

MEETINGS OF THE  
INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE FOR PHYTOLITH NOMENCLATURE (ICPN)

Brussels, 8-9 September 2014

&

INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE FOR PHYTOLITH MORPHOMETRY (ICPM)

Brussels, 8 September 2014

Under the auspices of the International Phytolith Society

FIRST CIRCULAR



Centre de Recherche  
en Archéologie  
et Patrimoine



## 1. GENERAL INFORMATION

We are pleased to announce the next workshops of the International Committee for Phytolith Nomenclature (ICPN) as well as of the International Committee for Phytolith Morphometry (ICPM) to be held in Brussels, Belgium, at the Royal Belgian Institute for Natural Sciences (RBINS) September 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> of 2014 under the International Phytolith Society.

In a first attempt to start an some standardization for describing and classifying the phytoliths among the numerous ones developed by every phytolith scientist around the world, an International Code for Phytolith Nomenclature has been proposed in 2005. Soon however, issues regarding a lack of hierarchy between the descriptive terms, as well as a mix between descriptions and naming, have been raised by researchers, not to mention the English use-only for the descriptions. It is clear anyway that this first code wasn't meant to solve all the problems related to phytolith description and taxonomy, but just to start a world-wide discussion among phytoliths scientists to reach eventually a consensus for a complete phytolith taxonomy based on the same descriptive terms and naming rules, as other plant sciences fields did, such as palynology or anthracology, to name a few.

As you may know an ICPN committee is constituted since several years, but could not so far gather back enough information from users to continue its work efficiently. The two proposed workshops aim therefore at re-launch these general discussions and prepare the future of phytolith description, naming and taxonomy.

### **Organizing committee for the ICPN workshop**

Dr. Luc Vrydaghs ULB-CReA-Patrimoine Université libre de Bruxelles Belgium	Prof. Dr. Katharina Neumann Institut für Archäologische Wissenschaften Goethe-Universität Germany	Dr. Alexandre Chevalier Royal Belgian Institute of Natural Sciences Belgium
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### **Scientific committee for the ICPN workshop**

Luc Vrydaghs (chairman, CReA, Université Libre de Bruxelles, Belgium), Marco Madella (past president, ICREA, Universitat Pompeu Fabra, Spain), Caroline Stromberg (Dep. Of Biology, University of Washington), Laurent Bremond (EPHE, Sciences de la Vie et de la Terre, Université de Montpellier, France), Rosa Maria Albert (ICREA/Universitat de Barcelona, Spain)

### **Organizing committee the ICPM workshop**

Dr. Alexandre Chevalier Royal Belgian Institute of Natural Sciences Belgium	Prof. Terry Ball Dep. of Ancient Scripture Brigham Young University Provo, UT, USA	Dr. Luc Vrydaghs ULB-CReA-Patrimoine Université libre de Bruxelles Belgium
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### **Scientific organizer**

Terry Ball, chairman. Brigham Young University (provo, UT)

## 2. INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE FOR PHYTOLITH MORPHOMETRY MEETING

The ICPM meeting is intended for its member only. For more information, please contact its chairman, Prof. Terry Ball.

**Monday September 8<sup>th</sup> morning**

## 3. INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE FOR PHYTOLITH NOMENCLATURE MEETING

**Monday September 8<sup>th</sup> afternoon**

13:30 - 15:00 Keynote Conference

15:00 – 15:20 Coffee Break

15:20 - 17:00 Current issues in phytolith description, naming, attribution and taxonomy

**Tuesday September 9<sup>th</sup>**

9:00 – 10:40 Specific small group exercises on assigned materials using the available codes

10:40 – 11:00 Coffee Break

11:00 – 12:30 General discussion on small group's findings and issues related with the available codes

12:30 – 13:30 Lunch break at “Horloge du Sud” (map 1, #13)

13:30 - 15:00 Small group exercises on own participants materials using the available codes

15:00 – 15:20 Coffee Break

15:20 - 16:30 Shaping the future of the phytolithes: description, naming, attribution and taxonomy. Creation of a standing committee on nomenclature. Creation of an internet plate-form/database. Collaboration with the Distributed European School of Taxonomy, and other taxonomy associations

## 4. CALL FOR INTEREST

The two organizing committee invites you to contribute to their respective meeting by sending back your initial comments regarding the ICPN and the ICPM, or any other code available by email to: [PhytoNomenclature@gmail.com](mailto:PhytoNomenclature@gmail.com)

## 5. REGISTRATION FEES

Registration fees include the coffee breaks, lunch and materials. There are no discounted rates.

