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Buoyancy control and growth rates in ammonoids: new preliminary remarks about an old Red Herring.

Ammonoid preseptal cavity has been known since a long time and often interpreted as a possible tool for buoyancy control by these animals. This possibility was firmly rejected by Jacobs (1996) who considered the "cartesian diver" hypothesis as a "red herring". The present paper proposes a re-evaluation of this problem. The relationships between the shell geometry, septal spacing and growth rate of the ammonoids are also discussed herein.