Revision of some spathidiid genera (Alveolata, Ciliophora, Spathidiida)

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# Revision of some spathidiid genera (Alveolata, Ciliophora, Spathidiida)

Edited by

Wilhelm Foissner, Kuidong Xu & Helmut Berger

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**Cover:** *Epispathidium papilliferum* (front; see Fig. 6.11h–j in Chapter 6); *Neospathidium longinucleatum* (back; see Fig. 12.9j–l in Chapter 12)

In memory of Wilhelm Foissner (1948-2020)

Preface, authorship, acknowledgements, and funding xiii Abstract xv

## **Chapter 1**

H. Berger, K. Xu & W. Foissner

General section to "Revision of some spathidiid genera (Alveolata, Ciliophora, Spathidiida)", including nomenclatural notes 1

Abstract 1 Introduction 1 Material and methods 2Notes on so-called, nomenclaturally unavailable names of species due to aphory 5 Nomenclatural notes on new species/subspecies described by Foissner et al. (2002) 8 Protospathidium vermiforme Foissner, Agatha & Berger nov. spec. 10 Notes on type slides of species described by Foissner (2016a, b) 15 Note on ZooBank registration number of author Helmut Berger 17 Summary of nomenclatural acts and of taxa described in Chapters 1-13 18 New subspecies 18 New species 18 New genera 18 New combinations 18 New family 19 Redescriptions, reviews, and others 19 New name (Replacement name) 20 Funding 20 References 20

## **Chapter 2**

H. Berger, K. Xu & W. Foissner

Spathidiida Foissner & Foissner, 1988 (Ciliophora, Litostomatea, Haptoria): a brief introduction 25

Abstract **25** Spathidiida Foissner & Foissner, 1988 Key to subtaxa (families) of the Spathidiida Foissner & Foissner, 1988 Spathidiidae Kahl in Doflein & Reichenow, 1929 *Spathidium* Dujardin, 1841 Funding **29** References

## Chapter 3

W. Foissner, K. Xu & H. Berger

Characterisation of 15 species belonging to the genus *Spathidium* Dujardin, 1841 (Ciliophora, Spathidiidae), including three new 33

Abstract 33 Characterisation of 15 Spathidium species 34 The Spathidium elongatum group 34 Spathidium elongatum nov. spec. 36 Spathidium apospathidiforme nov. spec. 43 Spathidium duschli Foissner, 2016 59 Spathidium dispar Foissner & Xu in Foissner, 2016 59 The Spathidium bromelicola group 61 Spathidium bromelicola Foissner, Wolf, Kumar, Xu & Quintela-Alonso, 2014 62 Spathidium aciculare Foissner, Agatha & Berger, 2002 65 Spathidium etoschense Foissner, Agatha & Berger, 2002 65 Spathidium saprophilum nov. spec. 67 Spathidium saprophilum saprophilum nov. subspec. 68 Spathidium saprophilum curvioplites nov. subspec. 71 Spathidium rusticanum Foissner, 1981 74 The Spathidium wolfi group 85 Spathidium wolfi Foissner, Wolf, Kumar, Xu & Quintela-Alonso, 2014 85 Spathidium faurefremieti Foissner, 2003 86 Spathidium latissimum Lepsi, 1959 89 Spathidium polyvacuolatum Vuxanovici, 1959 90 Two further Spathidium species 90 Spathidium anguilla Vuxanovici, 1962 91 Spathidium polynucleatum (Foissner, Agatha & Berger, 2002) Jang, Vd'ačný, Shazib & Shin, 2017 96 Funding 106 Acknowledgements 106 References 106

## **Chapter 4**

W. Foissner, K. Xu & H. Berger
Apospathidium Foissner et al., 2002 (Ciliophora, Spathidiidae), a genus whose species
have oralized somatic kineties 111
Abstract 111
Apospathidium Foissner, Agatha & Berger, 2002 111
Key to species 112
Apospathidium terricola Foissner, Agatha & Berger, 2002 112
Apospathidium longicaudatum (Buitkamp, 1977) nov. comb. 117
Funding 124
Acknowledgements 124
References 125

## Chapter 5

W. Foissner, K. Xu & H. Berger

Centrospathidium nov. gen. (Ciliophora, Spathidiidae), a new genus whose type

#### species was discovered in an Australian floodplain 127

Abstract 127 Centrospathidium nov. gen. 127 Key to species 128 Centrospathidium verrucosum nov. spec. 128 Centrospathidium faurei (Kahl, 1930) nov. comb. 136 Centrospathidium minutum (Kahl, 1926) nov. comb. 138 Funding 138 Acknowledgements 139 References 139

## Chapter 6

W. Foissner, K. Xu & H. Berger

Epispathidium Foissner, 1984 (Ciliophora, Spathidiidae), a genus where the circumoral kinety is completely separated from the somatic kineties 141 Abstract 141 Epispathidium Foissner, 1984 142 Key to species 143 Epispathidium regium Foissner, 1984 144 Epispathidium securiforme (Kahl, 1930) Foissner, 1984 154 Epispathidium salsum nov. spec. 166 Epispathidium papilliferum (Kahl, 1930) Foissner, 1984 174 Brief review of other species assigned to Epispathidium Foissner, 1984 196 Epispathidium terricola Foissner, 1987 196 Epispathidium amphoriforme (Greeff, 1889) Foissner, 1984 197 Epispathidium ascendens (Wenzel, 1955) Foissner, 1987 202 Funding 207 Acknowledgements 207 References 207

## Chapter 7

W. Foissner, K. Xu & H. Berger
Latispathidium Foissner et al., 2005 (Ciliophora, Spathidiidae), a genus whose species
have the dorsal brush on the left body side 213
Abstract 213
Latispathidium Foissner, Berger, Xu & Zechmeister-Boltenstern, 2005 213
Key to species 215
Latispathidium lanceoplites (Foissner, Agatha & Berger, 2002) Foissner, Berger, Xu & Zechmeister-Boltenstern, 2005 215
Latispathidium truncatum (Stokes, 1885) Foissner, Berger, Xu & Zechmeister-Boltenstern, 2005 218
Key to subspecies 220
Latispathidium truncatum truncatum (Stokes, 1885) Foissner, Berger, Xu &

Zechmeister-Boltenstern, 2005 221

Latispathidium truncatum bimacronucleatum Foissner, Berger, Xu & Zechmeister-Boltenstern, 2005 222
Latispathidium arboricola nov. spec. 229
Latispathidium simile nov. spec. 238
Latispathidium brachyoplites nov. spec. 245
Funding 252
Acknowledgements 252
References 253

#### Chapter 8

W. Foissner, K. Xu & H. Berger

*Schmidingerophrya* nov. gen. (Ciliophora, Spathidiidae), a new genus whose species have only two dorsal brush rows 257

Abstract 257 Schmidingerophrya nov. gen. 257 Key to species 258 Schmidingerophrya macrothrix nov. spec. 258 Schmidingerophrya bisticha nov. spec. 272 Funding 279 Acknowledgements 279 References 279

## Chapter 9

W. Foissner, K. Xu & H. Berger

*Semibryophyllum* nov. gen. (Ciliophora, Spathidiidae), a new genus characterised by three ordinary dorsal brush rows and several accessory brush rows on the left side 281

Abstract 281 Semibryophyllum nov. gen. 281 Key to species 285 Semibryophyllum cultellum nov. spec. 285 Semibryophyllum palustre nov. spec. 291 Semibryophyllum foliosum (Foissner, 1983) nov. comb. 303 Funding 308 Acknowledgements 308 References 308

## **Chapter 10**

W. Foissner, K. Xu & H. Berger

Semispathidium Foissner et al., 2002 (Ciliophora, Spathidiidae), a genus whose species have a discoidal oral bulge and Spathidium-like oral and somatic ciliature 311 Abstract 311
Semispathidium Foissner, Agatha & Berger, 2002 312
Key to species 315
Semispathidium enchelyodontides Foissner, Agatha & Berger, 2002 315

Semispathidium armatum Foissner, Agatha & Berger, 2002 320
Semispathidium lagyniforme (Kahl, 1930) Foissner, Agatha & Berger, 2002 322
Semispathidium breviarmatum Foissner & Vdačný in Vdačný & Foissner, 2013 325
Semispathidium longiarmatum Foissner & Vdačný in Vdačný, Slovák & Foissner, 2014 326
Semispathidium fraterculum Foissner & Al-Rasheid in Foissner, Hess & Al-Rasheid, 2010 329
Semispathidium pulchrum Foissner, Hess & Al-Rasheid, 2010 330
Funding 330
Acknowledgements 331
References 331

## Chapter 11

W. Foissner, K. Xu & H. Berger

*Supraspathidium* Foissner & Didier, 1981 (Ciliophora, Spathidiidae), a genus whose species have more than one contractile vacuole 335

Abstract 335 Supraspathidium Foissner & Didier, 1981 335 Key to species 337 Supraspathidium teres (Stokes, 1886) Foissner & Didier, 1981 338 Supraspathidium multistriatum Foissner & Didier, 1981 339 Supraspathidium etoschense Foissner, Agatha & Berger, 2002 346 Supraspathidium armatum Foissner, Agatha & Berger, 2002 353 Supraspathidium vermiforme (Penard, 1922) Foissner & Didier, 1981 357 Supraspathidium elongatum (Penard, 1922) Foissner & Didier, 1981 359 Supraspathidium gigas (Cunha, 1914) Foissner & Didier, 1981 361 Funding 363 Acknowledgements 363 References 363

## Chapter 12

W. Foissner, K. Xu & H. Berger

Pharyngospathidiidae nov. fam. (Ciliophora, Spathidiida), a group of spathidiids with a permanent cytopharynx 367

Abstract 367 Pharyngospathidiidae nov. fam. 367 Key to genera 369 Pharyngospathidium nov. gen. 369 Key to species and subspecies 369 Pharyngospathidium longichilum nov. spec. 370 Pharyngospathidium longichilum longichilum nov. subspec. 378 Pharyngospathidium longichilum amphoriforme nov. subspec. 380 Pharyngospathidium pseudobavariense nov. spec. 389 Pharyngospathidium bavariense (Kahl, 1930) nov. comb. 398

Pharyngospathidium simplinucleatum (Kahl, 1930) nov. comb. 399
Neospathidium nov. gen. 400
Key to species 400
Neospathidium longinucleatum nov. spec. 401
Neospathidium africanum nov. spec. 418
Neospathidium brachystichos nov. spec. 424
Funding 428
Acknowledgements 428
References 429

## Chapter 13

H. Berger, K. Xu & W. Foissner

Supplement to the Arcuospathidiidae Foissner & Xu, 2007: Neocultellothrix Foissner nov. gen. (Ciliophora, Haptoria, Arcuospathidiidae) with Neocultellothrix velhoi Foissner nov. spec. as type species, and transfer of six species from the unavailable genus Cultellothrix Foissner, 2003 to Neocultellothrix Foissner nov. gen., a step to fix a serious nomenclatural problem 433 Abstract 433 Neocultellothrix Foissner nov. gen. 434 Key to species 436 Neocultellothrix velhoi Foissner nov. spec. 436 Note on type material of Cephalospathula brasiliensis Foissner, 2003b 438 Neocultellothrix atypica (Wenzel, 1953) Foissner & Xu nov. comb. 439 Neocultellothrix coemeterii (Kahl, 1943) Foissner & Xu nov. comb. 443 Neocultellothrix japonica (Foissner, 1988) Foissner & Xu nov. comb. 445 Neocultellothrix lionotiformis (Kahl, 1930) Foissner nov. comb. 446 Neocultellothrix paucistriata (Foissner & Xu, 2007) nov. comb. 448 Neocultellothrix tortisticha (Foissner & Xu, 2007) nov. comb. 449 Funding 450 Acknowledgements 450 References 450

## Index

Systematic index 453 Table index 465

## Preface, authorship, acknowledgements, and funding

The spathidiids have been one of several favorite ciliate groups of Wilhelm Foissner. In 2001, W. Foissner started a revision of this large group of haptorids. During processing his huge archive after his sudden death in 2020, I found a well-advanced manuscript dealing with several spathidiid genera. In order to prevent this manuscript from being forgotten, I have decided to publish it in my monographic series on ciliates.

W. Foissner collected most samples, made the in vivo observations, the preparations, many morphometries, and wrote text. K. Xu made morphometries and illustrations, compiled the plates, and wrote text. I updated the text of the raw manuscript, organized the deposition of the slides in the Biology Centre of the Upper Austrian Museum in Linz, wrote the front matter, the general introduction, the material and method section including the summary of taxa (Chapter 1), the brief introduction to the spathidiids (Chapter 2), the chapter on *Neo-cultellothrix* Foissner nov. gen. (Chapter 13), and the back matter (index). Further, I made the layout and produced the final PDF.

The help of the following persons must be acknowledged: Sabine Agatha, Remigius Geiser, Eva Herzog, Wolf-Dietrich Krautgartner, Brigitte Moser, Birgit Peukert, Fritz Seyrl, and Andreas Zankl. Colleagues who provided samples are acknowledged in the individual species descriptions. I also want to thank Magdalini Christodoulou and Alexandra Aberham at the Biology Centre of the Upper Austrian Museum in Linz for help with the transfer of the Foissner archive from Salzburg to Linz.

Wilhelm Foissner, Kuidong Xu, and co-workers involved in this project got financial support by the Austrian Science Fund FWF (Project P15017-B06, "Monographie der Familie Spathidiidae (Ciliophora)"). I wish to thank Ilse Foissner who generously privately financed my work on this book.

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## Abstract

# Foissner W., Xu K. & Berger H. (Eds) (2025): Revision of some spathidiid genera (Alveolata, Ciliophora, Spathidiida). – Ser. Monogr. Cilioph. 6: i–xv, 1–465.

