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## Short note

***Schlueterella stinnesbecki* n. sp. (Ammonoidea, Diplomoceratidae) from the Turonian–Coniacian of northeastern Mexico**

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**Christina Ifrim***Christina.Ifrim@geow.uni-heidelberg.de*Institut für Geowissenschaften, Universität  
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Heidelberg, Germany.**ABSTRACT**

A new species of the genus *Schlueterella* Wiedmann, 1962 is here described. Twenty specimens of this heteromorph ammonoid were collected in northern Coahuila, Mexico. *Schlueterella stinnesbecki* n. sp. seems to have been an endemic form in the late Turonian–early Coniacian. This is the oldest definite record of the genus and a basal form in its evolution away from *Neocrioceras*.

**Keywords:** Ammonoid, Cretaceous, Turonian, Coniacian, Mexico, endemic.

**RESUMEN**

Se describe una nueva especie del género *Schlueterella* Wiedmann, 1962. Los veinte ejemplares de este ammonoideo heteromorfo fueron colectados en el norte de Coahuila, México. Parece que *Schlueterella stinnesbecki* n. sp. fue una especie endémica en el Turoniano tardío–Coniaciano temprano. Con total certeza se trata del registro más antiguo de este género y una forma básica en su evolución desde *Neocrioceras*.

**Palabras clave:** Ammonoideo, Cretácico, Turoniano, Coniaciano, México, endémico.

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## 1. Introduction

*Schlueterella* Wiedmann, 1962 is a little known genus, the affinities of which are still debatable. The specimens described here were discovered in northeastern Mexico in the years 2002–2006 and 2018. They originated from two quarries in the quarry area of the municipality of Múzquiz, northwest Coahuila. The Rosario section (R, 28°52.586'N, 102°24.222'W, Figure 1) comprises the Turonian–Coniacian boundary from the *Mytiloides scupini* Zone to the upper *Cremnoceramus crassus inconstans* Zone (Stinnesbeck *et al.*, 2005; Ifrim *et al.*, 2014), whereas the Carranza section (CA, 29°10.775'N, 102°27.193'W, Figure 1) is much shorter and comprises only the middle part of the lower Coniacian *Cremnoceramus crassus inconstans* Zone (Ifrim *et al.*, 2011). In both quarries, *Schlueterella stinnesbecki* n. sp. is a common species.

## 2. Systematic Paleontology

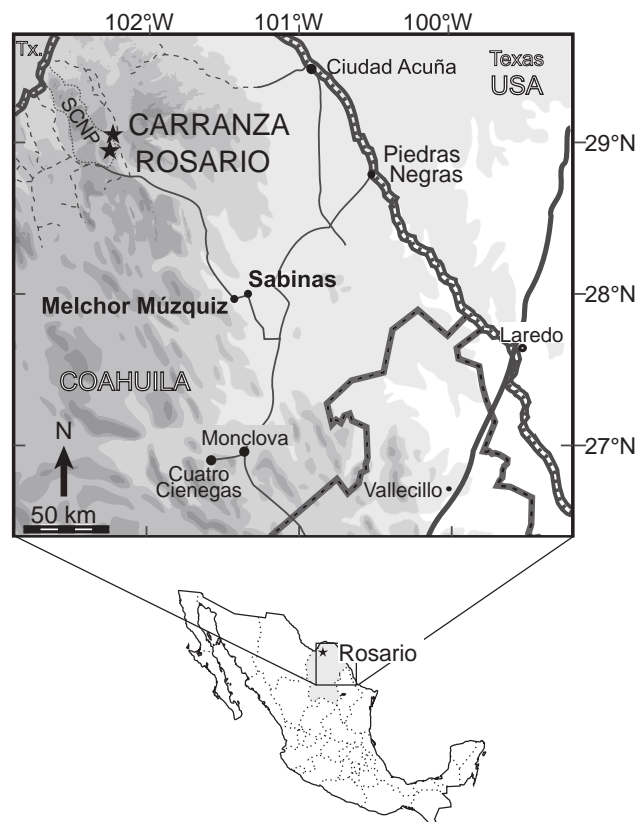
Higher systematics follows Wright *et al.* (1996) except for the subfamily and genus for reasons discussed below. Terminology for tubercles, nodes, and spines follows Ifrim *et al.* (2018).

