

# TREATISE ON INVERTEBRATE PALEONTOLOGY

Part B

## PROKARYOTA Bacteria and Archaea

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**PART B**  
**PROKARYOTA**  
Bacteria and Archaea

Nora Noffke, Coordinating Author

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CONTENTS

|   |           |
|---|-----------|
| INFORMATION ON <i>TREATISE</i> VOLUMES.....                   | vii       |
| ORIGINAL PUBLICATION IN <i>TREATISE ONLINE</i> .....          | ix        |
| EDITORIAL PREFACE (William I. Ausich).....                    | xi        |
| CONTRIBUTORS.....   | xxiv      |
| INTRODUCTION (Nora Noffke and Paul Selden).....               | xxv       |
| GLOSSARY OF IMPORTANT TERMS.....                              | xxvi      |
| <b>BIOFILMS</b> .....   | <b>1</b>  |
| Biofilm Formation and Development .....                       | 1         |
| Attachment of microorganisms .....                            | 2         |
| Formation of microcolonies .....                              | 2         |
| Formation of three-dimensional structure and maturation ..... | 2         |
| Detachment.....   | 2         |
| The Biofilm Matrix .....                                      | 2         |
| Characteristics of Biofilms .....                             | 3         |
| Heterogeneity .....   | 3         |
| Tolerance and resistance to environmental stress .....        | 5         |
| Division of labor.....  | 6         |
| Biofilms as Complex Microbial Communities .....               | 7         |
| Biofilms and Mineral Precipitation .....                      | 8         |
| <b>MICROBIAL MATS</b> .....                                   | <b>11</b> |
| Microbial Mat Distribution.....                               | 11        |
| The role of substrate in mat development .....                | 13        |
| Biogeochemistry.....  | 14        |
| The microbial mat community .....                             | 14        |
| Effect of light regime and phototrophy .....                  | 14        |
| Element cycling .....   | 17        |
| Microbial Diversity.....                                      | 21        |
| The Exopolymeric Matrix .....                                 | 23        |
| Lithification.....  | 23        |
| Carbonate systems .....                                       | 23        |
| Silicate systems .....  | 24        |
| Microbialite Morphologies Through Time.....                   | 26        |
| Microbial Mat Taphonomy.....                                  | 26        |
| <b>MICROFOSSILS OF PROKARYOTES</b> .....                      | <b>30</b> |
| History of the Study of Bacterial Fossils.....                | 31        |
| Modes of Preservation .....                                   | 33        |

|  |    |
|--|----|
| Silicification .....   | 33 |
| Phosphatization .....  | 35 |
| Pyritization and related preservation modes .....                                  | 39 |
| Preservation of biominerals produced by magnetotactic bacteria .....               | 39 |
| Carbonaceous preservation .....  | 40 |
| Trace fossils .....  | 40 |
| Challenges in the Interpretation of Prokaryotic Microfossils .....                 | 42 |
| Indigenticity and syngenticity .....   | 42 |
| Biogenicity .....  | 42 |
| Affinity .....   | 44 |
| Selected Groups of Prokaryotic Microfossil.....                                    | 45 |
| Cyanobacteria.....   | 45 |
| Non-cyanobacterial microbes .....  | 50 |
| Iron-metabolizing microbes .....   | 50 |
| Sulfur-metabolizing microbes .....   | 53 |
| Methanogens and methanotrophs.....   | 53 |
| Future Prospects .....   | 53 |
| PRECIPITATED MICROBIOLITES .....   | 55 |
| Historical Perspective and Working Definition of the Term Microbialite .....       | 55 |
| Stromatolites.....   | 56 |
| Oncoids.....   | 60 |
| Thrombolites.....  | 61 |
| Dendrolites.....   | 62 |
| Leiolites .....  | 63 |
| Models of Microbialite Formation .....   | 63 |
| Modern structures .....  | 65 |
| Ancient examples.....  | 67 |
| Geological Significance of Microbialites.....                                      | 69 |
| Microbialites as facies indicators .....   | 69 |
| Biostratigraphy of microbialites .....   | 69 |
| Microbialites as signals of environmental change .....                             | 70 |
| MICROBIALLY INDUCED SEDIMENTARY STRUCTURES (MISS) .....                            | 71 |
| Biofilms and Microbial Mats .....  | 71 |
| Formation of Microbially Induced Sedimentary Structures and Main Morphotypes ..... | 74 |
| Growth .....   | 75 |
| Biostabilization .....   | 76 |
| Baffling and trapping.....   | 78 |
| Binding .....  | 80 |
| Preservation of MISS.....  | 84 |
| Classification of MISS and MIST (Microbially Induced Sedimentary Textures).....    | 87 |
| MISS in the Course of Earth History .....  | 89 |
| BANDED IRON FORMATIONS.....  | 91 |
| Types of Banded Iron Formations.....   | 92 |
| Algoma-type BIFs.....  | 93 |
| Superior-type BIFs.....  | 94 |
| Rapitan BIFs.....  | 94 |

|  |     |
|--|-----|
| BIFs related to massive sulfide deposits .....                 | 95  |
| Spatial and Temporal Distribution of BIFs .....                | 96  |
| Mineralogy and Geochemistry of BIFs .....                      | 97  |
| Mineralogy and precursor phases .....                          | 97  |
| Geochemistry .....   | 101 |
| Hypotheses Of BIF Formation .....                              | 103 |
| Sources of iron and silica and the origin of the banding ..... | 106 |
| Paleoceanic redox structure and the formation of BIFs .....    | 107 |
| Inorganic hypotheses for BIF formation.....                    | 108 |
| Biological hypotheses for BIF formation .....                  | 110 |
| Possible Phanerozoic And Modern Environment Analogs.....       | 119 |
| Modern siliceous iron oxyhydroxide marine deposits .....       | 120 |
| Lake Matano, Indonesia .....                                   | 121 |
| Phanerozoic ironstones .....                                   | 122 |
| Iron Mountain mine drainage site, Northern California .....    | 124 |
| Chocolate Pots hot springs, Yellowstone National Park .....    | 125 |
| Future Directions.....   | 126 |
| REFERENCES.....  | 129 |
| INDEX .....  | 150 |

## INFORMATION ON TREATISE VOLUMES

The *Treatise on Invertebrate Paleontology* is published by the University of Kansas Paleontological Institute, [www.paleo.ku.edu](http://www.paleo.ku.edu). The *Treatise* is organized in lettered Parts (A–W) to indicate their systematic sequence but also allowing publication of units in whatever order each is finalized. It is published in three formats. Individual chapters are published when completed in the *Treatise Online* series. When a volume is complete, it is published both as a book and as an online volume in the *Digital Treatise* series. In addition, *Paleontological Institute Special Publications* series are published periodically. The web address above provides information for ordering *Treatise* publications. Please encourage academic libraries to subscribe to all Paleontological Institute publications.

