

**OPINIONS AND DECLARATIONS  
RENDERED BY THE INTER-  
NATIONAL COMMISSION ON  
ZOOLOGICAL NOMENCLATURE**

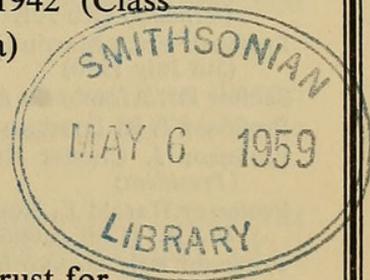
*Edited by*

**FRANCIS HEMMING, C.M.G., C.B.E.**

**VOLUME 20. Part 22. Pp. 249—256**

**OPINION 555**

Validation under the Plenary Powers of the generic names  
*Kotoceras* Kobayashi, 1934 (Class Cephalopoda, Order  
Nautiloidea) and *Damesites* Matsumoto, 1942 (Class  
Cephalopoda, Order Ammonoidea)



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# INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION ON ZOOLOGICAL NOMENCLATURE

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(*Arranged in order of precedence by reference to date of election or of most recent re-election, as prescribed by the International Congress of Zoology*)

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Professor Enrico TORTONESE (*Museo di Storia Naturale " G. Doria ", Genova, Italy*) (16th December 1954)

## OPINION 555

### VALIDATION UNDER THE PLENARY POWERS OF THE GENERIC NAMES "KOTOCERAS" KOBAYASHI, 1934 (CLASS CEPHALOPODA, ORDER NAUTILOIDEA) AND "DAMESITES" MATSUMOTO, 1942 (CLASS CEPHALOPODA, ORDER AMMONOIDEA)

**RULING** :—(1) Under the Plenary Powers the generic name *Kotoceras* Yabe, 1927 (Class Cephalopoda, Order Ammonoidea) is hereby suppressed for the purposes both of the Law of Priority and of the Law of Homonymy.

(2) The under-mentioned generic names are hereby placed on the *Official List of Generic Names in Zoology* with the Name Numbers severally specified below :—

(a) *Damesites* Matsumoto, 1942, as validated by the suppression under the Plenary Powers in (1) above of its senior objective synonym *Kotoceras* Yabe, 1927 (gender : masculine) (type species, by original designation : *Desmoceras damesi* Jimbo, 1894) (Class Cephalopoda, Order Ammonoidea) (Name No. 1349) ;

(b) *Kotoceras* Kobayashi, 1934, as validated by the suppression under the Plenary Powers in (1) above of its senior homonym *Kotoceras* Yabe, 1927 (gender : neuter) (type species, by original designation : *Kotoceras typicum* Kobayashi, 1934) (Class Cephalopoda, Order Nautiloidea) (Name No. 1350) ;

(3) The under-mentioned specific names are hereby placed on the *Official List of Specific Names in Zoology* with the Name Numbers severally specified below :—

(a) *damesi* Jimbo, 1894, as published in the combination *Desmoceras damesi* (specific name of type species of *Damesites* Matsumoto, 1942) (Name No. 1630) ;

(b) *typicum* Kobayashi, 1934, as published in the combination *Kotoceras typicum* (specific name of type species of *Kotoceras* Kobayashi, 1934) (Name No. 1631).

(4) The under-mentioned generic name is hereby placed on the *Official Index of Rejected and Invalid Generic Names in Zoology* with the Name No. 1264 :—  
*Kotoceras* Yabe, 1927 (as suppressed under the Plenary Powers in (1) above).

