

TAXONOMIC NOTE

ALASKODISCUS, A NEW NAME FOR THE ORDOVICIAN BELLEROPHONTOIDEAN GASTROPOD *ALASKADISCUS* ROHR, FRÝDA AND BLODGETT, 2003

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The Late Ordovician trochidiscid gastropod *Alaskadiscus*, known only in two areas in Alaska, was named by Rohr, Frýda, and Blodgett (2003). Peter Wagner and Stephen K. Donovan have pointed out to us that the name was previously used for a Cambrian trilobite, *Alaskadiscus* Zhang, 1980. We propose the new name *Alaskodiscus* with the same type species, *A. donensis* Rohr, Frýda and Blodgett, 2003. We feel the similarity in names is not likely to cause undue confusion since the taxa are widely separated by phyla and age.

The shell of *Alaskodiscus* is similar in many ways to *Tropidodiscus* Meek and Worthen, 1866, for example, the well-preserved *Tropidodiscus laticonchus* Ebbestad and Yochelson 2000, and *T. maximus* Ebbestad and Yochelson 2000. We exclude these taxa from the genus because we consider the diagnostic feature of *Alaskodiscus* to be the distinctive, raised, flat-topped ridge on the interior surface where it overlaps the keel of the previous whorl. The significance of this feature is that the ridge divides the internal whorl space into two equivalent,

bilaterally symmetrical parts. This fact suggests that the internal organs in *Alaskodiscus donensis* were also bilaterally symmetrical. The flat-topped ridge is also a significant feature, because it is only known in gastropods from the accreted terranes of Alaska.

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