### PUBLISHED VOLUMES

- Part A. INTRODUCTION: Fossilization (Taphonomy), Biogeography, and Biostratigraphy, xxiii + 569 p., 169 fig., 1979.
- Part B. PROTOCTISTA 1 (Charophyta), xvi + 170 p., 79 fig., 9 tables, 2005.
- Part C. PROTISTA 2 (Sarcodina, Chiefly “Thecamoebians” and Foraminiferida), Volumes 1 and 2, xxxi + 900 p., 653 fig., 1964.
- Part D. PROTISTA 3 (Protozoa: Chiefly Radiolaria, Tintinnina), xii + 195 p., 92 fig., 1954.
- Part E. ARCHAEOCYATHA and PORIFERA, xviii + 122 p., 89 fig., 1955.
- Part E, Revised. ARCHAEOCYATHA, Volume 1, xxx + 158 p., 107 fig., 1972.
- Part E, Revised. PORIFERA, Volume 2 (Introduction to the Porifera), xxvii + 349 p., 135 fig., 10 tables, 2003.
- Part E, Revised. PORIFERA, Volume 3 (Demospongiae, Hexactinellida, Heteractinida, Calcarea), xxxi + 872 p., 506 fig., 1 table, 2004.
- Part E, Revised. PORIFERA, Volumes 4 and 5 (Hypercalcified Porifera), liii + 1223 p., 665 fig., 42 tables, 2015.
- Part E, Revised. PORIFERA, Volume 5 (Demospongiae, Hexactinellida, Heteractinida, Calcarea), xxxi + 872 p., 506 fig., 1 table, 2004.
- Part F. COELENTERATA, xx + 498 p., 358 fig., 1956.
- Part F. COELENTERATA, Supplement 1 (Rugosa and Tabulata), Volumes 1 and 2, xl + 762 p., 462 fig., 1981.
- Part G. BRYOZOA, xiii + 253 p., 175 fig., 1953.
- Part G, Revised. BRYOZOA, Volume 1 (Introduction, Order Cystoporata, Order Cryptostomata), xxvi + 625 p., 295 fig., 1983.
- Part H. BRACHIOPODA, Volumes 1 and 2, xxxii + 927 p., 746 fig., 1965.
- Part H, Revised. BRACHIOPODA, Volume 1 (Introduction), xx + 539 p., 417 fig., 40 tables, 1997.
- Part H, Revised. BRACHIOPODA, Volumes 2 and 3 (Linguliformea, Craniiformea, Rhynchonelliformea [part]), xxx + 919 p., 616 fig., 17 tables, 2000.
- Part H, Revised. BRACHIOPODA, Volume 4 (Rhynchonelliformea [part]), xxxix + 768 p., 484 fig., 3 tables, 2002.
- Part H, Revised. BRACHIOPODA, Volume 5 (Rhynchonelliformea [part]), xlvi + 631 p., 398 fig., 2006.
- Part H, Revised. BRACHIOPODA, Volume 6 (Supplement), l + 906 p., 461 fig., 38 tables, CD of compiled references from volumes 1–6, 2007.

- Part I. MOLLUSCA 1 (Mollusca General Features, Scaphopoda, Amphineura, Monoplacophora, Gastropoda General Features, Archaeogastropoda, Mainly Paleozoic Caenogastropoda and Opisthobranchia), xxiii + 351 p., 216 fig., 1960.
- Part K. MOLLUSCA 3 (Cephalopoda General Features, Endoceratoidea, Actinoceratoidea, Nautiloidea, Bactritoidea), xxviii + 519 p., 361 fig., 1964.
- Part L. MOLLUSCA 4 (Cephalopoda: Ammonoidea), xxii + 490 p., 558 fig., 1957.
- Part L, Revised. MOLLUSCA 4, Volume 2 (Carboniferous and Permian Ammonoidea), xxix + 258 p., 139 fig., 1 table, 2009.
- Part L, Revised. MOLLUSCA 4, Volume 4 (Cretaceous Ammonoidea), xx + 362 p., 216 fig., 1996.
- Part N. MOLLUSCA 6 (Bivalvia), Volumes 1 and 2 (of 3), xxxvii + 952 p., 613 fig., 1969; Volume 3, iv + 272 p., 153 fig., 1971.
- Part O. ARTHROPODA 1 (Arthropoda General Features, Protarthropoda, Euarthropoda General Features, Trilobitomorpha), xix + 560 p., 415 fig., 1959.
- Part O, Revised. ARTHROPODA 1 (Trilobita: Introduction, Order Agnostida, Order Redlichiida), xxiv + 530 p., 309 fig., 1997.
- Part P. ARTHROPODA 2 (Chelicerata, Pycnogonida, Palaeoisopus), xvii + 181 p., 123 fig., 1955 [1956].
- Part Q. ARTHROPODA 3 (Crustacea, Ostracoda), xxiii + 442 p., 334 fig., 1961.
- Part R. ARTHROPODA 4, Volumes 1 and 2 (Crustacea Exclusive of Ostracoda, Myriapoda, Hexapoda), xxxvi + 651 p., 397 fig., 1969.
- Part R. ARTHROPODA 4, Volumes 3 and 4 (Hexapoda), xxii + 655 p., 265 fig., 1992.
- Part S. ECHINODERMATA 1 (Echinodermata General Features, Homalozoa, Crinozoa, exclusive of Crinoidea), Volumes 1 and 2, xxx + 650 p., 400 fig., 1967 [1968].
- Part T. ECHINODERMATA 2 (Crinoidea), Volumes 1–3, xxxviii + 1,027 p., 619 fig., 1978.
- Part T, Revised. ECHINODERMATA 2 (Crinoidea), Volume 3, xxix + 261 p., 112 fig., 2011.
- Part U. ECHINODERMATA 3 (Asterozoans, Echinozoans), xxx + 695 p., 534 fig., 1966.
- Part V. GRAPTOLITHINA, xvii + 101 p., 72 fig., 1955.
- Part V, Revised. GRAPTOLITHINA, xxxii + 163 p., 109 fig., 1970.
- Part V, Second Revision. HEMICHORDATA (incl. Graptolithina), xxx + 548 p., 310 fig., 2023.
- Part W. MISCELLANEA (Conodonts, Conoidal Shells of Uncertain Affinities, Worms, Trace Fossils, Problematica), xxv + 259 p., 153 fig., 1962.
- Part W, Revised. MISCELLANEA, Supplement 1 (Trace Fossils and Problematica), xxi + 269 p., 110 fig., 1975.
- Part W, Revised. MISCELLANEA, Supplement 2 (Conodonta), xxviii + 202 p., frontis., 122 fig., 1981.

#### THIS VOLUME

- Part B. PROKARYOTA (Bacteria and Archaea), xxvi + 178 p., 48 fig., 3 tables, 2023.

#### VOLUMES IN PREPARATION

- Part B. PROTISTA 1 (Chryomonadida, Coccolithophorida, Diatomacea).
- Part E, Revised. PORIFERA (additional volumes).
- Part F, Revised. CNIDARIA (Scleractinia).
- Part G, Revised. BRYOZOA (additional volumes).
- Part K, Revised. MOLLUSCA 3 (Nautiloidea).
- Part L, Revised. MOLLUSCA 4 (Ammonoidea) (additional volumes).

Part M. MOLLUSCA 5 (Coleoidea).  
Part N. Revised. MOLLUSCA 6 (Bivalvia), Volume 1  
Part O, Revised. ARTHROPODA 1 (Trilobita) (additional volumes).  
Part P, Revised. ARTHROPODA 2 (Chelicerata).  
Part Q, Revised. ARTHROPODA 3 (Ostracoda).  
Part R, Revised. ARTHROPODA 4 (Crustacea Exclusive of Ostracoda).  
Part T, Revised. ECHINODERMATA 2 (Crinoidea) (additional volumes).

