



European Association of Vertebrate Palaeontologists
Extraordinary Meeting
February 9-14, 2009
Brussels, Belgium

Hosted by the **Royal Belgian Institute of Natural Sciences**
at the occasion of the opening of the
New Gallery of Evolution

Tribute to
Charles Darwin and Bernissart Iguanodons:
New perspectives on Vertebrate Evolution
and Early Cretaceous Ecosystems



First Circular

Dear Friends and Colleagues!

February 12, 2009 is a key-date for European palaeontologists. Indeed, we are to celebrate the **200th birthday of Charles Darwin**, the Father of the Evolution Theory, and also the official opening of a **new Gallery of Evolution in the capital of Europe**. Moreover, February 2009 also corresponds to the closure of the '**Bernissart Iguanodons' Year**', marking the 130th anniversary of the discovery of the jewels of the Brussels Natural Sciences Museum.

In order to celebrate together these important events, the Royal Belgian Institute of Natural Sciences and the European Association of Vertebrate Palaeontologists have the pleasure to invite you to an Extraordinary Meeting gathering vertebrate palaeontologists and also worldwide specialists of Early Cretaceous life and terrestrial environments.

Topics

The organizers propose two different sections in the meeting:

- Vertebrate Palaeontology and Evolution.
- New perspectives on Bernissart and other Early Cretaceous terrestrial ecosystems.

Each section will consist of two days of scientific presentations. It will be possible to attend each section of the meeting independently.

Meeting Venue

The meeting will be held in two different places:

- The large auditorium of the Royal Belgian Institute of Natural Sciences in Brussels. Information can be found at www.naturalsciences.be.
- The 'Salle communale d'Harchies', close to the discovery place of the Bernissart Iguanodons!

The organizers will ensure the transport of the participants by bus between both places.

Field Trips

1. Visit to the Upper Devonian locality of Strud, in the Namur Province. This small quarry yielded a rich Famennian vertebrate fauna: placoderms, acanthodians, actinopterygians, sarcopterygian fishes and earliest tetrapods (related to the famous *Ichthyostega*), from estuarine/fluvial sediments, together with outstanding plant and arthropod material. This visit will be lead by Gaël Clément (MNHN, Paris).

2. Visit to the clay/sand quarry of Hautrage (Mons basin, Lower Cretaceous, Barremian/Aptian: about 130 - 112 Ma). The site is estimated to be contemporaneous to the site of Bernissart which contained the famous Iguanodons exposed at the Museum of the Royal Belgian Institute of Natural Sciences. New investigations were performed at the occasion of new drillings at Bernissart, while other Lower Cretaceous sites were investigated, notably Hautrage with a very rich fossil plant flora. Not only leaves and fruits were found but also big pieces of trunks, some of them being charcoaled, and deposited in an alluvial context. The main results will be presented by Johan Yans (FUNDP, Namur).

Preliminary Programme

Sunday February 8: Arrival of the conference participants and, from 15 to 19 o'clock, registration at the front desk of the Museum of the Royal Belgian Institute of Natural Science (rue Vautier 29, 1000 Brussels).

Monday February 9: Scientific presentations for the 'Vertebrate Palaeontology and Evolution' section at the Royal Belgian Institute of Natural Sciences.

Tuesday February 10:

- Scientific presentations for the 'Vertebrate Palaeontology and Evolution' section at the Royal Belgian Institute of Natural Sciences.
- Registration at the front desk of the Museum of the Royal Belgian Institute of Natural Sciences for the peoples who only desire to participate in the 'New perspectives on Bernissart and other Early Cretaceous terrestrial ecosystems' section.
- Symposium dinner in Brussels.

Wednesday February 11:

- Scientific presentations for both sections in the 'Salle communale' at Harchies.
- Visit of the Bernissart Iguanodons discovery place.
- Wine party at Bernissart (free of charge!).

Thursday February 12:

- Field trip at Strud.
- Poster session for both sections at the Royal Belgian Institute of Natural Sciences.
- Official inauguration of the new Gallery of Evolution in the Museum of the Royal Belgian Institute of Natural Sciences (free of charge!).

Friday February 13: Scientific presentations for the 'New perspectives on Bernissart and other Early Cretaceous terrestrial ecosystems' section at the Royal Belgian Institute of Natural Sciences.