Repository is the Paleontological Collection (Colección de Paleontología, CPC), housed in the Desert Museum (Museo del Desierto), Saltillo, Coahuila. For lithostratigraphy see Stinnesbeck *et al.* (2005). For the Rosario section see Ifrim *et al.* (2014). For the Carranza section and its correlation see Nyborg *et al.* (2014) and Ifrim *et al.* (2011). Further abbreviations are D: diameter, WH: whorl height, WI: Distance between whorl at D and previous whorl, U: umbilicus.

Suborder Ancyloceratina Wiedmann, 1966  
 Superfamily Turrilitoidea Gill, 1871  
 Family Diplomoceratidae Spath, 1926  
 Subfamily Diplomoceratinae Spath, 1926  
 Genus *Schlueterella* Wiedmann, 1962

**Type species.** *Ancyloceras pseudoarmatum* Schlüter, 1872 by original designation of Wiedmann (1962, p. 205). The genus is characterized by an open

coil, tubercles from simple or double ribs always on the primaries, if not all ribs bear tubercles. Originally, *Schlueterella* was introduced as subgenus of *Neocrioceras* by Wiedmann (1962). The type species of *Neocrioceras* is *Crioceras spinigerum* Jimbo, 1894, (pl. 8, figure 1) *sensu* Diener, 1925, (p. 192). *Neocrioceras* was erected by Spath (1921) on the basis of a juvenile whorl of *Crioceras spinigerum* Jimbo, 1894 (= *Schlueterella compressa sensu* Klinger, 1976). An emended description of this species was given by Diener (1925). In *Neocrioceras*, juvenile whorls are moderately helicoid, later more or less crioconic with circular to depressed section, dense straight to prorsiradiate ribs, some with lateral tubercles and ventrolateral tubercles or nodes, the latter opposite or alternating on venter. According to Wiedmann (1962), *Schlueterella* differs from *Neocrioceras* in having corresponding instead of alternating ribs and in having more complex instead of simple ribbing.



**Figure 1** Map of Mexico with the state of Coahuila in gray (below), and zoom on northern Coahuila with location of the Rosario and Carranza quarries (above).

Wright *et al.* (1996) placed the subgenus *Schlueterella* under the genus *Pseudoxybeloceras*, a view rejected here based on the overall morphology of more complete specimens that show a coiling pattern that matches *Neocrioceras*, and because *Schlueterella* is interpreted here to have evolved from *Neocrioceras*. It may be justified to place some fragmented specimens with straight shafts in the genus *Pseudoxybeloceras*.

The specimens described here match the original definition of *Schlueterella* of Wiedmann (1962). In addition, they have a crioconic shell, but with small portions of straighter coiling, but lacking straight shafts as in the *Polyptochoceratinae*. Matsumoto and Miyauchi (1984) raised *Schlueterella* to genus level, a view followed by Klinger *et al.* (2007) and Summesberger *et al.* (2017), among others. This genus is further interpreted here to have evolved from *Neocrioceras* and thus included into the subfamily Diplomoceratinae.

*Schlueterella stinnesbecki* n. sp.

Figure 2.1–2.12, Figure 3.1–3.5, Figure 4

2005 ? *Neocrioceras* sp.; Stinnesbeck *et al.*, fig. 8f

2007 ? *Neocrioceras* sp.; Ifrim *et al.*, fig. 6d

**Diagnosis.** Crioconic, in the juvenile stage moderately helicoid shell with up to 38 rursiradiate, simple primary ribs per whorl bearing lateral tubercles and ventrolateral nodes or spines without looping, intercalated regularly by one simple, parallel secondary rib in the juvenile stage and to four in the adult stage. The transition from juvenile to adult ornament is either at D around 50 or around 100 mm, indicative of size dimorphism.

