

The Shallow Tethys 6 International Symposium Budapest, Hungary, 25 – 29 August 2003

Miklós KÁZMÉR¹

This volume of *Hantkeniana* contains a selection of papers presented at the Shallow Tethys 6 International Symposium held in Budapest, Hungary, from 25 to 29 August 2003. More than forty participants attended the symposium from six countries.

The Shallow Tethys symposium series started in 1982 in Padova, Italy, followed by sessions in Wagga Wagga, New South Wales, Australia in 1986, in Sendai, Japan in 1990, in Albrechtsberg, Austria in 1994 and in Chiang Mai, Thailand in 1999. These regular occasions offered unique possibility to present and discuss evidence only palaeontology can offer to palaeogeography, palaeoceanography, palaeoclimatology, and to paleotectonic reconstruction. Scanning the contents of the six proceedings volumes (see at the end of the present volume) one cannot resist to recognize how much palaeontological data – interpreted in a palaeogeographic framework – are available for a better tectonic reconstruction of the long-lost Tethys ocean.

It is true that Shallow Tethys symposia grew out of a pressing need felt by several palaeontologists to provide crucial data to counteract the overwhelming plate tectonic paradigm. These contributions enormously helped to refine the plate tectonic history of the Tethys ocean, helped to recognize that microplates had their own history while drifting from Gondwana to Asia, and offered much-needed fix points on the relatively loose tectonic hypotheses.

The present volume contains eight palaeontological contributions of systematic, palaeoecological and palaeogeographical nature, extending in time from the Carboniferous to the Miocene, from normal to restricted marine environments, carefully documented and richly illustrated.

Although the Shallow Tethys 6 International Symposium was organized by the staff and students of the Department of Palaeontology, Eötvös University, Budapest, we cannot omit to mention the role of the support and encouragement of Prof. Giuliano PICCOLI (Padova) in the success of the symposium. Unfortunately, the other founding father of the Shallow Tethys symposia, Prof. Kenneth G. MCKENZIE (Wagga Wagga, New South Wales, Australia) deceased a few months before the meeting, while preparing his paper.

There is a Standing Committee behind the symposium series: chairman Kenjiro OGASAWARA (Tokyo, Japan), secretary Katsumi UENO (Fukuoka, Japan), members, organizers of past and present symposia: Giuliano PICCOLI (Padova), Benjavun RATANASTHIEN (Chiang Mai, Thailand), and Miklós KÁZMÉR (Budapest, Hungary).

During Shallow Tethys 6 a small competition took place for the title of the best presentation, the jury consisting of members of the Standing Committee: a diploma for the best student lecture was awarded to Zoltán SZŰCS (Budapest), and another for the best poster has been won by Andreas KROH (Vienna).

We all hope that this successful symposium series will continue: the next meeting is designated to be in Indonesia in 2006.

For the success of the Shallow Tethys 6 International Symposium the cooperation of several people and institutions were indispensable. Financial support was provided by Eötvös University, by the Hungarian Academy of Sciences, and last but not least by the organizers of the previous symposium held in Chiang Mai, Thailand, led by Benjavun RATANASTHIEN. The team of the Office for International Cooperation of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences, especially director dr. János PUSZTAI and Klára PAPP provided unselfish, efficient, and always cheerful help. Students and associates of the Department of Palaeontology, Eötvös University, esp. Zoltán SZŰCS and Attila KOVÁCS offered essential support. Their help is sincerely acknowledged herein.

¹ Department of Palaeontology, Eötvös University, P. O. Box 120, H-1518 Budapest, Hungary. E-mail: kazmer@ludens.elte.hu