

DESIGNATION OF A TYPE GENUS FOR THE NOMINAL ORDER
"AMMONOIDEA" ZITTEL, 1884, AND PROPOSED ADDITION OF THAT
NAME TO THE "OFFICIAL LIST OF NAMES IN THE ORDER/CLASS
GROUP IN ZOOLOGY"

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At the time when I submitted my proposal that the International Commission should use its Plenary Powers to suppress the old generic name *Ammonites* Bruguière, 1789, I expressed the view that, if ever the Commission were to be given powers in relation to the names of taxa belonging to categories above the family-group-name level, it would be necessary to make provision for the retention of the long-established and universally accepted Ordinal Name AMMONOIDEA (Arkell, 1951, *Bull. zool. Nomencl.* 2 : 202). That such action should be taken promptly appears important in view of the risk that, following the suppression of the old generic name *Ammonites*, mistaken attempts might be made to alter the Ordinal Name, notwithstanding the fact that it is a household word to all students of ammonites and to palaeontologists generally.

2. The time now appears to be ripe for the Commission to take action in this matter, for (1) it has now suppressed the name *Ammonites* Bruguière by the Ruling given in its *Opinion* 305 (1954, *Ops. Decls. int. Comm. zool. Nomencl.* 8 : 297—312) and (2) the International Congress of Zoology has laid down rules for the regulation of Ordinal Names and has established an *Official List* for recording the names of Orders and Classes (1953, *Copenhagen Decisions zool. Nomencl.* : 39).

3. **Authorship and date of publication of the Ordinal Name "AMMONOIDEA" :** The first author to establish a taxon of ordinal rank to comprehend the concept represented by the genus *Ammonites* Bruguière as that genus was originally conceived appears to have been Zittel who in 1884 introduced without comment the name AMMONOIDEA as the name for a Sub-Order ("Unterordnung") in the Order TETRABRANCHIATA (Zittel, 1884, *Handbuch der Paläontologie*, Abt. 1 Bd. 2 : 392).

4. **Designation of a type genus for the Nominal Order "AMMONOIDEA" Zittel, 1884 :** Ordinal names, like generic names, possess no determinate content until they are defined in some approved manner and the International Congress was clearly well-advised to apply to the names of Orders the type method which has already over a long period of years proved its adequacy

as a method for determining the content of nominal genera (*ibid.* : 38, Decision 61). The first step therefore which requires to be taken is to designate a suitable genus to be the type genus of the Order AMMONOIDEA. Other things being equal, the fact that this Ordinal name is a virtual tautonym of Bruguière's generic name *Ammonites* makes it desirable that the genus to be selected as the type genus of the Order should be the genus to which, if it had not been suppressed by the Commission under its Plenary Powers, the name *Ammonites* Bruguière would have applied. The question of the concept which would have been represented by this genus if the name *Ammonites* Bruguière had been allowed to remain an available name is not entirely free from doubt but, as I explained in my application to the Commission for the suppression of that generic name (*Bull. zool. Nomencl.* 2 : 200—201), the acceptance of the generic name *Ammonites* would at the family-name level, have led to the substitution of the name AMMONITIDAE for the family name ARIETITIDAE. From this point of view, it would therefore be appropriate that the generic name *Arietites* Waagen, 1869 (*Geogn.-pal. Beitr.* 2 (Heft 2) : 247) should become the type genus of the Order AMMONOIDEA. Judged from a more general standpoint also, this important Sinemurian genus appears very suitable to be the type genus of the Order. I accordingly hereby designate the genus *Arietites* Waagen, 1869, to be the type genus of the Order AMMONOIDEA.

5. For the reasons which I have explained, the Ordinal name AMMONOIDEA should be formally protected as soon as possible, and in view of the fact that this name is in universal use among palaeontologists, there is no reason why action should not be taken immediately. I accordingly ask the International Commission to place the under-mentioned name on the *Official List of Names in the Order-Class-Group in Zoology*:—AMMONOIDEA Zittel, 1884 (type genus, by designation in the present application : *Arietites* Waagen, 1869).

— 4 JUN 1955
PURCHASED





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