

GYMNOSPERM FOLIAGE FROM THE UPPER TRIASSIC OF LUNZ, LOWER AUSTRIA: AN ANNOTATED CHECK LIST AND IDENTIFICATION KEY

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With 7 figures and 1 table

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Abstract

The famous Lunz flora from Lower Austria is one of the richest and most diverse Late Triassic floras of the Northern Hemisphere. The historical outcrops (mainly coal mines) are no longer accessible, but showy fossils can still be collected from natural exposures around the town of Lunz-am-See and from several of the old spoil tips. This paper presents an annotated check list with characterisations of all currently recognised gymnosperm foliage taxa in the Lunz flora. The descriptions are exemplified by illustrations of typical specimens and diagnostic features of the leaf morphology and epidermal anatomy. Moreover, a simple identification key for the taxa based on macromorphological features is provided that facilitates identification of newly collected specimens.

1. Introduction

The Carnian (Late Triassic) flora from Lunz in Lower Austria is one of only a few well-preserved floras from the Alpine Triassic (Cleal, 1993; Dobruskina, 1998). The flora includes sphenophytes, ferns, cycadales, bennettitaleans, conifers, and putative ginkgophytes (Dobruskina, 1989, 1998), and is currently comprised of more than 4,000 specimens (compressions) kept in various museum, geological survey, and university collections in Austria and beyond. The Lunz flora represents one of the richest and most diverse Late Triassic floras of the Northern Hemisphere. Although the classic outcrops (mainly coal mines) are long since closed, Lunz fossils can still be collected from several natural exposures around the town of Lunz-am-See (Figure 1), as well as from some of the old spoil tips in the vicinity of the coal mines. Apart from the unusually high proportion of fertile ele-

ments (i.e. reproductive structures) among the fossils (see e.g., Krasser, 1917, 1919; Kräusel, 1948, 1949, 1953; Pott et al., 2010), the most striking feature of the Lunz flora is the superabundance of exquisitely preserved gymnosperm foliage.

It has been suggested that the Lunz flora represents a standard for Carnian floras that can be used for the identification, correlation, and comparison of coeval and slightly younger Mesozoic floras elsewhere (Dobruskina, 1989, 1998). In order to fully serve this purpose, however, a detailed documentation of the composition of the Lunz flora, together with user-friendly identification keys for, and descriptions of, the individual taxa are instrumental. Such tools have not been available to date since the various elements of the Lunz flora have been (formally) described in series of separate papers by different authors (e.g.,

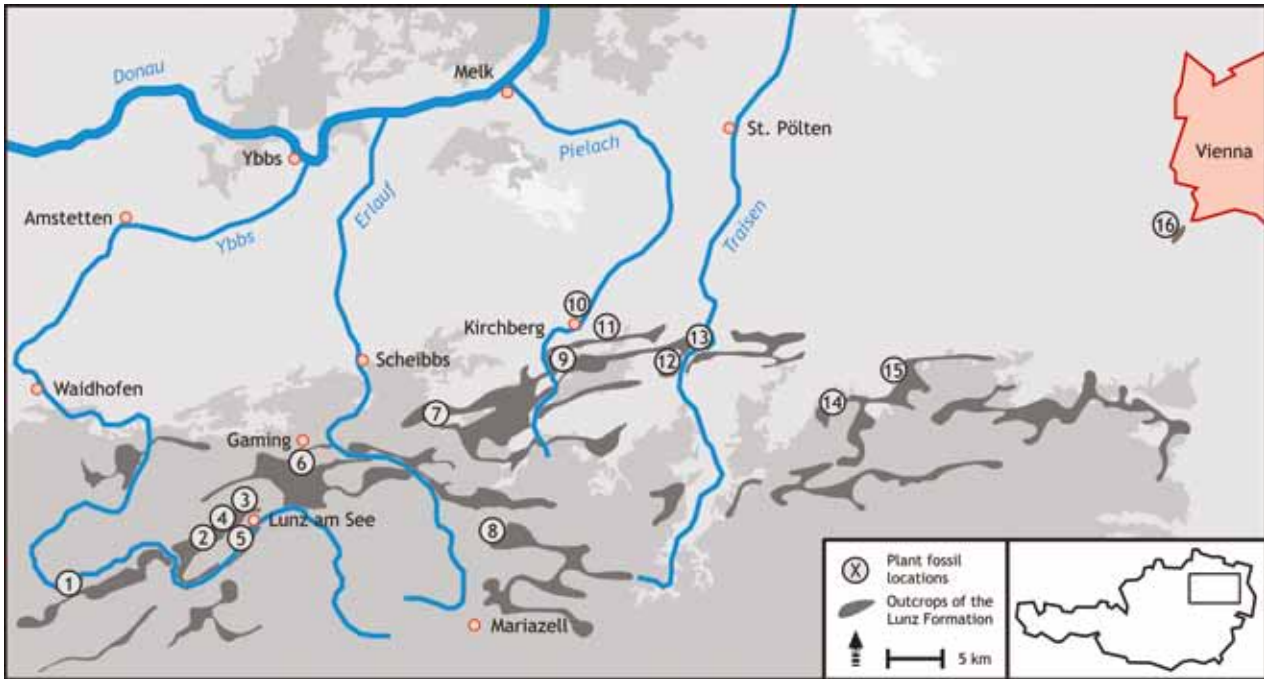


Figure 1
Map of the area of Lenz-am-See in Lower Austria showing the historical fossil localities. 1–Hollenstein/Ybbs, 2–Ahornberg, 3–Holzapfel, 4–Pramelreith, 5–Lenz am See, 6–Golling, 7–Sankt Anton/Jeßnitz, 8–Wienerbruck, 9–Loich, 10–Kirchberg/Pielach, 11–Tradigist, 12–Schrambach, 13–Lilienfeld, 14–Kleinzell, 15–Ramsau, 16–Kaltenleutgeben.

Stur, 1871, 1885, 1888; Krasser, 1909a–b; Kräusel, 1921, 1943, 1949; Kräusel & Schaarschmidt, 1966), and subsequent synopses did not include detailed descriptions of individual taxa (e.g., Dobruskina, 1998). Moreover, some of the historical binomials that were established based on Lenz fossils are invalid, and only a few forms are sufficiently illustrated.

During the last six years, a research project focusing on the entirety of gymnosperm foliage fossils from Lenz has been conducted that resulted in a revision and detailed photographic documentation of most of the taxa based on both macromorphology and epidermal anatomy (Pott et al., 2007a–e). Based on the results from this project, we have compiled an annotated check list with brief descriptions for all currently recognised gymnosperm foliage taxa in the Lenz flora that is presented in this paper. The descriptions are accompanied by illustrations of typical specimens and of characteristic features of the morphology and epidermal anatomy. Moreover, an identification key for the taxa is given. A synopsis at the end of the paper lists the various names historically assigned to the gymnosperm foliage fossils from Lenz against the current binomials that are based on our revision (Table 1).

Brief overview of the genera and species

Thirteen gymnosperm foliage taxa, in the rank of species, are currently recognised in the Lenz flora, including five bennettitalean and five cycadalean foliage types, two putative ginkgophytes, and one conifer. In the following sections, brief characterisations of the macromorphology of these foliage types are given. Information on the epidermal anatomy is provided for those taxa that have yielded cuticles and where species definition and discrimination from morphologically similar forms heavily rely on epidermal features such as the architecture of the stomatal apparatus.

BENNETTITALES

Genus *Pterophyllum* Brongniart, 1825

Pterophyllum is a morphogenus used for bennettitalean foliage characterised by segmented leaves with laterally or almost laterally inserted, almost parallel-sided leaf segments or leaflets (Figure 2), a striate rachis and cuticles displaying brachyparacytic (syndetocheilic) stomata (Pott et al., 2007e; Pott



Figure 2
Midrib portion of leaves of *Pterophyllum* (above) and *Nilssonia* (below), illustrating the two different types of leaflet insertion (above: lateral insertion; below: adaxial insertion).

Et McLoughlin, 2009; syndetocheilic in the sense of Thomas, 1930; Florin, 1933; Harris, 1969a; Van Konijnenburg-van Cittert, et al., 2001). Two species assignable to *Pterophyllum*, *P. filicoides* and *P. brevipenne*, occur in the Lunz flora. They represent by far the most common sterile gymnosperm foliage taxa, and are present on nearly every slab.

