

Foreword

The present volume of *Acta Palaeontologica Romaniaae* groups some of the contributions to the 7th Romanian Symposium of Paleontology. The symposium was organised by the Romanian Society of Paleontologists together with the Department of Geology, Babeş-Bolyai University in the autumn of 2009, at Cluj. This volume is dedicated to Prof. Ovidiu Dragastan at his 70th anniversary. Professor Dragastan is a remarkable personality of Romanian paleontology; at the same time, he was the organiser of the first National Symposium of Paleontology (Bucharest, 1997) and the editor of the first issue of *Acta Palaeontologica Romaniaae*. This initiative has been continued since then on a biennial basis, at Cluj, Iaşi and Bucharest; here we are now, closing the issue containing the contributions of its 7th edition.

The current volume contains 32 scientific contributions. All the papers have been submitted to peer-review for enhancing their quality. Most of the authors have updated their manuscripts based on the suggestions of the reviewers; however in some cases, the authors have taken the liberty to decline significant part of their major remarks. This, besides the original quality of the manuscripts, as well as our intention to publish all the submitted papers, with no exception, has finally led to certain heterogeneity throughout the volume. However, we consider that the current issue represents a faithful illustration of the present level reached by paleontological research in Romania.

At the end of this short preamble, we would like to express our special gratitude to our main sponsor, ROMGAZ S.A., who supported financially both the symposium, and the publication of this volume.

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