



Rise of Animal Life

Cambrian and Ordovician Biodiversification Events

*Promoting Geological Heritage:
 Challenges and Issues*

Marrakesh, Morocco, 5-10 October 2015

Organized by

The Faculty of Sciences and Technics, Marrakesh

Department of Earth and Sciences

Supporting organizers

(UNESCO)

United Nations, Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization

The International Geoscience Programme Project (IGCP 591)

The International Commission on Stratigraphy (ICS)

The International Union of Geological Sciences (IUG)

Second Circular RALI2015

Sponsored by



General information

The International Conference 'Rise of Animal Life: Cambrian and Ordovician biodiversification events. Promoting geological heritage: challenges and issues' RALI 2015 will be hosted by the Faculty of Sciences and Technics, Marrakesh, Department of Earth and Sciences, Marrakesh (Morocco). The formal theme of the meeting will be devoted to 'Cambrian and Ordovician radiations'. In conjunction with the conference, a special symposium dedicated to aspects of Geological Heritage will be held and will highlight associated educational, cultural and socio-economic issues. The captivating City of Marrakech offers an ideal setting for scientific gathering. The « Red City » boasts an exceptional cultural heritage and remarkable natural surroundings such the snow-capped High Atlas mountains, and its beautiful palm gardens.

The scientific sessions will be followed by a field trip as a 'Geotraverse of Central High Atlas and Anti-Atlas'. Besides its geological importance, the southern part of Morocco is one of the most attractive touristic areas. It shows diversified landscapes, from snowy mountains to desert plains. The High Atlas (3000-4000 m above sea level) forms a major climatic barrier to the Atlantic and saharian perturbations, which account for the arid climate of the Anti-Atlas sub-saharian domain south of the chain. This field trip will also offer participants the opportunity to visit fossil localities near Zagora, where the Fezouata Biota is currently being studied by an international team of scientists. In the Ternata plain (N. of Zagora), the Lower Ordovician succession (Fezouata Shale and Zini Sandstones) lies unconformably over the middle Cambrian Tabanite Group. The Fezouata Shale corresponds to a thick monotonous series (1000 m) of siltstones deposited under shallow offshore conditions (storm-wave influence).

The Fezouata Biota provides a unique insight into one of the most critical periods in the evolution of marine life: the Cambrian-Ordovician transition.

This international conference will focus on this crucial event, especially its timing, and possible processes and causes with special emphasis on the relationships between the 'Cambrian Explosion' and the subsequent 'Great Ordovician Biodiversification Event'.

Topical sessions

- Faunas, environments, triggers and drivers of the Cambrian and Ordovician biodiversification events.
- Cambrian and Ordovician exceptional biotas: taphonomy, palaeobiology, palaeoecology.
- Geological Heritage: challenges and issues.

Organizing committee:

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BACHNOU Ali (UCA, Morocco)
BOURGEOINI Yamina (UCA, Morocco)
EL HARIRI Khadija (UCA, Morocco)
GHAMIZI Mohammed (UCA, Morocco)
HAFID Ahmid (UCA, Morocco)
LAHLOU Abdelati (ICOMOS, Morocco)
LEFEBVRE Bertrand (Lyon, France)
MASROUR Moussa (UIZ, Morocco)
PRIEUR Abel (Lyon, France)
RJIMATI Ech-Cherki (MEM, Morocco)
ROBERT Emmanuel (Lyon, France)
SAIDI Abdellatif (UCA, Morocco)
SOULAIMANI Abderrahmane (UCA, Morocco)

Congress secretariat

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Scientific committee:

BOUTAKIOUT Mohamed (UM5, Morocco)
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DESTOMBES Jacques (Pessac, France)
EL HARIRI Khadija (UCA, Morocco)
GUTIERREZ-MARCO Juan-Carlos (Madrid, Spain)
HARPER David A.T. (Durham, UK)
JALIL Noureddine (MNHN) France
PITTET Bernard (Lyon, France)
SERVAIS Thomas (Lille, France)
VANDENBROUCKE Thijs (Lille, France)
VANNIER Jean (Lyon, France)
VAN ROY Peter (New Haven, USA)
VIDAL Muriel (Brest, France)

Keynote speakers

Prominent scholars are invited to deliver keynote lectures on the Cambrian and Ordovician radiation events:

AZZA Addi (Advisor Minister of Energy, Mines, Water and Environment, MOROCCO); BRIGGS Derek G. Evelyn Hutchinson (Professor of Geology and Geophysics at the Department of Geology and Geophysics, Yale university, New Haven, USA); CARON Jean-Bernard (Curator at the Royal Ontario Museum, Toronto and Associate Professor at the University of Toronto, CANADA); MAO YAN Zhu (Professor at the Nanjing Institute of Geology and Palaeontology, CHINA); HARPER David A.T. (Professor at Van Mildert College, Durham University, UNITED KINGDOM).

