

Short communication

Corrections to the type designation of the genus *Sublepidodendron* (Nathorst) Hirmer 1927

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Received 25 July 2007; received in revised form 31 October 2007; accepted 13 November 2007
Available online 4 December 2007

Keywords: lectotype; *Sublepidodendron* (Nathorst) Hirmer 1927; type designation

Wang et al. (2003) revised the genus *Sublepidodendron* (Nathorst) Hirmer 1927 in the *Review of Palaeobotany and Palynology*, and the holotype, lectotype and paratype were designated for *Sublepidodendron mirabile* (Nathorst) Hirmer 1927, the type of the genus *Sublepidodendron*. Recently, when I was working on the Chinese Virtual Paleobotanic Museum (CVPM) project (vide, www.chinaplant.org/main/modules.php?name=Work_fossil), I realized that these type designations were incorrect and need to be corrected in time.

Wang et al. (2003: 298) claimed that all the figures of *Lepidodendron mirabile* Nathorst 1920 were the holotype [i.e., Nathorst's (1920) plate 3, figs. 11a, 12a & plate 4, figs. 1–14]. According to Art. 9.1 and 9.4 of the *International Code of Botanical Nomenclature* (Vienna Code) (McNeill et al., 2006), the holotype claimed by Wang et al. (2003: 298) is in fact a syntype because Nathorst (1920) did not designate a holotype in the protologue. The specimens indicated as paratypes [i.e., PB7491 and PB7490. Wu and Zhao's (1981) plate 1, figs. 1, 2] by Wang et al. (2003: 299) are not types, because they are not part of Nathorst's (1920) original suite of specimens, but they were collected from Gaozi Town, Jurong County, Jiangsu Province, PR China. The lectotype was designated by Wang et al. (2003: 298), thereby referring to a figure [i.e., Nathorst's plate 4, fig. 12], because Nathorst's (1920) original specimens were not officially numbered at that time. According to Art. 8.5 and 9.13 of the *ICBN* (McNeill

et al., 2006), the lectotype of a specific name of fossil plants should be the specimen on which the validating illustrations are based. The electronic registration system of the palaeobotanical collections at the Swedish Museum of Natural History is currently being developed, and the lectotype designated by Wang et al. (2003) has been given an official collection number. Therefore, the following correction is necessary:

Sublepidodendron (Nathorst) Hirmer 1927

Type: *Sublepidodendron mirabile* (Nathorst) Hirmer 1927

Sublepidodendron mirabile (Nathorst) Hirmer 1927

Lectotype: The specimen figured by Nathorst's (1920) plate 4, fig. 12 under the name *Lepidodendron mirabile*; this specimen is refigured here on Fig. 1A–C.

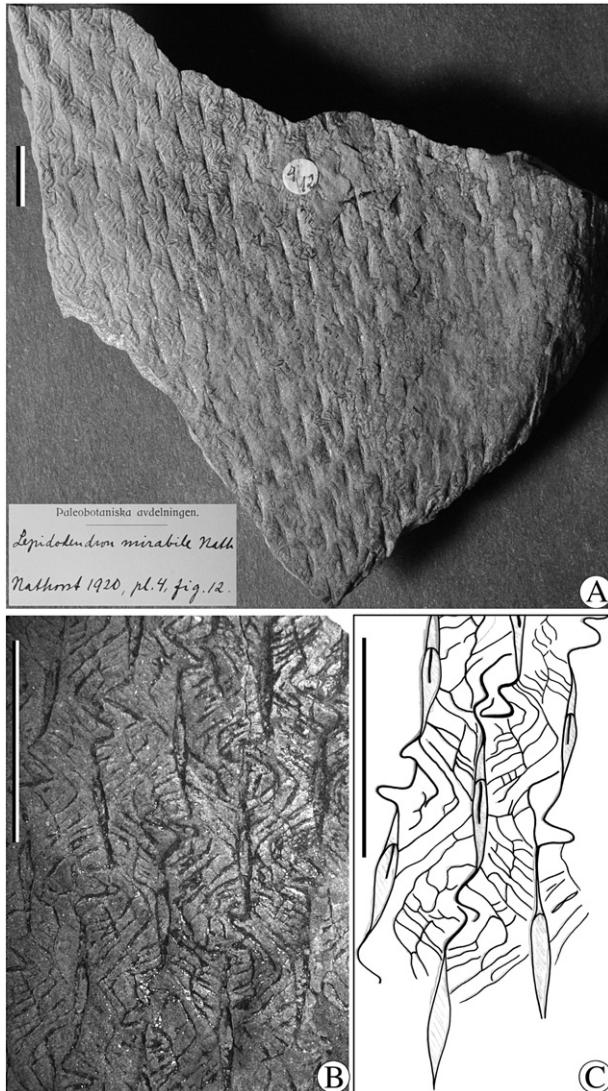
Repository: The lectotype is stored in the Palaeobotanical Collection of the Swedish Museum of Natural History, Collection number S116527.

Locus typicus: North bank of the Bellsund Bay, Camp Miller Mountain, Spitsbergen.

Stratum typicum: Culm (Lower Carboniferous).

Acknowledgements

I thank Prof. Hans Kerp, Westfälische Wilhelms-Universität and Prof. John McNeill, Royal Botanic Garden, Edinburgh, for helpful suggestions and Dr. Thomas Denk, Curator of Palaeobotany at the Swedish Museum of Natural History, for access to Nathorst's original specimens and the linguistic assistance in German. The study was supported by the National



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Fig. 1. The lectotype of the genus *Sublepidodendron* (Nathorst) Hirmer 1927. Scale bars=1 cm. A. Lectotype: S116527, deposited at the Swedish Museum of Natural History (S); B. Partial enlargement of the upper left part of the lectotype S116527; C. An illustration of the leaf cushions from the upper left part of the lectotype S116527, showing the main diagnostic characters of the genus *Sublepidodendron* (for a detailed description see Wang et al., 2003: 296, fig. 6).

Natural Science Foundation of China, Project for Young Scientists' fund (no. 40402001) and the Chinese Virtual Paleobotanic Museum (CVPM) project (no. 0266116F) to WQ.