Gigartinales symposium

Recent developments in the systematics of the Gigartinaceae (Gigartinales, Rhodophyta) based on *rbc*L sequence analysis and morphological evidence

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SUMMARY

The phylogenetic systematics of the Gigartinaceae is discussed for seven genera and three undescribed generic lineages and 65 taxa representing 62 species based on an analysis of rbcL sequences and morphological evidence. An examination of rbcL trees resulting from analyses of these taxa identifies seven lineages: (i) 'Gigartina' alveata; (ii) Rhodoglossum/Gigartina; (iii) Chondracanthus; (iv) Ostiophyllum; (v) Sarcothalia; (vi) 'Gigartina' skottsbergii; and (vii) a large clade containing Iridaea/'Sarcothalia', Mazzaella and Chondrus. These lineages and Chondrus are strongly supported; however, two groups, Iridaea/'Sarcothalia' and Mazzaella, receive no bootstrap support. The morphology of the female reproductive system is investigated with the aid of computer-generated, color-coded tracings of photographs of cystocarps seen in cross section at different developmental stages. Seven basic cystocarp types were found which corresponded to species groups seen in rbcL trees. These were: (i) a 'Gigartina' alveata group in which the carposporangia-bearing filaments develop apomictically from gametophytic cells; (ii) a Rhodoglossum/Gigartina group in which gonimoblast filaments penetrate the surrounding envelope fusing progessively with envelope cells; (iii) a Chondracanthus group in which gonimoblast filaments penetrate the envelope but fuse with envelope cells only at late developmental stages; (iv) a Sarcothalia group in which the gonimoblast filaments displace an envelope composed mainly of secondary gametophytic filaments and link to envelope cells by terminal tubular gonimoblast cells; (v) an Iridaea group similar to the Sarcothalia group, but with an envelope composed of a mixture of medullary cells and secondary gametophytic filaments; (vi) a Mazzaella group that lacks a true envelope and in which gonimoblast filaments connect to modified gametophytic cells by means of terminal tubular cells; (vii) a Chondrus group in which gonimoblast filaments penetrate the medulla and link to modified medullary cells by means of conjunctor cells forming secondary pit connections. The further separation of these groups into genera is based largely on tetrasporangial characters.

Key words: biogeography, cystocarp, Gigartinaceae, Gigartinales, molecular systematics, red algae, Rhodophyta, seaweeds.

INTRODUCTION

In 1993, Hommersand, Guiry, Fredericg and Leister proposed a revised classification of the marine red algal family Gigartinaceae in which 69 species were classified into four extant (Chondrus Stackhouse, Gigartina Stackhouse, Iridaea Bory nom. cons. and Rhodoglossum J. Agardh) and three reinstated (Chondracanthus Kützing, Sarcothalia Kützing and Mazzaella G. de Toni, f.) genera based on developmental and morphological criteria. This treatment included formal descriptions. keys and photographs of diagnostic characters. The seven genera received support in a subsequent phylogenetic study based on sequence analysis of plastidencoded rbcL (Hommersand et al. 1994). Five species were added to the Gigartinaceae, either as new combinations or reinstated taxa, and two of the four species placed in Species incertae sedis in Hommersand et al. (1993), 'Gigartina' alveata and 'Gigartina' skottsbergii were identified as belonging to undescribed genera (Hommersand et al. 1994). The status of Sarcothalia remained confused with two species, S. decipiens and S. scutellata, falling into a separate group clustering with Iridaea in the rbcL tree, rather than with S. stiriata, the type species of Sarcothalia.

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In the present paper, we investigate the phylogenetic systematics of the Gigartinaceae based on an analysis of *rbc*L sequences from 65 collections representing 62 species and re-examine the morphological basis for separating genera by means of computer-aided color tracings of photographs of stages of cystocarp development. Genera that appear in quotation marks (e.g. *'Gigartina'*) are thought by us not to belong under their present generic name. Species names that have been incorrectly applied in the literature are also placed in quotes. The complete scientific name (genus, species and authority) is given for each species in Appendix I. Herbarium abbreviations follow Holmgren *et al.* (1990).

MATERIALS AND METHODS

Methods of DNA extraction, amplification and sequencing of rbcL were as previously described (Freshwater and Rueness 1994; Hommersand et al. 1994; Fredericq et al. 1999). Parsimony and distance analyses of rbcL sequence data were performed using the PAUP computer program (v. 4.0, Swofford 1998). Parsimony trees were inferred using a three-part heuristic search scheme designed to increase the likelihood of swapping within the 'island' of trees containing the most parsimonious solution (Maddison 1991). Initial searches consisted of 500 random sequence additions, using STEEPEST DESCENT, MULPARS (but permitting only 20 trees to be held at each step) and the NNI (nearest neighbor interchange) swapping algorithms. Trees found in these initial searches were then swapped to completion using STEEPEST DESCENT, MULPARS and TBR (tree bisection reconnection) swapping algorithms. In an effort to search for additional islands of shorter trees, TBR was used to swap on all trees up two steps less parsimonious than minimal. Reported tree lengths were calculated, including all characters. Consistency (CI) and retention (RI) indices (Kluge and Farris 1969; Farris 1989) were calculated by excluding uninformative characters. Support for nodes of parsimony trees was assessed by calculating bootstrap proportion (BP) values (Felsenstein 1985) based on 500 resamplings of heuristic searches with 10 random additions and the MULPARS and TBR swapping algorithms. A neighborjoining tree (Saitou and Nei 1987) was inferred based on Kimura two-parameter distances (Kimura 1980). Bootstrap support for nodes in the neighbor-joining tree were based on 1000 resampling replications.

Morphological observations were made on plants fixed in 8–10% formalin/seawater and preserved in 5% formalin/seawater. Hand sections were stained with aceto-iron-hematoxylin-chloral hydrate (Wittmann 1965) mounted in 1:1 Hoyers mounting medium and photographed with a Zeiss photomicroscope III, as described in Hommersand *et al.* (1992). Photographic prints were scanned into a Macintosh G3 computer using Photoshop 5.0 (Adobe Systems Inc., CA, USA).

Each cell was traced in color, the images assembled with MacDraw Pro, and photoprints made with a Fujix Pictrography 3000 digital image printer (Fugi Photo Film Co. Ltd, Tokyo, Japan).

RESULTS

Nucleotide sequence data for rbcL were generated from 65 taxa within the red algal family Gigartinaceae (Appendix I). The data set contained sequences from 31 newly sequenced Gigartinaceae and more complete rbcL sequences for many of the species included in an earlier study (Hommersand et al. 1994). Sequences for Phyllophora crispa and Mastocarpus stellatus (Phyllophoraceae) were included as outgroup taxa based on the sister relationship of this family to the Gigartinaceae (Freshwater et al. 1994; Fredericq et al. 1996; Saunders and Bailey 1997). Tree lengths of 100 000 randomly generated trees had a skewed distribution $(g_1 = -0.288, P < 0.01)$ indicating the presence of non-random structure in these data (Hillis and Huelsenbeck 1992; Hillis et al. 1993). The sequence data set contained 421 parsimony informative characters.

