

***Closterium portaleonis*, nom. nov., a replacement name for *Closterium truncatum* Claassen 1961, nom. illeg. (Closteriaceae, Zygnematophyceae)**

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In 1961, Martha Isabella Claassen (1931–2020) published a paper documenting the rich desmid flora of Transvaal in South Africa, where amongst other taxa she described a new species from genus *Closterium* Nitzsch ex Ralfs, *Closterium truncatum* Claassen (1961: 577). However, this binomial had previously been validly introduced by Turner (1893: 22, pl. XXII [22]: fig. 14), giving that name priority. Here I propose a new name for *Closterium truncatum* Claassen in accordance with ICN Art. 41.1 (Madrid Code, Turland & al. 2025).

***Closterium portaleonis* Levanets, nom. nov.**

Replaced name: *Closterium truncatum* Claassen *Bothalia* 7: 577, pl. 5: fig. 6, 1961, nom. illeg., not *Closterium truncatum* Brébisson [in Meneghini] *Linnea* 14: 235, 1840, nom. inval. (a devaluated, pre-starting point name), nec *Closterium truncatum* W.B.Turner *Kungliga Svenska Vetenskaps-Akademiens Handlingar* 25(5): 22, pl. XXII [22]: fig. 14, 1893, reproduced here as fig. 1 (syn.: *Closterium delpontei* var. *truncatum* (W.B.Turner) Willi Krieger, 1932: 160, reproduced here as fig. 2).

Description: Cells of medium size, about 6.2 times longer than their diameter, slightly curved, inner margin somewhat concave, with the median portion slightly tumid, gradually attenuated towards the apices, which are truncate; cell wall smooth, yellowish and with a thickening at the apices: chloroplasts with about 10 ridges and a central series of four pyrenoids: terminal vacuoles large, with a number of moving granules. Length 224.0–225.5 µm; breadth 36.0 µm; breadth of apices 8.0–8.5 µm (from Claassen 1961).

Holotype: [icon!] Claassen (1961: pl. 5: fig. 6, illustration of a single specimen from a single gathering, ICN Art. 40.6, reproduced here as fig. 3).

Type locality: South Africa: Transvaal Province, Doornfontein Spruit about three miles north-east of Leeupoort Dam [now Limpopo Province], near school, pool near stream, 16 April 1954.

Registration (of name <http://phycobank.org/108018>)

Etymology: The new epithet is a noun in apposition derived from the area where this species was discovered: Leeupoort, meaning “Lion’s Gate” in Afrikaans (Claassen 1961: 561).

Notes: In Roll (1923: 24) the species epithet ‘*truncatum*’ was erroneously used in the Russian-language description of *Closterium truncatulum* Y.V.Roll, *sp. nov.*, whereas the Latin description and the caption for the illustration (reproduced here as fig. 4) both gave the epithet as ‘*truncatulum*’. Glen & Germshuizen (2010: 128) in a short biographical article about M.I. Claassen mentioned: “Specimens ± 1200 preserved in spirit; in **PRU**”. Despite our best efforts to find them, they seem to be lost.

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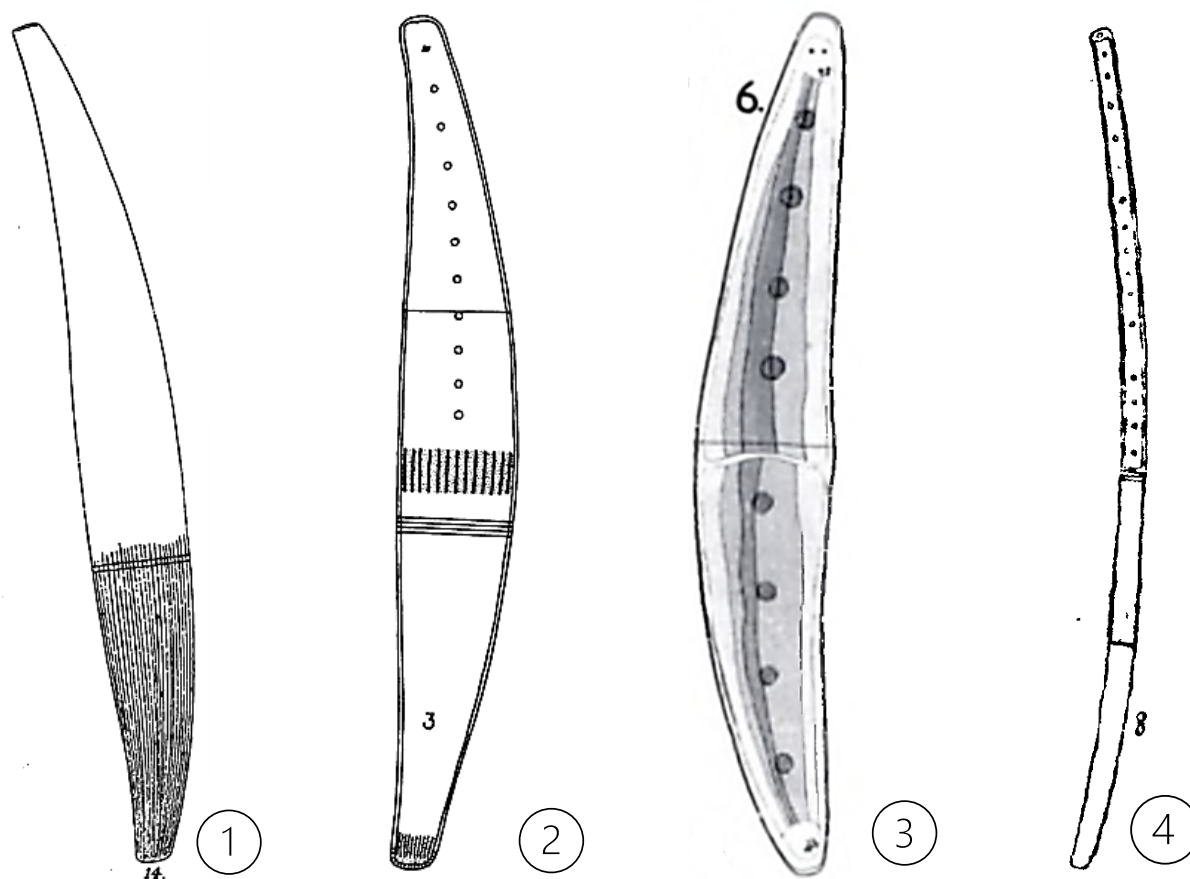


Fig. 1. *Closterium truncatum* W.B.Turner (after Turner 1893).

Fig. 2. *Closterium delpontei* var. *truncatum* (W.B.Turner) Willi Krieger (after Krieger 1932).

Fig. 3. *Closterium portaleonis* Levants, *nom. nov.* (after Claassen 1961).

Fig. 4. *Closterium truncatulum* Y.V.Roll (after Roll 1923).