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EMYR WILLIAMS.

DEPARTMENT OF MINES,
G.P.O. BOX 124B,
HOBART, TASMANIA.
22nd July, 1963.

THE STATUS OF THE ORDOVICIAN TRILOBITE GENERA *PRIONOCHEILUS* AND *POLYERES*

SIR,—In 1847, in papers describing the faunas of Ille-et-Vilaine and the district around Rennes, Marie Rouault created two trilobite genera, namely *Prionocheilus* and *Polyeres*. *Prionocheilus* was erected on the basis of a single species, *P. verneuili* Rouault, whilst *Polyeres* was founded similarly on *P. dufrenoyi* Rouault. Each of these is thus the type-species of the genus by monotypy. Rouault's results constituted part of a larger work and those published by him in 1847 are divided into two small papers, separated by a few lines of discussion and referred to here as Rouault, 1847*a* and 1847*b*. In the first paper the characteristic features of several trilobites, including *Prionocheilus* and *Polyeres*, were tabulated (Rouault, 1847*a*, table opp. p. 318) but as no species were mentioned these two generic names became available. The second paper again listed the two genera, but this time each was accompanied by a (type) species and briefly diagnosed. There can thus be no doubt of their validity.

Prionocheilus verneuili Rouault (1847*b*, p. 320, pl. 3, figs. 3, 3*a*) was described and illustrated from the Middle Ordovician of Poligné, Brittany. In the same year Hawle and Corda (1847, p. 88) erected the genus *Pharostoma*, founded on *Calymene pulchra* Beyrich, 1846, from the Middle Ordovician of Bohemia. That the two are congeneric is generally agreed, and it has been assumed that *Pharostoma* takes precedence over *Prionocheilus*, the differences between the two type-species having been noted by Whittard (1960, p. 137). However, in re-describing and figuring the type-material of *Prionocheilus verneuili* in "*Palaeontologia Universalis*", Bézier (1907) stated that the genus had priority over *Pharostoma*, though he gave no detailed reasons for his opinion, which has been generally overlooked. Dr. Alois Přibyl of Prague has kindly informed me (*in litt.*) that Hawle and Corda's well-known "*Prodrom einer monographie der böhmischen trilobiten*" was published late in July, 1847. The date of Rouault's 1847 paper has proved more difficult to trace owing to the fact that most copies, including that of the Société géologique de France in Paris, lack the original cover. However, the copy at the British Museum, Bloomsbury, retains the cover and Mr. S. F. Morris has confirmed that the paper was published in April, 1847, as was noted by

Clarke (1892, footnote to p. 8). It is clear, therefore, that *Prionocheilus* antedates *Pharostoma* by some three months and so must take precedence.

The type-species of *Polyeres*, *P. dufrenoyi* Rouault (1847*b*, p. 320), like that of *Prionocheilus*, was obtained from the Middle Ordovician of Poligné, but a full description and illustration have yet to be published. In spite of this, however, it has been generally known for many years that *Polyeres* is congeneric with *Selenopeltis* Hawle and Corda, 1847, type-species *Odontopleura inermis* Beyrich, 1846 [= *Odontopleura buchi* Barrande, 1846], and the two genera have been discussed by both Clarke (1892, p. 96) and Prantl and Přibyl (1949, p. 176). From a classificatory point of view, even though *Prionocheilus* and *Polyeres* must now be held to have priority over *Pharostoma* and *Selenopeltis* the subfamilial names Prionocheilinae and Polyerinae are inadmissible so long as Article 40 of the International Code of Zoological Nomenclature is in force. The systematic position of the two genera may be summarized as follows:—

Family Calymenidae Burmeister, 1843.
Subfamily Pharostomatinae Hupé, 1953.
Genus *Prionocheilus* Rouault, 1847 [= *Pharostoma* Hawle and Corda, 1847 *subj. syn.*].
Type species: *P. verneuili* Rouault, 1847 by monotypy.

Family Odontopleuridae Burmeister, 1843.
Subfamily Selenopeltinae Hawle and Corda, 1847.
Genus *Polyeres* Rouault, 1847 [= *Selenopeltis* Hawle and Corda, 1847 *subj. syn.*].
Type species: *P. dufrenoyi* Rouault, 1847 by monotypy.

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W. T. Dean.

British Museum (Natural History),
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London, S.W. 7.
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