

Stefan Götz

27th June, 1964 – 30th July, 2012



Stefan (right) together with his co-authors of the recent CJES paper at the 9th Rudist Congress Conference Dinner (picture courtesy of Peter Skelton).

Our colleague and fellow rudistologist Stefan Götz passed away on 30th of July 2012 at the young age of 48. He is leaving behind his wife Christina and two young daughters, Julia and Lily.

Stefan was born in Soyen near Munich. He did not originally pursue an academic career but was trained as a carpenter in the workshop of his father. In 1989, he started studying geology at the Ludwig-Maximilian University in Munich and graduated in 1995 with a thesis about sedimentary facies, palaeoecology, and palaeogeography of the Miocene in the province of Valencia, Spain. His interest in palaeoecology was important for his subsequent research activities, which then began to be focused on rudist bivalves. In 1999, still at the Ludwig-Maximilian University of Munich, he completed his Ph.D. thesis about the rudist associations of the Late Cretaceous of southern Spain. Following a short appointment at the Bayerische Staatssammlung für Paläontologie where he was responsible for the IT of the museum, he moved on to the Geology Department of the University of Karlsruhe as Assistant Professor (Hochschulassistent). His research remained focused on rudist bivalves; in 2005 he was awarded the *venia legendi* (habilitation) in geology and palaeontology, based on his research of the quantitative palaeontology and accumulation potential of rudist associations on both sides of the Cretaceous Atlantic Ocean. Since 2007, he established his own research group on Quantitative Palaeobiology and Carbonate Sedimentology at the University of Heidelberg, since 2009 in the position of Acting Professor in

Sedimentology. Stefan initiated several funded research projects that reflect his passion for rudist palaeobiology, and more recently included aspects of Cretaceous palaeoceanography such as the effect of ocean acidification on Cretaceous carbonate sedimentation. His colleagues will remember the micro-tomographic methods he developed in order to visualize and quantify patterns of reproduction of rudist communities, and the spectacular 3D animations that resulted from these studies.



Stefan working with his micro-tomographic method

Stefan and his students started to use these methods also for the investigation of shell morphology, and the paper on 'High resolution and true color grinding tomography of rudist bivalves, exemplified with the taxonomic revision of *Mathesia darderi* (Astre)' published in the current volume together with two of his students, is an example of the latest research of his group, and demonstrates the potential of the method. There were also plans to employ this approach in the quantification of porosity of carbonate rocks. This range of interests, his open-mindedness, and ability to excite others with his ideas attracted a growing number of graduate and PhD students that he supervised. Since 2003, Stefan regularly supplied the Cretaceous research community with the 'Newsletter of the Cretaceous Platforms Group of Cretaceous Resources, Events, and

Rhythms', and he chaired the Working Group 4 of CRER since 2002.

Stefan passed away after a short and serious illness that he was not aware of when many of his colleagues met him for the last time in June 2011, during the Ninth International Congress on Rudist

Bivalves in Kingston, Jamaica. We will miss his cheerful personality, and his many and varied contributions to the scientific community.

Thomas Steuber

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