

SUMMARY OF FIRST AND SECOND REPORTS OF
SCOR WORKING GROUP 19 ON
MICROPALAEONTOLOGY OF BOTTOM SEDIMENTS

Meetings of WG 19 were held in Paris, on January 3 - 4, 1966, at the Laboratoire de Micropaléontologie, École Pratique des Hautes Etudes, and in Moscow, between June 2 and June 7, 1966, at the Moscow State University. All members of the working group were present at the meeting in Paris, but G. Deflandre and T. Kanaya were unable to attend the meeting in Moscow.

During the Second International Oceanographic Congress in Moscow, an open meeting of WG 19 was held in order to acquaint attending micropaleontologists with the aims of the working group, and to solicit suggestions. About 50 micropaleontologists (three quarters of them from the USSR) attended, and the resulting discussion influenced the content of the provisional version of the program appended hereto. In addition, a number of microscopes were available, and Russian workers demonstrated some of their microfossil preparations for discussion.

The principal results arising from all meetings are summarized below:

1. Definition of Field of Interest

The study of floras and faunas which contribute preservable micro-remains to bottom sediments of present seas and oceans, and their occurrence as fossils in these regions.

2. Terms of Reference

Taking into account the draft terms of reference presented by Professor Kort and comments received from national committees and individuals, it is proposed to amplify the original terms of reference (SCOR Proceedings, Vol. 1, No. 1, p. 25) by the addition of the following:

(a) Discussion of the technical and scientific procedures used in micropaleontological investigations of marine bottom sediments.

(b) Discussion of the principles of systematics, stratigraphy and environmental interpretation as applied in the above field.

(c) Facilitation of comparison of submarine stratigraphy with that of land areas.

3. Exchange of Samples

During the Moscow meetings, Cenozoic micropaleontological samples of various ages were distributed among working group members by W. R. Riedel and A. P. Jousé, in order that workers in the institutions and countries represented might be able more effectively to coordinate species identifications and age assignments. It is expected that some results from examination of these samples will be available by the time of the proposed Symposium, and that further exchanges will take place.

4. List of Marine Micropaleontologists

A list of active workers in this field will be compiled. Lists have been received for the USSR, Japan, Poland and New Zealand, and others are expected shortly.

5. Lists of Marine Bottom Samples

It was agreed to initiate the exchange of lists of available core and dredge samples.

6. Proposed Symposium "Micropaleontology of Marine Bottom Sediments"

Most of the discussions of WG 19 have been concerned with the organization of a Symposium. Its purpose is to bring together the widely-dispersed active workers in this field for the exchange of ideas, experience and materials.

The provisional program below includes twelve principal lectures to be given on specific topics by invited experts, shorter contributions on individual microfossil groups, and ample periods for discussion. Only one day is provided for uninvited papers on new advances in the field, and it was suggested that papers in this category be brought to the Symposium in a sufficient number of copies for general distribution so that they can be read and discussed informally by interested colleagues. It is expected that a number of microscopes will be available, and participants will be encouraged to bring illustrative samples and preparations with them, for mutual examination.

It is proposed to hold the Symposium in Scandinavia (possibly in Oslo, with Professor Braarud and associates acting as local organizers). Taking into consideration other European meetings of micropaleontologists, it seems that the nine-day Symposium should be scheduled between the middle of August and the end of September, 1967. It is estimated that about eighty researchers should be invited to attend. A way

will be sought to publish the papers and discussions in a form that will achieve world-wide circulation. (Both English and Russian editions are envisaged, and competent specialist translators will be required at the Symposium).

Provisional Program for the Symposium

Day 1

- 09.00-10.00 (1) Distribution of plankton in the oceans in relation to physical and chemical conditions - main lecture
- 10.00-10.30 Discussion
- 11.00-12.00 (2) Distribution of benthos in the oceans in relation to physical and chemical conditions - main lecture
- 12.00-12.30 Discussion
- 14.00-16.00 Short contributions (15 min.) on: Diatoms, Coccoliths, Radiolaria, Planktonic Foraminifera, Benthonic Foraminifera, Pteropods, Ostracods.
- Remarks (2 min.) backed up by written notes and bibliography on: Silicoflagellates, Dinoflagellates and Hystrichospheres, Pollen and Spores.
- 16.00-17.00 Preliminary examination and discussion of exchanged samples.

Day 2

- 09.00-10.00 (3) Occurrence of siliceous microfossils in bottom sediments - main lecture
- 10.00-10.30 Discussion
- 11.00-12.00 (4) Occurrence of calcareous microfossils in bottom sediments - main lecture
- 12.00-12.30 Discussion
- 14.00-17.00 Short contributions (15 min.) on: Diatoms, Coccoliths, Dinoflagellates and Hystrichospheres, Pollen and

Spores, Radiolaria, Planktonic Foraminifera, Benthonic Foraminifera, Ostracods, Pteropods.

Remarks (2 min.) backed up by written notes and bibliography on: Silicoflagellates et al.

Day 3

- | | |
|-------------|----------------------------------------------------------------|
| 09.00-09.45 | Problems in the systematics of important organisms: Diatoms |
| 09.45-10.00 | Discussion |
| 10.00-10.45 | Coccoliths |
| 10.45-11.00 | Discussion |
| 11.30-12.15 | Foraminifera |
| 12.14-12.30 | Discussion |
| 14.00-14.45 | Radiolaria |
| 14.45-15.00 | Discussion |
| 15.30-18.30 | Group discussions |

Day 4

- | | |
|-------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 09.00-10.00 | (5) Statistical methods applicable to micropaleontology of bottom sediments - main lecture |
| 10.00-10.30 | Discussion |
| 11.00-12.00 | (6) Geochemical and isotopic methods applicable to micropaleontology of bottom sediments - main lecture |
| 12.00-12.30 | Discussion |
| 14.00-15.00 | (7) Stratigraphical methods applicable to micropaleontology of bottom sediments - main lecture |
| 15.00-15.30 | Discussion |
| 15.30-17.30 | Methodology by groups (collection, preparation, etc.) |
