

ACIDASPIS CORONATA SALTER, 1853 (TRILOBITA):
PROPOSED CONSERVATION UNDER THE PLENARY
POWERS. Z.N.(S.) 2190

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In establishing the species *Paradoxides quadrimucronatus*, Murchison (*Silurian System*: 658, pl. 14, fig. 10) gave a brief description accompanied by an illustration and a statement of the type-locality. The figure is poor, but the form of the pygidium and the presence of four secondary spines between the major pygidial border spines strongly suggests that the specimen belongs to the species currently known as *Leonaspis coronata* (Salter, 1853). Hence *P. quadrimucronatus* is almost certainly a senior synonym of *L. coronata*. The whereabouts of Murchison's specimen are unknown.

2. Salter (1848, *Mem. geol. Surv. U.K.*, vol. 2 (1), pl. 9, figs. 6-9) figured as *Acidaspis brightii* Murchison, 1839, several specimens including two (figs. 8, 9) belonging to *L. coronata*. Later (1853, *Mem. geol. Surv. U.K.*, *Figs. descrs. Brit. org. rem.*, Decade 7, p.7 of text to pl. 6) he recognised that he had been mistaken and, referring to the 1848 figures, said that he proposed to describe the form and name it *Acidaspis coronatus* (sic; but generic names ending in -*aspis* are feminine). The specific name is made available by the reference to the previously published figures.

3. Lake (1896, *Q. Jl geol. Soc. London*, vol. 52: 238) considered that Murchison's figure was "just recognisable" but adopted Salter's name since that author was the first to give adequate illustrations.

4. Warburg (1933, *Ark. Zool.* vol. 25A (9): 11, footnote), quoting Lake as an authority, doubted that *A. coronata* could stand because Murchison's figure is just adequate to show that *P. quadrimucronatus* is a senior synonym.

5. The species has been generally known as "*coronata*" since 1853. Murchison's name has been mentioned as a valid name only by Bigsby (1868, *Thesaurus Siluricus*: 54) in a faunal list, by Warburg (above), and by Stubblefield (1938, *Summ. Progr. geol. Surv. U.K.* for 1936 (2): 37) in a revised explanation of Salter's 1848 plates. Murchison himself (see explanation of pl. 18, figs. 7, 8 in successive editions of *Siluria* - 1854, 1859, 1867, 1872) seems to have regarded *P. quadrimucronatus* (then only known from the thorax and pygidium) as a synonym of *A. brightii* (then only known from the cephalon).

6. Salter's name *coronata* has been used as the valid name for the species by Salter (1857, *Q. Jl geol. Soc. London*, vol. 13: 210-211; 1873, *Cat. coll. Camb. Sil. fossils Geol. Mus. Univ. Cambridge*: 134); Lake (1896, *op. cit.*); Reed (1925, *Geol. Mag.*,

vol. 62: 427); Prantl & Přibyl (1949, *Rozpr. st. geol. Úst.*, vol. 12: 167); Whittington (1956, *Jl Paleont.*, vol. 30: 506, pl. 59, fig. 12); Bruton (1967, *Palaeontology*, vol. 10: 222); Clarkson (1969, *Lethaia*, vol. 2: 334, 336, fig. 4B); and Schrank (1969, *Ber. deutsch. Ges. geol. Wiss.*, ser. A, vol. 14, no. 6: 711). The species is also recorded under that name in faunal lists by Pocock and others (1938, Shrewsbury District, *Mem. geol. Surv. U.K.*: 268); Squirrell & Tucker (1960, *Q. Jl geol. Soc. London*, vol. 116: 177); and Shergold & Bassett (1970, *Lethaia*, vol. 3: 138).

7. It is in the interests of nomenclatural stability to conserve Salter's name, but the requirements of Article 79b are not met. The Commission is accordingly asked:

- (1) to use its plenary powers to rule that the specific name *coronata* Salter, 1853, as published in the binomen *Acidaspis coronatus* [sic] is to be given precedence over the specific name *quadrimumcronatus* Murchison, 1839, as published in the binomen *Paradoxides quadrimumcronatus*, by any zoologist who holds that both names denote the same taxon;
- (2) to place the specific name *coronata* Salter, 1853, as published in the binomen *Acidaspis coronatus* [sic] on the Official List of Specific Names in Zoology with an endorsement that it is to be given precedence over *Paradoxides quadrimumcronatus* Murchison, 1839, by any zoologist who holds that both names denote the same taxon;
- (3) to place the specific name *quadrimumcronatus* Murchison, 1839, as published in the binomen *Paradoxides quadrimumcronatus*, on the Official List of Specific Names in Zoology with an endorsement that it is not to be given priority over *Acidaspis coronata* Salter, 1853, by any zoologist who holds that both names denote the same taxon.



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