## ORIGINAL PUBLICATION IN *TREATISE ONLINE*

All content in this volume was originally published online. Below are the relevant *Treatise Online* chapters with their original titles in the order reflected in this volume (not in date order). Color illustrations can be found in these online versions. Authors wishing to cite the online published material, may follow the suggested citations below.

### **Biofilms:**

Espinosa-Ortiz, Erika J. and Robin Gerlach. 2021. Part B, Chapter 2: Biofilms. *Treatise Online* 147: 1–12, 3 fig.

### **Microbial Mats:**

Visscher, Pieter T., Kimberley L. Gallagher, Anthony Bouton, Emmanuelle Vennin, Christophe Thomazo, Richard A. White III, Brendan P. Burns. 2022. Part B, Chapter 3: Microbial mats. *Treatise Online* 163:1–32, 5 fig.

### **Microfossils of Prokaryotes:**

Xiao, Shuhai, & Qing Tang. 2021. Part B, Chapter 7: Microfossils of Prokaryotes (Bacteria and Archaea): Research History, Taphonomy, and Paleobiology. *Treatise Online* 160:1–37, 9 fig., 1 table.

### **Microbialites:**

Shapiro, R. S. & D. T. Wilmeth. 2020. Part B, Chapter 8: Microbialites. *Treatise Online* 134:1–24, 10 fig.

### **Microbially induced sedimentary structures (MISS):**

Noffke, Nora, Hugo Beraldi-Campesi, Flavia Callefo, Noelia Carmona, Diana G. Cuadrado, Keyron Hickman-Lewis, Martin Homann, Ria Mitchell, Nathan Sheldon, Frances Westall, & Shuhai Xiao. 2022. Part B, Chapter 5: Microbially induced sedimentary structures (MISS). *Treatise Online* 162: 1–29, 17 fig.

### **Banded iron formations:**

Heimann, Adriana. 2021. Part B, Chapter 6: Banded iron formations. *Treatise Online* 158:1–48, 4 fig., 2 tables.



# EDITORIAL PREFACE

WILLIAM I. AUSICH

From the outset, the aim of the *Treatise on Invertebrate Paleontology* has been to present a comprehensive and authoritative, yet compact, statement of knowledge concerning groups of invertebrate fossils. Typically, preparation of early *Treatise* volumes was undertaken by a small group with a synoptic view of the taxa being monographed. Two, or perhaps three, specialists worked together, sometimes co-opting others for coverage of highly specialized taxa. Recently, however, both new *Treatise* volumes and revisions of existing ones have been undertaken increasingly by teams of specialists led by a coordinating author. This volume, Part B, Prokaryotes has been nurtured and guided by Coordinating Author Nora Noffke. The planning began during the editorship of Paul Selden. Most of the text was submitted after I took up the mantle as interim editor. Editorial matters specific to this volume are discussed near the end of this editorial preface.

Because of the nature of its subject matter, this volume does not include the usual *Treatise* systematic information, as is explained in the Coordinating Author's Introduction (p. xxii–xxiii). Nevertheless, it is important to discuss systematic requirements herein for those preparing other *Treatise* volumes.

## ZOOLOGICAL NAMES

Questions about the proper use of zoological names arise continually, especially questions regarding both the acceptability of names and alterations of names that are allowed or even required. Regulations prepared by the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature (ICZN) and published in the *International Code of Zoological Nomenclature* (4th edition, 1999), hereinafter referred to as the *Code*, provide procedures for answering such questions.

The prime objective of the *Code* is to promote stability and universality in the use of the scientific names of animals, ensuring also that each generic name is distinct and unique, while avoiding unwarranted restrictions on freedom of thought and action of systematists. Priority of names is a basic principle of the *Code*; but, under specified conditions and by following prescribed procedures, priority may be set aside by the Commission. These procedures apply especially where slavish adherence to the principle of priority would hamper or even disrupt zoological nomenclature and the information it conveys.

The *Code* is updated periodically and is now available online [[www.iczn.org/the-code/the-international-code-of-zoological-nomenclature/the-code-online](http://www.iczn.org/the-code/the-international-code-of-zoological-nomenclature/the-code-online)]. A significant recent change to nomenclatorial practice is that new nomenclatorial acts must be registered on Zoobank [[zoobank.org](http://zoobank.org)] for recognition by the ICZN. Zoobank is the official register of the ICZN and includes registry of nomenclatorial acts of genera and species, authors, publications, and type specimens.

Among other requirements, the revised *Code* is clear that the type genus of family-level taxa must be specified. In this volume we have continued the practice that has characterized most previous volumes of the *Treatise*, namely that the type genus of all family-level taxa is the first listed and diagnosed. In spite of the revisions, the nomenclatorial tasks that confront zoological taxonomists are formidable and have often justified the complaint that the study of zoology and paleontology is too often merely the study of names rather than the study of animals. It is incumbent on all systematists, therefore, at the outset of their work to pay careful attention to the *Code* to enhance stability by minimizing the number of subsequent

changes of names, too many of which are necessitated by insufficient attention to detail. To that end, several pages here are devoted to aspects of zoological nomenclature that are judged to have chief importance in relation to procedures adopted in the *Treatise*. Terminology is explained, and examples are given of the style employed in the nomenclatorial parts of the systematic descriptions.

## GROUPS OF TAXONOMIC CATEGORIES

Each taxon belongs to a category in the Linnaean hierarchical classification. The *Code* recognizes three groups of categories, a species-group, a genus-group, and a family-group. Taxa of lower rank than subspecies are excluded from the rules of zoological nomenclature, and those of higher rank than superfamily are also not regulated by the *Code*. It is both natural and convenient to discuss nomenclatorial matters in general terms first and then to consider each of these three, recognized groups separately. Especially important is the provision that within each group the categories are coordinate, that is, equal in rank, whereas categories of different groups are not coordinate.

## FORMS OF NAMES

All zoological names can be considered on the basis of their spelling. The first form of a name to be published is defined as the original spelling (*Code*, Article 32), and any form of the same name that is published later and is different from the original spelling is designated a subsequent spelling (*Code*, Article 33). Not every original or subsequent spelling is correct.

## ORIGINAL SPELLINGS

If the first form of a name to be published is consistent and unambiguous, the original is defined as correct unless it contravenes some stipulation of the *Code* (Articles 11, 27 to 31, and 34) or unless the original publication contains clear evidence of an inadvertent error in the sense of the *Code*,

or, among names belonging to the family-group, unless correction of the termination or the stem of the type genus is required. An original spelling that fails to meet these requirements is defined as incorrect.

If a name is spelled in more than one way in the original publication, the form adopted by the first reviser is accepted as the correct original spelling, provided that it complies with mandatory stipulations of the *Code* (Articles 11 and 24 to 34).