This book deals with some spathidiid taxa. The following genera are treated and established, respectively: *Apospathidium* Foissner et al., 2002; *Centrospathidium* nov. gen.; *Epispathidium* Foissner, 1984; *Latispathidium* Foissner et al., 2005; *Schmidingerophrya* nov. gen.; *Semibryophyllum* nov. gen.; *Semispathidium* Foissner et al., 2002; *Supraspathidium* Foissner & Didier, 1981; *Pharyngospathidium* nov. gen. (type genus of Pharyngospathidiidae nov. fam.); *Neospathidium* nov. gen.; *Neocultellothrix* Foissner nov. gen. The latter genus "replaces" *Cultellothrix* Foissner, 2003, an unavailable genus because no holotype was fixed for the type species in the original description. In addition, 12 *Spathidium* species are reviewed, and three new species assigned to this genus are described. In total, four new subspecies, 19 new species, six new genera, and one new family are described, 13 species are transferred to other genera, and 41 known species and two subspecies are reviewed. Further, three "*Spathidium* groups" are discussed. The type slides of the new species and voucher slides of the redescribed species are documented.

Key words: Alveolata; biogeography; Ciliophora; cyst; diversity; Haptoria; monograph; morphogenesis; nomenclature; Protista; revision; soil biology; systematics; taxonomy

## **Chapter 9**

## Semibryophyllum nov. gen. (Ciliophora, Spathidiidae), a new genus characterised by three ordinary dorsal brush rows and several accessory brush rows on the left side<sup>1</sup>

W. Foissner<sup>a</sup>, K. Xu<sup>b</sup> & H. Berger<sup>c</sup>

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> ZooBank registration of present chapter urn:lsid:zoobank.org:pub:8B20D021-3D9A-40CF-9020-FCC227CD1953

## Abstract

The species classified in *Semibryophyllum* nov. gen. have the three ordinary dorsal brush rows plus several accessory rows on the left side of the body. The ciliature is either in the *Arcuospathidium-* or the *Spathidium*-pattern. Thus, it cannot be excluded that this new genus is non-monophyletic. Two new species (*Semibryophyllum cultellum* nov. spec., type species, type locality in Spain; *Semibryophyllum palustre* nov. spec., type locality Lower Austria) and one known species (*Semibryophyllum foliosum* (Foissner, 1983) nov. comb., type locality in Salzburg, Austria) are assigned. A key to the species is provided.

## Semibryophyllum nov. gen.

- 2005 Semibryophyllum n. g., n. sp. Foissner, Berger, Xu & Zechmeister-Boltenstern, Biodiv. Conserv. 14: 634 (unavailable name; see nomenclature).
- 2007 Semibryophyllum Foissner & Xu, Monogr. biol. 81: 15, 155 (unavailable name; see nomenclature).

**Nomenclature:** Composite of the Latin prefix *semi* (half; Werner 1972, p. 74) and the genus-group name *Bryophyllum*, referring to the similarity with the genus *Bryophyllum* Kahl, 1931 (p. 183). Like *Bryophyllum* of neuter gender (Aescht 2001, p. 275).

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> This chapter should be referenced as follows: Foissner W., Xu K. & Berger H. (2025): *Semibryophyllum* nov. gen. (Ciliophora, Spathidiidae), a new genus characterised by three ordinary dorsal brush rows and several accessory brush rows on the left side. – Ser. Monogr. Cilioph. 6: 281–310.

For notes on "Material and methods", see Chapter 1 (Berger et al. 2025a).

Characteristic	Mean	М	SD	SE	CV	Min	Max	n
Body, length	122.1	128.0	21.3	4.9	17.4	80.0	166.0	19
	116.6	111.0	22.8	5.2	19.6	76.0	164.0	19
Body, width	45.3	45.0	7.8	1.8	17.3	31.0	64.0	19
	41.6	43.0	5.7	1.3	13.7	30.0	52.0	19
Body length:width, ratio	2.7	2.8	0.5	0.1	16.7	2.0	3.5	19
	2.8	2.7	0.7	0.2	23.2	1.8	4.4	19
Oral bulge, length of cord	72.6	73.0	16.9	3.9	23.3	41.0	103.0	19
	29.8	29.5	5.5	1.2	18.6	22.0	43.0	20
Body length:oral bulge length, ratio	1.7	1.6	0.2	0.1	12.6	1.4	2.1	19
	3.9	3.9	0.5	0.1	13.8	3.1	5.3	19
Circumoral kinety to end of longest	21.8	22.0	4.6	1.4	21.3	15.0	32.0	11
dorsal brush row, distance	28.6	28.0	4.5	1.0	15.9	17.0	40.0	19
Anterior body end to macronucleus,	46.4	45.0	13.5	3.1	29.1	20.0	80.0	19
distance	37.3	35.0	11.7	2.7	31.3	16.0	58.0	19
Macronuclear figure, length	44.1	44.0	10.5	2.4	23.8	22.0	63.0	19
	35.8	36.0	10.9	2.5	30.5	21.0	70.0	19
Macronucleus, length of largest, straight	10.7	11.0	1.0	0.2	9.2	9.0	12.0	19
segment <sup>b</sup>	77.6	75.0	15.0	3.5	19.4	60.0	100.0	19
Macronucleus, width of largest,	6.9	7.0	1.0	0.2	15.2	5.0	10.0	19
straight segment	7.3	7.0	1.4	0.3	18.8	5.0	10.0	19
Macronuclear segments, number	14.8	15.0	2.3	0.5	15.2	12.0	19.0	19
(1 if not segmented)	2.7	2.0	1.8	0.4	65.8	1.0	6.0	19
Micronuclei, diameter	3.3	3.0	0.3	0.1	10.5	3.0	4.0	19
	3.1	3.0	0.3	0.1	10.0	3.0	4.0	19
Micronuclei, number	14.2	14.0	2.8	0.6	19.6	10.0	19.0	19
	1.0	1.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	1.0	1.0	19
Somatic kineties, number	21.8	22.0	1.4	0.3	6.4	19.0	24.0	16
	22.2	22.0	1.8	0.4	8.0	19.0	) 27.0 19	
Basal bodies in a right-side kinety,	109.0	112.0	25.7	9.7	23.6	59.0	136.0	7
number	48.5	45.5	12.6	3.2	26.0	32.0	73.0	16
Dorsal brush rows, number	6.1	6.0	0.6	0.2	10.5	5.0	7.0	13
	6.9	7.0	0.5	0.1	7.1	6.0	8.0	17

**Table 9.1** Morphometric data on *Semibryophyllum cultellum* nov. spec. (upper line; original data) and *Semibryophyllum palustre* nov. spec. (lower line; original data)<sup>a</sup>

<sup>a</sup> Data based on mounted, protargol-prepared (Foissner's method), and randomly selected specimens from non-flooded Petri dish cultures. Measurements in μm. CV – coefficient of variation in %, M – median, Max – maximum, Mean – arithmetic mean, Min – minimum, n – number of individuals investigated, SD – standard deviation, SE – standard error of arithmetic mean.

<sup>b</sup> Uncoilded length in *Semibryophyllum palustre*.

Foissner et al. (2005) and Foissner & Xu (2007) mentioned this name, but neither provided a definition of the genus (ICZN 1999, Article 13.1.1) nor did they fix a type species (Article 13.3). Thus, *Semibryophyllum* in Foissner et al. (2005) and Foissner & Xu (2007) are nomina nuda (names published after 1930 which fail to conform Article 13). A nomen nudum is not an available name and the name is available for the same or a different concept (for details on the term nomen nudum, see ICZN 1999, p. 111).

Mean	М	SD	SE	CV	Min	Max	n
73.6	74.5	7.1	2.2	9.6	60.0	83.0	12
34.1	32.0	4.8	1.3	14.8	26.0	41.0	13
7.8	7.9	1.0	0.3	12.2	6.5	9.0	8
	Mean 73.6 34.1 7.8	Mean         M           73.6         74.5           34.1         32.0           7.8         7.9	Mean         M         SD           73.6         74.5         7.1           34.1         32.0         4.8           7.8         7.9         1.0	Mean         M         SD         SE           73.6         74.5         7.1         2.2           34.1         32.0         4.8         1.3           7.8         7.9         1.0         0.3	Mean         M         SD         SE         CV           73.6         74.5         7.1         2.2         9.6           34.1         32.0         4.8         1.3         14.8           7.8         7.9         1.0         0.3         12.2	Mean         M         SD         SE         CV         Min           73.6         74.5         7.1         2.2         9.6         60.0           34.1         32.0         4.8         1.3         14.8         26.0           7.8         7.9         1.0         0.3         12.2         6.5	Mean         M         SD         SE         CV         Min         Max           73.6         74.5         7.1         2.2         9.6         60.0         83.0           34.1         32.0         4.8         1.3         14.8         26.0         41.0           7.8         7.9         1.0         0.3         12.2         6.5         9.0

Table 9.2 Morphometric data on Semibryophyllum foliosum (from Wirnsberger et al. 1984)<sup>a</sup>

<sup>a</sup> Data based on mounted, protargol-prepared (Foissner's method) field specimens. Measurements in µm. For abbreviations, see footnote a at Table 9.1.

**Diagnosis:** Spathidiidae with three ordinary and several accessory dorsal brush rows on left body side; accessory rows become shorter from dorsal to ventral. Ciliature in *Arcuospathidium*- or *Spathidium*-pattern. Oral bulge basically cuneate.

Type species: Semibryophyllum cultellum nov. spec.

**Species assigned:** Semibryophyllum cultellum nov. spec. (type species); Semibryophyllum foliosum (Foissner, 1983) nov. comb. (original combination *Pseudoprorodon foliosus*); Semibryophyllum palustre nov. spec.

ZooBank registration: urn:lsid:zoobank.org:act:19EDB3A9-34F6-497D-92C9-27AF5 ADABBE3

Remarks: This new genus comprises Semibryophyllum cultellum nov. spec., Semibryophyllum palustre nov. spec., and Semibryophyllum foliosum (Foissner, 1983) nov. comb. These three species break the rule that spathidiids s. str. have three dorsal brush rows; they have six or more. However, the additional rows are short and inconspicuous; thus, we name them "accessory (dorsal) brush rows (kineties)". The type species has two types of oral bulge extrusomes, which is also unusual for "good" spathidiids, but common in deviating and related genera, such as several Arcuospathidium and Apertospathula species, and in Bryophyllum (for details on these taxa, see Foissner & Xu 2007, p. 146, 331; Foissner & Lei 2004, p. 170). Semibryophyllum cultellum has a typical Arcuospathidium ciliary pattern, while a Spathidium pattern occurs in Semibryophyllum palustre and Semibryophyllum foliosum (for characterization of patterns, see Foissner & Xu 2007, p. 13). This indicates non-monophyly of the genus. However, we avoid a monotypic genus for Semibryophyllum cultellum at the present state of knowledge, though it, indeed, looks rather dissimilar to Semibryophyllum foliosum and Semibryophyllum palustre. On the other hand, the increased number of brush rows is a very conspicuous feature uniting these species. Further data, including gene sequence analyses, are needed to show whether or not *Semibryophyllum* is monophyletic.

As indicated by the name, *Bryophyllum* Kahl, 1931 highly resembles *Semibryophyllum*, especially the type species *Semibryophyllum cultellum*, which is a characteristic *Bryophyllum*, except of the posteriorly shortened oral bulge (see Kahl 1931, p. 183 and Foissner et al. 2002, p. 340 for descriptions of representative species). Thus, *Semibryophyllum cultellum* might be a true transition species.

Wirnsberger et al. (1984, p. 308) assigned *Semibryophyllum foliosum* to *Cranotheridium* Schewiakoff, 1892<sup>2</sup>, mainly due to the dorsally located extrusome bundle. Schewiakoff

continued on p. 285

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> Note by H. Berger: Aescht (2001, p. 50) wrote that Schewiakoff (1892, p. 554) did not provide a description or definition of the genus. However, this is incorrect because Schewiakoff (1892) described the type species (fixation by



**Fig. 9.1a–m** *Semibryophyllum cultellum* nov. spec. (originals. a–h, j–m, from life; i, protargol preparation). **a:** Right side view of a representative specimen showing, inter alia, the broadly knife-shaped body and the tortuous macronucleus, 150  $\mu$ m. **b, c:** Right side view of shape variants. **d, f, g:** *Semibryophyllum cultellum* has long (10  $\mu$ m) and short (2  $\mu$ m; arrowhead in d) extrusomes in the oral bulge. **e:** Surface view of posterior (ventral) end of oral bulge containing oblique extrusome rows. **h:** Part of dorsal brush composed of ordinary (B) and accessory (A) rows. Note monokinetidal bristle tail of row 3. **i:** Surface view of cortex distinctly impregnated between kineties. **j, k:** Optical section and surface view of cortex showing cortical granulation. **l, m:** Transverse view of body in postoral (1) and oral region (m). A1 – one of several accessory dorsal brush rows, B1–3 – ordinary dorsal brush rows, C – ordinary somatic cilium, CV – contractile vacuole, E – extrusomes, F – fibre, G – cortical granules, K – somatic kinety (ciliary row), LD – lipid droplets, OB – oral bulge.

(1892, 1893), however, emphasized that the "rod-apparatus" of *Cranotheridium taeniatum* Schewiakoff, 1892 (type species of *Cranotheridium* by monotypy) is highly similar to the oral basket of *Nassula*. This is confirmed by figure (Fig. 9.6e). Accordingly, *Semibryophyllum foliosum* and *Semibryophyllum palustre* should not be allocated to this genus, in spite of distinct similarities in general organization and, especially, body shape. Unfortunately, *Cranotheridium taeniatum* has never been reinvestigated.

## Key to species

- Body bursiform to spatulate, about 130 × 45 μm in size; macronucleus a tortuous strand; extrusomes slightly curved, 7 μm long ...... Semibryophyllum palustre nov. spec. (p. 291)

## Semibryophyllum cultellum nov. spec.

(Fig. 9.1a-t, 9.2a-l, Table 9.1)

**Nomenclature:** The species-group name *cultellum* is a Latin noun (small knife; diminutive of *culter*; www.frag-cesar.de, accessed 13 Apr 2023; Hentschel & Wagner 1996, p. 191) and refers to the conspicuously knife-shaped body.

