Section of Paleontology of the Moscow Society of Naturalists in 2009

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In 2009 the Section of Paleontology of the Moscow Society of Naturalists (MSN) held 11 meetings as part of the following five conferences: the Annual Meeting of the Section and the Moscow Division of the Paleontological Society at the Russian Academy of Sciences “Paleostrat–2009” (2 sessions, 30 reports); the Second All-Russia Conference “Modern Problems in Studying Cephalopod Mollusks: Morphology, Systematics, Evolution, Ecology, and Biostratigraphy,” commemorating V.E. Ruzhencev’s 110th birthday (2 sessions, 32 reports); the 6th Regular All-Russia Scientific School of Young Professional Paleontologists (49th Conference of Young Paleontologists of the Moscow Society of Naturalists), discussing the same topic as in the previous five schools, i.e., “Modern Paleontology: Classical and Recent Methods” (3 sessions, 35 reports, including 6 talks of leading specialists); the All–Russia Conference “200 Years of Domestic Paleontology” (3 sessions, 72 reports); and the conference commemorating R.L. Merklin’s 100th birthday (1 session, 7 reports). The Section and the Paleontological Society took part in the arranging and holding of all preparation conferences, A.A. Borissiak Paleontological Institute of the Russian Academy of Sciences (PIN) took part in four conferences, i.e., in all except for “Paleostrat–2009,” the Chair of Paleontology of the Geological Department of the Moscow State University (MGU) participated in the arrangement of three conferences, the Chair of Paleontology of the Geological Department of the St. Petersburg State University (SPbGU) and the Program of the Presidium of the Russian Academy of Sciences “Origin Biosphere and Evolution of Geobiological Systems” participated in the arrangement of the conference on cephalopod mollusks, and this same program and two others (“Support of Young Scientists” and “Biodiversity and Dynamics of Gene Pools”) contributed to the holding of the School.

Since its first issue in 1959 Paleontological Journal has annually issued a brief report on the annual activities of the Section of Paleontology of MSN with a complete list of titles of the talks delivered. This time, we restrict themselves to the names of speakers with affiliations because of the record high number of talks in 2009 (176) and because Bulletin of Moscow Society of Naturalists, Series Geology lists the talks with dates and titles. Based on the materials of all conferences except for the latter, collections of papers containing extended abstracts of almost all reports were published (except for the talks and lectures delivered in the School). Short papers based on the materials of the conference in memory of R.L. Merklin are published in “Bulletin of Moscow Society of Naturalists,” and the main paper about the life and activity of Merklin (L.A. N e v e s s k a j a et al.) was published in Paleontological Journal, 2009, no. 6.

The most general problems of the development of science were dealt with in two reports by S.S. L a z a - r e v (PIN). The most general conclusions in the region of geology were reached in the talk delivered by A.S. A l e k s e e v (MGU, PIN) “The International Stratigraphic Scale and the Scale of Geological Time”; in the region of biology (including palaeontology), in the talks delivered by V.I. K r a s n o v (Novosibirsk, Siberian Research Institute of Geology, Geophysics, and Mineral Resources, SNIIGGiMS) and A.P. R a s n i t s y n (PIN) on the theory of evolution, by A.V. M a r k o v (PIN) and A.V. P o p o v (SPbGU) on the development of the Phanerozoic biosphere, and by V.V. M a l a k h o v (MGU) on a new system of Bilateria. The relationships between paleontology and geology were discussed by V.A. Z a k h a r o v (Geological Institute, Russian Academy of Sciences, GIN), A.I. Z h a m o i d a and V.G. L e p e k h i n (All-Russia Research Institute of Geology, VSEGEI) discussed poorly studied groups of organisms as an unused reserve of stratigraphic paleontology. The current state and prospects of micropaleontology were analyzed by V.S. V i s h n e v s k a y a (GIN).

The problems of the methodology of investigations were discussed in presentations by M.A. R o g o v (GIN), A.P. I p p o l i t o v (PIN, then GIN), M.V. P o l y a k o v a (Bibliotheca of Natural Sciences, Russian Academy of Sciences, Sciences, BEN), A.E. N e l i k h o v (Paleomir journal), A.V. Guzhov (PIN), E.V. K a r a s e v (PIN), V.I. P o l e t a e v (Kiev, Inst. Geol. Nauk Natsional. Akad. Nauk Ukrainy, IGN NAN Ukr.), and A.V. P a k h n e v i c h (PIN).

Paleontological instruction and education were discussed in the talk of V.B. S e l ’ t s e r and A.V. I v a n o v (Saratov State University), in the two talks of S.V. P e t u k h o v (Dedovsk Moscow Region, Museum of the History of Universe), and in the talks of V.M. E f i m o v (Ulyanovsk, Undory Paleontological Museum, UPM) and V.M. N a z a r o v a and E.M. T e s a k o v a (MGU).
Many reports dealt with the history of paleontology. The authors of talks not concerning particular taxa were A.S. Alekseev (MGU, PIN), I.A. Starodubtseva (Vernadsky State Geological Museum, GGM), A.V. Kanygin (Novosibirsk, Trofimuk Institute of Oil and Gas Geology and Geophysics, Siberian Division, Russian Academy of Sciences, INGG), I.N. Manankov (PIN), Yu.V. Saitvskii (SPbGU), I.S. Barskov, B.T. Yanin, O.B. Bondarenko, and I.A. Mikhailova (MGU), T.N. Vorontsova (Warsaw, Institute of Geology), V.G. Kochenov (Anast, Eurasian National University), V.V. Silant’ev (Kazan State University, KGU), Z.A. Bessudnova (GGM), T.P. Mikhailskaya, E.V. Ivanchenko, and O.V. Yatsenko (Kiev, IGN NAN Ukr.), and M.G. Tsinoburova (St. Petersburg State Mining Institute). To this category, we assign for convenience all more general talks dealing with specialists in particular groups if these groups are unspecified in the titles of talks: these are presentations by T.B. Leonova (PIN) about V.E. Ruzhencev, by G.N. Kiseleva (SPbGU) about Z.G. Balashov, and also by L.A. Nesvesskaya, A.Yu. Rozanov, O.V. Amitrov, I.A. Goncharova, L.B. Il’ina, and S.V. Popov (PIN) about R.L. Merklin. The presentations about Merklin by I.M. Barg (Dnepropetrovsk University), A.I. Korobkov (VSEGEI), and O.V. Amitrov (PIN) should be considered as memorial rather than “systematic.”