	Early fees (June 30 <sup>th</sup> )	Late fees (after July 1 <sup>st</sup> )
ICPM, Monday Sept 8 <sup>th</sup> morning & lunch	20€	30€
ICPN, Monday Sept. 8 <sup>th</sup> afternoon and Tuesday. 9 <sup>th</sup>	30€	50€

The relevant information for paying the fees can be found on the registration form available at <http://9impr.ulb.ac.be/>

## 6. VENUE - HOW TO GET THERE

### **Venue**

Royal Belgian Institute of Natural Sciences  
29, rue Vautier  
1000 Brussels  
<http://www.naturalsciences.be>

### **Traveling to Brussels**

#### By plane

Brussels International Airport (BRU) offers flights to and from all major European and International destinations. It is located some 14km away from the city center. Taxi operate at fixed rate from the airport to city center (36€), but according to traffic condition you may prefer to take the train to one of the Brussels railways station ([www.b-rail.be](http://www.b-rail.be)) according to the location of your hotel, or the Airport Express bus (<http://www.stib.be/airport-line.html?l=en>) and then a city bus to reach your destination. An alternative is to fly to Brussels South-Charleroi (CRL), which is an hub for RyanAir. It is located 1 hour south of Brussels and you have to take a bus shuttle to the South (“Midi”) Railways station in Brussels (about 15€ one way).

#### By train

There are several railway stations in Brussels. Brussels South (Bruxelles Midi) is the main stop for high speed train Eurostars from UK, TGV from France, as well as Thalys from France, Germany and Netherlands. For all the possibilities, check <http://www.b-rail.be/int/E/> for timetables and rates.

#### By car

Traffic in Brussels is hectic...and rated as one of the most congested city of the world. So it is maybe not the best option to use. The RBINS does have two parking lots available for visitors, but it is unsafe to leave there any vehicle overnight.

## 7. LOCAL TRANSPORTATION

The Brussels public transportation network system is dense, good (although not always on time), and quite cheap ([www.stib.be](http://www.stib.be)). Upon your arrival you can purchase a ten journey card at one of the vending machines if you have cash, or at metro station desks (Railways stations). You can travel for one hour on all the network once you have validated your card inside the stations or buses, but you need to revalidate your ticket every time you’re getting in a bus/tram/metro. Note that the airport express bus does have a specific rate. As a healthy, though challenging (because of the traffic and slopes) alternative, you may use the public bicycle system ([www.villo.be](http://www.villo.be)).

All the indicated buses in the lodging section to reach the venue, the Royal Belgian Institute of Natural Science, better known as the “Museum”(of natural sciences...) arrive either at the “Idalie”, “Luxemburg” or “Museum” stops. See Map 2 for directions.

## 8. ACCOMMODATION

There are many hotels in Brussels, in all categories, including youth hostels. The organizing committee has negotiated specific rates with following hotels, by star rating.

**Maxhotel\*\*\*** ([www.maxhotel.be](http://www.maxhotel.be)), map 1 (#1)

From 62 € per night

Downtown. From the hotel take the metro at the “Rogier” station (5 min walk), direction “Roi Baudouin” (line 6) or Simonis (line 2), get off at “Porte de Namur”, and from there take any bus to the “Luxembourg” square across the street (34, 38, 64, 95, 80: 2 stops).

**Hotel Astrid\*\*\*** ([www.astridhotel.be](http://www.astridhotel.be)), map 1 (#2)

From 84 € per night

Downtown.

**Hotel Aris\*\*\*** ([www.arishotel.be](http://www.arishotel.be)), map 1 (#3)

From 92€ per night.

Just off the World Heritage “Grand Place” of Brussels. From the hotel walk to the “De Brouckère” square and bus stop, and take the bus 38 to the “Luxembourg” square.

**Hotel Alma\*\*\*** ([www.almahotel.be](http://www.almahotel.be)), map 1 (#4)

From 99€ per night, **no breakfast provided** but hot beverages and breads available.

Between the World Heritage “Grand Place” of Brussels and the Fine Arts Museum Compound (Magritte, Old Music Instruments, Fine Arts). From the hotel walk to the “Central Station” stop (and railway station), and take the bus 38 to the “Luxembourg” square.

To book in one of these “3 Stars hotel” (Max, Astrid, Aris, Alma) go to their respective website, and use the code **9IMPR** when entering your dates, then **select the CORPO rate** (only visible when using the 9IMPR code on the hotel homepage), and then select your “extra” such as the buffet breakfast (good value!).