**Diagnosis:** Body size about  $150 \times 50 \ \mu\text{m}$  in vivo. Body broadly knife-shaped with blade (oral portion) occupying about 60% of body length. Macronucleus moniliform and tortuous. Two types of oral bulge extrusomes: type I elongate fusiform and curved, about  $10.0 \times 0.6 \ \mu\text{m}$ ; type II rod-shaped and approximately 2  $\mu\text{m}$  long. On average 22 ciliary rows, about six of them differentiated to inconspicuous dorsal brush occupying up to 18% of body length.

**Type locality:** Mud from rock-pools at bank of a stream near the old town of Toledo (about 39°55'N 04°W), Spain.<sup>3</sup>

**Type material:** The slide (Fig. 9.2g, h; accession number 2024/187) containing the holotype (Fig. 9.1n) and two paratype slides (Fig. 9.2i–l; 2024/188, 189) with protargol-prepared specimens have been deposited in the Biology Centre of the Upper Austrian Museum in Linz (LI).

ZooBank registration: urn:lsid:zoobank.org:act:2A8D9D94-F5DC-42D2-BB0E-12B3 7537305D

**Remarks:** Semibryophyllum cultellum has a highly characteristic shape which, however, also occurs in several spathidiids, viz., Spathidium cithara Penard, 1922 (macronucleus long

monotypy) rather detailed. Thus, Schewiakoff (1892) is the original description of *Cranotheridium* and its type species. Schewiakoff (1893, p. 35, Tafel II, Fig. 35, 36) provided not only a description, but also an illustration.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> Note by H. Berger: Foissner did not provide a more detailed description of the location of the sample site.

continued on p. 289



**Fig. 9.1n, o** *Semibryophyllum cultellum* nov. spec. (originals. Protargol preparation). The ciliary pattern is as in *Arcuospathidium*, that is, the ciliary rows are directed dorsally on both sides, except of the dorsal brush kineties. **n**: Left side view of the holotype showing the long oral bulge (ends marked by arrows) and the minute, ventralmost accessory dorsal brush row (arrowhead), depicted at higher magnification in figure (t); 120 µm. Note the typical, that is, nodular macronucleus. **o**: Right side view of paratype showing the conspicuous oral basket, 140 µm. Note barren basal bodies in kinety at right margin. B – dorsal brush, C – somatic cilia, CK – circumoral kinety, EP – excretory pores, MA – macronucleus, MI – micronucleus, N – nematodesmata, OB – oral bulge.





**Fig. 9.2a–f** *Semibryophyllum cultellum* nov. spec. (originals. a–d, protargol preparation; e, f, from life). **a, b, d:** Overviews showing body shape, the moniliform macronucleus, and the long oral bulge with ends marked by arrowheads. **c:** Cortical fibre system. **e, f:** Extrusomes are about 10  $\mu$ m long, curved rods. CK – circumoral kinety, K – somatic kineties, MA – macronucleus, N – nematodesmal bundles.

**Fig. 9.2g–I** *Semibryophyllum cultellum* nov. spec. (originals. Protargol slides). **g, h:** Slide (g) and protocol (h)  $\longrightarrow$  containing holotype (H) and paratypes (P). Accession number (LI): 2024/187. **i–l:** Slides (i, k) and protocols (j, l) containing paratypes (P) and paratypes drawn (PD). Accession numbers (LI): 2024/188, 189.



and tortuous vs. ellipsoidal; Penard 1922, p. 27); Spathidium depressum Kahl, 1930a (macronucleus long and tortuous vs. reniform; Kahl 1930a, p. 364); Spathidium inflatum Vuxanovici, 1962 (macronucleus long and tortuous vs. in 6-8 nodules; about 22 vs. 12 ciliary rows;  $150 \times 150 \ \mu m$  vs. 60-90× 30-50 µm; Vuxanovici 1962, p. 331); Neocultellothrix lionotiformis (Kahl, 1930b) Foissner in Berger et al., 2025b (6 vs. 3 dorsal brush rows; about 22 vs. 12 ciliary rows; body broad vs. slender, that is, about 3:1 vs. 6-7:1; for details, see Chapter 13, that is, Berger et al. 2025b; Kahl 1930b, p. 165; Foissner 2003, p. 53; Foissner & Xu 2007, p. 269), and *Neocultellothrix* velhoi Foissner in Berger et al., 2025b (6 vs. 3 dorsal brush rows; about 22 vs. 12 ciliary rows; for details, see Chapter 13, that is, Berger et al. 2025b). These are very distinct differences, showing that Semibryophyllum cultel*lum* cannot be confused with any described species. In Bryophyllum, the oral bulge extends over the posterior body end (vs. 60% of body length; see, for example, Foissner & Lei 2004, p. 170).

**Description:** Body size highly variable, viz. 100–  $200 \times 35-70 \ \mu m$  in vivo, usually about  $150 \times 50 \ \mu m$ ,

### FOISSNER W., XU K. & Berger H.

as calculated from some in vivo measurements and the morphometric data (Table 9.1). Body shape very conspicuous and characteristic, viz., like a broad knife with long, strongly convex blade (= oral body portion) occupying up to 70%, on average 60% of body length and short handle (= postoral body portion) moderately broadly rounded posteriorly; length:width ratio considerably variable, that is, 2.0–3.5:1 in protargol preparations, usually near 3:1 both in vivo and prepared cells; handle slightly, blade distinctly flattened laterally and cuneate in transverse view, that is, gradually narrowing from 2:1 on dorsal to 3:1 on ventral side. Dorsal body margin straight to distinctly projecting anteriorly, ventral margin strongly convex in oral portion and distinctly set off from handle by the projecting oral bulge; neck lacking (Fig. 9.1a-c, l-p, r). Macronucleus in middle body third, moniliform and highly tortuous; nodules usually fusiform and occasionally slightly flattened, contain many minute nucleoli. On average 14 micronuclei attached to and far away from macronuclear strand; individual micronuclei of spongious structure and discoidal, that is, about  $4 \times 4 \times 2 \mu m$  in vivo (Fig. 9.1a, n, q, r; Table 9.1). Contractile vacuole in posterior end, many excretory pores in pole area. Two types of extrusomes form oblique, short rows in oral bulge (Fig. 9.1a, d, e-g, 9.2e, f): type I slightly fusiform and curved, conspicuous because about  $10.0 \times 0.6 \ \mu m$  in size; type II rod-shaped and inconspicuous because only 2 µm long. Both types do not impregnate with the protargol method used, but a certain, about  $8.0 \times 0.3 \mu$ m-sized cytoplasmic developmental stage impregnates intensely. Cortex about 1.5 µm thick and highly flexible, contains narrowly spaced rows of minute ( $\leq 1 \mu m$ ), colourless granules; usually impregnated rather distinctly, possibly due to the layer of cortical granules, except along the ciliary rows, which thus appear as white stripes; cortex contains a conspicuous, likely postciliary fibre system (Fig. 9.1i–k, s). Cytoplasm colourless, contains many lipid droplets up to 5 µm across, indicating rapacious mode of life. Glides majestically on microscope slide with oral area occasionally performing slight undulations, quite similar to those known from *Bryophyllum*.

Cilia about 10  $\mu$ m long in vivo, arranged in an average of 22 rather widely spaced, usually bipolar and equidistant rows abutting on circumoral kinety in typical *Arcuo-spathidium*-pattern, except of dorsal brush kineties, whose anterior tail is curved ventrally, and thus abuts in *Spathidium*- or even *Epispathidium*-pattern. Ciliary rows moderately densely ciliated, composed of ciliated and some bare basal bodies which are inserted irregularly; rows frequently with small irregularities. Dorsal brush inconspicuous, though composed of an average of six rows, because occupying only about 18% of body length and bristles merely up to 4  $\mu$ m long; consists of very narrowly spaced dikinetids arranged in three ordinary and 2–4 accessory rows. Ordinary brush rows 1 and 2 of similar length, bristles of row 1 approximately 3  $\mu$ m long, those of row 2 about 4  $\mu$ m; row 3 distinctly shortened, but with monokinetidal bristle tail extending to at least mid-body, bristles approximately 4  $\mu$ m long. Accessory brush rows decrease in length from dorsal to ventral, frequently with small irregularities, bristles about 3  $\mu$ m long. All brush rows have a short, ventrally curved monokinetidal tail with ordinary cilia anteriorly and continue as somatic kineties posteriorly (Fig. 9.1a, h, n–p, t; Table 9.1).

Oral bulge strongly convex, extends 60% of body length on average, distinctly set off from body proper because up to 5  $\mu$ m high and bright (refractive) due to the many extrusomes contained; slightly cuneate, that is, about 8  $\mu$ m wide at dorsal and 6  $\mu$ m at ventral end. Circumoral kinety of same shape as oral bulge, continuous, composed of dikinetids more narrowly spaced in dorsal than ventral half of kinety; circumoral dikinetids each associated with a cilium, a fine fibre extending into oral bulge, and a long nematodesma. Oral basket conspicuous because composed of distinct nematodesma bundles extending to midline of cell (Fig. 9.1a-c, n-r; Table 9.1).

**Occurrence and ecology:** As yet found only at the type locality, that is, in a sample of dry mud and moss scrapped off from rock-pools at the bank of a stream in the surroundings of the old town of Toledo, Spain. Thus, it is difficult to know whether *Semibryophyllum cultellum* is a limnetic or terrestrial species. However, the broad shape indicates that freshwater is preferred. On the other hand, the sample, which had pH 7.3 in water, contained over 80 ciliate species, of which were several undescribed and many typical inhabitants of terrestrial habitats.

## Semibryophyllum palustre nov. spec.

(Fig. 9.3a-s, 9.4a-w, 9.5a-h, Table 9.1)

2007 Semibryophyllum palustre – Foissner & Xu, Monogr. biol. 81: 72 (nomen nudum; see nomenclature).

**Nomenclature:** The species-group name *palust-er*, *-ris*, *-re* (Latin adjective [m, f, n]; marshy, living in marsh; Hentschel & Wagner 1996, p. 453) refers to the floodplain habitat where the species was discovered.

Foissner & Xu (2007) mentioned this name, but they neither provided a definition nor a description or an illustration. Further, the name was not explicitly indicated as new. Thus, the name *Semibryophyllum palustre* in Foissner & Xu (2007) is unavailable and such a name is available for the same or a different concept (ICZN 1999, Articles 13.1.1, 16.1, p. 111).

**Diagnosis:** Body size about  $130 \times 45 \ \mu m$  in vivo. Body spatulate to bursiform with about 45° slanted oral bulge indistinctly set off from body proper and approximately two thirds as long as widest trunk region. Macronucleus about 80  $\mu m$  long, tortuous, more or less distinctly moniliform. Oral bulge extrusomes rod-shaped, about 7  $\mu m$  long. On average 22 ciliary rows, seven of them differentiated to dorsal brush occupying up to 25% of body length.

**Type locality:** *Pruno-Fraxinetum* lowland forest soil from the Müllerboden (48°00'N 16°42'E) in Lower Austria, near the city of Vienna, Austria.

**Type material:** The slide (Fig. 9.5a, b; accession number 2024/190) containing the holotype (Fig. 9.3m-p) and three paratype slides (Fig. 9.5c-h; 2024/191, 192, 193) with protargol-prepared specimens have been deposited in the Biology Centre of the Upper Austrian Museum in Linz (LI).

ZooBank registration: urn:lsid:zoobank.org:act:779D17F6-A186-453C-87AF-CE0408 429624

**Remarks:** Likely, *Semibryophyllum palustre* is most closely related to *Semibryophyllum foliosum*, as indicated by the similar shape of the body and the oral bulge. They differ significantly in macronucleus shape (a long, tortuous strand vs. elongate reniform) and extrusome length (6–8  $\mu$ m long, slightly curved rods vs. 10–16  $\mu$ m long, fine, straight rods). Further, body size (about 130 × 45  $\mu$ m vs. 90 × 45  $\mu$ m) and number of ciliary rows (on average 22 vs. 29) differ considerably. *Semibryophyllum palustre* and *Semibryophyllum cultellum* (type species) match in the nuclear pattern and number of ciliary rows, while body shape is markedly

continued on p. 293



**Fig. 9.3a–k** *Semibryophyllum palustre* nov. spec. (originals. a–d, g–i, from life; e, f, j, k, protargol preparation). **a**: Left side view of a representative specimen, 130 μm. Arrowhead marks end of monokinetidal bristle tail of dorsal brush row 3. **b**, **c**: Surface view and optical section showing dense cortical granulation (cp. Fig. 9.4i–l). **d**: Oral bulge extrusomes are indistinctly acicular to rod-shaped and 6–8 μm long. **e**, **f**, **j**, **k**: Variability of body size and shape and macronucleus in protargol preparations (e, f, k, right side views; j, ventral view). Arrow in (e) marks dorsal nematodesmal bundles directed ventrally and thus optically crossing right side bundles. Note the cuneate oral bulge (j). Drawn to scale, 128 μm, 125 μm, 103 μm, 81 μm. **g–i**: Body shape variability in vivo (right side views). B – dorsal brush, CV – contractile vacuoles, E – extrusome, EP – excretory pores, F – fibres, G – cortical granules, MA – macronucleus, MI – micronucleus, N – nematodesmata (oral basket rods), OB – oral bulge.

**Fig. 9.31–n** *Semibryophyllum palustre* nov. spec. (originals. l, from life; m, n, protargol preparation). **I:** Frontal view of oral bulge, which is cuncate and studded with extrusomes. **m, n:** Ciliary pattern of right and left side and nuclear apparatus of holotype specimen, 137 µm. For abbreviations, see legend above. For details, see following figures.

different due to the oral bulge (moderately convex and occupying 26% of body length vs. strongly convex and occupying 60% of body length). Further, *Semibryophyllum cultellum* has two types of extrusomes in the oral bulge, while *Semibryophyllum palustre* has only one type.



