

## Early Career Research Profiles

This profile series on young members of INHIGEO is to create a space where early career scholars can present their studies and research interests within the history of the geological sciences to the whole membership and anyone who receives the newsletter, in order to highlight their field of expertise. It is hoped this will lead to contacts and collaborations for the future through our extensive network. Our profile this month is on an early career researcher from Malaysia.

Name: **Muhammad Aqqid bin Saparin**

### Studies:

2019–2024: PhD in Petroleum Geosciences, Universiti Teknologi PETRONAS, Perak, Malaysia.

2014-2018: M. Geol. Geology with Palaeobiology, Integrated Master Degree, University of Leicester, Leicester, United Kingdom.

### Awards

IUGS Hutchison Fund Travel Award to attend the 37th International Geological Congress



### Position:

Currently a postdoctoral researcher at the Nanjing Institute of Geology and Palaeontology, Chinese Academy of Sciences (NIGPAS), Nanjing, China. Project focusing on the graptolite biostratigraphy, paleobiogeography and faunal turnover during the Ordovician-Silurian interval of the Sibumasu terrane.

**Title of PhD:** *High-resolution graptolite biostratigraphy and palaeoenvironment reconstruction of the Ordovician-Silurian basin of Northwestern Domain Peninsular Malaysia.*

My PhD focused on utilizing graptolite fossils alongside various palaeoenvironmental analyses to gain deeper insights into the basin evolution of Lower Palaeozoic strata in northwest Malaysia. This work was inspired by the pioneering studies of Clive Roderick Jones, who discovered Malaysia's first graptolite in 1955 and played a key role in establishing the country's Early Palaeozoic stratigraphy. The graptolite specimens, previously collected during the 1950s and 1960s, had remained in storage for over half a century before being retrieved from their repository and re-examined as part of this study.

### Research interests:

As a graptolite worker, I am deeply interested in the historical context and scientific advancements that have shaped our understanding of this remarkable fossil group. While the history of graptolite research in the Western scientific world is well-documented, the records in Asia remain comparatively obscure. For instance, the development of graptolite studies in Malaysia is not well known despite its pivotal role in delineating the country's Early Palaeozoic stratigraphy. I see this as an excellent opportunity to delve into the lesser-known history of graptolite research in Asia. Documenting the progression of these studies and emphasizing the geological significance of graptolites is, in my view, essential for raising awareness and inspiring broader interest in both the graptolites and the scientists behind their study.



*Fig. The discovery of the first graptolite fossil in Peninsular Malaysia. Photo provided by C.R. Jones.*

### Publications:

Saparin, M.A. and Ismail, M.S., 2024. A History of 20th Century Graptolite Studies in Malaysia: the Role of Clive Roderick Jones. *Earth Sciences History*, 43(2), pp. 272-285.

Saparin, M.A. and Ismail, M.S., 2023. Latest Ordovician to earliest Silurian graptolites of northwest Peninsular Malaysia. *Journal of Paleontology*, 97 (2), pp. 395-420.

Saparin, M. A., Mustapha, K. A. and Ismail, M. S., 2023. Biostratigraphy, petrography, organic carbon and carbon isotope chemostratigraphy of the Ordovician-Silurian black shales from the Northwestern Domain of Peninsular Malaysia. *International Journal of Coal Geology*, 277, p.104355.

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