

The Tenth International Workshop on Agglutinated Foraminifera, Smolenice Castle, Slovakia, April 19–23, 2017

Michael A. Kaminski¹ and Kamil Fekete²

¹*Geosciences Department, King Fahd University of Petroleum and Minerals,
P.O. Box 701, Dhahran 31261, Saudi Arabia
email: kaminski@kfupm.edu.sa*

²*Earth Science Institute, Slovak Academy of Sciences, Dúbravská cesta 9, 84005 Bratislava, Slovakia
email: kamil.fekete@savba.sk*

INTRODUCTION

In April of 2017, about 50 scientists and students met at the *Tenth International Workshop on Agglutinated Foraminifera* held in the Congress Centre of the Slovak Academy of Sciences in Smolenice Castle and hosted by colleagues from the Earth Science Institute.

The IWAF-10 held in Smolenice Castle was the successor to previous meetings held in Amsterdam (1981), Vienna (1986), Tübingen (1989), Kraków (1993), Plymouth (1997), Prague (2001), Urbino (2005), Cluj-Napoca (2008), and Zaragoza (2012). The meeting consisted of three days of technical sessions and two days of field excursions. The main idea of the IWAF meetings is to provide an informal forum for scientists to meet and present their latest investigations on largest and most widely distributed group of foraminifera. Participants gave

more than 25 oral presentations concerning agglutinated foraminifera. Topics included classification, systematics and taxonomy, test structure, wall mineralogy, taphonomy and paleoecology, paleobathymetry, biostratigraphy, modern DWAF, molecular biology, laboratory culturing, etc.

The meeting was held in friendly surroundings with the participation of many people who attended previous IWAF meetings, and who also welcomed new researchers to the IWAF group. The abstract volume of the IWAF-10 meeting was published in 2017 as a Grzybowski Foundation Special Publication, and is available to freely download through the GF website. The abstract volume was dedicated to the memory of two great pioneers of Micropaleontology in Slovakia – Josef Salaj and Ondrej Samuel. The technical sessions were opened with welcome speeches of directors of the Earth Science Institute and the



TEXT-FIGURE 1

Participants of the Tenth International Workshop on Agglutinated Foraminifera at Smolenice Castle, April 2017.

I

State Geological Institute of Dionýz Štúr. They were followed by introductory lectures of Jozef Michalík on the Meso/Cenozoic history of the Western Carpathians and Miroslav Bubík on the contributions of Czechoslovak foraminiferal micropaleontologists to agglutinated foraminiferal research. The technical sessions, accompanied by demonstration of foraminiferal collections from Micropress Europe Kraków, ended with a discussion forum designed to identify research areas and establish new collaborative studies. The Conference Dinner was followed by live music provided by a local folk band.

During the IWAF excursion, 16 representative sites of the Mesozoic, Paleogene and Neogene formations of the Western Carpathians were visited. The scientific studies of the presented geological formations also resulted in a comprehensive monograph: Soták J., Hudáčková N., Michalík J., Fekete K., Józsa Š., Plašienka D., Ruman A. and Rybár S., 2017: *Microfauna and biostratigraphy of the Mesozoic and Cenozoic formations of the Western Carpathians: Guidebook of the IWAF-10 field trip to Middle Váh Valley and Malé Karpaty Mts.* VEDA, Publishing house of the Slovak Academy of Sciences, 170 pp.

This volume contains selected papers that were presented at the IWAF-10 meeting. The article on the Jurassic biostratigraphy of Saudi Arabia by G. Wyn Hughes, as well as the paper on the *T. hadai* invasion of San Francisco Bay by M. McGann were actually presented at previous IWAF meetings. We are honored to include these papers in the current proceedings volume. The current issue contains 13 papers on the topic of agglutinated foraminifera.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

The Organizing Committee worked together with enthusiasm and passion to make this meeting possible. We take this opportunity to gratefully acknowledge financial support from the Slovak Research and Development Agency (project APVV-14-0118), and our sponsors who supported this meeting and contributed to the organizational costs (The Grzybowski Foundation, Slovak Commission for UNESCO, Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs of the SR, UNESCO/IGCP 609, IGCP 632 projects, The Micropaleontological Society, Bratislava Tourist Board, Kreativika Microslides and Beta Analytic). We wish to thank to the Earth Science Institute of the Slovak Academy of Sciences, Faculty of Natural Sciences of Comenius University, State Geological Institute of Dionýz Štúr and Slovak Geological Society for providing all necessary support for the IWAF-10 meeting. Special thanks goes to Micropaleontology Press for the opportunity to publish the proceedings of the conference in *Micropaleontology*, and to all the reviewers who ensured the papers represent the highest possible quality. We wish to sincerely thank all those who helped with different aspects of this meeting – and we hope to see you at the next IWAF, which will be held in 2020 at the offices of Micropress Europe in Kraków.