PROPOSED DETERMINATION UNDER THE PLENARY POWERS OF THE INTERPRETATION OF THE NOMINAL SPECIES “TEREBRATULA LINEATA” YOUNG & BIRD, 1828 (PHYLUM BRACHIOPODA, CLASS ARTICULATA)

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The purpose of the present application is to ask the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature to give directions under its Plenary Powers that the nominal species Terebratula lineata Young & Bird, 1828 (Phylum Brachiopoda) be interpreted by reference to the neotype designated therefor by the present applicant in 1956 (Ager (D.V.), 1956 : 40).

2. The nominal species Terebratula lineata Young & Bird, 1828 (: 232, pl. vii, fig. 10) was stated in the original description to be “very common in the ironstone bands, and in the dogger” of the Jurassic rocks on the Yorkshire coast. The single specimen that was originally illustrated, and which therefore must be the holotype, cannot be found in any of the Yorkshire museums or in any of the other major collections of British Jurassic brachiopods. It is therefore presumed lost.

3. The nominal species Terebratula bidens Phillips, 1829, was proposed a year later (: 162, pl. xiii, fig. 24), though the author apparently accepted in his faunal list (op. cit. : 162) that this was in fact the same as Young & Bird’s lineata. T. bidens was described as coming from the Ironstone Series of the Yorkshire Lias, as was another species described at the same time—Terebratula triplicata Phillips, 1829 (: 162, pl. xiii, fig. 22). The latter only differs from T. bidens in the possession of an extra costa in the fold of the brachial valve. This is a trivial difference and any collection shows both variants freely associated and inseparable by other means.

4. Three names have therefore been in common usage for what appears to be almost certainly the same species. The nominal species T. lineata Young & Bird has a priority of one year over T. bidens and T. triplicata Phillips. These latter are only subjective synonyms, but the closeness of the relationship has been recognised by most authors (e.g. Davidson, 1852). The form (or forms)
concerned is very common in the Ironstone Series of the Middle Lias (spinatum Zone) on the Yorkshire coast. It is well-known and is well represented in collections, but its importance has been overlooked due to the original confusion of names and subsequent complications not relevant to the present discussion. The present author has found the form to be of stratigraphical value (Ager, 1956: 40—41).

5. The holotypes of T. bidens and T. triplicata are not now preserved in the York Museum (where they were said by Phillips to be deposited) they are not with other Phillips material at Oxford and they have not been noted elsewhere. Sherborn (1940: 107) recorded the unusual circumstances in which some of Phillips' collection was dropped into the Thames at Blackfriars Bridge, and this may have been the fate of these specimens. They may therefore be presumed lost.

6. T. lineata Young & Bird was referred to the genus Rhynchonella by Tate (1876) as were Phillips' two species by Davidson (1852). Buckman placed lineata provisionally in his new genus Rhynchonelloidea (1918: 39) and the present author has confirmed this attribution (Ager, 1956: 40).

7. Though the original figure was very poor and the description insufficient, these are enough to define the species. The specimen designated as neotype by the present author agrees with what is known of the lost holotype. It was collected personally from the thin bed of shale immediately above the basal ironstone band in the Pecten Seam (spinatum Zone) of the Yorkshire Ironstone Series, in the cliff section just south-east of Staithes. It was described and figured by the author in 1956 (Ager, 1956: 40—43, pl. iii, figs. 6 a—c). It was presented to the British Museum (Natural History) which has proper facilities for preserving type specimens and which gives research students access to its collections. The following are attached to the specimen:—

(1) Green spot.

(2) Yellow number-label BB 14882, the official registration number of the specimen.

(3) The number J 1013/1 written in indian ink, this being the writer's own number for the specimen.

8. Accompanying the specimens are the following labels:—

(2) *Rhynchonelloidea lineata* (Young & Bird). Neotype. Thin bed of shale immediately above the basal ironstone band in the *Pecten* Seam (*spinatum* Zone). Cliff section, south-east of Staithes, Yorkshire. DVA collection (J.1013/1). To be figured in monograph. BB.14882.

9. The purpose of designating a neotype in this instance was to stabilise the usage of the binomen *Rhynchonelloidea lineata* (Young & Bird) which refers to a well-known form of stratigraphical value. The specific name in question is the oldest one available.

10. The International Commission is therefore requested to use its Plenary Powers:

(1) to give directions under its Plenary Powers that the nominal species *Terebratula lineata* Young & Bird, 1828, be interpreted by reference to the specimen designated and figured as the neotype of that species by the present applicant in 1956 ( : pl. iii, figs. 6 a—c).

(2) to place the undermentioned specific name on the *Official List of Specific Names in Zoology*: *lineata* Young & Bird, 1828, as published in the combination *Terebratula lineata*, interpreted as specified in (1) above.

References:


Buckman, S. S., 1918, "The Brachiopoda of the Namjau Beds, Northern Shan States, Burma" *Palaeont. indica* (n.s.) 3 (No. 2) (1917)


Sherborn, C.D., 1940, "Where is the —— collection?" Cambridge

Tate, R., 1876, "Class Palliobranchiata" in Tate & Blake, *The Yorkshire Lias* London

Young, G. & Bird, J., 1828, *A geological survey of the Yorkshire coast*. Ed. 2, Whitby