

Reply to Bauer et al. (2022)

Christopher R.C. Paul

Acta Palaeontologica Polonica 67 (2), 2022: 469-473 doi:<https://doi.org/10.4202/app.00995.2022>

Cladistic analyses will be inaccurate if based on inaccurate data. Most blastozoan taxa were defined before cladistics was proposed. Redescription of precladistic taxa should be a priority. Cladistics recognizes similarities between taxa, not differences. Differences always exist, so the two approaches are asymmetrical. Any suggested similarity or homology needs testing, including output of computer-based analyses. New interpretations of plate homology between glyptocystitoid and hemicosmitoid rhombiferans had already rendered input data obsolete before the pan-dichoporite paper was published. Universal Elemental Homology (UEH) is not a scientific hypothesis. It makes no testable predictions; no system of naming plates can.

Christopher R.C. Paul [glcrp@bristol.ac.uk], School of Earth Sciences, University of Bristol, Wills Memorial Building, Bristol BS8 1RL, UK.

This is an open-access article distributed under the terms of the Creative Commons Attribution License (for details please see creativecommons.org), which permits unrestricted use, distribution, and reproduction in any medium, provided the original author and source are credited.



[Full text \(496.8 kB\)](#)