Series Monographiae Ciliophorae, Number 6, Year 2025, pages 281–310 / 293

Body and macronuclear shape of *Semibryophyllum palustre* highly resemble *Cranotherid-ium taeniatum* Schewiakoff, 1892 (Fig. 9.6e; type species of *Cranotheridium* by monotypy). However, the populations cannot belong to the same species, even if we assume that Schewiakoff (1892, 1893) misinterpreted the extrusomes as a pharyngeal basket, because then the extrusomes would have a quite different arrangement (scattered vs. localized in dorsal end of oral bulge) and length (6–8  $\mu$ m vs. about 33  $\mu$ m, as calculated from Schewiakoff's figure (Fig. 9.6e).

**Description:** Body size and shape highly variable that it is difficult to select a representative specimen, partially because the population was in an exponential growth phase when observed and preserved for protargol preparation, as shown by a high percentage (about 10%) of very early dividers in the preparations.

Body size  $80-190 \times 30-55 \mu m$  in vivo, usually near  $130 \times 45 \mu m$ , however, up to  $250 \mu m$  long specimens were occasionally observed; length:width ratio also highly variable, that is,



**Fig. 9.30, p** *Semibryophyllum palustre* nov. spec. (originals. Protargol preparation). Oral basket in right side view (o) and ciliary pattern of left side (p) of holotype specimen shown in Fig. 9.3m, n; length of oral bulge 40  $\mu$ m. Arrow in (o) marks dorsal nematodesmal bundles, which extend ventrally and thus optically cross the lateral bundles. Numbers in (p) denote dorsal brush, which consists of three ordinary rows (B1–3) and four accessory rows (A1–4). All brush rows have an anterior tail of ordinary cilia and continue posteriorly as somatic ciliary rows; ordinary brush row 2 has oblique dikinetids in the middle third; and brush row 3 has a monokinetidal tail of rather narrowly spaced, minute bristles (cp. Fig. 9.4a, r, s). Note slightly interrupted circumoral kinetofragments, attached to the ciliary rows. A1–4 – accessory dorsal brush rows, B1–3 – ordinary brush rows, CK – circumoral kinety, N – nematodesmata, OB – oral bulge.

1.8–4.4:1, on average 2.8:1 both in vivo and protargol preparations; highly flexible and up to 30% contractile under moderate cover glass pressure. Body shape distinctly to indistinctly spatulate or bursiform, occasionally fusiform, ellipsoidal, or lanceolate; anterior (oral) body end slightly to rather distinctly convex and slanted by 30–45°, posterior end narrowly to broadly rounded, widest usually in mid-body; ventral and dorsal view usually fusiform because up to 2.5:1 flattened laterally at body ends (Fig. 9.3a, e–k, m, 9.4a, b; Table 9.1). Nuclear apparatus usually in middle body third (Fig. 9.3a, e, f, j, k, n, 9.4g, i, n; Table 9.1). Macronucleus a more or less tortuous strand with an estimated average length of about 80 µm, slightly to distinctly moniliform in two thirds of specimens; studded with small and large nucleol; becomes distinctly inflated and slightly shorter when division commences, even before distinct changes

continued on p. 301



S

bulge.

sal brush, B3 – ordinary dorsal row 3, CK – circumoral kinety, OB – oral

Foissner W., Xu K. & Berger H.



Chapter 9: Semibryophyllum nov. gen.



**Fig. 9.4i–l** *Semibryophyllum palustre* nov. spec. (originals. From life, differential interference contrast). **i**, **j**: Optical sections showing the thick cortex (marked by opposed arrowheads) produced by the cortical granules and the cortical alveoli. Note the tortuous macronucleus and the many food vacuoles. **k**, **l**: Surface views showing the reticular pattern produced by the cortical alveoli. C – ordinary somatic cilia, E – extrusomes, FV – food vacuoles, MA – macronucleus.





Fig. 9.4m-p Semibryophyllum palustre nov. spec. (originals. m, n, protargol preparation [Foissner's wet technique]; o, p, from life). m, n: Dorsal brush on left side of cell (m) and dorsolateral overview (n), showing, inter alia, the macronucleus and the cirkumoral kinety. The dorsal brush consists of three ordinary (m; asterisked numerals) and three accessory (dotted numerals) rows. The brush dikinetids are very narrowly spaced, especially in the middle portion of rows 2 and 3 (arrowheads), where they are obliquely arranged and form a zigzagging pattern. o: Anterior portion of a squeezed specimen (seen from right side) showing the oblique oral bulge (ends marked by arrowheads) studded with extrusomes. p: Body extrusomes. about  $6.0{-}8.0\times0.5~\mu m$  in size B – dorsal brush, CK - circumoral kinety, E - extrusomes, MA - macronucleus, \*1-\*3 - ordinary brush rows, 1.-3. - accessory brush rows.



**Fig. 9.4q-s** *Semibryophyllum palustre* nov. spec. (originals. q, from life; r, s, protargol preparation, Foissner's wet technique). **q, r:** Frontal views of the cuneate oral bulge and circumoral kinety, which consists of rather widely spaced dikinetids associated with long nematodesmata. **s:** The dorsal brush consists of three ordinary (asterisks) and three accessory (dots) rows each with a short tail of ordinary cilia anteriorly (arrowheads). CK – circumoral kinety, N – nematodesmata, OB – oral bulge.



**Fig. 9.4t-w** *Semibryophyllum palustre* nov. spec. (originals. Protargol preparation, Foissner's wet technique). Ciliary pattern in anterior body portion. **t, u:** Right-ventrolateral and dorso-leftlateral view showing the cuneate circumoral kinety (t) and the dorsal brush (u; arrowheads), which consists of three ordinary (dorsal; right side of micrograph) and four accessory (ventral; left side of micrograph) rows (cp. Fig. 9.4m, s) of narrowly spaced dikinetids. **v, w:** Ventral (v) and dorsal (w) view of same specimen showing the cuneate oral bulge, at which the ciliary rows abut in *Spathidium* pattern, and the slight dorsolateral location of the dorsal brush whose two leftmost rows are not recognizable. B – dorsal brush, CK – circumoral kinety.



Fig. 9.5a-d Semibryophyllum palustre nov. spec. (originals. Protargol slides). a, b: Slide (a) and protocol (b) containing holotype (H) and paratypes drawn (PD). Accession number (LI): 2024/190. c, d: Slide (c) and protocol (d) containing paratypes (P) and paratypes drawn (PD). Accession number (LI): 2024/191.

are recognizable in the ciliary pattern. Micronucleus attached to macronucleus at variable position, inconspicuous because only about 4  $\times$  3 µm in size. Contractile vacuole in posterior body end, no second contractile vacuole anteriorly; about 10 excretory pores in pole area. Definitely, only one type of **c** extrusomes scattered in oral bulge and cytoplasm, where a certain, fusiform developmental stage intensely impregnates with protargol; rarely, the ends of the oral bulge extrusomes also impregnate, as in Spathidium apospathidiforme nov. spec. (see Chapter 3, that is, Foissner et al. 2025; Fig. 9.3a, d, e,

l, 9.4d–j, o–q). Individual extrusomes rod-shaped to indistinctly acicular and slightly curved, about  $6.0-8.0 \times 0.5 \mu m$  in size. Cortex rather conspicuous because gelatinous, bright due to the granules contained, distinctly furrowed by the ciliary rows, and circa 1  $\mu m$  thick showing a conspicuous, reticular alveolar pattern; contains narrowly spaced, oblique rows of colourless, minute ( $\leq 0.7 \times 0.2 \mu m$ ), but rather strongly refractive granules (Fig. 9.3b, c, 9.4a–c, i–l); distinctness and spacing of granules varies, however, only moderately conspicuous in one of four specimens observed. Cytoplasm colourless, usually with lipid droplets and/or food vacuoles 1–10  $\mu m$  across. Likely, mainly feeds on ciliates and heterotrophic flagellates obviously digested rapidly because identifiable prey is not recognizable in the 30 specimens observed. Glides and swims rather rapidly on microscope slides and soil particles showing great flexibility, especially under moderate coverslip pressure, as described above.

Cilia about 10  $\mu$ m long in vivo, arranged in an average of 22 rather widely spaced, usually bipolar and equidistant rows abutting on circumoral kinety in typical *Spathidium* pattern,



**Fig. 9.5e-h** Semibryophyllum palustre nov. spec. (originals. Protargol slides). **e-h:** Slides (e, g) and protocols (f, h) containing paratypes (P) and paratypes drawn (PD). Accession numbers (LI): 2024/192, 193.

that is, anterior end of right side ciliary rows distinctly curved dorsally and separate from circumoral kinety, while anterior end of left side kineties curved ventrally and attached to circumoral kinety fragments. Ciliary rows moderately densely ciliated, composed of ciliated and some bare basal bodies irregularly interspersed (Fig. 9.3a, m, n, q, r, 9.4a, b, r, t, v; Table 9.1). Dorsal brush rather inconspicuous, though composed of an average of seven rows occupying almost two thirds of left side in oral body portion, because extending only up to 25% of body length and bristles merely up to 4 um long and hardly thicker than ordinary somatic cilia; consists of narrowly spaced

dikinetids arranged in three ordinary and 3–5 accessory rows (Fig. 9.3a, n, p–s, 9.4n, m, s, u, w; Table 9.1)<sup>4</sup>. Individual brush rows extend in rather deep furrows, have a ventrally curved tail of up to 10 ordinary cilia anteriorly, and continue as somatic ciliary rows posteriorly with transition zone sometimes composed of a mixture of bristles and ordinary cilia; frequently small irregularities occur, such as minute breaks and/or dikinetids out of line. Ordinary brush row 1 slightly shorter than row 2, which invariably is the longest of all rows, dikinetids very narrowly spaced and obliquely arranged in middle third of row 2, rarely also of row 1; row 3 distinctly

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>4</sup> Ordinary brush row 1 composed of 22.1 dikinetids on average (M = 22, SD = 4.3, SE = 1.0, CV = 19.3, Min = 15, Max = 35, n = 18); row 2 of 27.1 dikinetids on average (M = 25.5, SD = 4.9, SE = 1.2, CV = 18.2, Min = 20, Max = 36, n = 18); row 3 of 11.5 dikinetids on average (M = 12, SD = 2.5, SE = 0.6, CV = 22.0, Min = 6, Max = 15, n = 18). Accessory brush row 1 composed of 12.3 dikinetids on average (M = 12, SD = 3.0, SE = 0.7, CV = 24.2, Min = 8, Max = 18, n = 17); row 2 of 9.1 dikinetids on average (M = 9, SD = 2.3, SE = 0.6, CV = 24.8, Min = 6, Max = 15, n = 17); row 3 of 6.3 dikinetids on average (M = 6, SD = 1.9, SE = 0.5, CV = 29.6, Min = 2, Max = 9, n = 17); row 4 of 3.9 dikinetids on average (M = 4, SD = 1.4, SE = 0.4, CV = 35.2, Min = 2, Max = 6, n = 14). For numbering of brush rows, see Fig. 9.3p.

shorter than rows 1 and 2, but continues to mid-body with rather narrowly spaced,  $1-2 \mu m$  long, monokinetidal bristles. Accessory dorsal brush rows shorter than ordinary rows 1 and 2, shorten gradually from dorsal to ventral with row closest to ventral side composed of only four dikinetids on average (see footnote). Bristles of ordinary brush rows flask-shaped and about 4  $\mu m$  long in anterior half of rows, gradually shorten to 2  $\mu m$  and become rod-shaped in posterior half; anterior bristle of individual dikinetids often slightly shorter than posterior. Bristles of accessory brush rows acicular and close together forming a conical unit (Fig. 9.3a, s).

Oral bulge occupies anterior body end slanted by 30–45°, on average two thirds as long as widest trunk region, usually inconspicuous because hardly set off from body proper and only 4  $\mu$ m high at dorsal end gradually narrowing to about 2  $\mu$ m at ventral end; slightly to distinctly convex in laterally oriented specimens and conspicuously cuneate when viewed ventrally with dorsal end circa 10 µm wide in vivo (distance between circumoral kinety 7.2  $\mu$ m on average in protargol-impregnated specimens; n = 8). Bulge surface arrowhead-like ribbed; oral slit and "second mouth" not recognizable (Fig. 9.3a, e-q, 9.4a-c, g, h, n, o, q, r, v; Table 9.1). Circumoral kinety of same shape as oral bulge, basically continuous, but individual kinetofragments become distinct on left side in obliquely oriented specimens (Fig. 9.3p, 9.4m); composed of dikinetids gradually more narrowly spaced from ventral to dorsal end of kinety; circumoral dikinetids each associated with a cilium, a long nematodesma, and a faintly impregnated fibre extending into oral bulge. Oral basket conspicuous in protargol preparations because composed of distinct nematodesma bundles; number of rods composing individual bundles and length of bundles gradually increase from ventral to dorsal end of circumoral kinety, where bundles extend to mid-body and ventrally, optically intersecting lateral bundles (Fig. 9.3a, e, j, m-r, 9.4m, n, r, t, v).

**Occurrence and ecology:** As yet found only at the type locality, that is, a loamy floodplain soil in Lower Austria, near the Leitha River, where it occurred at one of two sampling occasions with low abundance six days after wetting the sample (see above). Thus, it is difficult to know whether *Semibryophyllum palustre* is a limnetic or terrestrial species, as in *Semibryophyllum cultellum*. The sample contained over 100, mostly terrestrial ciliate species. See Foissner et al. (2005, p. 619, 620, site M) for details on site and soil.

