



Report on the 15th Annual NECLIME Meeting, Izmir, 2014

The 15th Annual NECLIME Meeting 2014 was held in Izmir, Turkey, from October 19 to 22. The meeting, hosted by Funda Akgün and Mine Sezgül Kayseri-Özer took place at the Conference Center of the Institute of Marine Sciences and Technology, Dokuz Eylül University. The meeting included a visit of the archaeological site of Smyrna in the afternoon of the second conference day, providing the unique opportunity of an introduction to ongoing excavations kindly given by the archaeologist in charge, Akin Ersoy (Department of Archaeology, Dokuz Eylül University).

As already with the “Anniversary NECLIME Meeting” held in Izmir in 2009, Funda and Sezgül with their team spent much time and effort thus enabling another Turkish NECLIME annual meeting in a most friendly atmosphere. All their effort and dedication is gratefully acknowledged.

Ca. 30 participants joined the meeting and 20 contributions (oral and poster) were presented. NECLIME members from 6 countries (China, Germany, Hungary, Slovakia, Turkey, The Netherlands) participated with contributions covering a wide range of scientific fields, including geology, invertebrate and vertebrate palaeontology, palaeobotany, ecology, and numeric modelling of the biosphere, covering the time-span from the Oligocene to Holocene.

The presented topics included studies on geology and palaeoenvironmental reconstructions in Anatolia and Eastern Mediterranean respectively, partly carried out using multiple proxies including isotopes, invertebrate and vertebrate palaeontology, the analysis of climate and vegetation evolution in the Paratethys realm, and high resolving environmental studies of sites with early human evidence. Contributions on Eastern Eurasia highlighted climate dependant distribution of floral relics as well as palaeobiogeographic and biostratigraphic implications of East Asian palaeofloras. Advances in methodology concerned the quantification of ecological diversity and usefulness of ecological indices in palaeo-reconstructions. Moreover, an extended Plant Functional Type classification scheme was introduced. Biome modelling was exemplified with a mid-Holocene scenario providing insight into the dynamics of the biomes of East Africa under changing climate.



The conference programme and the abstract volume will be made available for download at the NECLIME website.

Topics addressed in the final discussion

IPBES and its relevance for NECLIME

The Intergovernmental Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES), founded in 2012 by the UN as intergovernmental body to strengthen the science-policy interface for biodiversity and ecosystem services (see wiki article for more details) can be regarded as counterpart of the IPCC, addressing threads and anticipated changes of the biosphere. So far, no palaeo-aspects are considered in the IPBES programme. Therefore, a workshop is proposed to investigate the respective potential of NECLIME data.

The workshop will be organized in Frankfurt in the frame of the “working group on digital plant distribution” and is anticipated for the 3rd quarter of 2015. All members will be informed via circular.

NECLIME special issue “Cenozoic vegetation quantification with models and proxy data” (L. François, A.A. Bruch, T. Utescher) intended for Palaeo 3

The guest editors are very happy about the 20 outlines that have been submitted for the NECLIME volume. The proposals are now being sent to Elsevier for evaluation. Further information will be sent to all submitters as soon as we have a decision. So far, deadline for the submission of manuscripts is January 20, 2015.

Forthcoming events and meetings

2nd workshop of the NECLIME “working group on fossil wood”, Wrocław (Poland) June 24 -25, 2015

The second workshop of the NECLIME “working group on fossil wood” is going to be held at the Institute of Experimental Biology, University of Wrocław, kindly hosted and organized by Elżbieta Myśkow. Details are provided in the first circular, available for download from the



NECLIME website. Registration for the workshop is still open! Please inform Elżbieta as soon as possible in case you are planning to attend.

NECLIME Annual Meeting 2015

Next year, NECLIME will meet in Madrid, Spain, and we cordially thank our long-time member Eduardo Barrón for inviting us and making it possible.

The 16th Annual Meeting of NECLIME is going to be held at the Geominero Museum of the Geological Survey of Spain (Instituto Geológico y Minero de España) from October 7 – 10.

Moreover, a post-conference field trip will be organized. The conference has the following key topics:

- Evolution of climate and vegetation on the Iberian Peninsula (based on plant and vertebrate fossil evidence)
- The evolution of the Mediterranean floras since the Pliocene
- Palaeobiodiversity: species richness and ecological diversity through time

More details and the first circular will soon be distributed and we are looking forward to your numerous submissions.

Indian NECLIME meeting, end of February 2016

For 2016, NECLIME is kindly invited by Sunil Bajpai and Vandana Prasad to hold a meeting at the renowned Birbal Sahni Institute of Palaeobotany in Lucknow, India. After our conferences in Nanjing and Kunming, that impressively brought NECLIME forward in joint studies of East Asian sites, the Lucknow meeting will greatly contribute to close significant gaps in our knowledge and databases still existing in the southern part of our study area. Vandana let us know that among her colleagues there is lively interest in our network, so we are looking forward to new co-operations.

Moreover, the new perspectives opened up by the Indian meeting for intensifying NECLIME studies on southern Eurasia complement plans of a joint study on the evolution of biodiversity hotspots in the frame of a larger project, appointed at the Xishuangbanna workshop in 2013 (cf. planned project initiative by Zhe-Kun Zhou and Volker Mosbrugger: “The biodiversity hotspot Yunnan”).



NECLIME sessions at the IOPC Brazil, 2016

As for past large international meetings it is planned to propose NECLIME sessions. Please keep the organizing committee informed about any ideas of yours. We will send a reminder as soon as the deadline for session proposals is available.

NECLIME databases and publications

NECLIME data in Pangaea

Istem Fer kindly offers her help in uploading climate data from publications contributing to NECLIME to Pangaea. You are kindly requested to provide your data in the format of the “NECLIME data input form” (in Excel) available on our website. For new entries we are planning to treat each locality as a separate event in order to ensure a better spatial representation of NECLIME data. So, please give all requested information in the Excel sheet. And do not hesitate to contact us!

Palaeoflora database

As presented on the workshop of the working group on Neogene palynomorphs in Kütahya, palynomorph taxa published in the 4th Volume of the “Atlas of Pollen and Spores of the Polish Neogene (Stuchlik, Ed.)” are currently added to the Palaeoflora database (T. Utescher). The updated records including the Nearest Living Relative concept provided in the Atlas will be made available on our website.

We ask our members to provide references of their published work when related to NECLIME topics, update their project entries at our website, and check their affiliations (including email) for correctness. Please send your updates and new materials to our webmaster, Andrea Kern (annkern@usp.br). Though currently not staying in Eurasia, she will be happy to timely handle your submissions.

Thanks again from all of us!

Angela, Volker and Torsten