***Pterophyllum filicoides* (Schlotheim, 1822)
Zeiller, 1906**

Estimated total leaf size: up to 60 cm long (probably more) and 20 cm wide

Characters: segmented, leaflets insert laterally to rachis, terminal leaflet similar in shape and size to lateral ones, leaflet length/width ratio always >7:1. Figures: 3G, H; 4H, K, L

Pterophyllum filicoides leaves are petiolate impari-segmented and oblong to broadly oval. The largest specimens (all incomplete) from Lunz are ~47 cm long and 20 cm wide. The lamina is subdivided into numerous long and narrow, parallel-sided to spatulate leaflets, which are oppositely arranged, >100

mm long and 2–9 mm wide. Leaflets insert laterally to the prominent and longitudinally striate rachis and are basally more or less constricted. Constriction is usually prominent in leaflets positioned in the proximal portion of the leaf, but rather indistinct or absent in distally positioned leaflets. Leaflet apices are obtuse to acutely rounded. The length/width-ratio of the leaflets is always >7:1; in some specimens, it reaches up to 22:1. The distal five leaf segments form the apex. The terminal leaflet does not differ in shape from the laterally positioned subterminal leaflets. Numerous parallel veins enter each leaflet and usually fork once near the base. Occasionally additional bifurcations occur in the proximal portions of the leaflets.

Cuticles of *Pterophyllum filicoides* are well-known. The leaves are amphistomatic but with only a few stomata present on the adaxial side, and produce robust cuticles; costal and intercostal fields are distinguishable on both sides of the leaf. Occurrence of stomata is limited to the intercostal fields. Epidermal cells are narrow, rectangular, and elongate to isodiametric (square) in outline. Anticlinal cell walls are generally straight, but cells on the abaxial side may occasionally display faint and irregular undulations. Cells often bear a long and hollow papilla. The diacytic stomatal complexes are brachyparacytic; stomatal pores are oriented perpendicularly to the veins, stomata are slightly sunken (see Pott et al., 2007e).

***Pterophyllum brevipenne* Kurr ex Schenk, 1864
emend. Pott et al., 2007**

Estimated total leaf size: up to 25 cm long (probably not longer) and 6 cm wide

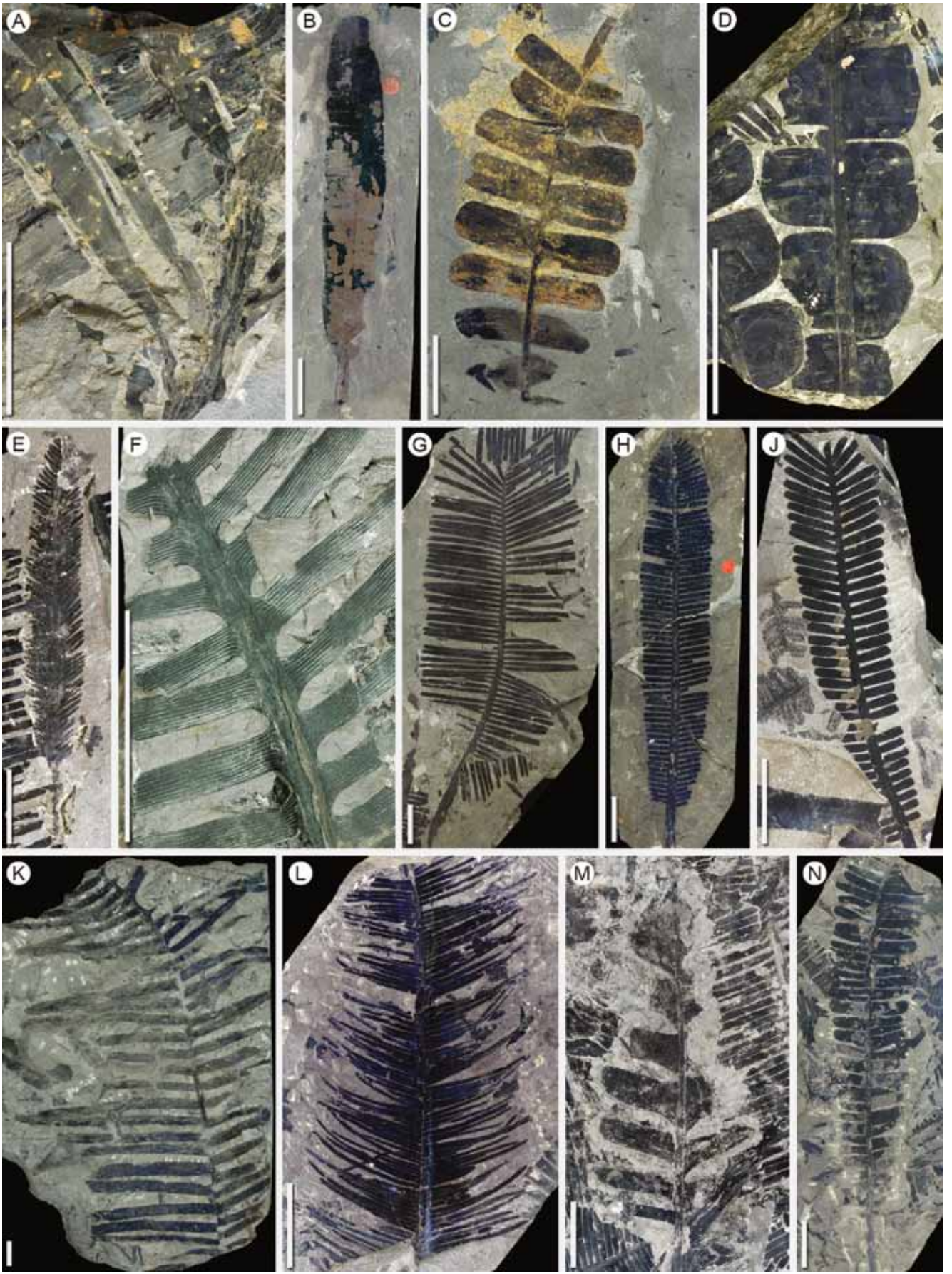
Characters: segmented, leaflets insert laterally to rachis, terminal leaflet differs from lateral ones, leaflet length/width ratio always <7:1.

Figures: 3J; 4J, M

Pterophyllum brevipenne, leaves are petiolate and impari-segmented. They differ from *P. filicoides* in that they are oblong and more lanceolate or spatulate to inverted-conical in outline. The largest leaf portions are up to 22.7 cm long and 6 cm wide. The lamina is subdivided into numerous narrow and short, spatulate leaflets, which are oppositely arranged and closely spaced. Leaflets are up to 27 mm long and 2.5–5 mm wide. Proximal leaflets are short, but increase in length toward the distal third of the leaf.

Figure 3

Gymnosperm foliage fossils from Lunz. A–*Arberophyllum florinii* (NHMW 1889/VI/0008), B–*Nilssoniopteris angustior* (GBAW 1909/002/0187), C–*Nilssoniopteris lunzensis* (NHMW 1888/I/0018), D–*Nilssoniopteris haidingeri* (NHMW 2006B0008/0042), E–*Stachytaxus (Elatocladus) lipoldii* (NRM S148587), F–*Pseudoctenis cornelii* (NHMW 1887/I/0037), G, H–*Pterophyllum filicoides* (NRM S148314, GBAW 1909/003/0403), J–*Pterophyllum brevipenne* (NHMW 1884/D/1209), K–*Nilssonia neuberi* (GBAW 2006/004/0014), L–*Nilssonia riegeri* (GBAW 1909/003/0589), M–*Nilssonia lunzensis* (NRM S148602), N–*Nilssonia sturii* (GBAW 1909/003/0396). Scale bars 2 cm.



The proximal one or two leaflets often lack counterparts on the opposite side of the rachis. The leaflets are usually broadly attached to the rachis, but may occasionally display a distinct basal constriction. They are bluntly rounded apically. The length/width-ratio of the leaflets ranges from 4:1 to 6:1 but is always <7:1. The segments insert laterally to the prominent and longitudinally striate rachis. The apical portion of the leaf usually consists of three, sometimes up to five, leaflets; the terminal leaflet usually differs in morphology from the laterally positioned ones in that it is more rounded in outline and distinctly wider distally. Numerous parallel veins enter each of the leaflets. Veins usually fork once near the base. Additional vein bifurcations may sporadically occur; however, the occurrence of additional bifurcations is not limited to the proximal portion of the leaflet as it is in the very similar *P. filicoides*.

