# Nummulus brattenburgensis and Crania craniolaris (Brachiopoda, Craniidae)

#### Christian C. EMIG 1

**Abstract:** The Brattingsborg pennies are mentioned in medieval texts dating from the middle of the first millennium and many popular medieval legends refer to their occurrence on Ivö Island in the Scania region (Sweden) as *brattingsborgpenningar* or in Latin as *Nummulus brattenburgensis*. Actually they are valves of the fossil brachiopod *Crania craniolaris* originally described by LINNAEUS (1758) as *Anomia craniolaris* from the Upper Cretaceous. Later RETZIUS (1781) created the genus *Crania* based on these specimens from Ivö Island and on another species he described under *Crania* (now *Isocrania*) *egnabergensis* from Ignaberga in the Scania region. The scientific history of those two species is reviewed along with that of *Danocrania tuberculata* (NILSSON, 1826), formerly figured as *Craniolites brattenburgicus*, from the Danian of Scania. Two legends about these "pennies" are included.

Key Words: Brachiopod; Crania; Isocrania; Danocrania; history; Sweden.

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Résumé: Nummulus brattenburgensis et Crania craniolaris (Brachiopoda, Craniidae).- Les pences de Brattingsborg (ou Brattenburg) sont connus depuis le milieu du premier millénaire et beaucoup de légendes médiévales populaires attribuent leur origine sur l'île Ivö en Scanie (Suède) où ils sont appelés "brattingsborgpenningar" ou en latin comme Nummulus brattenburgensis. En réalité, ce sont des valves du brachiopode fossile Crania craniolaris décrit par LINNÉ (1758) sous Anomia craniolaris et en partie de valves d'Isocrania egnabergensis décrit par RETZIUS (1781) dans le Crétacé Supérieur de Scanie. Le genre Crania basé sur ces deux espèces récoltées à Ivö, Balsberg et Ignaberga a été créé par RETZIUS (1781). Deux des légendes, célèbres en Scandinavie, sont brièvement contées. L'histoire scientifique de ces deux espèces et d'une troisième Danocrania tuberculata (NILSSON, 1826), autrefois figurée sous Craniolites brattenburgicus du Danien de Scanie, est décrite et commentée.

Mots-Clefs: Brachiopode; Crania; Isocrania; Danocrania; histoire; Suède.

### Introduction

The Brattingsborg (or Brattensburg) pennies (see Appendix 1) are known in the Scania region of Sweden (Fig. 1) as "Brattingsborgpenningarna". Actually they are valves of the fossil brachiopod *Crania craniolaris*. The inner face of the ventral valve has a skull or face-like pattern on it, and so resembles a coin. Starting in the middle of the first millennium it was mentioned in medieval texts as *brattingsborgpenningar* or in Latin as *Nummulus brattenburgensis* and many popular medieval legends refer to the occurrence of these "pennies" on Ivö (or Ovö) Island in lake Ivö (Fig. 1).

In 1729 these fossils were cited by BROMELL (Fig. 2), a Swedish physician and mineralogist, and they were described by STOBÆUS (1731) in his thesis (p. 23): "Nummulus Brattensburgensis is a nearly circular precious stone with the skull of a man figured on it, excavated from

the grounds of the Episcopal country-house on Ivö Lake." However it was his pupil, the well-known scientist Linnaeus (from 1761 Carl von Linné), who in 1758 gave a scientific name to these fossil specimens, *Anomia craniolaris*. The species name has been accepted by the scientific community but the generic designation is now *Crania* so the fossil is *Crania craniolaris*. Consequently, the name *Nummulus brattenburgensis* Stobæus, 1731 remains only in the legends!

The genus *Crania* created by Retzius (1781) was originally based on this Upper Cretaceous species from Ivö Island (type locality of this type species – see Appendix 2), and named *Crania brattensburgensis* Retzius, 1781 [= *Nummulus brattensburgensis* Stobæus, 1731; = *Anomia craniolaris* Linnaeus, 1758), and still later *Crania nummulus* Lamarck (1819, 1822) and Nilsson (1826, 1827)].

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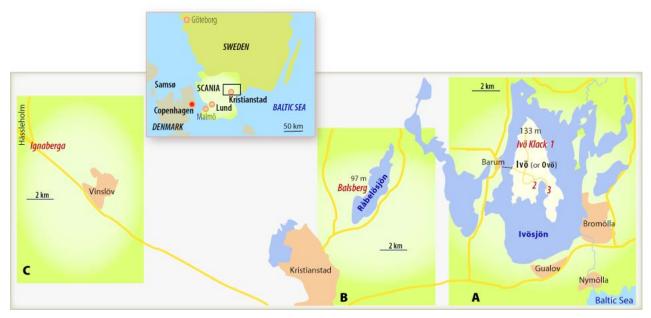


Figure 1: Map of the main localities in Scania. Area of Interest outlined by rectangle. **A.** On Ivö island. (1) Ivö Klack, the type locality of *Crania craniolaris*. (2) the medieval church that was probably built by Archbishop Sunesen. The church was dedicated originally to Saint Ursula during the Catholic period and a spring below the steep river bank is still called Ursula´s Spring. In the same location are the ruins of the Ivöhus castle which was also built by Sunesen. All that remains of the once magnificent castle are the ruins of the ground floor. (3) The Archbishop´s cellar is located at Hovgården, 2 km southeast of the Ivö Church. **B.** Balsberg, the other type locality of *Crania craniolaris*. **C.** Ignaberga, the type locality of *Isocrania egnabergensis* (Retzius, 1781).