Parsimony and neighbor joining analyses results were in agreement and only parsimony results are included here. Parsimony analyses of the data set resulted in 30 minimal length trees of 2164 steps, CI = 0.341 and RI = 0.693 (Fig. 1). Six species groups received strong bootstrap proportion (BP) support in these analyses: Chondracanthus (BP = 100); Sarcothalia (BP = 100); a cluster of southern hemisphere Mazzaella species including M. convoluta, M. laminarioides. M. membranacea and M. 'affinis' (BP = 93); Mazzaella californica, M. leptorhynchos, M. affinis (BP = 99); Mazzaella sanguinea, M. flaccida, M. splendens and M. linearis (BP = 100), and Chondrus (BP = 94). Additionally, three species groups were moderately to well supported: a Gigartina/Rhodoglossum clade (BP = 84); Gigartina-sensu stricto (BP = 76) and a group containing the two strongly supported clades of north-east Pacific Mazzaella species previously mentioned (BP = 79). Larger groupings of taxa supported in these analyses included clades containing Chondrus and Mazzaella (BP = 76); 'Sarcothalia', Iridaea, Mazzaella and Chondrus (BP = 100); 'Gigartina' skottsbergii, Iridaea/'Sarcothalia', Mazzaella and Chondrus (BP = 80); Sarcothalia, 'Gigartina' skottsbergii, Iridaea/'Sarcothalia', Mazzaella and Chondrus (BP = 99), and a clade containing the previous taxa and Ostiophyllum (BP = 81).

Stages of cystocarp development that had been illustrated previously for the type species of each of the seven currently recognized genera in the Gigartinaceae (Fredericq et al. 1992; Hommersand et al. 1992, 1993) were examined and those that contained critical diagnostic characters were selected for further analysis in this study. As gametophytic and carposporophytic

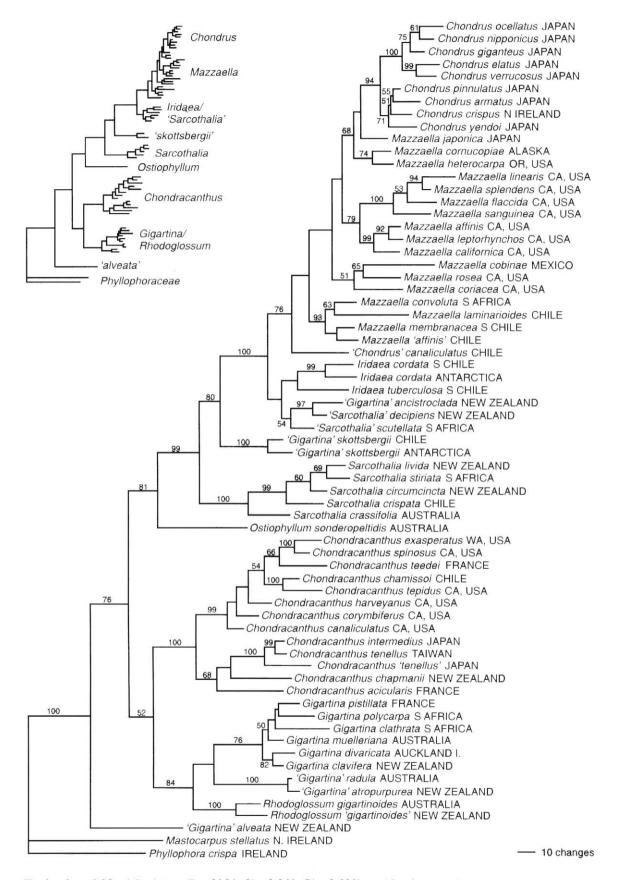


Fig. 1. One of 30 minimal trees (L = 2164, CI = 0.341, RI = 0.693) resulting from parsimony searches of *rbc*L sequence data for 65 Gigartinaceae and two outgroup taxa. Branch lengths are proportional to the number of mutational changes and bootstrap proportion values are shown for branches with support \geq 50%. The major groups of taxa discussed in this paper are outlined in the condensed tree.

filament types that characterize stages of cystocarp development appear as shades of gray that are difficult to distinguish, color diagrams were prepared by tracing the cells from the black and white prints directly on to the computer screen where they were analyzed. Where published photographs were inadequate, unpublished photographs were used. Species illustrated in Fig. 2 are as follows: Fig. 2a Rhodoglossum gigartinoides, original figure; 2b, Chondracanthus chapmanii, original figure; 2c, Chondracanthus teedei (Hommersand & Fredericg 1990, fig. 168); 2d,e Gigartina pistillata (Hommersand et al. 1992, figs 48,53); 2f Gigartina pistillata, original figure; 2g,h, Sarcothalia stiriata (Hommersand et al. 1993, figs 14,15); 2i, Iridaea cordata (Hommersand et al. 1993, fig. 9); 2j, I. cordata, original figure: 2k, Mazzaella californica (Hommersand et al. 1993, fig. 6); 21, Chondrus crispus (Fredericq et al. 1992, fig. 28). Stages were selected to show important diagnostic relationships between unmodified primary gametophytic filaments (blue); primary gametophytic filaments modified as a result of nuclear replication and protein synthesis (purple); secondary gametophytic filaments produced after diploidization of a functional auxiliary cell (green); modified secondary gametophytic filaments formed as a result of the replication of haploid nuclei and protein synthesis (black dots); gonimoblast (carposporophytic) filaments and their nuclei (orange); heterokarvotic filaments formed by the uniting of gonimoblastic with gametophytic cells (brown); mature carposporangia with diploid nuclei (magenta). The tetrasporangial stages referred to in the discussion are from Hommersand et al. (1993, figs 28-40) and other sources.

