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About the Institute

The Hunt Institute for Botanical Documentation, a research division of Carnegie Mellon University, specializes in the history of botany and all aspects of plant science and serves the international scientific community through research and documentation. To this end, the Institute acquires and maintains authoritative collections of books, plant images, manuscripts, portraits and data files, and provides publications and other modes of information service. The Institute meets the reference needs of botanists, biologists, historians, conservationists, librarians, bibliographers and the public at large, especially those concerned with any aspect of the North American flora.

Hunt Institute was dedicated in 1961 as the Rachel McMasters Miller Hunt Botanical Library, an international center for bibliographical research and service in the interests of botany and horticulture, as well as a center for the study of all aspects of the history of the plant sciences. By 1971 the Library's activities had so diversified that the name was changed to Hunt Institute for Botanical Documentation. Growth in collections and research projects led to the establishment of four programmatic departments: Archives, Art, Bibliography and the Library.

Best. Al.
Alfred Traverse
Palynological Labs.
Department of Geosciences
307 Deike-PSU
University Park, PA 16802
Ph.:814-863-3419
Fax:814-863-7823

At 05:06 PM 2/22/2001 -0500, you wrote:

Hi, Dave:

I just got your phone message. One of the indignities visited upon emeriti here is suspension of phone privileges [except for campus and State College calls]. To use long distance I have to remember to have a phone card on me and dial [I am not making this up] 32 numbers to make the call. So, I resort to this blessedly gratis medium.

Paleopalynology is out of print these many years. However, I am at work to produce a second edition, with Kluwer/Plenum. I jotted down your message from the phone machine so that I can inform the guy who is working on the 2nd Ed. with me that, yes, Dorothy, there still are folks out there who care!

I had three copies when all of this started. Kluwer et al. demanded one of them for use in the work, and I need the other two because of my current situation: my microscopy lab, library, and office are at home, but I also work here in my cubicle at Penn State. The computers have lomega Jazz systems, so that they can be kept current with each other.

It was nice to hear from you. We are both fine. Betty is actually publishing more than I these days--as I think you know she got herk Ph. D. in Mittelhochdeutsch and is a very committed medievalist. Domestic violence in 13th century Germany is one of her principal research areas. And some may have thought it was funny to be interested in Devonian spores.....!

Best. Al.
Alfred Traverse
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Fax:814-863-7823

David Dilcher
Florida Museum of Natural History
University of Florida
Gainesville, FL 32611-7800, U.S.A.
telephone: 352-392-6560 my office, Fax 352-392-2539 (my office),
352-392-6585 laboratory, Fax 352-846-0287 (Departmental office)
e-mail dilcher@flmnh.ufl.edu
<http://www.flmnh.ufl.edu/natsci/paleobotany/paleobotany.htm>

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E-Mail: traverse@ems.psu.edu

21 July, 1999

Dr. David L. Dilcher
Florida Museum of Natural History
University of Florida
Gainesville, FL 32611-2035

Dear Dave:

Professor Kull in Stuttgart is a close personal friend (he is, among other things, author of the current most used botanical textbook in German). Recently he sent me two copies of one of his recent reprints, with the request I send it to some American paleobotanist who might read it. Immediately, I thought of you--interest in the subject matter and fluency (+ or -) in German.

So, here it is, along with a number of my things that I note I've never sent. I never get around to general mailings, and send out reprints as counter punches. I must not have received anything from you lately. Probably, I sighed too loudly during Chala's interminable musings in Lucknow.....oh, well.

Very truly yours,

Alfred Traverse
Professor Emeritus of Palynology

encl.: reprints

*did. d. i. load letter
that on screen!*

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11 June, 1996

Professor David L. Dilcher
Department of Natural Sciences
University of Florida
P. O. Box 117800
Gainesville, FL 32611-7800

Dear Dave:

How nice to hear! Funny thing. Betty and I spent May in Korea and Japan (lectures + just visiting). On return, in the huge pile of mail was a request from Germany for a reprint of this paper. I couldn't place it. Librarian researched for me and came up with it. I made a few xeroxes to be ready in the future and fill this request. It's better to have reprints. Gad, when it mattered, wouldn't I have been delighted by a literature citation I wasn't even expecting!

While we were gone, on about 20 May, there was an incredible freeze at our country place, which I am trying to make into a private arboretum. In our immediate area it went to 20 F. I have never seen such a thing--all terminal growth killed on nearly all species. Robinia pseudoacacia, for example, looked dead when we got back on 27 May. Most species have leafed out again, but there will be no fruit or nuts this year. Things like Pseudotsuga look especially funny--all branches from top to bottom have brown tassels everywhere.

Thanks again and best wishes to you.

Yours very truly,



Alfred Traverse



Department of Natural Sciences
University of Florida
P. O. Box 117800
Gainesville FL 32611-7800 U.S.A.

Phone: 904 / 392-1721
FAX: 904 / 846-0287

June 5, 1996
Dear Al,

Here are copies
of the paper we
published together.

Very best - Mit
alle besten grüsse -
(I have no grammar!)

David



Department of Natural Sciences
Museum Road, University of Florida
Gainesville, FL 32611-2035 U.S.A.

904/392-1721

June 29, 1993

Alfred Traverse
The Pennsylvania State University
Department of Geosciences
Palynological Laboratories
435 Deike Building
University Park, Pennsylvania 16802

Dear Al:

Thank you for the reprints that you sent me which just arrived. It is hard to believe how someone can produce major textbooks, visit disease ridden countries and continue to be so productive in basic research. You seem to do it all. I've not heard from you personally, but only second and third hand that when you returned from India you felt the full impact of the disease potential of that environment. I guess Kathy and I were lucky after living there for two months not to come down with anything that caused us more than temporary discomfort.