Saturday February 14: Field trip at Hautrage.

Technical Information

All oral presentations must be given using Power Point. If other techniques are necessary for your presentation, put your request on the *Registration form*. The duration of each presentation is scheduled for 20 minutes including 5 minutes for discussion. If you are using Mac Apple, please bring your own adapter with you. Specific instruction for preparation of posters will be given in the *Second circular*.

Abstracts

Collected abstracts will be published in a separate volume and distributed to all participants during the meeting. Abstracts must be submitted as *.doc or *.rtf following the instructions given in the *Abstract form*. Please follow these rules as they will help us considerably in preparing the conference material. The deadline for abstract submission is **December 23, 2008**.

It is also planned to publish extended abstracts of the meeting in an international, peer-reviewed journal. Further information and instructions will be given in the *Second circular*.

Transport

The Royal Belgian Institute of Natural Sciences is situated in the centre of Brussels, near to the European Parliament. It is close to Brussels-Luxemburg railway station, and to 'Trône', 'Maelbeek', and 'Schuman' metro stations.

Brussels is served by two airports:

- Brussels International Airport ('Zaventem': www.brusselsairport.be), 14 km from city centre.
- Brussels South Charleroi Airport (www.charleroi-airport.be), 46 km from Brussels. It hosts low cost companies.

To get downtown from Brussels International Airport you can choose between taxi cabs, trains (www.sncb.be) or shuttle busses (www.stib.be), and none will take you any longer than 20 minutes. To reach Brussels from Brussels South Charleroi Airport you may take a bus shuttle to Charleroi train station, then a train to Brussels.

Intercity and international express trains connect Brussels with all parts of Belgium and with all major cities in Europe. There are 3 international railway stations in Brussels: "Brussels Midi", "Brussels Central" and "Brussels North" depending on from which part of Europe you leave. To reach the Royal Belgian Institute of Natural Sciences, stop in one of these stations, and then take the train in the direction of Etterbeek, Namur or Luxembourg, and stop at "Brussels- Luxembourg" station.

Accommodation

Hotels are rather expansive in Brussels, especially in the European Institutions area. Please find below a list of hotels from different parts of the city, together with youth hostels and links to Bed & Breakfast websites. The Royal Belgian Institute of Natural Sciences is located at the boundary of three communes: Brussels (1000), Etterbeek (1040) and Ixelles (1050), so accommodations in any of these communes are within walking distance or can be reached with a short metro/bus travel.

Hotels

Hôtel Charlemagne ****

25/27 Boulevard Charlemagne
1000 Bruxelles
Tel + 32 (0) 2 230 21 35
Fax + 32 (0) 2 230 25 10
brusselscharlemagne@new-hotel.com
www.CharlemagneHotelBrussels.com

Crowne Plaza Europa ****

Rue de la Loi 107
1040 Bruxelles (Etterbeek)
Tel +32 (0) 2 230 13 33
Fax +32 (0) 2 230 03 26
resa@europahotelbrussels.com
www.europahotelbrussels.com

Hôtel Chambord ***

Rue de Namur 82
1000 Bruxelles
Tel +32 (0) 2 548 99 10
Fax +32 (0) 2 514 08 47
www.hotel-chambord.be

Hôtel Argus ***

Rue Capitaine Crespel 6
1050 Bruxelles (Ixelles)
Tel +32 (0) 2 514 07 70
Fax +32 (0) 2 514 12 22
reception@hotel-argus.be

Holiday Inn Brussels Schuman ***

Rue Breydel 20
1040 Bruxelles (Etterbeek)
Tel +32 (0) 2 280 40 00
hotel@holiday-in-brussels-schuman.com
www.holiday-inn.com/brusselschuman

Hôtel De Boeck's ***

Rue Veydt 40
1050 Bruxelles (Ixelles)
Tel +32 2 537 40 33
Fax +32 2 534 40 37
hotel.deboecks@skynet.be
www.hotel-deboecks.be

Hôtel Agenda Louise ***

Rue de Florence 6
1000 Bruxelles
Tel +32 (0) 2 539 00 31
Fax +32 (0) 2 539 00 63
<mailto:louise@hotel-agenda.com>
www.hotel-agenda.com