Leaves are amphistomatic but with only a few stomata present on the adaxial surface, and produce robust cuticles; costal and intercostal fields are distinguishable on both sides of the leaf. Occurrence of stomata is limited to the intercostal fields. Adaxial stomatal density in *Pterophyllum brevipenne* is distinctly higher than that of *P. filicoides*. Epidermal cells are rectangular, and elongate to isodiametric (square) in outline. Anticlinal cell walls are straight. In contrast to *P. filicoides*, anticlinal cell walls in *P. brevipenne* are never sinuous or faintly undulating. Cells often bear a long and hollow papilla. The diacytic stomatal complexes are brachyparacytic; stomatal pores are oriented perpendicularly to the veins, stomata are slightly sunken (see Pott et al., 2007e).

**Genus *Nilssoniopteris* Nathorst, 1909 emend.
Pott et al., 2007**

Nathorst (1909) introduced the genus *Nilssoniopteris* for entire-margined cycadophyte leaves from the Jurassic of Europe. With regard to macromorphology, some *Nilssoniopteris* fossils may resemble *Anomozamites* Schimper, 1870 emend. Harris, 1969a (see Pott & McLoughlin, 2009). Typical representatives of *Nilssoniopteris* are characterised by an entire-margined leaf lamina. However, some specimens from Lunz show a lamina that is partially lobed or dissected up to the rachis. Fully segmented leaves are traditionally assigned to *Anomozamites*. However, several authors, e.g., Harris (1969a) and Boyd (2000), have illustrated intermediate types. Unfortunately,

the information available on the epidermal anatomy of *Anomozamites* is incomplete (Harris 1969a; Pott & McLoughlin, 2009) and does not provide features useful in the discrimination of *Anomozamites* from *Nilssoniopteris*. Boyd (2000) emended the diagnosis of *Nilssoniopteris* to include the lobed leaves that are intermediate between *Nilssoniopteris* and *Anomozamites* and display bennettitalean epidermal anatomy. In order to include also leaves dissected down to the rachis, Pott et al. (2007c) further expanded Boyd's (2000) diagnosis of *Nilssoniopteris*.

Three morphospecies of *Nilssoniopteris*, i.e. *N. haidingeri*, *N. angustior* and *N. lunzensis*, have recently been described from Lunz (Pott et al., 2007c) based on specimens that were originally interpreted as marattialean ferns of the genus *Macrotaeniopteris* Schimper, 1869 by Krasser (1909a). Epidermal anatomy, especially stomatal morphology, demonstrates that they in fact belong to the Bennettitales.

***Nilssoniopteris haidingeri* (Krasser, 1909)
Pott et al., 2007**

Estimated total leaf size: up to 70 cm long and 15 cm wide

Characters: usually entire-margined, but may also be partly segmented; lanceolate, lamina/leaflets insert laterally to rachis

Figures: 3D; 4E, G

Nilssoniopteris haidingeri leaves are quite large, (up to nearly 70 cm long and 15 cm), petiolate entire-margined or partially segmented, almost regular, broadly oval or oblong to lanceolate in outline, and have an obtuse-rounded apex. The rachis is markedly striate. The lamina is usually coarsely divided into several squarish segments that are oppositely to suboppositely arranged and insert laterally to the rachis. Segmentation is typically more profound in the proximal portion of the lamina. Segments are 2–4 cm long and 3–13 cm wide, and generally increase in length toward the leaf apex; some may taper distally and become slightly wider proximally. The width of the individual segments varies considerably; some are more than twice as wide as others. Numerous parallel veins enter each segment and run straight to the margin. Veins usually fork twice in the basal part of the segment.

The cuticles provide evidence that the leaves are amphistomatic; stomatal density is considerably high-

her on the abaxial side of the leaf. The leaves have robust cuticles. Costal and intercostal fields are distinct on the abaxial, but indistinct on the adaxial side of the leaf. The epidermal cells are rectangular and elongate to isodiametric in outline. Anticlinal walls are smooth. Epidermal cells on the abaxial side often bear a small, solid papilla. Stomata are slightly sunken and only occur close to the rachis on the adaxial side of the leaf, while they are regularly distributed within the intercostal fields on the abaxial side. Stomata are brachyparacytic; stomatal pores are orientated perpendicular to the veins. Subsidiary cells are often slightly more heavily cutinised than the normal epidermal cells. The arrangement of epidermal cells in distinct rows gradually disappears towards the rachis. Epidermal cells positioned close to the lamina margin are much smaller than cells located in the middle portion of the lamina (see Pott et al., 2007c).

Remark: The material was originally assigned to *Taeniopteris haidingeri* Goepfert msc. nec Ett. by Stur (1885), which is a nomen nudum and not conspecific with *T. haidingeri* Ettingshausen, 1851 (a marattialean fern), as clearly stated by Stur (1885: 'nec'). Krasser (1909a) transferred the material to a different genus (i.e. *Macrotaeniopteris*) and *M. haidingeri* is a valid name; it has a good diagnosis, illustrations were not necessary before 1912. Pott et al. (2007c) assigned all species of *Macrotaeniopteris* from Lunz to *Nilssoniopteris* based on the bennettitalean nature of their cuticles but erroneously named this species *Nilssoniopteris haidingeri* (Stur ex Krasser); the correct indication of authorities is *Nilssoniopteris haidingeri* (Krasser) Pott et al., 2007.

***Nilssoniopteris angustior* (Stur ex Krasser, 1909)
Pott et al., 2007**

Estimated total leaf size: up to 35 cm long and 6 cm wide

Characters: segmented, leaflets insert laterally to rachis
Figures: 3B; 4C, D

Nilssoniopteris angustior leaves appear to have been relatively large (the largest fragments are up to 29 cm long and 5.2 cm wide). They are petiolate, narrow, oblong to lanceolate in outline, and have an acute apex. The lamina is not subdivided into segments, but occasionally growth aberrations of the leaf margin occur that resemble faint lobations. The

lamina is inserted laterally to the striate rachis. It is very narrow close to the petiole, but then rapidly increases in width. Numerous parallel veins enter perpendicular to the lamina and run straight to the margin. Veins usually fork twice close to the rachis.

Cuticles reveal that the leaves are amphistomatic, and stomatal density is considerably higher on the abaxial side of the leaf. The leaves have relatively thin cuticles. Costal and intercostal fields are not clearly differentiated. Epidermal cells are isodiametric, usually rectangular. Virtually every epidermal cell possesses a distinct central cuticular thickening on the outer periclinal wall. This feature becomes more distinct towards the margin of the lamina. Anticlinal cell walls are smooth and well cutinised, partly with triangular cuticular thickenings in the cell corners. Stomata are brachyparacytic, slightly sunken, and occur sporadically in areas close to the rachis on the adaxial side, while stomata and subsidiary cells on the abaxial side are arranged in long rows that are orientated perpendicularly to the rachis; stomatiferous rows alternate with non-stomatiferous bands of cells (see Pott et al., 2007c).