# The history of the Brattingsborgspenningarna

There are many legends about the "Brattingsborgspengarna" (see *Svenska Familj Journalen*, Bd 13, 1874:

http://runeberg.org/famijour/1874/0357.html; Heijne, 2005).

Two are proposed below. They are still told in Scania.

1. Once upon a time the island of Ivö belonged to Atte IFVARSSON who was a very rich man, domineering and proud, a kin of Ifvar VIDFAMNE (655-695). This native-born of Scania was regarded almost as a demigod, although actually a rather bloodthirsty man, king of Sweden, Norway, Denmark and of part of England.

Atte IFVARSSON lived in the fortified Brattingsborg castle in the northern part of the island (Fig. 1). Atte and his wife had a son and a daughter. One day they decided that their children must marry each other, because there were no good matches for either of them in the region. During the wedding-dinner, a landslide shoved the Brattingsborg castle and its nearby beach into lake Ivö. Only Atte, the father, escaped drowning. He ran to the stable, leapt on a horse and galloped away toward unknown lands until horse and man collapsed. In memory of this tragedy, one can find in the sand of the beaches in the northern part of Ivö island stone coins with death's-head markings in commemoration of the decease of the newly-weds. For

this reason the stone coins were called brattingsborgspenningar.

2. According to another legend, at the beginning of the 13th century the archbishop Anders Sunesen¹ spent his last days on the island of Ivö, in his own castle of which the cellar was about 2 km southeast of the castle (Fig. 1). In 1221, subjected to the terminal stages of leprosy, he spent his last days on the island. One day he was informed that warriors had stolen a large sum of money from the Brattingsborg castle. They spent that night gambling and carousing in the cellar. The archbishop cursed this money and the following morning the warriors were stunned to find that the coins had turned into stones with a laughing death's-head on them.

# Scientific history of the genus *Crania* and the *Brattingsborgspenningarna*

Twenty-three years after LINNAEUS (1758) (Fig. 3), RETZIUS (1781) published his description of the new genus *Crania* (Fig. 4). He based the genus partly on the *brattingsborg-penningar* (in English "Brattenburg pennies") described by STOBÆUS (1731) under the name *Nummulus brattenburgensis* (Fig. 5) from the

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Anders Sunesen (also Andreas Suneson, Sunesøn, Latin: Andreas Sunonis), ca 1167–1228, was a famous Danish archbishop of Lund. He lived his last years on Ivö Island. It has been speculated that his death in 1228 may have been attributed to leprosy. He is buried in a sarcophagus in Lund Cathedral (Fig. 1).

colligitur, & a nobiliff. D. Swedenborg in misc. observ. part. I. p. 15. adeurate deseribitur. Ipia spelunca, ubi hac ochra conchifera effoditur, urbi Chrifteanstad in Scania vicina eft, & foffa Lardi (Flaske grafiven) nuncupatur, quoniam intra eandem incolæ in bello danico Lardum aliaque obsonia occultaverunt. Appellatur etiam specus montis Baldri, quoniam sub monte quodam Bals seu Baldursberg vocato, penetrat spelunca hæcce, de cujus fiructura interiori lequencem relationem transmist D.D. terber loci ejus oculatus tellis: baud procul, ait; ab urbe Chriflianstadt in Scania , prope pradium Robelöf & pagum Röbyensem, fecus visitur infignis subterranea, cujus antrum cum ante annos aliquot meo juffu ferous quidam intraret , observapit ille profunditacem caverna ad 100 orggias cinciter accedere. Adprofundicatem duarum vergylarum postquam servus pervenerationo-vum iterum tabalatum seve stratum subverraneum deprebendit, unde aditu ad alias plu quam 30 speluncas fornicaras patebat, que omnes e simili materia calcaria conchifera. albida vel sublutes constare videbaneur. Totius species bujus Calcarla facies interior fodinam antiquem cum cuniculis fute ac pateolis referebat, ad quorum adyra camen nemo nunc obaquam Jubterraneam, omnia inundantem, penetrare potest. Intra fieluncam hanc ejusque antra nullus vapor mineralis noxius, fed ner purus & respirationi amicus perfentiebatur. Ulteriorem cryptæ hujus conchiferæ descriptionem promilia. Historiæ naturalis scrutator indefessus, celeberrimus Professor Lundensts D. Stobau, cui precipua superius memorata conchyliorum specimina debeo. In Fig. 2. Fruflulum Ochra hujus patellis, conchis, allisque marinis gravidum exhibetur.

5. Terra calcaria alba dura variu conchyllorum seciebiu nitidiffimi gravida, colletta intra Lapicidinam calcaniam Egnabergensem in Scania territorio Gionge -baxade. Conchilia FFFF

Act. Let. Sve

160

#### ACTA LITER. SVECIA

chilia quæ intra Lapicidinam hanc, non nifi quatuor milliaribus a proxime memorata ipecu montis Bilan distantem effodiuntur, quamvis cum Baldrianis recenfitis magnam affinitatem habeant, differunt tamen ab iisdem sequentia:

- 1. Patella exigua spharica subtilissime striata.
- z. Concha minores lever & candida.
- 3. Conche tenniores plane subtilissime striate.
- 4. Conche media magnitudinu a cardine ad oram magu ilis gata, laves pentre crassiore & ad imam oram feusim atte muato.
- 5. Concha mineres firlata & imbricata elegantiffima.
- 6. Pellines varie magnitudinu projunde fulcati.
- 7. Pellines ftriu rarioribiu & elatioribus eleganter notati. Horum specimen elegans matriciadhærens in fig.3. fiftime

