



3rd Palaeontological Virtual Congress

Book of Abstracts

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Book of Abstracts

Palaeontology in the virtual era

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Main Menu

Preface

Support

Organizing
Committee

Scientific
Committee

Keynote
Presentations

Virtual
Palaeontology

Palaeontological
Heritage

Conservation
Paleobiology

Multiple
Perceptions

Palynology

Taiwan

Molecular
Palaeontology

Life &
Environment

Palaeozoic

Mesozoic

Cenozoic

General
Palaeontology

Virtual
Field Trips

Keynote Presentations



PALAEOECOLOGICAL INTERPRETATIONS FROM FOSSIL BONE MICROSTRUCTURE

A. Chinsamy-Turan



A JURASSIC GEOTHERMAL SYSTEM IN PATAGONIA (ARGENTINA)

I. H. Escapa



THE ORIGIN AND EARLY EVOLUTION OF ORGAN SYSTEMS

X. Ma



OVERVIEW OF VERTEBRATE FOSSILS FROM PORTUGAL, FOCUS ON MESOZOIC DINOSAURS

O. Mateus



MELANIN THROUGH DEEP TIME

M. McNamara



PLEISTOCENE MAMMALIAN FOOTPRINTS NEAR THE CITY

K. Moreno



PECCARIES AS A WINDOW INTO PALEOBIOLOGY

D. R. Prothero





OVERVIEW OF VERTEBRATE FOSSILS FROM PORTUGAL, FOCUS ON MESOZOIC DINOSAURS

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Portugal, Lusitanian Basin, Dinosaurs, Paleontological Heritage, Societal impacts



Born in 1975 in Portugal, Octávio Mateus is Associated Professor of Paleontology in the Faculdade de Ciências e Tecnologia -Universidade Nova de Lisboa [NOVA University of Lisbon]. His education background is Biology (Graduated from University of Évora) and Paleontology (PhD from the Univ. Nova de Lisboa, in 2005). His main interest is dinosaur paleontology, so he has studied Late Jurassic dinosaurs of Portugal, but also worked in other reptiles (mosasaurs, plesiosaurs, crocodiles, turtles, etc.). Author of more than 200 scientific articles, conferences proceedings, and book chapters. He erected more than 30 new taxa to Science, as the *Lourinhanosaurus antunesi* (1998), *Dinheirosaurus lourinhanensis* (1999), *Tangvayosaurus hoffeti* (1999), *Draconyx loureiroi* (2001), *Lusotitan atalaiensis* (2003), *Europasaurus holgeri* (2006), *Allosaurus europaeus* (2006), *Diceratus* (2008), *Microceratus* (2008), *Prognathodon kianda* (2008), *Miragaia longicollum* (2009), *Angolachelys mbaxi* (2010), *Angolatitan adamastor* (2011), *Lusonectes sauvagei* (2012), *Torvosaurus gurneyi* (2014), *Zby atlanticus* (2014), among others. He lives in Lourinhã, where he is engaged with the Museum of the Lourinhã, known for its important dinosaur collection. Since 1991, Octávio Mateus has organized dinosaur bones, tracks and eggs excavations in Portugal. He and the team collected many dinosaurs and other vertebrates, including sauropods, theropods, stegosaurs, crocodiles, and turtles. One of his main scientific project is in Angola, where he discovered the first dinosaur from that country, in the scope of a paleontology project on vertebrates of Angola, the PaleoAngola Project, with geologists and paleontologists from Angola, Southern Methodist University (USA) and Natuurhistorisch Museum in Maastricht (Netherlands). His interest for dinosaurs has taken him to the United States, Brazil, Greenland, Laos, Tunisia, Mozambique, Mongolia, Morocco, South Africa and Angola. Since the age of four, Octávio has searched for dinosaur fossils with his parents co-founders of the Museum of Lourinhã. They raised Octávio in Lourinhã, an area rich in Late Jurassic dinosaurs and, very early in his career, Octávio excavated a dinosaur nest with them, finding embryos inside the eggs. Member no. 1 and founder of the Sociedade Portuguesa de Paleontologia.

Sedimentary rocks cover about one fifth of Portugal and a smaller fraction of that is fossiliferous. The Lusitanian basin Triassic to Cretaceous rocks provided thousands of fossils, from plants, microfossils, invertebrates and vertebrates. Dinosaurs are known in the country since 1863. The most productive formations are the Late Jurassic Lourinhã and Alcobaça Formation, and the Cretaceous Papo Seco Formation. This includes an outstanding abundance of Jurassic mammals and bones and eggs and tracks of dinosaurs. Some highlights are: The Upper Triassic temnospondyl *Metoposaurus*, the Lower Jurassic plesiosaur *Plesiopharos*, the Upper Jurassic: dinosaurs bones from Lourinhã (*Lourinhanosaurus*, *Torvosaurus*, *Dinheirosaurus*, *Lusotitan*, *Zby*, *Miragaia*), the dinosaurs eggs and tracks and the mammals from Guimarota. The Lower Cretaceous provided the theropod *Baryonyx*, and the Upper Cretaceous the crocodile *Portugalosuchus*. The Cenozoic is rich in Miocene vertebrates and pleistocene and quaternary fauna. The ziphiid cetacean *Globicetus* shows evolutionary curiosities. In some cases, such as in Lourinhã, paleontology drastically changed the region and brought positive impacts in the society.

