



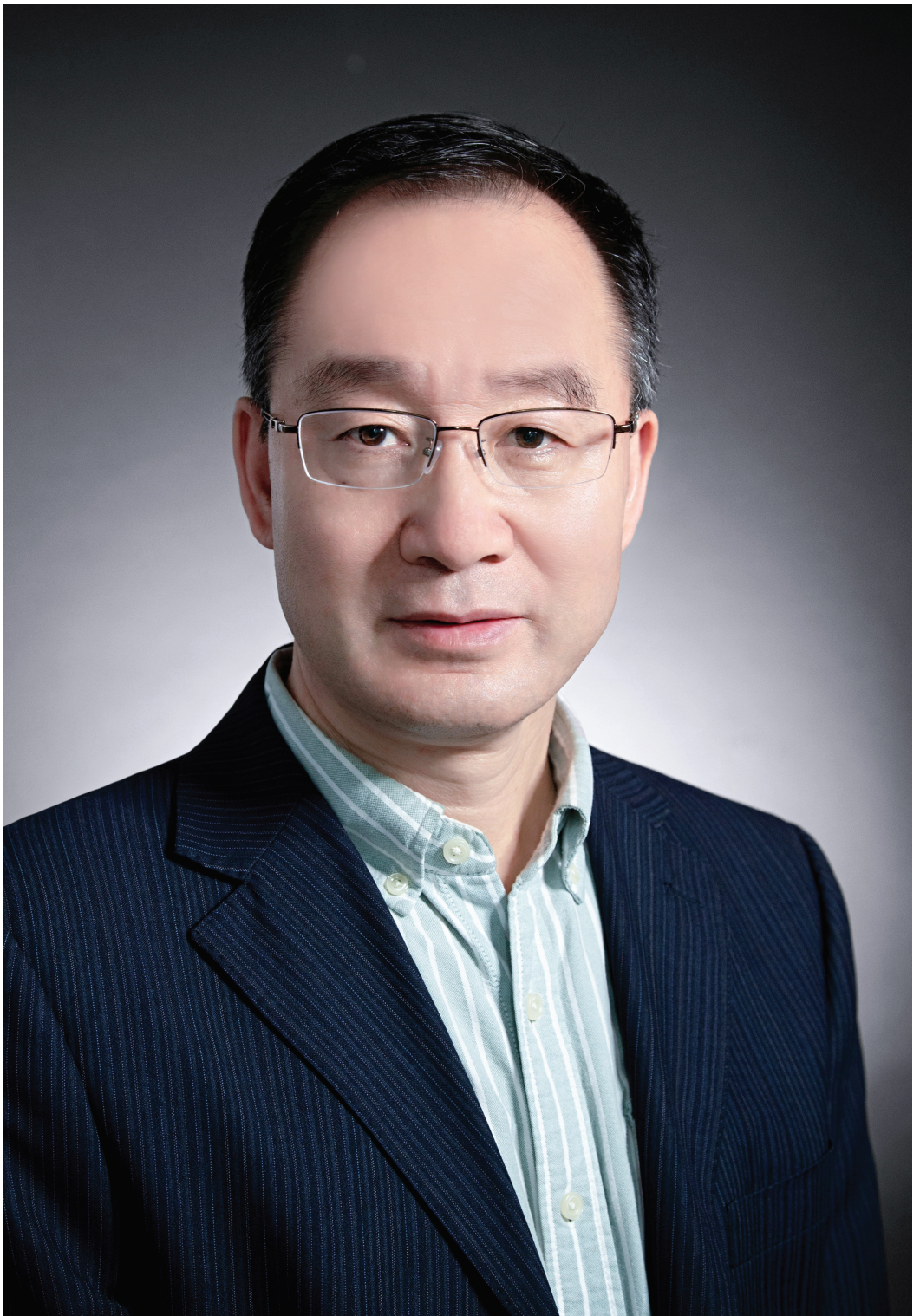
UNIVERSITATEA DIN BUCUREȘTI

YONGDONG WANG

Doctor Honoris Causa

YONGDONG WANG
DOCTOR HONORIS CAUSA





I travelled in many places for doing my research and also for attending international conferences. Three foreign places impressed me very much. The first is the University of Florida in Gainesville, USA. During my stay there, I collaborated with my good friend, Prof. Mihai Popa. We worked together on the Mesozoic floras in the Natural History Museum of University of Florida. The second place which impressed me very much is Tübingen, Germany. I got a Humboldt Fellowship award in 2001 and worked in Tübingen for one and half year, enjoying the beautiful university campus, the river, hills and churches. The third place which impressed me is Bucharest, the capital of Romania, since I first visited it in 2018. I enjoyed the beautiful campus of the university, and also visited the collections of the Faculty of Geology and Geophysics, of the Geological Museum and of the National History Museum.

