

THE WORLD'S LARGEST AMMONITE *PARAPUZOSIA (P.) SEPPENRADENSIS* (LANDOIS, 1895): ONTOGENY, EVOLUTION AND PALAEOGEOGRAPHIC DISTRIBUTION

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The world's largest ammonite, *Parapuzosia (P.) seppenradensis* (Landois, 1895), fascinated the world ever since the discovery, in 1895, of a specimen of 1.74 metres (m) diameter near Seppenrade in Westfalia, Germany. Subsequent findings of the taxon have been rare, and its systematic position has remained enigmatic. We have revised the historical specimens and document abundant new material from England and Mexico, mostly with stratigraphic information. The 160 specimens from Europe and North America were analysed regarding morphometry, growth stages and stratigraphic occurrence wherever possible. High-resolution integrated stratigraphy allows for precise cross-Atlantic correlation of the occurrences. Our analysis provides insight into the ontogeny of *Parapuzosia (P.) seppenradensis* and into the evolution of this species from its potential ancestor.