Incorrect original spellings are any that fail to satisfy requirements of the *Code*, represent an inadvertent error, or are one of multiple original spellings not adopted by a first reviser. These have no separate status in zoological nomenclature and, therefore, cannot enter into homonymy or be used as replacement names. They call for correction. For example, a name originally published with a diacritical mark, apostrophe, dieresis, or hyphen requires correction by deleting such features and uniting parts of the name originally separated by them, except that deletion of an umlaut from a vowel in a name derived from a German word or personal name unfortunately requires the insertion of *e* after the vowel. Where original spelling is judged to be incorrect solely because of inadequacies of the Greek or Latin scholarship of the author, nomenclatorial changes conflict with the primary purpose of zoological nomenclature as an information retrieval system. One looks forward with hope to further revisions of the *Code* wherein rules are emplaced that enhance stability rather than classical scholarship, thereby facilitating access to information.

## SUBSEQUENT SPELLINGS

If a subsequent spelling differs from an original spelling in any way, even by the omission, addition, or alteration of a single letter, the subsequent spelling must be defined as a different name. Exceptions include such changes as an altered termination of adjectival specific names to agree in gender with associated generic names (an unfortunate impediment to stability and retrieval

of information); changes of family-group names to denote assigned taxonomic rank; and corrections that eliminate originally used diacritical marks, hyphens, and the like. Such changes are not regarded as spelling changes conceived to produce a different name. In some instances, however, species-group names having variable spellings are regarded as homonyms as specified in the *Code* (Article 58).

Altered subsequent spellings other than the exceptions noted may be either intentional or unintentional. If “demonstrably intentional” (*Code*, Article 33), the change is designated as an emendation. Emendations may be either justifiable or unjustifiable. Justifiable emendations are corrections of incorrect original spellings, and these take the authorship and date of the original spellings. Unjustifiable emendations are names having their own status in nomenclature, with author and date of their publication. They are junior, objective synonyms of the name in its original form.

Subsequent spellings, if unintentional, are defined as incorrect subsequent spellings. They have no status in nomenclature, do not enter into homonymy, and cannot be used as replacement names.

## AVAILABLE AND UNAVAILABLE NAMES

Editorial prefaces of some previous volumes of the *Treatise* have discussed in appreciable detail the availability of the many kinds of zoological names that have been proposed under a variety of circumstances. Much of that information, while important, does not pertain to the present volume, in which authors have used fewer terms for such names. The reader is referred to the *Code* (Articles 10 to 20) for further details on availability of names. Here, suffice it to say that an available zoological name is any that conforms to all mandatory provisions of the *Code*. All zoological names that fail to comply with mandatory provisions of the *Code* are unavailable and have no status in zoological nomenclature. Both

available and unavailable names may be classified into groups that have been recognized in previous volumes of the *Treatise*, although not explicitly differentiated in the *Code*. Among names that are available, these groups include inviolate names, perfect names, imperfect names, vain names, transferred names, improved or corrected names, substitute names, and conserved names. Kinds of unavailable names include naked names (see *nomina nuda* below), denied names, impermissible names, null names, and forgotten names.

*Nomina nuda* include all names that fail to satisfy provisions stipulated in Article 11 of the *Code*, which states general requirements of availability. In addition, they include names published before 1931 that were unaccompanied by a description, definition, or indication (*Code*, Article 12) and names published after 1930 that (1) lacked an accompanying statement of characters that differentiate the taxon, (2) were without a definite bibliographic reference to such a statement, (3) were not proposed expressly as a replacement (*nomen novum*) of a preexisting available name (*Code*, Article 13.1), or (4) for genus-group names, were unaccompanied by definite fixation of a type species by original designation or indication (*Code*, Article 13.2). *Nomina nuda* have no status in nomenclature, and they are not correctable to establish original authorship and date.

## VALID AND INVALID NAMES

Important considerations distinguish valid from available names on the one hand and invalid from unavailable names on the other. Whereas determination of availability is based entirely on objective considerations guided by articles of the *Code*, conclusions as to validity of zoological names may be partly subjective. A valid name is the correct one for a given taxon, which may have two or more available names but only a single correct, hence valid, name, which is also generally the oldest name that it has been given. Obviously, no valid name can also be

an unavailable name, but invalid names may be either available or unavailable. It follows that any name for a given taxon other than the valid name, whether available or unavailable, is an invalid name.

One encounters a sort of nomenclatorial no-man's land in considering the status of such zoological names as *nomina dubia* (doubtful names), which may include both available and unavailable names. The unavailable ones can well be ignored, but names considered to be available contribute to uncertainty and instability in the systematic literature. These can ordinarily be removed only by appeal to the ICZN for special action. Because few systematists care to seek such remedy, such invalid but available names persist in the literature.

## NAME CHANGES IN RELATION TO GROUPS OF TAXONOMIC CATEGORIES

### SPECIES-GROUP NAMES

Detailed consideration of valid emendation of specific and subspecific names is unnecessary here, both because the topic is well understood and relatively inconsequential and because the *Treatise* deals with genus-group names and higher categories. When the form of adjectival specific names is changed to agree with the gender of a generic name in transferring a species from one genus to another, one need never label the changed name as *nomen correctum*. Similarly, transliteration of a letter accompanied by a diacritical mark in the manner now called for by the *Code*, as in changing originally *bröggeri* to *broeggeri*, or eliminating a hyphen, as in changing originally published *cornu-oryx* to *cornuoryx*, does not require the designation *nomen correctum*. Of course, in this age of computers and electronic databases, such changes of name, which are perfectly valid for the purposes of scholarship, run counter to the requirements of nomenclatorial stability on which the preparation of massive, electronic databases is predicated.

### GENUS-GROUP NAMES

Conditions warranting change of the originally published, valid form of generic and subgeneric names are sufficiently rare that lengthy discussion is unnecessary. Only elimination of diacritical marks and hyphens in some names in this category and replacement of homonyms seem to furnish basis for valid emendation. Many names that formerly were regarded as homonyms are no longer so regarded, because two names that differ only by a single letter or in original publication by the presence of a diacritical mark in one are now construed to be entirely distinct (but see *Code*, Article 58).

As has been pointed out above, difficulty typically arises when one tries to decide whether a change of spelling of a name by a subsequent author was intentional or unintentional, and the decision has to be made often arbitrarily.

### FAMILY-GROUP NAMES

#### Family-Group Names: Authorship and Date

All family-group taxa having names based on the same type genus are attributed to the author who first published the name of any of these groups, whether tribe, subfamily, or family (superfamily being almost inevitably a later-conceived taxon). Accordingly, if a family is divided into subfamilies or a subfamily into tribes, the name of no such subfamily or tribe can antedate the family name. Moreover, every family containing differentiated subfamilies must have a nominate subfamily (*sensu stricto*), which is based on the same type genus as the family. Finally, the author and date set down for the nominate subfamily invariably are identical with those of the family, irrespective of whether the author of the family or some subsequent author introduced subdivisions.

Corrections in the form of family-group names do not affect authorship and date of the taxon concerned, but in the *Treatise*, recording the authorship and date of the correction is desirable, because it provides

a pathway to follow the thinking of the systematists involved.

