



## *Chara nikolskiae*, a new name for *Chara elliptica* Nikolskaja (1984) non Fritzsche (1924) and *Aclistochara elliptica* (Fritzsche) comb. nov. (Characeae)

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The fossil species *Chara elliptica* Nikolskaja (1984: 1092) was established on the gyrogonite remains from the Holocene sediments of Majkara (Kazakhstan, Central Asia). However, according to Art. 53.1 of ICN (McNeill *et al.*, 2012) this name is illegitimate because of the existence of an overlooked earlier homonym, *Chara elliptica* Fritzsche (1924: 93) which was originally described from the earlier Cretaceous (Campanian) deposits of Tres Cruces and Negra Muerta, Province Jujuy, North Argentina (South America). Due to the creation of the *International Fossil Plant Names Index* with listing of all fossil plant and algal species, the fact of the homonymy between fossil species was solidly established (IFPNI, 2014-).

Additional fossil characean homonymic name, *C. elliptica* Hislop (1864: 165), was just mentioned as fossil species from India, but never described or illustrated later; it remained a *nomen nudum* and has no standing in terms of botanical nomenclature. In this connection, the replacement of valid *C. elliptica* Fritzsche as a later homonym of *C. elliptica* Hislop, *nom. nud.*, by a new species epithet *Aclistochara cruciana* Horn af Rantzien (1951: 672), is inadmissible, since the correct name and combination should be:

***Aclistochara elliptica*** (Fritzsche) Doweld, *comb. nov.* ≡ *C. elliptica* Fritzsche, Neues Jahrb. Mineral. Geol., Beilageband 50: 93. 1924. IFPNI registration lsid: 5B6475FB-B17C-4463-BD14-10559330AE4F.

Since the preoccupied species *C. elliptica* Nikolsk. is also systematically recognized as a valid species in current use and it does not have any synonym, *C. nikolskiae* is here formally proposed as a replacement name.

### Systematics

Order *Charophyta* Häckel (1866: xxv)

Class *Charophyceae* Körber (1848: 93)

Order *Charales* Berchtold & J. Presl (1820: 271)

Family *Characeae* W.J. Hooker (1821: 108)

Genus *Chara* Linnaeus (1753: 1156)

***Chara nikolskiae*** Doweld, *nom. nov.* ≡ *Chara elliptica* Nikolsk., Bot. Zhurn. 69: 1092. 1984, *nom. illeg.* non *Chara elliptica* Fritzsche, Neues Jahrb. Mineral. Geol., Beilageband 50: 93. 1924 (≡ *Aclistochara elliptica* (Fritzsche) Doweld).

Etymology: in honor of Victoria Dmitrievna Nikolskaja, palaeoalgalogist and explorer of Kazakhstan fossil floras.

Stratigraphy:—Holocene.

Type:—KAZAKHSTAN: Majkara ravine; Holocene; Coll. # 31 (holotype, Institute of Zoology, Almaty, Kazakhstan [AAKA]).

IFPNI registration lsid: 0FC44428-5AD7-4784-B6B3-9A856CC04A35

### References

Berchtold, F., Presl, J.S. (1820). *O Přírozenosti rostlin aneb Rostlinář, obsahující hednánj o žiwobytyj rostlin pro sebe a z ohledu giných žiwoků, podlé stawu nyněgss ylo znanj, pýtww rostlin; názwoslowj audů; hospodářstwj gegich; rozssjřenji po semi a spůsob rostlinář zřjdití a zacowati*. Oddělení 1. K. W. Enders, Praha. 300pp.

Fritzsche, C.H. (1924) Neue Kreidefaunen aus Südamerika (Chile, Bolivia, Peru, Columbia). *Neues Jahrbuch für Mineralogie, Geologie*