**Etymology.** This species is named in honor of Wolfgang Stinnesbeck for his extensive paleontological work in Latin America since 1990, including a series of pioneer projects in northeastern Mexico.

**Description.** Juvenile shell is crioconic to moderately helicoid and slightly irregular (Figure 2), adult crioconic (e.g., Figure 3.5). Juvenile whorls are delicate with a WH/D of 0.13 to 0.25, at D > 90 mm more stout and regular with a WH/D

of 0.25 to 0.30 (Figure 4). Irregular coiling causes variation in WI/D between 0.09 and 0.21 in juvenile whorl and decreases to 0.06 to 0.16 at D > 90 mm. U/D decreases slightly from 0.58–0.73 at small D to 0.53–0.63 at D > 90 mm.

Ornament consists of up to 38 primary ribs per whorl which are straight to prorsiradiate near the dorsum and flex back umbilicolaterally in a wide arch to become rursiradiate towards the venter. They bear tubercles on midflank and ventrolateral nodes or spines. Primary ribs are closer in the juvenile stage, and one to two simple secondaries are intercalated. This number increases to 2–4 simple secondaries at D between 50 and 100 mm, their number increasing with growth. They parallel the primaries. Suture not preserved.

**Types.** The holotype is CPC-990 (Figure 3.5, also figured in Stinnesbeck *et al.*, 2005, Figure 8f) from an unknown bed in the Yellow Member of the Rosario quarry. Paratypes are CPC-853, CPC-914 to -927 and CPC-989 from the from the uppermost Turonian (*Cremnoceramus waltersdorfensis* W. Zone) to lower Coniacian (*C. crassus inconstans* Zone), i.e., the upper Gray Member and the Yellow Member of the Rosario quarry, and the Yellow Member in the Carranza quarry.

**Dimensions.** See Table 1.

**Occurrence.** *Schlueterella stinnesbecki* sp. nov. is only known from northwest Coahuila. It was recorded from the uppermost Turonian (*waltersdorfensis* Zone) to lower Coniacian (*inconstans* Zone), beds R24–R42 of the Gray and Yellow members of the Rosario quarry and beds CA1 to CA6 of the Carranza quarry (compare Ifrim *et al.*, 2011, with Ifrim *et al.*, 2014 for correlation).

**Discussion.** Wiedmann (1962) differentiated two groups within *Schlueterella*. The group around *Sch. pseudoarmatum* (Schlüter, 1872) bears four rows of tubercles on primary double ribs, whereas the group around *Sch. kossmati* (Simionescu, 1899) bears tubercles on simple primaries, or all ribs bear tubercles. The specimens described here clearly belong to the group around *Sch. pseudoarmatum* (Schlüter, 1872). This type species from the upper Campanian of Spain differs from *Sch. stinnesbecki* n.



