SUPPORT FOR THE REQUEST OF MRS. M. J. ROGERS FOR A RULING ON THE INTERPRETATION OF NAIAIDITES ANGULATUS DAWSON, 1860

By John Weir (The University, Glasgow)

The issue has been confused by Whelton Hind (1894, Mon. Palaeontographical Soc.: 75) who listed Naiadites angulata (sic) Dawson, 1860 as a synonym of Cardinia angulata de Ryckholt, 1852 (Mélanges paléontologiques*, Mém. Acad. roy. Belg. 24: 104, pl. 6,* figs. 10, 11), a species not mentioned by Dawson and of which he was probably unaware. Search has been made for de Ryckholt’s original material, but without success (Dr. A. Pastiels in litt. 24th Nov. 1961). The provenance cited by de Ryckholt (“schiste houiller des environs de Visé”) is too vague to be helpful in any search for new material of C. angulata de R. Carboniferous rocks in an area of 10 km. around Visé (district of Liège, Belgium) range from Lower Carboniferous (Viséan) to the lower part of the Westphalian, sediments of the Lenisulcata Zone, according to Dr. Pastiels, occupying the greater part of the area. De Ryckholt’s figures may well be idealisations of a polymorph species of this zone of the lower Westphalian, but are inadequate for identifying the species or its genus.

Hind based his interpretation of Cardinia angulata de R. on the specimens from Lancashire, England, which he figured in his Monograph on Carbonicola etc. (op. cit., 1894: pl. 11, figs. 3-5; Manchester Mus. No. 585, Brit. Mus. (Nat. Hist.) No. 46866). This interpretation was adopted by A. Wood in recording Carbonicola cf. angulata (de Ryckholt) “as figured by Hind” from the North Wales Coalfield (1937, Quart. J. Geol. Soc. London 93: 6 and text-fig. 2e), and in 1929 W. B. Wright compared his Carbonicola carissima with C. angulata Hind, without citing de Ryckholt.

Pruvost, however, in 1919 and again in 1930 regarded Cardinia angulata as synonymous with Pachyodon similis Brown, 1843, expressing also on the latter occasion the opinion that Naiadites angulata Dawson, 1868 and Carbonicola angulata Hind, 1894 were likewise synonyms of P. similis (Mém. Mus. roy. Sci. nat. Belg.: 225, footnote, and 240). Chernyschev (1931, Trans. Geol. Surv. U.S.S.R. 72: pl. 2, figs. 37–39) figured some small shells from the Donetz Basin as Carbonicola angulata de Ryckholt, 1850 (sic). These figures (from photographs) differ in some respects from de Ryckholt’s drawings and the author quotes as synonyms Carbonicola angulata Hind, 1894, and C. similis Pruvost, 1913 and 1919. Thus Chernyschev’s contribution is not helpful in elucidating the problem of Cardinia angulata de Ryckholt.

Finally, the compilative work of Renier, Stockmans, Demanet and Van Straelen (1938, “Flore et faune houillères de la Belgique”) makes no mention of Cardinia angulata de Ryckholt. Obviously the name has been little used because of uncertainty, and diversity of opinion, regarding the identity of the species it was intended to designate. In the absence of types it could not be otherwise, as the original figures are equivocal. The name Cardinia angulata de Ryckholt, 1852, should therefore be suppressed.† Naiadites angulatus Dawson, 1860, on the other hand, was well figured by Whelton Hind in another publication of 1894 (as cited by Mrs. Rogers) from a specimen supplied by Dawson himself, No. 3132 in the Redpath Museum, Montreal, the only one there labelled “Carbonicola angulata (Dawson)”. This specimen forms the only possible basis for the interpretation of the nominal species Naiadites angulatus Dawson, 1860, and I therefore support Mrs. Rogers’s request.

* On p. 104 de Ryckholt’s heading erroneously cites pl. 4.
† Carbonicola angulata (de Ryckholt (?)) Hind, 1894, could then either be regarded as a synonym of Naiadites angulatus Dawson, 1860, or more cautiously, could be inscribed "Carbonicola" cf. angulata (Dawson, 1860), or Carbonicola cf. declivis Trueman and Weir.

View This Item Online: https://www.biodiversitylibrary.org/item/44462
DOI: https://doi.org/10.5962/bhl.part.6598
Permalink: https://www.biodiversitylibrary.org/partpdf/6598

Holding Institution
Natural History Museum Library, London

Sponsored by
Natural History Museum Library, London

Copyright & Reuse
Copyright Status: In copyright. Digitized with the permission of the rights holder.
License: http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc-sa/3.0/
Rights: https://biodiversitylibrary.org/permissions

This document was created from content at the Biodiversity Heritage Library, the world’s largest open access digital library for biodiversity literature and archives. Visit BHL at https://www.biodiversitylibrary.org.

This file was generated 16 April 2022 at 01:17 UTC