

PROPOSED DIRECTION TO AMEND THE DATE OF *ENTOMOSTRACITES*
PUNCTATUS WAHLENBERG (TRILOBITA) FROM 1821 TO [1818]
(OFFICIAL LIST OF SPECIFIC NAMES IN ZOOLOGY No. 1595) Z.N.(S.) 2205.
By The Secretary, International Commission on Zoological
Nomenclature

In Opinion 537 (1959, *Ops. Decls. int. Comm. zool. Nomencl.* vol. 20: 41-56), the Commission validated the specific name *Entomostracites punctatus* Wahlenberg, 1821 [sic], designated a lectotype for that species, and designated it as type-species of the nominal genus *Encrinurus* Emmerich, 1844 - all by the use of its plenary powers. Yet in the accompanying application on *Calymene variolaris* Brongniart (Z.N.(S.)2189), the applicants refer to "*Encrinurus punctatus* (Wahlenberg, 1818)", and there seems little doubt that they are right to do so. The acceptance of that date involves a change in the date attributed to *punctatus*, *Entomostracites*, Wahlenberg, when it was placed on the Official List of Specific Names in Zoology with the Name Number 1595 by the ruling in Opinion 537. The evidence is as follows.

2. Wahlenberg's *Petrificata Telluris Suecanae* appeared in two parts in the *Nova Acta R. Soc. Sci. Upsal.* vol. 8: 1-116, and (as *Additamenta ad Pet. Tell. Suec.*) : 293-296. The first, and main part of the work bears no date on its title-page, although the title-page of the whole volume bears the date 1821. The *Additamenta*, which are dated 1821, open with the words: "Postquam anno 1818 impressa fuerat Commentatio de Petrificatis Suecanis...". This shows that the first part was at least printed in 1818 and, since it formed part of a serial publication, the presumption must be that it was published immediately.

3. Lindström (1884, *Ofvers. k. Vetensk. Akad. Förh. Stockh.*, Ny Följd, vol. 19 (2), No. 6, 250 pp.) said in a footnote reviewing the date of Wahlenberg's work (: 111-112): "The date of most of the species published by Wahlenberg must be changed to 1818 instead of 1821, as has so often been used. His memoir 'Petrificata Telluris Suecana' [sic] in the eighth volume of the 'Acta Societatis Regiae Scientiarum' was indeed printed already in 1818, as Wahlenberg himself says in the beginning of the 'Additamenta' to that memoir, p. 293 of the same volume. The statement there given is: "Postquam anno 1818 impressa fuerat Commentatio de Petrificatis Suecanis' etc. The memoir had also been early enough distributed by its author to some geologists, as can be perceived by what Brongniart says in his 'Crustacés fossiles' (1822), p. 2, viz. '...M. Wahlenberg, dont le travail n'est venu à ma connaissance qu'en 1819'. But on the title page of volume VIII, containing the collected memoirs and papers, the year 1821 is printed, as it was not issued complete before that year."

4. Vogdes (1890, *Bull. U.S. geol. Surv.*, No. 63: 70), in a comprehensive bibliography of Palaeozoic "Crustacea", gave a double reference to Wahlenberg's work. Under the first, he said: "Wahlenberg (Geo.) *Petrificata telluris Suecana*, Upsaliae 1818. This work was published and distributed in 1818 as a separate article, in advance of the *Nova Acta Reg. Soc. Sci.*, vol. 8, 1821." In the second he said "----*Petrificata telluris Suecana examinata* a Georgio Wahlenberg. In *Nova Acta Reg. Soc. Sci. Upsal.*, vol. 8, 1821, pp.

1-116, pls. 1-4." Vogdes gives no source for his information, but it may be significant that he gives the spelling "Suecana", and that Lindström gave the spelling "Svecana", both in place of the original "Svecanae". The two men may thus have been in communication on the subject.

5. There is an undated pencil note in the British Museum (Natural History) copy of vol. 8 of the *Nova Acta Soc. Reg. Sci. Upsal.* at the head of Wahlenberg's paper: "This 'tract' was received by the K. Vet.-Ac. Handl. in 1819; see that volume. Vogdes quotes it as 1818, see also J. de Phys. xci." The receipt of Wahlenberg's work is indeed recorded in *K. Vet. Acad. Handl.* for 1819, 1819: 307. Vol. 91 of the *J. de Phys.*, 1822, contains a lengthy French translation of the work, but nothing material about the date.

6. The various bits of evidence here presented are quoted by Bassett & Cocks, 1974, *Fossils and Strata*, No. 3: 40 and by Hughes, C.P. and others, 1975, *Phil. Trans. roy. Soc. London*, Ser. B, vol. 272, No. 920: 604, but nothing new is added.

7. The two strongest bits of evidence in favour of 1818 as the year of publication are (a) Wahlenberg's own statement that the main work was printed in 1818, and (b) Brongniart's remark: "...M. Wahlenberg, whose work only came to my knowledge in 1819", implying an earlier date. The fact that the receipt in Stockholm of a work published in Uppsala was announced in 1819 is not very weighty evidence. There seem sufficient grounds, however, for citing the date as [1818] on external evidence, and it is recommended that the Commission alter the date of Name No 1595 on the Official List of Specific Names in Zoology, *punctatus*, *Entomostracites* Wahlenberg, accordingly.



Melville, R. V. 1977. "Proposed direction to amend the date of *Entomostracites punctatus* Wahlenberg (Trilobita) from 1821 to [1818] (Official List of specific names in zoology no. 1595) Z.N.(S.) 2205." *The Bulletin of zoological nomenclature* 33, 253–254.

View This Item Online: <https://www.biodiversitylibrary.org/item/44475>

Permalink: <https://www.biodiversitylibrary.org/partpdf/76139>

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.

Rights Holder: International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature

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>.