

New insights on the genus *Prolyelliceras* SPATH, 1930 and the identity of *Acanthoceras gevreyi* JACOB, 1907 (Cephalopoda, Ammonitina)

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With 3 figures

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Abstract: *Acanthoceras gevreyi* JACOB, 1907 originates from a condensed Albian horizon at La Perte du Rhône, Bellegarde (Ain, France). This species is still very poorly known and its taxonomic interpretation in the literature is most often erroneous. New and abundant material from SE France, North Africa and South America allows the revision of this taxon and shows that *Lyelliceras flandrini* DUBOURDIEU, 1953, is one of its minor subjective synonyms. As a consequence the systematic position, stratigraphic range and palaeobiogeographic distribution of *Acanthoceras gevreyi* JACOB are discussed. *Prolyelliceratidae* fam. nov. is proposed.

Key words: Ammonoidea, Cretaceous, Albian, taxonomy, revision.

1. Introduction

This contribution originates from the examination of the type material of *Acanthoceras gevreyi* JACOB, 1907 (p. 37) as a contribution of the forthcoming revision of the genus *Prolyelliceras* SPATH, 1930. A search through the collections of the Institut Dolomieu (Grenoble), the Museum of Natural History (Geneva) and the University Claude Bernard (Lyon) revealed a series of ammonites from the south-east of France that is clearly referable to the poorly known *Prolyelliceras gevreyi* (JACOB, 1907).

Recent investigations in central Tunisia (JAILLARD et al. 2005; LATIL 2005), allow a revision of both *Acanthoceras gevreyi* JACOB, 1907 and *Lyelliceras flandrini* DUBOURDIEU, 1953, on the basis of new and abundant material. The study of these ammonites, which were commonly referred by authors to the

genus *Lyelliceras* SPATH, 1922, confirms the hypothesis of homoeomorphy of the genera *Lyelliceras* and *Prolyelliceras* (LATIL 1995; LATIL & DOMMERGUES 1997).

Moreover, recent field data (KENNEDY et al. 2000; LATIL 2005) allow to precise the age of these faunas. New material from Peru described by ROBERT (2002) allows a better understanding of the genus *Prolyelliceras*.

2. Origin and age of the material studied

South Eastern France and Austria. – The material from SE France originates mainly from historic collections now stored at the Institut Dolomieu of the University of Grenoble. The best preserved specimens are from the Lower Albian condensed levels of the Vercors Plateau (BREI-