



museum für naturkunde



**7th EAVP meeting – Berlin, Germany
20 – 24 July 2009**

Organized by:

Museum für Naturkunde Berlin/Leibniz Institute für Evolution and Biodiversity
Host committee: Daniela Schwarz-Wings, Oliver Wings and Oliver Hampe

First circular

Dear Colleagues,

We are happy to announce that the 7th meeting of the European Association of Vertebrate Palaeontology (EAVP) will be held in Berlin/Germany from July 20 to July 24, 2009. The events will be hosted by the Museum für Naturkunde (MfN) (http://www.museum.hu-berlin.de/index_english.html).

The Museum für Naturkunde is situated in the centre of Berlin, near the “Museumsinsel” with the world-famous Pergamon-Museum, the Brandenburger Tor and the Reichstag. With more than 30 million objects in its zoological, palaeontological, geological and mineralogical collections and exhibition halls encompassing an area of around 6,600 square meters the Museum für Naturkunde is the largest museum of natural history in Germany and among the five largest in the world. Around 1.200.000 specimens, including numerous types and figured specimens, are housed in the vertebrate palaeontological section of the museum, covering all main branches of fossil vertebrates. The exhibitions of the Museum für Naturkunde present impressive, and often very rare and valuable objects, illustrating the evolution of life as well as the diversity and beauty of nature. A large refurbished part of the exhibition was re-opened in July 2007. One of the most impressive museum halls is the newly-renovated Dinosaur Hall, showing the Late Jurassic World that existed in Tendaguru, East Africa, 150 million years ago with highlights on its various well preserved dinosaur skeletons. The centrepiece is the world’s highest mounted dinosaur skeleton: *Brachiosaurus brancai*. For the first time, the original of the renowned Berlin specimen of *Archaeopteryx lithographica* can be seen in the exhibition.

We believe that Berlin as a city does not really need an introduction. It is just an unique place...

But if you wish to look for information about Berlin, you might start here:

<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Berlin>

<http://www.lonelyplanet.com/germany/berlin>

Topics and presentation

The topic of the meeting is under the headline of the general objectives of the EAVP, to encourage contacts and collaboration between European vertebrate palaeontologists by supporting each year the organisation of the meeting of the EAVP in a different European country, in a historical continuity with the European Workshop on Vertebrate Palaeontology.

During the course of the meeting, presentations on all aspects of vertebrate palaeontology, including a diversity of methods, are welcome. Talks and poster presentations are equally appreciated. In the tradition of the EAVP meetings, we ask also for suggestions for one or two workshops.

The annual meeting of the EAVP members will take place on Wednesday 22nd of July and participation of all EAVP is especially needed here as a new board is to be elected in 2009.

Preliminary program

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|----------------------------------|---|
| Mon July 20 th | Arrival, opportunity to visit the vertebrate palaeontological collection (please notify us in advance), Registration at the front desk of the Museum, Icebreaker party in the Hall of Dinosaurs |
| Tue July 21 st | Scientific presentations, board meeting |
| Wed July 22 nd | Scientific presentations, general meeting (election!) and auction |
| Thur July 23 rd | Scientific presentations, poster session, conference dinner |
| Fri July 24 th | Field trip to the Triassic Limestone Quarry of Rüdersdorf and the Pleistocene "Rixdorfer Horizont" in Niederlehme, near Berlin |
| Sat-Sun July 25-26 th | Depending on the level of interest expressed, a 2-day field trip to some Northwestern German Jurassic and Early Cretaceous localities could also be organised |

Field trips

1. Visit to the Middle Triassic Limestone Quarry of Rüdersdorf and the associated museum park (<http://www.museumspark.de/>). Sediments of the German Muschelkalk are exposed in the quarry, yielding vertebrate (fish, sauropterygians) and abundant invertebrate fossils which have been collected for hundreds of years. There will be an opportunity to collect fossils and to visit the museum associated with the Quarry museum park. In the afternoon, the important Pleistocene locality Niederlehme, southeast of Berlin, will be visited. The "Rixdorfer Horizont" in Niederlehme is a glaciofluvial gravel sand, which yielded one of the most important Pleistocene mammal faunas of northern central Europe. It is still possible to find fossil material such as mammoth teeth. Costs for this fieldtrip are expected to be around 30 EUR.
2. Subject to interest, a 2-day field trip to some north-western German Jurassic and Early Cretaceous localities could be organised. The field trip could cover the Langenberg/Oker quarry that yielded the dwarfed Late Jurassic sauropod *Europasaurus* and a diversity of other vertebrate fossils, the DinoPark (<http://www.dinopark.de/>) in Münchenhagen near Hannover, where prepared bone material of *Europasaurus*, *in situ* dinosaur tracksites and more than 220 models of prehistoric animals can be visited. Quarries in Early Cretaceous sandstones in the vicinity of Bückeberg could be visited as well. These quarries have produced the famous German Wealden fossils, such as the crocodylians *Goniopholis* and *Pholidosaurus*, and the ornithischian dinosaur *Stenopelix*. A new tracksite was recently discovered in that area, yielding the first dromaeosaurid dinosaur trackways in Europe and the longest in the world. Short visits to either the State Museum of Lower Saxony Hannover or the palaeontological collections at the University of Göttingen would also be possible, depending on the degree of interest. Due to the large travel distances involved, a one-day trip would be difficult to arrange. Costs for this fieldtrip are expected to be around 150-200 EUR, including accommodation.