***Nilssoniopteris lunzensis* (Stur ex Krasser, 1909)
Pott et al., 2007**

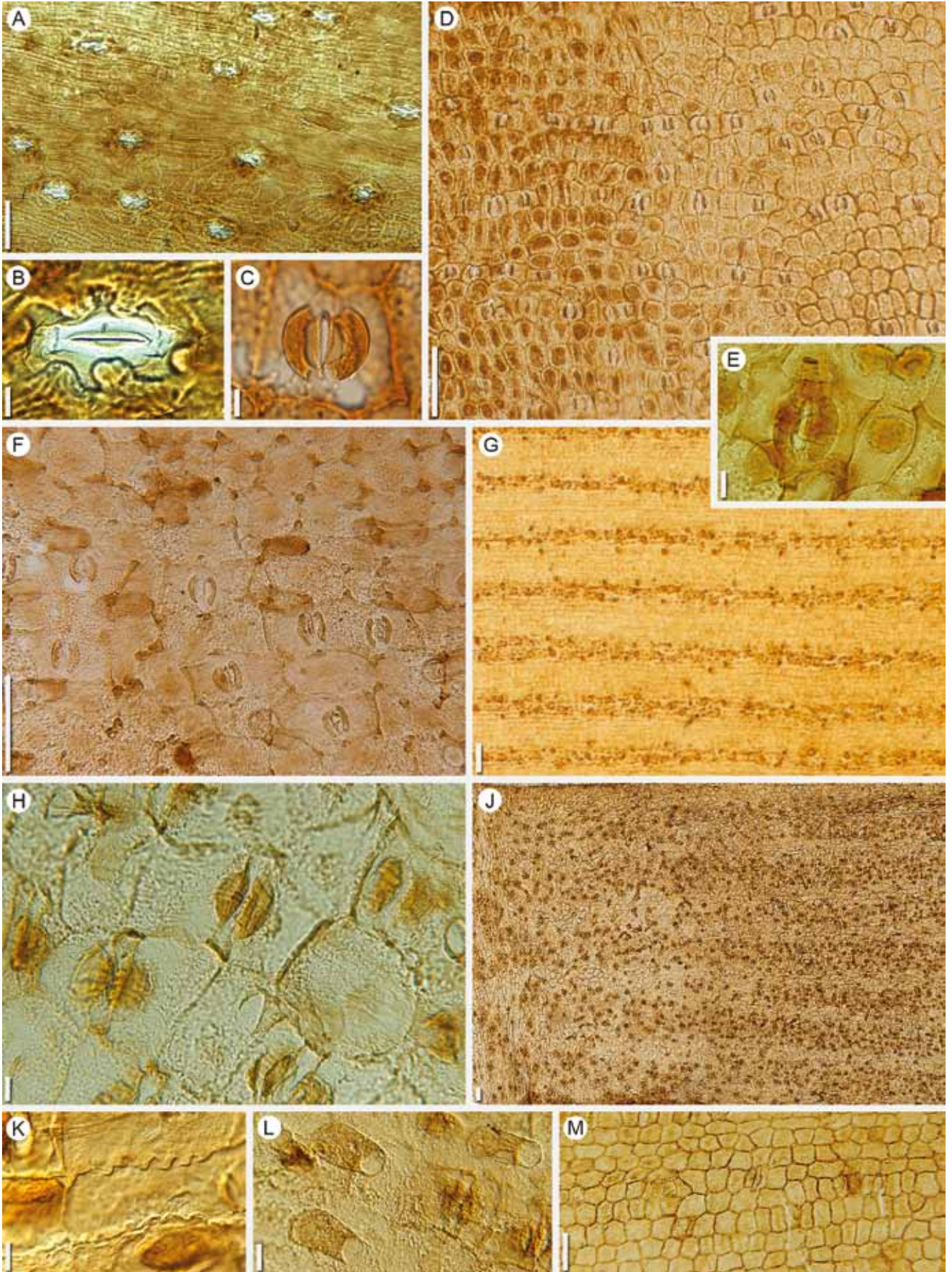
Estimated total leaf size: up to 25 cm long and 7 cm wide

Characters: segmented, leaflets insert laterally to rachis, terminal leaflet differ from lateral ones
Figures: 3C; 4F

Nilssoniopteris lunzensis is characterised by relatively small petiolate leaves (up to 17.2 cm long and 6.2 cm wide). They are imparipinnate, lanceolate to oval in overall outline and possess a longitudinally striate rachis. The lamina is subdivided into individual segments, which insert laterally to the rachis. Leaf segments are broadly attached, slightly decurrent, irregularly to regularly opposite in position and up to 32.0 mm long and between 4.4 mm and 17.5 mm wide. The apex is formed by the uppermost three leaf segments. Individual leaf segments are more or less rectangular in outline and obtusely rounded apically. The apical leaf segment differs from the lateral segments in being much narrower; however, it is rarely preserved. Numerous parallel veins enter each leaf segment. Veins usually fork once or twice immediately after entering the segment. This species may

Figure 4

Gymnosperm foliage cuticles (ginkgophytes and bennettitaleans). A, B–*Arberophyllum florinii* (abaxial cuticle and stoma, NHMW 1886/I/0022/0001), C, D–*Nilssoniopteris angustior* (stoma, NHMW 1884/0015/0012; and abaxial cuticle, NHMW 1884/0015/0010), E–*Nilssoniopteris haidingeri* (stoma, NHMW 1885/D/3983/0003), F–*Nilssoniopteris lunsensis* (abaxial cuticle, NHMW 1885/D/4021/0001), G–*Nilssoniopteris haidingeri* (abaxial cuticle, GBAW 1909/002/0247/0008), H–*Pterophyllum filicoides* (abaxial cuticle, NHMW 1884/0021/0007), J–*Pterophyllum brevipenne* (abaxial cuticle, GBAW 2006/004/0003/0001), K, L–*Pterophyllum filicoides* (sinuous cell walls, GBAW 1909/003/0518/0005; and papillae, GBAW 1909/003/0518/0005), M–*Pterophyllum brevipenne* (adaxial cuticle, NHMW 1885/D/4087/0003). Scale bars 100 μm (A, D, F, G, J, M), 10 μm (B, C, E, H, K, L).



be confused with *Pterophyllum*; however, leaflets are much wider in *N. lunzensis* than in both *Pterophyllum* species known from Lunz (see above).

Cuticles are well-known. The leaves are amphistomatic; however, stomatal density is considerably higher on the abaxial side of the leaf. Cuticles are robust; costal and intercostal fields are not clearly differentiated. Epidermal cells are isodiametric, typically rectangular or squarish, not or only slightly elongated. Anticlinal cell walls are smooth and sometimes have triangular cuticular thickenings in the corners. A central idiocuticular thickening may occur on the outer periclinal cell wall. Stomata sporadically occur on the adaxial side, while they are arranged in long rows orientated perpendicular to the rachis on the abaxial side. The stomatiferous rows alternate with non-stomatiferous bands of cells. Stomata are brachyparacytic, sunken, and the pores are orientated perpendicular to the cell rows. Long and hollow papillae may occur on the epidermal cells of both leaf sides (see Pott et al., 2007c).

CYCADALES

Genus *Nilssonia* Brongniart, 1825

Brongniart (1825) introduced the genus *Nilssonia* for once-pinnate leaves from the Lower Jurassic of Scania (Sweden) that are characterised by a prominent venation. The spelling *Nilssonia*, which is sometimes seen in the older literature, is a typographical error, and the spelling *Nilssonia* is today widely accepted in literature. The most important character used to distinguish *Nilssonia* leaves from *Pterophyllum* is the insertion of the leaf segments to the rachis. Segments are inserted to the upper side of the rachis in *Nilssonia*, while they are laterally inserted in *Pterophyllum* (Figure 2). Additional characters of *Nilssonia* leaves include conical to tongue-shaped leaf segments and veins that do not fork. Cuticles show in most cases actinocytic (or more rarely cyclocytic) stomata (haplocheilic in the sense of Florin, 1933) and often papillate surfaces.

Four species are currently recognised in the Lunz flora, including *Nilssonia sturii*, *N. riegeri*, *N. lunzensis* and *N. neuberi*. *Nilssonia sturii* is the most common representative of the genus in the Lunz flora.

Nilssonia sturii Krasser, 1909 emend. Pott et al., 2007

Estimated total leaf size: up to 80 cm long and 26 cm wide

Characters: segmented, leaflets inserted to the upper side of rachis, terminal leaflet unknown, veins unforked

Figures: 3N; 5B, E, F

Nilssonia sturii leaves are petiolate, pinnate (segmented), of almost regular, oblong, more or less lanceolate shape; the apex remains unknown. The lamina is subdivided into numerous, irregularly oppositely positioned segments whose length continuously decreases towards the leaf tip. Segments are crescent- to sword-shaped, all of the same general shape, distally tapering and slightly widened at the base. The width of the individual segments may vary considerably, some segments being twice as wide as others. Segments are attached to the upper side of the rachis. Numerous parallel, unforked veins enter each segment and run straight to the segment tip. In adaxial surface view, the prominent rachis is nearly completely covered by the bases of the leaf segments. The largest incomplete leaf portions from Lunz are up to 54.5 cm long and 26.2 cm wide. Leaf segments are up to 13.2 cm long and ranging from 6.7 mm up to 18.8 mm in width at their base.