#### **Family-Group Names:**

##### **Use of *nomen translatum***

The *Code* (Article 29.2) specifies the suffixes for tribe (-ini), subfamily (-inae), family (-idae) and superfamily (-oidea), the formerly widely used ending (-acea) for superfamily having been disallowed. All these family-group categories are defined as coordinate (*Code*, Article 36.1): "A name established for a taxon at any rank in the family group is deemed to have been simultaneously established for nominal taxa at other ranks in the family group; all these taxa have the same type genus, and their names are formed from the stem of the name of the type genus (Art. 29.3) with appropriate change of suffix [Art. 34.1]. The name has the same authorship and date at every rank." Such changes of rank and concomitant changes of endings as elevation of a subfamily to family rank or of a family to superfamily rank, if introduced subsequent to designation of the original taxon or based on the same nominotypical genus, are *nomina translata*. In the *Treatise*, it is desirable to distinguish the valid alteration in the changed ending of each transferred family-group name by the term *nomen translatum*, abbreviated to *nom. transl.* Similarly for clarity, authors should record the author, date, and page of the alteration, as in the following example.

#### **Family HEXAGENITIDAE**

**Lameere, 1917**

[*nom. transl.* DEMOULIN, 1954, p. 566, ex Hexagenitinae  
LAMEERE, 1917, p. 74]

This is especially important for superfamilies, for the information of interest is the author who initially introduced a taxon rather than the author of the superfamily as defined by the *Code*. For example:

#### **Superfamily AGNOSTOIDEA**

**M'Coy, 1849**

[*nom. transl.* SHERGOLD, LAURIE, & SUN, 1990, p. 32, ex Agnostinae  
M'COY, 1849, p. 402]

The latter is merely the individual who first defined some lower-ranked, family-group taxon that contains the nominotypical genus of the superfamily. On the other hand, the publication that introduces the superfamily by *nomen translatum* is likely to furnish the information on taxonomic considerations that support definition of the taxon.

#### **Family-Group Names:**

##### **Use of *nomen correctum***

Valid name changes classed as *nomina correctata* do not depend on transfer from one category of the family group to another but most commonly involve correction of the stem of the nominotypical genus. In addition, they include somewhat arbitrarily chosen modifications of endings for names of tribes or superfamilies. Examples of the use of *nomen correctum* are the following.

#### **Family STREPTELASMATIDAE**

**Nicholson, 1889**

[*nom. correct.* WEDEKIND, 1927, p. 7, pro Streptelasmidae  
NICHOLSON in NICHOLSON & LYDEKKER, 1889, p. 297]

#### **Family PALAEOSCORPIDAE**

**Lehmann, 1944**

[*nom. correct.* PETRUNKEVITCH, 1955, p. 73, pro Palaeoscorpionidae  
LEHMANN, 1944, p. 177]

#### **Family-Group Names:**

##### **Replacements**

Family-group names are formed by adding combinations of letters, which are prescribed for all family-group categories, to the stem of the name belonging to the nominotypical genus first chosen as type of the assemblage. The type genus need not be the first genus in the family to have been named and defined, but among all those included it must be the first published as name giver to a family-group taxon. Once fixed, the family-group name remains tied to the nominotypical genus even if the generic name is changed by reason of status as a junior homonym or junior synonym, either objective or subjective. Seemingly, the *Code* requires replacement of a family-group name only if the

nominotypical genus is found to have been a junior homonym when it was proposed (*Code*, Article 39), in which case “. . . it must be replaced either by the next oldest available name from among its synonyms [Art. 23.3.5], including the names of its subordinate family-group taxa, or, if there is no such synonym, by a new name based on the valid name . . . of the former type genus.” Authorship and date attributed to the replacement family-group name are determined by first publication of the changed family-group name. Recommendation 40A of the *Code*, however, specifies that for subsequent application of the rule of priority, the family-group name “. . . should be cited with its original author and date (see Recommendation 22A.2.2), followed by the date of its priority as determined by this Article; the date of priority should be enclosed in parentheses.” Many family-group names that have been in use for a long time are *nomina nuda*, because they fail to satisfy criteria of availability (*Code*, Article 11.7). These demand replacement by valid names.

The aim of family-group nomenclature is to yield the greatest possible stability and uniformity, just as in other zoological names. Both taxonomic experience and the *Code* (Article 40) indicate the wisdom of sustaining family-group names based on junior subjective synonyms if they have priority of publication, for opinions of the same worker may change from time to time. The retention of first-published, family-group names that are found to be based on junior objective synonyms, however, is less clearly desirable, especially if a replacement name derived from the senior objective synonym has been recognized very long and widely. Moreover, to displace a widely used, family-group name based on the senior objective synonym by disinterring a forgotten and virtually unused family-group name based on a junior objective synonym because the latter happens to have priority of publication is unsettling.

A family-group name may need to be replaced if the nominotypical genus is trans-

ferred to another family group. If so, the first-published of the generic names remaining in the family-group taxon is to be recognized in forming a replacement name.

#### SUPRAFAMILIAL TAXA: TAXA ABOVE FAMILY-GROUP

International rules of zoological nomenclature as given in the *Code* affect only lower-rank categories: subspecies to superfamily. Suprafamilial categories (suborder to kingdom) are either not mentioned or explicitly placed outside of the application of zoological rules. The *Copenhagen Decisions on Zoological Nomenclature* (1953, Articles 59 to 69) proposed adopting rules for naming suborders and higher taxa up to and including phylum, with provision for designating a type genus for each, in such manner as not to interfere with the taxonomic freedom of workers. Procedures were outlined for applying the rule of priority and rule of homonymy to suprafamilial taxa and for dealing with the names of such taxa and their authorship, with assigned dates, if they should be transferred on taxonomic grounds from one rank to another. The adoption of terminations of names, different for each category but uniform within each, was recommended.

The Colloquium on Zoological Nomenclature, which met in London during the week just before the 15th International Congress of Zoology convened in 1958, thoroughly discussed the proposals for regulating suprafamilial nomenclature, as well as many others advocated for inclusion in the new *Code* or recommended for exclusion from it. A decision that was supported by a wide majority of the participants in the colloquium was against the establishment of rules for naming taxa above family-group rank, mainly because it was judged that such regulation would unwisely tie the hands of taxonomists. For example, a class or order defined by an author at a given date, using chosen morphologic characters (*e.g.*, gills of bivalves), should not be allowed to freeze nomenclature, taking precedence over

another class or order that is proposed later and distinguished by different characters (*e.g.*, hinge teeth of bivalves). Even the fixing of type genera for suprafamilial taxa would have little, if any, value, hindering taxonomic work rather than aiding it. Beyond mere tidying up, no basis for establishing such types and for naming these taxa has yet been provided.

The considerations just stated do not prevent the editors of the *Treatise* from making rules for dealing with suprafamilial groups of animals described and illustrated in this publication. Some uniformity is needed, especially for the guidance of *Treatise* authors. This policy should accord with recognized general practice among zoologists; but where general practice is indeterminate or nonexistent, our own procedure in suprafamilial nomenclature needs to be specified as clearly as possible. This pertains especially to decisions about names themselves, about citation of authors and dates, and about treatment of suprafamilial taxa that, on taxonomic grounds, are changed from their originally assigned rank. Accordingly, a few rules expressing *Treatise* policy are given here, some with examples of their application.

1. The name of any suprafamilial taxon must be a Latin or Latinized, uninominal noun of plural form or treated as such, with a capital initial letter and without diacritical mark, apostrophe, diaeresis, or hyphen. If a component consists of a numeral, numerical adjective, or adverb, this must be written in full.