## Semibryophyllum foliosum (Foissner, 1983) nov. comb. (Fig. 9.6a–d, f–o, Table 9.2)

- 1979 *Pseudoprorodon foliosus* Foissner Foissner & Adam, Jb. Univ. Salzburg year 1977: 154 (nomen nudum, see nomenclature).
- 1980 Pseudoprorodon foliosus Foissner Foissner, Arch. Protistenk. 123: 109 (nomen ndum, see nomenclature).
- 1982 *Pseudoprorodon foliosus* Foissner Foissner, Adam & Foissner, Ber. Nat.-Med. Ver. Salzburg 6: 95 (nomen nudum, see nomenclature).
- 1983 *Pseudoprorodon foliosus* nov. spec.<sup>5</sup> Foissner, Annln naturh. Mus. Wien, 84/B (year 1980): 59, Abb. 6a, b (Fig. 9.6a, b; original description; no type material available).
- 1984 Cranotheridium foliosus (Foissner, 1983) nov. comb. Wirnsberger, Foissner & Adam, Arch. Protistenk. 128: 308, Abb. 8–13, Tabelle 2 (Fig. 9.6c, d, f, h–l, o; redescription, combination with Cranotheridium, and neotypification [see nomenclature]; one slide [accession number 1986/16] has been deposited in the Biology Centre of the Upper Austrian Museum in Linz [LI]; see nomenclature).

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>5</sup> Foissner (1983) provided the following diagnosis: "Etwa 100 μm großer, blattartig abgeflachter, sapropelophiler *Pseudoprorodon* mit kurzem, gekrümmtem Makronucleus."

- 1988 *Cranotheridium foliosum* (Foissner) 1983 Foissner & Foissner, Catalogus Faunae Austriae Ic: 20 (faunistic overview and silent [not indicated] emendation of name).
- 2008 *foliosus Cranotheridium* (Foissner, 1983) Wirnsberger, Foissner & Adam, 1984 and *Cranotheridium foliosum* – Aescht, Denisia 23: 156 (note on neotypification by Wirnsberger et al. 1984 and on emendation).

**Nomenclature:** No etymology has been given in the original description or a later work. The species-group name *folios-us*, *-a*, *-um* (Latin adjective [m, f, n]; leafy, full of leaves; Brown 1954, p. 466; Schubert & Wagner 1979, p. 146; wordsense.eu, accessed 16 Apr 2023) refers to the strongly flattened, leaf-like body ("blattartig abgeflacht" according to the diagnosis by Foissner 1983).

Foissner & Adam (1979), Foissner (1980), and Foissner et al. (1982) mentioned this name, but neither provided a definition, a description, or an illustrations of the species. Thus, *Pseudoprorodon foliosus* in Foissner & Adam (1979), Foissner (1980), and Foissner et al. (1982) is an unavailable name (a nomen nudum) and the name is available for the same or a different concept (ICZN 1999, Article 13.1.1, see p. 111 of ICZN 1999 for definition of the term nomen nudum). *Bryophyllum* (see nomenclature at genus section) and *Cranotheridium* are of neuter gender (Aescht 2001, p. 275, 279). Thus, *foliosum* is correct when used in combination with these genus-group names. Foissner & Foissner (1988; see list above) did not point out the emendation.

Foissner (1983) did not fix a holotype (or syntypes) nor did he make protargol preparations. Thus, no type material (e.g. holotype) is available. Despite that, the species is valid because the explicit fixation of a holotype is necessary only for species described after 1999 (ICZN 1999, Articles 16.4.1, 72.3). Wirnsberger et al. (1984) briefly discussed the problem and fixed their population as neotype. They mentioned that two neotype slides have been deposited in the Upper Austrian Museum in Linz (Wirnsberger et al. 1984, p. 310). However, Aescht (2008, p. 156) wrote that only one slide (accession number 1986/16) is in the museum.<sup>6</sup> In spite of these "problems", we recommend accepting the neotypification by Wirnsberger et al. (1984) because they basically provided all (1–6) qualifying conditions for a valid designation (ICZN 1964, Article 75c).<sup>7</sup> The distance between the sample sites (Großglockner Hochalpenstraße, Salzburg, Foissner 1983 vs. Schloßalm, Bad Hofgastein, Salzburg, Wirnsberger et al. 1984; in both cases samples were taken from small pasture ponds) is only about 20 km (details, see occurrence and ecology).

**Diagnosis** (based on original data and neotype population): Body size about  $90 \times 40$  µm in vivo. Body shape bursiform with slightly oblique oral bulge indistinctly set off from body proper and almost as long as widest trunk region. Macronucleus reniform. Oral bulge extrusomes rod-shaped, about 13 µm long. Approximately 29 ciliary rows, about eight of them differentiated to dorsal brush occupying up to 35% of body length.

**Remarks:** The original description is very meager. Thus, most data presented below are from Wirnsberger et al. (1984) and a re-evaluation of their notes. The neotypification by Wirnsberger et al. (1984) should be accepted (see nomenclature), though the redescrip-

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>6</sup> Note by H. Berger: Aescht (2008, p. 156) wrote that the neotypification is not mentioned in the paper, which is, however, incorrect because Wirnsberger et al. (1984, p. 310) wrote as subheading "Ausbewahrungsort [sic] des Neotypus" (= storage site of neotype). In addition, Aescht (2008) wrote that "slides" [sic; plural!] were mislabelled as holotype (simultaneously she mentioned that only one slide was deposited in the museum in Linz).

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>7</sup> Note by H. Berger: For Wirnsberger et al. (1984), this was the relevant ICZN.



Fig. 9.6e Cranotheridium taeniatum Schewiakoff, 1892 (after Schewiakoff 1893 from Curds 1982. From life). Right lateral view, 170 μm. Arrowhead marks oral basket. tion is also incomplete because the species is difficult to impregnate, likely due to the thick cortex.

*Pseudoprorodon foliosus* (at present *Cranotheridium foliosum*) is transferred to *Semibryophyllum* (see heading above) because it has a spathidiid organization and many dorsal brush rows, and cannot be assigned to *Cranotheridium*, as explained in the genus discussion above. Further, it is highly similar to *Semibryophyllum palustre*, which doubtlessly is a spathidiid.

Semibryophyllum foliosum differs markedly from Semibryophyllum cultellum (shape of body and oral bulge, nuclear pattern, etc.), but is rather similar to Semibryophyllum palustre, from which it differs mainly by (i) body size (about  $90 \times 40 \ \mu m \ vs. 130 \times 50 \ \mu m$ ), (ii) macronucleus shape (reniform vs. tortuous strand), and (iii) extrusome length (about 13 \ \mu m \ vs. 7 \ \mu m) and shape (rod-shaped vs. slightly curved).

Description (based on populations studied by Foissner 1983 and Wirnsberger et al. 1984; see nomenclature and remarks): Body size  $70-100 \times 30-50 \,\mu\text{m}$  in vivo, usually about  $90 \times 40 \ \mu m$ . Body bursiform to ellipsoidal with both margins indistinctly sigmoidal, anterior (oral) body end slightly oblique and convex, posterior broadly rounded and wrinkled after systole of contractile vacuole; up to 3:1 flattened laterally, especially in more or less distinctly narrowed anterior body third (Fig. 9.6a-c, j, l; Table 9.2). Macronucleus in middle body third, more or less distinctly reniform with ends often slightly inflated, rarely almost semicircular; nucleoli small and scattered. Micronucleus globular, usually in centre of macronuclear curve. Contractile vacuole in rear end, several excretory pores in pole area. Cytopyge ventral to contractile vacuole. Extrusomes concentrated in dorsal region of oral bulge and scattered throughout bulge and body, rod-shaped, 10-16 µm, usually about 13 μm long in vivo, impregnate with protargol showing needle-like narrowed anterior end (Fig. 9.6a, c, d, f, h, k, l, o). Cortex flexible and conspicuous because bright and almost 2 µm thick, likely due to very narrowly spaced (overlooked) granules, as in Semibryophyllum palustre. Cytoplasm colourless, in well-fed specimens packed with colourless, yellowish and orange lipid droplets up to 5 µm across and food vacuoles containing globular green algae, except of strongly flattened and hyaline oral area. Creeps slowly on organic debris.

Cilia about 8  $\mu$ m long in vivo, arranged in about 29 ordinarily spaced and ciliated rows abutting on circumoral kinety in rather pronounced *Spathidium*-pattern; some rows slightly shortened posteriorly. Dorsal brush moderately conspicuous, composed of 7–9 rows, the longest of which occupy up to 35% of body length; dikinetids bearing about 4  $\mu$ m long, rather narrowly spaced bristles, arranged in three ordinary and 4–6 accessory rows becoming shorter from dorsal to ventral, as in congeners. All rows have a short, ventrally

**Fig. 9.6j–o** *Semibryophyllum foliosum* (Foissner, 1983) nov. comb. (from Wirnsberger et al. 1984; n, an unpublished drawing from the neotype population. Protargol preparation). **j, k, m:** Ventral (j, m) and dorsal (k) view of same specimen, which contains many fusiform, developing extrusomes (k); 77  $\mu$ m. Note the flat, cuncate oral bulge, respectively, circumoral kinety composed of dikinetids. **l, o:** Right side view showing the short nematodesmata (oral basket rods) and the dorsal extrusome bundle, 83  $\mu$ m. **n:** Left side view of anterior body portion. The ciliary rows are arranged in *Spathidium* pattern, and most are modified to dorsal brush kineties anteriorly. The dorsal brush consists of three ordinary rows (B1–3) and five short, accessory rows (arrowheads). B – dorsal brush, B1, 3 – ordinary dorsal brush rows, CK – circumoral kinety, CV – contractile vacuole, E – extrusomes, MA – macronucleus, N – nematodesmata, OB – oral bulge. curved monokinetidal tail with ordinary cilia anteriorly and continue as somatic kineties posteriorly (Fig. 9.6a, c, f, i–k, m, n).

Oral bulge occupies anterior body end, slightly oblique and convex, distinctly cuneate in frontal view, very inconspicuous in lateral view because only  $2-3 \mu m$  high and hardly set off from body proper. Circumoral kinety of similar shape as oral bulge, widened dorsal portion occasionally rather abruptly narrowed ventrally; composed of ventrally rather widely spaced dikinetids associated with short nematodesmata distinct only in protargol preparations (Fig. 9.6a, c, d, f, i–o).



Series Monographiae Ciliophorae, Number 6, Year 2025, pages 281-310 / 307

**Occurrence and ecology:** So far recorded only from Austria. Foissner (1983) discovered *Semibryophyllum foliosum* in a permanent, acidic (pH 4.8–5.0) brown-water (mainly due to humic substances from soil) pond in the Salzburg part of the Austrian Central Alps, viz., in the "Hexenküche" (witches' kitchen) (47°10'N 12°50'E), an area along the Großglockner Hochalpenstrasse. See Foissner & Adam (1979) for detailed site description, and Foissner et al. (1982) for details on water chemistry. Likely, *Semibryophyllum foliosum* prefers the microaerobic algal mud (up to 0.5 mg/l H<sub>2</sub>S), where it occurred with low abundance at eight sampling occasions.

Due to the neotypification by Wirnsberger et al. (1984, see above), the new type locality is the edge of a pasture pool on the Schloßalm (about 47°09'N 13°04'E; about 1950 m above sea-level; details, see Wirnsberger et al. 1984, p. 306 and Aescht 2008, p. 156), an alpine pasture near the village of Bad Hofgastein, Salzburg, Austria. Both sample sites (Foissner 1983, Wirnsberger et al. 1984) are from the same area (distance between only about 20 km) and habitat (alpine pasture pond) so that the qualifying condition (5) of the ICZN (1964, Article 75c; see also ICZN 1999, Article 75.3.6) is fulfilled. Interestingly, *Semibryophyllum palustre* occurs in a similar habitat, viz., floodplain soil, indicating that both species are freshwater inhabitants.

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## Systematic index

The index contains all ciliate names mentioned in the book, including vernacular names for example, haptorids. Designations as, for example, "haptorid ciliates" are mentioned under the corresponding vernacular name, that is, "haptorids" in present example. Names in singular (e.g., haptorid) are mentioned under the plural version (e.g., haptorids). The index is two-sided, that is, species appear both with the genus-group name first (for example, *Apospathidium atypicum*) and with the species-group name first (*atypicum, Apospathidium*). Valid (mainly in W. Foissner's judgement) species and genera treated in detail are in boldface italics print. Valid taxa not treated in detail in the present book, invalid taxa, junior homonyms, synonyms, outdated combinations, incorrect spellings, and nomina nuda are not in bold. Suprageneric taxa are represented in normal type, valid ones treated in detail in the present work in boldface. A boldface page number indicates the beginning of the description of a valid taxon. "T" indicates the location of the table with the morphometric characterisation; "K" marks a key (e.g., of the genus *Apospathidium*) and the page where a taxon is mentioned in a key. The names on the slide figures and the names of the subchapter "Summary of nomenclatural acts and taxa described in Chapters 1–13" (see Chapter 1, pp. 18–20) are not included.