Quemadmodum proxime memorata conchilia fpecus montis Baldri cum conchis fossilibus Aquisgranens bus conveniebant, ita hæc Egnabergenfia, ratione folle ditatis, substantia coloris ac matricis magnam similita-dinem habent cum illis conchis subterraneis exoticis que ante annos muitos a me prope Rhimas in Campania inventa funt , & a fagaciffimo D. Sebynvers Amffelodae mensi in notis pereruditis ad mufaum Rumphil p. 117. descriptæ, quarum species inserius in calce speciminis hujus recensebuntur.

S. III.
6. Umbilici marini, an ilatta byfantina vel alim uffat cei univalvis fofilis nova & ignora fecier , reperta ins litore lacus I/wo in Territorio Pillandico, 2 milliari ab atbe Christianstadt in Scania. Quo titulo novum hocco & nondum descriptum testaceum saiutare debes, ignoro, dubius adhucdum utrum ad umbilici cujusdim marini, blattæ vel patellæ genus pertinest. ComE lapidi argillaceo advaca, esfosso en cellure prope villam Smetosia in Westrogochie parucia Hierpu dilla. Ravissimi hujus concreti testacei anno 1727 bina duntaxat fru-

affinitatem nabere : Ffff 2 modum umbilicus marinus terra est tenuis plana candida & sphærica, magnitudine ac crassitie nummulum assem vix superans, in cujus parteanteriori, margine elatiore ac circulari dotata, facies Leonis vel alius animalis barbata cernitur. Bina scilicet in supremo foraminula, oculorum ad instar, testam perforantia, quibus hiatus seu rima transversalis, rictum animalis apprime referens substernitur, undique striis capillaceis, tot veluti capillis, cincta. Pars ejusdem postica parum extuberans blattarum in morem variis circulis minoribus excentricis exornatur, tali plane modo, quo in fig. 4. & 5. depingitur, ubi ad lit. a pars operculi antica ad 6 vero postica exprimitur. Colliguntur autem peregrini hujus testacei specimina in arena litorali lacus I/wo dicti, haud procul ab arce quadam antiqua Brattingsborg in Scania, ubi ob figuram numismalem ab incolis Brattingborgs-penningar audiunt, & ab ignaris pro nummis in lapides mutatis venditantur, quemadmodum mihi retulit Caroli Coronæ Medicus laudatiffimus D. Roslimu, qui prolixiorem eorundem historiam promisit.

7. Ejudem generis ac indolis alia minora Becimina, lapidi calcario candido, ceu matrici adnata, ex lapicidina Egna-bergensi in Scania. Hæc, magnitudinem si exceperis cum Brattingborgenlibus conveniunt, cum antea memoratis conchiliis simul intra lapicidinam calcariam Egnabergensem inventa-

8. Balanorum Callees five Tefta majores, conjunctim concrete & lapidi argillaceo adnata, effoffe ex tellure prope villam Smetofia in Westrogothia paracia Hierpus dista. Rarissimi hujus concreti testacei anno 1727 bina duntaxat fru-Ffff 2 sta,

Figure 2: Facsimile of p. 559-561 and figure of BROMELL (1729).

Upper Cretaceous of Ivö island in Scania (Sweden) the type locality of *Anomia craniolaris* LINNAEUS, 1758 (see Appendix 2). with which RETZIUS was familiar, and partly on a modern species from Philippine waters considered to be similar. The descriptions of both include a reference to the skull or face-like appearance of the interior of the ventral valve.

RETZIUS (1781) described two species for the genus *Crania*:

- Crania brattensburgensis, within which he placed Anomia craniolaris LINNAEUS and Nummulus brattenburgensis STOBÆUS (1731), from Ivö, Balsberg, and Ignaberga (all in Scania, southern Sweden) (Figs. 1 & 6). The Recent specimens from the Philippines that RETZIUS thought might be the same as Anomia craniolaris are a form now named Novocrania philippinensis (DALL, 1921) see below.
- Crania egnabergensis, in which he included the non-binomial Nummulus Stobæus. The chalk pit at Ignaberga (Scania, southern Sweden; Figs. 1 & 6) was also the type locality for *C. egnabergensis*. This species is now assigned to *Isocrania* (see Appendix 2).

#### 700 VERMES. TESTACEA. Offrea.

Lift. angl. 176. Ostreum vulgare maximum.
hift. 111. 20. Ostrea major sulcata, inæqualiter
utrinque ad cardinem denticulata.
Klein. ostr. t. 8. f. 21.
Bonan. recr. 108. t. 70. Ostrea.
Habitat in Oceano Europæo.
Frequentes in cænis Asotorum vivæ epulæ.

femiaurita.

181. O. testa ovata semiaurita lævi, basi obliqua.

Gvalt. test. t. 84. f. H.

Habitat in O. meridionali.

Ephippiú. 182. O. testa orbiculata compresso-membranacea, cardine sulcis transversis pluribus.

Rumph. mus. 47. f. B.

Habitat in M. Assatico.

Testa compressa ut vix cavitas appareat, extus rudis susca, distinctissima ab Anomia Ephippio & Placenta.

