

## Working Group on Organic Minerals ("WGOM")

### **Minutes of Meeting of the WGOM held during the 18th General Meeting of IMA at Edinburgh**

(1) Session 17: Biomineralization and organic minerals (September 4th)

Members of WG have contributed two **oral presentations** and 3 posters.

Tazaki, K.: Bacterial Mineralization in the As-rich Environment

Vávra, N.: Studies of biomarkers and their diagenetic pathways as an approach towards a "natural" classification of organic minerals

#### **Posters:**

Asada, Okuno & Tazaki: Structural anisotropy of biogenic silica .....

Winkler, Kirchner & Musso: Raman spectroscopy on the natural polystyrene resin Siegburgite

Yushkin: Native metals in organic minerals and bitumens

(2) Technical session: September 5th, Edinburgh. 5 participants.

(a) welcome to three new members of WG

(b) Survey concerning activities of WGOM in the years 1985 - 2002:

"List of valid and rejected names of organic minerals"

Various efforts to establish a special journal for amber studies

"Newsletter": discussion of details, resulting in the promise to

continue

at least in the way practised until now.

(c) Discussion of ideas and various proposals concerning the contribution of our

WG for the IGC (Internat. Geol. Congress) at Florence in 2004.

WG will participate - following a suggestion of EMU officers - in the organization of a session concerning biomineralization and organic minerals within the symposium "Mineralogy".

Topics to be included in this session in 2004: (1) biomineralization-microbial influence, (2) Raman spectroscopy, (3) hydrocarbons as organic minerals [and others].

**Informations on objectives and work plan  
for the next year/ next 5 years (2003-2007)**

**(11) Work plan for next year (2003):**

- (1) Newsletter to be continued (one edition as minimum per year)
- (2) Revisions of organic minerals to be intensified
- (3) WG will organize a symposium (resp. seminar) dedicated to various aspects of amber studies in Gdansk: Title: "Amber in Gdansk. Mineralogy, archaeology and craftsmanship", Date: August 23rd - 25th, 2003.  
Cooperation with "Amberif" (Gdansk) and Muzeum Ziemi (Polish Academy of Science, Warszawa).

**(12) Critical milestones to be achieved next year**

- (1) "Newsletters" should increase in various respects: list of references, current revisions of organic minerals, reports on activities concerning amber etc.
- (2) Preparing the contributions of our WG to the session on "Biomineralogy and organic minerals" to be held within the Mineralogy-Syposium during the IGC at Firenze in 2004.

**(13) Anticipated results/products next year**

Urgent revisions to continue with our work for the "List of valid and rejected names of organic minerals"

**(14) Communication plans**

Close cooperation with "Amberif" (Gdansk, Poland) and Muzeum Ziemi, Warszawa (see above)

### **(15) Summary budget for next year (IUGS support)**

Until now our WG has not yet received any financial support at all.

Funding of future activities would be urgently needed however:

- a) Travel costs for single members to participate in our symposium at Gdansk in 2003
- b) Travel costs for IGC at Firenze in 2004.

A minimum of 4.000.- E per year would be required for these purposes.

### **(16) Potential funding sources outside IUGS**

Probably very limited chances for any such funding; no detailed information available as far as single members are concerned.

### **(17) Review chief accomplishments/results over the last 5 years (period 1998- 2002)**

#### **(17.1.) Circulars distributed to WG members**

1999: First "Newsletter" of WG mailed

2000: Newsletter 2/2000

2001: Newsletter 3/2001

2002: Newsletter 4/2002 - being just prepared

Remarks: Our "Newsletters" have become an effective tool to intensify contact and cooperation between members of WG as well as with other colleagues. Scope of contents, topics and informations will be extended already in near future. Realizing that literature concerning organic minerals is rather widespread in various - partly even local - journals being not readily available in some places, the listing of recent publications in our Newsletter offers an additional valuable and useful source of information for all colleagues.

#### **(17.2.) List of valid and rejected Names of Organic Minerals**

Necessary revisions are continued, work is in progress but there remains still much to be done. A preliminary version of this list will hopefully be mailed to members of WG in 2003. Results are currently published in various separate papers by members of WG.

#### **(17.3.) Papers and/or posters presented at scientific meetings, including popular lectures:**

Members of WG have participated in various meetings and presented papers and/or posters on different topics related to organic mineralogy - including popular lectures; no detailed list of topics and dates available. For 2002 see for instance above ("Minutes") under item (1); a few details to give at least one more example (Vávra): 4 public lectures on amber research in 2002 (in Lower and Upper Austria and in Vienna), a few short presentations on amber research for the Vienna broadcasting station, some logistical support for a TV report on science, etc.

#### **(17.4.) Exhibitions:**

Members of WG have participated in different ways in various exhibitions or organized exhibitions on topics of organic mineralogy (amber !) themselves; only examples from 2002 will be given.

(a) 3 amber exhibitions in Hungary ("A borostyán csodálatos világa") in the following museums: (1) "Herman Ottó Múzeum" in Miskolc (March 3rd - June, 1st); (2) "Magyar Természettudományi Múzeum" in Budapest (June, 12th - Sept. 9th); (3) "Központi Bányászati Múzeum" in Sopron (Sept. 21st - November 11th). all three exhibitions were organized by Prof. Kosmowska- Ceranowicz.

(b) Amber exhibition in "Museumsdorf Niedersulz" (Lower Austria); for an exhibition showing some general aspects of amber as well as details about former amber turning in "Old Austria" some exhibits and a few posters have been prepared (Vavra, spring - autumn 2002).

#### **(17.5.) Journal on amber research ?**

For some time one of the main goals of our WG had been to establish in the one or the other form a special journal concerning amber studies and related subjects. After a lot of work and time had been spent to check various possibilities it had turned out that this whole project was really not feasible - mainly because of severe financial problems to be expected.

#### **(18) Summarize anticipated objectives and work plan for the next 5 years**

##### **(period 2003 - 2007):**

2003: Symposium "Amber in Gdansk. Mineralogy, archaeology and craftsmanship", Date: August 23rd - 25th,

2004: Session "Biomineralogy and organic minerals" within the Symposium "Mineralogy" during the IGC at Firenze.

2005: objectives and work plan still under discussion

2006: Session within the 19th General Meeting of IMA

2007: not yet any work plan prepared.

Norbert Vavra

Vienna, November 15th, 2002