DESCRIPTION

*Cretaceous Research* provides a forum for the rapid publication of research on all aspects of the Cretaceous Period, including its boundaries with the Jurassic and Palaeogene. Authoritative papers reporting detailed investigations of Cretaceous stratigraphy and palaeontology, studies of regional geology, and reviews of recently published books are complemented by short communications of significant new findings.

Papers submitted to *Cretaceous Research* should place the research in a broad context, with emphasis placed towards our better understanding of the Cretaceous, that are therefore of interest to the diverse, international readership of the journal. Full length papers that focus solely on a local theme or area will not be accepted for publication; authors of short communications are encouraged to discuss how their findings are of relevance to the Cretaceous on a broad scale.

Research Areas include:

- Regional geology
- Stratigraphy and palaeontology
- Palaeobiology
- Palaeobiogeography
- Palaeoceanography
- Palaeoclimatology
- Evolutionary Palaeoecology
- Geochronology
- Global events (K/Pg boundary).
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INTRODUCTION
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- Global events (K/Pg boundary)

A Full Length Article and a Short Communication are both research articles, following the same editorial process in Cretaceous Research. Both articles should have a complete set of empirical data that support the claims on the report (see comments on the Mandatory Submission of Data Sets). A Short Communication should have a maximum of 14 pages of core double-spaced manuscript text, that is, not including the abstract, references, all tables and figures (which should be limited to a maximum of 6 figures).

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In systematic sections, subgenera and higher taxonomic groupings and synonymies are set against the left-hand margin, species and accompanying figure references are indented. For example:

Superfamily: Acanthocerataceae Grossouvre, 1894
Family: Lyelliceratidae Spath, 1921
Genus Stoliczkaia Neumayr, 1875
Subgenus Stoliczkaia Neumayr, 1875
Type species. Ammonites dispar d'Orbigny, 1841, p. 142, pl. 5, figs. 1, 2, by subsequent designation of Diener, 1925, p. 179.
Stoliczkaia (Stoliczkaia) notha (Seeley, 1865) Spath, 1931
Figs. 5A, D; 6A-C
1860 Ammonites dispar d'Orbigny: Pictet and Campiche, p. 264 (pars), pl. 38, fig. 7; fig. 4.
1865 Ammonites naviculari Mantell var. nothus Seeley, p. 232. ...etc.
Description. The....
Remarks. Other....

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All fractions are written out (one-quarter, three-fifths). Use 57% (not per cent), 45°C (not degrees C), K-Ar techniques, $^{40}\text{Ar}/^{39}\text{Ar}$ ratios; spell out first, sixth etc. Greater than and less than signs (>, <) may only accompany scaled measurements (e.g., > 40%).

The age of a stratigraphic unit or the time of a geological event may be expressed as years before present. The recommended abbreviations are Ma and ka for millions and thousands of years respectively. There is no need to add "ago" or "before present". On the other hand, numbers of years without reference to the present are better indicated using the informal abbreviations my, ky or similar (e.g., myr).

Stratigraphy
Authors should follow standard procedures and general principles. System, series, stage, biozone, group, formation, member and bed should have an initial capital letter when used formally, as in Wadhurst Formation of the Hastings Group, but begin with a lower case letter in the plural form; e.g., Ashdown and Wadhurst formations. The following abbreviations and contractions may be used on figures: Gp (Group), Fm (Formation), Mbr (Member), Sst (Sandstone), Slst (Siltstone), Mdst (Mudstone), Sh (Shale), Congl (Conglomerate), and Lst (Limestone).

For stratigraphic units that contain a taxonomic name, quote both genus and species in full at first mention, as in Deshayesi forbesi Zone. Subsequently the generic name can usually be abbreviated to a single upper case letter followed by a full stop, or dropped altogether as in forbesi Zone. This is the preferred format, but Forbesi Zone is also acceptable.

There is often confusion in the literature over the use of lower, upper, early and late.

As a rule, lower/middle/upper should refer to rocks (e.g., lower Wadhurst Formation, an informal reference to a part of the Wadhurst succession; Upper Greensand Formation, a generally recognized rock unit) or chronostratigraphic (time-rock) units (e.g., lower Hauterivian strata; Upper Aptian Taft Formation of Central Iran; lower Albian of France). It is a more appropriate use when you are referring to geological material, stratigraphic position of rock units (STAGES), a particular geographic region/sedimentary basin, or to lithostratigraphic units (formations/members).

Use early/middle/late for all time (geochronological) units (AGES); hence early Cenomanian, earliest Turonian, late Maastrichtian. Statements such as "these sediments were deposited during the lower Valanginian" should be avoided; write "...during the early Valanginian" instead.

Subdivisions of Ages/Stages of the Cretaceous (i.e., late/upper Aptian, early/lower Albian, middle Albian, etc.) and Epochs/Series of the Paleogene (e.g., early/lower Paleocene, etc.) and Neogene are informal and thus should not be capitalized. See also the current official geologic time scale of the International Commission on Stratigraphy at http://www.stratigraphy.org

Capitalized words pertaining to time may, however, be used if they are applied precisely to formally defined divisions. Only the subdivision of the Cretaceous period, into two epochs, Lower/Early Cretaceous and Upper/Late Cretaceous, and of the Jurassic, into Lower, Middle and Upper, are formal, and thus should be left in upper case. The "mid-" or middle Cretaceous is informal.

The use of the informal term "Senonian" is not recommended, as it is an imprecise combination of stages; replace by "Upper Cretaceous" or "uppermost Cretaceous".

Likewise, avoid using the informal term "Neocomian", replace by "Lower Cretaceous" or "Berriasian-Hauterivian".

In addition, the use of local (informal) substage and stage names, which are not recognized internationally, should be avoided, but can be secondarily referred to in studies of local importance; adopt the current nomenclature from the International Chronostratigraphic Chart/Time Scale (please see http://www.stratigraphy.org).
Currently there is no Tertiary in the accepted geologic time scale, so its use is not valid. The recommended usage is Cretaceous-Paleogene (K/Pg) when referring to the boundary event and transition.

Do not use "sediments", which apply only to unconsolidated material. Use "deposits", "sedimentary rocks", "rocks", "strata", . Use "sediments" only in a historical sense.

For rock terms use: marlstones not marls (which are unconsolidated); the same for sandstones, mudstones, packstones, grainstones, wackstones, limestones, etc...; use always in the plural, as you do not find a single "shale", but yes "sha"

Fossil nomenclature

The mandatory provisions of, and recommendations in, the current editions of the International Code of Botanical Nomenclature and International Code of Zoological Nomenclature must be followed unless there is good reason to do otherwise, in which case this should be justified. The repository for all type and figured specimens should be indicated.

The generic name must be given in full at the first mention of a species. It may be abbreviated subsequently to the initial capital letter followed by a full stop unless confusion with another genus is likely.

The authorship of generic and specific names should be given at least once, either at first mention or preferably, if there are more than just a few, in a list of all taxa mentioned in the paper with author attributions and dates. Short lists of taxa within the text should usually be arranged alphabetically according to genus, and to the species referred to each. Depending on their purpose, longer lists may be incorporated in the body of the text as a table or consigned to an appendix, which is placed after the references. They may include hierarchical classifications if these are appropriate to the context of the paper.

Standard abbreviations of names of authors attributed to extant taxa are acceptable but all those pertaining to fossils should be spelt in full. In the case of authors with the same surname, add their initials (e.g., B.D. Tschudy, R.H. Tschudy); where initials and surnames are identical, give the distinguishing forenames (e.g., Donald E. Green; David E. Green).

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