

FIRST CIRCULAR



ISSS Meeting 2025

“Advances in Silurian chronostratigraphy and high-resolution correlation”

Seville, Spain, 10th–13th September 2025

ISSS Meeting 2025: FIRST CIRCULAR

The official 2025 meeting of the International Subcommittee on Silurian Stratigraphy will take place in Spain, as agreed by the delegates at the last annual meeting held in Sofia, Bulgaria, in September 2024.

This year marks the 27th anniversary of the Silurian Field Meeting that took place in Spain and Portugal in June 1998, which also visited the outcrops in northern Seville. In 2025, coinciding with the meeting, the *Golden Spike* marking the replacement Global Stratotype Section and Point (GSSP) of the Telychian Stage of the Llandovery Series will be officially established there.

Seville is a fitting location for a Silurian meeting due to its special significance in Spanish history, its status as a very pleasant city full of colour and tourist attractions, and, of course, its proximity to the most complete, continuous and fossiliferous Silurian sections in Spain. These sections are located in the Ossa-Morena Zone of the Iberian Massif, within the Natural Park and UNESCO Global Geopark Sierra Norte de Sevilla, an area of great scenic, geological, and cultural value.

The Silurian rocks of Seville have attracted geological studies since the late 19th century. However, it was not until the 1970s that the discoveries of the distinguished French geologist Michel Robardet initiated a series of investigations into their exceptional stratigraphy and fossil record, making the region a model area for Silurian studies.

Seville and its Silurian strata welcome you in September 2025!

Juan Carlos Gutiérrez-Marco and Sara Romero
On behalf of the organisers

Schedule and Deadlines

Due to the proximity of the meeting dates, an almost immediate response to the questionnaire at the end of this circular is required.

March 31 st	Response to the questionnaire of the First Circular (see below)
April 15 th	Distribution of the Second Circular with definitive fees
June 15 th	Deadline for paying the regular fee
July 1 st	Deadline for short papers and abstracts
July 30 th	Distribution of the Third Circular with the Final Programme
September 9 th	Arrival in Seville
September 10 th –11 th	Scientific sessions, official dinner
September 12 th	Silurian Excursion and <i>Golden Spike</i> ceremony of the base of Telychian replacement GSSP
September 13 th	Optional excursion to the Silurian of the North of Seville
September 14 th	Departures from Seville

About Seville

Seville (Sevilla in Spanish) is the capital and largest city of the Spanish autonomous community of Andalusia and the province of Seville. It is situated on the lower reaches of the River Guadalquivir, in the southwest of the Iberian Peninsula. It has a municipal population of about 701,000 and a metropolitan population of about 1.5 million, making

it the largest city in Andalusia and the fourth-largest city in Spain. The Seville harbour, located about 80 kilometres (50 miles) from the Atlantic Ocean, is the only river port in Spain.

The capital of Andalusia experiences high temperatures in summer, with daily maximums routinely above 35°C (95°F) in July and August, and slightly lower in September (mean daily maximum 26.3°C, mean daily minimum 18.4°C, percentage of possible sunshine 70, average precipitation days 2.8 mm). Find out more at: <https://www.spain.info/en/destination/seville/> ; <https://visitasevilla.es/en/>

Travel

Seville Airport (IATA: SVQ, ICAO: LEZL), also known as San Pablo Airport, is a large airport in Spain that has non-stop passenger flights scheduled to 83 destinations in 21 countries. In total, there are 23 airlines operating flights to and from Seville. Find out more at: <https://www.flightconnections.com/flights-from-seville-svq>

The connection to Seville via Madrid can be made by domestic flight or, if you wish to take advantage of your trip to visit the Spanish capital, there is a connection with Seville via high-speed trains that usually depart daily around 06:00, while the last service is around 21:00, providing great schedule flexibility. The Madrid–Seville journey takes about 2 hours and 30 minutes, with trains departing from Atocha station in Madrid and arriving at Seville Santa Justa station. In addition to Renfe's AVE trains (<https://www.renfe.com/es/en>), options like Iryo, OUIGO, and AVLO offer competitive prices and frequencies that complement the journey. Remember that you can find cheap train tickets from Madrid to Seville if you book in advance or take advantage of special offers.

Please check if you need a visa for the Schengen Area and contact the organisers in advance should you require an official invitation.

Accommodation

Conference participants are responsible for arranging accommodation for the entire period of stay, including post-conference excursions.