Acaryophrya 143, 207 aciculare, Spathidium 33, 62T, 64T, 65, 68, 220T, 227 acrostoma, Semiplatyophrya 9 Actinobolidae 28 Actinobolina multinucleata 8 Actinobolinidae 28 affine, Gonostomum 381, 382 africana etoschensis, Rostrophryides 9 africanum, Neospathidium 367, 395, 400, 400K, 401, 418, 427T africanum, Trachelophyllum 8 Afrothrix 434 Akidodes 435 Akidodes henleae 435 Akidodes symmetricus 435 Alveolata xv, 1 amicronucleata, Colpoda cavicola 9 amphoriforme amphoriforme, Epispathidium 162 amphoriforme amphoriforme, Spathidium 157, 158, 200T, 201

amphoriforme rectitoratum, Epispathidium 198 amphoriforme rectitoratum, Spathidium 155, 158, 160, 197, 198, 200T, 201

- amphoriforme securiforme, Epispathidium 154, 160
- amphoriforme securiforme, Spathidium 142, 154, 155, 157, 158, 160, 62, 200T, 201, 380

*amphoriforme*, *Epispathidium* 141, 142, 143K, 145, 158, 160, 164, **197**, 200T, 211, 368, 372, 385

amphoriforme, Epispathidium amphoriforme 162

*amphoriforme*, *Pharyngospathidium longichilum* 155, 160, 162, 367, 369, 369K, 370, 370T, 371T, 378, **380**, 401

*amphoriforme, Spathidium* 142, 155, 157, 158, 197, 198, 200T, 201

*amphoriforme, Spathidium amphoriforme* 157, 158, 200T, 201

Anatoliocirrus capari 9

*anguilla, Spathidium* 33, 34, 71, 74, **91**, 92T, 276

angusta obovate, Frontonia 9 Apertospathula 239, 241, 283 Apertospathula cuneata 6 Apertospathula lajacola 6 Apertospathula longiseta 6 Ap ertospathula pelobia 6 Apertospathula similis 6 Apertospathulidae 25, 27 Apobryophyllum 143, 206 Apobryophyllum schmidingeri 445 Apobryophyllum vermiforme 8 Apocolpodidium Apocolpodidium etoschense 9 Apocolpodidium etoschense, Apocolpodidium 9 Apocolpodidium Phagoon macrostoma 9 Apocyclidium obliquum 4 Apometopus Apometopus pyriformis 16 Apometopus pyriformis, Apometopus 16 apospathidiforme, Spathidium 33, 34, 35, 37, 38, 38T, 43, 44T, 112, 114, 119, 301 *Apospathidium* xv, 28, 43, **111**, 112K, 312 Apospathidium atypicum 3, 112, 117 Apospathidium longicaudatum 3, 43, 47, 65, 67, 111, 112, 112K 113T, 114, 117 Apospathidium terricola 111, 112K, 112, 113T, 119, 343 arboricola, Latispathidium 213, 214, 215K, 229, 236T, 266 arcuospathidiid 241 Arcuospathidiidae 25, 27, 433 Arcuospathidium 11, 12, 26, 85, 143, 149, 206, 214, 281, 283, 286, 336, 362, 445, 447 Arcuospathidium atypicum 440 Arcuospathidium australe 439, 440, 441, 442, 443 Arcuospathidium bulli 41,85 Arcuospathidium coemeterii 443 Arcuospathidium cultriforme 446 Arcuospathidium cultriforme cultriforme 196 Arcuospathidium cultriforme lionotiforme 446 Arcuospathidium cultriforme scalpriforme 447 Arcuospathidium deforme 6 Arcuospathidium japonicum 435, 445 Arcuospathidium lionotiforme 446, 447 Arcuospathidium multinucleatum 149

Arcuospathidium muscorum rhopaloplites 6 Arcuospathidium namibiense 11, 12, 214, 233, 235, 258, 266 Arcuospathidium pelobium 6 Arcuospathidium vermiforme 270 Arcuospathidium virugense 7 Arcuospathidium virungense 7 Arcuospathidium vlassaki 214 arenicola, Protospathidium 5,8 Armatospathula 7 Armatospathula costaricana 7 Armatospathula periarmata 7 Armatospathula plurinucleate 7 armatum, Semispathidium 311, 312, 313T, 315K, 315, 320, 328 armatum, Supraspathidium 8, 335, 336, 337, 338K, 344T, 345T, 348, 353, 360 ascendens, Epispathidium 43, 141, 142, 144K. 202 ascendens, Spathidium 142, 202, 207 astyliformis, Vorticella 103 atypica, Cultellothrix 440 atypica, Neocultellothrix 18, 117, 241, 242, 243, 433, 435, 436K, 439 atypicum, Apospathidium 3, 112, 117 atypicum, Arcuospathidium 440 atypicum, Spathidium 117, 435, 439, 441, 442, 443 australe, Arcuospathidium 439, 440, 441, 442, 443 australiensis, Bilamellophrya 134 australiensis, Levispatha 418 Australothrix 434 Balantidion 143, 206 bavariense bavariense, Spathidium 398 bavariense simplinucleatum, Spathidium 398, 399 bavariense, Pharyngospathidium 367, 369, 369K, 390, 392, 395, 398, 399, 400 bavariense, Spathidium 142, 369, 389, 398,

400 bavariense, Spathidium bavariense 398 bavariense, Spathidium Epispathidium? 142

Series Monographiae Ciliophorae, Number 6, Year 2025, pages 453–465 / 454

bavariensis, Gastrostyla 15 bavariensis, Gastrostyla Kleinstyla 14, 15 Belonophryina 26 Bilamellophrya australiensis 134 bimacronucleatum, Latispathidium truncatum 215, 217T, 219, 220T, 220K, 222 binucleate, Parakahliella 14 bisticha, Schmidingerophrya 257, 258, 258K, 266, 267, 268T, 270, 271, 272 blattereri, Enchelydium 129, 134, 414, 415 bonneti, Protospathidium 10 bonneti, Spathidium 11, 12, 13, 266, 275 brachycaryon, Edaphospathula 7, 238, 242 brachyoplites, Latispathidium 213, 214, 215K, 245, 251T brachystichos, Neospathidium 265, 266, 267, 400, 401K, 401, 422, 424, 427T brachystichos, Spathidium 265 bradburyarum, Colpodidium Pseudocolpodidi*um* 8 brasiliensis, Cephalospatula 87, 434, 437, 438, 439, 441, 442 breviarmatum, Semispathidium 311, 312, 315K, 325, 328 bromelicola group, Spathidium 33, 34, 61, 62T, 68 bromelicola, Spathidium 33, 61, 62T, 62, 63T, 68, 92 Bryophyllum 281, 283, 289, 304 bulli, Arcuospathidium 41,85 Bursaria fluviatilis 418 campylum, Dexiostoma 207 canadense, Spathidium 141, 147, 170, 172, 367, 372 canaliculatum, Spathidium 336 canaliculatum, Supraspathidium 336, 337 capari, Anatoliocirrus 9 cavicola amicronucleata, Colpoda 9 *Centrospathidium* xv, 28, **127**, 136, 138 Centrospathidium faurei 127, 128, 128K,

134, **136** *Centrospathidium minutum* 127, 128, 128K, 137, **138**  Centrospathidium verrucosum 127, 128K, 128, 129T, 138 Centrospathidium verruculosum 129, 134, 135 Cephalospatula brasiliensis 87, 434, 437, 438, 439, 441, 442 chilensis, Epitholiolus 14 Ciliophora xv, 25, 33, 111, 127, 141, 213, 257, 281, 335, 367 cithara, Spathidium 285 claviforme group, Spathidium 233 claviforme, Spathidium 215, 233 Clavoplites edaphicus 8 coemeterii, Arcuospathidium 443 coemeterii, Cultellothrix 3, 444 coemeterii, Neocultellothrix 3, 433, 435, 436K, 443 coemeterii, Spathidium 435, 443 Colpoda 152 Colpoda cavicola amicronucleata 9 Colpoda fastigata 207 Colpoda formisanoi 9 Colpoda inflata 149 Colpoda maupasi 103 colpodid(s) 1 Colpodidium Colpodidium horribile 8 Colpodidium Colpodidium microstoma 8 Colpodidium Colpodidium trichocystiferum 8 Colpodidium horribile, Colpodidium 8 Colpodidium microstoma, Colpodidium 8 Pseudocolpodidium Colpodidium bradburyarum 8 Colpodidium trichocystiferum, Colpodidium 8 Condylostomides trinucleatus 9 costaricana, Armatospathula 7 costaricensis, Maryna namibiensis 9 Cranotheridium 283, 285, 294, 303, 304, 360, 361 Cranotheridium elongatum 336, 359, 360 Cranotheridium elongatus 360 Cranotheridium elongatus, Pseudoprorodon 359, 360 Cranotheridium foliosum 304, 306 Cranotheridium foliosus 303, 304 Cranotheridium Ps.? elongatum 360

Cranotheridium taeniatum 285, 294, 305 Cultellothrix xv, 7, 143, 206, 233, 433, 434, 435, 440, 444, 446, 447, 448, 449 Cultellothrix atypica 440 Cultellothrix coemeterii 3, 444 Cultellothrix japonica 445 Cultellothrix lionotiforme 447 Cultellothrix lionotiformis 446 Cultellothrix paucistriata 7, 435, 448 Cultellothrix tortisticha 7, 435, 449 Cultellothrix velhoi 6, 433, 434, 435, 436, 437, 438 cultellum, Semibryophyllum 281, 282T, 283, 285K, 285, 291, 293, 303, 306 cultriforme cultriforme, Arcuospathidium 196 cultriforme lionotiforme, Arcuospathidium446 cultriforme scalpriforme, Arcuospathidium 447 cultriforme, Arcuospathidium 446 cultriforme, Arcuospathidium cultriforme 196 cuneata, Apertospathula 6 curvioplites, Spathidium saprophilum 33, 62T, 67, 70, 71, 73T cylindricum, Spathidium 314

deforme, Arcuospathidium 6 depressa, Frontonia 191 depressum, Spathidium 289 Dexiostoma campylum 207 Dexiotricha plagia 339 Didiniina 25, 26 Dioplitophrya otti 8 **dispar, Spathidium** 33, 34, 37, 38, 38T, 41, 44T, **59** dragescoi, Nassula 8 Dragescozoon terricola 9 Drepanomonas revoluta 373, 379 **duschli, Spathidium** 33, 34, 37, 38, 38T, **59**, 60T, 90, 91

edaphicus, Clavoplites 8 Edaphospathula brachycaryon 7, 238, 242 Edaphospathula fusioplites 5, 224, 227, 228, 276 Edaphospathula gracilis 7, 238, 242 Edaphospathula inermis 8 Edaphospathula paradoxa 5, 8, 250 elegans, Ilsiella 9 elmenteitanum, Spathidium 67 elongatum group, Spathidium 33, 34, 44T, 61,91 elongatum, Cranotheridium 336, 359, 360 elongatum, Cranotheridium Ps.? 360 elongatum, Supraspathidium 335, 337, 338K, 339, 358, 359, 362 elongatus, Cranotheridium 360 elongatus, Pseudoprorodon Cranotheridium 359, 360 Enchelydium 368, 414 Enchelydium blattereri 129, 134, 414, 415 Enchelydium thecatum 414, 415 Enchelyina 111, 112 Enchelyodon 143, 207, 311, 312, 314, 315, 318, 320, 322, 368 Enchelyodon kenyaensis 9, 10 Enchelyodon megastoma 8 Enchelyodon terrenus 315, 316, 320 Enchelyodon vermiformis 314, 320 Enchelyodontidae 368 enchelyodontides, Semispathidium 311, 312, 313T, 315K, 315, 320, 322, 328 Enchelyotricha jesnerae 8 Enchelys 143, 206, 315, 320 Enchelys gigas 361, 362 Enchelys longitricha 8 Enchelys polynucleata 326 Enchelys spathula 162 Enchelys terricola 315 *Epispathidium* xv, 26, 27, 28, 34, 89, 91, 97, 141, 142, 224, 290, 336, 367, 368, 369, 372, 374, 385, 395, 401, 423 Epispathidium amphoriforme 141, 142, 143K, 145, 158, 160, 164, **197**, 200T, 211, 368, 372, 385 Epispathidium amphoriforme amphoriforme 162 *Epispathidium amphoriforme rectitoratum* 198 Epispathidium amphoriforme securiforme 154, 160 *Epispathidium ascendens* 43, 141, 142, 144K, 202

Epispathidium papilliferum 141, 142, 143K, 147, 174, 192T, 194T, 211 Epispathidium polynucleatum 34, 91, 96, 141, 142 *Epispathidium regium* 141, 142, 143, 143K, 144, 150T, 160, 164, 170, 172, 395, 423 *Epispathidium salsum* 141, 142, 143K, 147, 166, 167T Epispathidium securiforme 141, 142, 143, 143K, 154, 154T, 200T, 201, 372 Epispathidium sp. 211 *Epispathidium terricola* 141, 142, 143K, **196**, 224, 228, 372 Epispathidium? bavariense, Spathidium 142 Epitholiolus chilensis 14 etoschense, Apocolpodidium Apocolpodidium 9 etoschense, Spathidium 33, 62T, 64T, 65, 214, 220T, 225, 227, 276 etoschense, Spathidium seppelti 149, 423 etoschense, Supraspathidium 8, 335, 336, 338K, 344T, 345T, 345, 346, 354, 360 etoschensis, Nassula 8 etoschensis, Parabryophrya 9 etoschensis, Pseudokreyella 9 etoschensis, Rostrophryides africana 9 Etoschophrya oscillatoriophaga 9 extensum, Spathidium 35 falciforme, Spathidium 230, 233 fastigata, Colpoda 207 faurefremieti, Spathidium 33, 41, 86, 87T, 337,358 faurei, Centrospathidium 127, 128, 128K, 134, 136 faurei, Spathidium 86, 136 fenestrate, Rostrophrya 14 fluviatilis, Bursaria 418 foliosum, Cranotheridium 304, 306 foliosum, Semibryophyllum 281, 283T, 283, 285, 285K, 291, 303 foliosus, Cranotheridium 303, 304 foliosus, Pseudoprorodon 283, 303, 304, 306

formisanoi, Colpoda 9 fraterculum, Semispathidium 311, 312, 315K, 328, **329**, 330 Frontonia angusta obovate 9 Frontonia depressa 191 fusioplites, Edaphospathula 5, 224, 227, 228, 276 fusioplites, Protospathidium 224

Gastrostyla bavariensis 15 Gastrostyla Kleinstyla 15 Gastrostyla Kleinstyla bavariensis 14, 15 Gastrostyla minima 14 Gigantothrix 434 gigas, Enchelys 361, 362 gigas, Pseudoprorodon Spathidium 361, 362 gigas, Spathidium 336, 361, 362 gigas, Supraspathidium 335, 336, 337K, 358, 361 Gonostomum affine 381, 382 Gonostomum strenuum 319 gracilis, Edaphospathula 7, 238, 242 granata, Nassula 8, 353 group, Spathidium bromelicola 33, 34, 61, 62T, 68 group, Spathidium claviforme 233 group, Spathidium elongatum 33, 34, 44T, 61,91 group, Spathidium procerum 34, 65, 90, 91 group, Spathidium wolfi 33, 34, 85 gymnostomatid 368 gymnostomes 324

halophila, Parakahliella 9 halophilus, Plagiocampides 9 Haptoria xv, 25, 26, 433 haptorids 25 **henleae, Akidodes 435** Heterometopus meisterfeldi 1, 15, 16, 17 Heterometopus palaeformis 1, 16 histriomuscorum, Sterkiella 416 Holophrya 257 Holophryidae 27 holsatiae, Spathidium 414 Homalozoon 359, 360 Homalozoon vermiculare 359, 360

