

PACHYODON NUCLEUS BROWN, 1843 (PELECYPODA); PROPOSED
SUPPRESSION UNDER THE PLENARY POWERS. Z.N.(S.) 1470

By G. M. Bennison (*The University of Birmingham, England*)

In 1843 T. Brown (*Ann. Mag. nat. Hist.* (1)12 : 394, pl. 16*, fig. 1) described and figured a new species of fossil pelecypod from the "Coal Shale" (Carboniferous Sandstone Series, Lower Carboniferous) of Woodhall, on the north side of the Pentland Hills, Scotland under the name *Pachyodon nucleus*. His brief description and single inadequate figure are insufficient to enable reliable identification of the species. Further, the original of the figure (assuming that it is based on one specimen and is not a composite interpretation) is lost or destroyed and, since the given locality is too imprecise to enable the horizon to be determined, the possibility of selecting a neotype is ruled out.

2. In 1873 R. Etheridge, Junr. (*Quart. J. Geol. Soc.* 34, pl. 2, fig. 20) figured a specimen from the Cementstones near Craiglockhart Hill, Edinburgh, referring it to *Pachyodon (Unio) nucleus*, but he gave no description. A specimen of ?*Anthracosia nucleus* Brown among Etheridge's material in the Royal Scottish Museum (Reg. No. 1882.58.46) from that locality is probably the specimen figured. The shell, which is incomplete and not specifically identifiable, is referable to *Schizodus*.

3. W. Hind in 1894 (*Carbonicola, Anthracomya and Naiadites*, Mon. Palaeont. Soc. : 80) suggested the possible synonymy of *Pachyodon nucleus* and *Carbonicola antiqua* Hind (non Brown). If he was correct, and if the horizon of Brown's *nucleus* could have been found and a neotype selected, *C. antiqua* Hind would stand as a subjective synonym of *P. nucleus*. Hind, however, in proposing the name *C. antiqua* figured three specimens from the Calciferous Sandstone Series of Kilminning, Fife. The first of these (op. cit., Pl. 11, fig. 28; Br. Mus. reg. no. L.46889) has been selected as lectotype and refigured by the writer (Bennison, *Palaeontology* 3, Pl. 25, fig. 1), together with one paratype (Hind, Pl. 11, fig. 29; Br. Mus. reg. no. L.46890).

4. Trueman and Weir, in dealing with a Westphalian form which they referred to *Carbonicola antiqua* (Brown) (Mon. Palaeont. Soc., 1947 : 28), appear to have overlooked a case of secondary homonymy. The species originally named *Pachoydon antiquus* (Brown, 1843, loc. cit. : 394, pl. 16*, fig. 4) was subsequently referred to the genus *Unio* by this author (*Illustrations of the Fossil Conchology of Gt. Britain and Ireland*, Lond. 1849 : 178) but, since the name *Unio antiquus* was already occupied by a Wealden species of J. Sowerby (*Mineral Conchology of Gt. Britain*, 1829, 6 : 190, pl. 594, figs. 3-5), Brown renamed his species *Unio senex*. In such a case of secondary homonymy it is incorrect to revert to the name *antiqua* (Code Art. 59c) : Brown's Westphalian species remains as *Carbonicola senex* (Brown) and the name *Carbonicola antiqua* is therefore valid for Hind's species of the Calciferous Sandstone Series.

5. For the reason set out above, I now ask the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature :

- (1) to use its plenary powers to suppress the specific name *nucleus* Brown, 1843, as published in the binomen *Pachyodon nucleus*, for the purposes of the Law of Priority but not for those of the Law of Homonymy ;
- (2) to place the specific name *nucleus* Brown, 1843, as published in the binomen *Pachyodon nucleus*, as suppressed under the plenary powers in (1) above, on the Official Index of Rejected and Invalid Specific Names in Zoology ;
- (3) to place the following specific names on the Official List of Specific Names in Zoology :
 - (a) *antiqua* Hind, 1894, as published in the binomen *Carbonicola antiqua* ;
 - (b) *senex* Brown, 1849, as published in the binomen *Unio senex*.

COMMENT ON THE PROPOSAL TO PRESERVE THE FAMILY-GROUP NAME
XENOPHORIDAE DESHAYES, 1864 (GASTROPODA)

(see this volume, pages 115-116)

By Robert Robertson (*Academy of Natural Sciences of Philadelphia*)

I wish to record my wholehearted support for the proposal of Dr. K. V. W. Palmer to preserve the family-group name XENOPHORIDAE. This proposal is one of many which are now necessary for the maintenance of stability and universality of molluscan family-group names.

Dr. Palmer proposes that the name *Turbo trochiformis* Born, 1778, be placed on the Official List of Specific Names in Zoology. Following Clench & Aguayo (1943, *Johnsonia* 1(8) : 1-2), she states that *Trochus conchyliophorus* Born, 1780 (also Gmelin, 1791) is a junior subjective synonym of "*Trochus*" [*Turbo*] *trochiformis* Born, 1778. Although in 1780 Born referred to the older name, *Trochus conchyliophorus* was not a new name for *Turbo trochiformis*. The figure on which the latter name is based, and perhaps also the type-specimen (see Brauer, 1878, *Sitz.-Ber. K. Akad. Wiss. (Wien), Math.-Naturwiss.* 77(1) : 173), is a species of *Calyptraea* Lamarck, 1799 (subgenus *Trochita* Schumacher, 1817), as has been pointed out twice by Abbott (1954, *American Seashells* : 173 ; 1958, *Acad. Nat. Sci. Philadelphia Monogr.* 11 : 46).

Accordingly, I propose that Dr. Palmer's petition be emended so that both *Trochus conchyliophorus* Born, 1780 (the type-species of *Xenophora*) and *Turbo trochiformis* Born, 1778 (a *Calyptraea*) be considered for addition to the Official List of Specific Names in Zoology.



Bennison, G. M. 1962. "Pachyodon nucleus Brown, 1843 (Pelecypoda) ; proposed suppression under the plenary powers." *The Bulletin of zoological nomenclature* 19, 230–231.

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