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Sybil P. Parker
Editor in Chief

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On the cover: Photomicrograph of crystals of vitamin B₁₂.
(Dennis Kunkel, University of Hawaii)

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**McGRAW-HILL DICTIONARY OF SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNICAL TERMS,
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Sony, Ex. 1007, p.2

in the fetal intestine, becoming the first fecal discharge of the newborn. { mə'kō-nē-əm }

meconium ileus [MED] Intestinal obstruction in the newborn with cystic fibrosis due to trypsin deficiency. { mə'kō-nē-əm 'il-ē-əs }

Mecoptera [INV ZOO] The scorpion flies, a small order of insects; adults are distinguished by the peculiar prolongation of the head into a beak, which bears chewing mouthparts. { me'kăp-tə-rə }

meccystasis [PHYSIO] Increase in muscle length with maintenance of the original degree of tension. { me'sis-tās-əs }

media [HISTOL] The middle, muscular layer in the wall of a vein, artery, or lymph vessel. { 'mē-dē-ə }

media conversion [COMPUT SCI] The transfer of data from one storage type (such as punched cards) to another storage type (such as magnetic tape). { 'mē-dē-ə kən,vər-zhən }

media conversion buffer [COMPUT SCI] Large storage area, such as a drum, on which data may be stored at low speed during nonexecution time, to be later transferred at high speed into core memory during execution time. { 'mē-dē-ə kən,vər-zhən ,baf-ər }

mediad [ANAT] Toward the median line or plane of the body or of a part of the body. { 'mē-dē-əd }

medial [ANAT] 1. Being internal as opposed to external (lateral). 2. Toward the midline of the body. [SCI TECH] Located in the middle. { 'mē-dē-əl }

medial arteriosclerosis [MED] Calcification of the tunica media of small and medium-sized muscular arteries. Also known as medial calcinosis; Mönckeberg's arteriosclerosis. { 'mē-dē-əl ,ärtir-ē-ō'sklə'rō-səs }

medial calcinosis See medial arteriosclerosis. { 'mē-dē-əl ,kalk-sə'nō-səs }

medial lemniscus [ANAT] A lemniscus arising in the nucleus gracilis and nucleus cuneatus of the brain, crossing immediately as internal arcuate fibers, and terminating in the posterolateral ventral nucleus of the thalamus. { 'mē-dē-əl lem'nis-kəs }

medial moraine [GEOL] 1. An elongate moraine carried in or upon the middle of a glacier and parallel to its sides. 2. A moraine formed by glacial abrasion of a rocky protuberance near the middle of a glacier. { 'mē-dē-əl mə'rān }

medial necrosis [MED] Death of cells in the tunica media of arteries. Also known as medionecrosis. { 'mē-dē-əl ne'krō-səs }

media migration [CHEM ENG] Carryover of fibers or other filter material by liquid effluent from a filter unit. { 'mē-dē-ə mī'grā-shən }

median [MATH] 1. Any line in a triangle which joins a vertex to the midpoint of the opposite side. 2. The line that joins the midpoints of the nonparallel sides of a trapezoid. Also known as midline. [SCI TECH] Located in the middle. [STAT] An average of a series of quantities or values; specifically, the quantity or value of that item which is so positioned in the series, when arranged in order of numerical quantity or value, that there are an equal number of items of greater magnitude and lesser magnitude. { 'mē-dē-ən }

median effective dose See effective dose 50. { 'mē-dē-ən i'fektiv 'dōs }

median infective dose See infective dose 50. { 'mē-dē-ən in'fektiv 'dōs }

median lethal dose See lethal dose 50. { 'mē-dē-ən 'lēth-əl 'dōs }

median lethal time [MICROBIO] The period of time required for 50% of a large group of organisms to die following a specific dose of an injurious agent, such as a drug or radiation. { 'mē-dē-ən 'lēth-əl ,tīm }

median mass [GEOL] A less disturbed structural block in the middle of an orogenic belt, bordered on both sides by orogenic structure, thrust away from it. Also known as betwixt mountains; Zwischengebirge. { 'mē-dē-ən 'mas }

median maxillary cyst [MED] Cystic dilation of embryonal inclusions in the incisive fossa or between the roots of the central incisors. Also known as nasopalatine cyst. { 'mē-dē-ən 'maks-sə,lər-ē ,sist }

median nasal process [EMBRYO] The region below the frontonasal sulcus between the olfactory sacs; forms the bridge and mobile septum of the nose and various parts of the upper jaw and lip. { 'mē-dē-ən 'nāz-əl ,prā-səs }

median nerve test [MED] A test for loss of function of the median nerve by having the patient abduct the thumb at right