A variety of hotels and Airbnb rooms/apartments are available, with an estimated total price per person for 5 nights (check-in Tuesday 9th, check-out Sunday 14th) ranging between 450–750 € in hotels and 270–570 € in tourist apartments. Prices vary depending on how early you book and the type of accommodation you choose, but generally, you can find cheaper alternatives if you book in advance or take advantage of special offers.

As a safety measure, try to avoid accommodation in the area of Seville known as "Las Tres Mil (3000) Viviendas" (southeast of the city centre).

Conference venue

The scientific sessions will take place in a central location in Seville near Plaza de España, within walking distance of the historic Old Town, a UNESCO World Heritage Site comprising three buildings: the Alcázar palace complex (11th-14th centuries), the Gothic Cathedral (incorporating part of the Almohad mosque, 12th century) and the General Archive of the Indies.

The next circular will include a site map with its detailed location.

Fees and payment

The amount of the registration fees is indicative and will be set for an early bird registration between April 15th and June 15th, depending on the acquisition of new

financial support for the organization, as most of our sponsors contribute in kind. The final fees will be announced in the second circular, which will be distributed on April 15th.

	Payment of the fee until June 15 th , 2025	Payment of the fee after June 15 th , 2025
Senior researcher	300 €	350 €
Accompanying person	120 €	150 €
Subcommission Dinner Thursday 11 th	ca. 60–70 €	ca. 60–70 €
Optional field trip Saturday 13 th	95 €	120 €

The registration fee will include: admission to all sessions, workshop, conference programme and excursion guide, publication in the conference volume, snacks and coffee breaks as scheduled, social events, and the Silurian Field Trip on Friday, 12th September (*Golden Spike* ceremony).

The accompanying person fee includes attendance at the social events and the excursion on Friday, 12th September.

Bank transfer payments are preferred to the following account:

- IBAN- ES09 3025 0006 2914 3322 6827
- SWIFT (BIC) – CDENESBBXXX

(For verification: Bank name CaixaEnginyers/CajaIngenieros; account name SEDPGYM)

Please indicate the keyword "REUNION SILURICO+" and the names of participant(s) in the payment description, and ensure that the payment is made without charges to the beneficiary.

For paying the early bird conference fee, SEDPGYM will issue invoices on request.

After paying the fees, you will receive an email from the treasurer to confirm your registration once payment is settled.

Cancellation notice: Refunds of 50% of the conference and excursion fees will be granted if the cancellation is received before 1st July 2025. No refunds will be possible after this date. In the unlikely event of cancellation or postponement of the meeting due to an unexpected war or global health crisis, the fees will be refunded.

Support

Very limited support covering the registration expenses for early career researchers from the ISSS may be available; please contact the ISSS chairman prof. Carlo Corradini (ccorradini@units.it) for further details. Note that only participants with presentations will be considered for support.

Registration and Icebreaker

The registration desk will be open at the conference venue on the morning of 10th September 2025. An informal "icebreaker party" will be held for interested participants at a *tapas bar* in the centre of Seville, serving as a meeting point in the late evening of Tuesday 9th September. As this is an optional event, each person will cover their own expenses. The chosen place will be indicated in the final circular.

Conference Dinner and Activities for Accompanying Persons

The conference dinner will take place on Thursday 11th September. The venue will be also announced in the final circular. Please note that the Conference Dinner is not included in the registration fee.

The activities for accompanying persons included in their specific fee comprise a flamenco spectacle on the evening of 11th September and the excursion on Friday 12th (full-day). Professional contacts for guided tours in Seville or visits to the nearby Roman ruins of Italica (birthplace of Roman Emperor Hadrian) will be made available to accompanying persons upon request. This option must be indicated in response to the final circular.

Short papers and abstracts

Submission by June 30th, 2025. The short or extended abstracts will be published at the time of the meeting in the *Palaeontological Publications* Series (free open access without APC) of the Spanish Palaeontological Society (<https://sepaleontologia.es/palaeontological-publications-series/>): they may be up to 10 pages long and must be formatted according to the requirements that will be sent in the second circular. Short communications submitted after June 30th, will not be published.

Following the meeting, facilities will be provided for those participants wishing to publish their contributions in full in a Spanish scientific journal indexed in international rankings.

Presentations

Depending on the final numbers, regular oral presentations will be limited to either 10+5 or 15+5 minutes. Slides should be prepared in MS PowerPoint (.ppt, .pptx) or PDF formats.

Posters in vertical A0 size will be displayed throughout the entire meeting and presented during the poster sessions.

