



WESTFÄLISCHE  
WILHELMS-UNIVERSITÄT  
MÜNSTER

University  
Sidi Mohammed Ben Abdellah,  
Fes



# 10<sup>th</sup> INTERNATIONAL SYMPOSIUM “CEPHALOPODS – PRESENT AND PAST”

Fes, Morocco

26<sup>th</sup> March – 3<sup>rd</sup> April 2018

## SECOND CIRCULAR

With the partnership of:



*Hassan II Academy of  
Science and Technology*



*Faculty of Science Dhar Mahraz  
University Sidi Mohammed Ben Abdellah  
Fes*



*Faculty of Science Ain Chock  
Hassan II University Casablanca*



All cephalopod workers are invited to attend the 10<sup>th</sup> International Cephalopod Symposium in late March 2018 in Fes, Morocco. As it has become tradition since the 1<sup>st</sup> Symposium in Tübingen in 1985, the symposium will deal with all aspects of both living and fossil forms, with nautiloids and their relatives, ammonoids, and coleoids. The meeting is intended to be interdisciplinary in its best sense, bringing together biologists and palaeontologists, advanced, and young researchers, from B.Sc. to Ph.D. students to the experienced professors and museum curators. The meeting is also open to amateur collectors with a serious science interest. Your talks and poster presentations are hoped to stimulate fruitful discussions, stimulate new research ideas and directions, and to create new research alliances and friendships. You will be able to see the impressive landscapes and cephalopod-bearing rock formations of the Middle, High, and Anti Atlas during the post-conference excursion. The historical fascination and oriental beauty of Fes, our joint taste of the local food, and the wonderful Moroccan nature shall give us a splendid joint experience in order to increase the bonds in our community of cephalopod workers.

### The city and university of Fes



Fes or Fez (Fas in Arabic) is the third largest city in Morocco, after Casablanca and Rabat, with a population of ca. 1.000.000. It is the capital of the Fes-Meknes Region and located in northern Morocco, at the Wadi Fes just above its influx into the Sebou River. Fes is the oldest of Morocco's four imperial cities (the others are Marrakech, Meknes and Rabat). It was founded in 789 by Idriss the 1<sup>st</sup>, who was fleeing the Abbasids of Baghdad. He led local Berbers in conquest of the region and established the Kingdom of Morocco, before being poisoned by the Abbasids. In the 9<sup>th</sup> century, waves of immigrants from Spain (mainly Muslim families fleeing the Catholic Reconquest) and Tunisia brought expertise and wealth to the burgeoning city.

By the middle of the 9<sup>th</sup> century, the Karaouine University was built, one of the largest and the oldest in the world. By the 11<sup>th</sup> century, the city had a cosmopolitan population of more than 500.000 inhabitants, including Moors, Berbers, Jews, Turks, and Christians, and the two settlements on opposing river banks established by Idriss the 1<sup>st</sup>, and then his son, had merged.

Fes reached its zenith as a center of learning and commerce in 1269 when the Merenids made it their new capital and its reputation as an intellectual hub began to grow. The city known as the ‘Athens of Africa’ was filled with many great buildings and monuments, including madrassas bearing a distinctive blend of Arab and Andalusian styles. It was also known as an important trading center.

By the 16<sup>th</sup> century, the city had lost its capital status when the Wattasid Dynasty took Fes with the support of the Turks, and the city was finally conquered by the Ottomans in 1579. This prompted the move of the capital to Marrakech. During the 18<sup>th</sup> century reign of Moulay Abdallah, it became the capital once more. In 1912, most of Morocco became a French protectorate, with Rabat as the capital. The Ville Nouvelle (new town) was built, characterized by wide, straight boulevards. Despite the ensuing neglect of the medina, the oldest and walled part of the city known as Fes el Bali was granted UNESCO world Heritage status in 1981 – the first time an Islamic and Arab city had been accorded the title.

The Medina of Fes is considered as one of the most extensive and best conserved historic towns of the Arab Muslim world. The unpaved urban space conserves the majority of its original functions and attribute. It not only represents an outstanding architectural, archaeological and urban heritage, but also transmits a life style, skills and a culture that persist and are renewed despite the diverse effects of the evolving modern societies.