Professor Yongdong Wang



Laudatio | Yongdong Wang

Stimate Domnule Profesor Yongdong Wang,
Stimate Domnule Rector,
Stimate Domnule Președinte al Senatului Universității din București,
Stimați colegi,
Doamnelor și domnilor,
Dragi prieteni,

Profesorul Yongdong Wang, de la Nanjing Institute of Geology and Palaeontology, Chinese Academy of Sciences (NIGPAS), este o personalitate remarcabilă în domeniul Paleobotanicii Mesozoicului, cu o contribuție științifică impresionantă la cunoașterea plantelor triasice, jurasice și cretacice din China și din restul lumii, cu o lungă experiență de cercetare care a influențat comunitatea științifică internațională. De asemenea, profesorul Yongdong Wang predă studenților de la Universitatea din Nanjing și de la Universitatea Normală din Shenyang, este directorul Muzeului de Paleontologie din Nanjing al NIGPAS și director adjunct al Laboratorului Cheie de Paleontologie și Stratigrafie al NIGPAS.

Profesorul Yongdong Wang s-a născut la 10 ianuarie 1967 la Gansu. A obținut licența în geologie la Universitatea din Lanzhou în 1990, masteratul în geologie în 1993 la Institutul Geologic din Lanzhou al Academiei Chineze de Științe și doctoratul în geologie la Universitatea de Nord-Vest din Xi'an, în 1996.

Între 1996-1998, profesorul Yongdong Wang a desfășurat studii postdoctorale la NIGPAS, ocupând poziția de conferențiar între 1998 și până în anul 2000, când a obținut titlul de profesor. Între 2001-2002 a funcționat ca *Senior Visiting Professor* la Universitatea din Florida, Gainesville, SUA, unde a desfășurat o activitate intensă de cercetare în domeniul Paleobotanicii împreună cu profesorul David L. Dilcher, membru al Academiei Naționale de Știință (National Academy of Sciences, NAS). Între 2002-2004 a studiat la Universitatea din Tübingen, Germania, ca bursier al Fundației Alexander von Humboldt, colaborând cu profesorul Volker Mossbruger. Între 2007-2013 a funcționat ca profesor invitat la Université Lyon 1, Franța, colaborând cu profesorul Gaetan Guignard și profesorul Georges Barale în domeniul ultrastructurilor cuticulare și ale sporilor și polenului.

Carezultat al acestor activități excelente de cercetare și de predare, profesorul Yongdong Wang a primit o serie de premii importante, printre care Premiul Ministerului Industriei Cărbunelui, Clasa a II-a, în 1998, Premiul Amonitul de Aur al Subcomisiei Internaționale de Stratigrafie a Jurasicului în 2008, Premiul pentru Știință și Tehnologie al Provinciei Jiangsu, Clasa a II-a, în 2010, Premiul pentru Excelență Didactică al Academiei Chineze de Științe în 2012, Premiile de excelență pentru popularizarea științei al Provinciei Jiangsu între anii 2007–2015, Premiile Top 10 în Paleontologie în China pentru anii 2016, 2021 și 2022, Premiul pentru excelență în cercetare al Provinciei Jiangsu în 2021 și Premiul Top 10 pentru popularizarea științei în China în 2021.

Serviciul științific și profesional al profesorului Yongdong Wang include o lungă serie de apartenențe la societăți profesionale și la comitete editoriale. Profesorul Yongdong Wang este vice-președinte și secretar general al următoarelor societăți: Asociația Paleontologică Asiatică (APA), Societatea Paleontologică Chineză (SPC) și membru în consiliul Asociației Paleontologice Internaționale (API) și membru cu drept de vot în Subcomisia Internațională a Stratigrafiei Jurasicului (SISJ). Dânsul este editor șef al Acta Palaeontologica Sinica (Nanjing), editor-șef asociat al Palaeoworld (Nanjing), editor asociat al Geological Magazine (Cambridge) și membru al comitetelor editoriale al următoarelor reviste: Volumina Jurassica (Varșovia) și Palaeontologisch Zeitschrift (Stuttgart).

De-a lungul carierei sale, profesorul Yongdong Wang a fost ca director de proiect în numeroase granturi și proiecte legate de Paleobotanica Mesozoicului, Paleoecologie și Paleoclimat, în China și în lume, cu finanțare de la Fundația Națională de Știință din China, Academia Chineză de Științe și de la Ministerul Științei și Tehnologiei din China.

A publicat peste 150 de articole științifice în periodice cu *peer-review* din toată lumea: Europa (UK, Franța, Germania, Olanda), SUA și Asia (Japonia, China), cărți și capitole de carte. Articolele sale sunt publicate în majoritate ca prim autor sau ca autor corespondent, împreună cu colaboratorii săi: doctoranzi sau colegii săi paleobotaniști din toată lumea, inclusiv din România.

Profesorul Yongdong Wang a contribuit fundamental la Paleobotanica Mesozoicului de-a lungul a câtorva direcții de cercetare.