DISCUSSION

Molecular phylogeny

An examination of *rbc*L trees resulting from analyses of the Gigartinaceae taxa included here identifies seven lineages: (i) *'Gigartina' alveata*; (ii) *Rhodoglossum/Gigartina*; (iii) *Chondracanthus*; (iv) *Ostiophyllum*; (v) *Sarcothalia*; (vi) *'Gigartina' skottsbergii*; and (vii) a large clade containing *Iridaea/'Sarcothalia'*, *Mazzaella* and *Chondrus*. These lineages and *Chondrus* are strongly supported; however, two groups, *Iridaea/'Sarcothalia'* and *Mazzaella* receive no bootstrap support in the current analyses. *'Gigartina' alveata* is resolved as a basal lineage in the Gigartinaceae. Its basal position

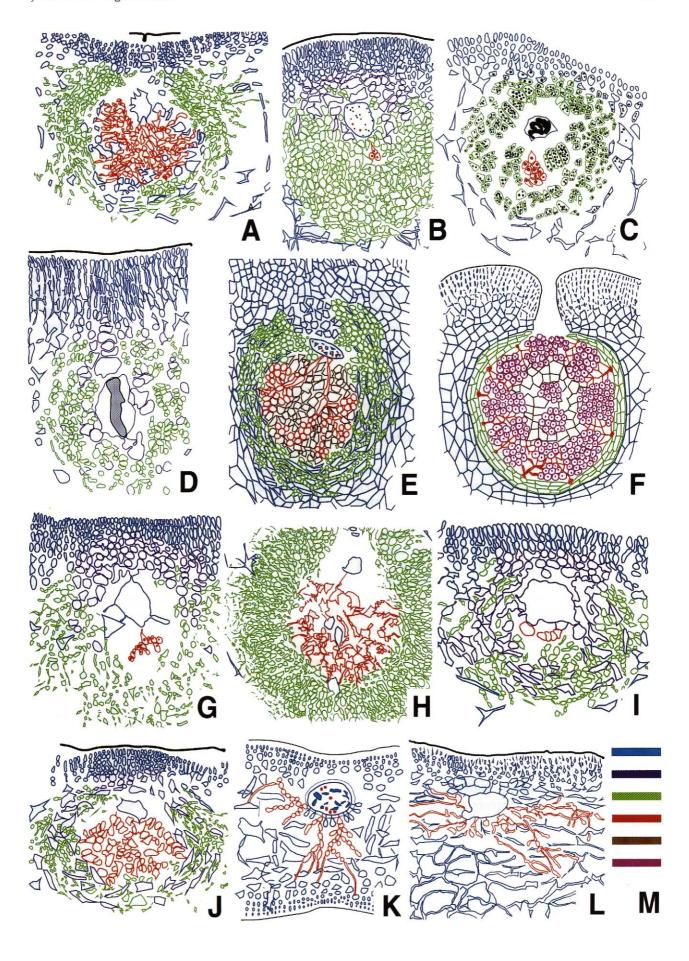
has been a consistent feature of rbcL trees (Hommersand et al. 1994: Hommersand and Fredericg, unpubl. data, 1999). The Gigartina/Rhodoglossum and Chondracanthus clades form a monophyletic group in all 30 minimal trees, but there is no bootstrap support for this relationship. Within the Gigartina/Rhodoglossum clade there are distinct groups of species. Two of these, Rhodoglossum and 'Gigartina' radula/'G.' atropurpurea, are strongly supported (BP = 100), while Gigartinasensu stricto receives moderate support (BP = 76). There is little resolution of species relationships within the Gigartina clade. Within Chondracanthus, a split between eastern and western Pacific species is resolved in all minimal trees. The group containing the eastern Pacific cluster is strongly supported (BP = 99), whereas the western Pacific group receives only weak support (BP = 68). Two Atlantic species, C. teedei and C. acicularis are resolved in the eastern and western Pacific groups, respectively.

The undescribed species Ostiophyllum sonderopeltidis Kraft mscr. terminates a long branch at the base of a large clade of gigartinacean taxa. The length of the branch leading to this taxon, as well as the bootstrap support for its topological position (BP = 81, 99) upholds its uniqueness within the Gigartinaceae. A large clade beginning with Sarcothalia and including the remaining genera in the family is identified in rbcL trees and has strong bootstrap support (BP = 99). Within this assemblage, a Sarcothalia clade containing the type species, S. stiriata, is strongly supported (BP = 100) and resolved in a basal position. The species from southern South America and the Antarctic Peninsula known as 'Gigartina' skottsbergii is also resolved as a distinct lineage within this large clade. It is separated from other species by a long branch length and its topological position has moderate to strong support (BP = 80, 100).

A clade containing species of *Iridaea/'Sarcothalia'*, *Mazzaella* and *Chondrus* is strongly supported (BP = 100). A complex of *Mazzaella* and *Chondrus* species receives moderate support (BP = 76) within this larger clade. In the minimal tree shown in Fig. 1, the type species of *Iridaea*, *I. cordata* and *I. tuberculosa*, *'Sarcothalia' scutellata*, *'S.' decipiens* and *'Gigartina' ancistroclada* are resolved as a monophyletic clade, but this is not the case in all minimal trees and there is no bootstrap support for this relationship.

The Mazzaella/Chondrus complex contains some monophyletic groups that are well supported, but the

Fig. 2(a-m). Color-coded diagrams of stages in cystocarp development as described in the Results. (a) Rhodoglossum gigartinoides; (b) Chondracanthus chapmanii; (c) Chondracanthus teedei; (d-f) Gigartina pistillata; (g,h) Sarcothalia stiriata; (i,j) Iridaea cordata; (k) Mazzaella californica; (l) Chondrus crispus. (m) Color-coded bars: blue, unmodified primary gametophytic filaments; purple, primary gametophytic filaments modified as a result of nuclear replication and protein synthesis; green, secondary gametophytic filaments produced after diploidization of a functional auxiliary cell; black dots, modified secondary gametophytic filaments formed as a result of the replication of haploid nuclei and protein synthesis; orange, gonimoblast (carposporophytic) filaments and their nuclei; (magenta) heterokaryotic filaments formed by the uniting of gonimoblastic with gametophytic cells (brown); mature carposporangia with diploid nuclei.



arrangement of these groups has no bootstrap support and is not consistent in minimal trees. Among them is a cluster of South American and South African *Mazzaella* species (BP = 93), a *Mazzaella californica* group (BP = 99), a *Mazzaella splendens* group (BP = 100) and *Chondrus* (BP = 94). A clade consisting of the *Mazzaella californica* and *Mazzaella splendens* groups receives moderate support (BP = 79) and an association between *M. cornucopiae* and *M. heterocarpa* is weakly supported (BP = 74). Within *Chondrus*, a split between a weakly supported '*crispus*' clade with four species (BP = 71) and a strongly supported '*ocellatus*' clade with five species (BP = 100) is present in all minimal trees.