Hôtel Beau Site ***

Rue de la Longue Haie 76
1000 Bruxelles
Tel +32 (0) 2 640 88 89
Fax +32 (0) 2 640 16 11
beausite@coditel.net
www.hotelbeausite.be

Hôtel Derby **

Avenue de Tervuren 24
1040 Bruxelles (Etterbeek)
Tel +32 (0) 2 733 08 19
Fax +32 (0) 2 733 74 75
hotel.derby@belgacom.net
www.hotel-derby.be

Hôtel Les Bluets **

Rue Berckmans 124
1060 Bruxelles (Saint-Gilles)
Tel +32 (0) 2 534 39 83
Fax +32 (0) 2 543 09 70
bluets@swing.be
www.belge.net/bluets

Youth hostels**Sleepwell Youth Hostel**

Rue du Damier 23
1000 Bruxelles
Tel + 32 (0) 2 218 50 50
info@sleepwell.be
www.sleepwell.be

Jeugdherberg Bruegel

Rue Saint-Esprit 2
1000 Bruxelles
Tel +32 (0) 2 511 04 36
brussel@vjh.be
www.vjh.be

Bed & Breakfast

www.bnb-brussels.be
www.brusselsinternational.be/wabxlint/fr/visiteur/logger/chambre-d-hote-bruxelles.act

Hôtel Europa **

Rue Berckmans 102
1050 Bruxelles (Ixelles)
Tel +32 (0) 2 538 72 97
Fax +32 (0) 2 539 03 36
hoteleuropa@wol.be
www.chez.com/hoteleuropa

Hôtel La Légende **

Rue du Lombard 35
1000 Bruxelles
Tel +32 (0) 2 512 82 90
Fax +32 (0) 2 512 34 93
info@hotellalegende.com
www.hotellalegende.com

Hôtel La Madeleine **

Rue de la Montagne 20-22
1000 Bruxelles
Tel +32 (0) 2 513 29 73
Fax +32 (0) 2 502 13 50
info@hotel-la-madeleine.be
www.hotel-la-madeleine.be

Hôtel The Moon **

Rue de la Montagne 4bis
1000 Bruxelles
Tel +32 (0) 2 508 15 80
Fax +32 (0) 2 508 15 85
hotelthemoon@hotmail.com
www.memon-hotel.be

Gîte-auberge J. Brel

Rue de la Sablonnière 30
1000 Bruxelles
Tel + 32 (0) 2 218 01 87
brussels.brel@laj.be
www.gitesdetape.be

Registration Fees

	Students	Others
"Vertebrate Palaeontology and Evolution" section	50 €	70 €
"New perspectives on Bernissart and other Early Cretaceous terrestrial ecosystems" section	50 €	70 €
Registration to both sections	70 €	100 €

Symposium Dinner and Excursions Fees

Symposium Dinner	40 €
Field trip to Strud	25 €
Field trip to Hautrage	25 €

Payment

For payment details see the *Second circular*.

Organizing Committee

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Key-Dates

November 10, 2008: deadline for registration.
December 1, 2008: second circular sent to the registered participants.
December 23, 2008: deadline for abstract submission.

ABSTRACT FORM

TITLE (TIMES NEW ROMAN - 14 POINTS - BOLD - CAPITAL LETTERS - CENTER)

Firstname LASTNAME ¹, Firstname LASTNAME ², Firstname LASTNAME ³, ...
(Times New Roman – 12 points – Bold - Center)

¹ *Institution, address, e-mail (Times New Roman – 10 points – Italic Bold – Center)*

² *Institution, address, e-mail (Times New Roman – 10 points – Italic Bold – Center)*

³ *Institution, address, e-mail (Times New Roman – 10 points – Italic Bold – Center)*

Text of the abstract (Times New Roman - 10 points - Regular - simple line spacing - justify - margin 2,5 cm)

Key words: maximum five (Times New Roman - 10 points - Regular)

Language of abstract, oral and poster presentations as well as publication is **English** only.

Abstracts larger than **one page A4** are not accepted.

Figures, diagrams, tables, graphs and/or photos (black and white), as well as references are accepted provided that they don't exceed the A4 page allowed.

Deadline for submission of the abstract is December 23, 2008

Abstract to be sent to

Darwin-Bernissart@naturalsciences.be