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4th Polar Marine Diatom Taxonomy and Ecology Workshop, Cardiff University, UK, 4–9 August 2013

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The 4th Polar Marine Diatom Workshop (PMDW) was hosted by Jenny Pike at the School of Ocean and Earth Sciences, Cardiff University, UK. These workshops were founded in 2005, when it became clear that the rapid growth in polar diatom research required its own forum. The main objectives of the workshops are to exchange taxonomic skills and associated new techniques, and to provide a training ground for students. Since their inception, the workshops have become successful biennial events, bringing polar diatomists together to exchange ideas, present new data and foster future collaboration. Together, this enables researchers from around the world to produce quality science and collaborate to solve key problems in the field of polar biology and climate change.

The 4th PMDW combined research presentations and practical microscope-based sessions on polar diatom taxonomy and ecology. The workshop was attended by 36 participants from 14 countries; 16 from European institutions in Germany, Greece, Italy, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Spain and UK, 20 from as far afield as Australia, India, Japan, New Zealand, Republic of Korea and the USA.

The week was divided into 1.5-hour microscope sessions, 30-minute lectures and animated discussion over poster presentations. Microscope tutorials covered both the Arctic and Antarctic regions, grouped into the following topics:

- Diatom morphology: *Corethron* (Richard Crawford and Amy Leventer), *Eucampia antarctica* (Maria Angeles Bárcena), *Fragilariopsis* and *Fossula* (Beth Caissie), biometry of *Fragilariopsis kerguelensis* (Sunil Shukla) and *Thalassiosira lentiginosa* (Sunil Shukla and Jennifer Pike).

- Modern pelagic, benthic and sea-ice communities: seasonal dynamics at Kerguelen Plateau (Leanne Armand), benthic Antarctic diatoms (Roksana Majewska), Antarctic inter-annual diatom communities (Bartłomiej Jerzak) and largely overlooked giant diatoms from the Antarctic Peninsula (Claire Allen).
- Fossil diatom records and biostratigraphy: North Atlantic during the last deglacial period (Kate Hendry), Late Holocene diatoms from the Antarctic (Rebecca Minzoni), sea-ice diatoms during the Mid-Pleistocene (Zuzia Stroynowski), diatom evolution since the Late Jurassic (David Harwood), Middle Eocene Arctic diatoms (Richard Jordan), *Thalassiosira torokina* and its evolution (Reed Scherer), and Antarctic biostratigraphy and diatom records (Raffaella Tolotti).

Additional topics varied from biometric applications to novel isotope signals generated from diatom frustules. Student prizes, sponsored by The Micropalaeontological Society and the Linnean Society of London, were awarded to: Bartłomiej Jerzak and Rebecca Minzoni (practical microscope sessions); Jihun Kim, Luz María Mejía and Francisca Vermeulen (talks); and Glauca Frago, Hal Hackett, Michael Harrison, Anna Syzmanski and Kara Vadman (posters).

One of the goals of the workshop was to initiate collaboration between early career and established researchers, and we hope to see the fruits of these collaborations at the 5th PMDW, which will be hosted by Maria Angeles Bárcena at Salamanca University, Spain, in 2015. Further information about the workshops, previous workshop publications and future events can be found at: <https://sites.google.com/site/polarmarinediatomworkshop/>.

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