Sistematica plantelor triasice, jurasice și cretacice, conservate com-presiv. A descoperit un mare număr de noi specii mesozoice pentru știință și a contribuit

masiv la sistematica, paleoecologia și stratigrafia unor grupe de plante din China, Myanmar, Iran, Japonia și America de Nord, precum:

- briofite din China și Myanmar, în special de vârstă jurasică și cretacică, cum este *Veltiplanaxis obtusus* sp. nov. și *Frullania partita* sp. nov.;
- lycopside din ambra cretacică din Myanmar, cum este *Selaginella cretacea* sp. nov.;
- filicopside cu numeroase familii, cum sunt *Marattiaceae* (Permian, Triasic, Jurassic din China, ex. *Asterotheca*, *Danaeopsis fecunda*), *Hymenophyllaceae* (Cretacicul din Myanmar), *Dicksoniaceae* (Triasicul și Jurasicul din China, cu genuri importante precum *Thaumatopteris* și *Hausmannia*, frecvent studiate cu sporii lor in situ), *Osmundaceae* (*Todites* fertili din China, cu spori in situ) și *Gleicheniaceae* (Jurasicul din Mongolia interioară, precum și sinteza familiei *Gleicheniaceae* în China);
- pteridosperme (precum genul *Ptilozamites* din Triasicul din Sichuan);
- ginkgopside (*Sphenobaiera huangi* din Jurasicul mediu din Hubei, *Ginkgoites* din Iran);
- cycadopside, cu genuri de benettitale precum *Otozamites* (sinteză a Mesozoicului din China);
- coniferopside, precum *Elatocladus* din Jurasicul din Iran și *Podozamites* din China;
- angiosperme, cu genuri dintre *Rhamnaceae* (din ambra cretacică din Myanmar), *Wireroadia* gen. nov. (Cretacicul din Alabama și New England) și *Tricalycites* (Cretacicul din America de Nord).

Plante triasice, jurasice și cretactice conservate ca permineralizări, din China. A contribuit cu numeroși taxoni noi, alături de studii importante din punct de vedere stratigrafic și paleoecologic, bazate pe material permineralizat (silicificat și carbonatat):

- familii de filicopside, precum *Osmundaceae* (*Ashicaulis wangi* sp. nov., *A. beipiaoensis* sp. nov. din Provincia Liaoning, jurasice, *Osmundacaulis*);
- familii de coniferopside precum *Sciadopityaceae* (Jurasicul din Asia de Est), *Cupressaceae* (*Sequoioxylon zhangii* sp. nov.) și *Incertae sedis* (*Brachyoxyton* sp. nov. din Cretacicul inferior al Provinciei Zhejiang), cu implicații paleoclimatice și stratigrafice.

Palinologie. În domeniul Palinologiei, Profesorul Yongdong Wang și colaboratorii săi au publicat o serie de articole științifice cu privire la asociațiile de polen triasice și jurasice:

- investigații privitoare la Episodul Pluvial Carnian folosind date primare palinologice din Bazinul Sichuan;
- palinoflore jurasice din Bazinul Qaidam;
- **petropalinologia ca metodă de investigație pentru explorarea de petrol.**

Paleoecologia și stratigrafia formațiunilor terestre. Profesorul Yongdong Wang a publicat o serie substanțială de articole științifice privitoare la stratigrafia Mesozoicului continental și la reconstituiri paleoecologice:

- sedimentologia, fitostratigrafia, dinamica vegetației și a climatului de-a lungul limitei Triasic-Jurassic în bazinul Sichuan și în alte bazine sedimentare din China;
- alterarea continentală, perturbațiile ciclului carbonului asociate cu vulcanismul de-a lungul limitei Triasic-Jurassic;
- paleo-concentrațiile de CO₂ de-a lungul limitei Triasic-Jurassic și din timpul Cretacicului, cu date legate de Oceanul Tethys, precum și din indexul stomatal al unor frunze ginkgoale fosile;
- focul ca factor paleoecologic în paleo-ecosistemele triasice și jurasice;
- fototropismul inelelor anuale de creștere, cu implicații tectonice și legate de reconstituiri paleoecologice;
- diverse sinteze legate de lemnele cretacice, cu privire la importanța lor paleoclimatică.

Profesorul Yongdong Wang a desfășurat o colaborare strânsă cu paleobotaniștii români încă din anul 2001 și a vizitat Universitatea din București în 2018, ocazie cu care a conferențiat pentru studenții Facultății de Geologie și Geofizică. Această colaborare a continuat cu activități comune de teren în provinciile Sichuan, Liaoning, Heilongjiang și Guangdong și cu vizite fructuoase la Nanjing Institute of Geology and Palaeontology (NIGPAS).

Dear Professor Yongdong Wang,
Dear Rector,
Dear President of the University Senate,
Dear colleagues,
Ladies and gentlemen,
Dear friends,

Professor Yongdong Wang from Nanjing Institute of Geology and Palaeontology, Chinese Academy of Sciences (NIGPAS) is a remarkable personality in the field of Mesozoic Palaeobotany, with an impressive research contribution to the knowledge of Triassic, Jurassic and Cretaceous plants from China and from the rest of the world, with a long, research experience which influenced the international scientific community. He is also teaching undergraduate and graduate students in Nanjing University and in Shenyang Normal University. Professor Yongdong Wang is also the Director of the Nanjing Palaeontology Museum of NIGPAS and Deputy Director of the NIGPAS State Key Laboratory of Palaeobiology and Stratigraphy.