Morphology and systematics

The status of the Gigartinaceae as a monophyletic family sister to the Phyllophoraceae was established based on morphological evidence (Kylin 1956; Guiry and Garbary 1990; Hommersand and Fredericg 1990) and phylogenetic analyses of rbcL sequence data (Freshwater et al. 1994; Fredericq et al. 1996) and 18S rRNA (Saunders and Bailey 1997). In both families, the vegetative thallus is multiaxial with medullary and inner cortical cells linked to surrounding cells by both primary and secondary pit connections. Whereas in the Phyllophoraceae, medullary and inner cortical cells are typically compacted to form a pseudoparenchyma, in the Gigartinaceae the cells are more loosely arranged and often stellate in shape, separated by copious matrix material. The supporting cell bears a three-celled carpogonial branch and serves as the auxiliary cell from which numerous gonimoblasts arise in both families; however, the first cell of the carpogonial branch bears a sterile filament in the Phyllophoraceae (Masuda 1987; Guiry and Garbary 1990) but is naked in the Gigartinaceae (Hommersand et al. 1992; Fredericq et al. 1992). Members of the Phyllophoraceae have either an isomorphic or a heteromorphic life history with erect gametophyte and crustose tetrasporophyte generations, or the tetrasporophyte develops as a pustule directly on the female gametophyte. In contrast, members of the Gigartinaceae have only isomorphic life histories with erect gametophytic and tetrasporophytic generations. Cystocarps are reported to have a similar internal structure in most species of Phyllophoraceae, whereas cystocarp anatomy varies widely in the Gigartinaceae. In the Phyllophoraceae, the tetrasporangia are either solitary, as in Mastocarpus (formerly in the Petrocelidaceae), borne in seriate rows in nemathecia on erect or crustose thalli, or are formed in tetrasporangial pustules borne on the gametophyte. Tetrasporangia are, for the most part, formed in nonnemathecial sori in Gigartinaceae. The ancestral condition appears to be one in which the tetrasporangia are borne in branched chains in ordinary primary cortical

filaments. In some species, both primary and secondary filaments bear tetrasporangia, whereas in others the tetrasporangia are borne only in secondary filaments formed in the inner cortical and/or medullary regions.

Each of the nine groups identified in Fig. 1 is characterized by a particular cystocarp type. These groups also correspond to six of the seven genera presently recognized in the Gigartinaceae plus three groups that warrant recognition at the generic rank, namely, 'Gigartina' alveata, Ostiophyllum sonderipeltidis Kraft mscr. and 'Gigartina' skottsbergii. Rhodoglossum, 'Gigartina' radulal'G.' atropurpurea and Gigartina fall within the same lineage but are separated by a combination of cystocarpic and tetrasporangial characters. Tetrasporangial characters, while not of primary importance, often reinforce generic boundaries or serve to identify infrageneric groups.

We consider 'Gigartina' alveata from New Zealand to be representative of an undescribed monotypic genus. Cystocarpic plants of 'G.' alveata are abundant in the field, whereas tetrasporangial plants are rare. Our unpublished morphological observations reveal that the carposporangia are typically borne in chains derived directly from vegetative cells, rather than arising from gonimoblasts produced from diploidized auxiliary cells. Thus, the most common life history would appear to be apomictic. Long thought to be absent, tetrasporangial sori were described by Lindauer (1939) from a few random collections and we have also observed a few tetrasporangial plants. Tetrasporangia are produced in chains in primary cortical filaments, as described for *Iridaea cordata* (Hommersand *et al.* 1993, figs 32, 33).

Two lineages, Rhodoglossum/Gigartina and Chondracanthus, have cystocarps in which the gonimoblasts tend to penetrate the surrounding envelope, rather than to displace it as in Sarcothalia or Iridaea (compare Fig. 2a-f with 2g-j). Rhodoglossum gigartinoides (Fig. 2a) represents either an archetypal or intermediate condition in which the developing gonimoblasts both penetrate and displace gametophytic filaments. They penetrate some of the primary medullary filaments (blue) and displace the secondary enveloping filaments (green). At a later stage, the gonimoblast filaments link to both types of vegetative cells by means of cell fusions and small tubular gonimoblast cells and produce masses of carposporangia in short, branched chains (Hommersand et al. 1993, figs 19,20; Edyvane and Womersley 1993, figs 13,19-21). 'Gigartina' radula from Australia and 'G.' atropurpurea from New Zealand, two virtually identical species, form their cystocarps in the same manner as in Rhodoglossum (Womersley 1994, fig. 92b, 93b, as Sarcothalia radula), the chief distinction being that the procarps are borne in papillae in the 'Gigartina' forms and in superficial sori on smooth blades in Rhodoglossum.

An envelope composed of small-celled secondary filaments develops early in members of the Chon-

dracanthus and Rhodoglossum/Gigartina lineages (Hommersand et al. 1993, figs 18,22,25), well before the first appearance of gonimoblasts. In Chondracanthus, the secondary filaments arise largely from inner cortical cells and form a compact envelope that is subsequently penetrated by young gonimoblast filaments (Fig. 2b,c). The auxiliary cell contains small haploid (black) and larger diploid (red) nuclei and the nuclei of envelope cells are unmodified in Chondracanthus chapmanii from New Zealand (Fig. 2b). In contrast, Chondracanthus teedei from Europe possesses an auxiliary cell containing large nuclei with amplified levels of DNA and enlarged envelope cells containing numerous haploid nuclei (Fig. 2c). The cystocarp in C. chapmanii is assumed to be primitive and that of C. teedei to be advanced, with C. chamissoi (Hommersand et al. 1993, figs 22-24) intermediate. Chondracanthus chapmanii falls in an 'acicularis' group in the rbcL tree (Fig. 1) in which cystocarp formation does not cause cessation of tip growth, with the result that the cystocarps occur along bends in the branches. In contrast, species belonging to the 'teedei' group have subterminal cystocarps in short branchlets or papillae. In Chondracanthus, the gonimoblast filaments appear to link to inner envelope cells only at late stages of cystocarp development (Hommersand and Fredericq 1990, figs 170, 171) and all the carposporangial filaments derive directly from gonimoblast filaments.

In members of the Rhodoglossum/Gigartina clade, the secondary filaments that comprise the envelope develop partly from inner cortical cells, but also from medullary cells. This is especially true for species of Gigartina. Numerous short, highly branched filaments arise directly from such cells as the auxiliary cell enlarges and initiates gonimoblast filaments (Fig. 2d; Hommersand et al. 1992, figs 48-50). Later, as gonimoblast filaments penetrate the envelope and link to envelope cells, successive envelope layers are produced from the compacted primary medullary filaments (Fig. 2e; Hommersand et al. 1992, figs 51,53,56). Unlike the behavior seen in Chondracanthus, the gonimoblast filaments link to envelope cells progressively as they grow, depositing diploid nuclei into the gametophytic cells and the resulting heterokaryotic cells (Fig. 2e, brown), as well as the gonimoblast cells (Fig. 2e, orange), produce short, branched filaments that mature into carposporangia (Fig. 2f, magenta). The resulting cystocarp is compartmentalized into clusters of carposporangia suspended in a network of sterile envelope filaments (Fig. 2f; Hommersand et al. 1993,