#### 279. ANOMIA, Animal . . .

Testa inæquivalvis: valvula altera planiuscula, altera basi magis gibba; harum altera sæpe basi persorata.

Cardo edentulus cicatricula lineari prominente introrfum; valvulæ vero planioris in ipio margine. Radii duo offei pro bali animalis.

craniola- 183. A. testa orbiculata: valvula gibbosiore conico-conris.

Fn. fvec. 1347. t. 2. f. 1347. Concha testa planiore orbiculata cranium humanum referente.

Stobai Diss. Lund. 1732. f. 1, 2. Nummulus
brattensburgensis.

Act. Upfal. 2. p. 560. t. 152. f. 4. idem.

Bruckm. cent. 2. epist. 38. p. 390. t. 17. f. 10. Manlekard.

Habitat in Scania ad Isvô & Balsbergam, non dum

184. A

**Figure 3:** Facsimile of p. 700 of LINNAEUS (1758): original description of *Anomia craniolaris*.

Rady bem vorgenannten Exemplar aus bem Biervogelschen Cabinet habe ich bie erste be schrieben.

a. CRANIA Brattensburgensis parasitica, testa inacquivalvi, inacquilatera, superiore rugosoinacquali, margine striato. Tab. I. s. 2.

E 5

Auomia

#### 74 Crania,

Anomia Craniolaris, Linn. Syst. Nat. 12. T. I. P. II. p. 1150. ejusd. Faun. Svec. 2. n. 2150. tab. 2. f. a — e.

Oftracites minimus paraliticus calvariam hominis utcunque referens, Numulus Brattensburgensis dictus K. Stobaeus Act. Litt. et Scient. Svec. 1731. p. 14. et 21.

Numulus Bratteusburgensis et Ostracites Numismaticus etc. S T O B. Dist. Epist. f. 1. 2. Opusc. p. 31. T. 1. f. 1. 2.

Habitat in Oceano circa Insulas Philippinas; fossilis vero ejicitur in Littus arenosum Insulae Iswo Scaniae, rarius in calcisodinis Balsberg et Egnaberga ejusdem Provinciae invenitur. In arena volatili circa Hwitskösle repertam quoque vidit Stobaeus.

Tefla inferior affixa, crassior, plana. Calli ut in descriptione Generis, nitidi, quem nitorem etiam in petrefactis servant. Margo incrassiatus praecipue superior, declivis, striatus. Discus etiam oblique et profunde versus medium callum sulcatus.

— fuperior tenuis admodum, convexs, patenti conica, inaequaliter rugola, extus rudis, vertice fublaterali mucronato inflar Patellae, intus vero et prope cardinem Calli duo paralleli eminentiufculi, orbiculati, circumferiptionibus depreffis notati, cum punclo elevato infra utrumque callum aderant. Infra callos et inter puncha nominata cavitas vertici refpondens. Margo hujus teffae leviter firiatus inferiorem recipit testam, unde inaequivalvem dixi.

## ober Tobtenfopfemufchel.

Die ben bom Ritter Linne' angesührten foramina sind hier übergangen, und das aus gutem Grunde. Sie sind auch weiter nichts als tief und schiefendernsende Bertiefungen. In dem Original sind sie mit den oftgenannten Callis verstooft, in gegrabenen aber, oder vom Wasser ausgeworsenen Eremplarien sind diese Calli öfters ausgesalten, da dem die Böcher offen sind. Ich sabe diese kleine Anopsahn, und bestiefe Callos genannt, weil sie die Barbe, den Glanz und völlig das Ansehen des Knorzels haben, und weil sie aus einer andern Materic als die Schalen bestehen, und habe daraus geschlossen, daß sie auch ben gegradenen und den der Iste gath, daß sie auch ben gegradenen und den der Iste gath verändert sind, und matt, rauf und halb calcinier aussehm.

 CRANIA Egnabergensis testa libera, lentiformi, acquivalvi, radiato-sulcata, margine punciato. Tab. 1. f. 4 — 7.

Numnlas minor rariffimus oculis et nafo prominentibus e Lapicidina Egnabergenfi in Gothungia. K. Stobael opusc. p. 31. T. 1. f. 3. 4. Diff. Epist. sig. 3. 4. pessima.

Habitat — — fosfilir in calcifodina Egnabergensi et quidem proprie Tykarpiensi, nec, quantum scio, alibi reperta.

Stobans hat also auch biese gehabt, aber sie nur als eine Abart ber vorigen angesehen. Dieses bestreutet mich gar nicht, da die Kenntnis der Conchyllien vor sunfig Jahren sehr geringe war, und ich ohnedem gewis bin, dass Stobans blos die untere Schale und noch ein einziges frenes Eremplar davon gesehen hat.

Fig. &

Figure 4: Facsimile of p. 73 (part) - 75 of RETZIUS (1781).