I hope you will have time to respond to a recent letter that I wrote to you about the nomenclatural committee. Please give my very best regards to Betty.

Sincerely yours,

David L. Dilcher
Graduate Research Professor

DLD:nvr

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18 June, 1993

Dr. David L. Dilcher
Florida Museum of Natural History
University of Florida
Gainsville, FL 32611-2035

Dear Dave:

Thanks a bunch for the great stack of interesting reading on fossil legumes and much more! It's good to know you're still steaming away! I recall the visits in disease-ridden BSIP with nostalgia.

Best to Kathy.

Yours very truly,



Alfred Traverse

AT/et
encl: a paltry few reprints



Department of Natural Sciences
Museum Road, University of Florida
Gainesville, FL 32611-2035 U.S.A.

904/392-1721

February 5, 1991

Dr. Alfred Traverse
435 Deike Bldg.
Penn State University
University Park, PA 16802

Dear Al,

The people of the Birbal Sahni Institute of Palaeobotany plan to celebrate the 100th anniversary of the birth of the institutes founder, Professor Birbal Sahni, with a special symposium entitled **Evolutionary Plant Biology**. It will be held at the Institute in Lucknow, India on November 14-20, 1991.

I will be a visiting research scholar at the Institute in October and November of 1991. Professor B.S. Venkatachala, Director of the Birbal Sahni Institute of Palaeobotany has asked me to help with some aspects of organizing this symposium. I am writing on his behalf to invite you to participate in this symposium and festivities. A suggested title of your presentation is *Evolution of pollen, its diversity, and its parallelisms in form and function*. This is only a suggestion. If you have a title that better suits the concept of form and function as related to the evolution of plants in your area of specialty, please include this in your letter of acceptance. I expect that the proceedings will be published. Professor Venkatachala is uncertain about travel grants to the symposium, but in view of financial stringencies he suggests that it may not be possible for him to extend travel grants to participants.

There should be more than 35 honored foreign scholars attending this symposium in addition to many paleobotanical research scholars and students from India. I attended the symposium in celebration of the 25th year of the founding of the Birbal Sahni Institute of Palaeobotany and experienced the gracious hospitality of our colleagues there. The current crisis in the Middle East is some distance from India and hopefully will not be of concern to travellers by November.

Please reply directly and promptly to Dr. Venkatachala concerning your willingness to participate in this symposium so that those at the Institute can continue their plans in the organization of this symposium. His address is:

Professor B.S. Venkatachala, Director
Birbal Sahni Institute of Palaeobotany
53 University Road, G.P.O. Box 106
Lucknow 226 001 INDIA

I would appreciated a carbon copy of your reply.

Sincerely yours,

David Dilcher
Graduate Research Professor

July 3, 1991

Thank you very much for
the reprint which you
recently mailed to me.

David Dilcher!
Al. Ich danke Ihnen sehr!
Ya - I would like to meet Kull
sometime. Have a good year
in Germany. Best, David

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4 June, 1991

Dr. David Dilcher
Florida Museum of Natural History
University of Florida
Gainesville, FL 32611-2035

Dear Dave:

My friend at the University in Stuttgart, Ulrich Kull, sent me two copies of his recent paper on plant architecture. He's a rather famous plant biochemist, but his hobby is plant ecology, and especially plant growth forms. You are one of my very few U.S. colleagues who could read the paper, so I'm sending you the duplicate. Some day you should meet Kull.

All the best.

Yours very truly,

Alfred Traverse

AT/et
encl: *Sonderabdruck*

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19 April, 1991

Dr. David L. Dilcher
Florida Museum of Natural History
University of Florida
Gainesville, FL 32611-2035

Dear Dave:

How does one get a copy of your 1990 publication with Upchurch on
Dakota Fm. leaves from Nebraska? I'm quite willing to pay for it
but don't know how to order.

Best.

Yours very truly,


Alfred Traverse

Msg 16, 1991

AT/et

*al - I received 2 copies and purchased
about 10 more to mail out. So
here is one - as I assume that
Gary Upchurch did not send you a
copy. I have not mailed any out
because I was waiting to see who
he sent copies to - Other copies may
be ordered from The USGS - see
inside cover. Best wishes, Donald*

File as correspondence

wife: Katherine

Dr. David L. Dilcher
Department of ~~_____~~ Biology (as of 1976)
Indiana University
Bloomington, Indiana 47401

Jordan
Hall
142 →

335
812-~~_____~~-9455, 02
812-335-0038

dept.
off. → 812-335-~~_____~~
17322

home → 812-339-6318

26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 32, 33, 34, 35, 36, 37, 41, 42, 43
over



INDIANA UNIVERSITY

DEPARTMENT OF BIOLOGY
Jordan Hall 142
Bloomington, Indiana 47405
(812) 855-
FAX: (812) 855-6705

February 1, 1990

Dear Colleague,

This letter is a request for information from you. For several years I have been interested in understanding and keeping track of the "phylogeny" paleobotanists in North America. In order to do this I need to collect data from you about your background.

Would you please take a few minutes and fill in the information requested? If you think of other relevant and useful information, please include that as well. It need not be typed.

Thank you for supplying this data and returning it to me promptly.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "David Dilcher".

David Dilcher
Professor of Paleobotany
Department of Biology
Department of Geology

THE PENNSYLVANIA STATE UNIVERSITY
DEPARTMENT OF GEOSCIENCES
PALYNOLOGICAL LABORATORIES
435 Deike Building
University Park, PA 16802

3 August, 1989

Dr. David L. Dilcher
Dept. of Biology, Jordan Hall 142
Indiana University
Bloomington, IN 47405

Dear Dave:

Thanks for the great whop of publications, which I am reading in my back-seat "office" as we (Betty, that is!) drive to State College. All interesting and helpful, especially to my neophyte effort to give a course in (megafossil) paleobotany here.