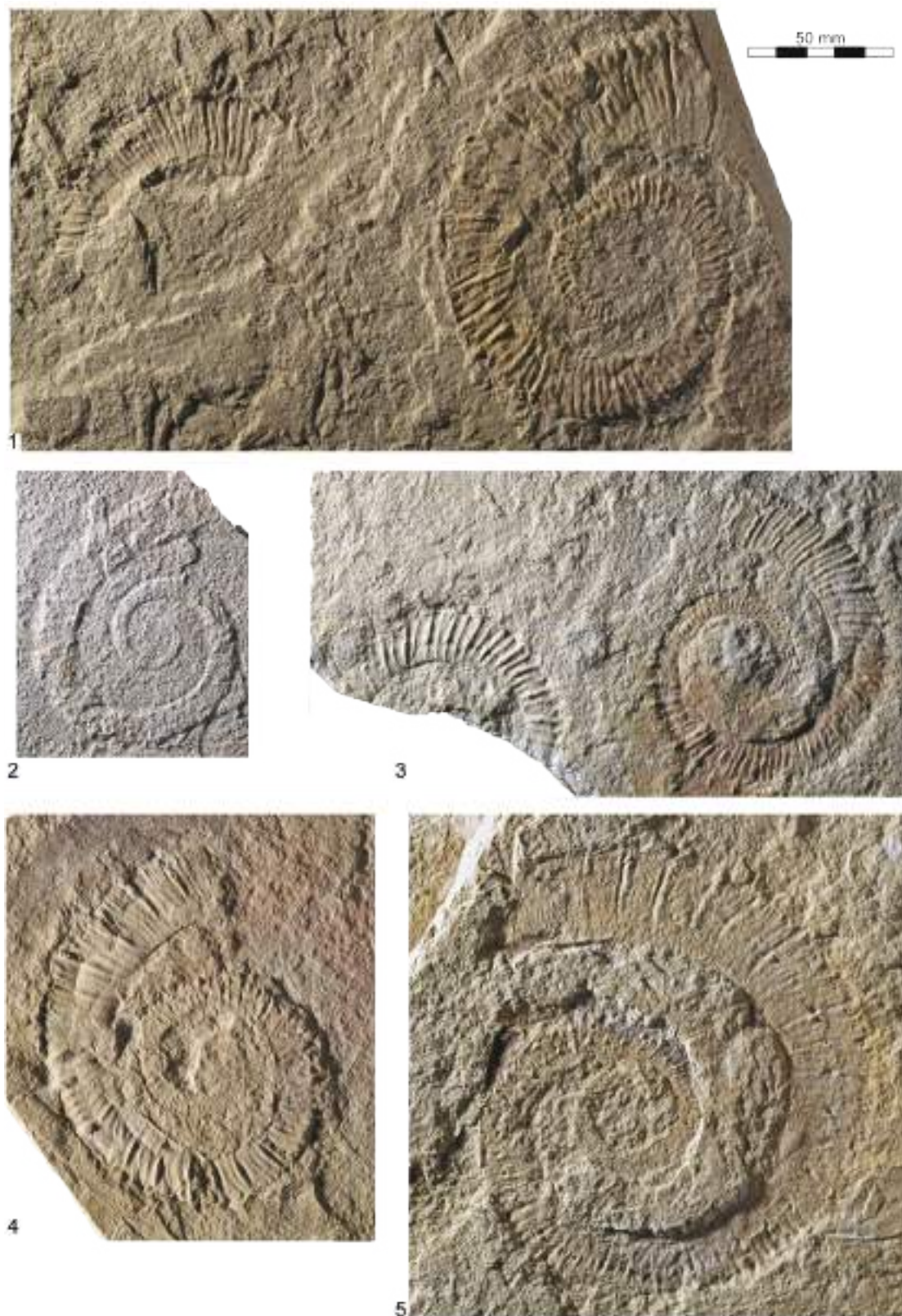
sp. by bearing nodes on all ribs and by a straight shaft at a WH of 245 mm.

*Sch. tenuiannulatum* Collignon, 1969 from the lower Campanian of Madagascar differs in having much finer ribs at WH around 18 mm. *Sch. denseornatum* Collignon, 1969 from the lower Campanian of Madagascar is has a straight shaft at WH around 13 mm and also has much finer ribs than the material presented here.