Tetrasporangial sori provide accessible characters for identifying members of the *Chondracanthus* and *Rhodoglossum/Gigartina* lineages. Tetrasporangia differentiate entirely from primary cortical filaments in *Chondracanthus* and form compact sori composed of branched chains (West and Guiry 1982, figs 10,11;

Guiry 1984, fig. 20a-d; Hommersand et al. 1993, fig. 38). In Rhodoglossum, the tetrasporangial sori are small, with the tetrasporangia in rows derived from divisions of surface cortical cells and radiating inwardly from the subsurface (Edyvane and Womersley 1993, figs 22-27; Hommersand et al. 1993, figs 36,37). In 'Gigartina' radula/'G.' atropurpurea, the tetrasporangial sori are immersed within the medulla and bear tetrasporangia in short chains produced in secondary medullary filaments, much as in Sarcothalia (Womersley 1994, fig. 92c). In fact, it is this similarity in soral development that prompted Womersley to transfer 'Gigartina' radula to Sarcothalia. The tetrasporangial sori of Gigartina sensu stricto are distinctive in that they are formed from a mixture of primary and secondary inner cortical filaments in linear or irregular sori, differentiate a separation layer between the inner cortex and outer medulla and are released by excision and gelatinous extrusion (Hommersand et al. 1992, figs 74-88).

The undescribed genus and species 'Ostiophyllum sonderopeltidis' Kraft mscr. is a small, orbicular subtidal plant no more than a centimeter in diameter that has only been found attached to Sonderopelta coriacea Womersley et Sinkora. The cystocarps are marginal with a prominent ostiole, as in Gigartina, but without an evident sterile envelope, at least at maturity. Tetrasporangial sori are scattered across the blade in pits provided with conspicuous ostioles, with the tetrasporangia occuring in chains at the base of a pit formed through the inward growth of dividing apical cells (G. T. Kraft, pers. comm., 1993). Such tetrasporangial filaments, although unique, appear to be primary rather than secondary filaments.

The three basal lineages in the large clade that includes the remaining genera in the Gigartinaceae: Sarcothalia, 'Gigartina' skottsbergii and Iridaea/'Sarcothalia' possess cystocarps in which the developing gonimoblast filaments displace the envelope and penetrate and connect to medullary and secondarily produced envelope cells by means of long tubular cells, rather than by growing between and linking to interspersed gametophytic cells. Historically, species belonging to this assemblage have been placed in Gigartina if the cystocaps are emergent or borne on papillae, or in Iridaea if they are immersed within the thallus. Our observations show that this is not a reliable character. Instead, the three lineages identified in rbcL trees can be separated morphologically only by subtle differences in cystocarp development.

The Sarcothalia lineage, containing the type species S. stiriata, possesses cystocarps in which the envelope is made up almost entirely of secondary filaments. During cystocarp development, cells of the inner cortex adjacent to the auxiliary cell become densely filled with cytoplasm and neighboring cells may fuse (Fig. 2g, purple). Secondary filaments originating from inner cor-

tical cells surround the young gonimoblast filaments (Fig. 2g, green) and radiate outwardly, forming a thick envelope composed almost entirely of secondary filaments (Fig. 2h). At maturity, cells at the center of the cystocarp expand, becoming vacuolate, and the carposporangia around the periphery form prominent radiating rows terminated by elongated tubular cells that penetrate deeply into the envelope (Hommersand *et al.* 1993, figs 16,17). Tetrasporangial sori originate in the outer medulla from a small cluster of medullary cells and consist entirely of radiating secondary filaments, with most of the cells transformed into tetrasporangia (Hommersand *et al.* 1993, figs 34,35; Womersley 1994, fig. 94a,b,e,f).

The species from southern South America and the Antarctic Peninsula known as 'Gigartina' skottsbergii belongs to an undescribed monotypic genus. It is superficially similar to Gigartina in that procarps are borne on secondary papillae and form prominent emergent cystocarps. The envelope formed around the diploidized auxiliary cell develops entirely from medullary cells and, while broad in dimensions, is so thinly traversed with secondary filaments that the whole structure appears to be composed entirely of medullary cells (G. L. Leister, pers. comm., 1990). To the casual observer it would appear as though an envelope were absent. The contents of the medullary cells and secondary filaments are consumed continuously through the tubular gonimoblast filaments as the cystocarp expands, so that a typical envelope composed of compressed filaments is never formed. As in Sarcothalia, the tetrasporangia are formed entirely in secondary filaments, which, however, originate from medullary cells in the center of the thallus in much the same manner as in some species of Chondrus.

In the Iridaea/'Sarcothalia' lineage, a prominent envelope forms around the diploidized auxiliary cell and is displaced by the expanding gonimoblast filaments, as in true Sarcothalia; however, the secondary filaments that comprise the envelope develop from medullary as well as inner cortical cells and are interspersed among them (Fig. 2i, j, purple, green). Inner cortical cells become densely filled with cytoplasm and often fuse with one another (Fig. 2i). The terminal tubular gonimoblast cells are not as long as in true Sarcothalia, but they function in the same way. At maturity, chains of carposporangia form around elongated sterile gonimoblast filaments and there is no central area of vacuolate gonimoblast cells (Hommersand et al. 1993, figs 12,13). Cystocarps in 'Sarcothalia' decipiens, 'S.' scutellata and 'Gigartina' ancistroclada develop initially as in Iridaea, in that secondary filaments that form the envelope arise primarily from medullary cells; however, they also contain some vacuolate inner gonimoblast cells like those seen in typical Sarcothalia and the envelope is a much looser structure than in either Sarcothalia or Iridaea and approaches that seen in 'Gigartina' skottsbergii (M. H. Hommersand, unpubl. data, 1999). Tetrasporangia are produced in branched chains derived from the transformation of inner primary cortical cells in *Iridaea* (Hommersand *et al.* 1993, figs 32,33) and in secondary filaments forming linear sori in the inner cortex and outer medulla in 'Sarcothalia' (G. L. Leister and M. H. Hommersand, unpubl. data, 1999).

'Chondrus' canaliculatus from Chile has been shown by Arakaki et al. (1997) not to belong in Chondrus. Morphologically, it is intermediate between 'Sarcothalia' in the Iridaea/'Sarcothalia' group and Mazzaella. An envelope is present around the cystocarp; however, the enveloping filaments develop gradually and are more diffuse than in Iridaea or 'Sarcothalia' and the tetrasporangia form in secondary filaments in linear sori in the outer medulla, much as in 'Sarcothalia'.

