

100th anniversary of the research on fossil algae in Croatia



Geologia Croatica

EDITORIAL

Dear readers,

You have certainly noticed that this volume of *Geologia Croatica* is rather unusual. Surely it is quite thick, since it is a double issue, but also since it is the first time that, besides the usual editors, *Geologia Croatica* also has a guest-editor. Dr. Tonći Grgasović has been appointed guest editor for this volume since he is a *spiritus movens* of the main topic of the volume you have in front of you – fossil algae, and who was also in charge of the last year's celebration of the 100th anniversary of the research of fossil algae in Croatia.

In 1907, the Austrian geologist and palaeontologist Richard Johann Schubert described the first Permian dasyclad – *Mizzia velebitana* from Velika Paklenica on Mt. Velebit. In the following years, first a pioneer of the research on fossil algae Julius von Pia, and later Croatian researchers Milan Herak, Vanda Kochansky-Devidé, Ivan Gušić, Momčilo Milanović and Branko Sokač described hundreds of algal taxa in Croatia (many for the first time), making a significant contribution to the knowledge on fossil algae, especially those from the order Dasycladales. More information about the history of this research can be found in the following pages.

For the occasion of this jubilee, we invited prominent international experts to send us their contributions on the topic of fossil algae. As you can see, they have gladly responded, and we are able to present you with as many as 20 papers made by 58 authors. A significant part of these contributions were presented at the “9th International Symposium on Fossil Algae” that was organized in the occasion of the jubilee, and took place in Zagreb from 19 to 20 September 2007. The main organizer of the Symposium was the Croatian Geological Survey (former Institute of Geology), that will celebrate its 100th anniversary in 2009. During the Symposium, two field-trips were organized. A pre-symposium field-trip in the area of the Dinaride Mts. focused on Permian – Cretaceous calcareous algae and evolution of the shallow-water carbonate environments in the area of Velebit Mt. and Biokovo Mt. and on the recent algal biocalcification in the Plitvice Lakes. A post-symposium field-trip took place in the area of North-West Croatia

(Medvednica Mt., Ivanščica Mt., Žumberak-Samoborsko gorje Mts.), and focused on Triassic, Miocene and Palaeocene deposits with calcareous algae. The Symposia represent the main activity of the “International Fossil Algae Association” (IFAA) that gathers researchers together on the diverse topic of fossil algae.

Papers presented in this volume are quite diverse, both in topics and in geological ages represented. The stratigraphic range of the deposits described comprises almost the entire history of Life on Earth, from the Precambrian to Recent. Various groups of microbes and algae (in the broad sense) have been described, from cyanobacteria, different green algae – dasyclads, halimedaceans, charophyta etc., red algae – corallines, solenoporaceans, to various groups of benthic calcareous algae with a problematic taxonomic position, as well as various sediments and sedimentary structures that they form, together with biological and geological processes in which they are involved. The localities investigated are scattered all over the world. Many contributions are not only palaeontological, but have multidisciplinary approach, and include biostratigraphy, palaeogeography, ecology and palaeoecology, diagenesis, facies analysis, sequence stratigraphy, hydrogeology and speleogenesis.

All contributions, although predominantly devoted to fossil algae, have passed the regular reviewing procedure, since this is a regular volume of our journal, *Geologia Croatica*. Therefore, after “algal” papers there are two other interesting contributions regarding volcanic facies and Triassic rifting in NE Hungary, as well as beach sand analysis of some Adriatic islands.

It is our pleasure to thank numerous authors and similarly numerous reviewers that contributed to the 61 volume of *Geologia Croatica* with the hope that the steady enhancement of quality will be recognized in the impact of our journal.

Tonći Grgasović, guest editor,
Mladen Juračić and Ivo Velić, editors