It was a shock to realize that it's four years since H. Becker died. I thought it was about two since I last talked to him at Harvard Forest (in German, but Mrs. B. refused to do so, for reasons you understand).

The dinosaurs vs. plant paper adds nicely to my historical geology lecture on such matters. From Jones & Dilcher I learned some interesting things, not least that a "University of LaVerne" actually exists. Hippomane fruits in Eocene--wow! "Flange-like sacchi," very interesting. "Reconstructions" will be helpful in paleobotany course. Platanites/Tricolpites noted. Ditto re Dryophyllum.

All the best.

Yours very truly,

Alfred Traverse

AT/et

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16 March, 1989

Dr. David L. Dilcher
Department of Biology
Jordan Hall 142
Indiana University
Bloomington, IN 47405

Dear David:

Many thanks for nice letter of 8 March. Now I'm whipping up a different, related thing to "Plant dances" for an IUGS-sponsored conference in Switzerland. I sometimes think it's all a dream!

You know more about Bruce C. than I. I have no responsibility for, nor influence on, Bruce these days.

All the best.

Yours very truly,

Alfred Traverse

AT/et



INDIANA UNIVERSITY

DEPARTMENT OF BIOLOGY
Jordan Hall 138
Bloomington, Indiana 47405
(812) 335- 9455

March 8, 1989

Al Traverse
435 Deike Building
Penn State University
University Park, PA 16802

Dear Al:

Thank^y for the two papers you sent recently. I have been waiting for the "Plant Evolution Dances to a Different Beat" paper ever since I heard you give it in Berlin. That paper has an important message. I still wonder about patterns of evolution when we think of plant-animal co-evolution. Are such systems also out of step or do plants and animals ever get in step with their evolution?

I hear Bruce Cornet may be publishing his Triassic angiosperm pollen finally. I will be glad to see it out in a published form and certainly encourage him to move ahead with publishing the basic data.

Best to Betty and you.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "David".

David L. Dilcher
Professor of Paleobotany
Department of Biology
Department of Geology

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28 December, 1988

Dr. David L. Dilcher
Department of Biology
Jordan Hall 142
Indiana University
Bloomington, IN 47405

Dear Dave:

Thanks for the \$75. It remains distressing that so many people are having trouble getting the book, as I want it to sell out so I can revise it and eliminate a few embarrassing boo-boos.

All the best to you and Kathy for 1989 from us both.

Yours very truly,

Alfred Traverse

Elizabeth I. Traverse

AT/et



INDIANA UNIVERSITY

DEPARTMENT OF BIOLOGY

Jordan Hall 138

Bloomington, Indiana 47405

(812) 335-9455

December 11, 1988

Dear Al,

Thanks so much for sending out two copies of your book. They arrived in time and one should be in China now. It was a gift to Prof. Mei Meitang and Prof. Tian Boalin both of the Graduate School of Mining in Beijing. Prof. Tian Boalin was at the IOP meetings in Melbourne. So you will begin to get some exposure in China now - if not before - for your book.

The other book I'll show my students and let them buy it as they want to. I have about 25 students in Paleobotany this spring semester. Very best to you and Betty for Christmas and 1989!

David

David Dilcher



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(812) 335- 9455

December 6, 1988

Dr. Alfred Traverse
435 Deike Building
Penn State University
University Park, PA 16802

Dear Al:

Thanks so much for rushing off the copies of your book to me. They arrived promptly and one has already been sent off by personal courier to China and the other will be useful in teaching paleobotany next semester. Be sure to send me a bill for the cost of the books plus the postage.

Best wishes to you and Betty for the holidays.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "David".

David L. Dilcher
Professor of Paleobotany
Department of Biology
Department of Geology

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2 December, 1988

Dr. David L. Dilcher
Department of Biology
Jordan Hall 142
Indiana University
Bloomington, IN 47405

Dear Dave:

Trust you received the two copies of Paleopalynology we sent yesterday morning by Federal Express. At your convenience you can let me have \$75.00 Thanks.

Best to you and "Forklift" Cathy for the holidays and 1989.

Yours very truly,

Alfred Traverse

AT/et

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1 November, 1988

Dr. David L. Dilcher
Department of Biology
Indiana University
Bloomington, IN 47401

Dear Dave:

What a nice idea, to send others pictures of them taken on a trip. A real gesture of friendship. Many thanks. I posted 'em on our bulletin board.

We envy you your extra time in Australia. We loved our three weeks!

Bot. Soc. in Toronto in 1989 is a possibility, as it's so close (6 hrs.), among other things.

All the best.

Yours very truly,

Alfred Traverse

AT/et

Outline and brief synopses for:

The Sedimentation of Palynomorphs and Other Organic Particles,
Alfred Traverse, Editor



THE UNIVERSITY OF ADELAIDE

BOX 498, G.P.O., ADELAIDE, SOUTH AUSTRALIA 5001

October 23, 1988

DEPARTMENT OF BOTANY

Dear Al and Betty,

Thought you would enjoy these photos from the recent IPC meetings. We are still in Australia - but leave at the end of this week to travel home via New Zealand and Hawaii.

Enjoyed seeing you at the IOP and the IPC meetings - Perhaps next August you will come to the Bot. Soc. meetings in Toronto. With best wishes,

Sincerely yours,

David

David Dilcher

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10 November, 1987

Dr. David Dilcher
Indiana University
Department of Biology
Bloomington, IN 47405

Dear Dave:

Yours (undated) recently arrived "delighted my soul," as my mother would say, as it showed that such lapses are not confined to AT. You didn't enclose the enclosure with reference to Krassilov. I have two Krassilov 1973 papers, neither of which helps. I might have a symposium volume in which an abstract appears, but I'd need more info for that. I have a suggestion. Val Krassilov is a member of the IAPT.CFP, and he always responds promptly to my letters. I see no reason why you couldn't have success with a letter directly to him: (Dr. Valentin A. Krassilov, Institute of Biology & Pedology, Far Eastern Scientific Center, Academy of Sciences, 690022 Vladivostok, USSR). Quote me if you like.

