In this issue

**Research article:** To confirm the taxonomic status and phylogenetic relationships of *Haraldiophyllum udoense*, we analyzed female reproductive structures in detail and compared DNA sequences using *rbcl*, LSU and COI genes. A new genus *Neoharaldiophyllum* is proposed.

**Keywords:** cystocarp structure; Delesseriaceae; molecular phylogeny; *Neoharaldiophyllum* gen. nov.; taxonomy.

**Research article:** We describe a new species of flattened red alga, *Gracilaria coppejansii* sp. nov. from the southern coast of the Andaman Sea, Thailand based on morphology and genetic data. Female gametophytic thalli exhibit numerous proliferations on the blade margin (see inset).

**Keywords:** Gracilariaeae; macroalgae; *rbcl*; Rhodophyta; taxonomy.

**Research article:** *Gelidium canariense* is a habitat-forming macroalga endemic to the Canary Islands. It is easily recognizable from its blackish color and the corymbose-to-subfasciigate branching pattern. Reproductive individuals develop a leafy morphotype while non-fertile plants remain bare.

**Keywords:** gametophyte; Gelidiaceae; life cycle; morphotypes; phenology.
Athanasios Athanasiadis

*Capensia fucorum* (Esper) gen. et comb. nov. (*Mesophyllaceae, Corallinales, Rhodophyta*), a hemiparasite on *Gelidium* from South Africa

DOI 10.1515/bot-2017-0027
Botanica Marina 2017; 60(5): 555–565

**Research article:** *Capensia fucorum* is the first hemiparasitic coralline infecting a non-coralline host (*Gelidium*). It grows via sympodial branching and develops a monostromatic hypothallium with ascending and descending filaments. Haustoria develop on descending filaments and penetrate the cortical layers of the host.

**Keywords:** cellulosympodial branching; differentiated pore cells; *Synarthrophyton*.

Daniel León-Alvarez, Viviana Patricia Reyes-Gómez, Michael J. Wynne, María Edith Ponce-Márquez and Nataly Quiróz-González

*Morphological and molecular characterization of Hapalospondion gelatinosum, Hapalospondidiaceae fam. nov.* (*Ralfsiales, Phaeophyceae*) from Mexico

DOI 10.1515/bot-2017-0020
Botanica Marina 2017; 60(5): 567–581

**Research article:** Morphological and molecular evidence is provided to distinguish between *Hapalospondion* and *Mesospora* and for the establishment of the new family Hapalospondidiaceae. A lectotype and an epitype for *Hapalospondion gelatinosum* are designated.

**Keywords:** Hapalospondidiaceae fam. nov.; *Hapalospondion gelatinosum*; Phaeophyceae; phylogeny; taxonomy.

José Martínez-Garrido, Joel C. Creed, Samir Martins, Carmen H. Almada and Ester A. Serrão

*First record of Ruppia maritima in West Africa supported by morphological description and phylogenetic classification*

DOI 10.1515/bot-2016-0128
Botanica Marina 2017; 60(5): 583–589

**Short communication:** The seagrass *Ruppia maritima* (widgeon grass) is identified phylogenetically and morphologically for the first time from West Africa (Santiago Island, Cape Verde), solving the uncertainty caused by a widespread application of this species name to distinct non-monophyletic, genetic entities.

**Keywords:** molecular phylogenetic; morphological traits; *Ruppia* genus; seagrass; waterbirds.