

PREFACE

Special Numbers 5 and 6 of this volume of the Turkish Journal of Earth Sciences contain 17 papers based on some of the presentations from the '8th International Congress on Rudists' held in İzmir, Turkey, from the 23th to the 25th June 2008. Nine papers on the taxonomy and revision of rudists recovered in this number (Part B).

The congress was dedicated to Necdet Karacabey-Öztemür, in celebration of her long and productive career as the first Turkish specialist on rudist bivalves, following in the footsteps of an illustrious history of classic studies of Turkish rudists by Woodward, Boehm, Douvillé, Cox and Stchépinsky. More than 90 authors and co-authors, from 17 countries, contributed to 56 oral and poster presentations on the taxonomy, biogeography, stratigraphy, and palaeoecology of Jurassic and Cretaceous rudist assemblages from around the world, as well as on investigative technologies and the palaeogeography and depositional settings of rudist-bearing carbonate platforms. The meeting was organized by the Geological Engineering Department, Engineering Faculty of Dokuz Eylül University-İzmir and was financially supported by the Scientific and Technological Research Council of Turkey (TÜBİTAK). Technical support for the meeting was provided by the Dokuz Eylül University, the Turkish Petroleum Corporation (TPAO), the General Directorate of Mineral Research and Exploration (MTA) and the Chamber of Geological Engineers of Turkey (JMO). Social events during the meeting in İzmir were also sponsored by the İzmir Metropolitan Municipality, Konak Municipality and Buca Municipality. The organizers are profoundly grateful to all of these bodies for their valued support.

The first and second days of the meeting consisted of oral and poster presentations about 'Palaeogeography and Depositional Environments of Cretaceous Carbonate Platforms' and 'Origins, Events and Demise of Rudist Palaeocommunities', respectively. At the end of the first day, a spectacular collection of Upper Cretaceous rudists from the

different regions of Turkey was displayed by Sacit Özer. The third day of the congress comprised oral presentations on 'taxonomic and phylogenetic studies in preparation for the revision of the rudist section in the Bivalvia Treatise', entitled 'the Mac Gillavry Session', in honour of the ground-breaking phylogenetic studies of Professor Henry Mac Gillavry, who celebrated his 100th birthday in the same year. The final session of the meeting included discussions of 'Future revisional programme of the rudist section in the Bivalvia Treatise' chaired by Peter W. Skelton, 'Report on the IGCP Project No. 463-494 Cretaceous Oceanic Redbeds (CORB): Response to Global Climate-Ocean-Tectonic' chaired by Robert W. Scott and 'Future investigations and proposal for 9th rudist congress'. It was agreed that the next International Congress on Rudists in 2011 should be held in Jamaica under the presidency of Simon F. Mitchell.

Three field-trips to Cretaceous rudist formations cropping out in different regions of Turkey, also including social events, were conducted before and after the meeting, as follows:

- Pre-meeting field-trip (1): '*Campanian–Maastrichtian Rudist-Bearing Mixed Siliciclastic-Carbonate Transgressive-Regressive Systems Tracts of Eastern and Southeastern Anatolia: Faunal Correlation, Depositional Facies and Palaeobigographic Significance*', 18th–22th June 2008, with Sacit Özer (excursion leader) and Bilal Sarı, and also Mehmet Önal (for Malatya Basin only), and memorably including the region that had furnished a number of taxa first described in a classic study of the group by Woodward, published in 1855.
- Post-meeting field trip (2): '*Upper Cretaceous Rudist-Bearing Sequences of the Metamorphic Menderes Massif and the Bey Dağları Carbonate Platform (Western Turkey)*', 26th–27th June 2008, with Sacit Özer (Field Trip Leader of the Menderes Massif) and Bilal Sarı (Field Trip Leader of the Bey Dağları Carbonate Platform).

- Post-meeting field trip (3): ‘*Early Cretaceous Rudist-bearing Carbonates from the Western Pontides. Black Sea Coast of Turkey*’, 28th–29th June 2008, with Jean-Pierre Masse (Field Trip Leader), Mükerrrem Fenerci-Masse, Sacit Özer, Bilal Sarı and Okan Tüysüz.

The presentations and field studies of this meeting highlighted the impressive quality and taxonomic richness of the rudist faunas of Turkey, illustrating their importance both as characteristic elements of biofacies in the widely developed Cretaceous carbonate platforms there, and for their potential utility in biostratigraphical and palaeobiogeographical analysis.

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