Conference venue

The conference will be held at the Mansour Eddahbi Congress Centre in the captivating City of Marrakesh.



Official conference language : English

(Talks in French with slides in English are accepted only in exceptional cases)

Hotels (pre-booked)

Very important! For your convenience we have pre-booked a selection of rooms in different hotels and different price categories in Marrakesh.

We have made pre-arrangements for two options. Option 1 consists in booking 4 consecutive nights in Marrakesh, from Oct. 4 to Oct. 7. Option 2 includes three 3 consecutive nights in Marrakesh (Oct. 5 to Oct. 7) and one night (Oct. 10) after the field trip. See program for more details.

We will spend two nights in Zagora and Ouarzazate which are included in the registration fees of the field trip.

All questions about accommodation should be directed to:

EL YAKOUT VOYAGES. Tél : 0522 30.25.48/61 – Fax : 0522.44.42.05

Samir BOUKENBOUCHE - bsamir@elyakoutvoyages.com. 06 61 82 64 97

Hotel Ryad Mogador Menara

www.ryadmogador.org/Menara.asp

Hotel Atlas Asni

www.hotelsatlas.com/index.php/villes/marrakech/atlas-asni-marrakech

Hotel Atlas Medina

www.atlasmedinaspamarrakech.com

Hotel Kenzi Farah

www.kenzi-hotels.com/kenzifarrah/default-fr.html

Hotel Ryad Mogador Opéra

www.ryadmogador.org

Important information

Deadline for early registration: April 30, 2015

Deadline for field trip reservations: April 30, 2015

Deadline for abstract submission: April 30, 2015

Deadline for decisions on abstracts: May 31, 2015

General Congress Program

Registration and Reception: 5 October 2015

Scientific Sessions: 5-7 October 2015

Post-Congress Field trip: 8-10 October 2015

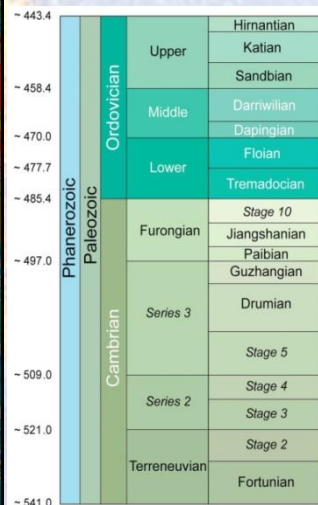
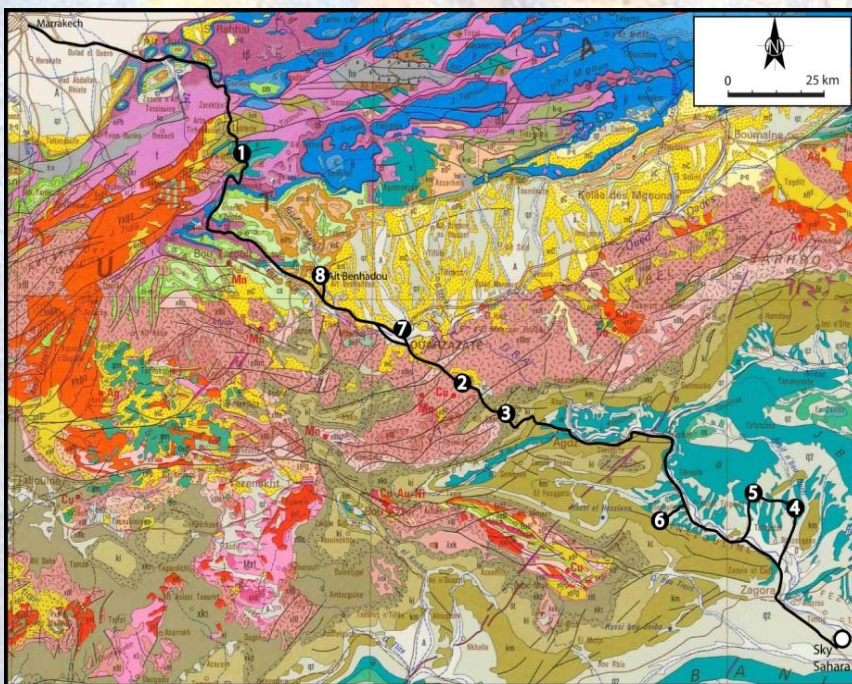
Post-Congress Field trip

A three days (two nights) post-conference field trip will be organized from Oct. 8 to 10 in the Central High Atlas and Anti-Atlas regions. It will be the opportunity to visit the localities that yielded the fossils of the exceptional Fezouata biota.

