

PaleoSynthesis

Newsletter 04/2021



Funded by the Volkswagen Foundation
 Prof. W. Kiessling (FAU, Erlangen)
 Prof. M. Steinbauer (University Bayreuth)

general questions: Barbara Seuss (pal-synthesis@fau.de)
 scientific contact: Jansen A. Smith (Jansen.Smith@fau.de)
 web: <https://www.paleosynthesis.nat.fau.de/>
 @PaleoSynth

...hello again...

The first few weeks of 2021 have passed and today we would like to update you again on our progress, although with a rather brief newsletter this time. However, we are making progress with the project, and here's what's happened since the last newsletter in December 2020.

Jansen has sent out a second call for Big Questions and we have received good response. A first online meeting with those that are interested to collaborate was held. Also we have started the scientific workshops with first virtual meetings planning the "what next" and hopefully also on-site-meetings later on this year. And finally, the APP development has taken big steps towards publication.

FossilDiscovery

Cristina and Michael have created a set of user types, this is especially for the gamification of the application. Images were added for the taxa in the app (e.g., for foraminifera, sponges, corals, etc.) and this is continued in the next few weeks. Also, privacy pages and the "check"-page for the privacy policy is installed. Furthermore, test users were created using mail aliases so our App-developers can play and practice with the data and the images. For the test users roles were created. As an example, some are already allowed to post (restrictions included) while others are not yet permitted to change entries or even pages. Also, Christina and Michael have already

created a database for the storage of images and data. Not to lose data an automatic backup is programmed. Above all, the front-end is currently being made user-friendly and several languages are being added.



As soon as we go online with the app we will notify you and we then hope for numerous downloads and comments so that the app can be continuously improved. In the meantime you can still use and enjoy Fossil Finder which is available for download in the Playstore and App Store: >> [Fossil Finder for Android](#)

>> [Fossil Finder for iOS](#) (iPhone/iPad)

Big Questions – 2nd call and 1st online meeting

The first virtual meeting for the Big Questions in Paleontology project took place in early March, bringing together paleontologists from around the world. With more than 100 paleontologists involved, the project will soon be moving to the next phase: topic-specific working groups. For each of the twelve working groups, smaller teams of



paleontologists will begin meeting to review submitted questions and refine them into the big questions related to topics including Biodiversity dynamics in space and time; Climate change

past and present; and, Ecosystems, environments, and their records.

BioDeepTime

The first meeting for the BioDeepTime project took place in early March to kickoff this ongoing virtual workshop. This meeting was an opportunity for participants to get to know each other and begin discussing expected challenges and opportunities for the project. In the coming weeks and months, participants will begin to compile data to create a unique resource with the potential to benefit the entire paleontological community.