Professor Yongdong Wang was born in Gansu on 10 January 1967, he obtained his BSc degree Geology in Lanzhou University in 1990, his Master's degree in Geology in 1993 from Lanzhou Institute of Geology, Chinese Academy of Sciences, and his Ph.D degree in Northwest University in Xi'an, in 1996.

Between 1996-1998 Professor Yongdong Wang was a postdoctoral fellow of NIGPAS, obtaining there his Associate Professor position in 1998 until 2000 when he obtained his full professorship in NIGPAS. Between 2001-2002 he was a Senior Visiting Professor at the University of Florida, Gainesville, USA, where he developed high-quality research in Palaeobotany with Professor David L. Dilcher, a member of the National Academy of Sciences. Between 2002-2004 he studied at the University of Tübingen, Germany, as an Alexander von Humboldt Research Fellow, collaborating with Prof. Volker Mossbruger, while between 2007-2013 he was a visiting Professor in Université Lyon 1, France, collaborating mainly with Prof. Gaetan Guignard and Prof. Georges Barale in the field of cuticle, spore and pollen ultrastructures.

As a result of his outstanding research and teaching in Palaeobotany, Professor Yongdong Wang was awarded a series of high-profile prizes, such as the Second Class Award from the Ministry of Coal Industry in 1998, the Golden Ammonite

Award from the International Subcommission of Jurassic Stratigraphy in 2008, the Second Class Science and Technology Award of Jiangsu Province in 2010, the Outstanding Teacher Award of Chinese Academy of Sciences in 2012, the Outstanding culturing scientist of higher level professional talents of Jiangsu Province between 2007-2015, the Top ten progresses of Palaeontology Award in China for 2016, 2021, and 2022, the Outstanding contribution of scientific experts of Jiangsu Province in 2021, and the Top Ten Science Popularization Works of China Award in 2021.

The scientific and professional service of Professor Yongdong Wang includes a long series of memberships in professional associations and in editorial boards. He is Vice President of the following scientific societies: Asian Palaeontological Association (APA), Palaeontological Society of China (PSC), Secretary General of the following scientific societies: Asian Palaeontological Association (APA), Palaeontological Society of China (PSC), Council member of the International Palaeontological Association (IPA) and Voting member of the International Subcommission of Jurassic Stratigraphy (ISJS). He is currently Editor in Chief of *Acta Palaeontologica Sinica* (Nanjing), Associate Editor in Chief of *Palaeoworld* (Nanjing), Associate Editor of *Geological Magazine* (Cambridge), and a member of editorial boards of the following scientific journals: *Volumina Jurassica* (Warsaw), and *Palaeontologisch Zeitschrift* (Stuttgart).

During his career, Professor Yongdong Wang acted as a Principal Investigator to numerous research grants and projects dealing with significant topics in Mesozoic Palaeobotany, Palaeoecology, and Palaeoclimate in China and abroad, funded by the National Science Foundation of China, Chinese Academy of Sciences, and Ministry of Science and Technology of China. He published more than 150 research articles in peer-reviewed journals from all over the world, from Europe (UK, France, Germany, the Netherlands), USA, and Asia (Japan, China), next to books and book chapters. His research articles were published in the majority as a first author or as a corresponding author, together with his collaborators: his Ph.D students and his fellow palaeobotanists from all over the world, including Romania.

Professor Yongdong Wang contributed fundamentally to Mesozoic Palaeobotany along several research directions.

Triassic, Jurassic and Cretaceous plant systematics on material preserved as compressions.

Professor Yongdong Wang discovered a large number of new species of Mesozoic plants and he contributed heavily to the systematics, palaeoecology and stratigraphy of plant groups from China, Myanmar, Iran, Japan, and North America, such as:

- bryophytes from China and Myanmar, mainly Jurassic and Cretaceous in age, such as *Veltiplanaxis obtusus* sp. nov., and *Frullania partita* sp. nov.;
- lycopsids (e.g. *Selaginella cretacea* sp. nov. from Cretaceous Myanmar amber);
- filicopsids with numerous families, such as Marattiales (Permian, Triassic, Jurassic from China, e.g. *Asterotheca*, *Danaeopsis fecunda*), Hymenophyllaceae (Cretaceous of Myanmar), Dicksoniaceae (Triassic and Jurassic of China, with important genera such as *Thaumatopteris* and *Hausmannia*, often studying their in situ spores), Osmundaceae (fertile *Todites* from China with in situ spores) and Gleicheniaceae (Jurassic of Inner Mongolia, as well as a synthesis of the family in China);
- pteridospermopsids (*Ptilozamites* from the Triassic of Sichuan);
- ginkgopsids (*Sphenobaiera huangi* from the Middle Jurassic of Hubei, *Ginkgoites* from Iran);
- cycadopsids, with bennettitalean genera such as *Otozamites* (a synthesis of the Mesozoic of China);
- coniferopsids, e.g. *Elatocladus* from the Jurassic of Iran and *Podozamites* from China;
- angiosperms, with genera such as Rhamnaceae (in Cretaceous Myanmar amber), *Wirerodia* gen. nov. (Cretaceous of Alabama and New England), and *Tricalycites* (Cretaceous of North America).

