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Systematic relationships of the blind phacopine trilobite *Trimerocephalus*, with a new species from Causses-et-Veyran, Montagne Noire

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The paper describes a new species of blind trilobite from the lower Fammenian of Concours-le-Haut at Causses-et-Veyran, Montagne Noire (France). *Trimerocephalus (Trifoliops) nigritus* subgen. et sp. nov. is assigned to a new subgenus together with *Tr. (Trif.) trifolius* (Osmólska, 1958). This grouping is supported by the results of phylogenetic analysis of thirteen species attributed to the Fammenian genus *Trimerocephalus* McCoy, 1849; of 16 previously known species attributed to this genus, only 12 were represented by data of quality sufficient to be included in the analysis, using 23 morphological characters. The Frasnian phacopine *Acuticryphops acuticeps* (Kayser, 1889) is used as the outgroup. The three most parsimonious trees have a length of 51 steps and a consistency index of 0.82. The new subgenus *Trifoliops* forms a clade together with *Trimerocephalus? steinachensis* (Richter and Richter, 1926), supported by an exclusive synapomorphy: widening of the cephalic antero-lateral border. *Tr.? steinachensis* seems to be more closely related *to Tr. (Trif.) trifolius* (sharing two synapomorphies) and may represent a more derived taxon (possibly deserving a separate subgeneric status). The remanig *Trimerocephalus* species are not formally assigned to subgeneric taxa, pending further studies (their relationships are shown in cladograms). The results do not confirm the classification suggested by Chlupač (1966) for *Trimerocephalus*.

Key words: Trilobita, Phacopinae, Upper Devonian, Famennian, Montagne Noire, France.

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