

PROPOSED USE OF THE PLENARY POWERS TO DESIGNATE
A TYPE SPECIES IN HARMONY WITH ACCUSTOMED USE FOR
"LABECERAS" SPATH, 1925 (CLASS CEPHALOPODA, ORDER
AMMONOIDEA), A GENUS BASED UPON A MISIDENTIFIED
TYPE SPECIES

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The object of the present application is to ask the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature to use its Plenary Powers under the Special Procedure prescribed by the International Congress of Zoology (1950, *Bull. zool. Nomencl.* 4 : 158—159) for use in connection with nominal genera based upon misidentified type species to designate a type species in harmony with accustomed usage for the genus *Labeceras* Spath, 1925 (Class Cephalopoda, Order Ammonoidea).

2. The genus *Labeceras* was established by Spath (1925 : 179, 191) as "ex Whitehouse MS" with three nominal species included in it, *L. plasticum* Spath, *L. taylora* (Etheridge) and *L. laqueus* (Etheridge). Spath designated as "genotype" a specimen "BM C25355, the suture line of which I have figured in plate 31, fig. 7" as "*Labeceras* sp.nov.". Since this type designation was not of a nominal species it was invalid.

3. In 1926 Whitehouse published the paper referred to by Spath as being in manuscript. In it he described (: 226) *Labeceras* as a new genus and designated as genotype "*Labeceras papulatum* sp.nov.". Spath's establishment of the genus in the previous year was valid despite the invalid designation of a type species, since the date was before 1931. Consequently Whitehouse's designation as type species of a nominal species which was not one of Spath's originally included species was invalid.

4. In 1938 Roman (: 52) designated as type species "*Labeceras taylora* Etheridge" and gave as reference "(Rec. Australian Museum, t. VII, pl. XLVI, 1909)". This designation of one of Spath's originally included species would

seem to be valid. However, Whitehouse had already (1926 : 227) pointed out that Etheridge had in 1909 been mistaken in identifying, under the name "*Crioceras taylori* Etheridge fil." his specimens from the Albian Tambo Series with *Ancyloceras taylori* Etheridge fil., 1892 (: 498, pl. 42, fig. 13) from the much earlier Roma Series. Whitehouse (1926) had consequently renamed Etheridge's 1909 specimens as *Labeceras bryani* (: 227, pl. xxxix, fig. 4a, b).

5. Roman, by his reference, made it clear that he intended by "*L. taylori* Etheridge" the taxonomic form represented by Etheridge's 1909 figures, which, unlike the form in Etheridge's 1892 figures, falls within the genus *Labeceras* as described by Spath. The form represented in the 1892 figures cannot at present be determined generically with certainty but it belongs to some genus of Aptian ANCYLOCERATIDAE. To treat this form as type species of the now well known and clearly circumscribed Albian genus *Labeceras*, as would be necessary on a strict application of the Rules, would cause quite unnecessary confusion, by making it necessary to synonymise *Labeceras* with some genus as yet undetermined of Ancyloceratidae and to give a new name to the taxonomic group now known as *Labeceras*, which is moreover the type genus of the family LABECERATIDAE Spath, 1925 (: 191).

6. One of the species originally included by Spath should obviously be the type species. *L. plasticum* Spath and *L. laqueum* (Etheridge fil.) are unambiguous nominal species but *L. bryani* Whitehouse, 1926 (= *Crioceras taylori* Etheridge fil., 1909 non *Ancyloceras taylori* Etheridge fil., 1892 ; = *Labeceras taylori* (Etheridge) in Spath, 1925) is without doubt the taxonomic group that was in the mind of Roman when he designated "*L. taylori* Etheridge" as the type species of *Labeceras*.

7. I therefore suggest that it would be most in accord with the spirit of the Rules and would cause least confusion if *L. bryani* Whitehouse were designated as type species and I invite the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature—

- (1) under the Special Procedure prescribed by the International Congress of Zoology for use in the case of genera considered to have been based upon misidentified type species, to use its Plenary Powers to set aside all selections of type species for the genus *Labeceras* Spath, 1925, made before the Ruling now asked for and to designate *Labeceras bryani* Whitehouse, 1926, to be the type species of the foregoing genus ;

(2) to place on the *Official List of Generic Names in Zoology* :—

Labeceras Spath, 1925 (gender : neuter) (type species by designation under the Plenary Powers as proposed in (1) above : *Labeceras bryani* Whitehouse, 1926) ;

(3) to place on the *Official List of Specific Names in Zoology* :—

bryani Whitehouse, 1926, as published in the combination *Labeceras bryani* (specific name of type species of *Labeceras* Spath, 1925) ;

(4) to place on the *Official List of Family Names in Zoology* :—

LABECERATIDAE Spath, 1925.

References

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