Triassic, Jurassic and Cretaceous plants preserved as permineralizations from China.

Professor Yondong Wang also contributed with numerous new taxa, as well as with important stratigraphic and palaeoecological studies based on permineralized (silicified and calcified) material:

- filicopsid families such as Osmundaceae (Jurassic *Ashicaulis wangi* sp. nov., *A. beipiaoensis* sp. nov. from Liaoning, *Osmundacaulis*);
- coniferopsids of families such as Sciadopityaceae (Jurassic of East Asia), Cupressaceae (*Sequoioxylon zhangii* sp. nov.), and Incertae sedis (*Brachyoxyton* sp. nov. from the Lower Cretaceous of Zhejiang Province), with palaeoclimate and stratigraphic implications.

Palynology

In the field of Palynology, Professor Yongdong Wang and his collaborators published a series of research articles dealing with Triassic and Jurassic pollen and spores assemblages:

- investigations on the Carnian Pluvial Episode using palynological proxies from the Sichuan Basin; Jurassic palynofloras from the Qaidam Basin;
- petropalynology as a tool for oil exploration.

Palaeoecology and stratigraphy of terrestrial formations

Professor Yongdong Wang published a substantial series of research articles dealing with Mesozoic terrestrial stratigraphy and with palaeoecological reconstructions:

- sedimentology, phyt stratigraphy, vegetation and climate dynamics across the Triassic-Jurassic boundary in Sichuan Basin and in other sedimentary basins from China;
- Continental weathering, carbon-cycle perturbations linked to volcanism across the Triassic-Jurassic boundary;
- palaeo-CO₂ concentrations across the Triassic-Jurassic boundary and during the Cretaceous, with evidence across the Tethys Ocean from various proxies, such as stomatal index of fossil ginkgoalean leaves;
- fire palaeoecology in Triassic-Jurassic environments;
- tree ring phototropism with tectonic implications and reconstructions;
- Various syntheses on Jurassic and Cretaceous fossil woods, related to their palaeoclimate significance.

Professor Yongdong Wang has had a fruitful collaboration since 2001 with Romanian palaeobotanists and he visited the University of Bucharest in 2018, when he gave a talk to graduate and undergraduate students and the Faculty of Geology and Geophysics. This collaboration continued with joint field trips in Sichuan, Liaoning, Heilongjiang and Guangdong provinces and with fruitful research visits at the Nanjing Institute of Geology and Palaeontology (NIGPAS).



Curriculum vitae | Yongdong Wang

PERSONAL DETAILS

Male, Ph.D, Professor;
Nationality: Chinese;
Born 1967-01-10 in Gansu, China

PRESENT POSITION:

Professor of palaeontology

WORK ADDRESS:

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HIGHER EDUCATION

1993–1996 Northwest University, Xi'an, China. Ph.D., Paleontology and Stratigraphy;

1990–1993 Lanzhou Institute of Geology, CAS. Master of Sci., Paleontology and Stratigraphy;

1986–1990 Lanzhou University, China. Bachelor of Science, Geology

CURRENT POSITIONS

Full Professor of Geology & Paleontology, Nanjing Institute of Geology & Palaeontology, CAS.

Deputy Director, State Key Lab of Palaeobiology & Stratigraphy.

Director, Nanjing Paleontology Museum

Conjunction Professor, Nanjing University, Nanjing, China and Shenyang Normal University, Shenyang, China.

PREVIOUS POSITIONS

1996–1998 Postdoctoral Fellow, Nanjing Institute of Geology & Palaeontology, CAS

1998–2000 Associate Professor, Nanjing Institute of Geology and Palaeontology, CAS

2001–current Full Professor, Nanjing Institute of Geology and Palaeontology, CAS

2001–2002 Senior Visiting Professor Fellow, University of Florida, USA.

2002–2004 A.V.H. Humboldt Research Fellow, University of Tübingen, Germany

2007 and 2013: Each year one moth: Visiting Professor, University of Lyon 1, France

PRIZES AND AWARDS

- Scholarship for Overseer’s Studies by Chinese Academy of Sciences (**1999–2001**)
- Research Fellow of Alexander von Humboldt Foundation of Germany (**2002–2004**)
- Second Class Award from Ministry of Coal Industry in **1998** for “Jurassic Coal-bearing strata and coal accumulation in Northwest China”
- Golden Ammonite Award in **2008** by International Subcommittee on Jurassic Stratigraphy
- Second Class Award of Jiangsu Province Science and Technology Award in **2010** for “Mesozoic Plant diversity Evolution of China” (Ranking Second)
- The Outstanding Teacher Award of Chinese Academy of Sciences (**2012**)
- Outstanding culturing scientist of higher level professional talents, Jiangsu Province (**2007–2015**)
- Top Ten Progresses of Palaeontology Award in China, awarded by Palaeontological Society of China (**2016, 2021 and 2022**)
- The Outstanding Contributions Scientific Experts in Jiangsu Province, China (**2021**) awarded by the Jiangsu Provincial Government
- The Science exhibition “Evolving Earth, Evolving Life” won the Top 10 Science Popularization Works Award of “Praise 2021– Science Popularization China” selected by China Association for Science and Technology, Chinese Academy of Sciences, Chinese Academy of Engineering and China Media Group.

