

THE 6TH INTERNATIONAL SYMPOSIUM ON THE JURASSIC SYSTEM AND ITS PROCEEDINGS

Since the first edition of the International Symposium on the Jurassic System held in Erlangen in 1984 and mainly devoted to ammonite biostratigraphy, more and more the ISJS became a wider aimed meeting where the focus is a time period with all its aspects. This makes scientists from very different fields of Earth Sciences to meet in an international and multidisciplinary environment, resulting in lively and fertile discussions.

The 6th ISJS was organized by Giulio Pavia (Torino University) in mid-September 2002. More than 200 people convened to Mondello, near Palermo in Sicily, both to join the large field trip program and to contribute in the scientific sessions that were hosted at the Centro Congressi La Torre from 16 to 19 September. The participants had in fact the possibility to spend four sunny days on the blue sea of the Mondello Bay. In many occasions they also enjoyed outstanding cultural attractions and the Sicilian cuisine that was sublimated in some country lunches and in the social dinner organized in the fascinating atmosphere of the old Palermo.

From the scientific point of view, the numerous field trips were organized in two intervals. The pre-Symposium Fieldtrip was aimed to introduce the Jurassic geology of western Sicily giving an overview of the different paleogeographical domains of such a western Tethys sector. Four post-Symposium Fieldtrips were also organized, two focussed on the Trapanese and Saccense Domains, other two visiting some classical Jurassic sections in Central Apennines and Southern Alps. A great effort resulted in the publication of a volume edited by Massimo Santantonio (Roma University) that was distributed to all the participants. The field trip volume is a huge collection of mostly unpublished data, that derive from researches of a national group coordinated by G. Pavia and funded by the Italian University Ministry. Part of these data generated some of the notes collected in the present volume; some others need widening for future publication.

As to the scientific sessions, more than 200 abstracts were submitted and compelled the organisation of three parallel sessions and two periods of poster display. The scientific program was organized in six topical sessions, that highlighted the multidisciplinary character of the meeting: (1) Jurassic tectonics and sedimentation. (2) Taphonomy, facies and paleoenvironmental analysis. (3) Jurassic organisms in space and time. (4) Integrated stratigraphy. (5) Paleooceanography and paleobiogeography. (6) Geoconservation: protecting Jurassic fossils, sites and science.

Four plenary sessions were dedicated to lectures of outstanding scientists concerning aspects of Jurassic stratigraphy. Jobst Wendt (Tübingen) gave a fascinating and unforgettable picture of how Sicilian geology and society appeared in the Sixties. Raimondo Catalano (Palermo) illustrated the complex structural arrangement of the Sicilian chain. John Callomon (London) made the point of two centuries of progresses in Jurassic bio-chronostratigraphy. Gerd Westermann (Hamilton) discussed on ammonoid biogeography integrating ecology, phylogeny and oceanography aspects.

The President of the 6th ISJS would conclude this presentation first stating that the Symposium can be confidentially introduced as a highly positive scientific performance; this is proved, if further necessary, by the collection of the papers published in this volume of the prestigious Italian periodical. Second, it must remind that the meeting would not have been possible without the activity of the Organizing Committee among which the coordinators Rodolfo Coccioni, Stefano Cresta, Piero Di Stefano, Luca Martire, Umberto Nicosia, Guido Parisi.

Giulio Pavia
President of the 6th ISJS

This special issue of the Rivista Italiana di Paleontologia e Stratigrafia consists of 45 original papers presented at the 6th International Symposium on Jurassic System.

These papers can be grouped in two categories: in fact the first part of the volume deals with topics regarding the geo-paleontological knowledges of the Jurassic period, whilst the second part of the volume is focussed on geo-conservatio of Jurassic geo-paleontological sites.

The subjects dealt by Italian and foreigner Authors involve multidisciplinary approach to stratigraphy with notable contributions on new biostratigraphic data, biozonations, stratigraphic correlations, boundaries definitions, palaeobiogeography and palaeoenvironments of several geological areas in Europe, America, Asia and Africa.

This volume represents an important tool for global correlations based on biostratigraphic, sedimentological and geodynamic data emphasizing new paleogeographic features. These several contributions, accompanied by wide and new iconographic documentation, represent an indispensable synthesis for a modern integrated biostratigraphic approach.

One of the main developed topic of this volume regards the definition of the main boundaries of Jurassic period dealt with biostratigraphic, physical and chemical methods. Furthermore, several papers give new data on paleoecological and paleoenvironmental reconstructions of the different Jurassic facies. The last part of the volume is dedicated to the inventory of representative documents, modelling and characterisation of the essential controlling factors, inventory of representative sites for the studied geoevents, selection of geosites, proposal of olistic formats for a typologic inventory and for evaluation of the thematic geodiversity. This is linked to the Geosites IUGS program, which develops a geoconservation strategy aimed to the protection of "geological monuments".

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The Guest-Editor appreciates the patience of the Authors in waiting for the publication of this volume, but believes that it can be justified by the quality and significance of the final product.

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*Guido Parisi,
Guest Editor*