

An interesting case of homonymy: *Notopus* de Haan, 1841 (Crustacea, Raninidae; Recent) and *Notopus* Leonardi, 1983 (ichnofossil; Devonian)

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Abstract

Upper Cretaceous strata in the type area of the Maastrichtian Stage (SE Netherlands, NE Belgium) have yielded comparatively abundant and diverse raninid assemblages (Collins et al., 1995; Fraaye & van Bakel, 1998). To date, seven species are known: *Eumorphocorystes sculptus*, *Pseudoraninella muelleri*, *Lyreidina pyriformis*, *Raninoides? quadrispinosus*, *Raniliformis chevrona*, *Raniliformis prebaltica* and *Raniliformis occlusa*. These occur mainly from the upper portion of the Maastricht Formation [Emael, Nekum and Meerssen members, *Belemnitella junior* and *Belemnella (Neobelemnella) kazimiroviensis* biozones].

Introduction

The status of two of these species, *Eumorphocorystes sculptus* and *Pseudoraninella muelleri*, both assigned to the Notopodinae as now defined (Tucker, 1998), is currently the subject of a study by van Bakel, Jagt & Fraaije. For this ongoing project, we have recently conducted a literature search and come across an interesting case of homonymy, involving the generic name *Notopus*.

Systematics

De Haan (1841) erected the genus *Notopus*, type species *N. dorsipes* de Haan, for an extant raninid from Japanese waters, which Serène & Umali (1972) subsequently designated type genus of the subfamily Notopinae [sic] (= Notopodinae). The second introduction of the name *Notopus*, type ichnospecies

N. petri, involves an ichnofossil from the Devonian of Paran, Brazil (Leonardi, 1983: 236). Leonardi interpreted this as the imprint of the left front limb of an amphibian. Roek & Rage (1994), who restudied Leonardi's original material, were of the opinion that this ichnofossil taxon did not represent part of an amphibian trackway, but rather was similar to traces of an asteroid or ophiuroid, comparable to the ichnofossil genus *Asteriacites* von Schlothheim.

Irrespective of the correct assignment of this ichnotaxon, *Notopus* Leonardi, 1983 (non de Haan, 1841) is in need of a substitute name, the more so since ichnotaxon names compete with (palaeo)zoological taxa (A.K. Rindsberg, pers. comm., June 2001). We here suggest:

Allophylichnus ichnogen. nov. (type ichnospecies: *Notopus petri*)

Etymology: from the Latin *allophylus*, meaning "strange" or "foreign", in reference to the taxonomic, stratigraphic as well as geographic distance between an extant crab genus and a Devonian ichnogenus.

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