2. Names of suprafamilial taxa may be constructed in almost any manner. A name may indicate morphological attributes (*e.g.*, Lamellibranchiata, Cyclostomata, Toxoglossa) or be based on the stem of an included genus (*e.g.*, Bellerophontina, Nautilida, Fungiina) or on arbitrary combinations of letters (*e.g.*, Yuania); none of these, however, can end in -oidea, -idae or -inae, which terminations are reserved for family-group taxa. No suprafamilial name identical in form to that of a genus or to another published

suprafamilial name should be employed (*e.g.*, order Decapoda LATREILLE, 1803, crustaceans, and order Decapoda LEACH, 1818, cephalopods; suborder Chonetoidea MUIR-WOOD, 1955, and genus *Chonetoidea* JONES, 1928). Worthy of notice is the classificatory and nomenclatorial distinction between suprafamilial and family-group taxa that, respectively, are named from the same type genus, because one is not considered to be transferable to the other (*e.g.*, suborder Bellerophontina ULRICH & SCOFIELD, 1897 is not coordinate with superfamily Bellerophontacea MCCOY, 1851 or family Bellerophontidae MCCOY, 1851).

3. The rules of priority and homonymy lack any force of international agreement as applied to suprafamilial names, yet in the interest of nomenclatorial stability and to avoid confusion these rules are widely applied by zoologists to taxa above the family-group level wherever they do not infringe on taxonomic freedom and long-established usage.

4. Authors who accept priority as a determinant in nomenclature of a suprafamilial taxon may change its assigned rank at will, with or without modifying the terminal letters of the name, but such changes cannot rationally be judged to alter the authorship and date of the taxon as published originally. A name revised from its previously published rank is a transferred name (*nomen translatum*), as illustrated in the following.

## Order CORYNEXOCHIDA Kobayashi, 1935

[*nom. transl.* MOORE, 1959, p. 217, ex suborder Corynexochida KOBAYASHI, 1935, p. 81]

A name revised from its previously published form merely by adoption of a different termination without changing taxonomic rank is a *nomen correctum*.

## Order DISPARIDA Moore & Laudon, 1943

[*nom. correct.* MOORE in MOORE, LALICKER, & FISCHER, 1952, p. 613, pro order Disparata MOORE & LAUDON, 1943, p. 24]

A suprafamilial name revised from its previously published rank with accompanying change of termination, which signals the change of rank, is recorded as a *nomen translatum et correctum*.

## Order HYBOCRINIDA Jaekel, 1918

[*nom. transl. et correct.* MOORE in MOORE, LALICKER, & FISCHER, 1952, p. 613, *ex suborder* Hybocrinites JAEKEL, 1918, p. 90]

5. The authorship and date of nominate subordinate and supraordinate taxa among suprafamilial taxa are considered in the *Treatise* to be identical because each actually or potentially has the same type. Examples are given below.

### Subclass ENDOCERATOIDEA Teichert, 1933

[*nom. transl.* TEICHERT in TEICHERT & others, 1964, p. 128, *ex order* Endoceroidea TEICHERT, 1933, p. 214]

### Order ENDOCERIDA Teichert, 1933

[*nom. correct.* TEICHERT in TEICHERT & others, 1964, p. 165, *pro order* Endoceroidea TEICHERT, 1933, p. 214]

## TAXONOMIC EMENDATION

Emendation has two distinct meanings as regards zoological nomenclature. These are alteration of a name itself in various ways for various reasons, as has been reviewed, and alteration of the taxonomic scope or concept for which a name is used. The *Code* (Article 33.1 and Glossary) concerns itself only with the first type of emendation, applying the term to intentional, either justified or unjustified changes of the original spelling of a name. The second type of emendation primarily concerns classification and inherently is not associated with change of name. Little attention generally has been paid to this distinction in spite of its significance.

Most zoologists, including paleontologists, who have emended zoological names refer to what they consider a material change in application of the name such as may be expressed by an importantly altered diagnosis of the assemblage covered by the

name. The abbreviation *emend.* then must accompany the name with statement of the author and date of the emendation. On the other hand, many systematists think that publication of *emend.* with a zoological name is valueless because alteration of a taxonomic concept is introduced whenever a subspecies, species, genus, or other taxon is incorporated into or removed from a higher zoological taxon. Inevitably associated with such classificatory expansions and restrictions is some degree of emendation affecting diagnosis. Granting this, still it is true that now and then somewhat more extensive revisions are put forward, generally with a published statement of the reasons for changing the application of a name. To erect a signpost at such points of most significant change is worthwhile, both as an aid to subsequent workers in taking account of the altered nomenclatorial usage and to indicate where in the literature cogent discussion may be found. Authors of contributions to the *Treatise* are encouraged to include records of all especially noteworthy emendations of this nature, using the abbreviation *emend.* with the name to which it refers and citing the author, date, and page of the emendation. Examples from *Treatise* volumes follow.

### Order ORTHIDA Schuchert & Cooper, 1932

[*nom. transl. et correct.* MOORE in MOORE, LALICKER, & FISCHER, 1952, p. 220, *ex suborder* Orthoidea SCHUCHERT & COOPER, 1932, p. 43; *emend.*, WILLIAMS & WRIGHT, 1965, p. 299]

### Subfamily ROVEACRININAE Peck, 1943

[Roveacrininae PECK, 1943, p. 465; *emend.*, PECK in MOORE & TEICHERT, 1978, p. 921]

## STYLE IN GENERIC DESCRIPTIONS

### CITATION OF TYPE SPECIES

In the *Treatise*, the name of the type species of each genus and subgenus is given immediately following the generic name with its accompanying author, date, and page reference or after entries needed

for definition of the name if it is involved in homonymy. The originally published combination of generic and trivial names of this species is cited, accompanied by an asterisk (\*), with notation of the author, date, and page of original publication, except if the species was first published in the same paper and by the same author as that containing definition of the genus of which it is the type. In this instance, the initial letter of the generic name followed by the trivial name is given without repeating the name of the author and date. Examples of these two sorts of citations follow.

*Orionastraea* SMITH, 1917, p. 294 [\**Sarcinula phillipsi* MCCOY, 1849, p. 125; OD].

*Schoenophyllum* SIMPSON, 1900, p. 214 [\**S. aggregatum*; OD].

If the cited type species is a junior synonym of some other species, the name of this latter is given also, as follows.

*Actinocyathus* D'ORBIGNY, 1849, p. 12 [\**Cyathophyllum crenulate* PHILLIPS, 1836, p. 202; M; =*Lonsdaleia floriformis* (MARTIN), 1809, pl. 43; validated by ICZN Opinion 419].

In some instances the type species is a junior homonym. If so, it is cited as shown in the following example.

*Prionocyclus* MEEK, 1871b, p. 298 [\**Ammonites serrotocarينات* MEEK, 1871a, p. 429, non STOLICZKA, 1864, p. 57; =*Prionocyclus wyomingensis* MEEK, 1876, p. 452].

In the *Treatise*, the name of the type species is always given in the exact form it had in the original publication except that diacritical marks have been removed. Where other mandatory changes are required, these are introduced later in the text, typically in the description of a figure.

