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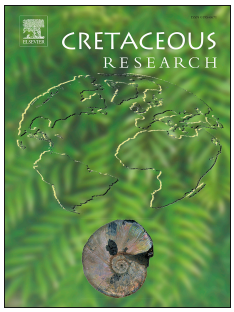

Taxonomy and stratigraphy of Early Cretaceous species of *Debrunia* Masse and Fenerci-Masse (Hippuritida, Monopleuridae) of the Mediterranean region

Jean-Pierre Masse, Mukerrem Fenerci-Masse

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Jean-Pierre Masse* and Mukerrem Fenerci-Masse

Aix-Marseille University, Place Victor Hugo. 13331 Marseille Cedex 03, France

*corresponding author jean-pierre.masse@univ-amu.fr, mugemasse@hotmail.com

ABSTRACT

The genus *Debrunia* is characterized by its myophoral organisation: the left valve posterior myophore is an erect plate, the anterior is a bulge or a crest, myophores of right valve are on shell wall, the ligament groove is inconspicuous and the cardinal apparatus tends to be shifted posteriorly. Shell habit varies from low conical to elongated cylindrical, and the shape of the left valve ranges from capuloid to flat. The taxonomic revision of *Debruni*a species of the Mediterranean regions reveals the presence of thirteen species, among which seven are described as new. Multiple Component Analysis and Cluster Analysis document the existence of five groups of species in correspondence with the height of the left valve and the commissural diameter. The longevity of *Debrunia* is high, 32 Myr, whereas its species have shorter durations which account for a significant biostratigraphic potential within the