



VICTOR AUGUST ZULLO
1936-1993

Victor Zullo ("Vic" to almost everyone) was born in San Francisco and completed his entire college education at the University of California, Berkeley, where he first developed his interest in barnacles. Although his training was as a paleontologist, his early work experience was primarily as a marine biologist, and his initial position at the University of North Carolina, Wilmington, was as a Professor of Biology and Director of the Program in Marine Studies. But after two years, in 1973, he moved to the Department of Earth Sciences and began to develop his life-long interest in the geology, stratigraphy, tectonic history, and geomorphology of the Atlantic Coastal Plain. In the ensuing years he served as an inspiring and beloved teacher and dedicated researcher, leaving behind a legacy of nearly 70 studies on the Cirripedia, plus another 20 papers on Coastal Plain stratigraphy. (*From W.B. Harris, 1993, American Paleontologist, volume 1, number 5*).

INTRODUCTION

WARREN D. ALLMON
PALEONTOLOGICAL RESEARCH INSTITUTION
ITHACA, NEW YORK 14850

Most of the papers assembled in this issue originated as presentations in a Symposium held at the annual meeting of the Southeastern Section of the Geological Society of America in Winston-Salem, North Carolina, March, 20, 1991. The title sounds so general as to seem meaningless, yet it was chosen on purpose. Although the first published figure of a fossil from the New World was a Neogene mollusk from the Atlantic Coastal Plain [*Chesapecten jeffersonius* (Say), figured by Lister in 1687; see Ward and Blackwelder, 1975, U.S. Geol. Survey, Prof. Paper 861], and a great deal of attention has been paid to the description of mollusks and other fossil macro-and microfauna of the Coastal Plain since that time, the truth is that we are woefully ignorant about most of the basic biostratigraphic and evolutionary patterns of the marine faunas of the last 65 million years in what is now the region between the Potomac River and the Rio Grande. Despite an apparently widely-held belief among many (mostly non-Coastal Plain) geologists and paleontologists that the most basic descriptive work in the Coastal Plain has "been done," there remains a need for careful studies of the patterns of occurrence of these abundant, diverse, and well-preserved fossils. Only when such work has been carried out can studies of the evolution of phylogenetic lineages, biogeographic distributions, and depositional basins (which are usually viewed as "more interesting") be accomplished.

The papers in this issue represent steps in several of these directions, using several different approaches and groups of organisms. They show the scope of the need for more work, both in basic description and in evolutionary and stratigraphic interpretation. They also show that there remain profound controversies to be resolved in this long-studied part of the world.

This issue is dedicated to the memory of Victor A. Zullo. Vic was a leader in the paleontological and geological study of the Coastal Plain, and his presence is sorely missed by those who knew him and his work. Vic also made a presentation at the Symposium (with Roger Portell) entitled: "Caught in the act: derivation of a pyrgomatid coral barnacle from an archaeobalanid ancestor."

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Compiled by

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UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA
GAINESVILLE, FLORIDA 32611

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(continued on p. 52)