Cuticles are delicate, but well-known for this species. Leaves are hypostomatic. Costal and intercostal fields are distinguishable on the abaxial but not on the adaxial side. Epidermal cells are polygonal or rectangular in outline, elongate with acute or pointed ends. Anticlinal cell walls are smooth. Stomata are absent from the adaxial side, which does not show any other special features. The epidermis of the abaxial side shows a clear differentiation into costal and intercostal fields. Every second or third cell bears a short, thick-walled, hollow papilla positioned at one end of the cell. Stomata are irregularly orientated within the intercostal fields. Actinocytic stomatal apparatus are mono- to diacyclic, with 6–8 trapezoid to rectangular subsidiary cells (see Pott et al., 2007a).

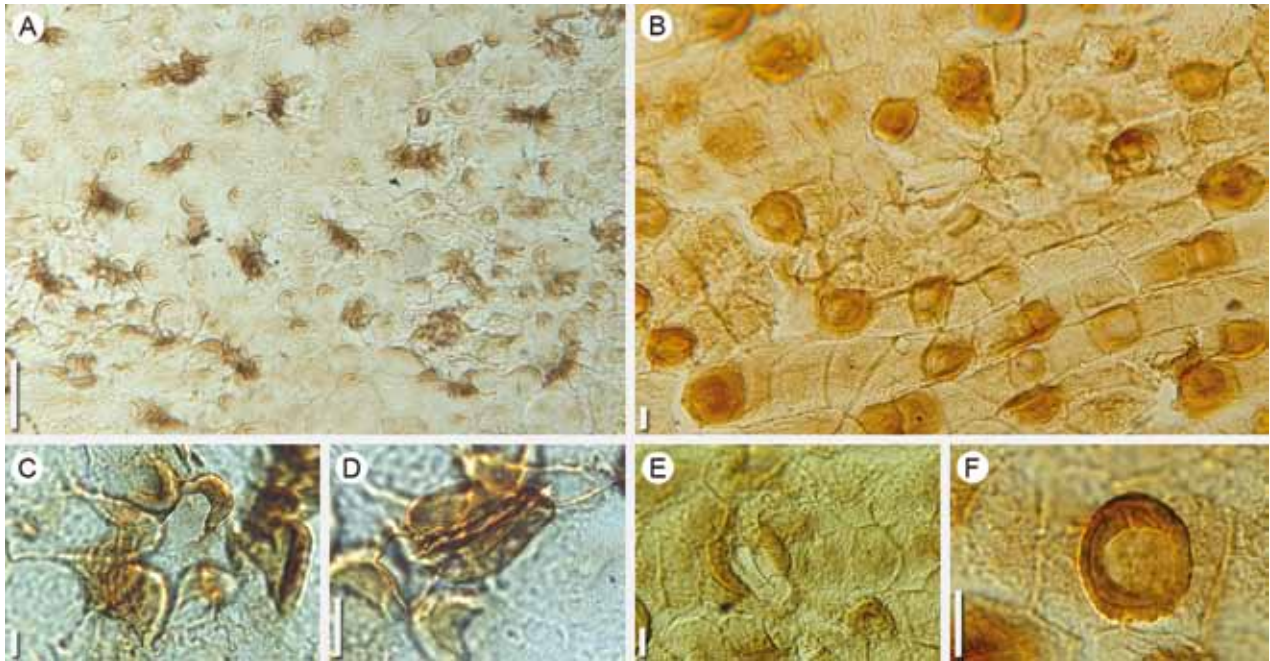


Figure 5
Gymnosperm foliage cuticles (cycadaleans). A–*Pseudoctenis cornelii* (abaxial cuticle, NHMW 2007B0002/0005), B–*Nilssonia sturii* (abaxial cuticle, GBAW 1909/002/0518/0007), C, D–*Pseudoctenis cornelii* (stomata, NHMW 2007B0002/0005), E, F, *Nilssonia sturii* (stoma and papilla, GBAW 1909/002/0518/0006). Scale bars 100 μ m (A), 10 μ m (B–F).

***Nilssonia riegeri* (Stur ex Krasser, 1909)
Pott et al., 2007**

Estimated total leaf size: up to 35 cm long and 9 cm wide

Characters: segmented, leaflets inserted to the upper side of rachis, terminal leaflet unknown, veins unforked

Figure: 3L

Nilssonia riegeri leaves are oblong to lanceolate in outline, pinnate, and the narrow leaf segments are densely spaced. The lamina is subdivided into numerous, irregularly faced, narrow and lanceolate segments. Segments are attached to the upper side of the rachis in a way that they cover most of the rachis. Individual segments taper towards the tip, which results in an irregular outline of the leaf. Leaf segments are narrow, basally slightly expanded, the tip is rounded. All segments are almost equal in width, bent slightly towards the leaf apex, more than five times as long as wide. Five to eight parallel, unforked veins enter the segments. Incomplete leaves are up to 16.0 cm long and 8.9 cm wide. Leaf segments are up to 5.2 cm long; their width ranges between 1.7 mm and 3.3 mm.

Leaves are amphistomatic and possess delicate cuticles. Costal and intercostals fields are distinguishable on the abaxial, but not on the adaxial side. Epidermal cells are polygonal or rectangular, elongate with acute or pointed ends. The adaxial and abaxial cuticles of *Nilssonia riegeri* are quite similar to those of *N. sturii*, morphologically as well as with regard to cell sizes, but *N. riegeri* differs from *N. sturii* in having stomata on the adaxial side. The monocyclic stomata of *N. riegeri* are oriented irregularly. Stomata are surrounded by an actinocytic ring of 6–8 trapezoid to rectangular subsidiary cells (see Pott et al., 2007a).

***Nilssonia lunsensis* Stur ex Pott et al., 2007**

Estimated total leaf size: up to 50 cm long and 15 cm wide

Characters: segmented, leaflets inserted to the upper side of rachis, terminal leaflet rhomboidal

Figure: 3M

Nilssonia lunsensis leaves are characterised by impari-pinnate, individual segments, which are attached to the upper side of the rachis, strongly decurrent basiscopically and tapering towards their tips, resulting in a rather open appearance of the leaf.



Figure 6
Ginkgoites lunzensis (GBAW 1942/001/0002). Scale bar 1 cm.

The differences in width of the individual segments, some being twice as wide as the adjacent, create an irregular appearance. The overall outline of the leaf is oblong to pointed-oval. Segment length gradually decreases towards the leaf apex. The apex consists of a large terminal segment that is rhomboidal in outline. Leaf segments are bent towards the leaf apex. Numerous parallel veins enter each segment at angles of c. 80°, and run straight towards the segment tip without forking; each vein consists of two narrow vascular strands. Incomplete leaves from Lunz are up to 24.6 cm long and 13.9 cm wide. Individual leaf segments are up to 85.0 mm long and 16.8 to 42.1 mm wide.

Studying the cuticles of this form is difficult since they are very delicate. Leaves are amphistomatic. A differentiation into costal and intercostal fields is recognisable on both the adaxial and abaxial epidermis. Cells are elongate, rectangular to polygonal or isodiametric in outline, occasionally ending acutely. Anticlinal cell walls are smooth and heavily cutinised. Stomata are confined to the intercostal fields, irregularly oriented and slightly sunken; they are monocyclic with a ring of 6–7 polygonal subsidiary cells (see Pott et al., 2007a).

Nilssonia neuberi Stur ex Pott et al., 2007

Estimated total leaf size: up to 150 cm long and 40 cm wide

Characters: segmented, leaflets inserted to the upper side of rachis, terminal leaflet unknown, veins un-forked

Figure: 3K

Nilssonia neuberi leaves clearly differ from all other *Nilssonia* species in the Lunz flora by their large size. Leaves are robust, regularly pinnate with leaf segments widely spaced. Individual leaf segments are slightly decurrent, attached to the upper side of the rachis, long and narrow in outline, and hardly tapering towards their tips. The striate rachis is remarkably thin. Leaf petiole and apex remain unknown. Venation is dense, and consisting of a large number of parallel, unforked veins that enter the leaf segments at 90° angles. The largest incomplete leaf portions are 52.5 cm long and 39.3 cm wide, with segments of each up to 23.3 cm long and 12.3–26.4 mm wide.