angles to the palm with fingertips in contact and forming a pyramid. { 'mē-dē-ən 'nɔrv ,tɛst }

median particle diameter [GEOL] The middlemost particle diameter of a rock or sediment, larger than 50% of the diameter in the distribution and smaller than the other 50%. { 'mē-dē-ən 'pɑrd-ə-kəl dī,am-əd-ər }

median point [MATH] The point at which all three medians of a triangle intersect. { 'med-ē-ən ,pɔint }

median strip [CIV ENG] A paved or planted section dividing a highway into lanes according to direction of travel. { 'mē-dē-ən 'stri:p }

mediastinitis [MED] Inflammation of the mediastinum. { ,mē-dē-əs-tə'nid-əs }

mediastinum [ANAT] 1. A partition separating adjacent parts. 2. The space in the middle of the chest between the two pleurae. { ,mē-dē-ə'stī-nəm }

medical bacteriology [MED] A branch of medical microbiology that deals with the study of bacteria which affect human health, especially those which produce disease. { 'med-ə-kəl bak,tir-ē'äl-ə-jē }

medical chemical engineering [CHEM ENG] The application of chemical engineering to medicine, frequently involving mass transport and separation processes, especially at the molecular level. { 'med-ə-kəl 'kem-ə-kəl ,enj-ə'nir-iŋ }

medical climatology [MED] The study of the relation between climate and disease. { 'med-ə-kəl ,klīm-ə'täl-ə-jē }

medical electronics [ELECTR] A branch of electronics in which electronic instruments and equipment are used for such medical applications as diagnosis, therapy, research, anesthesia control, cardiac control, and surgery. { 'med-ə-kəl i,lek'trən-iks }

medical entomology [MED] The study of insects that are vectors for diseases and parasitic infestations in humans and domestic animals. { 'med-ə-kəl ,en-tə'mäl-ə-jē }

medical ethics [MED] Principles and moral values of proper medical conduct. { 'med-ə-kəl 'eth-iks }

medical examiner [MED] A professionally qualified physician duly authorized and charged by a governmental unit to determine facts concerning causes of death, particularly deaths not occurring under natural circumstances, and to testify thereto in courts of law. { 'med-ə-kəl ig'zam-ən-ər }

medical frequency bands [COMMUN] A collection of radio frequency bands allocated to medical equipment in the United States. { 'med-ə-kəl 'frēkwən-sē ,banz }

medical genetics [GEN] A field of human genetics concerned with the relationship between heredity and disease. { 'med-ə-kəl jə'ned-iks }

medical geography [MED] The study of the relation between geographic factors and disease. { 'med-ə-kəl jē'agrə-fē }

medical history [MED] An account of a patient's past and present state of health obtained from the patient or relatives. { 'med-ə-kəl 'his-trē }

medical imaging [MED] The production of visual representations of body parts, tissues, or organs, for use in clinical diagnosis; encompasses x-ray methods, magnetic resonance imaging, single-photon-emission and positron-emission tomography, and ultrasound. { 'med-ə-kəl 'im-iŋ-iŋ }

medical microbiology [MED] The study of microorganisms which affect human health. { 'med-ə-kəl ,mīkr-ō'bī'äl-ə-jē }

medical mycology [MED] A branch of medical microbiology that deals with fungi that are pathogenic to humans. { 'med-ə-kəl mī'käl-ə-jē }

medical parasitology [MED] A branch of medical microbiology which deals with the relationship between humans and those animals which live in or on them. { 'med-ə-kəl ,par-ə'sit-äl-ə-jē }

medical protozoology [MED] A branch of medical microbiology that deals with the study of Protozoa which are parasites of humans. { 'med-ə-kəl ,prō-dō-zō'äl-ə-jē }

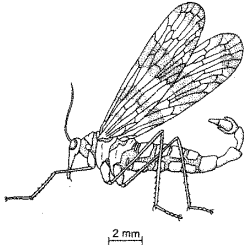
medical radiography [MED] The use of x-rays to produce photographic images for visualizing internal anatomy as an aid in diagnosis. { 'med-ə-kəl ,rād-ē'äg-rə-fē }

medication [MED] 1. A medicinal substance. 2. Treatment by or administration of a medicine. { ,med-ə'kā-shən }

medicinal [MED] Of, pertaining to, or having the nature of medicine. { mə'dis-ən-əl }

medicinal oil [MATER] A highly refined, colorless, tasteless and odorless petroleum oil used medicinally as an internal lu-

MECOPTERA



Male scorpion fly (*Panorpa*).