### I. THE STATEMENT OF THE CASE

On 31st January 1957, Mr. C. W. Wright (*London*) submitted the following application in which he asked the International Commission to use its Plenary Powers to suppress the generic name *Kotoceras* Yabe, 1927 (Class Cephalopoda, Order Ammonoidea), thereby validating both its junior objective synonym

*Damesites* Matsumoto, 1942, and also its junior homonym *Kotoceras* Kobayashi, 1934 (Class Cephalopoda, Order Nautiloidea) :—

**Proposed use of the Plenary Powers to suppress the generic name “*Kotoceras*” Yabe, 1927, for the purpose of validating the names “*Kotoceras*” Kobayashi, 1934 (Class Cephalopoda, Order Nautiloidea) and “*Damesites*” Matsumoto, 1942 (Class Cephalopoda, Order Ammonoidea)**

By C. W. WRIGHT

(London)

The purpose of this application is to secure the current usage of the two generic names *Damesites* Matsumoto, 1942 (Class Cephalopoda, Order Ammonoidea) and *Kotoceras* Kobayashi, 1934 (Class Cephalopoda, Order Nautiloidea). Both of these names are threatened by the existence of the name *Kotoceras* Yabe, of which *Damesites* Matsumoto on a strict application of the rules is a junior synonym and *Kotoceras* Kobayashi is a junior homonym.

2. In 1927 Yabe published in lists and without any description a new generic name for a group of Upper Cretaceous ammonites of the family DESMOCERATIDAE, in the following terms :—

(in a list on p. 36) “ ‘*Desmoceras*’ (*Kotoceras*, Yabe MS) *damesi* Jimbo  
 ” ( “ ” ) *laeve* Yabe (MS nom.) ”

(in a list on p. 44) “ ‘*Desmoceras*’ (*Kôtoceras*\*) *damesi* Jimbo  
 ” ( “ ” ) *laeve*\* Yabe  
 ” ( “ ” ) *semicostatum*\* Yabe ”

(on the explanation of plate 7, fig. 9 a, b)

“ *Kotoceras* (gen. nov.) *damesi* ”

(in this work an asterisk denotes a MS name)

3. Since the nominal genus or subgenus *Kotoceras* was published in 1927 and included a valid species (*Desmoceras damesi* Jimbo, 1894 : 172) it is presumably nomenclatorially available, despite the unsatisfactory nature of its establishment and the apparent intention of its author that it should remain a provisional name for the time being.

4. In 1934 Kobayashi (: 391) published as a new nominal genus *Kotoceras*, for a group of Palaeozoic nautiloids, with, as originally designated type species, the new species *K. typicum* Kobayashi (: 392).

5. In 1935 Shimizu, in a work on the Upper Cretaceous cephalopods of Japan, refers frequently to zones named after various species of *Kotoceras* and on page 179 writes :—

*Kotoceras damesi* (Jimbo). *Kotoceras* was created by YABE with *Desmoceras damesi* Jimbo as its genotype . . .

Shimizu, however, gave no description or differentiation of the genus.

6. In 1942 Matsumoto (: 24), under the impression that *Kotoceras* Yabe was invalid and that consequently *Kotoceras* Kobayashi was valid, established a new nominal genus *Damesites* for the Upper Cretaceous ammonite group in question, type species by original designation *Desmoceras damesi* Jimbo, 1894.

7. The name *Damesites* is now in general use, for example in numerous papers by Matsumoto on Japanese Cretaceous faunas, in the Ammonoidea volume of the *Treatise on Invertebrate Paleontology* and in a recent work by Spath (1953 : 42) who refers to "*Damesites* Matsumoto, 1943 (= *Kotoceras*, Shimizu, 1935 non Kobayashi, 1934)". Undesirable confusion would be caused if the validity of *Kotoceras* Yabe, 1927, set up in such an indeterminate manner, were to be confirmed, with the consequences that *Kotoceras* Kobayashi would have to be renamed and that *Damesites* Matsumoto would fall into synonymy with *Kotoceras* Yabe.

8. No family-group-name problem arises in connection with either of the generic names dealt with in the present application, neither of which has been taken as the base for a family-group name. The genus *Damesites* Matsumoto is currently placed in the family DESMOCERATIDAE, while, as regards *Kotoceras* Kobayashi, it is not at present possible to form a judgment as to its family position.