Cuticles are delicate and rather poorly preserved. Leaves are hypostomatic; costal and intercostals fields are distinguishable only on the abaxial side. Epidermal cells are rectangular, elongate, and narrow to isodiametric in outline. Anticlinal cell walls are straight, periclinal walls smooth, some bearing a thick-walled hollow papilla. Haplocheilic stomata are randomly oriented, monocyclic, and sunken (see Pott et al., 2007a).

Genus *Pseudoctenis* Seward, 1911

The genus *Pseudoctenis* was introduced by Seward (1911) for *Zamites*-type leaves from the Jurassic of Sutherland, Great Britain. However, Seward did not provide a generic diagnosis, but only a comparison to *Ctenis* Lindley et Hutton, 1834 (cycadalean foliage). Although *Ctenis* and *Pseudoctenis* are similar in macromorphology, Seward (1911) noted that they are easily distinguishable based on the occurrence of anastomoses in the venation of *Ctenis*. Harris (1950) concurs with Seward (1911) in that the *Ctenis/Pseudoctenis* series consists of two distinct groups.

The epidermal anatomy of the type species *Pseudoctenis eathiensis* Seward, 1911, and of two addi-

Identification key

- 1 Lamina entire-margined 2
Lamina partially or completely segmented 3
- 2 Leaves lack petioles and rachis, tongue-shaped,
narrow, up to 1.5 cm wide and 20 cm long *Arberophyllum florinii* (A)
Leaves with distinct robust rachis,
up to 6 cm wide *Nilssoniopteris angustior* (B)
- 3 Segments inserted laterally to rachis 4
Segments inserted to upper side of rachis 9 (*Nilssonia*)
- 4 Segments broad, laminar,
less than 3 times longer than wide 5
Segments narrow, more than 3 times longer
than wide 6
- 5 Leaves completely segmented, segments narrow,
leaf length <20 cm *Nilssoniopteris lunzensis* (C)
Leaves only partially segmented, entire-margined
at base and/or tip, large segments, leaves large,
up to 60 cm long *Nilssoniopteris haidingeri* (D)
- 6 Segments actually represent individual leaves,
each with a single central vascular strand (vein);
leaves densely arranged, arcuated towards tip,
leafy twigs small *Elatocladus (Stachyotaxus) lipoldii* (E)
Segments with more than 5 parallel veins 7
- 7 Segments long, conical towards tip, segment
base decurrent, typically loosely spaced,
venation robust *Pseudoctenis cornelii* (F)
Segments parallel-sided or conical towards base,
segment bases not decurrent, consistently
densely spaced, venation dense, veins delicate 8 (*Pterophyllum*)
- 8 Segments parallel-sided, long, always >7 times
longer than wide, apical segment identical to
lateral ones, leaves parallel-sided, >50 cm long *Pterophyllum filicoides* (G)
Segments parallel-sided or conical at base,
consistently appearing rounded, always <7 times
longer than wide, apical segment distinctly different,
leaf conical in shape, up to 25 cm long *Pterophyllum brevipenne* (H)
- 9 Leaves very large and robust, segments up to
25 cm long, parallel-sided *Nilssonia neuberii* (J)
Segments distinctly shorter, conical 10
- 10 Segments acute, pointed, leaves delicate *Nilssonia riegeri*
Segments wide, conical, apically
obtuse-rounded 11
- 11 Segment bases distinctly decurrent, segment
spacing typically wide *Nilssonia lunzensis* (K)
Segments not decurrent, segment spacing
typically rather dense *Nilssonia sturii* (L)



tional species, i.e. *P. spectabilis* Harris, 1932 and *P. depressa* Harris, 1932 establishes the cycadalean affinities of *Pseudoctenis* based on the presence of haplocheilic stomata (Harris, 1932; Van Konijnenburg-van Cittert & Van der Burgh, 1989), which are especially valuable in distinguishing *Pseudoctenis* leaves from those bennettitalean foliage types that are similar in macromorphology, e.g., certain types of *Pterophyllum* and *Zamites* Brongniart, 1828. One leaf type assignable to the genus *Pseudoctenis* has been described from Lunz (Pott et al. 2007b) that represents one of the earliest occurrences for the genus.

Pseudoctenis cornelii Pott et al., 2007

Estimated total leaf size: up to 70 cm long and 15 cm wide

Characters: loosely segmented, leaflets insert laterally to rachis, terminal leaflet unknown, venation prominent

Figures: 3F; 5A, C, D

Pseudoctenis cornelii leaf fragments are up to 14.5 cm long; based on the material at hand adult leaves of *P. cornelii* are estimated to have grown up to 70 cm long. The blade has a somewhat lax appearance because the leaf segments are relatively loosely spaced. Tongue-shaped leaf segments extend from the rachis at angles between 80° and 90°. They are oppositely to sub-oppositely positioned, polymorphous (size and shape strongly depend on the position in the leaf), generally oblong in outline, tapering, and with rounded tips. The largest leaf segments may be >70 mm long and up to 6.5 mm wide. The segments are wholly adherent to the rachis and basiscopically decurrent. The venation is conspicuous. Seven to twelve parallel veins, forking once shortly after entering, enter each leaf segment from the rachis

Cuticles are well-preserved. The leaves are hypostomatic. Both the adaxial and abaxial epidermis are differentiated into costal and intercostals fields. Epidermal cells are rectangular or elongate to isodiametric in outline; anticlinal walls are slightly undulated to sinuous. The intercostal fields of the abaxial cuticle are broad, between 350 and 450 µm wide, and composed of polygonal to broadly rectangular, isodiametric cells. Stomata are confined to the intercostal fields, haplocheilic, regularly scattered across the intercostal fields, randomly oriented, and surrounded by 4–6 subsidiary cells. Each subsidiary cell

bears a small hollow papilla that overarches the pit mouth and covers the sunken guard cells (see Pott et al., 2007b).

GINKGOALES

Genus *Arberophyllum* Doweld, 2000

Arberophyllum forms an isolated taxon that differs in various morphological traits from other members of the Mesozoic ginkgophytes (Tralau, 1968; Dobruskina, 1998). The most characteristic features of *Arberophyllum* are strap-shaped leaves that lack petioles. The genus name *Arberophyllum* is a substitute for the original genus name *Glossophyllum* Kräusel, 1943, used i.a. by Kräusel (1943), since *Glossophyllum* (Müller Hal., 1851) Hampe, 1879 is preoccupied by a genus of mosses and the name of the fossil genus thus is a younger synonym and had to be replaced (for details, see Doweld 2000).

Arberophyllum florinii (Kräusel, 1943)

Doweld, 2000

Estimated total leaf size: up to 20 cm long and 2 cm wide

Characters: tongue-shaped leaves without petioles, lamina entire-margined

Figures: 3A; 4A, B

Arberophyllum florinii leaves are common in the Lunz flora and usually yield excellently preserved cuticles. Kräusel (1943) assigned the species to the gymnosperm order Ginkgoales based on epidermal anatomy. The most characteristic features of *A. florinii* are tongue-shaped leaves, up to 20 cm long and 1.5 cm wide, that lack petioles and a central rachis. Leaves of *A. florinii* in the Lunz flora are very distinctive, also due to their thick, leathery cuticles that easily chip off from the rock.

