

Introduction

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The Ninth International Congress on Rudist Bivalves was held at the University of the West Indies in Kingston, Jamaica, from the 18th to 25th of June, 2011. The meeting coincided with the 40th anniversary of three important papers on American rudist taxonomy (Chubb, 1971; van Domellen, 1971; Alencáster, 1971) and the abstracts volume (Mitchell, 2011) was dedicated to Lawrence Chubb and his studies on the rudists of Jamaica (Mitchell and James-Williamson, 2011).

This thematic volume of the *Caribbean Journal of Earth Science* includes papers presented at that conference as well as a few other papers on rudist bivalves that it was felt appropriate to include.

The volume begins with opening remarks by Gavin Gunter (Gunter, 2013 [this volume]), the then President of the Geological Society of Jamaica and well-known to rudist workers for his works on the rudists of Jamaica. The Commissioner of Mines presented a keynote address on “*Managing our Mineral Resources in Changing Time*” (Thompson, 2013 [this volume]).

Peter Skelton presented the new classification of rudists for the Bivalve Treatise (Skelton, 2013a [this volume]; Skelton, 2013b [this volume]) which was presented and discussed at both the 8th and 9th International Rudist Congresses.

Taxonomic revisions of many rudists are also presented: including lower Cretaceous caprinoid rudists (Mitchell, 2013a [this volume]; Mitchell, 2013b [this volume]; and Masse et al., 2013 [this volume]); a new hippuritid - *Polytorreites* (Mitchell and Skelton, 2013 [this volume]). Whereas Sano et

al. (2013 [this volume]) established the presence of *Immanitas* in California, and Tunis et al. (2013 [this volume]) reviewed the various species placed in the genus *Pseudopolyconites*.

Sherene James-Williamson described the state of the rudist Collections at the University of the West Indies Geology Museum (James-Williamson, 2013 [this volume]) and Enric Pascual-Cebrian described interesting studies using high resolution and true colour grinding tomography (Pascual-Cebrian et al. 2013 [this volume]).

Sadly we also say fare-well to two rudist workers, James Henry Mac Gillavry whose seminal work on rudists in 1937 has formed much of the basis of recent studies (Krijnen et al., 2013 [this volume]); and Stefan Götz who died at the age of 48 years before realizing his full scientific potential (Steuber, 2013 [this volume]). This volume is dedicated to their memories.

We thank those that made this conference a success through their sponsorship, including: The Petroleum Corporation of Jamaica; The Mines and Geology Division; The Geological Society of Jamaica; The Office of Graduate Studies and Research at the University of the West Indies; the Geography and Geology Department at the University of the West Indies; The Lawrence Chubb Fund; and Sagress Energy. We also take time to thank the delegates for making the conference and fieldtrips in Jamaica a success.

We thank the authors for submitting their manuscripts for this volume and thank the numerous reviewers for their time working on the papers.

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