### **Why Fes for the meeting?**

We choose Fes as our host because of its modern facilities, its convenient position to reach cephalopod outcrops in the Atlas Mountains and pre-Sahara to the south (Tafilalt and Maider), and because it is easy accessible by plain (with cheap taxi drive to the city), by train (see time table in useful information), by comfortable bus (CTM), or, along the modern motorway, by car (ca. 2.30 hours from Rabat).

### **Organizing Committee**

Prof. Dr. Omar ASSOBEI (President), University Sidi Mohammed Ben Abdellah, Fes, and Hassan II Academy of Sciences and Technology, Rabat;

Prof. Dr. R. Thomas BECKER, Institut für Geologie und Paläontologie, Westfälische Wilhelms-Universität, Münster, Germany;

Prof. Dr. Ahmed EL HASSANI, Mohammed V University of Rabat (Scientific Institute) and Hassan II Academy of Sciences and Technology, Rabat;

Prof. Dr. Abdellah BOUSHABA, University Sidi Mohammed Ben Abdellah, Fes;

Prof. Dr. Lahssen BAIDDER, University Hassan II, Casablanca;

Prof. Dr. Bouaza FEDAN, University Mohammed V Rabat (Institute Scientific);

Dr. Farah EL HASSANI, University Sidi Mohammed Ben Abdella, Fes;

Dr. Zhor Sarah ABOUSSALAM, Institut für Geologie und Paläontologie, Westfälische Wilhelms-Universität, Münster, Germany;

Dr. Sven HARTENFELS, Institut für Geologie und Paläontologie, Westfälische Wilhelms-Universität, Münster, Germany;

Dr. Christian KLUG, Paläontologisches Institut und Museum, Universität Zürich, Switzerland;

## Contact

Prof. Dr. R. Thomas BECKER, [rbecker@uni-muenster.de](mailto:rbecker@uni-muenster.de) (or [sklaus@uni-muenster.de](mailto:sklaus@uni-muenster.de))  
(especially for abstracts and scientific program)

Prof. Dr. Ahmed EL HASSANI, [ahmedelhassani@gmail.com](mailto:ahmedelhassani@gmail.com)  
(especially for questions of local organization and travel)

Prof. Dr. Abdellah BOUSHABA, [abdellah.boushaba@gmail.com](mailto:abdellah.boushaba@gmail.com)  
(especially for registration of Moroccan participants)

## Venue

Conference room of the *Hotel Palais Medina & Spa, Fes*, which is situated in the center of the city, close to public transport facilities, restaurants, and other hotels. The entry area to the conference room offers ample space for the posters.



## Conference language

English

## IMPORTANT DATES

**November/December 2017** Early Registration, Abstract Submission, Early Payment

**January 2018** Late Registration, Late Abstracts, Late Payment (more expensive)

**Mid-February 2018** Third Circular with Symposium Program  
Program (please note some changes from the First Circular)

- 25.3. Arrival of participants in Fes  
Evening (19:00 to 21:00): **Icebreaker Party** in the Hotel Palais Medina & Spa
- 26.3. Welcome addresses, oral and poster presentations
- 27.3. Oral and poster presentations; afternoon: city sightseeing  
Evening: **Conference Dinner** at Palais Ommeyad (in the Medina of Fes)
- 28.3. Oral and poster presentations
- 29.3.-3.4. **Post-Conference Excursion** to the Mesozoic of the Atlas Mountains and Palaeozoic of the Anti-Atlas; maximum number: 40 participants.  
All accommodation in double rooms (single rooms with extra fee) in luxurious five star hotels that provide all facilities.  
Transport in rented 4WD cars with drivers (five participants per car).

**Day 1** (March 29<sup>th</sup>: Fes-Erfoud) – Jurassic of the High Atlas:

- Tizi n'Talghemt
- Dogger, Aalenian, Bajocian (Rich area),
- Domerian-Toarcian (Ait Athmane).

Night in 5\* Palais du Desert Hotel & Spa in Erfoud.

