IFCRS 2027



Fossil Corals and Reefs
- beyond boundaries -

Observatoire Midi-Pyrénées,
Toulouse, France,
6-8.9.2027

First Circular

Invitation

We cordially invite you to attend the 15th IFCRS Symposium – **IFCRS 2027 "Fossil Corals and Reefs – beyond boundaries"**, to be held from 6 to 8 September 2027 at the Observatoire Midi-Pyrénées, University of Toulouse (France).

We look forward to welcoming researchers from around the world back to France, about half a century after the 2nd symposium of our society was organised at the Natural History Museum in Paris in 1975.

The scientific rationale for this congress could hardly be timelier. Modern coral reefs are among the ecosystems most severely threatened by ongoing climatic change. Yet the observational record of these changes is distressingly short. Only the fossil record can provide the long-term baseline against which the rate of present-day change can be measured. Reefs and coral communities of the geological past have already witnessed — and survived or succumbed to — episodes of rapid global warming, mass extinctions, oceanographic reorganisations, and biotic turnovers.

Reading these archives, spanning hundreds of millions of years, is a very powerful tool for our understanding into how modern reefs and coral ecosystems respond to environmental stress. However, these archives can be examined from various angles and with very different approaches. Thus, they provide valuable information for coral evolution and palaeoecology, biomineralisation, diversity trends, and palaeo(bio)geography to name just a few areas of research.

The congress will therefore bring together international experts to present and discuss the latest research on fossil reefs and coral ecosystems, including their diverse associated biota through time.

We invite you to circulate this announcement among colleagues and students who may wish to attend.

We look forward to welcoming you to Toulouse.

In behalf of the organisers

Markus ARETZ

- Chair of IFCRS 2027-

GENERAL INFORMATION

Congress dates: 6 - 8 September 2027

Web site: www.2027.ifcrs.org

Contact: ifcrs2027@ifcrs.org

Chair: Markus Aretz

Local Committee Members: Frédéric Christophoul, Guillaume Dera, Marc De Rafélis, Élise Nardin, Delphine Rouby

Scientific Committee Members: Francesca Bosellini, Bernard Lathuilière, Raphaël Vasseur and the IFCRS council members



CONGRESS SCHEDULE

September 4th –5th 2027	Pre-conference field trips: Montagne Noire and Corbières
September 5th 2027	Ice-breaker party in the evening (in the city centre)
September 6th – 8th 2027	Scientific symposia at the Observatoire Midi-Pyrénées
September 7th 2027	Gala Dinner
September 9th – 10th 2027	Post-conference field trip to the Aquitaine Basin

SCIENTIFIC SESSIONS

There will be no parallel sessions. We will regroup the proposed presentations into scientific symposia. A list of possible topics include:

- Coral abundance and diversity in time and space
- Phanerozoic reef history
- Corals and reefs and climate change
- Mesophotic reefs and coral communities

- The coral skeleton: biomineralization, geochemical archive, and more
- Phylogeny and taxonomy
- Reef-associated fauna through geological time

FIELD TRIPS

We are currently working on the detailed programmes for two field trips, each illustrating the fossil coral and reef localities in the SW of France.





- Pre-conference field trip (2 days): Cambrian to Eocene reefs and corals in the Montagne Noire and Corbieres
- Post-conference field trip (2 days): Mesozoic and Cenozoic reefs and corals of the Aquitaine Basin

VENUE

Toulouse is the **4th largest French city,** located in the heart of southwestern France. The city is ideally situated halfway between the Pyrenees Mountains, the Atlantic Ocean and the Mediterranean Sea. Toulouse is crossed by the Garonne River and the charming Canal du Midi. This city tingles your spine with a Latin heat, reflected in both its temperature and distinctive architecture.

The city charms visitors with its narrow sinuous streets and diverse architecture, from medieval to modern monuments, such as the City Hall and its Donjon (15Ith century), or the numerous noble mansions (16th-19th centuries). Toulouse is a cosmopolitan and vibrant town, combining historical heritage and modern lifestyle. Gastronomic specialities include the famous 'saucisse de Toulouse', the 'Cassoulet', and the delicate 'foie gras'. The university, founded in 1229, is the third largest in France and one of the oldest in Europe.

The congress will take place at the **Observatoire Midi-Pyrénées**, which is situated in the 'complexe scientifique' next to the main campus of the University de Toulouse **(**Paul Sabatier campus) in the Rangueil district. Most of the activities will take place in and around the Salle de Coriolis, including the registration desk, scientific sessions, poster presentations, coffee and lunch breaks. We have also access to additional rooms in the buildings to organise dedicated workshops or meetings.

TRAVEL

Toulouse can be easily reached by car (Motorways A61, A62, A64, A68), train (Toulouse Matabiau station) and airplane (Toulouse-Blagnac international airport, TLS). The Observatoire Midi-Pyrénées is situated in the southeast of Toulouse and is easily reached by public transport (metro line B and connecting bus) or by car.

Toulouse-Blagnac international airport is situated at about 8 km northwest of Toulouse. The city center is easily reached by airport shuttle service, public transport, or taxi. Toulouse Matabiau Train Station is situated in the city center (voyage-sncf or tgv-europe). You can also hire a car from one of the many rental car companies at the airport or at the train station.

Please check if your visit in France will require a visa. On request, we will provide official invitation letters to delegates who need to apply for a visa.

REGISTRATION AND FEES

Registration will be starting 1 February 2027. The registration fee will include on-site lunches for all three days of the conference, as well as the Gala Diner. We try to keep the registration as cheap as possible. The anticipated fees for early bird registration are 250€ for full delegates and 150€ for students. The anticipated fee for a field trip is 240€ for double-room occupation, transport, and meals.

IMPORTANT DATES

- **Website launch**: 1 December 2026
- **Second circular**: mid-January 2027
- **Abstract submission opens**: 1 March 2027
- **Registration opens**: 1 February 2027
- **Deadline for abstract submission**: 1 June 2027
- **Deadline for early bird registration**: 1 June 2027
- **Notification** oral and poster communication: 15 June 2027
- Dispatch of **third circular**: 1 July 2027
- Publication of **final scientific programme**: 1 August 2027

See you in Toulouse !