9. It is recommended therefore that the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature should, in exercise of its Plenary Powers :—

(1) suppress the name *Kotoceras* Yabe, 1927, for purposes of both the Law of Homonymy and the Law of Priority ;

(2) place on the *Official List of Generic Names in Zoology* :—

(a) *Damesites* Matsumoto, 1942 (gender : masculine) (type species by original designation : *Desmoceras damesi* Jimbo, 1894) ;

(b) *Kotoceras* Kobayashi, 1934 (gender : neuter) (type species by original designation : *Kotoceras typicum* Kobayashi, 1934) ;

(3) place on the *Official List of Specific Names in Zoology* :—

(a) *damesi* Jimbo, 1894, as published in the combination *Desmocera damesi* (specific name of type species of *Damesites* Matsumoto, 1942) ;

(b) *typicum* Kobayashi, 1934, as published in the combination *Kotoceras typicum* (specific name of type species of *Kotoceras* Kobayashi, 1934) ;

(4) place on the *Official Index of Rejected and Invalid Generic Names in Zoology* :—

*Kotoceras* Yabe, 1927, as suppressed under the Plenary Powers in (1) above.

#### References

- Jimbo, K., 1894 : " Beiträge zur Kenntniss der Fauna der Kreideformation von Hokkaido ", *Pal. Abhandl.* 6 (N.F.2) (3) : 149–194
- Kobayashi, T., 1934 : " The Cambro-Ordovician Formations and Faunas of South Chosen ", " Palaeontology, Part I. Middle Ordovician Faunas ", *J. Fac. Sci., imp. Univ. Tokyo* [2] 3 : 329–519
- Matsumoto, T., 1942 : " A Note on the Japanese Cretaceous Ammonites belonging to the Subfamily Desmoceratinae ", *Proc. imp. Acad. Japan* 18 : 24–29

- Shimizu, S., 1935 : " The Upper Cretaceous Cephalopods of Japan, Part I ", *J. Shanghai Sci. Inst.* (2) 1 : 159-226
- Spath, L. F., 1953 : " The Upper Cretaceous Cephalopod Fauna of Graham Land ", *Falkland Islands Dependencies Survey, Sci. Rep.* 3
- Yabe, H., 1927 : " Cretaceous Stratigraphy of the Japanese Islands ", *Sci. Rep. Tohoku imp. Univ.* (2) 11 : 27-100

## II. THE SUBSEQUENT HISTORY OF THE CASE

**2. Registration of the present application :** Upon the receipt of Mr. Wright's application, the question of the possible use of the Plenary Powers for the purpose of validating the generic names *Damesites* Matsumoto, 1942 (Class Cephalopoda, Order Ammonoidea) and *Kotoceras* Kobayashi, 1934 (Class Cephalopoda, Order Nautiloidea) by suppressing the earlier name *Kotoceras* Yabe, 1927, was allotted the Registered Number Z.N.(S.) 1201.

**3. Publication of the present application :** The present application was sent to the printer on 11th March 1957 and was published on 28th June of the same year in Part 7 of Volume 13 of the *Bulletin of Zoological Nomenclature* (Wright, 1957, *Bull. zool. Nomencl.* 13 : 225-227).

**4. Issue of Public Notices :** Under the revised procedure prescribed by the Thirteenth International Congress of Zoology, Paris, 1948 (1950, *Bull. zool. Nomencl.* 4 : 51-56), Public Notice of the possible use by the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature of its Plenary Powers in the present case was given on 28th June 1957 (a) in Part 7 of Volume 13 of the *Bulletin of Zoological Nomenclature* (the Part in which Mr. Wright's application was published) and (b) to the other prescribed serial publications. In addition, such Notice was given also to four general zoological serial publications and to three palaeontological serials in Europe and America.

**5. No Objection Received :** Neither the publication of the present application in the *Bulletin of Zoological Nomenclature* nor the issue of Public Notices in regard thereto elicited any objection from any source to the action proposed.

## III. THE DECISION TAKEN BY THE INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION ON ZOOLOGICAL NOMENCLATURE

**6. Issue of Voting Paper V.P.(57)71 :** On 30th December 1957, a Voting Paper (V.P.(57)71) was issued in which the Members of the Commission were invited to vote either for, or against, " the proposal relating to the generic names *Kotoceras* Kobayashi, 1934, and *Damesites* Matsumoto, 1942 (Class Cephalopoda), as set out in Points (1) to (4) in paragraph 9 on pages 226-227 in Volume 13 of the *Bulletin of Zoological Nomenclature* " [i.e. in the Points numbered as above in paragraph 9 of the application reproduced in the first paragraph of the present *Opinion*].