#### Genus Crania RETZIUS (1781, p. 72)

- DIAGNOSIS of RETZIUS translated from the Latin (LEE & BRUNTON, 1986): 'Shell bivalved, subequivalved, subequilateral, orbicular. Hinge edentulous. Lower valve with three scars as pits intruding into the valve, two of which are hemispherical with their bases inserted within the hinge margin: the third situated in the centre is larger and subtriangular and surrounded by the elevated margin. Upper valve with two prominent scars placed within the hinge margin, corresponding with the scars of the lower valve. The third scar does not correspond and is deep within the internal convexity situated beneath a pair of small oblique ridges'.
- Latest DIAGNOSIS (BASSETT, 2000): Dorsal valve convex to conical; beak subcentral to posterocentral, smooth, finely pustulose or rarely finely costellate; posterior margin commonly straight; recent species with dendroid shell punctation; dorsal posterior adductor scars large, rounded, thickened, widely separated; anterior scars commonly crescentic, raised above valve floor; weak myophragm bisects muscle encrusting; ventral valve uncalcified in recent species, otherwise sometimes thin; ventral posterior adductor scars large, anterior scars united medially; marginal mantle setae observed in recent forms; valve margins variably thickened, with limbus or faint submarginal rim.
- O TYPE SPECIES: Anomia craniolaris LINNAEUS (1758, p. 700) (Fig. 6) was considered as the type species by subsequent designation (SCHMIDT, 1818, p. 71). The lectotype, a ventral valve selected by BRUNTON et alii (1967), a second ventral valve, and a dorsal valve, are numbered 191 in the collection of The Linnean Society of London (http://www.linnean.org/fileadmin/images/Collections/Shell\_catalogue\_by\_genus.pdf). Specimens of the type species were first figured by CHEMNITZ (1786, Pl. 8, fig. 681a, b) (Figs. 3 & 6).
- O TYPE LOCALITY: Ivö Island in Lake Ivö (Scania, Sweden). In both 1758 and 1767 LINNAEUS described the locality of *Anomia craniolaris* as "Ivö and Balsberg, Scania" (Figs. 1 & 3). As there is no indication which locality furnished the lectotypes in the Linnaean Collection, the former has been designated the type locality known to LINNAEUS and RETZIUS as: Ivö, "a cliff section with natural caves".

The Balsberg cave is located in a Cretaceous karstic system about 9 km north of

Kristianstad, on the western shore of Lake Ravalov (Råbelöv) and 11 km W of Ivö (Fig. 1). LINNAEUS visited this cave, well-known to speleogists, on the 23rd of May 1749, where he collected fossils, including *Anomia craniolaris*.

There is another historical reason: since medieval times, the famous brattingsborg-penningar are known to occur in the northern part of Ivö island, named Ivö Klack. In this part kaolin mines (also known as Ugnsmunnarna) were worked from the end of the 19th century until the 1950s. Many fossils have been collected from them, especially Crania craniolaris LINNAEUS, 1758, as well as another craniid Isocrania egnabergensis (Retzius, 1781), of latest Early Campanian age according to LUNDEGREN (1934).

Crania	RETZIUS	1781
Pseudocrania	M'COY	1851
Craniscus	DALL	1871
Ancistrocrania	DALL	1877
Philhedracrania	KOKEN	1889
Isocrania	JÄCKEL	1902
Petrocrania	RAYMOND	1911
Valdiviathyris	HELMCKE	1940
Acanthocrania	WILLIAMS	1943
Orthisocrania	ROWELL	1963
Danocrania	ROSENKRANTZ	1964
Lepidocrania	COOPER & GRANT	1974
Nematocrania	GRANT	1976
Neoancistrocrania	LAURIN	1992
Conocrania	SMIRNOVA	1996
Novocrania	LEE & BRUNTON	2001

**Table 1:** List of the 16 genera of the family Craniidae, as stated in BASSETT (2000) - see also Appendix 2.

SCHMIDT (1818) designated the type species of *Crania* as *Anomia craniolaris* as figured by CHEMNITZ (1786), who redescribed LINNAEUS' specimens. Nevertheless, it remains curious that no one checked the description and figures given by STOBÆUS (1731) who was the first to publish this species (Fig. 5) (see also DEFRANCE, 1818 — Fig. 7). Consequently, it seems probable that the ICZN Rules (1985: 133) have not been correctly applied, as suggested by LEE & BRUNTON (1986).

# Explicatio Figurarum.

ummuli Brattensburgensis facies supina.

2. Ejusdem facies prona.

3. Nummulus minor rarilfimus, oculis & naso prominentibus, ê Lapicidina E-gnabergensi in Gothungia.

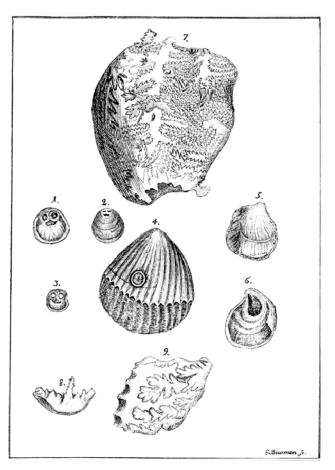
4. Nummulus Conchitæ anomio seu Ostracitæ striato & plicato insidens, ex

eodem loco.

5. & 6. Ostreum Parasiticum bivalve, quod Ostreo Norvagico vulgari innatum satis frequens reperitur.

 8. & 9. Cornu Ammoniscujusdam majoris, suturis frondosa vel foliacea ornamenta repræsentantibus, fragmenta diversa.





**Figure 5:** Facsimile of Figure 1 (p. 25-26) of STOBÆUS (1731). Explanation translated from Latin: **1.** Brattensburg coins face bended backwards (=supina, that is internal side of the valve). **2.** The same face turned forward (=prona, that is external side of the valve). **3.** Small money very rare, eyes and nose prominent, from the stone-quarry of Ignaberga in Gothland. [Reproduction by permission of Staats- und Universitätsbibliothek Göttingen – available at http://www.animalbase.uni-goettingen.de/zooweb/servlet/AnimalBase/home/reference?id=1730]
Nota: In English *Nummulus* [diminutive of nummus] means a small piece of money, a coin; and in French, "petit écu", un diminutif de nummus "pièce de monnaie".

