

Abstract

The post-Triassic Nautiloidea are not as popular theme within fossils cephalopods research as for example ammonites. They are not very abundant in the fossil records except some rare localities and areas, their morphology is quite conservative and due to the usually poor preservation, their determination and assigning to the species even to genera level is often complicated. Exceptional are taxa with very specific morphology and short stratigraphic and endemic occurrence, which are even suitable for biostratigraphic interpretations. Problematic is also the often poor taxonomical representation of the type material and revision of many taxa is needed. Still nautilids are often represented by reasonable amount in the paleontological collections of natural history museums due to the long history of fossils collecting. Also the scientific literature has been dedicating at least some space to this group since 19 century. The aim of this study is to create an overview about the post-Triassic, especially Upper Cretaceous nautiloidea in the European region of epicontinental seas and prepare a good basement for extensive study of this group. Due to this aim the study is primarily focused on determination of morphological features and also problematic with their interpretation according to the variable preservation of the specimens. The study is also focusing on the early and late ontogeny and the morphological changes in embryonic and especially the final stage of ontogeny with comparison within living nautilus. Part of the systematic chapter is an overview of actual status of the taxonomy of Upper Cretaceous nautilids in the European region, with detailed and emended diagnoses of all genera, an up-to-date list of species and an existing type material. Type specimens and morphological representative material is displayed on numerous photographic plates. The study is supplemented with mostly published results in a form of scientific papers, focused on taxonomical revisions of selected genera and species, ontogeny, taphonomy, paleogeography, paleoecology and other problematic related to this group. Other results of this study are introduced by the currently largest database of Upper Cretaceous nautilids specimens from European on other collections. The database includes mostly material from European region with significant amount of type and figured specimens. Another result is a web page with taxonomic and bibliographic modules which creates dynamical overview within the published literature and Upper Cretaceous Nautilids taxa and the related problematic. Both of those results are designed to be very effective, innovative and useful

tools (also applicable to other groups) and together with the scientific results from this study, they support and streamline the future study of this group of cephalopods.