Much Faster Counting!
(PolyCounter 2.7 and Multi Function Panel)

T Nakagawa

Department of Geography, University of Newcastle-upon-Tyne, UK.
E-mail: takeshi.nakagawa@newcastle.ac.uk

The “PolyCounter” software is a powerful tool for fast microfossil analyses. Since its formal release at the 2007 INQUA Congress (Cairns), PolyCounter has slowly but steadily gained users, and now boasts more than 100 downloads from over 20 countries. The aim of this poster is to provide updates about the software over the last inter-congress period.

Firstly, PolyCounter has been updated from ver. 1.5 (Cairns) to ver. 2.7 (as of November 2010). In addition to the basic functions of counting up to 135 taxa by a single action, drawing a pollen diagram, sub-total alarm, and output in Excel spreadsheet format – both in raw counts and percentages, the updated software now allows: (i) plotting a diversity saturation diagram; (ii) keeping six additional parameters in digits or text; (iii) CONISS analysis to assist pollen zoning; and (iv) changing the sample order on the pollen diagram. PolyCounter 2.7 is freeware and is not protected by copyright.

Secondly, the input device recommended in Cairns (Ergodex DX-1) does not support Windows Vista or 7. The Solution to this problem is to use the Multi Function Panel (MFP) distributed by CH Products. MFP uses Ergodex technology and supports both Windows Vista and 7. MFP is slightly more expensive than DX-1, but still retails for less than US$300 including shipping costs (i.e. still cheaper than a number of mechanical tally counters).

Demonstration of the updated system will be available at the poster. PolyCounter 2.7 can be downloaded from http://dendro.naruto-u.ac.jp/~nakagawa/. The Multi Function Panel can be purchased from: http://www.chproducts.com/shop/usb.html.