### Fixation of Type Species Originally

It is desirable to record the manner of establishing the type species, whether by original designation (OD) or by subsequent designation (SD). The type species of a genus or subgenus, according to provisions of the *Code*, may be fixed in various ways in the original publication; or it may

be fixed subsequently in ways specified by the *Code* (Article 68) and described in the next section. Type species fixed in the original publication include (1) *original designation* (in the *Treatise* indicated by OD) when the type species is explicitly stated or (before 1931) indicated by n. gen., n. sp. (or its equivalent) applied to a single species included in a new genus; (2) defined by use of *typus* or *typicus* for one of the species included in a new genus (adequately indicated in the *Treatise* by the specific name); (3) established by *monotypy* if a new genus or subgenus has only one originally included species (in the *Treatise* indicated as M); and (4) fixed by *tautonymy* if the genus-group name is identical to an included species name not indicated as the type.

### Fixation of Type Species Subsequently

The type species of many genera are not determinable from the publication in which the generic name was introduced. Therefore, such genera can acquire a type species only by some manner of subsequent designation. Most commonly this is established by publishing a statement naming as type species one of the species originally included in the genus. In the *Treatise*, such fixation of the type species by subsequent designation in this manner is indicated by the letters SD accompanied by the name of the subsequent author (who may be the same person as the original author) and the publication date and page number of the subsequent designation. Some genera, as first described and named, included no mentioned species (for such genera established after 1930, see below); these necessarily lack a type species until a date subsequent to that of the original publication when one or more species is assigned to such a genus. If only a single species is thus assigned, it becomes automatically the type species. Of course, the first publication containing assignment of species to the genus that originally lacked any included species is the one concerned in fixation of the type species, and if this

publication names two or more species as belonging to the genus but did not designate a type species, then a later SD designation is necessary. Examples of the use of SD as employed in the *Treatise* follow.

**Hexagonaria** GURICH, 1896, p. 171 [\**Cyathophyllum hexagonum* GOLDFUSS, 1826, p. 61; SD LANG, SMITH, & THOMAS, 1940, p. 69].

**Mesephemera** HANDLIRSCH, 1906, p. 600 [\**Tineites lithophilus* GERMAR, 1842, p. 88; SD CARPENTER, herein].

Another mode of fixing the type species of a genus is through action of the International Commission of Zoological Nomenclature using its plenary powers. Definition in this way may set aside application of the *Code* so as to arrive at a decision considered to be in the best interest of continuity and stability of zoological nomenclature. When made, it is binding and commonly is cited in the *Treatise* by the letters ICZN, accompanied by the date of announced decision and reference to the appropriate numbered opinion.

Subsequent designation of a type species is admissible only for genera established prior to 1931. A new genus-group name established after 1930 and not accompanied by fixation of a type species through original designation or original indication is invalid (*Code*, Article 13.3). Effort of a subsequent author to validate such a name by subsequent designation of a type species constitutes an original publication, making the name available under authorship and date of the subsequent author.

## HOMONYMS

Most generic names are distinct from all others and are indicated without ambiguity by citing their originally published spelling accompanied by name of the author and date of first publication. If the same generic name has been applied to two or more distinct taxonomic units, however, it is necessary to differentiate such homonyms. This calls for distinction between junior homonyms and senior homonyms. Because a junior homonym is invalid, it must be replaced by some other name. For example, *Callophora*

HALL, 1852, introduced for Paleozoic trepostomate bryozoans, is invalid because Gray in 1848 published the same name for Cretaceous–Holocene cheilostomate bryozoans. Bassler in 1911 introduced the new name *Hallophora* to replace Hall's homonym. The *Treatise* style of entry is given below.

**Hallophora** BASSLER, 1911, p. 325, *nom. nov. pro Callophora* HALL, 1852, p. 144, *non* GRAY, 1848.

In like manner, a replacement generic name that is needed may be introduced in the *Treatise* (even though first publication of generic names otherwise in this work is generally avoided). An exact bibliographic reference must be given for the replaced name as in the following example.

**Mysterium** DE LAUBENFELS, herein, *nom. nov. pro Mysterium* SCHRAMMEN, 1936, p. 183, *non* ROGER, 1862 [\**Mysterium porosum* SCHRAMMEN, 1936, p. 183; OD].

Otherwise, no mention is made generally of the existence of a junior homonym.

## Synonymous Homonyms

An author sometimes publishes a generic name in two or more papers of different date, each of which indicates that the name is new. This is a bothersome source of errors for later workers who are unaware that a supposed first publication that they have in hand is not actually the original one. Although the names were published separately, they are identical and therefore definable as homonyms; at the same time they are absolute synonyms. For the guidance of all concerned, it seems desirable to record such names as synonymous homonyms. In the *Treatise*, the junior of one of these is indicated by the abbreviation *jr. syn. hom.*

Not infrequently, identical family-group names are published as new names by different authors, the author of the name that was introduced last being ignorant of previous publication(s) by one or more other workers. In spite of differences in taxonomic concepts as indicated by diagnoses and grouping of genera and possibly in assigned rank, these family-group taxa, being based on the same

type genus, are nomenclatorial homonyms. They are also synonyms. Wherever encountered, such synonymous homonyms are distinguished in the *Treatise* as in dealing with generic names.

A rare but special case of homonymy exists when identical family names are formed from generic names having the same stem but differing in their endings. An example is the family name Scutellidae RICHTER & RICHTER, 1925, based on *Scutellum* PUSCH, 1833, a trilobite. This name is a junior homonym of Scutellidae GRAY, 1825, based on the echinoid genus *Scutella* LAMARCK, 1816. The name of the trilobite family was later changed to Scutelluidae (ICZN, Opinion 1004, 1974).

### SYNONYMS

In the *Treatise*, citation of synonyms is given immediately after the record of the type species. If two or more synonyms of differing date are recognized, these are arranged in chronological order. Objective synonyms are indicated by accompanying designation *obj.*, others being understood to constitute subjective synonyms, of which the types are also indicated. Examples showing *Treatise* style in listing synonyms follow.

**Mackenziophyllum** PEDDER, 1971, p. 48 [*\*M. insolitum*; OD] [= *Zonastrea* TSYGANKO in SPASSKIY, KRAVTSOV, & TSYGANKO, 1971, p. 85, *nom. nud.*; = *Zonastrea* TSYGANKO, 1972, p. 21 (type, *Z. graciosa*, OD)].

**Kodonophyllum** WEDEKIND, 1927, p. 34 [*\*Streptelasma Milne-Edwardsi* DYBOWSKI, 1873, p. 409; OD; = *Madrepora truncata* LINNE, 1758, p. 795, see SMITH & TREMBERTH, 1929, p. 368] [= *Patrophontes* LANG & SMITH, 1927, p. 456 (type, *Madrepora truncata* LINNE, 1758, p. 795, OD); = *Codonophyllum* LANG, SMITH, & THOMAS, 1940, p. 39, *obj.*].

Some junior synonyms of either the objective or the subjective sort may be preferred over senior synonyms whenever uniformity and continuity of nomenclature are served by retaining a widely used but technically rejectable name for a genus. This requires action of the ICZN, which may use its plenary powers to set aside the unwanted name, validate the wanted one, and place the concerned names on appropriate official lists.