**Day 2** (March 30<sup>th</sup>: Erfoud region)

- Morning: Introduction to the Tafilalt Devonian at Bou Tchrafine.
- Afternoon: The spectacular Emsian mudmounds and overlying cephalopod-rich strata of Hamar Laghdad.

Night in 5\* Palais du Desert Hotel & Spa in Erfoud.

**Day 3** (March 31<sup>st</sup>: Erfoud-Rissani region)

- Morning to early afternoon: The Global Stratotype (GSSP) for the Eifelian-Givetian Boundary at Jebel Mech Irdane and cephalopod-rich localities of adjacent sections of the western Tafilalt (e.g. Jebel Amelane/Jebel Ihrs with cephalopod coquinas of the Kellwasser horizon).
- Late Afternoon: Visit to the souk of Rissani and of a local “museum” (with an opportunity for fossil shopping)

Night in 5\* Palais du Desert Hotel & Spa in Erfoud.

**Day 4** (April 1<sup>st</sup>: Taouz-Merzouga region)

- Morning to early afternoon: The nautiloid-crinoid-rich top Silurian to Lower Carboniferous of the Amessoui Syncline (southern Tafilalt).
- Late Afternoon: sunset at the famous Merzouga dunes.

Night in 5\* Palais du Desert Hotel & Spa in Erfoud.

**Day 5** (April 2<sup>nd</sup>: Fezzou region)

- The cephalopod-rich Upper Devonian to Lower Carboniferous of the Maider Basin (Aguelmous Syncline).

Night in 5\* Palais du Desert Hotel & Spa in Erfoud.

**Day 6** (April 3<sup>rd</sup> : Erfoud-Fes) – Lower and Middle Jurassic of the Middle Atlas. Ayn Hannou (Toarcian, Aalenian- Bajocian); Tizi Issoulittène (Toarcian-Aalenian), Ait Moussa (Issouka) Lias - Domerian, Jbel Amrar (Toarcian – Aalenian – Bajocian), and Almou n’Boutssalli (Toarcian-Bajocian)  
Night in 5\* Hotel Palais Medina & Spa, Fes.

## Symposia

- Cephalopods as index fossils for refined time scales
- Cephalopod Biogeography and Evolution
- Advances in the high-level (suborders to subclasses) systematics of cephalopods
- Coleoid Cephalopods through Time
- Novel approaches to decipher cephalopod palaeobiology
- The impact of global events on cephalopod diversity, disparity, and distribution
- Rare cephalopod taxa: discovery, distribution, phylogenetic significance
- Open Symposium (all other topics)

## Informal discussion rounds

- The Treatise, Part K
- Future and challenges of cephalopod research

## Symposium contributions

All talks will have to be submitted as Powerpoint files that are compatible with a PC/notebook. They should be presented in English and scheduled for 20 minutes (discussion time included). The organizers will select some key note contributions, which are allowed 30 minutes (including discussion); all authors will be notified of this honor well in advance. The program will be planned without any parallel sessions. We encourage the submission of posters and promise that sufficient time will be allocated to explain and read them during several special poster sessions. There will be a small “Best Poster Award” on the last day of talks.

## Abstracts

All abstracts will be formally published in a volume of the “Münstersche Forschungen zur Geologie und Paläontologie”. They should not be longer than two pages **including** possible figures and references, using the font TimesRoman 11 (titles: font 12 and bold). The postal and email addresses **of all authors** have to be provided. The references should strictly follow the journal style. Examples are:

- BECKER, R. T. (1988): Ammonoids from the Devonian-Carboniferous Boundary in the Hasselbach Valley (Northern Rhenish Slate Mountains). – Courier Forschungsinstitut Senckenberg, **100**: 193-213.
- BECKER, R. T., KAISER, S. I. & ARETZ, M. (2016): Review of chrono-, litho- and biostratigraphy around the global Hangenberg Crisis and Devonian-Carboniferous boundary. – In: BECKER, R. T., KÖNIGSHOF, P. & BRETT, C. E. (eds): Devonian Climate, Sea Level and Evolutionary Events. – The Geological Society, London, Special Publications, **423**, 32 pp., doi.org/10.1144/SP423.10.
- RICHTER, R. (1848): Beitrag zur Paläontologie des Thüringer Waldes. Die Grauwacke des Bohlens und des Pfaffenberges bei Saalfeld. I. Fauna. – 48 pp., Arnoldi (Dresden and Leipzig).

