TAXONOMIC NOTE

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LECTOTYPE DESIGNATION FOR *STROMATOPORELLA SUBVESICULOSUM* (LECOMPTE, 1951) (STROMATOPOROIDEA)

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BASED ON the lectotype specimen herein selected, *Clathrodictyon amygdaloides subvesiculosum* Lecompte is raised to species status and assigned to *Stromatoporella.* In *Clathrodictyon amygdaloides subvesiculosum* (1951, p. 143, Pl. 18, figs. 3, 3a, 3b), Lecompte thought that he had a specimen replicated by heteromorphic coenosteal lenses ("Les lentilles hétéromorphes"). Examination of his original slides in the collections of the Institute Royal des Sciences Naturelles de Belgique reveals that the specimen consists of overgrowths of several laminar coenostea demarcated by eroded coenosteal surfaces and, in places, intercalated matrix sediment (vertical sections). The coenostea belong to two different genera: *Actinostroma,* as indicated by its Y-shaped pillars and laminae composed of a transversely fibrous microfabric, and *Stromatoporella,* as demonstrated by the presence of ring-pillars and ordinocellular laminae.

The tangential section (fig. 3b) is from *Anostylostroma* as is the specimen in the upper left corner of the vertical section (fig. 3). Because syringoporoid caunopore tubes are similar and about equally prominent in both cases, the tangential section and the portion of the vertical section noted above are probably from the same coenosteum. Both figures are ×3. A portion of the same vertical section (fig. 3) of a laminar coenosteum located along the right margin of the slide, immediately above a band of coarse vesicles, was selected by Lecompte for illustration at ×12 (fig. 3a). Lecompte must therefore have considered this coenosteum to best exemplify the skeletal morphology of his variety, and for that reason the specimen used for the more detailed illustration is here selected as the lectotype, even though no tangential section exists of this specimen. The vertical section of the lectotype clearly shows the median laminar cellular microfabric and the distinctive upward inflections of ring-pillar forming laminae characteristic of *Stromatoporella.* Characteristics such as relative thicknesses of solid pillars, density and nature of cyst-plates, and gallery sizes and shapes are well illustrated in the figures. These characteristics more usually define species rather than subspecies.

An underlying bank of vesicles belongs to a different specimen which may not be a stromatoporoid. It is set off above and below by a thin band of matrix sediment. Unfortunately, the varietal name, "*subvesiculosum,*" probably referred to these underlying vesicles.

Lecompte (1951) did not designate holotypes for his new varieties even though at the time of his work varieties were accorded nomenclatural status. Distinction rarely was made between a variety and a subspecies in the paleontological literature. Today, trinomial names are reserved for subspecies. Varieties have no taxonomic status (Article 16, ICZN, 1985). However, Article 45g provides for subspecific status for varieties published before 1961. Therefore, the trivial name, "*subvesiculosum,*" is recognized as valid even though inappropriate.

Because the lectotype has distinctive specific characteristics in terms of present taxonomic considerations as described and illustrated by Lecompte, his variety is raised to species rank as *Stromatoporella subvesiculosum* (Lecompte).

REFERENCES

ICZN. 1985. International Code of Zoological Nomenclature. International Trust for Zoological Nomenclature, London, 3rd ed., 338 p.

LECOMPTE, MARIUS. 1951. Les Stromatoporoïdes du Dévonien moyen et supérieur du bassin de Dinant. Institut Royal des Sciences Naturelles de Belgique, Mémoire 116:1–215, Pls. 1–35.

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ANNOUNCEMENT

1989 is the sesquicentennial of publication of *The Silurian System* by R. I. Murchison, a work which is the foundation of lower Paleozoic geology. In honor of the occasion, the British Geological Survey has issued "A catalogue of the fossils illustrated in Part II." This report of 221 pages, compiled by J. D. D. Smith, lists 463 of the 656 fossils illustrated, all that the compiler was able to trace. They are discussed in detail figure by figure on the plates, but with numerous indexes to readily find each taxon of interest. Subsequent publications on the individual species are also noted and the accompanying references are an excellent entry into the European systematic literature.

The catalogue is available from the British Geological Survey, Keyworth, Nottingham NG12 5GG, England. The cost is 12 pounds, plus 2.50 pounds postage and packing.