

# TRACKING ICHNOLOGISTS! REPORT ON THE 3<sup>RD</sup> INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE OF CONTINENTAL ICHNOLOGY 2019 IN HALLE (SAALE), GERMANY

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The 3<sup>rd</sup> International Conference of Continental Ichnology (ICCI) was hosted by the Natural Sciences Collections (Zentralmagazin Naturwissenschaftlicher Sammlungen, ZNS) of the Martin Luther University Halle-Wittenberg (Germany) from October 23<sup>rd</sup> – October 29<sup>th</sup>. It was the first ICCI outside of Africa. The international delegation included 41 palaeontologists and biologists from 19 countries. About every fourth delegate was a student or PhD student. The workshops on “Tetrapod ichnotaphonomy and ichnotaxonomy” (Lorenzo Marchetti) and “Analysis of tetrapod trackway data” (Michael Buchwitz) went down well with both early career scientists and senior trace fossil specialists. Eleven delegates attended each workshop.

The stimulating conference programme included keynote talks by Peter Falkingham (Liverpool John Moores University, UK), M. Gabriela Mángano (University of Saskatchewan, Kanada), Christian Meyer (University of Basel, Switzerland), and John A. Nyakatura (Humboldt University Berlin, Germany). Apart from the oral presentation format (20 minutes), lightening poster presentations (5 minutes) also contributed to the exchange of scientific discoveries among scientists of all career levels. After the afternoon sessions, several cultural highlights were offered, such as guided tours of the Eocene Geiseltal Collection (excellently preserved body and trace fossils in lignite), in

the spectacular State Museum of Prehistory in Halle and the extensive zoological collection of the ZNS, guided by its head of department Frank D. Steinheimer.

The field trip covered eleven important continental ichnofossil sites from Early Permian through the Early Cretaceous of central and northern Germany as well as two museum collections (Naturhistorisches Museum Schloss Bertholdsburg, Schleusingen, and Museum der Natur, Gotha). Highlighted stops are the tetrapod ichno- and body fossil-bearing Bromacker Quarries (Artinskian, Permian), the tetrapod tracks in the Solvay open cast mine, Bernburg (Muschelkalk, Middle Triassic) (Fig. 1) and the Wealden Facies hosted sauropod, ornithopod and theropod dinosaur trackways of the natural monument “Naturdenkmal Saurierfahrten Münchehagen” (Berriasian, Cretaceous). The field trip emphasized the rich trace fossil localities in Germany and laid the basis for upcoming international research projects.

Detailed information about the topics of all presentations and field trip stops can be found in our open access abstract book and field trip guide. It is available for download on our website: <https://sites.google.com/view/3rd-icci-2019/>.

The organizing committee composed of Michael Buchwitz (Museum of Natural History Magdeburg), Daniel



**Fig. 1.** Participants of the ICCI 2019 fieldtrip in the Solvay open cast mine, Bernburg (Muschelkalk, Middle Triassic).

Falk (University College Cork), Hendrik Klein (Saurierwelt Paläontologisches Museum Neumarkt) and Oliver Wings (ZNS) is grateful to all quarry owners, museum directors, curators, volunteers and sponsors who made the conference a success.

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