Abstracts will have to be submitted via email and in MS-Word format (.doc, .docx, .rtf) to Prof. R.T. BECKER (rbecker@uni-muenster) and/or the second volume editor, Dr. S. HARTENFELS (shartenf@uni-muenster). Authors will be notified by email if their abstract requires revision and when their contribution is finally accepted. Posters should be planned for A0 size (in usual portrait style).

### **Registration Fees**

The registration fee will include the combined abstract / excursion guide volume, other conference material, the pool-side icebreaker party, the formal conference dinner, lunch buffets, morning and afternoon coffee/tea during the three lecture days. It also has to cover the costs for organization, bank and facility charges.

The excursion fees will include the 4WD transport from and to Fes, water/drinks during the day, five nights of 4/5\* hotel accommodation during the trip (double rooms; single rooms with extra fee), all meals (but not drinks at dinner or at the bars), and the final night in the luxurious conference hotel on our return. Excursion seats are reserved in the order of registration/payment arrival (first come, first served).

**Accompanying persons** are welcomed and should enjoy the tourist attractions of the city of Fez and the Moroccan spring time. Their reduced fees will include the icebreaker party, lunch, and conference dinner. You may consider to use our Fes meeting as the starting point for some private holiday, visiting the other “Imperial Cities”, especially Marrakesh, or to enjoy the splendid beaches of Essaouira or Agadir.

	<b>Early</b> (until 1.1.2018)	<b>Late</b> (until 1.2.2018)
<b>Deadlines</b>		
<b>Conference fees</b>	<b>300 €</b>	<b>360 €</b>
<b>Accompanying person</b>	<b>200 €</b>	<b>240 €</b>
<b>Excursion</b>	<b>700 €</b>	<b>800 € (if place available)</b>

### **Payment (bank transfer):**

All payment, most preferably in Euro, should be made to:

Account holder:	<b>Dr. Ralph Thomas BECKER</b>
Bank name	Kreissparkasse Steinfurt
Bank address	Bachstrasse 14, D-49477 Ibbenbüren, Germany
Account number	74024597
<b>IBAN</b>	<b>DE45 4035 1060 0074 0245 97</b>
<b>BIC</b>	<b>WELADED1STF</b>
Purpose of money transfer	10th ICS, Fes 2018

**Moroccan participants:** to register, please contact by e-mail Prof. Dr. Abdellah BOUSHABA at: [abdellah.boushaba@gmail.com](mailto:abdellah.boushaba@gmail.com)

### **Conference Proceedings**

It is planned to publish a Proceedings Volume with short to moderately long papers as a special issue in a peer-reviewed journal with good impact factor. Negotiations have already started. It is important to announce your interest to participate in such a volume at the meeting.

## **Accommodation**

Fes is a major tourist destination and, therefore, offers a wide range of accommodation styles, from Riads (with rented rooms in historical city houses) to cheap or moderately expensive hotels (between 45 and 120 € per night). **All participants have to make their own room/hotel bookings.** Since Easter Time is a main holiday season, we ask you to book not too late.

Our **Conference Hotel** offers a special rate if you indicate with your booking that you will attend the 10<sup>th</sup> International Cephalopod Symposium. The reduction will increase with the number of participants that decide for this option. Contact:

**Hotel Palais Medina & Spa**, Boulevard Allal El Fassi, Fes 30000, Morocco

Telephone: -212 538 900 900

[www.atlas5stars.com/fes/hotel-5-etoiles-palais-medina-spa.php](http://www.atlas5stars.com/fes/hotel-5-etoiles-palais-medina-spa.php)

To make a reservation please e-mail to : [akioui@hotelsatlas.com](mailto:akioui@hotelsatlas.com)

## **Other recommended hotels in the area**

(all allow to join the symposium by 5 to 15 minutes walks)