We will make stops along the way at various scenic and cultural spots.



The registration fees of the field-excursion are 250 Euros, including travel, accommodation, meals and an excursion guidebook.



Geological map and fieldtrip itinerary showing stops of the Central High and Anti-Atlas (geological map of Morocco, scale 1/1000 000)

Stops:

Day 1 (J1): Marrakesh-Zagora via Tizi n'Tichka-Agdz : Geotraverse of Central High Atlas and Anti-Atlas

Stop J1.1: Panorama (High Atlas) at Tichka Pass

Stop J1.2: Late Neoproterozoic stromatolites at Ait Saoune (Central Anti-Atlas)

Stop J1.3: Panorama (Jbel Kissane and Anti-Atlas), north of Agdz

Stop J1.4: Sunset on Draa Valley

Night in Zagora

Day 2 (J2): Zagora-Ouarzazate: The Fezouata Biota and the Great Ordovician Biodiversification Event (GOBE)

Stop J2.1: Panoramic view

Stop J2.2: Bou-Izargane: locality in the Lower Ordovician Fezoauta Shale currently exploited for exceptionally well-preserved fossils (Fezouata Lagerstätte-Tremadocian)

Stop J2.3: Ternata Plain: from the Tabanit Group to the top of the Fezouata Shale.

Stop J2.4: Zagora Rock – Art engravings.

Night in Ouarzazate

Day 3 (J3): Ouarzazate-Marrakesh via Ait Ben Haddou: The Ouarzazate Cultural Heritage

Stop J3.1: Taourirt Kasbah

Stop J3.2: Ouarzazate Studio-Museum

Stop J3.3: Lunch at Ksar of Ait Ben Haddou: UNESCO World heritage

Marrakesh end of the field trip

Submission of abstracts and short papers

Abstract submission

Please send your abstract in Word-format (.doc) to rali2015@uca.ma, no later than April 30th 2015. The file should be named after the first author's surname followed by underscore and 'oral' or 'poster' (e.g. [jacquesdestombes_poster.doc](#); [jacquesdestombes_talk.doc](#)). The abstract should include a maximum of 750 words, including references. One high resolution, grey-scale line drawing or high-contrast black-and-white photograph is allowed.

A volume containing all abstracts will be distributed during the Conference.

In addition, we are pleased to announce that post-conference papers on the Cambrian and Ordovician biodiversification events will be published as the special issue of high impact journal. We are planning to have this issue published in 2016 or beginning of 2017. Manuscript will have to be submitted by the end of December, 2015.

Concerning the special Symposium dedicated to aspects of Geological Heritage, short papers will be published in a special issue of *Bulletin de la Société Géologique de France* (BSGF).

The format for abstracts (both oral presentations and posters) is the following:

01 page summary-maximum-(text and figures included).

Title of the paper: Times 14 bold, centered.

Authors: Times 12 bold, centered. Full name and number from parentheses if several institutions.

Underline the name of the speaker.

Address (es): Times 10 normal email address with brackets.

Body text: Times 12 normal, single spaced, justified.

Figures: .jpg format, 300 dpi.

POSTERS

A maximum size 0: Width: 84.1 cm x Height: 118.9 cm

Registration fees

Please note that online registration is now open via our website until April 30, 2015.

<http://www.fstg-Marrakesh.ac.ma/rali2015/>

Candidates who prefer to register using printed form, can access the printable registration form from the website. The completed form must be filled and sent to the Congress Secretariat via rali2015@uca.ma or before April 30, 2015.

It is possible to register after this deadline. In this case, registration fees will have to be paid at the congress registration with some extra charge. Thank you for your understanding.

Registration fees	Deadline	Cost (Euros)
Normal full registration	April 30, 2015	200*
Early student registration		100
Normal field-excursion registration		250
Late full registration	15 September 2015	250
Late student registration		150
Late field-excursion registration		300

* Fees cover the registration to the conference, lunches and coffee breaks.

Important dates:

Deadline for early registration	April 30, 2015
Deadline for abstract submission	April 30, 2015
Deadline Normal field-excursion registration	April 30, 2015
Deadline for decisions on abstracts	May 31, 2015
Deadline for payment of fees by bank transfer	April 30, 2015
Opening ceremony	October 05, 2015

**Payment of fees by bank transfer (bank account: RIB : MA 022 810 000 091 00 090823 07 23)
Code swift: SGMBMAMCXXX**