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### THE RED ALGAL GENUS *CHAMPIA* IN THE GULF OF MEXICO AND THE CARIBBEAN

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Desvaux (1809) is a hollow thallus member of the Rhodymeniales and is well characterized based on a long history of developmental and morphological studies conducted on *Champia parvula* (C. Agardh) Harvey, and on the type *Champia lumbricalis* (L.) Desvaux from South Africa. This study investigates *Champia* samples from the Gulf of Mexico and the Caribbean Sea and other pertinent worldwide samples using both morphological and chloroplast-encoded *rbcL* sequence data. The results will help to clarify two taxonomically problematic members of the genus, *Champia parvula* var. *prostrata* L. G. Williams, and *C. compressa* Harvey, and include a comparison of the newly described monoecious *Champia*, *C. puertoricensis* Lozada-Troche & D.L. Ballantine, with another monoecious specimen from the Caribbean *Champia monoica*.

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### MOLECULAR DATA RESOLVES DISPUTE IN THE GELIDIALES (RHODOPHYTA)

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In 1987 Maggs and Guiry described *Gelidiella calcicola*, a diminutive creeping member of the Gelidiales apparently confined to maerl beds (loose-lying coralline algae) in Europe. It was assigned to *Gelidiella* on the basis of lateral stichidia forming tetrasporangia in long chevron-like rows and the absence from the medulla of internal rhizines, considered characteristic of all genera of the Gelidiales except *Gelidiella*. Anomalous features of *G. calcicola*, including the formation of internal rhizines at the peg-like holdfasts, led the authors to suggest that the families Gelidiellaceae Fan and Gelidiaceae Kützing should be merged. However, this was not accepted by other workers and the Gelidiellaceae acquired a second genus, *Parviphycus* Santelices, and *Pterocliadiella* Santelices & Hommersand was placed in the Gelidiaceae after its separation from *Pterocliadia* (*Pterocliadiaceae*) for its triangular unilocular cystocarps and peg-like holdfasts. During comparative studies on Gelidiales of Europe and South-East Asia, the systematic position of *G. calcicola* was re-examined using *rbcL* sequences. *G. calcicola* is a member of a large *Pterocliadiella* clade including a new species from Indonesia, and should be transferred to this predominantly Pacific genus.