

TERRESTRIALIZATION AND THE RETURN TO THE SEA

Palaeoecological and adaptative perspectives for major shifts in the history of life

Venue

University of Mons
9 Rue du Houdain
7000 Mons Belgium

Dates

Meeting 26th-29th Jan 2016
Abstract due to 25th Sept 2015

Conveners

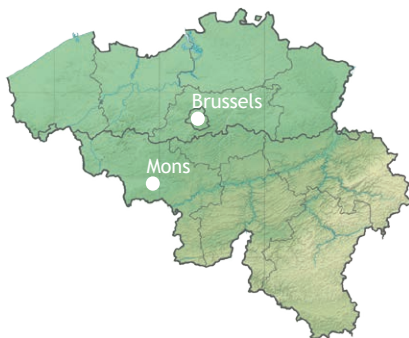
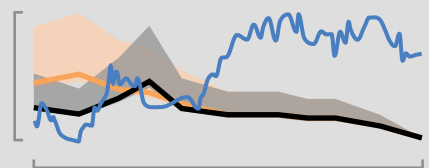
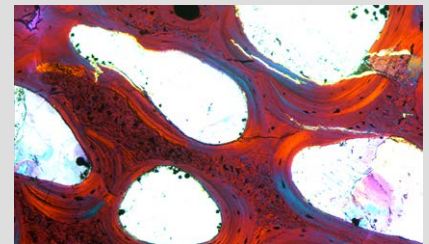
Olivier Lambert RBINS, BE
Alexandra Houssaye MNHN, FR
Valentin Fischer ULg, BE

Terrestrialization and the return to an aquatic environment are major steps of the history of life on Earth. Both phenomena occurred independently in a wealth of lineages of plants and animals, and resulted in the multiple and complex modern aquatic and terrestrial ecosystems. Considered together, they perfectly illustrate the idea that evolution is far from being straightforward.

The rich fossil record for many lineages having moved from one environment to the other and the recent methodological advances in palaeobiology provide a unique opportunity to analyze the causes and consequences of these profound habitat shifts. These transitions also constitute great models for the study of adaptations to new environments and related evolutionary processes, notably convergence.

This session aims at presenting new results in fields linked to the processes of terrestrialization and secondary adaptations to the aquatic environment. References to Belgian fossil faunas and floras will be promoted, but are certainly not mandatory.

We hope to see you in Mons for constructive exchanges of view, possibly around a few beers!



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