

Derek E.G. Briggs

G. Evelyn Hutchinson Professor of Geology and Geophysics
Curator in Charge of Invertebrate Paleontology, Yale Peabody Museum

B.A. Geology, Trinity College, University of Dublin (1972)

Ph.D. University of Cambridge (1976)

Career

1974-1977 Research Fellow, Sidney Sussex College, University of Cambridge.

1977-1985 Department of Geology, Goldsmiths, University of London.

1985-2002 Department of Earth Sciences (formerly Geology), University of Bristol
(Chair of Department 1997-2001).

2001-2002 Visiting Professor, Dept. Geophysical Sciences, University of Chicago.

2003 - Yale University: Professor of Geology and Geophysics and Curator in
Charge of Invertebrate Paleontology, Peabody Museum of Natural History.

2004-2007 Director of the Yale Institute for Biospheric Studies.

2008-2014 Director of the Yale Peabody Museum of Natural History.

Research activities

My research is on the preservation and evolutionary significance of exceptionally preserved fossil biotas. This involves a range of approaches from experimental work on the factors controlling decay and fossilization, through studies of early diagenetic mineralization and organic preservation, to field work on a range of extraordinary fossil occurrences and considerations of the ecology and phylogenetic significance of the animals that they yield.

Distinctions

Fellow of the Royal Society (1999); Premio Capo d'Orlando (Italian prize for science) (2000); Lyell Medal, Geological Society of London (2000); Boyle Medal, Royal Dublin Society/Irish Times (2001); Honorary Member of the Royal Irish Academy (2003); President, Palaeontological Association (2002-2004); President, Paleontological Society (2006-2008); Fellow of the Paleontological Society (2006); Humboldt Research Award (2008); Corresponding Member (i.e., honorary foreign member) of the Paläontologische Gesellschaft, Germany (2008); Bownocker Medal, School of Earth Sciences, Ohio State University (2009); Sc.D. (h.c.), Trinity College, University of Dublin (2010); Geological Society of America Geobiology and Geomicrobiology Division award for Outstanding Contributions to the Geobiosciences (2011); Paleontology Society Medal (2015).