

***Globigerinita iota* Parker, 1962, and the validity of  
*Tenuitellita* Li, 1987 (Foraminiferida)**

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**ABSTRACT**—*Tenuitellita* Li, 1987 (type species *Globigerinita iota* Parker, 1962) is a validly established genus, despite the fact that the same type species has been selected for another previously proposed genus. The earlier proposed genus, *Parkerina* Fordham, 1986, is invalid as it does not conform to the Articles of the International Code of Zoological Nomenclature, and thus cannot compete on the Principle of Priority.

Li, 1987, presented an elegant study on the planktic foraminiferal *Tenuitella* plexus. In this work he proposed new three genera, the late Eocene *Praetenuitella* (type species *P. praegemma* n.sp.); the Eo-/Oligocene–Holocene *Tenuitellinata* (type species *Globigerina angustiumbilitata* Bolli, 1957), and the Quaternary *Tenuitellita* (type species *Globigerinita iota* Parker, 1962).

*Globigerinita iota* Parker, 1962, is a small trochospiral planktic species characterised by a microperforate, pustulate wall with an anteriointraumbilical-extraumbilical aperture covered by an umbilical bulla (apertural terminology after Li, 1987).

The distinctive morpho-character of this species led Li, 1987, to designate it as the type for his new genus *Tenuitellita*. The same species had, however, been previously selected by Fordham, 1986, as the type species for his proposed genus *Parkerina*, which he documented from Central and South Pacific Neogene and Quaternary sediments.

The fact that both of these genera have the same type species plus the chronology of the proposal dates could lead to the conclusion that *Tenuitellita* Li, 1987, is a junior objective synonym of *Parkerina* Fordham, 1986. Such a conclusion would be in error however, because *Parkerina* was not established in accordance with the Articles of the International Code of Zoological Nomenclature (ICZN, 1985).

Loeblich & Tappan, 1988, noted that *Parkerina* Fordham, 1986, is an unavailable generic name because it lacks a description, ICZN Art. 13(a)(i). This is a simplistic statement however, and the situation is more complex than indicated by Loeblich & Tappan, 1988, as it involves monotypy plus interpretation of the combined description of a new genus and new species provision of Art. 13(c).

Fordham (1986) adopted both a cladophylytic as well as a strictly cladistic approach to his taxonomy and

nomenclature. This resulted in a unique monograph (Banner, 1987), with separate yet inter-related classification frame-works which led to a complex systematic scheme with many nomenclatorial and taxonomic problems. Fordham, 1986, proposed eight new genera, one of which has been renamed due to preoccupation (Fordham, 1988). Loeblich & Tappan, 1988, regarded the proposed new genera as invalid because none of them satisfied the requirement of Art. 13(a)(i) insofar that they all lacked a description or differentiating definition. In fact, all the cladogroups proposed by Fordham (1986) were dismissed by Loeblich & Tappan (1988) as taxonomic categories not recognised by the ICZN.

The genus *Parkerina* was mentioned on three pages (p. 66, 67, 172), listed in six tables (4a, 5–8, 10), on one Text-Figure (2b), and on one plate explanation (p. 185), in the monograph (Fordham, 1986). In all cases *Globigerinita iota* Parker, 1962, was the only form assigned to the genus. Thus, *Parkerina* is a monotypic genus, as noted by Fordham (1986, table 10, p. 56). [*Globigerinita iota* was also referred to the genus *Tinophodella* in Table 3a (p. 21), in what is believed to be an oversight by Fordham, 1986].

While a description was not presented for the genus *Parkerina* thus negating its validity under Art. 13(a)(i), a cladistic statement of differentiating characters purporting to distinguish *Parkerina iota* (Parker) from *Candeina insueta* phenon *incrusta* (Akers) and *Turborotalita detrita* (Terquem), both sensu Fordham (1986), was presented on pages 66 and 67 of the monograph. Since *Parkerina* is monotypic, an argument may be made that such a listing of distinguishing morpho-characters for the type-species could satisfy the requirements of Art. 13(c), and thus validate the genus. It has to be borne in mind however, that *Globigerinita iota* is not presented as a new species but is acknowledged as a taxon established by Parker in 1962. If the

monotypic type-species had been proposed as a new taxon, the requirements of Art. 13(c) would have been met and the genus validated, but, *Globigerinita iota* Parker, 1962, cannot be used to validate the proposed genus under the combined description of new genus and new species category as detailed in Art. 13(c).

*Parkerina*, a monotypic genus, proposed without an explicit description, Art. 13(a)(i), and not meeting the requirements of Art. 13(c), cannot compete on the Principle of Priority, ICZN Art.23, as the name *Parkerina* Fordham, 1986 is invalid, ICZN Art. 23(a). *Tenuitellita* Li, 1987, while not specifically proposed as replacement name for *Parkerina*, does, in effect, satisfy the provision of ICZN Art. 23(e), and consequently attains validity and nullifies any objective synonymy with *Parkerina* based on *Globigerinita iota* Parker, 1962.

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