

The taxonomy of middle Westphalian medullosalean foliage known as ‘*Alethopteris grandinioides* early form’ from the Central and Western Bohemian basins

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Abstract. Fossils from the Whetstone Horizon of central Bohemia, previously referred to as the ‘early form of *A. grandinioides* Kessler’, are shown to be indistinguishable in pinnule morphology and venation from *Alethopteris distantinervosa* Wagner. This new evidence allows the diagnosis of *A. distantinervosa* to be emended, providing better information on its morphological variation and epidermal structure. *A. distantinervosa* occurs in floras of late Duckmantian to Bolsovian and possibly early Westphalian D age in central Bohemia, Saar-Lorraine, Ibbenbüren, and South Staffordshire. *A. grandinioides* Kessler *sensu* Wagner, *non* Kessler s.s. (= *A. pseudograndinioides* Zodrow and Cleal) does not appear to occur in floras older than middle Westphalian D in age.

Key words: Upper Carboniferous, Middle Westphalian, biostratigraphy, Gymnospermae, Pteridospermae, Alethopterides, taxonomy, biogeography, Late Paleozoic of central and western Bohemia