

Heterochrony in the evolution of Late Devonian Ammonoids

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In the goniatite family Prionoceratidae, the transition from *Mimimitoceras* to *Balvia* provides an example of rapid size decrease resulting from progenesis.

In the *Prionoceras-Mimimitoceras* stock the adult conch continued to be of rather uniform shape and size (about 60 mm) and species diversification was expressed mostly in changing juvenile morphology. In the *Balvia* branch, which had developed in the *Wocklumeria* Stufe, the adult size diminished strongly (not more than 16 mm). Progenetic *Balvia* displays conch morphology of ancestral *Mimimitoceras* juveniles, with distinct ornamentation that were added terminally.

Key words: ammonoids, Late Devonian, Germany, evolution, heterochrony

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