or bars to form passages for the flow of fluids. { 'plāt ,fɪn ɪks ,tʃɑːnˌjər }

plate finish [GRAPHICS] A smooth, hard finish given to paper by a calendering machine. { 'plāt ,fɪn-ɪʃ }

plate girder [CIV ENG] A riveted or welded steel girder having a deep vertical web plate with a pair of angles along each edge to act as compression and tension flanges. { 'plāt ,gɜːd-ər }

plate girder bridge [CIV ENG] A fixed bridge consisting, in its simplest form, of two flange plates welded to a web plate in the overall shape of an I. { 'plāt ,gɜːd-ər ,brɪdʒ }

plate glass [MATER] Flat, high-quality glass with plane, parallel surfaces. { 'plāt ,glɑːs }

plate ice See pancake ice. { 'plāt ,ɪs }

plate impedance See anode impedance. { 'plāt ɪm ,pɛd-əns }

plate input power See anode input power. { 'plāt 'ɪn ,pʊt ,pəʊ-ər }

platelet [HISTOL] See thrombocyte. [HYD] A small ice crystal which, when united with other such crystals, forms a layer of floating ice, especially sea ice, and serves as seed crystals for further thickening of the ice cover. { 'plāt-let }

platelet-activating factor [IMMUNOL] A phospholipid released by leukocytes that causes aggregation of platelets and other effects, such as an increase in vascular permeability and bronchoconstriction. Abbreviated PAF. { 'plāt-let 'ak-tə ,vɑːd-ɪŋ ,fɑːk-tər }

plate-load impedance See anode impedance. { 'plāt ,lɔd ɪm ,pɛd-əns }

plate-making [GRAPHICS] The forming of printing plates; the plate may be an offset plate, gravure plate, or a photogalatin plate. { 'plāt ,mæ-kɪŋ }

plate modulation See anode modulation. { 'plāt ,mə-jə ,lā-shən }

plate modulus [MECH] The ratio of the stress component T_{xx} in an isotropic, elastic body obeying a generalized Hooke's law to the corresponding strain component S_{xx} , when the strain components S_{yy} and S_{zz} are 0; the sum of the Poisson ratio and twice the rigidity modulus. { 'plāt ,mə-jə ,lɑːs }

platen [ENG] 1. A flat plate against which something rests or is pressed. 2. The rubber-covered roller of a typewriter against which paper is pressed when struck by the typebars. [MECH ENG] A flat surface for exchanging heat in a boiler or heat exchanger which may have extended heat transfer surfaces. { 'plāt-ən }

plate neutralization See anode neutralization. { 'plāt ,nɪ-trə-lə ,zɑː-shən }

platen press [GRAPHICS] A type of printing press with a flat surface bearing the inked type; another flat surface, bearing the paper, is pressed against the type; small hand presses are ordinarily of this sort. { 'plāt-ən ,pres }

plate proof [GRAPHICS] A proof obtained from a printing plate. { 'plāt ,pruːf }

plate pulse modulation See anode pulse modulation. { 'plāt 'pʊls ,mə-jə ,lā-shən }

plate resistance See anode resistance. { 'plāt rɪ ,zɪs-təns }

plate saturation See anode saturation. { 'plāt ,sætʃ-ə ,rɑː-shən }

plate scale [ASTRON] The ratio of the angular distance between two stars to the linear distance between their images on a photographic plate. { 'plāt ,skāl }

plate-shear test [ENG] A method used to get true shear data on a honeycomb core by bonding the core between two thick steel plates and subjecting the core to shear by displacing the plates relative to each other by loading in either tension or compression. { 'plāt 'ʃɪr ,test }

plate tectonics [GEOL] Global tectonics based on a model of the earth characterized by a small number (10–25) of semirigid plates which float on some viscous underlayer in the mantle; each plate moves more or less independently and grinds against the others, concentrating most deformation, volcanism, and seismic activity along the periphery. Also known as raft tectonics. { 'plāt tek 'tæn-ɪks }

plate theory [ANALY CHEM] In gas chromatography, the theory that the column operates similarly to a distillation column; for example, chromatographic columns are considered as consisting of a number of theoretical plates, each performing a partial separation of components. { 'plāt ,thi-ə-rē }

plate tower [CHEM ENG] A distillation tower along the internal height of which is a series of transverse plates (bubble-cap or sieve) to force intimate contact between downward flowing liquid and upward flowing vapor. { 'plāt ,taʊ-ər }

plate-type exchanger [MECH ENG] Heat-exchange device similar to a plate-and-frame filter press; fluids flow between the frame-held plates, transferring heat between them. { 'plāt ,tɪp ɪks ,tʃɑːnˌjər }