We enjoyed seeing you in Berlin too, especially the Gemütlichkeit that night with the Skogs. (Larry and Judy were just here for two days--she gave a fine lecture for me on fossil ferns.)

Best.

Yours very truly,

Alfred Traverse

AT/et



INDIANA UNIVERSITY

DEPARTMENT OF BIOLOGY

Jordan Hall 138
Bloomington, Indiana 47405
(812) 335-9455

Ca. 10 Nov. 87

Alfred Traverse
435 Deike Building
Penn State University
University Park, PA 16802

Dear Al:

There is a reference, probably an abstract, that I wonder if you might have ready access to. The reference is the one by Krassilov circled on the enclosed page. This is probably a paper he presented and I wonder, if you have it, if you could xerox the abstract so I can see what he says. I am interested to know, specifically, if Krassilov, back in 1973, suggested insect pollination for Paleozoic seed ferns.

Thanks for any help you can give. It was good to see you and Betty in Berlin; please give my best regards from Indiana to Betty.

Sincerely yours,

David Dilcher

David L. Dilcher
Professor of Paleobotany
Department of Biology
Department of Geology



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Jordan Hall 138
Bloomington, Indiana 47405
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December 4, 1987

Alfred Traverse
435 Deike Building
Penn State University
University Park, PA 16802

Dear Al:

Thanks for your quick response to my undated request regarding the Krassilov reference. The item I was looking for was a 1973 abstract, On the mode of pollination in ancient plants, from the Proceedings of the Third International Palynological Conference. As you suggested, I will write to him directly.

Thank you for pointing out the omissions from that letter (date and enclosure). I have warned my secretary that if she doesn't improve I shall have to divorce her.

Best wishes for the Holidays!

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "David".

David L. Dilcher
Professor of Paleobotany
Department of Biology
Department of Geology

16 December, 1986

Dr. David L. Dilcher
Department of Biology
Indiana University
Bloomington, IN 47401

Dear Dave:

Many thanks for the whopping pile of reprints by you, Steve Manchester, Mike Zavada and others. Great fun to read the ones I hadn't seen.

p. 216 of SRM's 1986 paper on the "Clarno plane" says that Macginistemon's pollen is "triporate," but all the others mentioned or illustrated are clearly tricolpate. Is this an error?

Retallack & Dilcher '86 provides more (welcome!) gréat for my evolution lectures mill. Fig. 3 will be difficult to use as a slide....
hmmm. I'm going to try to redo it.

Best, as ever.

Yours very truly,

Alfred Traverse
Professor of Palynology

AT/et

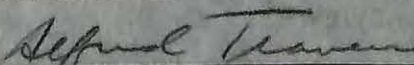
PROPOSAL NO. BSR-8516657	INSTITUTION Indiana Univ-Bloomington	PLEASE RETURN BY 09/23/85
PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATOR David L. Dilcher		NSF PROGRAM SYSTEMATIC BIOLOGY PROGRAM
TITLE Mid-Cretaceous Angiosperms		

Please evaluate this proposal using the criteria presented on the back of this review form. Continue on additional sheet(s) as necessary.

David Dilcher is a superstar in several aspects of paleobotany, and has been so for a very long time. Clearly, on the basis of his standing in the profession, his proven productiveness, and his potential for new breakthroughs, the proposer should be in the front ranks for NSF support. The present proposal outlines in interesting fashion (good illustrations!) Dilcher's wishlist, in connection with collections he has on hand, plus new materials he may find. The document was rather casually produced and therefore contains many errors: "existence", "extreem", "Srepet" (for Crepet), "recepticle", "Trappa" (for Trapa), "Cenomania" (for Cenomanian), and poorly written segments ("from similar age sediments...."). On p. 6, para. 2, Dilcher in effect says, "I do good work, and--look--I need cash for the next three years, and it's too much trouble to ask for the cash in dribbles." Clearly he is seeking the funds partly to keep his sizable establishment at IU in business.

I have no doubt that many good things will come out of the work. However, I believe the budget should be severely pruned--over a quarter-of-a-million is just too much for this project! Given that Dilcher has a large salary (\$36,000 + overhead for summer), it is too much to expect that NSF should also provide \$52,000 for a full-time technician for this project. I also object to the furniture requested, an excellent example of something IU should provide for Professor Dilcher. The cutting machine @ \$10,000 needs examination as to alternative approaches. Dilcher states that he now shares one--why not go on sharing it? The trips to Japan and Czechoslovakia represent a \$5000 item that is clearly negotiable, and the domestic travel could probably also be halved.

OVERALL RATING: EXCELLENT VERY GOOD GOOD FAIR POOR

REVIEWER'S SIGNATURE 	REVIEWER'S NAME (TYPED) Alfred Traverse
OTHER SUGGESTED REVIEWERS (OPTIONAL) Dr. Scott Wing USGS, E501 NHB Smithsonian Institution Washington, DC 20560	Dr. Alfred Traverse Palynological Laboratories Pennsylvania State University
REVIEWER'S COPY	

18 May, 1982

Dr. David L. Dilcher
Department of Botany
Indiana University
Bloomington, IN 47401

Dear Dave:

I have just discovered a note to myself made while I was in Europe, that is, more than a year ago, from:

Dr. Hans-Joachim Gregor
Hans Sachs Strasse 4
D-8038 Gröbenzell
West Germany

Dr. Gregor asked me to put him in touch with somebody in the USA who would give him information about American Cretaceous fructifications (both gymnosperms and angiosperms). He would like to exchange literature and/or specimens.