PROFESSIONAL SERVICES

- Vice President of Asian Palaeontological Association (APA) (**2023–present**)
- Secretary General of Asian Palaeontological Association (APA) (**2019–2023**)
- Vice President of Palaeontological Society of China (PSC) (**2018–present**)
- Secretary General of Palaeontological Society of China (PSC) (**2009–2018**)
- Council Member, International Palaeontological Association (IPA) (**2016–present**)
- Vice President, Paleobotanical Subcommittee of Palaeontological Society of China (**2012–present**)
- Voting Member of International Subcommittee on the Jurassic Stratigraphy (**2008–2018**)
- Editorial Member of International Journal “Volumina Jurassica” (Poland)(**2008–present**)
- Editor in Chief, Acta Paleontologica Sinica (**2019–present**)
- Associate Editor in Chief, Palaeoworld (Elsevier) (**2018–present**)
- Editorial Member, *Palaeontologisch Zeitschrift* (Springer)(**2015–present**)
- Associate Editor, *Geological Magazine* (Cambridge University Press, UK) (**2016–present**)

INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ORGANIZATION

- Scientific Committee member, the 2nd Asian Palaeontological Congress, **August of 2023**, Tokyo, Japan
- Chair of Organizing Committee, the 1st Asian Palaeontological Congress, **November of 2019**, Beijing, China
- Scientific Committee member, the 6th International Palaeontological Congress, **November of 2022**, Khon Khan, Thailand
- Co-Chairs, 1st China-German Joint Conference of Palaeontologische Gesellschaft and Palaeontological Society of China (**2013**, Goetingen, Germany)
- Co-Chairs, 2nd China-German Joint Conference of Palaeontologische Gesellschaft and Palaeontological Society of China (**2017**, Yichang, China)
- Co-leader & Secretary General, UNESCO-IUGS International Geoscience Program IGCP 506 (**2005–2010**)
- Secretary General of Executive Committee, the Second International Palaeontological Congress (IPC2006) in Beijing;
- Secretary General of Organizing Committee, the 8th International Congress on the Jurassic System (**2010**, Sichuan China)

CURRENTLY FUNDED RESEARCH PROJECTS

- **2013–2016:** PI for “Systematics, biodiversity and palaeoenvironment of the Jurassic floras in western Liaoning and northern Hebei” funded by the National Science Foundation of China (NSFC, 41272010).
- **2016–2019:** PI for “Fossil floras and palaeoenvironment of the Yanliao and Jehol Biota in NE China” funded by the Chinese Academy of Sciences Pilot Priority Program (XDB18030502)
- **2012–2016:** PI for “Late Mesozoic paleoclimate reconstruction in East Asia” funded by the State Key Program of Basic Research of Ministry of Science and Technology, China (Grant No. 2012CB822003)
- **2013–2015:** PI for “Mesozoic flora evolution and environment” funded by the Team Program of Scientific Innovation and Interdisciplinary Cooperation of CAS
- **2016–2019:** PI for “Floral evolution and palaeoenvironmental background during the Triassic-Jurassic transition in Guangyuan and Dazhou regions, Sichuan Province” funded by the Natural Science Foundation (Grant No. NSFC 41572014)
- **2023–2028:** PI for “The floral diversity variation and palaeoenvironmental background across the terrestrial Triassic and Jurassic transition: evidence from South China in eastern Tethys region”, funded by the Natural Science Foundation of China (Grant No. NSFC 42372014)

SELECTED PUBLICATIONS

Total of 150 publications in international peer review journals from USA, UK, Germany, the Netherlands, France, Japan as well as in Chinese journals. Over 5 book chapters and 4 proceeding issues. Selected list of publications (* for corresponding author):

Li Y, **Wang YD***, Feldberg K, Wang S*, Shi C, Cui YM, Zhang XQ, 2022. New insights into the moss genus *Vetiplanaxis* with a description of *V. obtusus* sp. nov. from the mid-Cretaceous Kachin amber, Myanmar. *Review of Palaeobotany and Palynology*, 301: 104659 (SCI)

Li Y, Li YD, **Wang YD***, Schneider H, Shi GL, 2022. Re-appraisal of lacewing mimicry of liverworts from the mid-Cretaceous Kachin amber, Myanmar with a description of *Selaginella cretacea* sp. nov. (Selaginellales, Selaginellaceae). *Cretaceous Research*, 133: 105143 (SCI)

Li Y, **Wang YD***, Nosova N, Lu N, Xu YY, 2022. Filmy Ferns (Hymenophyllaceae) and Associated Spike-Mosses (Selaginellaceae) from the Mid-Cretaceous Kachin Amber, Myanmar. *Biology*, 11(11): 1629 (SCI)

