

Friedrich August von Quenstedt

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Friedrich August von Quenstedt (July 10, 1809 – December 21, 1889), was a German geologist and palaeontologist.



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Life

Von Quenstedt was born at Eisleben in Saxony, and educated at the Humboldt University of Berlin. After a period as assistant in the mineralogical museum, he was appointed associate professor (1837) and then professor (1841) of mineralogy and geognosy at the Eberhard Karls Universität Tübingen.

Work

His earlier work related chiefly to crystallography and mineralogy, on which subjects he published text-books that were widely used. However, he also became distinguished for his researches on palaeontology, and especially for those on the fossils of the Jurassic system.

In 1845, he devised a trinomial system of nomenclature for Jurassic ammonites, which has caused some difficulty for later taxonomists.^[1] He investigated series of ammonite fossils which appeared to represent the coiled and uncoiled forms of similar shells, and considered that they arose as 'pathological' forms. He also wrote several articles on pterodactyls.

Five genera were named in his honour: the bivalve mollusc genus *Quenstedtia* Morris & Lycett 1854 and the (homonymous) coelenterate genus *Quenstedtia* Rominger 1876, coelenterate genus *Quenstedtiphyllia* Melnikova 1975, ammonite genus *Quenstedtoceras* Hyatt, 1876, and crinoid genus *Quenstedticrinus* Klikushin 1987. Also the specific epithet of *Proganochelys quenstedti* was named after him.

The mineral quenstedtite was named in his honour by G. Linck in 1888.

Chief publications

His chief publications were:

- *Method der Krystallographie* (1840)
- *Das Flözgebirge Wurttembergs* (1843)
- *Petrefactenkunde Deutschlands* (7 vols. and atlases, 1846–84)
- *Die Cephalopoden* (1846–49)

- *Handbuch der Petrefactenkunde* (2 vols., 1852, 2nd ed. 1867, 3rd ed. 1882-85)
- *Der Jura* (2 vols, 1858)
- *Handbuch der Mineralogie* (1855, 3rd ed. 1877)
- *Die Ammoniten des Schwäbischen Jura* (1883–84).

Notes

- J.H. Callomon, D. T. Donovan, & M. K. Howarth "F. A. Quenstedt's Trinominal Nomenclature of Jurassic Ammonites" *Palaeontology* **47** (4) 1063 (2004)

Other references

Obituary by WT Blandford, *Quart. Journ. Geol. Soc.* vol. xlvi., 1890.

External links

- Chronophobia (<http://www.chronophobia.com/c/000212.html>) Complete scanned plates from *Die Ammoniten des Schwäbischen Jura*

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Categories: 1809 births | 1889 deaths | German geologists | German paleontologists | Commanders of the Order of the Crown (Württemberg)



Plate 102 from *Die Ammoniten des Schwäbischen Jura* (1883-85) by Friedrich August von Quenstedt.

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