Would you be willing to write him regarding possible German-American cooperation in this respect?

Yours very truly,

Alfred Traverse
Professor of Palynology

AT/et

cc: Dr. Gregor

10 March, 1982

Dr. David L. Dilcher
Department of Botany
Indiana University
Bloomington, IN 47401

Dear Dave:

Bill Crepet more or less reluctantly agreed to let us in under the deadline wire for the enclosed abstract. We hope that it will get to you before you've gone any further with the program. Please note that Dr. Ash says he'd rather that just Litwin and I are listed as authors.

Best wishes.

Yours very truly,

Alfred Traverse
Professor of Palynology

AT/et

INDIANA UNIVERSITY

Department of Biology

JORDAN HALL 138

BLOOMINGTON, INDIANA 47401

TEL. NO. 812-337-9455

November 12, 1981

Professor Alfred Traverse
Professor of Palynology
Department of Geosciences
Palynological Laboratories
The Pennsylvania State University
College of Earth and Mineral Sciences
University Park, PA 16802

Dear Al:

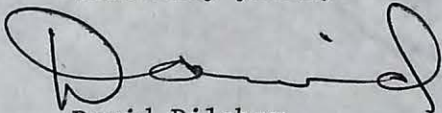
Thanks for your generous hospitality on my recent visit to your campus and home. I was happy to have the chance to visit with you and Betty and meet some of your students.

Your course in Pollen Analysis looks like an outstanding course and I look forward to seeing the textbook that you are writing. We certainly need a good Palynology text with a lot of practical material in it.

Although I've known you for years it was very good to get to know you better. We seem to have a lot of common loves and interests. I look forward to seeing you next summer and expect Bill Crepet will be in touch with you about local arrangements for the meetings.

Best regards to you and Betty.

Sincerely yours,



David Dilcher
Professor of Paleobotany
Departments of Biology
and Geology

DD:mdk

XXXXX

863-3419

12 November, 1981

Dr. David L. Dilcher
Department of Botany
Indiana University
Bloomington, IN 47401

Dear Dave:

Betty and I really enjoyed your brief visit! Here is a copy of the blurb I wrote re you for publicity release here-- you said you would like a copy.

Best wishes.

Yours very truly,

Alfred Traverse
Professor of Palynology

AT/et
encl: blurb

23 October, 1981

XXXXXX
863-3419

Dr. David L. Dilcher
Department of Botany
Indiana University
Bloomington, IN 47401

Dear Dave:

I have been in touch with Paul Grun, and all seems to be in order for the non-AIBS segment of your trip:

1. Nittany Lion Inn holds a room for you for Tuesday, 10 November, but I cancelled the reservation for Monday, 9 November.
2. Your talk is scheduled for 3:55 (=4:00 p) p.m. in Mueller Building--I'll see that you get there. Betty and/or Paul and I will meet you at the University Park (=State College) Airport at 12:55 p.m. (I believe that's what you said.) Between 2:00 and 3:30 p.m. you can see our labs.
3. After your talk, about 6:00 p.m., a group of us will take you to dinner, followed by a party at about 7:30 p.m. for a few students and professors, at Paul Grun's house.
4. About 9:30 p.m., Betty and I will drive you to our house for the night. Will get you to the AIBS sessions the next morning in plenty of time.
5. Your lecture is being billed as "Ancient Flowers and the Early Evolution of Flowering Plants".

We're looking forward to your visit.

Yours very truly,

Alfred Traverse
Professor of Palynology

AT/et
cc: Paul Grun

1 October, 1981

Dr. David L. Dilcher
Department of Botany
Indiana University
Bloomington, IN 47401

Dear Dave:

A colleague in Biology (Paul Grun) just called to say that you will be here on 9-10 November re AIBS 1982; (during my sabbatical I absolutely forgot that it's to be here!). Paul says you offered to give a seminar, and I leapt at the idea@ (I have often had to move H. and E. to get a speaker of your caliber here.) My palynology course will be on (very tiny enrollment this year--they forgot in my absence to put it in the course list!), and I'll have the class listen' to you instead of me.

Betty and I would certainly like to entertain you socially while you're here. Is that a possibility? Would you like to stay with us overnight--sleep in the bed that Sid Ash, Leo Hickey, Mike Boulter, etc., have slept in? Or is that impractical? Would you have time for a small party, either Mon. or Tues. evening?

All the best.

Yours very truly,

Alfred Traverse
Professor of Palynology

AT/et

24 March, 1980

Dr. David L. Dilcher
Department of Botany
Indiana University
Bloomington, IN 47401

Dear Dave:

Sure enjoyed the recent packet of literature--especially the slick-paper "paleo-is-where-it's-at" from I.U., with your mangrove theory nicely explained. I just returned from DC where I discovered that Leo Hickey is putting his riparian weed theory into 3-D as a major new exhibit at the Smithsonian!--artists hard at work, etc. Can you top that? The non-Leitneria paper is a typical, careful Dilcher-type piece of work. Re Dolph & Dilcher, I wondered (Summary) how you can be sure before the fact that "a closer correlation will emerge"?

Anyway, it was good, fun reading.

All the best.

Yours very truly,

Alfred Traverse
Professor of Palynology

AT/et

P.S. I.U. Geology Dept. is flying some of our undergrads out to be interviewed, and expenses paid! We are green--but it's a great idea. One of 'em is an advisee of mine who is absolutely tops.

XXXXX

15 November, 1979

Dr. David L. Dilcher
Department of Botany
Indiana University
Bloomington, IN 47401

Dear Dave:

That recent Angiosperm-origin paper of yours, of which you sent a (xerox?) copy, is a dandy! I have read it, hanging on every word. You are very much to be congratulated. It says much the same thing as Krassilov was saying, but says it with more documentation and less cryptically! Thanks so much for this reprint.