**7. The Prescribed Voting Period :** As the foregoing Voting Paper was issued under the Three-Month Rule, the Prescribed Voting Period closed on 30th March 1958.

**8. Particulars of the Voting on Voting Paper V.P.(57)71 :** At the close of the Prescribed Voting Period, the state of the voting on Voting Paper V.P.(57)71 was as follows :—

(a) *Affirmative Votes had been given by the following twenty-two (22) Commissioners (arranged in the order in which Votes were received):*

Holthuis ; Mayr ; Boschma ; Hering ; Mertens ; Prantl ; Vokes ; Lemche ; do Amaral ; Bonnet ; Jaczewski ; Dymond ; Hankó ; Bodenheimer ; Key ; Bradley (J.C.) ; Hemming ; Sylvester-Bradley ; Stoll ; Tortonese ; Kühnelt ; Riley ;

(b) *Negative Votes :*

None ;

(c) *On Leave of Absence, one (1) :*

Miller ;

(d) *Voting Papers not returned, one (1) :*

Cabrera.

**9. Declaration of Result of Vote :** On 31st March 1958, Mr. Hemming, Secretary to the International Commission, acting as Returning Officer for the Vote taken on Voting Paper V.P.(57)71, signed a Certificate that the Votes cast were as set out in paragraph 8 above and declaring that the proposal submitted in the foregoing Voting Paper had been duly adopted and that the decision so taken was the decision of the International Commission in the matter aforesaid.

**10. Preparation of the Ruling given in the present " Opinion " :** On 22nd May 1958, Mr. Hemming prepared the Ruling given in the present *Opinion* and at the same time signed a Certificate that the terms of that Ruling were in complete accord with those of the proposal approved by the International Commission in its Vote on Voting Paper V.P.(57)71.

**11. Original References for Generic and Specific Names :** The following are the original references for the generic and specific names placed on *Official Lists* and *Official Indexes* by the Ruling given in the present *Opinion* :—

*damesi*, *Desmoceras*, Jimbo, 1894, *Pal. Abhandl.* 6 (N.F. 2)(3) : 172

*Damesites* Matsumoto, 1942, *Proc. imp. Acad. Japan* 18 : 24

*Kotoceras* Yabe, 1927, *Sci. Rep. Tohoku imp. Univ.* (2) 11 : 36, 44, expl. 7

*Kotoceras* Kobayashi, 1934, *J. Fac. Sci. imp. Univ. Tokyo* (2) 3 : 391

*typicum*, *Kotoceras*, Kobayashi, 1934, *J. Fac. Sci. imp. Univ. Tokyo* (2) 3 : 392

**12. Family-Group-Name Aspects :** The applicant has reported (paragraph 8 of the paper reproduced in the first paragraph of the present *Opinion*) that neither of the nominal genera involved in this case has been taken as the type genus of a family-group taxon.

**13. Compliance with Prescribed Procedures :** The prescribed procedures were duly complied with by the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature in dealing with the present case, and the present *Opinion* is accordingly hereby rendered in the name of the said International Commission by the

under-signed Francis Hemming, Secretary to the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature, in virtue of all and every the powers conferred upon him in that behalf.

**14. "Opinion" Number :** The present *Opinion* shall be known as *Opinion* Five Hundred and Fifty-Five (555) of the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature.

DONE in London, this Twenty-Second day of May, Nineteen Hundred and Fifty-Eight.

*Secretary to the International Commission  
on Zoological Nomenclature*

**FRANCIS HEMMING**



1959. "Opinion 555 Validation under the Plenary Powers of the generic names *Kotoceras Kobayashi*, 1934 (Class Cephalopoda, Order Nautiloidea) and *Damesites Matsumoto*, 1942 (Class Cephalopoda, Order Ammonoidea)." *Opinions and declarations rendered by the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature* 20, 249–256.

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