PROPOSED USE OF THE PLENARY POWERS TO DESIGNATE A TYPE SPECIES IN HARMONY WITH GENERALLY ACCEPTED USAGE FOR THE GENUS "PTYCHOPYGE" ANGELIN, 1854 (CLASS TRILOBITA)

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(Commission Reference: Z.N.(S.) 997)

The object of the present application is to ask the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature to use its Plenary Powers to designate as the type species of the genus Ptychopyge Angelin, 1854 (Class Trilobita) the species generally accepted as such, thereby avoiding the serious confusion which would inevitably result from the application of the normal provisions of the Règles in this case. The generic name Ptychopyge was proposed in 1854 (: 51) by Angelin who included a number of species in this genus.

2. Brögger (1886 : 32) gave the first comprehensive discussion of Ptychopyge after Angelin, and stated that "als typische Art dieser Formengruppe [= Ptychopyge] . . . dürfte Pt. angustifrons, Dalm. gelten können". The genus was treated monographically by Fr. Schmidt (1904 : 30-31) who also regarded Ptychopyge angustifrons (Dalm.) as "typische Art der Gattung". The same species was given as the type species of Ptychopyge by Reed (1930 : 290) and Skjeseth (1952 : 165). The latter writer attributed the selection of the type species of Ptychopyge to Brögger (1886) but the wording in Brögger's paper as cited above can scarcely be regarded as constituting a definite selection of the type species.

3. The nominal species Ptychopyge appanata [Sic!] Angelin was designated as the type species of the genus Ptychopyge by Vogdes (1890 : 84). This selection by Vogdes was purely formal, given in a list of genera and their type species, and Ptychopyge appanata was probably chosen by him because it was the first species of the genus mentioned by Angelin (1854 : 51). Vogdes had no first-hand knowledge either of this genus or of related European genera. In a later list of Trilobite genera Vogdes (1925 : 111) recorded Ptychopyge glabrata Angelin, 1854, as the type species of Ptychopyge, without giving any explanation as to the reason of the change of the type species.

4. The original material of Ptychopyge appanata Angelin, 1854, cannot be traced in the State Museum of Natural History (Naturhistoriska Riksmuseet) in Stockholm, nor has any other specimen resembling Angelin's figure been
obtained from the type region (Kinnekulle, Västergötland, Sweden). Only the pygidium was figured and very briefly described by Angelin (1854: 51, Pl. XXVII, fig. 6). The figure is, moreover, too roughly drawn (ornamentation being omitted) to allow the identification of the species with certainty. Thus, the name Ptychopyge applanata must at present for all practical purposes be regarded as a nomen dubium. The genus Ptychopyge as defined by Angelin was since then subdivided into several genera and a further subdivision is very likely. The attribution of Ptychopyge applanata to any of the genera which show a similar type of pygidium cannot be safely established if based only on the figure of Angelin (1854). If the normal provisions of the Règles were strictly applied in this case, the well-known generic name Ptychopyge would, therefore, have to be regarded as a nomen dubium.

5. In actual fact all workers but Vogdes on the genus Ptychopyge and related genera have regarded Asaphus angustifrons Dalman, [1827] (: 239), as the type species of Ptychopyge. Also for Angelin (1854) this species was more completely known than any other species referred by him to Ptychopyge.

6. The generic name Ptychopyge Angelin, 1854, has not been taken as the base for a family-group name, Angelin’s genus being currently referred to the family Asaphidae.

7. In the light of the foregoing considerations, I ask that the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature should:

(1) use its Plenary Powers:

(a) to set aside all type selections for the genus Ptychopyge Angelin, 1854, made prior to the decision now proposed to be given;

(b) to designate Asaphus angustifrons Dalman, [1827], to be the type species of the foregoing genus;

(2) place the generic name Ptychopyge Angelin, 1854 (gender: feminine) (type species, by designation, as proposed under (1)(b) above, under the Plenary Powers: Asaphus angustifrons Dalman, [1827]) on the Official List of Generic Names in Zoology;

(3) place the specific name angustifrons Dalman, [1827], as published in the combination Asaphus angustifrons (specific name of type species of Ptychopyge Angelin, 1854) on the Official List of Specific Names in Zoology.

8. A decision on the question dealt with in the present application is urgently required in connection with the preparation of the forthcoming Treatise on Invertebrate Paleontology and for this reason it is particularly hoped that it will be possible for the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature to settle this question as quickly as possible.
SUPPORT FOR C. POULSEN’S PROPOSAL TO VALIDATE THE GENERIC NAME “SAO” BARRANDE, 1846 (CLASS TRILOBITA)

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(Commission Reference : Z.N.(S.) 666)

(For the proposal in this case see Bull. zool. Nomencl. 12 : 131–135)

(Letter dated 28th September 1956)

I heartily support the application made by Professor C. Poulsen regarding the name Sao Barrande, 1846 (Class Trilobita) and related matters.

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