Best wishes.

Yours very truly,

Alfred Traverse
Professor of Palynology

AT/et

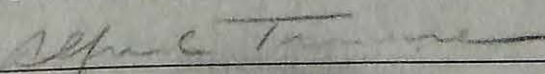
PROPOSAL NO. DEB-7912344	INSTITUTION INDIANA UNIV-BLOOMINGTON	PLEASE RETURN BY
PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATOR DILCHER DAVID L	NSF PROGRAM SYSTEMATIC BIOLOGY PROGRAM	
TITLE DOCTORAL DISSERTATION RESEARCH IN SYSTEMATIC BIOLOGY		

COMMENTS (CONTINUE ON ADDITIONAL SHEET(S) AS NECESSARY)

The Jones-Dilcher proposal, if funded, will unquestionably provide Mr. Jones with a variety of experience of a sort that every Ph.D. candidate could desire, including coast-to-coast travel to visit the principal laboratories at which he has interests. I suspect that some of what will be accomplished could be done with mail and telephone. Nevertheless, this is a reasonable request to do some significant research. The proposal is well stated. Dr. Dilcher is a good research director, and his track record gives promise that this doctoral dissertation will eventually appear in print. Hence, my "very good".

RATING: EXCELLENT VERY GOOD GOOD FAIR POOR

Verbatim but anonymous copies of reviews, ratings and associated correspondence will be sent only to the principal investigator/project director on request. Subject to this NSF policy and applicable laws, including the Freedom of Information Act, 5 USC 552, reviewers' comments will be given maximum protection from disclosure.

REVIEWER'S SIGNATURE 	REVIEWER'S NAME (TYPED) Alfred Traverse Department of Geosciences Pennsylvania State University Deike 435 University Park, PA 16802
OTHER SUGGESTED REVIEWERS (OPTIONAL)	

REVIEWER'S COPY

PROPOSAL NO. DEB-7910720	INSTITUTION INDIANA UNIV-BLOOMINGTON	PLEASE RETURN BY MAY 5
PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATOR DILCHER DAVID L		NSF PROGRAM POPULATION BIOLOGY
TITLE EARLY ANGIOSPERM EVOLUTION AND ECOLOGY		

COMMENTS (CONTINUE ON ADDITIONAL SHEET(S) AS NECESSARY)

Please note:

1. Comments are all on separate sheets.
2. The rating below is based on the proposal as it is--the proposed project, if sufficiently focused and clearly explained, should be worth a much higher rating.

RATING: EXCELLENT VERY GOOD GOOD FAIR POOR

Verbatim but anonymous copies of reviews, ratings and associated correspondence will be sent only to the principal investigator/project director ~~on request~~. Subject to this NSF policy and applicable laws, including the Freedom of Information Act, 5 USC 552, reviewers' comments will be given maximum ~~protection~~ from disclosure.

Alfred
NOTE: REMOVE PORTION BELOW PERFORATED LINE
Dr. Alfred Traverse
University Park, PA 16802
Pennsylvania State University
University Park, PA 16802
BEFORE MAILING TO PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATOR OR PROJECT DIRECTOR

J. J. Wolfe
USAS
University Park, PA
TRAVERSE
PRINCIPAL
INVESTIGATOR COPY

This proposal is one of the strangest and yet most interesting I have ever reviewed. It is strange because it is such a mixed bag--I have experienced very considerable difficulty in determining who will do what where, and who will get how much of a slice of the NSF pie for what purpose. I deduce (p. 21) that it is mostly Dilcher's project. The stunning pictures of Cenomanian megafossils and the preliminary write-up both seem pure "dilcheresque". I do believe the proposers should have favored the poor reader with more explanation of the distribution of various activities--for example, whose graduate students will do what? where?--Who will do what field work? Where is Retallack going to be during the subject period? (I hear on excellent authority he will not be in North America.) What will his paleosol work really add to the project? Where will the palynology be done? Etc.

In the light of what I know and hear about current trends in the study of primitive angiosperms, I suspect this all has something to do with Dilcher's interest in possible "strand-line evolution" of the flowering plants and evaluation of this theory. One can read this into the proposal when one knows a little about it, but it is not clearly stated as a purpose of the proposed project. I ask again, why is one told so much (a centimeter of paper) and yet told so little?

Dilcher and Doyle are personally known well to me, and they are top research people in every respect. Retallack is not personally known to me, but he certainly has an up-and-coming reputation. I gather he does not have a permanent position?--will the grant enable him to stay on at Indiana? He must be quite an athlete, but I can't for the life of me imagine why this is mentioned so prominently in a proposal (not once but repeatedly). He states (p. 22) that in 1975 he got a "full blue...". This is + equivalent to an American saying he got a varsity letter in such-and-such a sport at There is also a prominent display of his skiing and canoeing exploits. Is this meant to suggest that parts of the Dakota will be explored by canoe, or what? I am afraid that it is part and parcel of the snow job approach to proposal writing which is prominent in this one. As a frequent reviewer of proposals, I object to this approach vehemently. (Parenthetically, I would like to say that I have mentioned this trend before--the padding of proposals with reams of irrelevant garbage, inclusion of window-dressing co-investigators, and the like. I wonder if it is possible to get a forum for these objections? Nobody pays any attention, and "common knowledge" has it that this is the way to get \$\$.) The full-page reproduction of the Retallack medal is another example of this sort of snow job flamboyance. (The smashing plates of Dakota plants are more subtle.)

