LOST AND FOUND: REDISCOVERY OF DE RYCKHOLT'S COLLECTION OF CRETACEOUS MOLLUSCA (BELGIUM AND N. FRANCE)

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De Ryckholt's publications rank among the first monographs dedicated to Cretaceous invertebrate faunas from Western Europe and need to be thoroughly re-evaluated. But, until now, the revision of his systematic studies was impossible because large parts of the described and/or illustrated material were considered lost. De Ryckholt's studies remain largely unknown to the paleontological community because his publications are very rare. As a consequence, much of these rich assemblages have not been thoroughly studied since de Ryckholt's original publications, and constitute an unprecedented opportunity to investigate the taxonomy and diversity of Late Cretaceous mollusks. A significant part of the Cretaceous (Cenomanian, Campanian and Maastrichtian) collection of gastropods and bivalves, which were described and/or illustrated in de Ryckholt's *Mélanges paléontologiques* between 1854 and 1862, has been recently recovered from the historical collections of Liège University. This is an important step for future research on Cretaceous invertebrates from Western Europe as de Ryckholt's collection, currently contains more than 206 specimens, including 194 name-bearing types (lectotypes and genotypes). Through the first two volumes of the *Mélanges Paléontologiques*, de Ryckholt described and figured *c.* 75 gastropod species (from the Devonian, Carboniferous, Jurassic and Cretaceous), six Palaeozoic bellerophontids, *c.* 160 Devonian to Paleogene bivalve species, six Devonian to Paleogene vermes species, 10 Devonian and Carboniferous brachiopod species, 10 Devonian, Carboniferous and Cretaceous scaphopod species, two Carboniferous polyplacophorans and one Devonian conularid. In the third volume there are 297 Cretaceous gastropods figures. In total, de Ryckholt described and illustrated 642 species including 19 new genera and 564 new species. The genotypes of the gastropod genera *Tudicula* de Ryckholt (= junior objective synonym of *Tudicla* Röding) and *Prosopostoma* de Ryckholt were recovered and recently illustrated photographically for the first time. *Prosopostoma bucculans*, from the Cenomanian Bernissart Formation (formerly 'Tourtia de Tournai'), was chosen as the type species of the genus *Prosopostoma*. The stratigraphic age of the type localities is also reviewed under the revised stratigraphic framework of Belgium.