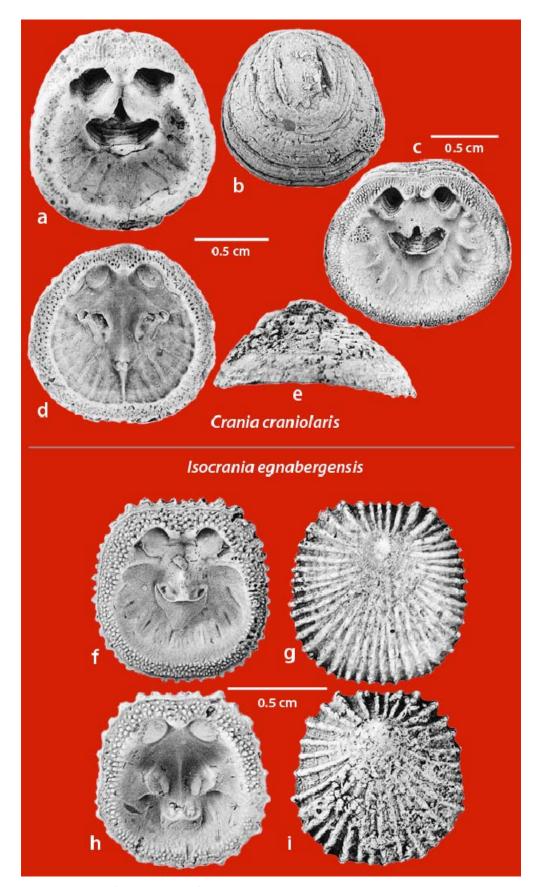
LAMARCK (1819) introduced an alternative name, "Cranie monnaie. Crania nummulus" for Anomia craniolaris LINNAEUS, 1758 (Fig. 8). He was followed by a number of later workers, i.e., NILSSON (1826), Höninghaus (1828) described thirteen living and fossil species and made the first review of Crania, and MÜNSTER (1840). This sidestep was the source of a great deal of confusion, which was compounded by the ignorance of MÜLLER'S (1776) name of Patella anomala for the common Recent North Atlantic species - now Novocrania anomala (MÜLLER, 1776), the type species of the genus Novocrania LEE & BRUNTON, 2001.

In 1871 Dall revised the genus *Crania*, providing extensive synonymies and demonstrating how authors of the late 18th and 19th centuries often confused Recent species with fossil species. However he was incorrect in writing (1871, p. 30) that the Recent specimens from the Philippines discussed by Retzius (1781) were probably the same species as that "previously described by Müller (1776) under the name *Patella anomala*", from the Scandinavian coasts. *Novocrania anomala* (Müller) is a common constituent of northeastern Atlantic

and Mediterranean benthic faunas. DALL (1921) described a new species from Philippines waters, now named *Novocrania philippinensis* (DALL, 1921).

The systematics of *Crania* has expanded to include dozens of species ranging in age from Ordovician to Recent. Like some other brachiopod genera, *e.g.*, the well-known *Lingula* and *Obolus* (see EMIG, 2002, 2003, 2008), *Crania* too has been widely used in a general sense for many species. Perhaps this is because the taxonomic hierarchy is unique: Order Craniida > Superfamily Cranoidea [diagnosis "as for Order"] > Family Craniida [diagnosis "as for Order"]!

The number of genera in the family Craniidae increased considerably from 1851 to 2001 (Table 1). Several authors attempted to subdivide the genus *Crania*. JAEKEL (1902) designated *Crania egnaburgensis* Retzius 1871 as the type species of a new genus *Isocrania* and ROSENKRANTZ (1964) poroposed *Crania tuberculata* NILSSON, 1826 as the type species of a new subgenus *Danocrania* (see Appendix 2).



**Figure 6:** Crania craniolaris (LINNAEUS, 1758): **a**- ventral valve, interior; **b**- dorsal valve, exterior; **c**- ventral valve, interior; **d**- dorsal valve, interior; **e**- lateral. *Isocrania egnabergensis* (RETZIUS, 1781): **f**- ventral valve, interior; **g**- ventral valve, exterior; **h**- dorsal valve, interior; **i**- dorsal valve, exterior. From *Treatise on Invertebrate Paleontology* (Fig. 96,1d–k Fig. 99, 1a–i), courtesy of and © 2000, The Geological Society of America and The University of Kansas.

- Isocrania egnabergensis (Fig. 5) was described by Retzius (1781) from Lower Campanian chalk at Ignaberga (Scania: (Figs. 1) as Crania egnabergensis, but this form had been named previously Numulus minor rarissimus by Stobæus (1731).
- Danocrania tuberculata was figured, without a formal description, by Schlotheim (1820) as Craniolites brattenburgicus from the late Danian Saltholm limestone at South Harbour, Copenhagen, Denmark (Fig. 1). However, a more complete description of this form obtained from Danian limestones in Scania by Nilsson (1826, p. 326) under the designation Crania tuberculata has been accepted (Brunton and Lee, 1986). That change had been suggested earlier by Rosenkrantz (1964) with an additional aim: elimination of the confusion of species names caused by the similarity of brattenburgicus and brattenburgensis.