*Sch. paderbornense* (Schlüter, 1872) from the lower Coniacian of Germany differs from *Sch. stinnesbecki* n. sp. in irregular ribbing and in secondaries which efface on the flank, whereas they cross the dorsum in the forms from Mexico. The specimens described here are closest to *Sch. compressus* Klinger, 1976 from the middle Coniacian to basal Campanian of South Africa, Madagascar, central and western Europe, Wyoming, California, and Japan



**Figure 2** *Schlueteria stinnesbecki* sp. nov. from Rosario (R) and Carranza (CA) in northern Coahuila. 1: CPC-853, R, Yellow Member; 2: CPC-914, R40-42; 3: CPC-915, R39-41; 4: CPC-916, R40-42; 5: CPC-917, CA4-5; 6: CPC-918, CA, Yellow Member; 7: CPC-919, R40-42; 8: CPC-920, CA, Yellow Member; 9: CPC-921; 10: CPC-922, 11: CPC-923, 12: CPC-924, 9-12: R, Yellow Member. Scale: 50 mm.



**Figure 3** *Schlueterella stinnesbecki* ssp. nov. from the Yellow Member of Rosario (R) and Carranza (CA) in northern Coahuila. 1: CPC-925, R; 2: CPC-927, CA; 3: CPC-989, R; 4: CPC-926, CA; 5: holotype, CPC-990, R. Scale: 50 mm.



(e.g., Klinger and Kennedy, 2003), but this species has maximum 2–3 secondaries between the primary looped ribs, up to three ribs are joined by tubercles, in some specimens tuberculate and non-tuberculate ribs are equally sized. Tubercles are situated on the dorsal third of the flank (Kennedy and Cobban, 1991) instead on mid-flank. In addition, straight sections are absent in the shell of *Sch. stinnesbecki* n. sp., but it has substraight parts. *Schlueterella* sp. from the middle to upper Coniacian of Wyoming (Kennedy and Cobban, 1991) has broad swelling with up to three looped ribs joining at nodes, and up to six intercalated secondaries. In *Sch.* sp. and *N. (Sch.) compressus* Klinger, 1976, the presence of ventrolateral nodes indicate formation of spines (compare Ifrim *et al.*, 2018). Both species may have evolved from *Sch. stinnesbecki* n. sp. *Neocrioceras undulosum* Matsumoto, 1977 from the middle? Turonian of Japan has a comparable

irregular coiling, ribs and nodes at a D of 40 mm but has fine weak riblets on the ribs and interspaces instead of secondaries. It also bears similarities with *Hyphantoceras* and *Madagascarites*, and its generic assignation remains unclear (Matsumoto, 1977; Wiese, 2000).

In *Schlueterella* cf. *maderi* Immel, Klinger & Wiedmann, 1982, all ribs loop between tubercles. *Sch. spinigerum* (Jimbo, 1894) from the Santonian of Japan is more robust and more densely coiled with a higher WH/D and a lower WI/D.

In the specimens described here, the change from the irregularly coiled, more coarsely ornamented juvenile growth stage to the regularly coiled, more delicately ornamented adult growth stage is either at a D around 50 mm or D around 100 mm. This may indicate size dimorphism. It is not noted in the morphometric data (Figure 4) and only visible in the ornamentation.

