



Preface—7th European Conference on Echinoderms

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Since the pioneering meeting in 1979 in Brussels, the European echinoderm community has celebrated advances in echinoderm science, biology and palaeontology in what has now become a regular conference series (see Ziegler & Kroh 2012, p. 1–24 of this volume). This reflects the interest of the scientific community in the multidisciplinary field of echinoderm research between biology, palaeontology, physiology, fisheries, aquaculture, medicine and others.

The 7th European Conference on Echinoderms (ECE) was held on October 2–9, 2010 (Fig. 1) in Germany, and was hosted by the Georg-August University of Göttingen. The Göttingen University has a long tradition in echinoderm research. A vast number of naturalists, zoologists, palaeontologists, and collectors, like Pehr Forsskål (1732–1769), Peter Simon Pallas (1741–1811), Johann Friedrich Gmelin (1748–1804), Johann Friedrich Blumenbach (1752–1840), Ernst Friedrich von Schlotheim (1764–1832), Johann Ludwig Christian Carl Gravenhorst (1777–1857), Lorenz Oken [Okenfuss] (1779–1851), Friedrich Tiedemann (1781–1861), Karl Theodor Ernst von Siebold (1804–1885), Wilhelm Moritz Keferstein (1833–1870), Carl Claus (1835–1899), Adolf von Koenen (1837–1915), Emil Selenka (1842–1901), Johann(es) Brock (1852–1889), Hubert Ludwig (1852–1913), Carl Friedrich Chun (1852–1914), Georg Böhm (1854–1913), Theodor Ebert (1857–1899), Otto Hamann (1857–1925), Johannes Wolburg (1905–1976), and Arno Hermann Müller (1916–2004), to mention only some people, were in direct connection with the Göttingen University or studied and worked on echinoderms here during the last 250 years.

All previous meetings were either in Belgium, France, Italy and the UK, making this the first one in Germany. Researchers from 25 countries worldwide (Fig. 2), including such far-away places as Brunei, Costa Rica, Malaysia, New Zealand or South Africa, presented their most recent research on modern and fossil echinoderms and related topics. More than 100 oral and poster presentations as well as 12 plenaries by 215 authors from 32 countries worldwide were presented over a three-day period. All presentations were grouped into themes such as (1) history of echinoderm research, (2) anatomy and functional morphology, (3) systematics, evolution and phylogeny, (4) biodiversity, zoogeography and phylogeography, (5) ecology and behaviour, (6) early fossil record and geologic history, (7) Mesozoic and Cenozoic faunas, (8) reproduction, development and regeneration, (9) physiology and biochemistry, and (10) aquaculture and fisheries.

The list of participants and the detailed programme of the 7th ECE in Göttingen (<http://www.ece2010.uni-goettingen.de>) as well as the abstract volume and the field guide to excursions (Reich et



FIGURE 1. Logo of the 7th European Conference in Göttingen, 2010, showing a dendrochirote holothurian from the Gulf of Aqaba, Red Sea (C. Kaubisch & M. Reich).

al. 2010) were made available for open access (Göttingen University Press).

An extraordinary event at the beginning of the conference was the opening of a special bilingual exhibition on modern and fossil echinoderms in the Göttingen Geoscience Museum, entitled: *Spiny and Colourful—Echinoderms from around the World through Time and History*.

Three daily excursions: (A) Hannover—Late Cretaceous (Campanian) Echinoderm Faunas, (B) Göttingen/Herberhausen—Middle Triassic Echinoderm Faunas, and (C) Berlin/Museum of Natural History—Fossil and Recent Echinoderm Collections, and one two-day trip: (D) Heligoland, North Sea—Recent Echinoderm Faunas, were led by several colleagues (G. Arp, K. Boos, C. Lüter, C. Neumann, N. Schlüter, F. Wiese). Other activities included guided city tours and visiting a beer brewery near Göttingen.

Acknowledgements

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We are grateful to the following plenary and invited speakers that presented their work: Michael F. Barker, Sam T. Dupont, Andy Gale, Andreas Kroh, John M. Lawrence, Bertrand Lefebvre, Jérôme Mallefet, David L. Pawson, Joachim Scholz, Adolf Seilacher, Sabine Stöhr, and Klaus Wolkenstein. Thanks also to all participants and members of the scientific committee as well as the session chairs for all your efforts and all the contributions that lead to a successful echinoderm conference.

Final thanks goes to all members of the local organising team in Göttingen, especially to C. Kaubisch, I. Ringel, V. J. Roden, G. Schmidt, and T. R. Stegemann.

Reference

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- Ziegler, A. & Kroh, A. (2012) Echinoderm conferences and symposia: a concise history and bibliography. In: Kroh, A. & Reich, M. (Eds.), *Echinoderm Research 2010: Proceedings of the Seventh European Conference on Echinoderms, Göttingen, Germany, 2–9 October 2010. Zoosymposia*, 7, 1–24. [this volume]

