

5th Workshop on Ichnotaxonomy (WIT V)

Smolenice and Bratislava, Slovakia,
June 9th – 13th, 2014



Left to right: G. Alchin, P.A. Zambrano, V. Kuschlina, A. Uchman, A. Straka, W.D. Krummeck, V. Šimo, A.K. Rindsberg, P. Pervesler.

The Workshops on Ichnotaxonomy (WIT) are dedicated to improving the nomenclature and classification of trace fossils. Previous Workshops have been held at Bornholm, Cracow, Prague, and St. Petersburg-Moscow, and have resulted in several publications. Vladimír Šimo led the latest in the series, which was hosted by the Geological Institute of the Slovak Academy of Sciences. Attendees gathered in Bratislava for a trip across the sunshine-drenched countryside to Smolenice Castle in the Malé Karpaty range. The castle, once part of the nobleman Pálffy estate, was destroyed several times before being rebuilt as a

conference center for the Academy of Sciences. Previous WITs have met in venues as diverse as a former windmill in Denmark and the National Museum in Prague. The attendees found this meeting place to be both comfortable and stimulating. Discussions were diverse, ranging from the revision of particular ichnotaxa such as the “Pinsdorf mystery” (A. Uchman & P. Pervesler) and the first discovery of Middle Ordovician *Cruziana* and *Rusophycus* in Siberia (A. Dronov & V. Kuschlina), to the presentation of whole ichnoassemblages of Late Eocene–Oligocene flysch sediments in Manipur — India (H.S. Rajkumar) and general discussions of ichnotaxonomic philosophy (A.K. Rindsberg). Students were represented by P.A. Zambrano, who had worked on Paleogene parasequences in the Central Chile; and by W.D. Krummeck, who synthesized data from several Gondwana continents on an interesting Early Triassic vertebrate burrow. M. Hyžný provoked much discussion with his comprehensive work on fossorial ghost shrimps and other crustaceans, including some found within their burrows. Jozef Michalík introduced the geology and history of the region, first in a lecture given atop the castle tower, and then on foot across an archaeological site the Molpír (Celtic oppidum). To cap it off, a craftsman in folk costume demonstrated the making and playing of large wooden flutes (*fujary*), which he then invited the attendees to try for themselves.

The field trip extended across the width of Slovakia, beginning at the Sandberg site in Bratislava, where middle Badenian *Macaronichnus*, *Scolicia* and *Piscichnus* are well exposed in vertical section. The Tunežice Quarry yielded Pliensbachian *Thalassinoides*, with the added complication of distorted outlines caused by silicification. At the Butkov Quarry, attendees delighted in an early Albian rocky hardground with a monospecific assemblage of unusu-

ally large *Entobia*. Characteristic turbidite trace fossils of middle to late Eocene age, such as *Halopoa*, *Ophiomorpha*, *Scolicia* and *Zoophycos* were reviewed at Vel'ké Rovné Quarry. Lower Jurassic strata of the Skladaná skala Quarry yielded abundant *Lamellaeichnus* at its type locality along with other trace fossils. The bizarre *Nummipera eocenica*, a shaft lined with complete tests of *Discocyclus*, graced the Závažná Poruba Quarry. *Diplocraterion* and *Rhizocorallium* formed the basis of discussions at an Early Triassic site, the Liptovská Lúžna section, demonstrating the recovery of infauna after the end-Permian extinction. At the last locality, the Králiky Quarry, the ichnotaxonomists encountered enigmatic spherules in Eocene intertidal sandstones, interpreted as the feeding balls of crustaceans or diagenetically produced concretions. Between stops, attendees marvelled at the large number of castle ruins in this region.

The next workshop on ichnotaxonomy will be headed by Max Wisshak at the Senckenberg am Meer, Wilhelmshaven, Germany in 2018.

Andrew K. Rindsberg



Zoophycos surface, front to back A. Uchman, P. Pervesler, V. Kuschlina, P.A. Zambrano, H.S. Rajkumar, W.D. Krummeck, G. Alchin. (Vel'ké Rovné Quarry).



A. Uchman instructs W.D. Krummeck (Liptovská Lúžna locality).