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Book of Abstracts

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Palaeontology in the virtual era

From an original idea of Vicente D. Crespo

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DATA SET OF POLLEN AND NON-POLLEN PALYNOMORPHS PRESERVED IN BALTIC AMBER FROM MAIG COLLECTION

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The Baltic amber, Eocene fossil resin, is well known for the preservation of a wide spectrum of the macroscopic inclusions of plants and animals. Thousands of extinct species were described based on those inclusions, yet still, not resulted in a clear view into the "amber forest". The taphonomical and geological history of that fossil resin includes numerous redepositions which leads to the complicated taphonomical relations between inclusions. These fossils were segregated in space and time and may not represent similar biocenoses. In this study, we used selected material from the Collection of the Museum of Amber Inclusions University of Gdańsk (**MAIG**). Those 28 amber pieces were cut into slices, grind and polished to the form of amber slides with a thickness of 1 mm and thoroughly examined under light microscopes. The result of this study is a dataset of palynomorphs analysed for each sample separately. Different types of pollen grains and fungal spores were found. Moreover, two different types of palynomorph taphoceonoses were recognised. One, comprising entrapped inclusions, representing biocenosis of living, resinous tree and palynomorphs and hyphae of funges that intertwisted already formed, probably "non-active" resin trap. These data-sets of palynomorphs taxa and their taphonomical interpretations may lead to more accurate reconstructions of biocenoses preserved in the samples as well as to the proposal of reconstruction of environments and conditions at times of their formation.