

ABSTRACT

This catalogue is a classified list of all type specimens of the fossil plants, invertebrates, and vertebrates, including specimens mentioned in literature, in the collections of the Australian Museum, Sydney. Also included are plaster replicas (plastotypes) of important type specimens, and, when known, the institution in which the original specimen is stored is given. Genera and species are arranged in alphabetical order in their appropriate larger biological groups. The catalogue, containing almost 4,000 specimens, is complete to December, 1968.

INTRODUCTION

Type specimens are listed in alphabetical order according to genera and species in their various groups such as Foraminifera, Anthozoa, Pelecypoda, etc. Terminology of the types follows generally accepted usage—holotypes, paratypes, lectotypes, paralectotypes, syntypes, neotypes, and hypotypes. The latter may include any described specimen which does not fall into the preceding categories. When a new species has been based on a single specimen it has been listed as a holotype. Plaster replicas of type specimens in the collections of other institutions are included in this catalogue; to these the prefix "plasto" is added, and unless otherwise stated the registered numbers follow the letter "L".

Generic and specific names are listed in the form originally assigned by the authors, but subsequent changes in nomenclature have also been included. Cross references are given in such instances. References are also given to the more important papers by authors in which type material listed in this catalogue is referred to. The locality names and geological horizons are generally those as originally published, but where no doubt exists the geological horizons have been changed to present-day nomenclature.

Specimen numbers following the letters "F" and "MF", unless otherwise stated, represent actual specimens, while those with the prefix "AM" are thin sections and, when in parentheses following an "F" number, have been cut from that particular specimen.

Most of the type specimens in the collection of the Mining and Geological Museum, Sydney, were transferred to the Australian Museum about 25 years ago. These are now known by the Australian Museum Register numbers, but if the original number of a specimen was mentioned in literature it is also given in this catalogue with the new number. Type specimens which should be in the Australian Museum collections but are missing have been recorded as such. Many are possibly in the Mining Museum collection and will eventually be found. With a few exceptions all figured specimens have been checked with the published illustrations, and other listed type material has been located and examined.

The writer is deeply indebted to Mr J. A. Mahoney, of the Department of Geology and Geophysics, University of Sydney, in compiling the list of type specimens of fossil mammals. Mr Mahoney provided information from an almost completed manuscript of a paper by himself and Dr W. D. L. Ride to be entitled "Index to the Genera and Species of Fossil Mammalia described from Australia and New Guinea between 1838 and 1968 (including citations of type specimens and primary type specimens)". The paper, when published, should be consulted for additional information on mammalian type specimens in the Australian Museum. A considerable number of mammalian casts in the collection are excluded from the list, as it is not possible at this time to determine which of the specimens listed in Lydekker, 1887 Catalogue of the fossil Mammalia in the British Museum (Natural History), are the originals. Also some specimens on loan are possibly figured or mentioned specimens but this cannot be clarified at this juncture.

The writer also wishes to acknowledge the assistance given in the preparation of this catalogue by Miss Dorothy Jones, Museum Assistant in the Department of Palaeontology.

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