A new genus of Nautiloidea in the Toarcian of the Iberian Peninsula (Spain and Portugal)

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The nautiloids arisen during the radiation of the Early Jurassic that followed the mass extinction of the end-Triassic are difficult to classify and to group. Historically, most of them have been assigned initially to the genus *Nautilus* and subsequently to *Cenoceras*. This genus, originally considered as a unity (e.g. Kummel, 1956), has been subsequently divided into several subgenera (e.g. Tintant, 1984). At present, a tendency to rehabilitate other genera or to describe new ones predominates among the few authors who try to classify and to group in a logical and practical system these controversial cephalopods (e.g. Chirat, 1997; Rulleau, 2008).

In this study of the nautiloids from the Toarcian of the Iberian Peninsula (Iberian Basin, Spain, and Lusitanian Basin, Portugal), we report several new observations that, after comparison with data presented by other authors in different basins, have provided new tools that can help to solve the difficult systematic attribution of these invertebrates. Specifically, we have noticed that certain small nautiloids, likely related to the radiation occurring between the early Toarcian (Serpentinum/Levisoni Zone) and the early Aalenian, after the biotic crisis characterising the end of the Tenuicostatum/Polymorphum Zone, are relatively abundant in the geological record and may constitute a taxonomic group.

A new genus of remarkably small and involute nautiloids is described here. It shows retrogressive suture lines and is recorded mainly in the middle and upper Toarcian. New specimens from the Iberian Peninsula, belonging to the taxa *Nautilus fourneti* (selected as type species), *N. inornatus*, *N. anomphalus*, *N. jurensis* and, with doubts, *Cenoceras globulus*, have been collected, described and assigned to this new systematic group. Although some of these species have already been cited in the literature, *N. fourneti*, *N. jurensis* and *C. globulus* have never been previously clearly described or illustrated, and their stratigraphic distribution has not been determined accurately for this geographical region of south-western Europe.

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