Workshop on Silurian Age-Depth Modelling

Coordinated by Emilia Jarochovska, Niklas Hohmann and the [MindTheGap](#) team, Utrecht University and the Netherlands eScience Center

Workshop description

Age-depth models are crucial to determine the timing and pace of past changes and events. They formalize stratigraphical hypotheses, thus allowing application of the hypothetico-deductive approach to the reading of the geological record. Multiple packages are available to construct age-depth models from stratigraphical data, allowing for a quick and reproducible estimation of age-depth relationships. However, most packages rely on assumptions that are best suited for specific depositional environments or type of stratigraphical data and cannot be treated as universal. In particular, most have been developed and validated on Neogene datasets. Deep-time, Palaeozoic stratigraphical data are more sparse and require a dedicated approach.

This workshop is an introduction to age-depth modeling for Silurian case studies with two versatile R packages “[admtools](#)” and “[BChron](#)”. The packages provide a combination that should prove suitable for a very wide range of Palaeozoic studies. BChron is a Bayesian method originally developed for Quaternary records based on a specified accumulation model, while admtools provides two nonparametric methods to estimate age-depth models from stratigraphical and sedimentological expert knowledge such as (semi-quantitative) constraints on sedimentation rates or tracer fluxes. We focus

on computing age uncertainty from the age-depth models, propagating this uncertainty into interpretation of proxy records, and the discussion of model assumptions and their influence on uncertainties.

At the end of the workshop, participants will be able to decide which method is most suitable for their respective records, independently construct age-depth models from their data, and propagate age-uncertainties into downstream analyses. Interested participants are encouraged to bring their own datasets to the meeting or to contact the workshop leader, Emilia Jarochowska (e.b.jarochowska@uu.nl) to discuss how age-depth modelling can be applied to their studies.

Prerequisites

Participants should bring their own laptops with an up to date version of R Software and RStudio installed. For those not familiar with R we recommend going through an introductory course (e.g., <https://utrechtuniversity.github.io/workshop-introduction-to-R-and-data/> at least until chapter 11). Participants must be familiar with basic usage of RStudio to install packages, execute scripts, and load data.

The focus of the workshop will be the concepts underlying age-depth modeling, and not programming in R. We will provide all R scripts to focus on the scientific contents rather than the programming language. However, familiarity with R syntax will improve the learning experience.

Excursions

Two Silurian field trips to the Natural Park and UNESCO Global Geopark Sierra Morena de Sevilla will complement the indoor sessions. Due to the access conditions to the Silurian outcrops (dirt roads with a limited turning radius), a standard coach cannot be used, and the number of seats is limited to 30 people, with preference given to the officers and titular members of the Silurian Subcommittee/ICS. The remaining places will be allocated in order of registration and will only be secured if the fee is paid before 15th June 2025. If the number of registrations slightly exceeds the available places, one of the collaborating entities may accommodate the excess participants by transporting them in their own official vehicles. Both excursions are full-day trips, departing from and returning to Seville.

The first field trip (Friday 12th, from 08:30 to 20:30) is dedicated to the El Pintado-1 section in the Valle Syncline, north of Seville. It is an integral part of the activities of the Silurian meeting and is included in the registration fee. The section consists of a largely undeformed, graptolitic succession ranging from the basal Rhuddanian to close to the Ludlow/ Přídolí boundary, with a stratigraphical thickness exceeding 120 metres. In the lower 64 metres of the succession, more than 200 different graptolite species have been identified. The four standard graptolite biozones of the Rhuddanian are recognised, while the Aeronian is represented by five graptolite biozones, showing a gap in sedimentation spanning the upper *triangulatus*–lower *leptotheca* biozones and probably another, shorter gap in the *sedgwickii* Biozone. From the Telychian, only the graptolites of its basal part have been studied (*guerichi* and lower *turriculatus* biozones). The remaining Telychian strata, as well as the Wenlock, Ludlow, and Přídolí parts of the section, have not yet been studied in detail, but they will also be examined during the excursion. This includes the only two limestone beds in the upper half of the succession: the thin Ludlow “Orthocerathid limestone” and the mostly Přídolí “*Scyphocrinites* limestone.” On the morning of the excursion, the *Golden Spike* ceremony will take place, marking the replacement Global Stratotype Section and Point (GSSP) of the Telychian Stage, with the attendance of various national, regional, and local authorities.

The second field trip (Saturday 13th, from 08:30 to 20:30) is optional and aims to visit a Ludlow outcrop in the Cerrón del Hornillo Syncline, where we will also visit an important palaeontological geosite containing giant Cambrian jellyfishes, one of the most significant features of the Geopark. We will then return to the Valle Syncline to complete the study of sections not visited the previous day, particularly one concerning the Wenlock/Ludlow boundary, which was published in 1996.