You’ll get a 10% discount on the current prices and will have the possibility to cancel or modify your reservation free of charge till 24h00 before arrival. Be aware that there are cheaper options on their website but you may not be able to cancel your reservation and/or pay fees for any modification. Be consumer aware... **These rates are on the First Come First Serve basis.**

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**Hôtel Chambord\*\*\***, map 1 (#5)

124,50 €/night

Between downtown and the Museum. From the hotel, cross the boulevard and take the bus 34, 64, or 80 to the “Luxembourg” square. Walk across the EU Parliament building and the Museum is just behind.

Or 15 minutes walk directly to the Museum.

**Le Renaissance\*\*\*\***, map 1 (#6)

From 90 to 140€ according to the day of the week.

Just off the “Luxembourg” square, at a walking distance from the conference venue.

To book in one of these two hotels use the simple-to-use reservation website of our housing partner, the Brussels Booking Desk: <https://secure.hotel.visitbrussels.be?package=294>, or call the Brussels Booking Desk : +32 2 563 61 04 (Monday to Friday, during office hours, CMT)

**Official Hotel Event Rates expires on Friday, August 8th, 2014.**

### **Hotel Bloom\*\*\*\*, map 1 (#7)**

From 96 to 126€ according to the day of the week.

Just off downtown, overlooking the city centre.

From the hotel take the metro at the “Botanique” station (5 min walk), direction “Roi Baudouin” (line 6) or Simonis (line 2), get off at “Porte de Namur”, and from there take any bus to the “Luxembourg” square across the street (34, 38, 64, 95, 80: 2 stops). Walk across the EU Parliament building and the Museum is just behind.

To book this hotel, use the Resotel link [www.resotel.be/phytolithresearch2014](http://www.resotel.be/phytolithresearch2014) to be connected with the on-line booking system for the 9<sup>th</sup> IMPR participants.

**Official Hotel Event Rates expires on Friday, August 8th, 2014.**

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### **Other possibilities (no specific conference rate):**

- **The U-Residence**, map 1 (#8)  
€75 for single and €100 for double.  
In the Dutch speaking campus of the Free University of Brussels. No breakfast available, and few restaurant around. But a small kitchen available. It could be a good value according to hotel availability and prices in Brussels.  
To book: [www.u-residence.be](http://www.u-residence.be)  
From the U-Residence, either walk or take any streetcar in any direction for one stop. If getting off at “Etterbeek gare” take the bus 95 to “De Brouckère” up to “Idalie” or “Luxembourg” square. If getting off with the street car at “Arsenal”, take the bus 34 to “Porte de Namur” up to “Museum”
- **The White Hotel** (now part of the Accor Hotels Group), map 1 (#9)
- From 97€. On the Louise Avenue.  
From the hotel walk 50m to the Vleurgat bus stop and take the bus 38 direction “De Brouckère” and get off at either “Idalie” or “Luxembourg”.

Finally, a very limited quantity of rooms (2 single rooms @ 25€ and 2 double rooms @ 40€) will also be available at the Royal Belgian Institute of Natural Sciences guesthouse within the premises of the museum itself: priority will be given to students from low income countries participant. No breakfast provided but a small kitchen is available to guests. To request such a room please send a message to : [9thIMPR@gmail.com](mailto:9thIMPR@gmail.com) with the headline “Gest house RBINS” and state the reasons (professional status, country of origin) for your request, as well as your agreement to share a room with a same-sex colleague if necessary.

**PLEASE note that the above mentioned hotel rates are subject to change and are only indicative**

## **10. PARTNERS**

### **Scientific partners**

Royal Belgian Institute for Natural Sciences (RBINS) ; Centre of Archaeological Research and Heritage of the Free University of Brussels (CReA – Heritage ULB), Research Team in Archaeo and PalaeoSciences (ROOTS), Brussels Heritage Department, Goethe Universität.

### **Sponsors**

Royal Belgian Institute for Natural Sciences (RBINS) ; Free University of Brussels (ULB); Brussels Capital Region; and others in process....

## 11. IMPORTANT DATES

### **23<sup>rd</sup> April**

First circular with information regarding workshops, lodging, travel and workshop fees.

### **31<sup>st</sup> May 2014**

Deadline for your registration.

Deadline for early fees payment.

**July 15<sup>th</sup> 2014** Second Circular with pre-final program.

**August 15<sup>th</sup> 2014** Fourth Circular with final program.

## 12. CONTACT

For all your correspondence about the IMPR, please use our email: [PhytoNomenclature@gmail.com](mailto:PhytoNomenclature@gmail.com), and **NOT** the ones of the Organizing Committee. For any additional information visit our website <http://9impr.ulb.ac.be/>