The Mazzaella/Chondrus clade appears to have evolved from an Iridaea-like ancestor through the loss of the primary envelope. In the absence of an envelope, primary medullary cells, sometimes supplemented by secondary filaments, become modified for a nutritive function in both Mazzaella and Chondrus. The general pathway of cystocarp development in Mazzaella species is similar to that described by Hommersand et al. (1993) for M. californica. Numerous gonimoblast initials issue from a diploidized auxiliary cell and initially penetrate the surrounding inner medullary and cortical filaments, attaching to them by means of terminal tubular gonimoblast cells (Fig. 2k; Hommersand et al. 1993, figs 5-7). Gametophytic cells contacted by terminal gonimoblast cells undergo nuclear divisions and become densely filled with cytoplasm when compared with untransformed vegetative cells. The contents of the contacted cells are consumed and the developing gonimoblast filaments soon generate a defining margin that looks like a weak envelope, but does not correspond to the preformed envelope found in Sarcothalia or Iridaea. The modified filaments are contacted by terminal tubular gonimoblast cells in Mazzaella and by small conjunctor cells in Chondrus, as described below. The five Mazzaella and two Chondrus lineages identified in the rbcL tree differ in the details of cystocarp development and these differences are currently under investigation. The type and arrangement of the tetrasporangia are variable throughout the Mazzaella group, sometimes developing entirely in primary cortical filaments, as in Mazzaella affinis (Kylin 1928, fig. 29a-c, as Rhodoglossum affine), sometimes in both primary and secondary filaments, as in Mazzaella californica (Hommersand et al. 1993, figs 30,31) and sometimes entirely in secondary filaments, as in Mazzaella splendens (Kylin 1928, fig. 27a,b, as Iridaea cordata). For a survey of tetrasporangial types, see Kim (1976, figs 53-69).

The South American and South African cluster of Mazzaella species have cystocarps that lack secondary filaments and the tetrasporangia are formed entirely in secondary filaments. The 'rosea' group contains three species including one new combination:

Mazzaella coriacea (Dawson) Hughey comb. nov.

(Monterey Co., California to Punta Maria, Baja California, Mexico)
Basionym: *Rhodoglossum coriaceum* Dawson, *Bull. So. Calif. Acad. Sci.* **44**: 75–6, pl. 25, fig. 10, 1945. [Lectotype: UC 696949! Isotypes: UC 696950! 696951!]

Species belonging to the 'rosea' group have large cystocarps of indefinite size in which new carposporangia differentiate at the periphery of the cystocarp cavity after some of the mature carposporangia have been released. Species in the 'californica' group have smaller cystocarps of definite size that lack secondary gametophytic filaments; those in the 'splendens' group also have cystocarps of definite size, but they produce secondary gametophytic filaments early in cystocarp development that do not, however, form a well-defined envelope. The 'heterocarpa' group, with two species. Mazzaella heterocarpa and M. cornucopiae (North American representatives), have conspicuous cystocarps of indefinite size which, however, develop differently from those found in the 'rosea' group. Finally, Mazzaella japonica has small, spherical cystocarps that develop in much the same way as in M. californica.

The genus Mazzaella is paraphyletic to Chondrus in both molecular and morphological analyses and the two are separated at the present time by a single diagnostic character. In Mazzaella, the gonimoblast filaments link to medullary and inner cortical cells by means of terminal tubular cells and a boundary forms between carposporophytic and gametophytic regions as nutriment is consumed. In Chondrus, the gonimoblast filaments extend for some distance through the medulla and contact the medullary filaments directly by means of small conjunctor cells forming secondary pit connections. This stage was illustrated by Mikami (1965) for Chondrus pinnulatus, C. ocellatus, C. nipponicus (as C. crispus), and C. giganteus. As Mikami pointed out, such medullary filaments become thick and rich in cytoplasm before contact and collapse afterwards. Fredericq et al. (1992, figs 33-35) showed that in Chondrus crispus the medullary cells that are contacted undergo synchronous nuclear divisions and protein synthesis prior to linkage with gonimoblast cells and that both gonimoblast cells and heterokaryotic medullary cells form carposporangial chains. No clear morphological distinction separates the two Chondrus clades identified in rbcL trees. Some species in the 'ocellatus' group produce an enveloping region in young cystocarps that presumably contain secondary filaments, but others do not. Some members have ocellate cystocarps in which the carposporangial chains mature at a distance from the auxiliary cell and the central region

remains clear at maturity; others do not (Mikami 1965). Crossability studies by Brodie *et al.* (1993) showed that forms of *C. ocellatus* were weakly crossable with *C. nipponicus*, a species that is morphologically similar to *C. crispus*, but which falls within the 'ocellatus' clade in *rbcL* trees. Instead, *Chondrus crispus* from the North Atlantic is most closely associated with *C. pinnulatus/C. armatus* in *rbcL* trees.

The classification of the Gigartinaceae proposed earlier by Hommersand et al. (1993, 1994) based on the comparative development of carposporophyte and gametophyte generations in relation to cystocarp morphology is confirmed and extended here. The inclusion of new taxa and more complete sequences for existing taxa have increased bootstrap support for the seven more basal lineages. The distinction between 'Sarcothalia', including 'Gigartina' ancistroclada, and true Sarcothalia and its weakly supported association with Iridaea is confirmed and remains a problem for future study. The existence of a large clade containing seven to nine lineages of Mazzaella and Chondrus species is also confirmed and strengthened, as is the paraphyletic status of Mazzaella relative to Chondrus.

The conclusion that the Gigartinaceae originated and evolved many of its basal lineages in the Pacific Ocean along the eastern and southern edge of Gondwanaland and later spread along the Pacific coast of South and North America, ultimately reaching the Atlantic Ocean and Europe (Hommersand 1986; Hommersand et al. 1994, fig. 2, map) is supported. Some disjunct species. such as Rhodoglossum gigartinoides, 'Gigartina' skottsbergii and Iridaea cordata, are separated by relatively long branch lengths in the rbcL trees, reflecting vicariant distribution patterns. The vicariant event in the case of Rhodoglossum gigartinoides could be associated with the opening of the Tasman Sea from 80 to 60 Ma, and for 'Gigartina' skottsbergii and Iridaea cordata, the separation of South America from the Antarctic Peninsula with the formation of Drake Passage and establishment of the circum-Antarctic current from 30 to 21 Ma (Kennett 1982).

The present study confirms that the primary morphological characters separating genera and genetic lineages in rbcL trees are subtle details in cystocarp development that reflect strategies for the provision of nutriment by the gametophyte for carposporophyte development. While important as diagnostic characters, the organization and placement of tetrasporangial sori are less reliable. Plesiomorphous types in which the tetrasporangia are formed in primary cortical filaments have evidently given rise numerous times to advanced types in which the tetrasporangia are formed partly or entirely in secondary cortical or medullary filaments. In some cases, tetrasporangial characters reinforce the established circumscription of genera; in others they tend to break down taxonomic boundaries. Future progress toward an understanding of the phylogenetic

systematics of the Gigartinaceae will require monographic studies of each of the genera and species clusters including detailed observations of their developmental morphology, as well as molecular studies incorporating more taxa and additional genes.

