PROPOSED USE OF THE PLENARY POWERS TO VALIDATE THE GENERIC NAME "RHINOPTERASPIS" JAEKEL, 1919, BY SUPPRESSING THE NAME "ARCHAEOTEUTHIS" ROEMER, 1855 (CLASS OSTRACODERMI)

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The object of the present application is to seek the assistance of the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature for preserving the well-established generic name Rhinopteraspis Jaekel, 1919, by the use of its Plenary Powers for suppressing its senior objective synonym Archaeoteuthis Roemer, 1855, a name which has been completely overlooked, not having been used since the time when it was first published. The facts of this case are summarised in the following paragraphs.

2. In 1855 (Palaeontographica 4: 72) Roemer (F.) described a fossil from the Lower Devonian of the Eifel as the guard of a species of cuttlefish, for which also he established a new genus. He named this species Palaeoteuthis dunensis. In the same year, finding that the generic name Palaeoteuthis Roemer, 1855, was invalid, being a junior homonym of the name Palaeoteuthis d'Orbigny, [1850] (Prodr. Paleont. 1: 327) Roemer published the substitute name Archaeoteuthis (1855, in Bronn, Lethaea geogn. (3rd ed.) 1: 520). However, three years later T. H. Huxley pointed out (1861, Quart. J. geol. Soc. Lond. 17: 163) that the specimen described by Roemer was not a cephalopod guard, as Roemer had supposed, but was the ventral plate of a pteraspid "fish" (Ostracoderm) and referred it to the genus Pteraspis Kner, 1847, itself, since it showed, in his opinion, no characters of generic value to differentiate it from Pteraspis. (We may here note that the specimen is imperfect and incidentally that in the original paper it was figured upside down, and further that the ventral plates (or discs) do not show generic characters in most pteraspids.) Since the publication of Roemer's papers nearly one hundred years ago, the name Archaeoteuthis has not been used by any author. Up to 1919, the type species (P. dunensis) was referred either to Pteraspis or to its junior synonym Scaphaspis Lankester, 1865.

3. In 1919 O. Jaekel (SitzBer. Ges. Naturf. Freunde Berlin 1919: 74) made Palaeoteuthis dunensis Roemer the type species of a new genus, to which he gave the name Rhinopteraspis on the ground of the characteristic dorsal armour found associated with ventral plates referable to the foregoing species. It has
since been shown by Brotenz (1936, Ark. Zool. 28A (No. 22) : 13) and by White (1938, Quart. J. geol. Soc. Lond. 94 : 85) that a number of forms share the outstanding characters of Jaekel's genus. These forms are of stratigraphical significance, and in consequence the name Rhinopteraspis has come increasingly into use.

4. In these circumstances it is recommended that the name Rhinopteraspis Jaekel, 1919, should be validated by the suppression of the name Archaeoteuthis Roemer, 1855, under the Plenary Powers, a name which has not been used since its original publication, is embarrassingly inappropriate, and, when first published, was accompanied by no generic characters relevant to the group to which it belongs. The International Commission is accordingly asked:—

(1) to use its Plenary Powers for the purpose of suppressing the generic name Archaeoteuthis Roemer, 1855, for the purposes of the Law of Priority but not for those of the Law of Homonymy;

(2) to place the under-mentioned generic names on the Official List of Generic Names in Zoology:—Rhinopteraspis Jaekel, 1919 (gender: feminine) (type species, by original designation: Palaeoteuthis dunensis Roemer, 1855);

(3) to place the under-mentioned specific name on the Official List of Specific Names in Zoology:—dunensis Roemer, 1855, as published in the combination Palaeoteuthis dunensis (specific name of type species of Rhinopteraspis Jaekel, 1919);

(4) to place the under-mentioned generic names on the Official Index of Rejected and Invalid Generic Names in Zoology:—

(a) Palaeoteuthis Roemer, 1855 (a junior homonym of Palaeoteuthis d’Orbigny, [1850]);

(b) Archaeoteuthis Roemer, 1855 (as suppressed under the Plenary Powers under (1) above).

5. The genus Rhinopteraspis Jaekel is not the type genus of a taxon belonging to any family-group and accordingly no question arises of placing any such name on the Official List of Family-Group Names in Zoology.
White, Errol Ivor and Ball, H. W. 1955. "Proposed use of the plenary powers to validate the generic name Rhinopteraspis Jaekel, 1919, by suppressing the name Archaeoteuthis Roemer, 1855 (Class Ostracodermi)." *The Bulletin of zoological nomenclature* 11, 66–67. [https://doi.org/10.5962/bhl.part.2820](https://doi.org/10.5962/bhl.part.2820).

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