Technical information and abstracts

A central computer system is available with PowerPoint to be used for the oral presentations. Alternative, you can bring your own computer to be connected to the beamer/video projector (if using Apple Macintosh, please bring your own adapter). If other techniques are necessary for your presentation, please submit your request on the Registration form. The duration of each presentation will be scheduled for 20 minutes including 5 minutes for discussion. Specific instruction for preparation of posters will be given in the Second Circular.

We are currently looking into the possibility of publishing all abstracts in a special volume of a

German journal, such as Terra Nostra. In any case, collected abstracts will be distributed to all participants during the meeting. Instructions for abstract preparation will be given in the Second Circular. Please indicate if you wish to provide extended abstracts or conference proceedings, in which case we would look for a possibility to publish such a collection of proceedings.

Registration fees

Registration fees will be announced in the Second Circular. We expect costs to be similar to previous meetings in central Europe (i.e. around 50 EUR for EAVP members).

Key dates and deadlines

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|-----------------------------|---|
| December 2008-February 2009 | Preliminary registration |
| February 2009 | 2 nd Circular and call for conference papers and abstracts |
| April 30 th 2009 | Deadline for abstract submission |
| June 10 th 2009 | 3 rd Circular and final conference program |

Registration

For an initial indication of possible numbers of participants, we would like to ask you to send an informal note with your personal details and if you would like to give a presentation, and whether or not you would like to provide a short paper on your presentation for publication. If you are interested in the fieldtrip(s), PLEASE STATE THIS IN YOUR EMAIL AS WELL. Please send this information to:

eavp2009@googlemail.com

indicating:

1. Name & Contact data
2. Do you want to provide a presentation?, if so , a) talk or b) poster
3. Do you want to attend the conference dinner? Y/N
4. Do you want to attend the field trip on Friday? Y/N
5. Are you interested in another fieldtrip to Northwestern Germany? Y/N
6. Would you like to provide an extended abstract or short paper?

Transport

The Museum für Naturkunde (Invalidenstr. 43, 10115 Berlin) is situated in the centre of Berlin and within 10 min walking distance of the central railway station ("Berlin Hauptbahnhof").

Berlin has two international airports (<http://www.berlin-airport.de/DE/index.html>)

- Berlin Schönefeld in the southeast and
- Berlin Tegel in the northwest.

To reach the centre from Berlin Schönefeld, you can go by "S-Bahn", bus, or taxi, which are all journeys of about 45 min duration. From Berlin Tegel, an Express-bus goes directly to the central railway station, which takes usually around 20 min. Travel within Berlin is best accomplished via the metro network, or by buses. Look at the Überbahn-Website for details:

<http://www.uberbahn.com/>

We recommend the use of public transportation, as we currently have no parking area at the museum, and parking spaces near the museum are usually very expensive (and hard to find). A more detailed list of bus and metro lines to the museum will be provided in the second circular.

Accommodation

Several places to stay are located in the vicinity of the museum, however, most of them are not very cheap. If you are looking for cheaper accommodation, there are plenty of hostels and backpacker places in other districts, which can be easily reached at any time by U-Bahn (metro net). For example, accommodation as cheap as 10 EUR/night can be found in hostels in the Friedrichshain district near Berlin Ostbahnhof (ca. 20 min distance by U-Bahn to the museum), and there is also an international youth hostel

(<http://www.hostel.de/index.php/djh/Hostel/id/945/site/Info/lang/en>).

Here are our suggestions for accommodation in the immediate vicinity of the museum:

1. *Mercure Hotel Berlin An Der Charité** is directly to the right of the museum area.

Invalidenstrasse 38, D-10115 Berlin

Tel: (+49)30/308260, Fax: (+49)30/30826100

<http://www.mercure.com/de/hotel-5341-mercure-hotel-berlin-an-der-charite/index.shtml>

(69-94 € single rooms)

2. **Honigmond Hotel and Garden Hotel** is within 400 m walking distance to the museum.

Invalidenstrasse 122, D-10115 Berlin

Tel: (+49)30/2844550, Fax: (+49)30/28445511

<http://www.honigmond-berlin.de/>

(95-149 € single rooms)

3. Mittes Backpacker Hostel Berlin is also within 400 m walking distance and a cheap alternative.

Chausseestrasse 102, D-10115 Berlin

Tel: (+49)30/28390965, Fax: (+49)30/28390955

<http://www.baxpax.de/mittes-backpacker/de/contact/>

(single rooms for 34 €, but also dorm and multi-bed spaces)

4. *Hotel Zarenhof** is within 600 m walking distance.

Eichendorffstr. 4, 10115 Berlin

Tel: (+49)30/97005233, Fax: (+49)30/97005238

<http://www.hotel-zarenhof.de/>

(single room for 59-89€)