

THE DATA RETRIEVAL SYSTEM NAUTILOIDEA (DRSN)

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The Data Retrieval System Nautiloidea is a look-up system for students working systematically and taxonomically about fossil nautiloids based on HTML. For every taxon a data file was created that can be accessed via an index. It is not a genuine data base system. However, the pages can easily be retrieved via the Internet.

It is intended to cover the entire system of the Nautiloidea. Presently more than 10000 taxa of the species group (species, subspecies, varieties, mutations), about 1700 taxa of the genus group (genera and subgenera), and 270 taxa of the family group (incl. superfamilies, families, subfamilies, tribes and subtribes) are recorded. How many of these taxa are actually valid is still unknown considering the poor knowledge of most groups of the Nautiloidea

Each taxon of the species is treated in the following way: original binomen and author(s), present attribution, synonymies, derivation of name, types (holotype, lectotype, who designated the lectotype, ect.), material (repository of types and other material), occurrences (type locality, type horizon, other stratigraphic and geographic occurrences), original descriptions and figures, present taxonomic status, comments, contributors. Taxa of the genus group include: name of the genus and author(s), synonymy, type species (mode of type species designation), stratigraphic range and geographic occurrences, diagnosis, original descriptions, attributed species, present taxonomic status, comments, contributor(s)

The data sets of the taxa of the family group contain the following points: name of the taxon and author(s), synonymies, type genus, stratigraphic range and geographic occurrences, diagnosis, original descriptions, attributed genera, present taxonomic status, comments and contributor(s).

According to my estimates the number of taxa of the family and genus group is fairly complete (probably more than 99%), whereas the number of taxa of the species group may have reached the 90-95% level.

The DRSN is combined with the most complete bibliography that has been compiled. Papers were systematically looked through and all mentioned taxa were included in the synonymy lists. All nomenclatorial actions (e.g. type designations, corrections etc.) are included in the respective data sets. This time-consuming work often revealed nomenclatorial and systematic changes. About 200 unrecognized homonymies on species level, and about 10 unrecognized homonymies on genus level emerged. On the other hand, many preoccupied names were replaced more than once. The number of assigned species of many genera was compiled for the first time, resulting in unwildly numbers of species for some well-known genera (e.g. *Michelinoceras* contains at the moment about 160 species). The extent of many families was also compiled for the first time since the time of the „Treatise“.

At the moment, of course, most data sets of the species level are almost empty except for the names. However, the Post-Devonian nautiloids (about 2000 species, 200 genera) are covered more in detail. The taxa of the genus group and family group usually contain much more information. It is hoped that in a few years all taxa of the Nautiloidea are accessible with the above indicated details via the Internet (or CD-ROM).