



**12TH INTERNATIONAL SYMPOSIUM ON EARLY AND LOWER
VERTEBRATES: DALLAS, TEXAS, JUNE 2011**

**First Circular
1 September 2010**

Dear Colleagues,

Please accept this announcement as our invitation to the 12th International Symposium. We wholeheartedly extend a Texas Welcome to our friends and colleagues as our guests and participants next June.

As stated in the Uppsala (2007) invitation to the 11th Symposium, and for those of you that may not be familiar with these symposia, the meetings are not linked to any society. They have been hosted by institutions in different countries in Europe, Asia, South America and North America on a running 3-4 year rotation starting in 1967.

The Symposia on Early Vertebrates/Lower Vertebrates are the only recurring international meetings targeted specifically toward the Paleozoic vertebrate research community. As such, they draw a broad range of esteemed speakers, including most of the acknowledged leaders in early vertebrate research, as well as those just entering this fascinating field. The meetings (and field excursions) are friendly and informal, making them outstanding venues for young researchers to meet their colleagues established in their fields and build up contact networks.

Poster and platform presentations are accepted on an open competitive basis; there should be room for all the posters. As there is no IGCP-related business meeting, three days of platform presentations should be sufficient (and exhausting?). Topics of presentation usually range from the earliest chordates through Paleozoic agnathans and fishes, up to the origin and early radiation of tetrapods. Because of the associated field trip, there may be a greater than normal emphasis on Permian vertebrates.

Dates and Website:

In May 2009 we sent a preliminary message announcing the dates of the 12th Symposium (**Conference: 11-14 June 2011, Field Excursion: 15-18 June 2011**). Our website is <http://smu.edu/sem/EarlyVertebrates.html> where we will list updates as they occur, especially following the Second Circular which will list the costs and other pertinent information including a registration form.

The conference will be held at the Radisson Central Dallas Hotel on North Central Expressway (U.S. Highway 75) just east of the Southern Methodist University (SMU) campus. A block of rooms has been set aside to accommodate participants. The banquet will be at the hotel. The first day (11 June) is for registration, hotel check-in and an ice-breaker/reception. This will allow time for most participants to schedule their air travel on that date; most will arrive at DFW (Dallas-Fort Worth) International Airport (more information in the Second Circular), although some domestic flights can be booked to arrive at Dallas Love Field (much closer to the hotel).

Call for Abstracts:

Please prepare your abstract following the same format used for the Uppsala (2007) Symposium. Their website is still available for those of a nostalgic bent: <http://www.fu.uu.se/eo/earlyvertebrates2007/>. Similar information will be on our website.

Abstract deadline: 31 January 2011.

Abstract length: 3000 characters maximum, including spaces and punctuation. This limit includes the entire abstract (title, authors and their affiliations, main text and references).

Abstract format: Times New Roman, 12 point.

Title: Must be concise, in **bold UPPER CASE**, except for special (Greek or mathematical) symbols, and aligned left.

Authors and addresses: See examples in the Abstract Submissions Guidelines at our website under Author Information.

Abstract body: The body of the abstract should be entered in paragraphs, with no spaces between paragraphs. All but first paragraph should be indented.

References: References are allowed within the character limit of the whole abstract. The format is in the Abstract Submissions Guidelines.

SUBMIT ABSTRACTS as MS-Word (.doc or .docx).

Subject: "Abstract Submission"

EMAIL ATTACHMENT TO: Gary Johnson: johnsong@smu.edu

No symposium volume will be published.

Examination of fossils at SMU:

Registered participants who wish to study fossils at the Shuler Museum of Paleontology should either set aside time during the Conference or preferably a day or two before hand (10-11 June, for example). Those interested in doing so should contact Dale Winkler, Director, at dwinkler@smu.edu, and state what collections you are interested in seeing.

Field Excursion:

The four-day trip will depart the Radisson Hotel early 15 June and return to that hotel by the evening of the 18th. As we must use off-road vehicles, and to keep the crowd to a manageable size, our intent is to limit the group to about 40 participants. We will consider a larger group if there are howls of protest, but only if we can arrange for more hotel rooms in Wichita Falls and Vernon. There will be some walking involved, up to 4 km, and keep in mind that it will likely be warm, 35-40°C, and there are some nasty critters (rattlesnakes, scorpions, centipedes, feral hogs) to watch for.

Finally, GJ wishes to thank Catherine Boisvert, Uppsala, for all the information she provided.

Organizing Committee: Gary Johnson, Dale Winkler, Louis Jacobs, Diana Vineyard, Neil Taylor and Tony Fiorillo.

Please cut and paste the following section into your email response or RETURN this document as an email attachment to johnsong@smu.edu. A reply would be greatly appreciated by **20 September**:

PRELIMINARY INDICATION OF PARTICIPATION

Name _____

Please indicate your choice from the following:

- I definitely will attend the conference (11-14 June).
- I may attend the conference.
- I will not be able to attend. Please remove my name from the e-mail list. _____
- I definitely wish to participate in the field excursion (15-18 June; requires participation in the conference).
- I may participate in the field excursion (Note: this will be limited to about 40 participants).

Also, please indicate your intention to submit an abstract, which is required for both oral and poster presentations:

- I definitely will submit an abstract.
- I may submit an abstract.
- I prefer an oral presentation.
- I prefer a poster presentation.
- Either oral or poster presentation

Please return this with your attendance preference.

Thank you for your cooperation.