An PC, Lu N, Li Y, **Wang YD***, Zhu YB, Li LQ, 2022. New material of marattialean fern (*Danaeopsis fecunda*) from the Late Triassic in China with considerations on the tempo-spatial distribution pattern of *Danaeopsis*. *Geobios*, 71: 13-26 (SCI)

Shen J*, Yin RS, Zhang S, Algeo TJ, Bottjer DJ, Yu JX*, Xu GZ, Penman DE, **Wang YD***, Li LQ, Shi X, Planavsky NJ, Feng QL, Xie SC, 2022. Intensified continental chemical weathering and carbon-cycle perturbations linked to volcanism during the Triassic-Jurassic transition. *Nature Communications*, 13(1): 299 (SCI)

Shi C, Wang S*, Cai HH, Zhang HR, Long XX, Tihelka E, Song WC, Feng Q, Jiang RX, Cai CY, Lombard N, Li X, Yuan J, Zhu JP, Yang HY, Liu XF, Xiang QP, Zhao ZT, Long CL, Schneider H, Zhang XC, Peng H, Li DZ, Fan Y, Engel MS, **Wang YD**, Spicer RA, 2022. Fire-prone Rhamnaceae with South African affinities in Cretaceous Myanmar amber. *Nature Plants*, 8(2): 125-135 (SCI)

Li LQ, Kürschner WM, Lu N, Chen HY, An PC, **Wang YD***, 2022. Palynological record of the Carnian Pluvial Episode from the northwestern Sichuan Basin, SW China. *Review of Palaeobotany and Palynology*, 304: 104704 (SCI)

Jiang ZK*, Tian N, **Wang YD***, Li Y, Zheng SL, Xie AW, Zhu YB, 2022. A new structurally preserved fossil umbrella pine from the Jurassic of East Asia. *Geological Journal*, 57(9): 3521-3537 (SCI)

Lu N, **Wang YD***, Xu YY, Li LQ, Xie XP, Popa ME*, Chen HY, Ruhl M, Kürschner WM, 2023. Oscillations of a fluvial – lacustrine system and its ecological response prior to the end – Triassic: Evidence from the eastern Tethys region. *Geological Journal*, 58(3): 1239-1255 (SCI)

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Interviu | YONGDONG WANG

1. Professor Mihai Emilian Popa: When did you decide to begin doing research in Palaeobotany, and which were the reasons for this choice?

Professor Yongdong Wang: *I decided to study palaeobotany during my undergraduate studies. In the summer of the second year of my bachelor degree, my professor Shen organized a field trip to a Jurassic coal mine near Lanzhou City, and there we found a lot of fossil plants. This was the first time that I found beautiful and abundant fossil plants. My professor encouraged me, stating that „these fossils are very important evidence for exploring the evolution of earth and terrestrial life”. From that time, I fell in love with fossil plants and decided to study palaeobotany. This was the first decision of my young studies career, after that I enjoyed to read the main textbooks, and some popular science journals on fossils. The plant fossils are very much amazing because they can tell you the story that happened during geological time. If you have fossils, you can find the history of plant diversity, know the vegetation types, and also know the climate and ecology. Also I know that palaeontology is a link between biology and geology. So finally, when I graduated, I decided to further study Palaeobotany.*

2. Professor Mihai Emilian Popa: Who were the teachers who influenced you the most in your career?

Professor Yongdong Wang: *I'm very lucky because I met a teacher, Professor Guanglong Shen. He influenced me very much in my career, for studies not only on geology, but also on palaeobotany. In my high school time, I joined a geoscience summer camp held in Lanzhou City, when I visited many beautiful landscapes (like loess, Danxia landscape), got to know why they were formed, and how can they be scientifically explained. After I graduated from high school, I went to Lanzhou University to study geology, joining the field work team of Prof. Shen. During each summer, I went to the field to work with Professor Shen and observed many geological strata and the beautiful and diverse fossils they yield. What impressed me very much was that Prof. Shen told me that when collecting fossils in the field, we study them using not only geology methods, but also biology methods. He encouraged me to study fossil plants with their reproductive organs and with their in situ spores using new techniques. Following his suggestion, I selected palaeobotany as my study target. After I got my master and Ph.D. degrees, I continued to study plants fossils as a Post Doc in Nanjing Institute of Geology and Palaeontology, Chinese Academy of Sciences. This is why I appreciate so much Professor Shen, who is my palaeobotany guide.*

3. Professor Mihai Emilian Popa: *China is a large country, with amazing fossils and with a very high geodiversity. Where did you enjoy the most to do field work in China and why?*

