

## 8<sup>th</sup> International Paleolimnology Symposium: The Year of the Chironomids

QUEEN'S UNIVERSITY, KINGSTON, ONTARIO, CANADA, 20–24 AUGUST, 2000

Co-chaired by John Smol and Brian Cumming, the 8<sup>th</sup> International Paleolimnology Symposium brought together more than 250 scientists in Kingston, Ontario. Six keynote speakers, 52 oral presentations and 108 posters were presented over four days. Seven main themes were discussed: Arctic research, Alpine research, Tropical and Subtropical research, Climate, Lake Management, New Developments, and Rivers and Reservoirs.

One of the emerging topics at this conference was chironomid research. A pre-conference workshop, followed by one afternoon during the conference were dedicated to the basic learning of chironomids as well as advanced identification, methods and modeling questions. 23 scientists from Europe and America were grouped and reviewed the evolving taxonomy. While chironomid research has previously been considered somewhat marginal, with only one presentation by Walker at the 7<sup>th</sup> International Symposium, the current Symposium boasted no less than 34 presentations with chironomid research as a major focus. These studies were undertaken in 16 different countries. A major indication of the importance of chironomids was provided by Stephen Brooks from the Natural History Museum, London who presented his talk wearing a T-shirt stating "Chironomids eat Diatoms." Chironomids were used to reconstruct mean July air temperature, major human impacts, and the eutrophication or natural evolution of lakes. To learn more about chironomids try the websites:

- [www.zoo.uib.no/systematikk/paleo/intro1.php3](http://www.zoo.uib.no/systematikk/paleo/intro1.php3)
- [www.okanagan.bc.ca/fwsc/iwalker/infpanis/](http://www.okanagan.bc.ca/fwsc/iwalker/infpanis/)

An additional topic of discussion during the meeting was the importance, potential, limits, challenges

and methodology of multi-proxy paleolimnological studies. André Lotter and John Birks presented keynote talks on this subject. Human practices and climate variations in the Yucatan Peninsula through the late Pleistocene and Holocene were discussed by Mark Brenner. Coring equipment was reviewed by Daniel Livingston including a warning on the interpretation of possibly sectioned cores. Patrick De Deckker stressed the importance of collaboration between paleolimnology and paleoceanography and Walter Dean presented a video on the new Global Lake Drilling to 800 meters (GLAD800) drill rig. Overall, in the study of these seven main themes, many tools were used: 87 presentations concerned diatoms, pollen (22), Cladoceran (7), Ostracods (6), Chrisophytes (7), Foraminiferes (2), Brachiopods (1), macrofossils (6), pigments (4), tephra (3), isotopes (7), minerals (7), sedimentology (33) and NIRS (1).

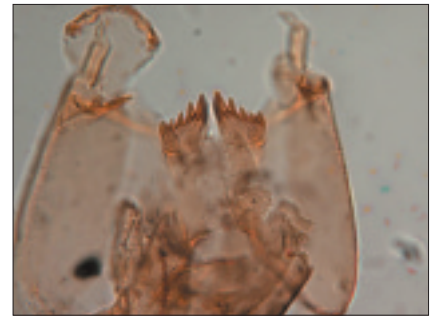
Other workshops were organized: the Arctic-Antarctic Diatom workshop was held to create a consensus on taxonomy, a Lake Baikal workshop showed the progress of research in this important lake and a LIMPACS (Human Impact on Lake Ecosystems) workshop, chaired by Rick Battarbee, introduced this new PAGES initiative.

The next International Paleolimnology Symposium will be held in Helsinki, Finland in 2003. V.P. Salonen and A. Korhola will be the co-chairs for this event. For further information about the Paleolimnology Symposium, visit the website at: <http://biology.queensu.ca>.

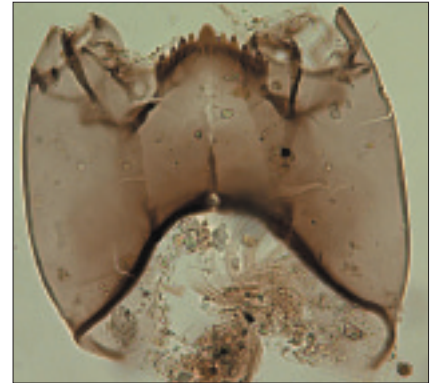
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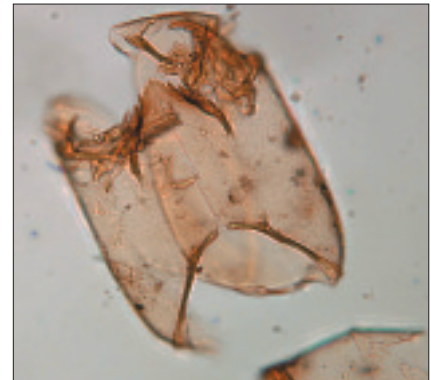
Chironomid Photos courtesy of Oliver Heiri



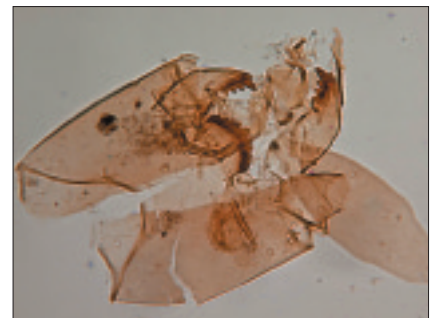
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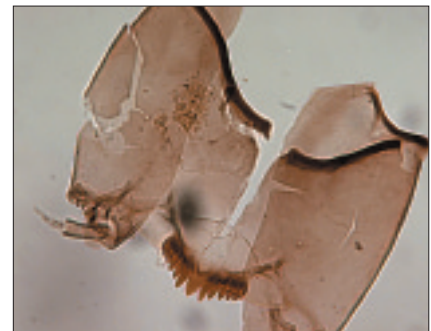
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*Paratanytarsus sp.*



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