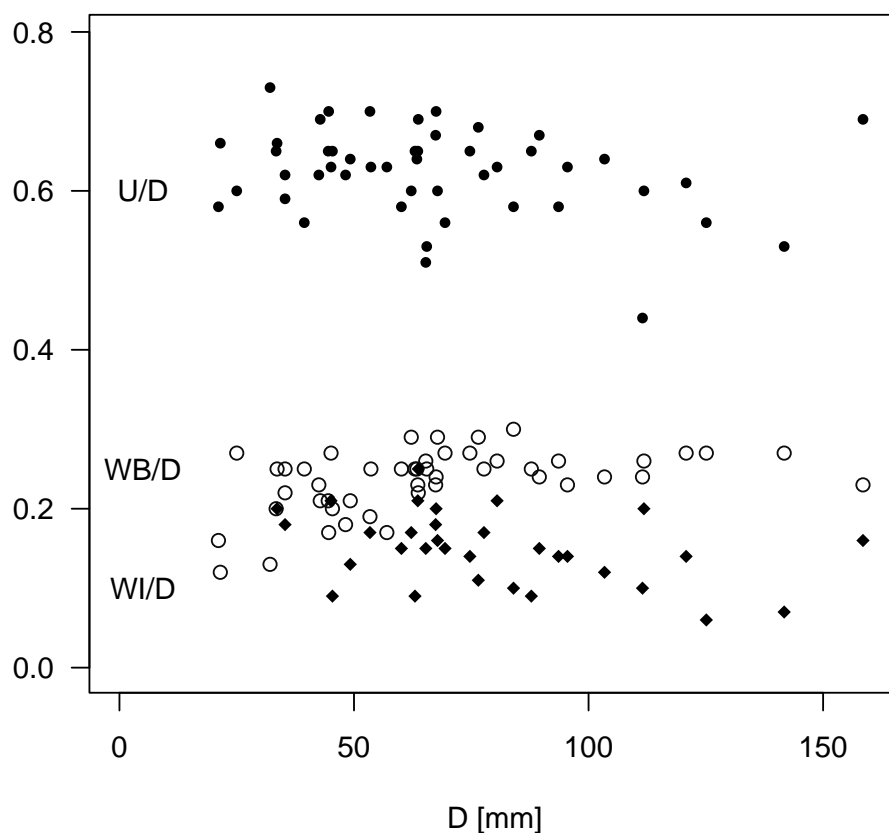


Figure 4 Morphometric relationships of *Schlueterella stinnesbecki* n. sp. during ontogenesis.

Table 1. Morphometry of *n. sp.*

Collection Number	D	WH	WI	U	micro- (m) or macroconch (M)	origination
CPC-921	63.4	15.7 (0.25)	-	40.5 (0.64)	m	R
CPC-915	67.5	15.9 (0.24)	13.2 (0.20)	47.2 (0.7)	m	R39-41
CPC-917	67.8	19.4 (0.29)	10.6 (0.16)	40.7 (0.6)	m	CA4-5
CPC-922	76.5	22 (0.29)	8.5 (0.11)	52.1 (0.68)	m	R
CPC-927	89.5	21.3 (0.24)	13.1 (0.15)	60.3 (0.67)	m	CA
CPC-923	95.5	22 (0.23)	13.2 (0.14)	60.3 (0.63)	m	R
CPC-989 (complete)	103.4	24.5 (0.24)	12.9 (0.12)	65.9 (0.64)	m	R
CPC-926	120.8	32.2 (0.27)	16.6 (0.14)	73.5 (0.61)	M	CA
CPC-924	125.1	33.5 (0.27)	7.6 (0.06)	69.9 (0.56)	M	R
CPC-925 (complete)	141.7	38.4 (0.27)	9.9 (0.07)	74.9 (0.53)	M	R
CPC-990 (holotype)	158.5	36.5 (0.23)	24.8 (0.16)	109.1 (0.69)	M	R

### 3. Conclusions

The record of *Schlueterella stinnesbecki* n. sp. described here is one of the oldest records of the genus. Bed R24 in the Rosario quarry falls into the uppermost Turonian, whereas *N. paderbornense* is lower Coniacian (Wiese, 2000), and the taxonomic position of *Neocrioceras undulosum* Matsumoto, 1977 from the middle? Turonian of Japan seems transitional. All other records are younger.

The size dimorphism suggested here has not been recognized before, mostly due to findings and descriptions of isolated and/or incomplete specimens elsewhere.

Ornamentation in *Schlueterella stinnesbecki* n. sp. is simple compared to later forms which show an increased differentiation in tuberculation and ribbing, i.e. towards finer ribbing, effacing secondaries or increasing number of secondaries. In addition, the substraight parts of some shells show a transition to later species of *Schlueterella* which have straight parts in their shell. *Schlueterella stinnesbecki* n. sp. is thus considered a basal form in the evolution of this genus.

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