



Sixth International Conference
«Environmental Micropaleontology, Microbiology and Meiobenthology»
EMMM-2011
Moscow, September 19–22, 2011

The study of microorganisms has become an indispensable constituent of basic ecological, microbiological and micropaleontological research. The significance of microorganisms as indicators of pollution and other ecological changes that happened in Recent and ancient marine and freshwater environments increases with every year.

During recent decades, the ecology of various microorganisms of both past and recent times has been studied worldwide. Altogether 810 scientists from 55 countries have joined the International Conferences “**Environmental Micropaleontology, Microbiology and Meiobenthology**” (EMMM-2011) which have been held successively in Israel (1997), Canada (2000), Austria (2002), Turkey (2004), India (2008) and Russia (2011). The last, sixth EMMM Conference was held in the Borissiak Paleontological Institute of the Russian Academy of Sciences in Moscow.

The Borissiak Paleontological Institute, a renowned Russian scientific research institution was founded in 1930. The Institute and the Conference Hall are located in the same building as the famous Orlov Paleontological Museum, a descendent of the “Kunstkammer” of Peter the Great. The museum collections exhibit on almost five thousand square meters over 5 000 fossils including a unique herd of almost complete reptile skeletons from the Permian stratotype area (mounted in life position), gigantic Jurassic and Cretaceous dinosaurs from Central Asia and ammonites with preserved pearl shells.

The Conference was organized by Dr. Marina S. AFANASIEVA and Dr. Valery Ja. VUKS. It attracted the participation of 186 specialists from 16 countries of the world. There were 102 talks and numerous posters. Contributions were mostly concerned with study of foraminifers (24 %), meiobenthos (17 %), radiolarians (14 %), palynomorphs (14 %), bacteria (14 %), conodonts (7 %), ostracods (6 %), diatomaceans and nanoplankton (4 %).

The EMMM-2011 focused on progress of particular fields of scientific knowledge with special attention to the role of micro- and meioorganisms in the origin, formation and evolution of Earth ecosystems, ecological turnovers in Phanerozoic biota evolution, interpretation and prediction of environmental crises, role of bacteria, micro- and meioorganisms in the formation of environments and in the degassing of the Earth.

The EMMM conferences represent an important platform for information exchange not only between micropaleontologists, but also between paleobiologists, stratigraphers, sedimentologists and biologists worldwide. We wish success to the organizers of the next meeting, which should be in Romania ...

Jozef Michalík, Geological Institute SAS