*horribile, Colpodidium Colpodidium 8 hyalinum, Spathidium 3, 28, 38, 160* hypotrichs 83

Ilsiella elegans 9 inermis, Edaphospathula 8 inflata, Colpoda 149 inflatum, Spathidium 289

japonica, Cultellothrix 445 **japonica**, **Neocultellothrix** 433, 435, 436K, **445** japonicum, Arcuospathidium 435, 445 japonicum, Pseudomonilicaryon 8 japonicum, Spathidium 446

jesnerae, Enchelyotricha 8

kenyaensis, Enchelyodon 9, 10 Kleinstyla 15 Kleinstyla bavariensis, Gastrostyla 14, 15 Kleinstyla, Gastrostyla 15 Kreutzophrya 312, 314 Kreutzophrya sphagnicola 312, 314 Kuehneltiella namibiensis 9 Kuklikophrya ougandae 353

Lacrymaria 219, 338 Lacrymaria teres 335, 336, 337, 338 Lacrymaria truncata 218, 221 Lacrymaria truncatum, Spathidium 219, 221 Lacrymaria, Spathidium 219 lagyniforme, Semispathidium 311, 312, 313T, 315K, 315, 320, 322, 328 lagyniforme, Spathidium 312 Lagynophrya 143, 206 lajacola, Apertospathula 6 laminarius, Metopus 15, 16 Lamtostyla 277 lanceoplites, Latispathidium 213, 214, 215K, 215, 217T, 225 lanceoplites, Spathidium 213, 215 Latispathidium xv, 28, 213 Latispathidium arboricola 213, 214, 215K, 229, 236T, 266

Latispathidium brachyoplites 213, 214, 215K, 245, 251T Latispathidium lanceoplites 213, 214, 215K, 215, 217T, 225 Latispathidium simile 213, 214, 215K, 232, 238, 244T, 443 Latispathidium truncatum 213, 214, 215K, 218, 221, 249 Latispathidium truncatum bimacronucleatum 215, 217T, 219, 220T, 220K, 222 Latispathidium truncatum truncatum 215, 219, 220K, 221, 223, 224, 226, 227 latissimum, Spathidium 33, 89, 336 latissimum, Supraspathidium 89, 336, 337 Legendrea 28, 211 Legendrea loyezae 211 Levispatha australiensis 418 Levispatha muscorum 43, 47, 58 lieberkuehnii, Myriokaryon 358, 360, 362 lieberkuehnii, Prorodon 336, 337 lieberkuehnii, Pseudoprorodon 360, 361 lieberkuehnii, Spathidium 337 lieberkuehnii, Supraspathidium 336, 337 lieberkühni, Spathidium 136, 337 lieberkühnii, Prorodon 337 lionoliforme, Spathidium 447 lionotiforme, Arcuospathidium 446, 447 lionotiforme, Arcuospathidium cultriforme 446 lionotiforme, Cultellothrix 447 lionotiforme, Spathidium 435, 446, 447 lionotiformis, Cultellothrix 446 lionotiformis, Neocultellothrix 289, 433, 435, 436K, 445, 446 Lionotus 447 Litonotus 447 Litonotus vermicularis 359, 360, 361 Litostomatea 25 loeffleri, Wolfkosia 9 longiarmatum, Semispathidium 311, 312, 315K, 326, 329, 330 longicaudatum, Apospathidium 3, 43, 47, 65, 67, 111, 112, 112K 113T, 114, 117 longicaudatum, Spathidium 117, 119 longichilum amphoriforme, Pharyngospathid*ium* 155, 160, 162, 367, 369, 369K, 370, 370T, 371T, 378, **380**, 401

*longichilum longichilum, Pharyngospathidium* 367, 369K, 370, 371T, 372, 373, 374, 375, 376, 377, **378**, 386, 387, 401

- *longichilum, Pharyngospathidium* 367, 369, 369K, **370**, 378
- *longichilum, Pharyngospathidium longichilum* 367, 369K, 370, 371T, 372, 373, 374, 375, 376, 377, **378**, 386, 387, 401
- longicolum, Spathidium 314
- *longinucleatum, Neospathidium* 129, 134, 367, 400, 400K, **401**, 413T, 422 *longiseta, Apertospathula* 6
- longitricha, Enchelys 8
- loyezae, Legendrea 211
- lucidum, Spathidium 414

macrostoma, Apocolpodidium Phagoon 9 macrostoma, Spathidium 149 macrostomum, Spathidium 141, 149, 367, 372, 374 macrothrix, Schmidingerophrya 257, 258, 258K, 258, 268T, 272, 275, 425 magna, Pseudofuscheria 418 maldivensis, Rostrophrya namibiensis 9 Maryna namibiensis costaricensis 9 Maryna namibiensis namibiensis 9 maupasi, Colpoda 103 megastoma, Enchelyodon 8 meisterfeldi, Heterometopus 1, 15, 16, 17 metabolicum, Spathidium 92 Metacineta namibiensis 8 Metacystis mucosa 1, 15 Metopus laminarius 15, 16 microstoma, Colpodidium Colpodidium 8 microthoracids 83 minima, Gastrostyla 14 minutum, Centrospathidium 127, 128, 128K, 137.138 minutum, Spathidium 339 mucosa, Metacystis 1, 15 multinucleata, Actinobolina 8 multinucleatum, Arcuospathidium 149

multistriata, Supraspathidium 339 multistriatum, Supraspathidium 335, 336, 337, 338K, 339, 344T, 345T, 345, 346, 348, 356 muscicola, Protospathidium 5, 12, 326 muscicola, Spathidium 41, 61, 196, 197, 443 muscorum rhopaloplites, Arcuospathidium 6 muscorum, Levispatha 43, 47, 58 Myriokaryon 337, 360, 361 Myriokaryon lieberkuehnii 358, 360, 362 Myriokaryonidae 337, 368 namibicola, Protospathidium 354 namibicola, Spathidium 346 namibiense, Arcuospathidium 11, 12, 214, 233, 235, 258, 266 namibiensis costaricensis, Maryna 9 namibiensis maldivensis, Rostrophrya 9 namibiensis namibiensis, Maryna 9 namibiensis namibiensis, Rostrophrya 14 namibiensis, Kuehneltiella 9 namibiensis, Maryna namibiensis 9 namibiensis, Metacineta 8 namibiensis, Plagiocampa 9 namibiensis, Rostrophrya namibiensis 14 Nassula 357 Nassula dragescoi 8 Nassula etoschensis 8 Nassula granata 8,353 Nassula tuberculata 14 Neocultellothrix xiii, xv, 213, 214, 241, 433, 434, 436K Neocultellothrix atypica 18, 117, 241, 242, 243, 433, 435, 436K, 439 Neocultellothrix coemeterii 3, 433, 435, 436K, 443 Neocultellothrix japonica 433, 435, 436K, 445 Neocultellothrix lionotiformis 289, 433, 435, 436K, 445, 446 Neocultellothrix paucistriata 433, 435, 436K, 448 Neocultellothrix tortisticha 245, 433, 435, 436K, 449

Neocultellothrix velhoi 18, 87, 289, 433, 435, 436K, 436 Neospathidium xv, 149, 367, 368, 369K, 400, 400K Neospathidium africanum 367, 395, 400, 400K, 401, 418, 427T Neospathidium brachystichos 265, 266, 267, 400, 401K, 401, 422, 424, 427T Neospathidium longinucleatum 129, 134, 367, 400, 400K, **401**, 413T, 422 obliquum, Apocyclidium 4 obovate, Frontonia angusta 9 oscillatoriophaga, Etoschophrya 9 otti, Dioplitophrya 8 ougandae, Kuklikophrya 353 palaeformis, Heterometopus 1, 16 palustre, Semibryophyllum 281, 282T, 283, 285, 285K, 291, 306, 308 pannonicum, Trachelophyllum 8 papillatum, Spathidium 189 papilliferum, Epispathidium 141, 142, 143K, 147, 174, 192T, 194T, 211 papilliferum, Spathidium 142, 14, 180, 189, 190 papilliferum, Vartospathidium 174 Parabryophrya etoschensis 9 paradoxa, Edaphospathula 5, 8, 250 Paraenchelys pulchra 8 Parakahliella binucleate 14 Parakahliella halophila 9 paucistriata, Cultellothrix 7, 435, 448 paucistriata, Neocultellothrix 433, 435, 436K, 448 pelobia, Apertospathula 6 pelobium, Arcuospathidium 6 pentadactyla, Plagiocampa 9 periarmata, Armatospathula 7 peritrich 9 Phagoon macrostoma, Apocolpodidium 9 Pharyngospathidiidae xv, 18, 25, 27, 367, 369K pharyngospathidiids 368

<i>Pharyngospathidium</i> xv, 149, 318, 367, 368,
369K, <b>369</b> , 369K, 401
Pharyngospathidium bavariense 367, 369,
369K, 390, 392, 395, <b>398</b> , 399, 400
Pharyngospathidium longichilum 367, 369,
369K, <b>370</b> , 378
Pharyngospathidium longichilum amphori-
forme 155, 160, 162, 367, 369, 369K, 370,
370T, 371T, 378, <b>380</b> , 401
Pharyngospathidium longichilum longichi-
<i>lum</i> 367, 369K, 370, 371T, 372, 373, 374,
375, 376, 377, <b>378</b> , 386, 387, 401
Pharyngospathidium pseudobavariense 367,
369, 369K, 370T, 371, <b>389</b> , 398, 422
Pharyngospathidium simplinucleatum 367,
369, 369K, 391, <b>399</b> , 401, 403, 425
Phialina serranoi 1, 15
plagia, Dexiotricha 339
Plagiocampa namibiensis 9
Plagiocampa pentadactyla 9

Plagiocampides halophilus 9

plurinucleate, Armatospathula 7

plurinucleatum, Spathidium 90

plurinucleate, Spathidium spathula 90

polymorphum, Spathidium 202, 205, 206

polynucleatum, Epispathidium 34, 91, 96, 141,

polynucleatum, Spathidium 33, 34, 91, 96,

polyvacuolatum, Supraspathidium 90, 336, 337

polyvacuolatum, Spathidium 33, 90, 336

procerum group, Spathidium 34, 65, 90, 91

procerum, Spathidium 34, 35, 91, 94, 95, 250

Protospathidium 11, 12, 27, 35, 38, 50, 59, 61,

75, 83, 143, 216, 239, 261, 266, 276, 312

Plesiocaryon terricola 9

Podophrya tristriata 8

polynucleate, Enchelys 326

104T, 141, 142, 147, 205

Prorodon lieberkuehnii 336, 337 Prorodon lieberkühnii 337

Protocyclidium terricola 103

protospathidiids 245

Podophrya 164

142

Protista xv

Series Monographiae Ciliophorae, Number 6, Year 2025, pages 453–465 / 460

Protospathidium arenicola 5,8 Protospathidium bonneti 10 Protospathidium fusioplites 224 Protospathidium muscicola 5, 12, 326 Protospathidium namibicola 354 Protospathidium serpens 12, 250 Protospathidium terricola 215 Protospathidium vermiculus 8, 215 Protospathidium vermiforme 10, 266, 276 Protospathiidiidae 25, 27 Ps.? elongatum, Cranotheridium 360 pseudobavariense, Pharyngospathidium 367, 369, 369K, 370T, 371, 389, 398, 422 Pseudocohnilembus sp. 270 Pseudocolpodidium, bradburyarum, Colpodidium 8 Pseudofuscheria magna 418 Pseudoholophrya 143, 207 Pseudokreyella etoschensis 9 Pseudomonilicaryon japonicum 8 Pseudoprorodon 303, 359, 360, 361, 362 Pseudoprorodon Cranotheridium elongatus 359, 360 Pseudoprorodon foliosus 283, 303, 304, 306 Pseudoprorodon lieberkuehnii 360, 361 Pseudoprorodon Spathidium gigas 361, 362 pulchra, Paraenchelys 8 pulchrum, Semispathidium 311, 312, 315K, 328, 329, 330 pyriformis, Apometopus Apometopus 16 pyriformis, Tetrahymena 416 rectitoratum, Epispathidium amphoriforme 198 rectitoratum, Spathidium 160 rectitoratum, Spathidium amphoriforme 155, 158, 160, 197, 198, 200T, 201 regium, Epispathidium 141, 142, 143, 143K, 144, 150T, 160, 164, 170, 172, 395, 423 revoluta, Drepanomonas 373, 379 rhopaloplites, Arcuospathidium muscorum 6 Rostrophrya fenestrate 14 Rostrophrya namibiensis maldivensis 9 Rostrophrya namibiensis namibiensis 14 Rostrophryides africana etoschensis 9

rusticanum, Spathidium 4, 33, 62T, 68, 74, 82T, 425 salsum, Epispathidium 141, 142, 143K, 147, 166.167T saprophilum curvioplites, Spathidium 33, 62T, 67, 70, 71, 73T saprophilum saprophilum, Spathidium 33, 62T, 66, 67, 68, 73T, 74 saprophilum, Spathidium 33, 67, 68, 69, 74, 75,95 saprophilum, Spathidium saprophilum 33, 62T, 66, 67, 68, 73T, 74 scalpriforme, Arcuospathidium cultriforme 447 schmidingeri, Apobryophyllum 445 Schmidingerophrya xv, 28, 257, 258K Schmidingerophrya bisticha 257, 258, 258K, 266, 267, 268T, 270, 271, 272 Schmidingerophrya macrothrix 257, 258, 258K, 258, 268T, 272, 275, 425 securiforme, Epispathidium 141, 142, 143, 143K, 154, 154T, 200T, 201, 372 securiforme, Epispathidium amphoriforme 154, 160 securiforme, Spathidium 155, 158 securiforme, Spathidium amphoriforme 142, 154, 155, 157, 158, 160, 62, 200T, 201, 380 Semibryophyllum xv, 28, 258, 281, 285K Semibryophyllum cultellum 281, 282T, 283, 285K, 285, 291, 293, 303, 306 Semibryophyllum foliosum 281, 283T, 283, 285, 285K, 291, 303 Semibryophyllum palustre 281, 282T, 283, 285, 285K, 291, 306, 308 Semiplatyophrya acrostoma 9 Semispathidium xv, 28, 143, 207, 311, 312, 315K Semispathidium armatum 311, 312, 313T, 315K, 315, 320, 328 Semispathidium breviarmatum 311, 312, 315K, 325, 328 Semispathidium enchelyodontides 311, 312, 313T, 315K, 315, 320, 322, 328

