

INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION ON ZOOLOGICAL
NOMENCLATURE

SIR,—Required six-months' notice is given on the possible use of plenary powers by the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature in connection with the following names, listed by Case Number (see, *Bull. zool. Nomencl.*, 24, pt. 1, 6th March, 1967):

1390. Validation of *Bugula* and *Scruparia* from Oken, 1815 (Polyzoa).
 1689. Grant of availability for certain "section" names of de Saussure (Hymenoptera).
 1692. Suppression of *Strix capensis* Daudin, 1800 (Aves).
 1772. Validation of *Ophiura* Lamarck, 1801; suppression of ten specific names (Ophiuroidea).
 1776. Neotype for *Gorgonia flabelliforme* Eichwald, 1840 (Graptolithina).
 1777. Suppression of *Voluta citrina*, *V. strigosa*, and *V. leucostoma* Gmelin, 1791 (Gastropoda).
 1779. Validation of *Dicerorhinus* Gloger, 1841 (Mammalia).
 1783. Validation of *Tetrameres* Creplin, 1846 (Nematoda).
 1784. Validation of *Sterna tschegrava* Lepechin and *Motacilla pleschenka* Lepechin, "1770" (Aves).
 1785. Validation of emendation to *Polyxenus* of *Pollyxenus* Latreille, [1802–1803] (Diplopoda).

Comments should be sent in duplicate, citing Case Number, to the Secretary, International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature, c/o British Museum (Natural History), Cromwell Road, London, S.W.7, England. Those received early enough will be published in the *Bulletin of Zoological Nomenclature*.

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February, 1967.

AN IMPROVED TRANSFER TECHNIQUE FOR THE PREPARATION
AND PRESERVATION OF PYRITIZED GRAPTOLITES

SIR,—Polyester resins have long been used to mount fossils of many groups, and the special application of this method to pyritized graptolites preserved in black shale has proved very successful. Pyritized graptolites, although infinitely more valuable than flattened specimens, present several difficulties. Study is facilitated if the specimen can be removed, even partially, from the matrix, but long term preservation is difficult since on exposure to the atmosphere the pyrite decomposes, a process which often begins within a few years of collection.

The normal method of removing the rock matrix is to adfix the specimen with Canada Balsam face downwards to a glass slide, and, whilst protecting the slide with wax, the rock is removed with hydrofluoric acid. The specimen can then be studied in two views (either obverse and reverse, or dorsal and ventral). Some degree of protection can be afforded the specimen by putting on a further coat of Canada Balsam. Similarly, if the specimen is to be left in the rock matrix it can be covered with a thin layer of either Canada Balsam, or Euparal gum (with or without a glass slide), but both these protecting media have the disadvantage of deterioration with age (discoloration, drying and cracking) and need fairly regular attention.

The embedding technique outlined below, in addition to making the specimen visible in all aspects, removes the rock matrix, obviates the need for glass slides, and protects the specimen completely both from moist air and normal wear and tear.

The first step is to trim the rock to within half an inch of the graptolite on all sides, preferably making the walls of the resultant block approximately