Professor Yongdong Wang: *China has a large territory, with amazing fossil plants occurring from northern to southern China. Among many areas I working in the field, I love a special area very much: the Sichuan Basin. There, the Triassic and Jurassic deposits are widely exposed, with many famous fossil floras. They are significant for investigating important geologic events, mass extinctions, climate change and global warming. Using these fossils, we can explore the vegetation and climate change not only in China, but also on a global scale. Secondly, in this basin occur many geological relics and beautiful landscapes, such as mountains, rivers, and also geoparks. I love this area also because of the wonderful Sichuan food, one of the best cuisines in China. Moreover, the local people are very kind, including the administration of geological parks, as they are very helpful for our geological field work. Particularly, in 2010 we organized an international conference on the Jurassic System in Suining City, the first time that the Jurassic System Congress was held in China. More than two hundred foreign and Chinese experts joined this international conference, and they enjoyed it so much, for science, culture, history, food and liquor of the Sichuan Province.*

4. Professor Mihai Emilian Popa: *Your research results and your list of publications is outstanding. Do you have any preferred titles?*

Professor Yongdong Wang: *In my research career, I have a series of research publications in international journals, mainly focused on plant fossil taxonomy, anatomy, stratigraphy, palaeoecology, palaeogeography, palaeoclimate, and palaeo-CO₂ reconstructions. They were published in some leading journals, such as Nature Communications, Earth and Planetary Science Letters, Earth Science Reviews, Geological Magazine, American Journal of Botany, Review of Palaeobotany and Palynology, etc. My preferred papers are: 1. in 1998, on fertile organs and in situ spores of a marattialean fern from the Jurassic of Southern China in Review of Palaeobotany and Palynology. This is the first report on marattialean fossil spores and fertile structures of this plant group in Asia; 2. in 2005, a report in American Journal of Botany on a fossil Sphenobaiera leaf by using cuticular anatomy, fine and ultra structures to explain its significance for the Ginkgo plant taxonomy and evolution; 3. a third title, published in Earth Science Reviews in 2014 on palaeo-CO₂ reconstruction and global climate change during the Cretaceous. We used two proxies, such*

as the Stomatal Index and the soil proxy, summarizing for the first time in the world aspects and future directions of research on palaeo-CO₂ concentrations. This is crucial for understanding global climate change and global Carbon cycle as well.

5. Professor Mihai Emilian Popa: *You have a series of successful PhD students, many of them are now very successful palaeobotanists with important contributions in the field. Who are they?*

Professor Yongdong Wang: *I have supervised over twenty Ph.D and master students. Many of them are now working in universities and in geological research institutes, as they are very well accomplished in the field of Palaeobotany. One of these is Dr. Ning Tian, a professor working in the Shenyang Normal University, the Dean of College of Palaeontology, and also the executive Director of the Liaoning Museum of Palaeontology. He did a wonderful work on the anatomy and the diversity of ferns and on their palaeoenvironment. Dr. Zikun Jiang, a Professor working in the Chinese Academy of Geological Sciences in Beijing, she is wonderful researcher for Mesozoic fossil wood studies in China. Her studies attracted a series of awards from the Geological Society of China and from the Palaeontological Society of China. Dr. Ning Zhou is now working in the Department of Geology in Northwest University in Xi'an, she has a very good research experience, studying also in Trinity College, Ireland. Dr. Liqin Li is working in my institute in Nanjing, she is focusing on Palynology studies of the Triassic and Jurassic transition of southern China. She studied also in the Swedish Museum of Natural History for Mesozoic Palynology. Dr. Aowei Xie, who got his Ph.D in University of Bonn, Germany, is now a post-doc in Senckenberg Institute of Natural History at Frankfurt am Main studying fossil wood floras.*

6. Professor Mihai Emilian Popa: *Nanjing Institute of Geology and Palaeontology is a world famous research institute for Palaeontology and Geology. How are its research facilities, such as fossil collections, laboratories and libraries?*

Professor Yongdong Wang: *The Nanjing Institute of Geology and Palaeontology, Chinese Academy of Sciences is a world famous research institute for Palaeontology and Geology. It has about 160 researchers and more than 100 master and Ph.D students. We also have a Palaeontology National Key Laboratory, equipped with high-end facilities for fossil anatomy, biostratigraphy and palaeoclimate changes: LM, SEM, TEM and Micro-CT*

techniques. Also, we have a Palaeontology library that cover thousands of journals, books in digital and printed versions. NIGPAS has a large collection with over 200,000 fossil holotypes, and this number increases fast each year, which are essential support for Palaeontology.

7. Professor Mihai Emilian Popa: *You travelled extensively all over the world, as you visited a long list of countries for doing research. Do you have any preferred foreign places?*

Professor Yongdong Wang: *I travelled in many places for doing my research and also for attending international conferences. Three foreign places impressed me very much. The first is the University of Florida in Gainesville, USA. During my stay there, I collaborated with my good friend, Prof. Mihai Popa. We worked together on the Mesozoic floras in the Natural History Museum of University of Florida. The second place which impressed me very much is Tüebingen, Germany. I got a Humboldt Fellowship award in 2001 and worked in Tüebingen for one and half year, enjoying the beautiful university campus, the river, hills and churches. The third place which impressed me is Bucharest, the capital of Romania, since I first visited it in 2018. I enjoyed the beautiful campus of the university, and also visited the collections of the Faculty of Geology and Geophysics, of the Geological Museum and of the National History Museum.*

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