Cuticles reveal that the leaves are amphistomatic. Stomatiferous costal and non-stomatiferous intercostal fields are well-defined. Epidermal cells are polygonal to rectangular elongate or isodiametric. The anticlinal cell walls are straight and the outer periclinal walls smooth, producing only faint idiocuticular striae. Stomata are regularly distributed in the costal fields; stomatal pores are randomly oriented. The adaxial cuticle is thicker than the lower cuticle.

| Stur (1871) classification (p. 250) | Stur (1885) classification (p. 5-7) | Krasser (1909a-b) classification | Pott et al. (2007a-e) classification | specimen assignment and other comments | |
|--|---|---|--|--|---------------|
| | <i>Pterophyllum irregulare</i> Stur | <i>Nilssonia sturii</i> Krasser n. sp. | <i>Nilssonia sturii</i> Krasser 1909 emend. Pott et al. 2007 | one specimen assigned to <i>Pterophyllum brevipenne</i> and one to <i>P. jaegeri</i> | CYCADALES |
| <i>Pterophyllum riegeri</i> n. sp. | <i>Pterophyllum riegeri</i> Stur | <i>Pterophyllum riegeri</i> Stur | <i>Nilssonia riegeri</i> (Stur ex Krasser 1909) Pott et al. 2007 | several specimens assigned to <i>Nilssonia sturii</i> , <i>N. lunzensis</i> and <i>Pseudoctenis cornelii</i> | |
| | <i>Ctenis lunzensis</i> | <i>Ctenis lunzensis</i> | <i>Nilssonia lunzensis</i> Stur ex Pott et al. 2007 | several specimens assigned to <i>Nilssonia sturii</i> | |
| | <i>Ctenis angustior</i> | | | specimens assigned to <i>Nilssonia lunzensis</i> | |
| | <i>Pterophyllum neuberi</i> Stur | <i>Pterophyllum grandifolium</i> (Font.) Krasser | <i>Nilssonia neuberi</i> Stur ex Pott et al. 2007 | several specimens assigned to <i>N. sturii</i> and one to <i>Pterophyllum jaegeri</i> | |
| <i>Pterophyllum pichleri</i> n. sp. | <i>Pterophyllum pichleri</i> Stur | <i>Pterophyllum pichleri</i> | | specimens assigned to <i>Nilssonia neuberi</i> and <i>N. lunzensis</i> | |
| <i>Pterophyllum guembelii</i> Stur | <i>Pterophyllum guembelii</i> Stur | <i>Pterophyllum guembelii</i> Stur et Krasser | | specimens assigned to <i>Nilssonia neuberi</i> , <i>N. sturii</i> and <i>N. lunzensis</i> | |
| <i>Pterophyllum haueri</i> n. sp. | <i>Pterophyllum haueri</i> Stur | <i>Pterophyllum haueri</i> | | specimens assigned to <i>Nilssonia neuberi</i> , <i>N. sturii</i> , <i>N. lunzensis</i> , <i>Pterophyllum brevipenne</i> (one specimen) and <i>P. jaegeri</i> (one specimen) | |
| | | | <i>Pseudoctenis cornelii</i> Pott et al. 2007 | incl. specimens originally labelled as <i>Ctenophyllum lunzense</i> | |
| <i>Pterophyllum jaegeri</i> Brongn. | | <i>Pterophyllum jaegeri</i> Brongn. | <i>Pterophyllum fillicoides</i> (Schlotheim 1822) Zeller 1906 | a few specimens now assigned to <i>Pterophyllum brevipenne</i> | |
| | <i>Pterophyllum longifolium</i> Jaeg. | <i>Pterophyllum longifolium</i> Brongn. | | specimens assigned to <i>Pterophyllum jaegeri</i> , <i>P. brevipenne</i> and <i>Pseudoctenis cornelii</i> (one specimen) | |
| | <i>Pterophyllum approximatum</i> Stur | <i>Pterophyllum approximatum</i> Stur | | specimens assigned to <i>Pterophyllum jaegeri</i> | |
| | <i>Pterophyllum macrophyllum</i> Kur. | <i>Pterophyllum macrophyllum</i> Kurr | | specimens assigned to <i>Pterophyllum jaegeri</i> and <i>P. brevipenne</i> | |
| <i>Pterophyllum brevipenne</i> Kurr | <i>Pterophyllum brevipenne</i> Kur. | <i>Pterophyllum brevipenne</i> Kurr | <i>Pterophyllum brevipenne</i> Kurr ex Schenk 1864 emend. Pott et al. 2007 | a few specimens now assigned to <i>Pterophyllum jaegeri</i> | |
| | <i>Pterophyllum rectum</i> Stur | <i>Pterophyllum rectum</i> Stur | | specimens assigned to <i>Pterophyllum brevipenne</i> | |
| <i>Pterophyllum merianii</i> Heer | <i>P. cf. pulchellum</i> Heer | <i>Pterophyllum pulchellum</i> Heer | | specimens assigned to <i>Pterophyllum brevipenne</i> and <i>P. jaegeri</i> | |
| | <i>Pterophyllum haberfelneri</i> Stur | <i>Pterophyllum haberfelneri</i> Stur | | specimens assigned to <i>Pterophyllum brevipenne</i> and <i>P. jaegeri</i> (one specimen) | |
| <i>Pterophyllum haidingeri</i> Goepf. | <i>Taeniopteris haidingeri</i> Goepf. msc. nec Eitl. | <i>Macrotaeniopteris haidingeri</i> Krasser | <i>Nilssoniopteris haidingeri</i> (Krasser 1909) Pott et al. 2007 | <i>Pterophyllum haidingeri</i> Goepf. (Stur, 1871) is to identify with <i>Taeniopteris haidingeri</i> Goepf. msc. nec Eitl. (Stur, 1885) and consequently belongs to <i>Macrotaeniopteris haidingeri</i> (Krasser, 1909a, b) | BENNETTITALES |
| | <i>Taeniopteris latior</i> Stur | <i>Macrotaeniopteris latior</i> Krasser | | most specimens assigned to <i>Nilssoniopteris haidingeri</i> ; a few specimens assigned to <i>Nilssoniopteris angustior</i> | |
| | <i>Taeniopteris simplex</i> Stur | <i>Macrotaeniopteris simplex</i> Krasser | | most specimens assigned to <i>Nilssoniopteris angustior</i> ; a few specimens labelled as <i>Danaeopsis simplex</i> assigned to <i>Nilssoniopteris haidingeri</i> | |
| | <i>Taeniopteris parvula</i> Stur | | | specimens assigned to <i>Nilssoniopteris angustior</i> | |
| | <i>Taeniopteris angustior</i> Stur | <i>Macrotaeniopteris angustior</i> Krasser | <i>Nilssoniopteris angustior</i> (Stur ex Krasser 1909) Pott et al. 2007 | | |
| | <i>Taeniopteris lunzensis</i> Stur | <i>Macrotaeniopteris lunzensis</i> Krasser | <i>Nilssoniopteris lunzensis</i> (Stur ex Krasser 1909) Pott et al. 2007 | several specimens assigned to <i>Nilssonia sturii</i> and <i>N. lunzensis</i> | |
| <i>Pterophyllum lunzense</i> n. sp. | <i>Pterophyllum lunzense</i> Stur | <i>Pterophyllum lunzense</i> | | specimens identical to those of <i>Macrotaeniopteris lunzensis</i> and thus assigned to <i>Nilssoniopteris lunzensis</i> ; few assigned to <i>Nilssonia sturii</i> | |
| | <i>Pterophyllum cteniforme</i> Stur | <i>Pterophyllum taxinum</i> (L. et H.) Goepf. | | only one specimen labelled as <i>P. cteniforme</i> was found in the collections that clearly belongs to <i>Dioonitocarpidium</i> (NRM, S148565). This specimen was correctly identified by Kräusel (1953) as <i>D. keupenianum</i> | |
| | <i>Pterophyllum pectiniforme</i> Stur | | | Specimens of this taxon were neither retrieved by Krasser (1909b), nor did we find any specimen in the collections labelled <i>P. pectiniforme</i> . This species is to be classified as lost, since it was never diagnosed or illustrated validly | |
| <i>Pterophyllum lipoldii</i> n. sp. | <i>Pterophyllum? lipoldii</i> Stur | <i>Palissyia lipoldii</i> | | later referred to as <i>Stachyotaxus lipoldii</i> by Kräusel (1949), we favour to include the species in <i>Elatocladus lipoldii</i> (Kräusel 1949); several of the specimens assigned to <i>Nilssonia riegeri</i> | |
| | | <i>Noeggerathopsis</i> sp. | <i>Glossophyllum florinii</i> Kräusel 1943 | Doweld (2000) introduced <i>Arberophyllum</i> as a new and valid genus name for <i>Glossophyllum</i> Kräusel, 1943. Consequently, this species has to be treated as <i>Arberophyllum florinii</i> (Kräusel 1943) Doweld 2000 | GINKG PIN |
| | <i>Clathrophyllum lunzense</i> Stur | <i>Clathrophyllum lunzense</i> Stur | | <i>Ginkgoites lunzensis</i> (Stur 1885) Florin 1936 | |
| <i>Zamites lunzensis</i> n. sp. | | | | no specimen labelled as <i>Zamites lunzensis</i> was found, perhaps synonymous with <i>Ctenis lunzensis</i> | ? |

Table 1. Comparison of the historical and modern taxa names (green) of gymnosperm foliage from Lunz.