## OTHER EDITORIAL MATTERS

### BIOGEOGRAPHY

Purists, *Treatise* editors among them, would like nothing better than a stable world with a stable geography that makes possible a stable biogeographical classification. Global events of the past few years have shown how rapidly geography can change, and in all likelihood we have not witnessed the last of such change as new, so-called republics continue to spring up around the globe. One expects confusion among readers in the future as they try to decipher such geographical terms as USSR, Yugoslavia, or Ceylon. Such confusion is unavoidable, as books must be completed and published at some real time. Libraries would be limited indeed if publication were always to be delayed until the political world had settled down. In addition, such terms as central Europe and western Europe are likely to mean different things to different people. Some imprecision is introduced by the use of all such terms, of course, but it is probably no greater than the imprecision that stems from the fact that the work of paleontology is not yet finished, and the geographical ranges of many genera are imperfectly known.

Other geographic terms can also have varying degrees of formality. In general, *Treatise* policy is to use adjectives rather than nouns to refer to directions. Thus, we use *southern* and *western* in place of *South* and *West* unless a term has been formally defined as a geographic entity (e.g., South America or West Virginia). Note that we have referred to western Texas rather than West Texas, which is said to be not a state but a state of mind.

### NAMES OF AUTHORS:

### TRANSLATION AND TRANSLITERATION

Chinese scientists have become increasingly active in systematic paleontology in the past two decades. Chinese names cause anguish among English-language bibliographers

for two reasons. First, no scheme exists for one-to-one transliteration of Chinese characters into roman letters. Thus, a Chinese author may change the roman-letter spelling of his name from one publication to another. For example, the name Chang, the most common family name in the world reportedly held by some one billion people, has been spelled more recently Zhang. The principal purpose of a bibliography is to provide the reader with entry into the literature. hat Chinese authors have used in each of their publications rather than attempting to adopt a common spelling to be used in all citations of their work. It is entirely possible, therefore, that the publications of a Chinese author may be listed in more than one place under more than one name in the reference section.

Second, most but by no means all Chinese list their family name first followed by given names. People with Chinese names who study in the West, however, often reverse the order, putting the family name last as is the Western custom. In the *Treatise*, authors' names are generally used in the text and listed in the references as they appear in the source being cited.

In previous *Treatise* volumes, traditional Chinese name order was followed when citing a Chinese language publication, in an attempt to list authors as they appear in the source being cited. However, the increasingly global nature of scientific publishing has rendered this past *Treatise* policy cumbersome and prone to error. Therefore, starting with this volume, *Treatise* is using the Western name order style for all authors, regardless of country of origin or language of publishing. The aim is for consistency and should not imply disrespect for any tradition.

In this volume, we also use the full given name for Chinese authors rather than initials when the name is known (Yuangong Zhang instead of Y.-D. Zhang).

Several systems exist for transliterating the Cyrillic alphabet into the roman alphabet. On the recommendation of skilled bibliographic librarians, we have adopted the

American Library Association/Library of Congress romanization table for Russian and other languages using the Cyrillic alphabet.

## MATTERS SPECIFIC TO THIS VOLUME

Authorship entails both credit and responsibility. As the knowledge of paleontology grows and paleontologists become more specialized, preparation of *Treatise* volumes must necessarily involve larger and larger teams of researchers, each focusing on increasingly narrow aspects of the higher taxon under revision. In this volume, we have taken special pains to acknowledge authorship of small subsections. Readers citing the volume are encouraged to pay close attention to the actual authorship of a section or subsection.

Stratigraphic nomenclature in the *Treatise* follows that recommended by the International Commission of Stratigraphy, which updates their International Chronostratigraphic Chart periodically ([www.stratigraphy.org](http://www.stratigraphy.org)).

All sections in this volume first appeared as chapters in *Treatise Online*, published between 2021 and 2022 and uploaded as they were finished. This presented new dilemmas. For instance, credits for previously published figures are identified by publication and date at the end of figure captions; “new” is used if a figure is being published for the first time. In that regard, we treat *Treatise Online* and *Treatise* (the printed volume) as the same entity, therefore “new” will appear herein, even if technically published online earlier.

Color versions of many of the illustrations in this volume are available in *Treatise Online*. A reference to the color version is included in captions when color contributes vital information.

Authors who wish to cite *Treatise* material may choose to cite the online publication, which is the earliest date—often referred to in the text as “originally published as...” A listing of all Part B *Treatise Online* chapters is on p. ix. Please note that editorial changes

have been made subsequent to *Treatise Online* versions. Therefore, the printed volume represents the most accurate and up-to-date information.

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William I. Ausich

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# INTRODUCTION

NORA NOFFKE and PAUL SELDEN

In 2012, we began discussing the problems associated with prokaryote fossil systematics in paleontology and whether this subject belonged in the *Treatise on Invertebrate Paleontology*. With Precambrian paleontology gaining increasing traction in novel analytical studies, we agreed it would be timely for the *Treatise* to publish a volume dedicated to prokaryotes. One of the problems we encountered was how to categorize prokaryotes and fit this organismic group into the traditional systematic framework of the *Treatise*. In the prokaryote world, speciation in the Darwinian sense does not exist, and, more so, prokaryotes commonly assemble into highly complex communities called biofilms. Microbial cells are rarely preserved, and sedimentary structures arising from prokaryote activity constitute biofilm expressions. Biofilms, however, are complex assemblages of microorganisms and a dominant group cannot always be of geological significance in the sense of causing a visible fossil, texture, or structure. For these reasons, it seemed prudent to explore the topic of Prokaryota in the fossil record by presenting a volume that would include a general overview on the main fossil types that constitute this indisputably largest group of organisms on Earth. Future work may contribute to categorizing taphonomic groups and testing biostratigraphic application, which may well result in additional volumes on Prokaryota.

This volume begins with an introduction into biofilms that have mostly been the subject of medical research before moving into the limelight of geosciences. Biofilms are assemblages of microbes that organize into a three-dimensional structure with the single cells attached to a substrate by their extracellular polymeric substances (EPS)—in colloquial terms also called slime. Traditional sedimentology and paleontology are not familiar with biofilms but are definitively

familiar with microbial mats (algal mats) that are basically large-scale biofilms occurring in aquatic settings. Such mats are well known as producers of microbialites, of which the carbonate buildups (stromatolites) in shallow coastal zones are prominent examples. Such buildups form through the metabolic activity of the biofilm/mat community in which each member is interacting with the next, as well as with environmental parameters. Biofilms and mats also contributed to the enormous quantities of Banded Iron Formations (BIFs), to date the most important ore deposits in the world. Where mats develop in clastic settings of little to no mineral precipitation, microbially induced sedimentary structures (MISS) represent the microbialite spectrum. Microbial mats, microbialites, and BIFs constitute large structures, but they may include myriads of microfossils of the ancient structure-formers. However, the paleontological spectrum of prokaryotes also includes deposits of fossils of cells and filaments preserved *in situ* as carbonaceous matter in rapidly precipitated mineralogies, such as glass-like chert. In some examples, the organic matter had been replaced by minerals such as pyrite.

Prokaryote fossils and structures have modern counterparts that can be studied. Typically, the record spans from the early Archean (perhaps Hadean) to the modern. Indeed, the modern serves as the key to the past and is instrumental for the exploration of Earth history, especially that of the Precambrian.

Compiling a volume such as this requires many colleagues working together. We are most grateful to the diligent staff at the *Treatise* editorial office—editor Jill Hardesty, who guided the project in the beginning; Elizabeth Black, who edited chapters as our team produced them; and interim director William Ausich who oversaw the final stages. We thank our authors for putting their