This brings me to Potter. He is completely out of his class in the Dilcher-Doyle combination. I remember him very well from his PSU days. Although he claims a "minor in palynology" (p. 42), he never took the only two palynology courses then offered at Penn State (by me) despite urgings. The statement (p. 43) that he did

palynology on the Sheep Rock site is misleading. In the first place, the listed location is wrong. In the second place, nothing worth mentioning came out of that--not even any pollen grains to speak of. Potter must be hard up for credits. Why is a relatively weak sister like Potter being dragged along on Dilcher's reputation? Is Doyle added to the "team" so that the palynological credentials of the team check out as more respectable?

The project itself is an interesting one--the Dakota is indeed time-transgressive ($+10 \times 10^6$ yrs.!) and the palynological study alone is worth investigation to establish biostratigraphic control for this important Cretaceous unit. I am not, however, convinced that the bottom line of \$415,000 can possibly be justified. I would recommend that Dilcher be given perhaps a quarter of that amount or less, for himself and his graduate students, and let the hangers-on who boost the indirect costs so much fend for themselves. Doyle could then come in with a second proposal for a grant to his institution for palynological work on the Dakota, if he likes. This would be easier to evaluate, easier to administer, and would probably also be funded. The present "joint" proposal, as a proposal, is a hodgepodge, a somewhat devious disaster.

27 April, 1979

Dr. David L. Dilcher
Department of Botany
Indiana University
Bloomington, IN 47401

Dear Dave:

I want to thank you and Greg Retallack for the neat card apparently signed by you all during the Tennessee trip, about which I heard from Mike Boulter.

I'm glad to have an opportunity to write you anyway, because I was selected as one of the reviewers for your joint proposal with Doyle, Potter and Retallack, regarding the Dakota Sandstone, a time-transgressive unit in which I have had a long-standing interest.

I am very impressed with the general nature of the project, but I want to take this opportunity to warn you that I'm going to say some things which I hope the appropriate people at NSF will take to heart. I think it is a shame that the time has come when folks apparently feel (and because you have good connections at NSF, apparently with good reason) that a proposal in order to succeed must be massive, contain all sorts of PR information, such as xerox copies of medals, long lists of irrelevant accomplishments and multiple hidden agenda. I think it is very unfair that evaluators of proposals must try to figure out what the real significance of the proposal is by preparing their own precis of the huge mass of information presented. Also I think it is unfortunate that the true purpose of a proposal is obscured by some of the language. Isn't it likely that your proposal really will be a study of the strand line situation during the deposition of the Dakota Sandstone with respect to evaluation of the impact of strand conditions on the early history of the angiosperms?

Anyway, the main purpose of this is to implore you to use your influence at the National Science Foundation to stop the trend toward PR and massive proposals, and urge succinct statements of objectives. I also want you to know that this is in no way a personal attack on Dave Dilcher, and that I think the basic idea of the proposal is a good one, indeed a very good one. Best wishes to you, old friend. Hope we get to see each other one of these days. I appreciated the greetings you passed along by way of Mike Boulter.

Yours very truly,

AT/et

Alfred Traverse
Professor of Palynology

22 November, 1977

Dr. David Dilcher
Department of Plant Sciences
Jordan Hall 138
Indiana University
Bloomington, IN 47401

Dear Dave:

I just had a letter from Jim Schopf, in which, among other things, he said that I was not apparently a member of IOP. I have no recollection of whether I am or not. Would you let me know what my status is? If I am not a member I would like to pay up and become one!

Best wishes.

Yours very truly,

Alfred Traverse
Professor of Palynology
President, ICP

AT/et

*\$8.00 not for
2 yrs.*

INDIANA UNIVERSITY

BLOOMINGTON, INDIANA 47401

DEPARTMENT OF PLANT SCIENCES
JORDAN HALL 138

TEL. NO. 812-337-9455

2 September 1975

Dear Colleague:

The recent meetings at Corvallis, Oregon demonstrated the vigor of the Paleobotanical Section. Many new and old friends of the section were there and we had a full session of nearly 50 contributed papers ranging in topics over diverse plant groups and throughout the geologic column. We also had a field trip and luncheon, and I think everyone at the meetings felt it well worth their while to attend.

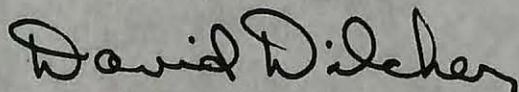
Next year arrange to come to the meetings at Tulane, New Orleans (May 30-June 4, 1976) and plan to present a paper on your research work. I will try to organize a field trip to be associated with the meetings. We are working on the possibility of organizing a symposium on reproductive biology in fossil plants to be held at Tulane.

Please read through the minutes of the business meeting enclosed with this letter. There are several items which should be of interest to you. Of particular interest and immediate concern is the assessment of \$2.00 for regular members and \$4.00 for affiliate members of the section. We have been able to run the business of the section for over 15 years with a lower assessment rate but inflation has finally caught up with us. The program of the section and the bibliography still represent a bargain at the new rates.

Enclosed with this letter is your assessment notice for 1976. Please return this to me at your earliest convenience.

As a result of the interest and activity of the members of the Paleobotanical Section we are recognized as one of the most active sections in the Botanical Society of America. Your continued participation as an active member is an important part of this vitality.

Sincerely yours,



David L. Dilcher
Secretary-Treasurer
Paleobotanical Section
Botanical Society of America

dr

Enclosure

April 17, 1974

Dr. David L. Dilcher
Department of Botany
Indiana University
Bloomington, Indiana 47401

Dear Dave:

Thank you so much for the batch of ~~pe~~prints which recently came. I had seen the one in *The Palaeobotanist*, but it is good to have a separate copy. Your contribution to the volume edited by Alan Graham was most interesting reading and provides a good progress report on your (I guess it's getting to be that way) life work. I read with interest your abstracts, especially the one on sassafras. You may be interested in a footnote that one of our lab assistants, who was raised in the hills nearby, is convinced that sassafras tea is a sexual restorative. Who knows!? That is a good way to lead into mentioning your paper on population growth. I support your notions almost entirely, but am diametrically opposed to you on the efficacy of abortion as a means of population reduction. That is just not the way to do it, and ~~causes~~ ^{causes} an unseen agenda of horrors, I fear.

