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EDITORIAL

Collaboration between Grana and the European Pollen Database

The European Pollen Database (EPD) was founded in 1992 as a pioneering approach to secure Quaternary pollen data for posterity and enable research using inter-site comparisons and regional-continental syntheses. After a promising start, EPD activity has slowed down in recent years and is in need of revitalisation. A new database engineer has now been appointed and several new initiatives were planned at a recent open meeting attended by 78, mostly younger, European palynologists. One popular proposal was to create an opportunity for new pollen datasets contributed to the EPD to be published as short, standardised communications in Grana, following refereed approval. The editorial board has agreed to this experiment and in this issue we publish the first paper of this type under the heading 'Contributions to the European Pollen Database'. These short

papers will adopt a common format, including site details, sediment description, dating control and brief interpretation, followed by a single page summary pollen diagram. The first paper to be accepted is from the Czech Republic.

Data are the lifeblood of palynology and the basis for many recent advances in quantitative Holocene vegetation reconstruction and studies of the impacts of climate change on land surfaces in the past. It is hoped that this initiative will attract new interest both in Grana and in the rejuvenated EPD. Please visit the EPD web site www.europeanpollendatabase.net for details about how to contribute or download data and participate in some of the latest developments in Quaternary palynology.

Richard H. W. Bradshaw