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orbiculaire, le plus souvent adhérente par sa valve inférieure. Les trois trous qui se remarquent sur la face interne de cette valve ne paraissent percer complètement son disque qu'accidentellement, et que lorsqu'on l'a détachée du corps solide sur lequel elle était fixée par sa face externe. Or, je ne crois pas que ces trous soient les issues par lesquelles des attaches musculaires vont se fixer à autant de pièces extérieures, comme Bruguière le suppose. Ces mêmes trous donnent à la valve dont il est question, l'aspect d'une tête de mort.

Quoi qu'il en soit, ce genre ne paraît pas être sans rapports avec les térébratules. La forme de la coquille et son adhérence par sa valve inférieure, semblept même en indiquer avec l'orbicule. Mais l'animal étant inconnu, nous ne pouvons savoir si c'est un brachiopode. J'en citerai cinq espèces, dont une seule, dit-on, est connue vivante et se trouve dans la mer des Indes. Sauf les deux premières, je ferai l'exposition des autres d'après des notes qu'a bien voulu me communiquer M. de France, et l'article cranie, inséré par M. de Blainville dans le Dictionnaire des Sciences naturelles.

#### BSPÈCES.

1. Cranie en masque. Crania personata.

C. testd orbiculatd: valud gibbosiors conico convexd; planiors basi foveolis tribus. Gasel.

Anomia craniolaris. Lin. Gmel. p. 3340.

Cheran. Conch. 8. t. 76. f. 687.

Encyclop. pl. 171. f. 1, 2,

Crania personata. De Blainv. Dict. des Sc. nat.

Habito la mar des Indes. Cette coquille est jusqu'à présent, dit-on, la scule espèce vivante qui soit comme.

2. Cranie monnaie. Crania nummulus,

C. tend suborbioulari, libera, planulata, intus radiațim strietă: fovoolis tribus; margine crassiusculo, non crenulato.

Habite..... Fossile de Suède. Mon cabinet. Coquille beaucoup plus étite que la précédente, que Chemnis conford avec elle, et dest CRANIE, Crania. (Conchyl.) C'est un genre de coquilles bivalves, établi par Bruguières pour plusieurs espèces, la plupart fossiles, que Linnœus plaçoit dans le genre Anomie. Malheureusement on n'en counoit pas l'animal, en sorte qu'il n'est pas encore bien certain qu'il doive appartenir à la famille des ostracées, comme on l'admet cependant assez généralement. Ses caractères sont: Coquille inéquivalve, équilatérale; la valve inférieure ou droite, plane, adhérente, pourvue d'un talon au sommet, suborbiculaire, marquée de trois trous obliques et inégaux, qui ne sont que des impressions musculaires profondes; la supérieure ou gauche très-bombée et munie intérieurement de deux callosités saillantes.

La seule espèce vivante que l'on connoisse dans ce genre, la Cranie a masque (C. personata; Anomia craniolaris, Gmel., Chemnitz, Conchyl., 8, t. 76, fig. 687, a b), est une petite coquille d'à-peine un pouce de long, et de trois quarts de large, blanche, qui se trouve dans la mer de l'Inde aux Philippines, et, dit-on, quoique très-rarement, dans la mer Méditerranée, fixée par sa valve plane aux corps sous-marins. (DE B.)

Figure 7: Facsimile of the quotation of the section concerning *Cranie à masque* from Defrance (1818). In the same publication, this author has described *Crania parisiensis*, now *Ancistocrania parisiensis* and *Crania antiqua*.

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nous ne connaissons qu'une valve. Cette valve est probablement l'inférieure; et néanmoins sa face dorsale n'offre aueune trace d'adhérence aux corps sous-marins. L'intérieur présente vers sa base trois fossettes obliques, et non trois callosités. Nous n'apercevons ni dentelures ni crénelures en son bord; mais vers ce bord et en dessons on distingue quelques stries concentriques qui lui sont parallèles. On donne à cette coquille le nom de monnaie de Bratembourg.

3. Cranie épaisse. Crania Parisiensis.

C. testd ovato-rotundatd: valvd inferiore facie externd adharente, intus radiatim striatd foveolisque tribus; margine superiore elevato, valde incrassato.

Crania Parisiensis. De France. De Blainy. Dict. des Sc. nat. Habite..... Fossile de Meudon, aux environs de Paris. Cabinet de M. de France. On n'en connaît que la valve inférieure. Largeur, 8 à 9 lignes.

4. Cranie antique. Crania antiqua.

C. testé orbiculato-trigoné : valvé inferiore basi cardinali subrestrate adhærente, subtus concentrice striaté, intus foveolis tribus; valvé superiore valde convexé.

Crania antiqua. De France. De Blainv. Dict. des Sc. nat.

Habite..... Fossile de Néhou, département de la Manche. Cabinet de M. de France. On en possède les deux valves : l'infériouse n'est adhérente que par le talon de son sommet; elle est presque plane, arrondie-trigone, marquée en dessous de stries concentriques d'accroissement, parallèles au bord, et offre à sa face interne trois fossettes obliques, disposées comme les yeux et la bouehe d'un masque; la supérieure est très-convexe, et présente intérieurement trois impressions qui répondent aux enfoncemens de l'autre valve. Le plus grand diamètre de cette espèce est de 7 lignes.

5. Cranie strice. Crania striata.

C. testá parvulá, rotundatá : velvá inferiore planulatá, basi subtruncatá, externá facie adhærente, intus callis prominulis instructá; valvá liberá orbiculari, dorso elevato, radiatim stricto.