### **Hotel Barcelo Fes Medina (4\*)**

53 Avenue Hassan II, PO Box 30000, 30000 Fès, Morocco

<https://www.barcelo.com/fr/hotels/maroc/fes/barcelo-fes-medina/>

### **Royal Mirage Fes Hotel (4\*)**

Avenue Des Far, 30000 Fès, Morocco

Telephone : +212 535 93 09 09

<http://www.hotel-pickalbatros-royal-mirage-fez.vivehotels.com>

### **Hotel Ramada (5\*)**

85 Avenue Des Far, 35000 Fès, Morocco

Telephone: + 212 535 94 80 00; Fax: + 212 535 94 25 04

e-mail : [resa@ramadafes.com](mailto:resa@ramadafes.com)

<http://www.ramadafes.com>

### **Fez Marriott Hotel Jnan Palace**

Avenue Ahmed Chaouki, 30000 Fès, Morocco

Telephone: +212-535-947250; Fax: +212-535-947260

<http://www.marriott.fr/hotels/travel/fezmc-fes-marriott-hotel-jnan-palace/>

**Recommended place for shopping and meals:** Borj Fez commercial mall (situated at the western corner of the Hotel Palais Medina and spa; 3 minutes walk).

## **Useful Information**

For visas apply to the Moroccan Embassy or consular office in your country. A Letter of Invitation will be sent to everyone who requires it. Most of West European and North American countries do not need a visa. Please contact: [ahmed.elhassani@gmail.com](mailto:ahmed.elhassani@gmail.com) for that. To know where the Moroccan embassies are situated in your country, see:

<http://www.diplomatie.ma/default.aspx> and <http://www.consulat.ma/fr/index.cfm>.

More information on Morocco can be seen on:

<http://www.maroc.ma/PortailInst/An/>

<http://www.minculture.gov.ma/fr/>

<http://www.tourisme.gov.ma/>

<http://www.mincom.gov.ma/fr.html>

You can buy a ticket via internet to travel inside Morocco by train or bus on the following sites:

To have a train ticket: <http://www.oncf.ma/PrixEtReservation/Pages/BilletsNormaux.aspx>

Train time table: <http://www.oncf.ma/Pages/Horaires.aspx>

Bus ticket CTM: <http://www.ctm.ma/horaires-et-tarifs/acheter-un-billet>

## **Currency / Money Exchange**

The Moroccan national currency Unit is the Dirham (MAD). Rates: One \$ US is about 9.50 MAD and one € is about 11.20 MAD. Exchange facilities of the internationally convertible foreign currencies and traveler's checks are available at the Casablanca and Fez airports and most of the bank office exchange in Fes, Midelt, Erfoud and at the hotels. The bank opening hours are: from 8.30 a.m. to 2.30 p.m Monday to Thursday. A few banks open also Saturday morning. There are also other exchange offices, which are open until 7 p.m.

All credit cards are accepted in most hotels, shops, and travel agencies.

## **Medical insurance**

The host country and organizers don't take responsibility of the medical insurance of neither the participants nor their accompanying members. Therefore, it is highly recommended that participants arrange travel insurance contracts with their travel agency. You do not require special inoculations apart from common ones (tetanus, hepatitis etc.) nor special protection against tropical diseases.

For your information Fes has a University Hospital Center and also several specialized health centers (clinics).

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“CEPHALOPODS – PRESENT AND PAST”**

**Fes, Morocco**

26<sup>th</sup> March – 3<sup>rd</sup> April 2018

**REGISTRATION FORM**

**Full Name** (with titles).....

**Institution** (with full address)

.....  
.....  
.....

...

**Post Code and Country**.....

**Email**.....

**Mobile Phone**.....

**Title of planned contributions**

1. ....  
.....  
.....

2. ....  
.....  
.....  
.....

please indicate: **Oral contribution(s) No.:**..... or **Poster(s) No:**.....

**I consider to submit a manuscript to a Proceedings volume** (yes/no).....

**I require a Letter of Invitation** (yes/no).....

**I will attend the post symposium field trip** (yes/no)

Note: **All participants should inform Prof. Dr. R. T. BECKER (by email) of their money transfer** (in order to track these).