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In the series *Atlas of pollen and spores of the Polish Neogene* the third volume has been published. Volume 1 (2001) focused on fern spores, volume 2 (2002) on the gymnosperms, and the volumes 3 (2009) and 4 (in preparation) deal with the angiosperms. This series presents a synthesis of numerous palynological studies of the Polish Neogene. From 63 sites with important palynofloras the location is shown in a map and the stratigraphical position in a table. Results were published in Polish and international journals during the last fifty years, but also unpublished materials have been included in this synthesis. All taxa have been ordered after pollen morphological apertures, from inaperturate to monoporate, triporate, zonoporate, and pantropate. The botanical affinity to recent families is given which makes this atlas also relevant for Quaternary palynologists. The largest part of this book (pages 8 to 82) deals with the pollen morphological descriptions, botanical affinity, geographical occurrence of corresponding recent taxa, phytogeographical relationship, stratigraphical distribution, and the distribution in Poland. The references (pages 83 to 89) are followed by 67 full page plates. Light microscopic photographs and scanning electron micrographs form a rich illustration. This atlas is completed with an index of Latin names (pages 227 to 233). This book is meticulously prepared and information is clearly presented. Polish sites are to a high degree informative for the Neogene of Western Eurasia which makes this compilation to a key reference. As such synthesis reflects a large effort it is not surprising that the completion of this series required more time as was anticipated in the preface of volume one almost ten years ago. All palynologists starting a series of pollen morphological publications risk to disappoint the readers and themselves by realizing after due time that completion in not feasible. Our Polish colleagues have almost proven their perseverance and a monumental work is nearly completed. The books of this series are bound, produced with a soft cover and reasonably priced. I warmly recommend this pollen atlas.

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It is only very rare that ground breaking and high quality publications receive the status of evergreen. Among these classical publications is beyond any doubt the book “Pollen morphology and Plant Taxonomy” of Gunnar Erdtman. The morphological descriptions and the hand-drawn illustrations (palynograms) of pollen grains and spores form the main part of this book. Families are according to Engler’s ‘Syllabus der Pflanzenfamilien’ (1937). First published by Almqvist & Wiksell in Stockholm (1952), Erdtman’s book was reprinted in 1966 by Hafner Publishing Company, New York and London. Also this second imprint was sold very soon and a generation of palynologists searched the lists of antiquarian booksellers to obtain a copy. In 1986 publisher E.J. Brill in Leiden made this classical book available for a third time. But also this edition run out of stock soon. Young
palynologists without access to well stocked libraries missed this important source of information. I have observed students studying the pollen morphology of selected tropical plant families not realizing that Gunnar Erdtman had done this job some fifty years before with an accuracy and quality that is hard to surpass. It is with great pleasure to announce that publisher Brill has digitised the 1986-edition which is now available as a printing-on-demand edition. For the angiosperms taxonomical changes since 1952 can be compensated by using ‘The Plant-Book’ by Mabberly (1987) in combination with the 25 page index of genera and families. The printing-on-demand edition is a hard cover book with pages glued together. Although such book production requires a lower quality of paper the brillance of the illustrations is hardly affected. The price of € 125 / USD 185 is reasonable for libraries but costly for serious students who like to buy a private copy.


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IN MEMORIAM

Prof. Dr. Bill Evitt (1924-2009)

Bill Evitt world-famous specialist of dinoflagellates died from a cancer on March 22nd, 2009 at the age of 85. He was a Professor at the University of Stanford during 25 years from 1962 till 1986 and many of us followed his courses at Stanford, in the United States or in Europe. Bill Evitt was born on December 9th, 1923 in Baltimore, Maryland. He studies at the University John Hopkins of Baltimore and received in 1950 his doctorate of Geology. During the Second World War, he interpreted the aerial photos of the 14th regiment of the US Air Force grip above China. His Ph.D. concerned the trilobites of the terminal Ordovicien of the "Tumbling Run" section in Virginia. He was the first one to apply the techniques of stereo-photography (used in the army) in palaeontology. In 1956 he obtained a position in palynology, a new discipline in the "Carter Oil Research Center of Tulsa" (later a department of Exxon Mobile Corporation). In 1962 he leaves the industry for the University of Stanford where he will train 13 doctoral students. Bill Evitt owes his fame to his major discoveries and to his concepts based on morphology. Very meticulous and observered and scrutinized the slightest detail. In 1961, Bill Evitt suggested by the comparative study of extant and fossil dinoflagellates that these fossils are dormant cysts made of sporopollenin. He already puts forward the relationship between