

DICELLOMUS HALL, 1871 (BRACHIOPODA, INARTICULATA);
PROPOSED DESIGNATION OF A TYPE-SPECIES UNDER THE
PLENARY POWERS. Z.N.(S.) 1504

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The purpose of the present application is to ask the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature to exercise its plenary powers and remove a threat to the stability of the name of a Cambrian inarticulate brachiopod, *Dicellomus* Hall, 1871. This phosphatic shelled genus is an important element of the upper Cambrian brachiopod fauna of North America and has some stratigraphic importance (Bell, 1944, p. 158). Under the Rules the name would be lost as a junior subjective synonym of *Obolella* Billings, a lower Cambrian, calcareous shelled genus that belongs to an entirely different superfamily.

2. The genus *Dicellomus* was erected by Hall (1871) in the following terms : "The species placed by me, with doubt, under the genus *Obolella* of Billings in the Sixteenth Report on the State Cabinet was thus referred rather in deference to Mr. Billings's expressed opinion, than with its correspondence to the generic description and figure of the author. The grooving or emargination of the apex of both valves and the thickening of the edges of the shell on each side below the apex ; the form and character of the muscular impressions would likewise separate this species from *Obolella* as described and figured by Mr. Billings. I shall therefore indicate this form as a distinct genus under the name of *Dicellomus*. The species described by me as *Orbicula* (?) *crassa* in vol. I, Pal. N.Y., has a similar form of muscular impression and will fall under the same genus."

3. This description was slightly reworded a year later (Hall, 1872, p. 246) and the *lapsus* which occurred in the original account corrected to read *Orbicula* (?) *crassa*.

4. In the Sixteenth Report on the State Cabinet of Natural History the only species doubtfully placed in *Obolella* by Hall, (1863, p. 133) was *Obolella* (?) *polita* (= *Lingula* (?) *polita* Hall, 1861). From the original account of the genus *Dicellomus* it could be argued that Hall intended to make *Lingula polita* the type-species. All subsequent workers who have mentioned the type-species have taken this point of view and cited it as the type (e.g. Walcott, 1912 ; Schuchert and LeVene, 1929 ; Bell, 1941 ; Cooper, 1944).

5. However, in the original account of *Dicellomus* the only species mentioned by name (New Code Art. 69(a)(i)) was *Orbicula* (?) *crassa* and under the Rules this must be the type-species by monotypy, contrary to Hall's intention and all subsequent usage.

6. *Orbicula* (?) *crassa* Hall, is correctly referred to the genus *Obolella* Billings, 1861. This was realised by Hall and Clarke (1892, p. 72) and has been confirmed by all subsequent workers who have dealt with the species (e.g. Walcott, 1912, p. 592 ; Cooper, 1944, p. 287 ; Rowell in press). Thus

under the Rules *Dicellomus* Hall, 1871 is a junior subjective synonym of *Obolella* Billings.

7. In view of the facts set out in the preceeding paragraphs, I now request the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature :

(1) to use its plenary powers :

(a) to set aside all type-selections for the genus *Dicellomus* Hall, 1871, made prior to the Ruling now asked for and

(b) having done so, to designate *Lingula polita* Hall, 1861, as type-species of the foregoing genus ;

(2) to place the following name on the Official List of Generic Names in Zoology : *Dicellomus* Hall, 1871 (gender : masculine) (type-species by designation under the plenary powers under 1(b) above : *Lingula polita* Hall, 1861) ;

(3) to place the following name on the Official List of Specific Names in Zoology : *polita* Hall, 1861, as published in the combination *Lingula polita* (type-species of *Dicellomus* Hall, 1871).

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