



## European Association of Vertebrate Palaeontologists

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<http://www.eavp.alettra.de>

### EAVP Newsletter - No 3, December 2005

#### Something like an editorial

Dear colleagues and friends (of the EAVP but not only),

The present issue of the EAVP Newsletter is a rather thin one. It has nothing to do with Christmas or New Year's Eve celebrations. It almost has nothing to do with us being too busy. Internet connections or computer crashes are not guilty either. The weather above our countries has been rather fine - although fresh - lately.

It merely and sadly is because we only received one contribution (and by one of us, by the way...).

Whenever the idea of providing the EAVP with a newsletter was brought up, either during the official meetings or between members, a wide wave of enthusiasm rose. Now that we have one, it should reflect our diversity of topics, interests, countries of origin, cultural backgrounds or whatever: it should be as alive as the association can be.

So, please, contribute!



*The EAVP Newsletter team: look, we may be weird, but we are friendly*



#### Acknowledgement

We cordially thank the municipality of Rauenberg (i.e. the mayor Frank Broghammer and the environmental officer Dr. Brigitta Martens-Aly) and the organising committee from the HLMD (i.e. Dr. Norbert Micklich and Dr. Gabriele Gruber) for the donation of 100 Euros to EAVP. This donation was given on the occasion of the 3rd WEAVP in July 2005 in Darmstadt, and assigned by the organising committee to be used to assist with the printing costs for the next volume of the "ORYCTOS" journal.



#### Coming soon: the 4th WEAVP and EAVP Annual Meeting, Budapest, Hungary

Dear Friends and Colleagues,

It is a great honour to invite you to the 4th EAVP Annual Meeting to Budapest, Hungary, hosted by the Eötvös Loránd University and Hungarian Natural History Museum.

First we would like to thank the organization committee of last year's meeting and the board of the EAVP for all the help given during the organization of this symposium.

This meeting will be the first one organized on the topic of Vertebrate Paleontology in our country. In the first circular we provide you preliminary information about this meeting: <http://www.eavp.alettra.de>

The Organising Committee: Ferenc Horváth, János Szabó, Attila Ösi, Piroska Pazonyi, Mihály Gasparik, Gábor Boffalvai, László Makádi, Márton Rabi, Zoltán Szentesi, Erika Gál



A few forthcoming meetings: **Symposium on Mesozoic Terrestrial Ecosystems and Biota**, Manchester, UK, June 2006 - **Early/Lower Vertebrates meeting**, Uppsala, Sweden, week of Aug. 13, 2007 - **150 years Neanderthal Discovery. Early Europeans - Continuity and Discontinuity**, Bonn, Germany, 21-26 July 2006 - **Biominalisation in Fish Bones and Teeth: from Microscopy to Design of Material** - held during the **7th International Congress on the Biology of Fish**, St Johns, Newfoundland, Canada, 18-22 July 2006 - **2nd International Palaeontological Congress (IPC2006)** - Beijing, People's Republic Of China, June 17-21, 2006 - **The Sauropterygia**, First EAVP Themed Symposium, Karlsruhe, Germany, September 4-8, 2006. All links are posted on our blackboard: <http://www.eavp.alettra.de>

### Fishing in paradise - a new Frasnian locality in Morocco

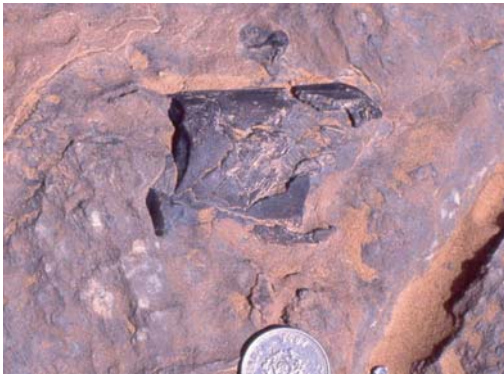
Martin Rücklin, Staatliches Museum für Naturkunde Karlsruhe -

When you think of Morocco you think of the desert, sand dunes, the orient, Marrakech, snake-charmers and long-bearded story-tellers with jellaba and chech at the souk. Perhaps, in the future, one of these sages will tell a new fairy-tale of three men from the north who went into the desert and returned after four weeks with dozens of fishes.



Hard work in the Upper Devonian Kellwasser sediments

Well, this fairy-tale is a reality: the project on placoderms from the Kellwasser sediments is now in its third year. Up until this year we had found the remains of 141 placoderm and 20 new placoderm-bearing sites in a more than 120 km<sup>2</sup> large area, but none of these outcrops is as amazing as the new one we excavated this year.



That obscure object of desire, an *Enseosteus* specimen



The dream-team (Simon, Chris and Martin)

61 placoderm remains at one site, with excellent bone preservation, all in one sandy limestone layer at the transition from platform to basin. This really is a paradise for fish researchers. The material is weathered on a limestone layer and can be extracted with hammer and chisel in the old-fashioned way. Now in the laboratory after the first weeks of preparation, well-preserved remains of *Enseosteus*, a *Ptyctodontid*, a *Mylostomatid* and the first *Acanthodian* remains from the Frasnian of Morocco await description.



Another dream-team: *Chefali*, Ali and his sons

Besides the success of the fossil finds, we also enjoyed the desert, the sandstorms, rain, thunderstorms, colds and diarrhoea. We visited friends in the oasis, dromedaries at the well, stone workers in Erfoud and brought clothing, shoes, teddies and toys for the kids. In summary, this last field-trip was extremely successful: we went to Morocco with a car full of gifts, and returned with a car full of fishes.



### What the hell is that?

In order to fill up the gaps, here is the photo of a mysterious skull from Mike Everhart's Oceans of Kansas ([www.oceansofkansas.com](http://www.oceansofkansas.com)) excellent site. Can you help with identification?

The specimen was found in early June, 2005 in the basal Lincoln Limestone Member of the Greenhorn Limestone (upper Middle Cenomanian) in Russell County, Kansas. The layer from which it came is a transgressive lag, and contains abundant inoceramid prisms (calcarinite), many small shark and ray teeth, other dis-articulated vertebrate remains, including fish vertebrae and teeth, the vertebrae and a lower jaw of a coniasaur, a fragment of a pterosaur wing, and paddle elements and teeth of a large pliosaur, *Brachauchenius lucasi*.

More photos and other mysterious things at <http://www.oceansofkansas.com/index2.html>