Looking forward to seeing you again one of these days, and with best wishes to Mr. Potter, if he is still around, as well as to yourself, I am

Alfred
Yours very truly,

Fidelity Alfred Traverse *Skim*
Professor of Palynology

AT/vsi
100% COTTON

September 14, 1970

Dr. David L. Dilcher
Department of Botany
Indiana University
Bloomington, Indiana 47401

Dear Dave:

Many thanks for the reprints which arrived during my absence--"Chlorophylle derivatives...." and "Fossil leaves of Dendropanax...." I very much appreciate being kept abreast of your research. You deserve a great deal of credit for a very fine meeting and field trip. I heard glowing reports of the latter from Doug Nichols, as I believe I told you in Bloomington.

Best wishes as ever.

Yours very truly,

Alfred Traverse
Professor of Geology & Biology

AT:kc

July 24, 1970

Dr. David Dilcher
Department of Botany
Indiana University
Bloomington, Indiana 47401

Dear Dave:

I have waited until the last minute, thinking that something might break, but nothing has, and it looks as if it will be impossible for me to attend the paleobotanical field trip. I had really looked forward to it, but you can only squeeze so many things into one month. There seems to be some chance that Doug Nichols, who is now visiting us, might be able to attend the trip. Of course, it would be right down his alley (you may remember that he recently completed doctoral program on the Wilcox here at Penn State).

There does seem to be some chance that I might be able to make the section's meeting, though even that is not certain. I really do like to visit Bloomington whenever an opportunity presents itself! Hoping to see you before too long, one way or the other, I am

Yours very truly,

Alfred Traverse
Professor of Geology and Biology

AT/mrw

File [unclear]

Comments on
"Cuticular analysis of Eocene leaves of Ocotea obtusifolia"

by
David L. Dilcher

Mr. Dilcher's paper represents a good start at the detailed examination of the remarkable fossils found at the famous Puryear locality in Tennessee.

I think this paper is well worth publication, but I would like to make the following critical remarks about it.

General

Although Dilcher states that he has assembled a sizable collection of modern lamaceous cuticles, he presents no discussion of which ones these fossil specimens resemble most nearly. The reader even looks in vain for a definite statement that the fossils are referable to the Lamaceae. We feel that Dilcher must present a bit more discussion of the taxonomic situation. He notes that the family is heterogeneous; well, are these cuticles even certainly lamaceous? It would not really detract from the value of the paper if they were not, but the reader should be informed! If they seem to be lamaceous, surely the author's reference collection provides some indication of similarity, on which he is relying.

I feel that the description and discussion could be abridged somewhat without any loss of meaning. For example, page 6, paragraph 2 repeats unnecessarily information from the description. By depending more on the illustrations, I feel that the extremely detailed description could be somewhat curtailed.

In the same vein, I would question that Figure 14 contributes much to the presentation of Dilcher's case. The same information is available in Figure 7.

Specific

Abstract

This should give the locality.

Page 1

Geographic location should be more precise. Stratigraphic horizon should be more precise - local formation or at least series.

Page 1, Paragraph 2, Line 9

The correct reference should be given: Oreodaphne obtusifolia Berry - 1916 [Ocotea obtusifolia (Berry) La Motte - 1952]. The "nov. comb." suffix is not now correct. The complete reference should be given the first time the name is used, not necessarily thereafter. Citation of La Motte's contribution will also require a change in the bibliography.

Page 2, Paragraph 2, Line 12

HR is not well enough known that some explanation as to its availability is not required.

Page 3, Paragraph 2, Line 6

I suggest: "Stomata....epidermis, but....present. However is used incorrectly. However is an adverb, not a conjunction.

Page 3, Paragraph 2, Line 13

"Preserve" should be "are preserved."

Page 5, Paragraph 2, Line 6

Camptodrome - probably requires a supplementary explanation?

Page 5, Last Line

However used incorrectly - suggest although.

Page 6, Paragraph 1, Line 10

Should be plural - "cuticles."

Page 9, Line 1

Lauraceae is a plural word.

Page 9, Paragraph 1

We have partly covered our objections here under "general" comments. The sentence beginning, "However the cuticular....." does not make sense. We wonder if the author did not mean to end the sentence with the word "constant." That way it would be logical.

Page 9, Paragraph 2

Presumably, the author means "Identification with a modern species....." He has identified it with a modern taxon, Costen. "Specific modern taxon" does not mean the same as "modern species."

The extreme variation between species the author notes and the constancy within species he notes in the preceding paragraph should make identification easy, not difficult! One wonders if "the limited scope of this study" is not the part he means to emphasize.

June 27, 1962

Dr. Harold C. Bold, Editor
American Journal of Botany
Department of Botany
The University of Texas
Austin 12, Texas

Dear Harold:

Good to see you, even if for such a brief chat!

Dr. M. P. Schemel and I have, as usual, teamed up to review the paper by Dilcher. I was glad to note that you listed Schemel as a reviewer in the Journal. He deserves the credit.

We feel pretty strongly about the longish comment we make in the first paragraph under "General." At the least, Dilcher is going to have to say whether his evidence supports the reference of these leaves to the Lauraceae or not.

Very truly yours,

Alfred Traverse

AT:nv

Enclosures
Paper and Review

bc: Dr. Traverse ✓
Dr. Higgs

SHELL DEVELOPMENT COMPANY
Exploration and Production Research Division