Scientific committee

Carlo Corradini, chairman (University of Trieste, Italy)
Bing Huang (NIGPAS, China)
Bradley D. Cramer (University of Iowa, USA)
Annalisa Ferretti (University of Modena, Italy)
Emilia Jarochowska (Utrecht University, The Netherlands)
Anna Kozłowska (Institute of Paleobiology PAS, Poland)
David K. Loydell (University of Portsmouth, UK)
Jörg Maletz (Freie Universität Berlin, Germany)
Tõnu Meidla (University of Tartu, Estonia)
Mike J. Melchin (St. Francis Xavier University, Canada)
José Manuel Piçarra (LNEG, Portugal)
Vincent Perrier (Université Claude Bernard Lyon 1, France)
David C. Ray (University of Birmingham, UK)
Artur A. Sá (University of Trás-os-Montes e Alto Douro, Portugal)
Valeri Sachanski (Geological Institute BAS, Bulgaria)
Ladislav Slavík (Institute of Geology CAS, Czech Republic)
Petr Štorch (Institute of Geology CAS, Czech Republic)
Zhang Yuandong (NIGPAS, China)

Organizing committee

Juan Carlos Gutiérrez-Marco, chairman (Spanish Research Council – IGEO)
Sara Romero, secretary and scientific editor (Complutense University, Madrid)
Isabel Rábano, treasurer (Spanish Research Council – IGME)
Fernando Ruiz Bermudo (Spanish Research Council – IGME)
Saturnino Lorenzo Álvarez (University of Castilla-La Mancha, Spain)
Vicente Castaño Torres (Sierra Morena de Sevilla UNESCO Global Geopark)
Gonzalo Fernández de Castro Martínez (Sierra Morena de Sevilla UNESCO Global Geopark)

Sponsored by

- Instituto de Geociencias CSIC-UCM–MICIU/Institute of Geosciences-IGEO
- Natural Park and UNESCO Global Geopark Sierra Morena de Sevilla, Junta de Andalucía (Andalusian Government)
- Centro Nacional Instituto Geológico y Minero de España-CSIC–MICIU/Spanish Geological and Mining Institute-IGME
- Asociación de Geólogos y Geofísicos Españoles del Petróleo–AGGEP/Association of Spanish Petroleum Geologists and Geophysicists
- Confederación Hidrográfica del Guadalquivir–MITECO/Guadalquivir River

- Hydrographic Confederation
- Sociedad Española de Defensa del Patrimonio Geológico y Minero–
SEDPGYM/Spanish Society for the Defense of Geological and Mining Heritage
 - Sociedad Española de Paleontología– SEP/Spanish Palaeontological Society

Contact and further information

Website (provisional):

<https://silurian.stratigraphy.org/meetings>

E-mail and phone:

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Isabel Rábano (treasurer): phone/whatsapp +34 699 232 550, i.rabano@igme.es

Summary of Provisional Schedule

PRELIMINARY PROGRAMME				
	WEDNESDAY 10th	THURSDAY 11th	FRIDAY 12th	SATURDAY 13th
8:30-9:00	Registration			
9:00-9:30	Opening			
9:30-10:00	Inaugural lecture: Telychian GSSP	Oral Sessions		
10:00-11:00	Oral Sessions			
11:00-11:30	Coffee Break + Poster Session	Coffee Break + Poster Session		
11:30-12:30	Oral Sessions	Business Meeting ISSS		
12:30-13:30				
13:30-15:00	Lunch	Lunch		
15:00-16:00	Oral Sessions			
16:00-17:00		Workshop on Silurian Age-Depth Modelling		
17:00-17:30	Coffee Break + Poster Session			
17:30-18:00				
18:00-18:30	Oral Sessions	Poster Session		
18:30-19:00				
19:00-19:30				
19:30-20:30		Flamenco Spectacle		

SILURIAN FIELD TRIP
The *Golden Spike* ceremony
for the new Telychian GSSP
at El Pintado 1 section
(Cazalla de la Sierra) + Silurian
outcrops of the Valle syncline
(Rhuddanian to Pridoli)

(picnic lunch)

Optional field trip
to the Silurian
outcrops of the Valle
and Cerrón del
Hornillo synclines,
Sierra Morena de
Sevilla UNESCO
Global Geopark

(picnic lunch)

See you in Seville!

