

FIFTH INTERNATIONAL SYMPOSIUM ON EXTANT AND FOSSIL CHAROPHYTES

University of Rostock, Germany

23 - 26 September 2008
(21 September to 1 October
including optional field trips and workshops)

Second Circular



Contact

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Please use the subject: **IRGC-Symposium** for any mail relating to the meeting!!

Information about Rostock

Eight hundred years of history have shaped Rostock, the “*Gateway to the North.*” Rostock has preserved much of the charm that it possessed as one of the most important members of the **Hanseatic League**. The gabled houses dominating the skyline attest to this, as well as the imposing brick warehouses, massive gates and fortifications, and awe-inspiring churches. They all bear eloquent witness to the wealth of the city’s medieval merchants. Rostock has kept its importance as a trade centre to this day, as well as its status as a college town. Its **university**, founded in 1419, is the oldest in Northern Europe.

You can find more information about Rostock, one of Germany’s historical highlights at:
<http://www.hhog.de/4403.html>

Organizing Committee

Dr Irmgard Blindow, University of Greifswald, blindi@uni-greifswald.de
Prof. Hendrik Schubert, University of Rostock, hendrik.schubert@uni-rostock.de

Themes of the Symposium

1. Phylogeny of charophytes: relationship with other Algae and plants.
2. Evolution of charophytes.
3. Systematics of modern taxa.
4. Charophytes and the restoration of water-bodies: conservation and management.
5. Molecular studies.
6. Ecology of modern taxa.
7. Biogeographical studies.
8. Charophytes and physiology.
9. Fossil charophytes: systematics, extinction, and biostratigraphy.
10. Palaeolimnology: use of extant taxa as modern analogues for palaeoenvironmental reconstruction
11. Quaternary studies: charophytes and climate change.
12. Geochemistry using charophytes.

Any other topic related to modern or fossil charophytes will be welcome.

Program

Pre-symposium excursion on extant charophytes: Sunday 21 to Tuesday 23 September

Extant charophytes (freshwater and brackish water). The excursion starts with a get-together in Thomsdorf, Feldberger Seenplatte (90 km north of Berlin, 1.5 h by train) on Sunday evening. Participants to this excursion will be picked up from **Penzlau** train station, and will receive detailed information about how to reach Thomsdorf. Accommodation is in double rooms.

Monday: half-day field trip (calcium-rich freshwater lakes), half-day determination of the collected charophytes. Tuesday: Transport by bus to charophyte locations in the Baltic Sea. Arrival in Rostock.

Excursion fee: 100 Euro (including meals/double rooms).

Symposium in Rostock: Tuesday 23 to Friday 26 September

Tuesday 23 September: Get-together in Rostock (evening).

Wednesday 24 September: Scientific sessions (oral presentations / posters) 10:00 h to 18:00 h.

Thursday 25 September: Scientific sessions (oral presentations / posters) 10:00 h to 16:00 h. Guided tour through the city of Rostock. Conference dinner at a local restaurant (not included in the symposium fee).

Friday 26 September: Scientific sessions (oral presentations / posters) 10:00 h to 18:00 h.

Post-symposium determination workshop: Saturday 27 to Sunday 28 September

Saturday 27 September: there will be the opportunity to examine both fresh and herbarium material of charophytes at the university of Rostock. Everybody is welcome to bring charophyte material to this “general” workshop!

Sunday 28 September: there will be a “specialist” workshop dealing with “tricky” taxa / species complex. One such “tricky” group will be *Chara hispida – rudis – intermedia – aculeolata – baltica – horrida – liljebladii – polyacantha*. Anybody who is interested in any other “tricky” group is invited to coordinate the determination of this group – please let us know!

Post-symposium excursions: fossil (and extant) charophytes to the island of Gotland, Sweden, Saturday 27 September to Wednesday 1 October

The oldest known Charophytes (425 million years old gyrogonites) can be found on Gotland. This beautiful island further offers a number of lakes and small water bodies with many extant charophytes.

Saturday 27 September: departure from Rostock by ferry 22:45 h. The overnight ferries include comfortable 2-bed cabins.

Sunday 28 September: arrival in Trelleborg / Sweden 06:15 h, transport by bus to Nynäshamn, ferry to Gotland 16:20 h, arrival in Visby 19:10 h. Accommodation in field station or cottages.

Monday 29 September: fossil charophytes and cultural program on Gotland.

Tuesday 30 September: extant charophytes on Gotland

Wednesday 1 October: Departure from Visby 07:20 h by ferry, arrival in Oskarshamn 10:20 h, transport by bus to Trelleborg, ferry to Sassnitz / Germany 17:30 h, arrival in Sassnitz 21:30 h, transport by bus to Stralsund, accommodation in double rooms.

Excursion fee: 300 Euro

Sponsors

University of Rostock
International Research Group on Charophytes (IRGC)

Official language

The official language of the conference will be English.

Weather

The weather in the Baltic area is commonly very nice during September, around 15°C. Some rain, however, can occur.

Arrival at the symposium

Access to Thomsdorf (pre-symposium excursion)

If arriving at Frankfurt/Airport: the last opportunity to reach Thomsdorf is a train departing 15:30 h from Frankfurt Airport and arriving at **Prenzlau** 21:40 h. We will pick you up at the train station.

The best connection to Thomsdorf is from Berlin (not Hamburg). The last train to **Prenzlau** (90 km N of Berlin) departs from the main station in Berlin at 20:30 h. It takes about 1.5 h from the airport to the main station including buying tickets and asking people how to find the bus to the main station!

Access to Rostock

Rostock is situated at the south coast of the Baltic Sea. The city can be reached by train from the airports in Berlin (about 3 h) Hamburg (about 2 h) and Hamburg-Lübeck (about 3 h).

The last train from Frankfurt/Airport to Rostock departs at 16:40 h from the Airport station.

The last connection from Hamburg Airport (by bus to Hamburg main station and train to Rostock) allowing you to reach Rostock departs at 19:00 h from Hamburg Airport.

The last train from Berlin main station to Rostock departs at 20:40 h. It takes about 1.5 h from the airport to the main station including buying tickets and asking people how to find the bus to the main station!

Accommodation in Rostock

A large number of hotels are available in Rostock; Rostock University is located close to the city centre (walking distance), see the list of hotels attached. **Please arrange your accommodation in Rostock individually!**

Fees and registration

Registration includes a copy of the abstract volume and social activities.

Attending members: 50 Euro (excursions excluded)

Students: 25 Euro (excursions excluded)

Accompanying members: 25 Euro (excursions excluded)

Pre-symposium excursion (Thomsdorf): 100 Euro

Post-symposium excursion (Gotland): 300 Euro

Fees should be paid to:

University of Rostock, account number: 140 015 18 at Deutsche Bundesbank, Filiale Rostock, BIC: MARKDEF1130, IBAN: DE 26 1300 0000 0014 0015 18. For German participants: BLZ 130 000 00.

Important!!! Please note the following two further necessary specifications for payment: KTR 21401684, KZ 7116081003098

Your payment can otherwise not be identified as fee of the IRGC symposium.

Deadline for registration and payment: 15 March 2008

Deadlines for the submission of abstracts for oral presentations and posters: 15 May 2008

Abstract shall be not more than one page (A5), double spaced, using font Times new Roman 12 pt, and be organised as follows:

Title

Author(s)

Address(es) including e-mail address of corresponding author

Text of the abstract

Oral presentations will be 20 min + 5 min of discussion