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Species	Authority	Collection information	% rbcL	GenBank
			sedneuced	accession no.
Chondracanthus acicularis Chondracanthus canaliculatus	(Roth) Fredericq in Hommersand <i>et al.</i> 1993 (Harvey) Guiry in Hommersand <i>et al.</i> 1993	Île Verte, Roscoff, Brittany, France, Coll. J. Cabioch, 9.iii.92 Pigeon Point, San Mateo Co., California, coll. M. H. Hommersand,	98	U02938 U02939
Chondracanthus chamissoi	(C. Agardh) Kützing 1843.	20.v.1992 Lechagua, near Ancud, Chiloé, Chile, coll. S. Frederico & M. E. Ramírez	86	AF146193
		23.ii.1993		
Chondracanthus chapmanii	(J.D. Hooker et Harvey in Harvey) Fredericq in Hommersand <i>et al</i> . 1994	Island Bay, Wellington, New Zealand, coll. W. A. Nelson, 23.v.1993	86	U02940
Chondracanthus corymbiferus	(Kützing) Guiry in Hommersand et al. 1993	Pigeon Point, San Mateo Co., California, coll. M. H. Hommersand, 21.xii.1992	86	U02941
Chondracanthus exasperatus	(Harvey et Bailey) Hughey in Hughey et al. 1996	Tacoma Narrows, Tacoma Co., Washington, coll. J. R. Hughev, 4.v.1997	06	AF146194
Chondracanthus harveyanus	(Kützing) Guiry in Hommersand et al. 1993.	Pacific Grove, Monterey Co., California, coll. J. R. Hughey, 11.vii.1995	93	AF146195
Chondracanthus intermedius	(Suringar) Hommersand in Hommersand et al. 1993	Tokawa, Choshi, Chiba Pref., Japan, coll M. Yoshizaki, 22.v.1993	86	U02942
Chondracanthus spinosus	(Kützing) Guiry in Hommersand et al. 1993	Pacific Grove, Monterey Co., California, coll. J. R. Hughey, 14.vii.1996	06	AF148519
Chandracanthus teedel	(Rotn) Kutzing 1843	lle Verte, Roscoff, Brittany, France, coll. J. Cabioch, 5.iii. 1993	91	U03024
Chondracanthus 'tenellus'	(naivey) nonlinetsario il nonlinetsario et al. 1993 [non (Harvey) Hommersand in Hommersand et al. 1993)	wang hal Alang, Talwan, Coll. S. Fredericq & S-Mr. Lin, 8.vnr.1994 Okinoshima, Tateyama Bay, Chiba Pref., Japan, coll. M. Yoshizaki,	99 95	AF146196 AF146197
Charles at the state of	0001	18.vi.1993		
Citoriaratirius tepiaus	(nollenberg) duiry in Hommersand <i>et al.</i> 1993	 Mission Bay, San Diego, Co., Calitornia, coll. P. A. & D. R. Hughey, 6.iii. 1996 	06	AF146198
Chondrus armatus	(Harvev) Okamura 1930	Oshoro, Hokkaido Janan coll S. Frederico, 5 ix 1993	06	AF1/6201
'Chondrus' canaliculatus	(C. Agardh) Greville 1830	Punta Horcón, Valparaiso Prov., Chile, coll. S. Fredericq & M. E. Ramírez, 17.1.1994	94	AF146199
Chondrus crispus	Stackhouse 1797	Bally Castle, Co. Antrim, Northern Ireland, UK, coll. C. A. Maggs, 20.:1992	86	U02984
Chondrus elatus	Holmps 1895	Tokawa Choshi Chiba Docf Jana and M Voohisaki 25 1002	C	100001
Chondris giganteris	Vendo 1920	Tokowa Chasi Chiba Piet Lagari, Japani, coli. M. rosnizaki, ZZ.V.1993	80 0	002985
Chandrus nipponicus	Yendo 1920	Ochora Hakkaida Isasa sall S Esadasisa E is 1003	80 0	002986
Chondrus ocellatus	Holmes 1895	Materigahana Amaterikominato Awa-kan Chiba Prefi Japan	000	AF146200
		coll. M. Yoshizaki, 21.v.1993	000	006700
Chondrus pinnulatus	(Harvey) Okamura 1930	Oshoro Hokkaido Japan coll S Fraderica 5 iv 1003	00	VE146200
Chondrus verrucosus	Mikami 1965	Matsugahana, Amatsukominato, Awa-ken, Chiba Pref., Japan,	98	AF146202 U02987
		coll. M. Yoshizaki, 21.v.1993		
Chonarus yendor	Yamada et Mikami in Mikami 1965	Muroran, Hokkaido, Japan, coll. S. Fredericq, 6.ix.1993	86	AF146203
Gigannia alveara	(Turner) J. Agardn 1851	lauranga Bay, Northland, New Zealand, coll. W. A. Nelson, ii.1993	93	U03422
Giartina, attourned	Montagne 1845	Horseshoe Bay, Stewart I., New Zealand, coll. W. A. Nelson, viii.1994	93	AF146217
Gigartina clathrata	(J. Agaluli) J. Agaluli 1003	Island Bay, Wellington, New Zealand, coll. W. A. Nelson, 23.v.1993	94	003423
Gigartina clauffora	(Decalate) National 1070	Ougekraal, Cape Peninsula, South Africa, Coll. J. Bolton, 28.11.1993	26	U03426
Gigating discipate	J. Agardii 10/0	Princess Bay, Wellington, New Zealand, coll. W. A. Nelson, 23.v.1993	92	U03424
Gigartina muelleriana	J.D. Hooker et Harvey 1845	Adams Is., Survey Bay, Auckland Is., coll. T. Grant, 11.xii.1996	95	AF146204
Cigarinia modicinana	ספורוופון כן משומוופן דססס	rilliders setty, victoria, Australia, coll. G. W. Saungers and G. I. Kraft, 10.ii.1993	92	U03427
Gigartina pistillata	(S.G. Gmelin) Stackhouse 1809	Santec, Brittany, France, coll. J. Cabioch, 6.iv.1993	06	U03429
Gigartina polycarpa	(Kützing) Setchell et Gardner 1933	Kommetjie, Cape Peninsula, South Africa, coll. J. Bolton, 24.ii.1993	90	U03431
'Gigartina' radula	(Esper) J. Agardh 1848	Evans Cave, Cape Lannes, S Australia, Australia, coll. M. H. Hommersand, 11.ix.1995	66	AF146205
'Gigartina' skottsbergii	Setchell et Gardner 1936	Playa de San Antonio, Bahía de Ancud, Chiloé, Chile, coll. M. E. Ramírez,	63	U03432
'Gigartina' skottsbergii	Setchell et Gardner 1936	Bahía Collins, King George I., S. Shetland Is. Antarctic Pen.,	86	AF146206
		coll. S. Fredericq & J. Rodriguez, 10.ii.1994		

