



## 4<sup>th</sup> Workshop on Ichnotaxonomy (WIT IV) Moscow, St. Petersburg, 21–26 June, 2010

Previous workshops on ichnotaxonomy were especially directed towards solving the problems of definitions of ichnological terminology. The published results (Bertling et al. 2006) of the first (1<sup>st</sup> WIT, Aakirkeby, Bornholm, Denmark, 1998) and second workshops (2<sup>nd</sup> WIT, Kraków and Tymbark, Poland, 2002) contain definitions related to this problem. The aims of these ichnotaxonomical meetings were to achieve a uniform approach. The 3<sup>rd</sup> WIT (Prague and Jevíčko, Czech Republic, 2006) was organized by Radek Mikuláš. All meetings were combined with scientific sessions and discussions, visiting of trace fossils collections and fieldtrip excursions.

The 4<sup>th</sup> Workshop on Ichnotaxonomy (organized by Andrei V. Dronov, Geological Institute of Russia Academy of Sciences) contained several important contributions: filling as a possible ichnotaxobase of coprolites? (Radek Mikuláš); new views on the ichnotaxonomy of large scale mammal burrows (Emese M. Bördy); ichnotaxonomical implications of morphological variations of Ordovician vertical borings and burrows (Andrei V. Dronov); reconstruction of a new trace fossil from the Jurassic sedimentary succession of the “Fleckenmergel” facies (Vladimír Šimo) and ichnotaxonomical value for facies reconstruction (Dirk Knaust). There was a contribution about the taxonomy of helical trace fossils (Alfred Uchman) and the value of size and shape for all trace fossils with impact for ichnotaxonomy was explained. M. A. Fedonkin presented ichnological aspects of the Vendian faunas of the White Sea region (Northern Russia).

WIT IV continued with an excursion to the Paleontological Museum in Moscow. This excursion was aimed on collections of trace fossils from the areas of St. Petersburg and the northern parts of Russia. The collection of precious Vendian body fossils (*Andiva*, *Dickinsonia*, *Ivovicia*, *Kimberella*, *Yorgia*) and their related traces was interesting.



Paleontological Museum in Moscow. From left to right: Dirk Knaust, Alfred Uchman, Andrei Dronov and Radek Mikuláš.

The field trips were situated in the area of St Petersburg. An Cambrian-Ordovician succession was presented at the locality Sablino cave with *Skolithos*, *Syringomorpha*, escape structures and other undefined trace fossils. Other localities



Cambrian-Ordovician outcrop with erosive Cambrian boundary (Sablino, Tosna River).



Putilovo Quarry, bedding surface with trace fossils *Thalassinoides* and *Bergaueria*.

were the Putilovo and the Babino quarries with Ordovician successions. The “Dikari limestone” — the informal name of the Volkhov Formation — contains high density borings/burrows of *Gastrochaenolites*-like trace fossils. At these localities the trace fossils *Arachnostega*, *Balanoglossites*, *Bergaueria*, *Gyrochorte*, *Phycodes*, *Teichichnus*, *Thalassinoides*, *Trypanites* and others were observed. The next outcrops of Ordovician successions were situated close to rivers Sablinka, Tosna, Lava, Lynna and Syas. The localities are very attractive not only for trace fossils but also for plenty of body fossils of trilobites, brachiopods, bryozoans, cephalopods and placoderms. Within several minutes plenty of perfectly preserved trilobites triggered a paleontological “gold rush”.

The last excursion was a visit to the Paleontological Museum of St. Petersburg University. The 4<sup>th</sup> WIT was officially terminated by a ceremonial dinner and consequently by a walk in the St. Petersburg streets during a white night.

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