Semispathidium fraterculum 311, 312, 315K,

328, 329, 330 Semispathidium lagyniforme 311, 312, 313T, 315K, 315, 320, 322, 328 Semispathidium longiarmatum 311, 312, 315K, 326, 329, 330 Semispathidium pulchrum 311, 312, 315K, 328, 329, 330 Semispathidium sp. 326 seppelti etoschense, Spathidium 149, 423 seppelti seppelti, Spathidium 423 seppelti, Spathidium 395, 423 seppelti, Spathidium seppelti 423 serpens, Protospathidium 12, 250 serpens, Spinispatha 250 serranoi, Phialina 1, 15 simile, Latispathidium 213, 214, 215K, 232, 238, 244T, 443 similis, Apertospathula 6 simplinucleatum, Pharyngospathidium 367, 369, 369K, 391, **399**, 401, 403, 425 simplinucleatum, Spathidium 369, 399 simplinucleatum, Spathidium bavariense 398, 399 sp., Epispathidium 211 sp., Pseudocohnilembus 270 sp., Semispathidium 326 sp., Spathidium 221, 423 Spathidia 29 spathidiid(s) xiii, 1, 3, 25, 26, 143, 368 Spathidiida 25, 26, 27K Spathidiidae 25, 26, 27, 33, 111, 112, 127, 141, 142, 213, 214, 257, 281, 283, 312, 335, 336, 337, 367, 368 Spathidiina 26, 368, 434 *Spathidium* xv, 1, 2, 3, 11, 12, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 33, 34, 38, 39, 43, 53, 59, 75, 83, 85, 91, 97, 103, 111, 127, 136, 141, 142, 143, 160, 170, 190, 197, 204, 213, 214, 224, 228, 258, 260, 276, 283, 290, 306, 311, 312, 314, 319, 320, 335, 336, 337, 338, 361, 362, 367, 369, 374, 395, 400, 401, 403, 423 Spathidium aciculare 33, 62T, 64T, 65, 68, 220T, 227 Spathidium amphoriforme 142, 155, 157, 158,

197, 198, 200T, 201 Spathidium amphoriforme amphoriforme 157, 158, 200T, 201 Spathidium amphoriforme rectitoratum 155, 158, 160, 197, 198, 200T, 201 Spathidium amphoriforme securiforme 142, 154, 155, 157, 158, 160, 62, 200T, 201, 380 Spathidium anguilla 33, 34, 71, 74, 91, 92T, 276 Spathidium apospathidiforme 33, 34, 35, 37, 38, 38T, 43, 44T, 112, 114, 119, 301 Spathidium ascendens 142, 202, 207 Spathidium atypicum 117, 435, 439, 441, 442, 443 Spathidium bavariense 142, 369, 389, 398, 400 Spathidium bavariense bavariense 398 Spathidium bavariense simplinucleatum 398, 399 Spathidium bonneti 11, 12, 13, 266, 275 Spathidium brachystichos 265 Spathidium bromelicola 33, 61, 62T, 62, 63T, 68,92 Spathidium bromelicola group 33, 34, 61, 62T, 68 Spathidium canadense 141, 147, 170, 172, 367, 372 Spathidium canaliculatum 336 Spathidium cithara 285 Spathidium claviforme 215, 233 Spathidium claviforme group 233 Spathidium coemeterii 435, 443 Spathidium cylindricum 314 Spathidium depressum 289 Spathidium dispar 33, 34, 37, 38, 38T, 41, 44T, 59 Spathidium duschli 33, 34, 37, 38, 38T, 59, 60T, 90, 91 Spathidium elmenteitanum 67 Spathidium elongatum 3, 33, 34, 35, 36, 38T, 57 Spathidium elongatum 3, 33, 34, 35, 36, 38T, 57 Spathidium elongatum group 33, 34, 44T, 61, 91

Spathidium Epispathidium? bavariense 142 Spathidium etoschense 33, 62T, 64T, 65, 214, 220T, 225, 227, 276 Spathidium extensum 35 Spathidium falciforme 230, 233 Spathidium faurefremieti 33, 41, 86, 87T, 337,358 Spathidium faurei 86, 136 Spathidium gigas 336, 361, 362 Spathidium gigas, Pseudoprorodon 361, 362 Spathidium holsatiae 414 Spathidium hyalinum 3, 28, 38, 160 Spathidium inflatum 289 Spathidium japonicum 446 Spathidium Lacrymaria 219 Spathidium Lacrymaria truncatum 219, 221 Spathidium lagyniforme 312 Spathidium lanceoplites 213, 215 Spathidium latissimum 33, 89, 336 Spathidium lieberkuehnii 337 Spathidium lieberkühni 136, 337 Spathidium lionoliforme 447 Spathidium lionotiforme 435, 446, 447 Spathidium longicaudatum 117, 119 Spathidium longicolum 314 Spathidium lucidum 414 Spathidium macrostoma 149 Spathidium macrostomum 141, 149, 367, 372, 374 Spathidium metabolicum 92 Spathidium minutum 128, 138 Spathidium muscicola 41, 61, 196, 197, 443 Spathidium namibicola 346 Spathidium papillatum 189 Spathidium papilliferum 142, 14, 180, 189, 190 Spathidium plurinucleatum 90 Spathidium polymorphum 202, 205, 206 Spathidium polynucleatum 33, 34, 91, 96, 104T, 141, 142, 147, 205 Spathidium polyvacuolatum 33, 90, 336 Spathidium procerum 34, 35, 91, 94, 95, 250 Spathidium procerum group 34, 65, 90, 91 Spathidium rectitoratum 160 Spathidium rusticanum 4, 33, 62T, 68, 74,

82T. 425 Spathidium saprophilum 33, 67, 68, 69, 74, 75.95 Spathidium saprophilum curvioplites 33, 62T, 67,70,71,73T Spathidium saprophilum saprophilum 33, 62T, 66, 67, 68, 73T, 74 Spathidium securiforme 155, 158 Spathidium seppelti 395, 423 Spathidium seppelti etoschense 149, 423 Spathidium seppelti seppelti 423 Spathidium simplinucleatum 369, 399 Spathidium sp. 221, 423 Spathidium spathula 162, 219, 368, 414 Spathidium spathula plurinucleate 90 Spathidium stammeri 41, 65, 204 Spathidium teres 338 Spathidium terricola 196, 228 Spathidium truncatum 219, 221 Spathidium turgitorum 34, 35, 39, 47, 58, 59, 91, 92, 214 Spathidium vermiculus 138 Spathidium vermiforme 87, 336, 357 Spathidium wolfi 33, 85, 87T Spathidium wolfi group 33, 34, 85 spathula plurinucleate, Spathidium 90 spathula, Enchelys 162 spathula, Spathidium 162, 219, 368, 414 sphagnicola, Kreutzophrya 312, 314 Spinispatha serpens 250 stammeri, Spathidium 41, 65, 204 Sterkiella histriomuscorum 416 strenuum, Gonostomum 319 Supraspathidium xv, 28, 85, 89, 90, 335, 335, 337K Supraspathidium armatum 8, 335, 336, 337, 338K, 344T, 345T, 348, 353, 360 Supraspathidium canaliculatum 336, 337 Supraspathidium elongatum 335, 337, 338K, 339, 358, 359, 362 Supraspathidium etoschense 8, 335, 336, 338K, 344T, 345T, 345, 346, 354, 360 Supraspathidium gigas 335, 336, 337K, 358, 361

Supraspathidium latissimum 89, 336, 337 Supraspathidium lieberkuehnii 336, 337 Supraspathidium multistriata 339 Supraspathidium multistriatum 335, 336, 337, 338K, **339**, 344T, 345T, 345, 346, 348, 356 Supraspathidium polyvacuolatum 90, 336, 337 Supraspathidium teres 335, 336, 338K, 338, 358, 359, 360 Supraspathidium vermiforme 87, 335, 336, 338K, 339, 345, 348, 357, 360 symmetricus, Akidodes 435 taeniatum, Cranotheridium 285, 294, 305 teres, Lacrymaria 335, 336, 337, 338 teres, Spathidium 338 teres, Supraspathidium 335, 336, 338K, 338, 358, 359, 360 terrenus, Enchelyodon 315, 316, 320 terricola, Apospathidium 111, 112K, 112, 113T, 119, 343 terricola, Dragescozoon 9 terricola, Enchelys 315 terricola, Epispathidium 141, 142, 143K, 196, 224, 228, 372 terricola, Plesiocaryon 9 terricola, Protocyclidium 103 terricola, Protospathidium 215 terricola, Spathidium 196, 228 Tetrahymena pyriformis 416 Teuthophrys 206 thecatum, Enchelydium 414, 415 tortisticha, Cultellothrix 7, 435, 449 tortisticha, Neocultellothrix 245, 433, 435, 436K, 449 Trachelophyllum 143 Trachelophyllum africanum 8 Trachelophyllum pannonicum 8 trichocystiferum, Colpodidium Colpodidium 8 trinucleatus, Condylostomides 9 tristriata, Podophrya 8 truncata, Lacrymaria 218, 221

truncatum bimacronucleatum, Latispathidium 215, 217T, 219, 220T, 220K, 222 truncatum truncatum, Latispathidium 215, 219, 220K, 221, 223, 224, 226, 227 truncatum, Latispathidium 213, 214, 215K, 218, 221, 249 truncatum, Latispathidium truncatum 215, 219, 220K, 221, 223, 224, 226, 227 truncatum, Spathidium 219, 221 truncatum, Spathidium Lacrymaria 219, 221 tuberculata, Nassula 14 turgitorum, Spathidium 34, 35, 39, 47, 58, 59, 91, 92, 214 Vartospathidium 174, 180, 190 Vartospathidium papilliferum 174 velhoi, Cultellothrix 6, 433, 434, 435, 436, 437, 438 velhoi, Neocultellothrix 18, 87, 289, 433, 435, 436K, 436 vermiculare, Homalozoon 359, 360 vermicularis, Litonotus 359, 360, 361 vermiculus, Protospathidium 8, 215 vermiculus, Spathidium 138 vermiforme, Apobryophyllum 8 vermiforme, Arcuospathidium 270 vermiforme, Protospathidium 10, 266, 276 vermiforme, Spathidium 87, 336, 357 vermiforme, Supraspathidium 87, 335, 336, 338K, 339, 345, 348, 357, 360 vermiformis, Enchelyodon 314, 320 verrucosum, Centrospathidium 127, 128K, 128, 129T, 138 verruculosum, Centrospathidium 129, 134, 135 virugense, Arcuospathidium 7 virungense, Arcuospathidium 7 vlassaki, Arcuospathidium 214 Vorticella astyliformis 103

*wolfi* group, *Spathidium* 33, 34, **85** *wolfi*, *Spathidium* 33, **85**, 87T *Wolfkosia loeffleri* 9

## Table index

- Table 3.1Spathidium elongatum group 38
- Table 3.2Spathidium elongatum, Spathidium dispar, Spathidium apospathidiforme 44
- Table 3.3Spathidium duschli 60
- Table 3.4Spathidium bromelicola 62
- Table 3.5Spathidium bromelicola 63
- Table 3.6Spathidium aciculare, Spathidium etoschense 64
- Table 3.7Spathidium sapophilum, Spathidium saprophilum curvioplites 73
- Table 3.8Spathidium rusticanum 82
- Table 3.9Spathidium wolfi, Spathidium faurefremieti 87
- Table 3.10Spathidium anguilla 92
- Table 3.11Spathidium polynucleatum 104
- Table 4.1Apospathidium terricola, Apospathidium longicaudatum 113
- Table 5.1Centrospathidium verrucosum 129
- Table 6.1Epispathidium regium 150
- Table 6.2Epispathidium securiforme 154
- Table 6.3Epispathidium salsum 167
- Table 6.4Epispathidium papilliferum 192
- Table 6.5Epispathidium papilliferum 194
- Table 6.6Spathidium amphoriforme 200
- Table 7.1
   Latispathidium lanceoplites, Latispathidium truncatum bimicronucleatum 217
- Table 7.2Latispathidium truncatum bimicronucleatum, Spathidium aciculare, Spathidium<br/>etoschense 220
- Table 7.3Latispathidium arboricola 236
- Table 7.4Latispathidium simile 244
- Table 7.5Latispathidium brachyoplites 251
- Table 8.1
   Schmidingerophrya macrothrix, Schmidingerophrya bisticha 268
- Table 8.2Schmidingerophrya macrothrix 272
- Table 9.1Semibryophyllum cultellum, Semibryophyllum palustre 282
- Table 9.2Semibryophyllum foliosum 283
- Table 10.1Semispathidium enchelyodontides, Semispathidium armatum, Semispathidium lagy-<br/>niforme 313
- Table 11.1Supraspathidium etoschense, Supraspathidium armatum, Supraspathidium multistri-<br/>atum 344
- Table 12.1
   Pharyngospathidium longichilum amphoriforme 370
- Table 12.2Pharyngospathidium longichilum longichilum, Pharyngospathidium longichilum<br/>amphoriforme, Pharyngospathidium pseudobavariense 371
- Table 12.3Neospathidium longinucleatum 413
- Table 12.4
   Neospathidium africanum, Neospathidium brachystichos 427