue to present some of our current and recent research in the Elsevier journal Earth History and Biodiversity (HISBIO) is ongoing, with two manuscripts already published.

The proposed special issue shall bundle NECLIME research results on plant diversity and its dependence on climate and strengthen the impact of paleobotanical research on the general scientific discussion on global threats on biodiversity due to climate change. Contributions to this NECLIME Special Issue may include temporal and spatial patterns, approaches to quantify past plant diversity, the impact of climate on past plant diversity, physiological aspects and more.

Earth History and Biodiversity (HISBIO) is a new full Open Access journal initiated by Tao Su, who became Editor-in-chief (Associate Editors José Carrión and Angela Bruch). The aims and scope of the



journal widely overlap with the NECLIME scientific topics, which makes it a perfect option to publish NECLIME related content. During an initial phase, the journal will be sponsored by Elsevier and **all successful submissions before end of 2026 will be published free of charge**. If you are interested in submitting a manuscript and have not done so, please contact Manu Casas (mancasas@ucm.es).

We encourage the NECLIME community to consider submission of their respective research to HISBIO, also beyond this special issue.

NECLIME ANNUAL CONFERENCES

ANNUAL CONFERENCE 2025, ZAGREB; CROATIA

The 25th NECLIME Annual meeting, organized by our colleagues from Croatian geological survey and University in Zagreb, was held in Zagreb from 15th to 19th September 2025. The meeting was organized in a hybrid format (lectures and an annotated poster session), with 23 in-person and 5 online presentations. The organizers also invited Prof. Kovačić to give a keynote lecture on the topic of Stratigraphic and sedimentary evolution of the Neogene in the Croatian part of the Pannonian basin system and Prof. Sremac about the Neogene fossil floras of Croatia. The three-day excursion that followed to the Papuk UNESCO Geopark area focused on localities that stratigraphically mapped the evolutionary development of this part of the Paratethys. A visit to the Poljanska Quarry locality with its exceptionally well-preserved and richly preserved fossil flora was certainly an unforgettable experience for everyone. Many thanks to the organizing team for the flawless organization, facilitation, and opportunity to share new professional knowledge, as well as for the opportunity to visit unique geological and paleontological sites.

The full report of the conference, program and abstracts are available on the website at <https://www.neclime.de/conferences-retro.html>

ANNUAL CONFERENCE 2026, XISHUANGBANNA, CHINA

In 2026 the NECLIME annual conference will be held at the Xishuangbanna Tropical Botanical Garden in Yunnan, November 1-8.

The conference will include 2 days of scientific sessions, botanical garden tours and a one-day excursion to tropical rainforest in the nearby Sky Tree Park. A 3-day-excursion is offered to visit the Wild Elephant Valley Park with well-preserved tropical forests, the Yuanjiang Ecological Station with China's largest tropical savanna, and Fuxian Lake in Chengjiang which is surrounded by limestone mountains preserving Tertiary relic sclerophyll vegetation, and it is also home to the world-famous Chengjiang fossil site of the Cambrian explosion.

Details are available on our website at <https://www.neclime.de/conferences.html>



ANNUAL CONFERENCE 2027

Suggestions for a venue in 2027 are warmly welcome!

NECLIME WORKSHOPS

2025 NECLIME MEETING OF THE WORKING GROUP ON PALYNOLOGY, MADRID, SPAIN

The latest meeting of the working group on palynology took place at the end of October in Madrid, hosted by the Faculty of Geological Sciences of the Complutense University. Presentations covered a wide range of topics, including the botanical affinities of Cenozoic palynomorphs from the Iberian Peninsula, studies on Quaternary deposits from India and Georgia, and applications of artificial intelligence in palynology.

Young students from the university attended the meeting, gaining a great opportunity to interact with and learn from more experienced palynologists. The engaging presentations were followed by a visit to the Botanical Garden of the Complutense University and hands-on microscope sessions. We reviewed assemblages from the Paleogene of Spain, the Neogene of Slovakia and Turkey, and the Quaternary of Germany and Georgia, focusing on the general diversity of these assemblages and specific plant families.

A key topic for discussion was the importance of digitizing pollen reference collections to advance Cenozoic palynology. We explored possibilities for collaborative efforts to digitize our collections and would like to explore this in more depth in a dedicated workshop. Colleagues are invited to request the lists of specimens available in the collections of Weimar (Germany) and Madrid (Spain), and we would be happy to exchange images and physical reference slides of specimens with other members of the community.

The Palynology Working Group encourages other palynologists within the community to join us for the next meeting, the date and location of which will be announced in due course. The full report is available on our website:

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

RELATED EVENTS

2026 12th European Palaeobotany and Palynology Conference, Münster, Germany. As there is no conference website open yet, please look for updates on our website at
<https://www.neclime.de/related.html>

2027 XXII INQUA Congress in Lucknow, India, January 28 – February 2, 2027,
<https://www.inquaindia2027.in> Abstract submission is already open! **Deadline is February 15, 2026**



FORTHCOMING RELATED EVENTS

If you are aware of any events which you feel relevant for the NECLIME community, please let us know and we will spread the information. So far we are aware of

2028 IOPC-IPC in Calgary, Canada, mid of August

PERSONALIA

SHUFENG LI JOINED THE COORDINATION TEAM

This year Shufeng Li from Xishuangbanna Tropical Botanical Garden (XTBG) joined us as a new member of our coordination team. Many of you already know him as an outstanding scientist and active member of our community. We are grateful that he is ready to support our community with his experience and energy!

For any questions, suggestions and news regarding NECLIME you are welcome to contact him through lisf@xtbg.org.cn

JOB OPPORTUNITIES

Visiting Fellowship

Xishuangbanna Tropical Botanical Garden (XTBG), Chinese Academy of Sciences, is looking for Postdoctoral Researchers in Paleobotany, Paleoclimate, and Vegetation Modeling as well as Visiting Scholars and Graduate Students (MS/PhD) in the fields of 'Cenozoic evolution of plant diversity, vegetation, and climate changes' and 'Numeric climate modeling, vegetation and plant diversity modeling'. See details at <https://www.neclime.de/news.html> or directly contact Prof. Shufeng Li at lisf@xtbg.org.cn.

PhD Position

The new German Cluster of Excellence TERRA: Terrestrial Geo-Biosphere Interactions in a Changing World at Tübingen University (<https://uni-tuebingen.de/en/research/core-research/cluster-of-excellence-terra/terra/>) announces **15 new PhD positions** (see <https://uni-tuebingen.de/en/research/core-research/cluster-of-excellence-terra/career/>).

One of them is a PhD position in palynology (starting 1.4. 2026 until 31.9.2029) to study long- and short-term biostability and plant diversity of the Late Miocene fossil site Hammerschmiede in southern Germany. We are looking for a person experienced in Neogene (preferably European) pollen and NPP analysis. Please contact Madelaine Böhme (m.boehme@ifg.uni-tuebingen.de) for more information.