**A new look at some Late Devonian floras from Eastern Europe**

**Sergey M. Snigirevsky1, Brigitte Meyer-Berthaud2, Philippe Steemans3,Maria V. Bobyleva1,Milana A. Pavlova1, Anna P. Sivkova1 & Philippe Gerrienne3,\***

1 Deparment of Sedimentary Geology, St. Petersbourg State University, Universitetskaya nab. 7-9-11, St. Petersbourg 199178, Russia. [s.snigirevsky@spbu.ru](mailto:s.snigirevsky@spbu.ru); [Mariia.Bobyleva1997@yandex.ru](mailto:Mariia.Bobyleva1997@yandex.ru); [milana.a.pavlova@yandex.ru](mailto:milana.a.pavlova@yandex.ru); [annie.sivkova@gmail.com](mailto:annie.sivkova@gmail.com)

2 Amap - BotAnique et Modélisation de l’Architecture des Plantes et des végétations, CNRS, CIRAD, INRA, IRD, Université de Montpellier, Montpellier, France. [meyerberthaud@cirad.fr](mailto:meyerberthaud@cirad.fr)

3 Palaeobiogeology-Palaeobotany-Palaeopalynology, UR Geology, University of Liège, Quartier Agora, Allée du 6 Août, 14, Bât. B18. B-4000 Liège 1, Belgium. [P.Steemans@uliege.be](mailto:P.Steemans@uliege.be); [P.Gerrienne@uliege.be](mailto:P.Gerrienne@uliege.be)

\* Corresponding author

The Late Devonian (Frasnian: 383-372 Ma; Famennian: 372-359 Ma) is one of the most crucial period of time for the evolution of land biotas; for example, all plant lineages, angiosperms excepted, were already present at the end of Famennian times. Late Devonian floras of Eastern Europe have already been extensively studied since the end of 19th century, but (i) a number of published specimens are in need of taxonomic reassessment, and (ii) many others have not been published or published in Russian/Ukrainian/Estonian etc. (languages of the Former Soviet Union), without diagnoses in Latin/English/German, etc.

The present collaborative work aims at re-studying the Late Devonian palaeobotanical collections of M. D. Zalessky and of Natalia S. Snigirevskaya, housed in the Komarov Botanical Institute of the Russian Academy of Sciences, in the Central scientific research geological survey museum named after Academician F.N. Chernyshev (TSNIGR Museum) and in the Department of Sedimentary Geology of St. Petersbourg State University. Those collections are already well known because they include important specimens of *Archaeopteris* Stur, the earliest modern tree, and of anatomically preserved stems, branches and roots of archaeopteridalean affinities assigned to the genus *Callixylon* Zalessky from the type locality.

The Late Devonian floras that will be revised during the project come from various localities of Eastern Europe, including among others the Donetz Basin (Ukraine and Russia), north-western part of the Russian Platform and Northern Timan (Russia). From a palaeogeographical viewpoint, all these localities are located on the Baltica palaeoplate that was roughly in an equatorial position during the second half of the Devonian Period. It is of great importance, because most other Late Devonian plant localities were located outside the equatorial belt. Moreover, Baltica was in an intermediate position between Laurentia and Siberia or Kazakhstan, where abundant Late Devonian floras have been collected. Comparisons of all those floras will allow improved knowledge of their evolution and migration.