
***Lightfootiella* Hašler *et al.* (2018) is a homotypic synonym of *Sorospora* Hassall (1845) (Chroococcaceae, Cyanophyceae)**

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Hašler *et al.* (2018: 177) recently published the new generic name *Lightfootiella* Hašler, Pentecost, Jahodářová, Dvořák & Pouličková, which they assigned to the family *Chroococcaceae* (Cyanophyta) with the type and only species *Lightfootiella montana* (Lightfoot) Hašler, Pentecost, Jahodářová, Dvořák & Pouličková. The latter was based on *Ulva montana* Lightfoot (1777: 973, no fig. ‘*Ulva plana coriacea terrestris sanguinea*’). A lectotype labelled in Lightfoot’s hand “Mountain Dulse. Skye, *Ulva montana*. Fl. Cal. [*Flora Caledonica?*]” was designated by Dixon (1983: 13) from the Lightfoot Herbarium, then at **K**, now in **BM**. Dixon (1985: 13) records that the specimen was shown to Dr Francis Drouet and was identified by him as *Anacystis montana* (Lightfoot) Drouet & Daily, a placement consistent with taxonomic treatment of the Cyanophyta of the time. Hašler *et al.* (2018) asserted that *Lightfootiella montana* represented “a separate evolutionary lineage” differing from the related genera *Gloeocapsa*, *Gloeocapsopsis*, and *Chroococcus*.

Whilst we have no issue with the Hašler *et al.* (2018) taxonomic treatment, there is an unfortunate nomenclatural oversight, namely, that *Ulva montana* is the basionym for the lectotype, *Sorospora montana* (Lightfoot) Hassall, of the genus *Sorospora* Hassall (1845: 309), a name that was valid, legitimate, and available when the name *Lightfootiella* Hašler, Pentecost, Jahodářová, Dvořák & Pouličková was introduced. Hassall (1845: 309 *et seq.*) assigned four species to *Sorospora*: *S. grumosa* (Carmichael ex Harvey) Hassall, *S. montana* (Lightfoot) Hassall, *S. ralfsii* (Harvey) Hassall, and *S. virescens* Hassall. A generitype was not designated by Hassall, but the genus was lectotypified by Drouet & Dailey (1956: 34) with *Sorospora montana* (Lightfoot) Hassall, a name based on *Ulva montana* Lightfoot. This lectotypification is listed in *Index Nominum Algarum* (Silva 2018) and in *Index Nominum Genericorum (Plantarum)* (Farr & Zijlstra 2018).

Lightfootiella Hašler *et al.* (2018) is thus superfluous and illegitimate as the earlier valid and legitimate name *Sorospora* Hassall was available, and *Sorocarpa montana* (Lightfoot) Hassall is the correct name of the sole species of the genus currently recognised. The lectotype locality is the mountainous Isle of Skye, the largest of the Inner Hebrides of Scotland.

Dixon, P.S. (1983). The algae of Lightfoot's *Flora Scotia*. *Bulletin of the British Museum (Natural History) Botany* 11: 1-15, 2 figs.

Drouet, F. & Daily, W.A. (1956). Revision of the coccoid Myxophyceae. *Butler University Botanical Studies* 12: 1-218, 377 figs.

Farr, E.R. & Zijlstra, G. [Eds]. (2018). *Index Nominum Genericorum (Plantarum)*. [Online.] Available from <http://botany.si.edu/ing> [accessed 23 July 2018].

Hašler, P., Pentecost, A., Jahodářová, E., Dvořák, P. & Pouličková, A. (2018). Taxonomic revision of *Ulva montana* (Lightfoot 1777) and description of a new genus of *Lightfootiella* (Cyanophyceae, Chroococcaceae). *Phytotaxa* 362(2): 173–186, 7 figs.

Hassall, A.H. (1845). *A history of the British freshwater algae*, including descriptions of the Desmideae and Diatomaceae. With upwards of one hundred plates, illustrating the various species. Vol. II [plates]. pp. [i]-24, pls 1-103 (55 as 'lvi'). London, Edinburgh, Paris & Leipzig: S. Highley, H. Baillièrè; Sunderland & Knox; J.B. Baillièrè; T.O. Weigel.

Lightfoot, J. (1777). *Flora scotica: or, a systematic arrangement, in the Linnaean method, of the native plants of Scotland and the Hebrides*. Vol. II. pp. 545-1151 [1-24], pls 1-35. London: printed for B. White at Horace's Head, in Fleet-Street.

Silva, P.C. (2018). “*Index Nominum Algarum*”: <http://ucjeps.berkeley.edu/INA.html> (accessed 23 July 2018).