

AMMONOID PALAEOBIOGEOGRAPHY - THE *PSEUDOSCHLOENBACHIA* PARADOX.

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The ammonoid genus *Pseudoschloenbachia* is common in the late Santonian of South Africa and Madagascar and as a whole, has a virtually world-wide distribution. However, in the early Campanian in Madagascar, *Pseudoschloenbachia s.s.* disappears and is replaced by taxa which are regarded as chronologically derived subgenera of the nominal genus. Here, *Pseudoschloenbachia s.l.* occurs in abundance, comprising about 80% (8000 specimens) of the total ammonoid fauna. In contrast, only five specimens are known from Zululand, none from Pondoland, and perhaps less than a dozen from other parts of the world. Reasons for the sudden proliferation of *Pseudoschloenbachia s.l.* in the early Campanian of Madagascar, coincident with the sudden decline of the genus in the rest of the world remain enigmatic.

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