plate vibrator [ENG] A mechanically operated tamper fitted with a flat base. { 'plāt vɪ 'brɑːd-ər }

plate wave [ACOUS] A type of ultrasonic vibration generated in a thin solid, such as a sheet of metal having a thickness of less than one wavelength, and usually consisting of a variety of simultaneous modes having different velocities; it is used in metal inspection. Also known as Lamb wave. { 'plāt ,wæv }

platform [COMPUT SCI] The hardware system and the system software used by a computer program. [GEOL] 1. Any level or almost level surface; a small plateau. 2. A continental area covered by relatively flat or gently tilted, mainly sedimentary strata which overlay a basement of rocks consolidated during earlier deformations; platforms and shields together constitute cratons. [MIN ENG] A wooden floor on the side of a gangway at the bottom of an inclined seam, to which the coal runs by gravity, and from which it is shoveled into mine cars. [ORD] 1. Temporary or permanent solid bed on which artillery pieces are supported to give greater stability. 2. Metal stand at the base of some types of guns upon which the gun crew stands while serving the gun. { 'plāt ,fɔrm }

platform balance [ENG] A weighing device with a flat plate mounted above a balanced beam. { 'plāt ,fɔrm ,bal-əns }

platform beach [GEOL] A looped bar or ridge of sand and gravel formed on a wave-cut platform. { 'plāt ,fɔrm ,biːtʃ }

platform blowing [ENG] Special technique for blow-molding large parts made of plastic without sagging of the part being formed. { 'plāt ,fɔrm ,blɔːɪŋ }

platform conveyor [MECH ENG] A single- or double-strand conveyor with plates of steel or hardwood forming a continuous platform on which the loads are placed. { 'plāt ,fɔrm kən ,vɑː-ər }

platform deck [NAV ARCH] A partial deck fitted in the hold of a ship. { 'plāt ,fɔrm ,dek }

platform erection [NAV] In the alignment of inertial navigation equipment, the alignment of the stable platform vertical axis with the local vertical. { 'plāt ,fɔrm ɪ ,rek-ʃən }

platform facies See shelf facies. { 'plāt ,fɔrm ,fæ-ʃeɪz }

platform framing [BUILD] A construction method in which each floor is framed independently by nailing the horizontal framing member to the top of the wall studs. { 'plāt ,fɔrm ,fræm-ɪŋ }

platform reef [GEOL] An organic reef, generally small but more extensive than a patch reef, with a flat upper surface. { 'plāt ,fɔrm ,riːf }

platina [MET] A white brittle brass containing 75% zinc and 25% copper; used for jewelry. { plə 'tɛn-ə }

plating [MET] Forming a thin, adherent layer of metal on an object. Also known as metal plating. { 'plād-ɪŋ }

plating rack [MET] A fixture that holds, and conducts current to, a piece of work during electrodeposition. { 'plād-ɪŋ ,ræk }

platinic chloride See chloroplatinic acid. { plə 'tɪn-ɪk 'klɔːr-ɪd }

platinic sodium chloride See sodium chloroplatinate. { plə 'tɪn-ɪk 'sɔd-ɪ-əm 'klɔːr-ɪd }

platinic sulfate See platinum sulfate. { plə 'tɪn-ɪk 'səʊl ,fæt }

platiniridium [MINERAL] A silver-white cubic mineral composed of platinum, iridium, and related metals, occurring in grains. { 'plāt-ən-ə 'rɪd-ɪ-əm }

platinite See platynite. { 'plāt-ən ,ɪt }

platinochloride See chloroplatinate. { 'plāt-ən-ə 'klɔːr-ɪd }

platinocyanide [INORG CHEM] A double salt of platinum cyanide and another cyanide, such as $K_2Pt(CN)_4$; used in photography and fluorescent x-ray screens. Also known as cyanoplatinate. { 'plāt-ən-ə 'sɪ-ə ,nɪd }

platinoid [MET] 1. Resembling or related to platinum. 2. A copper-nickel-zinc alloy used for electrical resistance wire. { 'plāt-ən ,ɔɪd }

platinotron [ELECTR] A microwave tube that may be used as a high-power saturated amplifier or oscillator in pulsed radar applications; requires permanent magnet just as does a magnetron. { plə 'tɪn-ə ,trən }

platinous chloride See platinum dichloride. { 'plāt-ən-əs 'klɔːr-ɪd }

platinous iodide See platinum iodide. { 'plāt-ən-əs 'ɪ-ə ,dɪd }

platinum [CHEM] A chemical element, symbol Pt, atomic number 78, atomic weight 195.09. [MET] A soft, ductile,