Assemblages of organisms of the same age but of different systematic position were considered in the following talks: Vendian assemblages by M.A. Zakrevskaya (PIN); Vendian and Carboniferous assemblages by A.S. Alekseev, A.N. Reimers, O.A. Orlova (MGU), A.P. Ippolitov (PIN–GIN), V.P. Larchenko, V.A. Stepanov (Arkhangelsk, ALROSA), and by O.A. Lebedev (PIN); Paleozoic assemblages by L.G. Peregoedov, V.I. Krasnov, N.P. Kul’kov, and L.S. Ratanov (Novosibirsk, SNIIGGI)MS; Ordovician assemblages by A.V. Dronov (GIN); Devonian and Carboniferous assemblages by Yu.A. Gavtovskii, E.L. Zaitseva, L.I. Kononova, N.I. Krupina, D.A. Mamontov, S.A. Moloshnikov, O.A. Orlova, and A.L. Jurina (MGU); Carboniferous assemblages by V.A. Tsygankova (Volgograd, NIPIMornflot’); Permian assemblages by A.S. Byakov (Magadan, North-East Interdisciplinary Scientific Research Institute, Far East Division, Russian Academy of Sciences, SVKNII) and by I.N. Manankov (PIN); Paleophytic and Mesophytic assemblages by G.N. Sadoynikov (Moscow, Russian State Prospecting University, RGGRU) and M.A. Kozlova (Moscow, All-Russia Scientific Research Institute of Mineral Resources, VIMS); Jurassic and Cretaceous assemblages by S.Yu. Malenkina (GIN); Oligocene and Neogene assemblages by S.V. Popov (PIN), M.P. Antipov, E.E. Kurina (GIN), A.S. Zastrozhnov (VSEGEI), and T.N. Pinchuk (Krasnodar, Kuban’gazprom); Neogene assemblages by E.V. Beluzhenko (Essentuki, Sevkgavgeologya); Anthropogene assemblages by G.A. Danukalova (Ufa, Institute of Geology, Ufimian Scientific Center, Russian Academy of Sciences, IG) and by L.R. Merkin and A.G. Matul’ (Moscow, Institute of Oceanology, Russian Academy of Sciences).

Sixty-eight percents of talks were related to systematic groups. Two talks delivered by A.Yu. Ivan’tsov (PIN) dealt with Precambrian petalonamids. P.V. Medvedev (Petrozavodsk, Institute of Geology) discussed Paleoproterozoic microfossils; A.L. Ragozina, E.A. Serezhnikova, and A.V. Krayskikh (PIN) and D. Dorzhnamzhaa (Ulaanbaatar, Geological Institute, Mongolian Academy of Sciences) discussed the Vendian–Cambrian biota of Mongolia; and N.V. Novozhilova (Novosibirsk, INGG) discussed the Cambrian problematic hyolithelminthes.

M.V. Leonov (PIN) delivered a talk on Vendian Eoholyniacean algea. R.V. Medvedev, V.V. Makarikhin, and V.N. Kozhevnikov (Petrozavodsk, Institute of Geology) discussed Proterozoic stromatolite assemblages, and S.Yu. Malenkina (GIN) discussed Jurassic stromatolites. Five talks dealt with diatom algae (predominantly Cenozoic): N.I. Strelen’nikova (SPbGU) and T.V. Orekhina and E.P. Radionova (GIN); G.N. Aleksandrova and A.I. Yakovleva (GIN); Yu.F. Dubrochina and M.V. Usovtseva (Irkutsk, Limnological Institute); VS. Pushkar’, O.Yu. Likhacheva, and M.V. Cherepanova (Vladivostok, Far Eastern Institute of Geology, Far Eastern Division, Russian Academy of Sciences, DVGI); and S.V. Demidova (Minsk, Belarusian Research Geological Exploration Institute, BelINIGRI).

S.K. Pukhonto (GGM) delivered a talk on the history of paleobotany. In addition, Paleozoic higher plants were discussed by A.L. Jurina and O.A. Orlova (MGU); Devonian higher plants, by A.L. Jurina and O.A. Orlova (MGU) and N.V. Gordenko (PIN) and by N.V. Gordenko and A.V. Broushkin (PIN); Permian and Triassic higher plants, by S.V. Naugolnykh (GIN) and A.V. Broushkin (PIN); Cretaceous higher plants, by A.B. Sokolova (GIN); and Pleistocene higher plants, by I.S. Zyuganova (Institute of Geography, Russian Academy of Sciences). Devonian palynologic assemblages were discussed in two talks of V.N. Mantsurova (Volgograd, NIPIMornflot’), Permian palynologic assemblages were discussed in a talk of O.V. Makarova (KGU).

Of ten talks on protozoans three dealt with radiolarians (of all ages and Devonian); these talks were...