GUEX Jean

Paronychoceras gen. n., un nouveau genre d'ammonites (Cephalopoda) du Lias supérieur

Paronychoceras gen. n., a new ammonites genus (Cephalopoda)

We describe a new microconch genus and two new species of *Phymatoceratinae*, *Paronychoceras* gen. n. *pseudoplanum* sp. n. and *P. costatum* sp. n. These new forms are homeomorphic of *Onychoceras*, which is the microconch of the Upper Toarcian genus *Hammatoceras*. The *Hammatoceratinae* are deriving from the *Phymatoceratinae* during an episode of high environmental stress (the Variabilis-Thouarsense NW-european marine regression) which is responsible for the extinction of four main Middle Toarcian ammonites families and subfamilies (*Mercaticeratinae*, *Dactylioceratidae*, *Hildoceratinae*, *Phymatoceratinae*). This is a new example demonstrating that major evolutionary jumps in ammonoids occur during severe extinction events, and are charaterized by the sudden appearance of simple, primitive-looking forms which are atavistic with respect to their more complex immediate ancestors (proteromorphosis).

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