Stomata are separated from one another by one to several ordinary epidermal cells. However, they are usually interconnected by idiocuticular striae. Guard cells are sunken and possess prominent circum-poral thickenings. The guard cells are surrounded by 5–7 subsidiary cells, which are more heavily cutinised than the normal epidermal cell. A distinct and solid papilla extends from each subsidiary cell and overarches the pit mouth (see Pott et al., 2007d).

Genus *Ginkgoites* Seward, 1919

Based on works by himself, Seward (1919) introduced the genus *Ginkgoites* to accommodate fossil leaves that are similar in morphology to leaves of the extant *Ginkgo biloba* Linnæus, 1771, but that cannot be positively assigned to the extant genus *Ginkgo* Linnæus, 1771 with certainty.

Ginkgoites lunzensis (Stur, 1885) Florin, 1936

Estimated total size: up to 15 cm long and 10 cm wide

Characters: fan-shaped, dissected, leaflets band-like
Figure: 6

Kräusel (1943) described several specimens from Lunz under the name *Ginkgoites lunzensis* and provided illustrations of well preserved cuticles. Although the specimens based on morphology alone could also be interpreted as fern aphanophylls, the cuticles provide evidence for seed plant affinities. Kräusel (1921) first assigned the leaves to the genus *Baiera* Braun, 1843 but later changed his opinion and reassigned them to *Ginkgoites* based on earlier studies by Florin (1936). Leaves of *G. lunzensis* resemble very large leaves of the extant *Ginkgo biloba*. They are fan-shaped with an actinomorphically dissected lamina. The dissection may reach down to the leaf base. Leaf segments are band-like with almost parallel margins and several delicate parallel veins producing a palmate venation due to regular bifurcation. Preserved leaf fragments are up to 10 cm long; Kräusel (1921) suggested a total leaf length of up to 15 cm. Due to the fragmentary preservation of the less-than-ten specimens that have been discovered from Lunz to date, this species was not included in the identification key included in this paper (see below). Details of the epidermal anatomy of the leaves are given in Kräusel (1943).

PINALES

Genus *Elatocladus* Halle, 1913 emend. Harris, 1979

The systematic position of this Mesozoic conifer-like leaf type remains uncertain. Although affiliation with the Coniferales has been invoked, this issue is by no means settled (Florin, 1958; Harris, 1969b, 1979; Arndt, 2002). The general difficulties in assigning sterile leafy conifer or conifer-like twigs to clearly demarcated morphogenera were discussed in detail by Harris (1979). This author used criteria such as leaf proportions, leaf base and tip shapes, leaf divergence and manner of leaf insertion as discriminative features of genera. He favoured the assignment of sterile conifer shoots bearing divergent, elongate, dorsiventrally flattened, univeined leaves to *Elatocladus* in agreement with an earlier proposal by Berry (1924). Rees and Cleal (2004) adopted a similar strategy and, in accordance with their study, we here follow Harris' (1979) diagnosis of *Elatocladus*. However, we note that very similar or conspecific leafy axes have been inferentially linked, although never convincingly found attached, to *Palissya* Endlicher, 1847 cones by several workers (Nathorst, 1908; Florin, 1958; Parris et al., 1995; Schweitzer & Kirchner, 1996). Although *Elatocladus* has generally been used for younger (Jurassic–Cretaceous) shoots and leaves than those described below (Late Triassic), temporal separation is not a strong basis for differentiation of morphotaxa, and we note that Harris (1935) also recognised several species of this genus from Rhaetian deposits of Greenland. *Stachyotaxus* Nathorst, 1886 in contrast includes both cones and shoots and is known only from Rhaetian strata. Shoots are dimorphic with a proximal part covered with small scale-like leaves and a distal part bearing longer ensiform leaves that are confined (distichously) in one level (Nathorst 1886, 1908; Harris, 1935). The cones consist of loose, spirally arranged bract-scale complexes each bearing a single seed inserted within a cup-like structure on the adaxial surface (cf. Pott & McLoughlin, in press).

Elatocladus (Stachyotaxus) lipoldii Kräusel, 1949

Estimated total size: up to 20 cm long and 4 cm wide

Characters: leafy twigs, leaves with prominent mid-vein

Figure: 3E

The leafy coniferalean twigs from Lunz were assigned to *Stachyotaxus lipoldii* by Kräusel (1949), who also studied cuticles of the leaves. Originally, they were erroneously included in *Pterophyllum* by Stur (1885), but the leaves show only a single prominent midvein, which separates it from *Pterophyllum* that possesses several parallel veins per leaflet. Following the definitions and studies by Harris (1979), as well as those by several other workers, we feel that it would be more reasonable to transfer the leafy twigs from Lunz to *Elatocladus*. The twigs are stalked, up to 20 cm long, and bear several acute leaves (not leaflets in the sense of Kräusel, 1949), which are bent slightly forward towards the apex of the twigs. Leaf apices are somewhat acute, but mainly bluntly rounded. Leaves are up to 20 mm long and 3 mm wide. Kräusel (1949) described cuticles with haplocheilic stomata. *Elatocladus lipoldii* is the only conifer species known from the Lunz flora to date; it is a less common element than, e.g., *Pterophyllum* and *Nilssonia* leaves, but adds another typically Rhaetian genus to the inventory of the Lunz flora (cf. Pott et al., 2007e, 2008; Pott & McLoughlin, in press).

Comments on the key:

Drawings included in the key are simplified or generalised, and slightly oversubscribed to underline the main characteristics of the species. A typical specimen of each species, along with typical features of the cuticles, is illustrated in Figures 3–6.

The identification key largely relies on macromorphological features because it was our intention to keep it as simple as possible and make it usable for a broad audience. Characteristics of the epidermal anatomy are not included since cuticular analysis requires some effort and may not be available to everyone interested in the fossils from Lunz. The key was tested and works well for most hand specimens. It has to be taken into account, however, that some small and/or ill-preserved specimens may not be safely identified down to species level based exclusively on macromorphology. The macromorphological differences between the species are sufficiently well recognisable in fossils that show a larger portion of the leaf. Fossils of entire but particularly small leaves pose

another problem with regard to identification since they may represent immature foliage or mature foliage of juvenile plants or seedlings that does not display all the features characteristic of mature leaves from full-grown individuals of the same taxon (cf. Pott et al., 2007e; Pott & McLoughlin, 2009). In all of these instances, only the preparation of cuticles provides a data set of sufficient clarity for species identification. For detailed information on the epidermal anatomy of the species, the reader is referred to the publications that are indicated along with the species descriptions.

Acknowledgements

Hans Kerp, Institut für Geologie und Palaäontologie, Westfälische Wilhelms-Universität Münster, Germany, is thanked for all his help and support through the course of the whole project and for the co-supervision of CP's PhD. We wish to thank the following people who provided access to the several collections under their care: David Cantrill, now Royal Botanic Gardens, Melbourne, Australia; Thomas Denk, Else Marie Friis, Steve McLoughlin and Ove Johansson, Naturhistoriska riksmuseet, Stockholm, Sweden; Irene Zorn, Geologische Bundesanstalt, Vienna, Austria; Barbara Meller, Universität Wien, Vienna, Austria; Andreas Kroh and Matthias Harzhauer, Naturhistorisches Museum, Vienna, Austria; Johanna van Konijnenburg-van Cittert, Netherlands Centre for Biodiversity Naturalis, Leiden University, The Netherlands; Johan van der Burgh, Institute of Environmental Biology, Utrecht University, The Netherlands; Martin Groß, Universalmuseum Joanneum, Graz, Austria; Lutz Kunzmann, Senckenberg Naturhistorische Sammlungen Dresden, Germany; Stephan Schultka, Museum für Naturkunde, Berlin, Germany; Volker Wilde, Senckenberg Forschungsinstitut und Naturmuseum, Frankfurt am Main, Germany; Harald Steininger, Niederösterreichisches Landesmuseum, St. Pölten, Austria; Birgitt Aschauer, Waidhofen, Austria. Financial support was provided by the Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft (DFG), Bonn, Germany (grants KR 2125/3-1 and KR 2125/3-2). We thank Johanna H. A. van Konijnenburg-van Cittert, Leiden, The Netherlands, and Mihai E. Popa, Bucharest, Romania, for reviewing the manuscript.

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Manuscript submitted: 12.4.2010

Revised Manuscript accepted: 5.7.2010