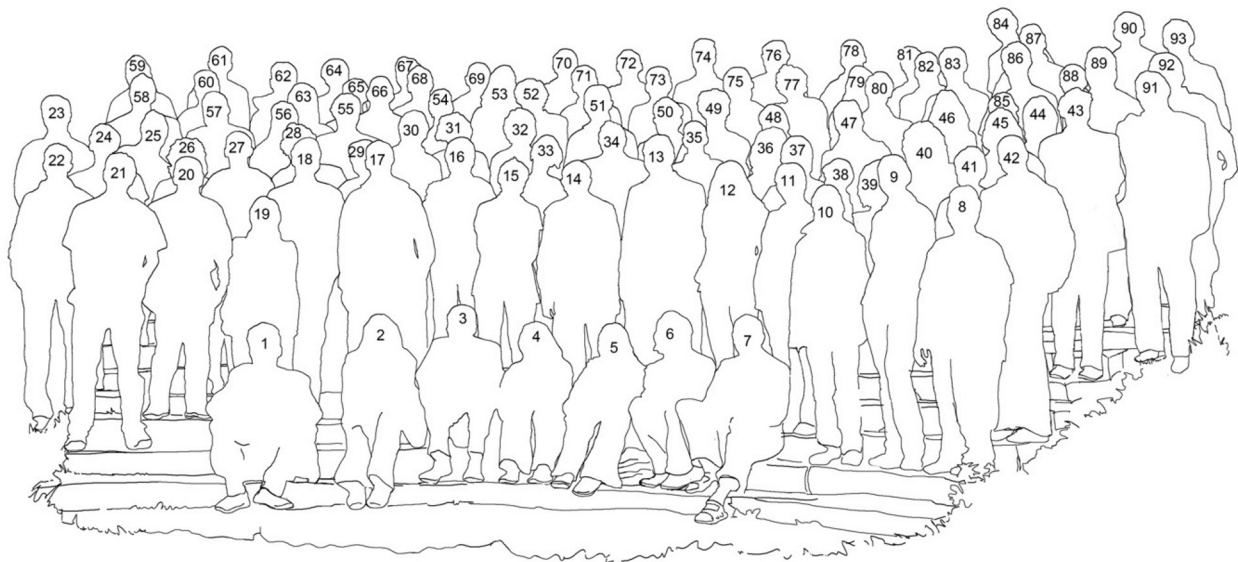


FIGURE 2. A group photo of most of the participants of the 7th European Conference on Echinoderms, held at the University of Göttingen, Germany, October 2010. 1—Joachim **Scholz**; 2—Annina **Böhme**; 3—Adolf **Seilacher**; 4—Tanja **Stegemann**; 5—Lea D. **Numberger**; 6—Ben **Thuy**; 7—Reimund **Haude**; 8—Chinthadevi **Biseswar**; 9—Serena **Tricarico**; 10—Michela **Sugni**; 11—Tania **Pineda-Enríquez**; 12—Andrea Alejandra **Caballero Ochoa**; 13—Mike **Reich**; 14—Ahmed **Thandar**; 15—Heinke **Schultz**; 16—Harilaos A. **Lessios**; 17—Guillaume **Caulier**; 18—Jerome **Delroisse**; 19—Elise **Hennebert**; 20—Jérôme **Mallefet**; 21—Juan José **Alvarado**; 22—Bruno **Pereira**; 23—George **Mirantsev**; 24—David **Jacinto**; 25—Adriana **Villamor**; 26—Rocío **Pérez-Portela**; 27—Sam **Dupont**; 28—José Carlos **Hernández**; 29—Mike **Barker**; 30—David L. **Pawson**; 31—Doris **Pawson**; 32—Joyce **McCullough**; 33—Chantal **De Ridder**; 34—Ramlall **Biseswar**; 35—Sara **García Sanz**; 36—Narimane **Dorey**; 37—Esther **Ullrich-Lüter**; 38—Felix **Lüter**; 39—Catarina **Franco**; 40—Romana **Santos**; 41—Patrícia **Madeira**; 42—Natalia **Charlina**; 43—Bertrand **Lefebvre**; 44—Morana **Mihaljevic**; 45—Irina **Voronkina**; 46—Elise **Nardin**; 47—Carsten **Lüter**; 48—Olga **Ortega-Martinez**; 49—Pablo **Gonzalez Navarro**; 50—Seiichi **Irimura**; 51—John **Keesing**; 52—Andrew B. **Smith**; 53—Sabine **Stöhr**; 54—Karin **Boos**; 55—Bruno **David**; 56—Przemysław **Gorzelak**; 57—Owen **Wangenstein**; 58—Mike **Thorndyke**; 59—Reinhard **Schmode**; 60—Manfred **Jäger**; 61—Christian **Neumann**; 62—Hans-Volker **Thiel**; 63—Masaya **Saitoh**; 64—Yoshiaki **Ishida**; 65—Masanori **Okanishi**; 66—Frank **Wiese**; 67—Ken'ichi **Kanazawa**; 68—Andreas **Kroh**; 69—Jaume **Gallell**; 70—Stuart R. **Stock**; 71—Toshihiko **Fujita**; 72—Benjamin **Pierrat**; 73—Peter **Schultz**; 74—Nils **Schlüter**; 75—George **Sevastopulo**; 76—Gary D. **Webster**; 77—Andy **Gale**; 78—Jan **Bohatý**; 79—Janina **Dynowski**; 80—Klaus **Wolkenstein**; 81—José Luis **Palazón-Fernández**; 82—Timothy **Ewin**; 83—Aaron W. **Hunter**; 84—David **Lane**; 85—Fleur **Noailles**; 86—Thomas **Saucède**; 87—Alexander **Ziegler**; 88—Vanessa J. **Roden**; 89—Frederick H. C. **Hotchkiss**; 90—Yukio **Agatsuma**; 91—Sergey **Rozhnov**; 92—Stefanie **Biermann**; 93—Toshiyuki **Matsui**.

