
The transfer of *Surirella kerguelensis* to *Iconella* (Bacillariophyceae)

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In order to conform with a new phylogeny within the Surirellales, as supported by molecular and morphological data (Ruck *et al.* 2016a), a re-evaluation of taxa within the genus *Surirella* Turpin (Turpin 1828: 363) described from freshwater habitats of the sub-Antarctic and Maritime Antarctic region (Van de Vijver *et al.* 2013) is required. None of these Antarctic taxa is present in the transfer list of Ruck *et al.* (2016b), which includes 22 *Iconella* Jurilj (Jurilj 1948: 183) species, nor in the preliminary checklist of African *Surirella* and *Iconella* taxa (Jahn *et al.* 2017), in which 57 taxa were transferred from *Surirella* to *Iconella*. The main morphological difference between the molecularly supported genera *Surirella* and *Iconella* is the position of the raphe canal. In *Surirella* the raphe canal is located directly on the junction of the valve face and the valve mantle, whereas in *Iconella* it rises above the valve face and valve mantle with the presence of alar canals and fenestrae (Ruck *et al.* 2016a; Jahn *et al.* 2017).

Only five *Surirella* species are reported from freshwater habitats of the sub-Antarctic and Maritime Antarctic region (Van de Vijver *et al.* 2013), with exception of Macquarie Island where several unknown *Surirella* and *Iconella* taxa were observed (Van de Vijver unpublished). Notwithstanding the absence of molecular data for these taxa, it is clear that four taxa should remain within the genus *Surirella* based on the above mentioned morphological difference in the raphe canal. These species are *Surirella australovisurgis* Van de Vijver, Cocquyt, Kopalová & Zidarova (Van de Vijver *et al.* 2013: 101), *Surirella heardensis* Van de Vijver & Cocquyt (Van de Vijver *et al.* 2013: 100), *Surirella lapponica* A.Cleve (Cleve-Euler 1895: 25) and *Surirella subantarctica* Van de Vijver & Cocquyt (Van de Vijver *et al.* 2013: 96). Only one species, *Surirella kerguelensis* Grunow, has a raphe canal rising above the valve face and valve mantle with alar canals and fenestrae and should therefore be transferred to the genus *Iconella*. The following transfer is thus proposed:

***Iconella kerguelensis* (Grunow) Cocquyt & Van de Vijver, comb. nov**

Basionym: *Surirella kerguelensis* Grunow in A.W.F.Schmidt *Atlas der Diatomaceenkunde*, pl. 56: fig. 24, 1877.

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