Palaeontology Seminar

Thursday 15th November Neil Chalmers Seminar Room, DC2, 15:00

Fungal-plant associations in Palaeozoic-Mesozoic times

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A fungal mode of life (mycelial growth and mode of nutrition) is shared by several living groups of organisms, notably Fungi (Eumycota) and Oomycetes (Stramenopila). Originally, a lot of these groups were called fungi, but now we know that they have quite diverse relationships among eukaryotes. These organisms are known to have coexisted with plants since the dawn of life on land, but their role in plant evolution is still poorly understood.

Recent research based on historic collections of petrified plants is opening up a rich new source of information for the study of fungal-plant associations. I will present an overview of recent findings including fossil evidence for fungi and fungi-like symbionts in Palaeozoic and Mesozoic ecosystems.