Iridaea cordata	(Turner) Bory 1826	Punta Daniel Este, Magellanes, Chile, coll. S. Fredericq & M. E. Ramírez, 19 ii.1994	66	AF146207
Iridaea cordata	(Turner) Bory 1826	Hellerman Rocks near Laggard I., Arthur Harbor, Anvers I. Antarctica, coll. R. L. Moe. 20.i.1988	75	002989
Iridaea tuberculosa	(J.D. Hooker et Harvey) Leister	Fuerte Bulnes, Magellanes, Chile, coll. S. Fredericq & M. E. Ramírez,	93	AF146208
Mastocarpus stellatus	(Stackhouse) Guiry in Guiry <i>et al.</i> 1994	Bally Castle, Co. Antrim, Northern Ireland, UK, coll. C. A. Maggs, 20.i.1992	100	U29920
Mazzaella affinis	(Harvey) Fredericq in Hommersand et al. 1993	Pacific Grove, Monterey Co., California, coll. M. H. Hommersand, 2.i.1993	70	U03081
Mazzaella 'affinis' Mazzaella californica	Inon (Harvey) Fredericq in Hommersand <i>et al.</i> 1993] (J. Agardh) G.B. DeToni f. 1936	Caleta Errazuriz, Antofagasta, Chile, coll. M. E. Ramírez, 27.xi.97 Jalama Beach State Park, Santa Barbara Co., California, coll. M. H. Hommersand, 19, v. 1992	91	AF146209 U03082
Mazzaella cobinae Mazzaella convoluta	(Dawson) Fredericq in Hommersand et al. 1993 (Areschoug ex J. Agardh) Hommersand in Hommersand et al. 1994	Punta María, Baja California, Mexico, coll. J. R. Hughey, 4.vi.1996 Kommetjie, Cape Peninsula, South Africa, coll. J. Bolton, 23.ii.1993	94	AF146210 U03084
Mazzaella coriacea Mazzaella cornucopiae	(Dawson) Hughes comb. nov. (Postels et Ruprecht) Hommersand in	Pacific Grove, Monterey Co., California, coll. J. R. Hughey, 14.vii. 1996 Perevalnie Passage, Shuyak I., coll. G. Hansen, 20.viii.1993	90	AF146211 AF146212
Mazzaella flaccida	(Setchell et Gardner) Fredericq in Hommersand et al. 1993	Pigeon Point, San Mateo Co., California, coll. M. H. Hommersand, 21.xii.1992	86 6	U03378
Mazzaella heterocarpa Mazzaella japonica	(Postels <i>et</i> Ruprecht) Fredericq in Hommersand <i>et al.</i> 1993 (Mikami) Hommersand in Hommersand <i>et al.</i> 1993	Seal Rock, Lincoln Co., Oregon, coll. E. Henry, 24.v.1993 Cape Todogasaki, Miyako-wan, Iwate Pref., Japan, coll.	92 94	U033/9 AF146213
Mazzaella laminarioides Mazzaella leptorhynchos	(Bory) Fredericq in Hommersand <i>et al.</i> 1993 (J. Agardh) Leister in Hommersand <i>et al.</i> 1993	Mr. H. Hommersand, 13,M.1994 Quintay, Valparaiso Prov., central Chile, coll. M. E. Ramirez, 7.iv.1993 Jalama Bacch State Park, Santa Barbara Co., California, coll M. Lomoscand, 10,41002	92	U03380 U03381
Mazzaella linearis	(Setchell et Gardner) Fredericq in	Drift, Moss Beach, Monterey Co., California, coll. F. Shaughnessy, 23 vii 1996	88	AF148520
Mazzaella membranacea	(J. Agardh) Fredericq in Hommersand <i>et al.</i> 1993	Punta Distriction of Magellanes, Chile, coll. S. Fredericq & M. E. Ramírez, 19 ii 1994	86	AF146214
Mazzaella rosea Mazzaella sanguinea	(Kylin) Fredericq in Hommersand et al. 1993 (Setchell et Gardner) Hommersand in Hommersand et al. 1994	Pacific Grove, Monterey Co., California, coll. J. R. Hughey, 14.vii.1996 Drift, Horseshoe Cove, Bodega Head, Sonoma Co., California, coll. M. H. Hommersand, 27.vii.1992	93	AF146215 U03384
Mazzaella splendens	(Setchell et Gardner) Fredericq in Hommersand et al. 1994	Pigeon Point, San Mateo Co., California, coll. M. H. Hommersand, 21.xii.1992	26	U03385
Ostiophyllum sonderopeltidis	Kraft (mscr.)	SCUBA 20-30 ft. on Sonderopelta coriacea, Ninepins Point, south of Hobart, Tasmania, coll. G. T. Kraft, 22.xii.1992	93	AF146221
Phyllophora crispa	(Hudson) Dixon 1964	Spidall, Co. Galway, Ireland, coll. M. D. Guiry, 7.111.1993	92	002990
Rhodoglossum gigartinoides	(Sonder) Edyvane et Womersley 1993	Flinders Jetty, Victoria, Australia, coll. G. W. Saunders, 14.V.1993 Horseshoe Bay Stawart I New Zealand coll W. A. Nelson viii 1994	92 92	002991 AF146216
Sarcothalia circumcincta Sarcothalia circumcincta Sarcothalia crassifolia	(J. Agardh) Hommersand in Hommersand <i>et al.</i> 1993. (C. Agardh) Edwane et Womersley in Womersley 1994	Brighton Beach, Otago, New Zealand, coll. C. Hurd, 4.xi.1998 Evans Cave, Cape Lannes, South Australia, Australia, coll.	93 83	AF146219 AF 146218
Sarcothalia crispata	(Bory) Leister in Hommersand et al. 1993.	H. B. S. Womersley, 31.x.1993 Playa San Antonio, Bahía de Ancud, Chiloé, Chile, coll.	66	03085
'Sarcothalia' decipiens	(J. D. Hooker et Harvey) Hommersand	M. E. Ramírez, 14.v.1993 Muritai, Wellington Harbor, New Zealand, coll. W. A. Nelson, 4.v.1993	86	03086
Sarcothalia livida 'Sarcothalia' scutellata		Horseshoe Bay, Stewart I., New Zealand, Coll. W. A. Nelson, viii.1994 Kommetjie, Cape Peninsula. South Africa, coll. J. Bolton, 23.ii.1993	8 8 6	AF146220 U03088
Sarcothalia stiriata	(Turner), Leister in Hommersand et al. 1993	Kommetjle, Cape Peninsula, South Africa, coll. J. Bollon, 24.II.1993	36	600000