

New and old problems in the taxonomy of the Gelidiales (Rhodophyta)

Santelices, B. (1990). New and old problems in the taxonomy of the Gelidiales (Rhodophyta). In Thirteenth International Seaweed Symposium (pp. 125-135). Springer, Dordrecht. <10.1007/978-94-009-2049-1_18> Accessed 24 Oct 2022.

Abstract

The order Gelidiales includes over 140 agar-producing taxa. Many species are taxonomically confused; the boundaries of one family and all but four genera recently have been contested, and the controversy over ordinal status has lasted for over 25 years. This study reviews recent developments in the taxonomy of the group and suggests future areas for studies. The order cannot be defined by a few exclusive characters, as intended in the past, but it shows a unique combination of characters. Additional studies on *Gelidiella* and *Acanthopeltis* seem advisable to clarify family limits. The segregation of *Onikusa* and *Pterocladiastrum* is doubtful. Only three of six characters discriminate *Gelidium* from *Pterocladia*. None allows complete generic segregation and all need variability studies. Analysis of nomenclatural types in the light of morphological variation would permit an understanding of species limits in *Gelidium* and *Pterocladia*. Similar studies are needed in *Gelidiella* and *Ptilophora*.

Keywords

Acanthopeltis, Gelidiales, *Gelidiella*, *Gelidium*, *Onikusa*, *Pterocladia*, *Pterocladiastrum*, Seaweed.