Crania striata. De France. De Blaine. Diet. des Se. nat.

Encyclop. pl. 171. f. 6, 7.

Habite..... Fossile des mêmes lieux que la précédente. Cabinet de M. de France. N'ayant trouvé que séparément les valves libres,

Figure 8: Facsimile of p. 238-239 of LAMARCK (1819): description of Crania nummulus.

The subdivision into more restricted genera has not been accepted by all authors. For example, although *Ancistrocrania* DALL, 1877 and *Isocrania* JÄCKEL, 1902 have been in the literature for well over 50 years, these genera were not accepted by CARLSSON (1958) in his revision of *Crania* from Sweden. Although listing *Isocrania* as a full genus, ROGER (1952) labelled his figure of this type species: "*I. egnabergensis*, as *Crania* s.s." More recently, COCKS (1985) figured the type of *Danocrania*, *D. tuberculata*, under the name *Ancistrocrania*.

The revision by LEE & BRUNTON (1986, 2001) of living species included in *Crania* emphasized several major points of difference between living forms and the Upper Cretaceous type species *C. craniolaris*: these authors established a new genus named first *Neocrania* LEE & BRUNTON (1986) and later *Novocrania* LEE & BRUNTON (2001), based on *Patella anomala* MÜLLER, for many Recent and some Tertiary species formerly placed in *Crania*.

#### Conclusion

This contribution on "brattingsborgpenningar" (or *Nummulus brattenburgensis*) is a nice example of the interpenetration of Scandinavian and Germanic popular medieval legends that date from the mid-first millennium with the scientific data on fossil and extant brachiopods developed over the last three centuries. It is noteworthy that a succession of important scientists, including LINNAEUS and LAMARCK, have contributed to that portion of the history of science dealing with craniate brachiopods.

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### Appendix 1

About the name of Brattingsborg or Birtingsborg (in French Bratembourg; in German Brattenburg or Brattensburg)

The name Brattingsborg is given to the residence of the heroes of medieval epic poems and ballads; its meaning is "radiant castle". Thus there is a Brattingsborg located on the island of Ivö (or Ovö) in lake Ivö (Ivösjön), another is on the island of Samsø in Denmark (Fig. 1).

The name is associated with the legends about WUDGA and Holger DANSKE. It is also mentioned in Beowulf, a major epic poem of Anglo-Saxon literature probably composed between the first half of 7th century and the end of the millenium.

- Wudga (Witege, Videke or Vidrik Villandsson/Vallandsson/Verlandsson) is one of the heroes of various Germanic legends, and later of Scandinavian ballads.
- The Danish hero, Holger Danske (in French OGIER le Danois or OGIER de Danemarche) is also part of the epic poetry that appears at the dawn of French literature. From the 9th Century Holger Danske occurs in the chansons de geste of the Cycle of Charlemagne or Cycle of the King (in particular in the Song of Roland). His French legend is based on a free interpretation of events and of authentic circumstances. He is represented in the French card deck by the jack of spades.

# Appendix 2

Classification of the craniid species related to the history of Brattingsborg. See 1 for all the genera, as well as additional information in Brunton & Lee (1986), Lee & Brunton (1986) and BASSETT (2000, p. 171, 174, 176).

Subphylum Craniformea (?Lower Cambrian, Middle Cambrian-Present)

Class Craniata (?Lower Cambrian, Middle Cambrian-Present)

Order Craniida WAAGEN, 1885 (Lower Ordovician-Present)

Superfamily Cranioidea Menke, 1828 (Lower Ordovician-Present)

Family Craniidae Menke, 1828 (Ordovician (upper Arenig-Present), with 16 genera (see Table 1)

- Genus Crania Retzius, 1781 (Upper Cretaceous) Type species Crania craniolaris (LINNAEUS, 1758) - see text.
  - Crania craniolaris (LINNAEUS, 1758) (Upper Cretaceous) [= Anomia craniolaris LINNAEUS 1758, from Campanian chalk at Ivö Island, type locality, and Balsberg (Scania, Sweden; Figs. 1 & 6)].

Synonyms: *Nummulus brattensburgensis* Stobæus, 1731; *Crania brattensburgensis* Retzius, 1781; *Crania nummulus* Lamarck, 1819; *Crania nummulus* Nilsson, 1826.

- o Crania antiqua Defrance, 1818;
- Genus Isocrania JAEKEL, 1902 (Upper Cretaceous-lower Paleogene) - Type species Isocrania egnabergensis (RETZIUS, 1781)
  - o Isocrania egnabergensis (RETZIUS, 1781) [= Crania egnabergensis RETZIUS, 1781, p. 75, from Lower Campanian chalk at Ignaberga (Scania, Sweden; Figs. 1 & 6), type locality].

Synonym: *Nummulus minor rarissimus* STOBÆUS, 1731.

- o and 5 other species
- Genus Danocrania Rosenkranz, 1964 (Upper Cretaceous-lower Paleogene) [= Westralicrania Cockbain, 1967] - Type species Danocrania tuberculata (Nilsson, 1826)
  - Danocrania tuberculata (NILSSON, 1826)
     Type locality: Copenhagen [= Crania tuberculata NILSSON, 1826, p. 326, from Danian limestones in Scania (Sweden).

Synonym: Craniolites brattenburgicus SCHLOTHEIM, 1820 from late Danian Saltholm limestone at South Harbor, Copenhagen Denmark]

o and 7 other species