Morpho-molecular diversity and phylogeny of *Bysmatrum* (Dinophyceae) from the South China Sea and France

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Abstract :

The dinoflagellate genus *Bysmatrum* encompasses five epibenthic or tide-pool species and has been characterized by separated anterior intercalary plates. In the present study, we obtained six strains of *Bysmatrum* from the South China Sea and French Atlantic coast by isolating single cells/cysts from plankton and sediment samples. All strains were examined with light microscopy and scanning electron microscopy. Based on morphological observations, three strains were identified as *Bysmatrum subsalsum*, characterized by the elongated and rectangular first and a hexagonal second anterior intercalary plate. They differ from each other in the number of sulcal lists and the configuration of the first anterior intercalary plate. One strain was identified as *Bysmatrum gregarium* and the other two as *Bysmatrum granulosum*. The cyst-theca relationship of *B. subsalsum* from the French Atlantic was established by incubation of the cyst, and the geochemical composition of the cyst wall was measured through micro-Fourier transform infrared spectroscopy. *Bysmatrum subsalsum* from Malaysia shows a bright red stigma in the sulcal area under light microscopy, which was confirmed with transmission electron microscopy: it was identified as a type B eyespot. Small subunit ribosomal DNA (SSU rDNA), partial large subunit ribosomal DNA (LSU rDNA) and internal transcribed spacer (ITS) sequences were obtained from all six strains. The maximum likelihood and Bayesian inference analysis based on concatenated SSU, ITS and LSU sequences revealed that *Bysmatrum* is monophyletic and nested within Peridiniales. Our strains of *B. subsalsum* form a new ribotype in the molecular phylogeny (designated as ribotype B). The genetic distance based on ITS sequences among *Bysmatrum* species ranged from 0.34 to 0.47 and those genetic distances at the intraspecific level of *B. subsalsum* could

reach 0.41, supporting the possibility of hidden crypticity within *B. subsalsum*.

Keywords : benthic dinoflagellate, biogeography, *Bysmatrum granulosum*, *Bysmatrum gregarium*, *Bysmatrum subsalsum*, eyespot, molecular phylogeny

Introduction

The dinoflagellate genus *Bysmatrum* Faust & Steidinger was erected in 1998 (Faust & Steidinger, 1998). The plate formula of *Bysmatrum* is Po, X, 4', 3a, 7'', 6C, 4S, 5''', 2''' with *Bysmatrum subsalsum* as type species. The type was initially assigned to *Peridinium* by Ostenfeld (1908) and transferred later to *Scrippsiella* Balech ex Loeblich by Steidinger and Balech (1977). However, *Bysmatrum* differs from *Scrippsiella* mainly in that the anterior intercalary plates 2a and 3a are separated by the third apical plate (Faust & Steidinger, 1998). Since then, two other *Scrippsiella* species were transferred to *Bysmatrum*: *Bysmatrum arenicola* Horiguchi & Pienaar (although *Scrippsiella arenicola* was invalidly published by Horiguchi and Pienaar, 1988a), and *B. gregarium* (Lombard & Capon) Horiguchi & Hoppenrath (= *B. caponii*, illegitimate). Two-Three other species have been assigned to *Bysmatrum*: *B. granulosum* Ten-Hage, Quod, Turquet & Couté and *B. teres* Murray, Hoppenrath, Larsen & Patterson and *B. austrafurum* Dawut, Sym, Suda & Horiguchi (Ten-Hage et al., 2001; Murray et al., 2006; Dawut et al., 2018). *Peridinium sociale* (Henneguy) Biecheler also possesses three intercalary plates with 2a and 3a separated (Biecheler, 1952), and thus might belong to *Bysmatrum* as well (Murray et al., 2006). In fact, Biecheler (1952, p. 59) regarded *Peridinium sociale* as a junior synonym of *P. subsalsum*. Useful characteristics to differentiate *Bysmatrum* species at the interspecific level include overall cell shape, plate ornamentation, cingulum displacement, the position of the nucleus and the shape of the apical pore complex (Horiguchi, 1983; Murray et al., 2006).

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81 *Bysmatrum* species are considered photosynthetic, benthic dinoflagellates

82 (Hoppenrath *et al.*, 2014), although some specimens of *B. subsalsum* have been

83 recovered from plankton, as well as floating detritus, sand and macroalgae (Faust,

84 1996). *Bysmatrum teres* was reported to be sand-dwelling (Murray *et al.*, 2006) and *B.*

85 *granulosum* has been recovered from surface sediment, coral rubble or macroalgal

86 turf (Ten-Hage *et al.*, 2001). *Bysmatrum arenicola* and *B. gregarium* and *B.*

87 *austriferum* are considered to inhabit tide pools (Horiguchi & Pienaar 1988a, 1988b;

88 Dawut *et al.*, 2018). *Bysmatrum* species are found in tropical to temperate waters

89 (Hoppenrath *et al.*, 2014) and may form blooms: *B. subsalsum* in mangrove detritus

90 and salt marshes (Anglès *et al.*, 2017), *B. gregarium* in tidal pools (Lombard & Capon,

91 1971), and *B. arenicola* on sandy sediments (Horiguchi & Pienaar, 1988b).

92 The molecular characterisation of *Bysmatrum* is in its infancy: ~~only two~~ four out of

93 the ~~five~~ six described species have been sequenced: *B. subsalsum* and *B. gregarium*.

94 *B. arenicola* and *B. austriferum* have ribosomal DNA (rDNA) sequences available

95 (Gottschling *et al.*, 2012; Jeong *et al.*, 2012; Anglès *et al.*, 2017; Dawut *et al.*, 2018).

96 For *B. subsalsum*, only sequences from the Mediterranean Sea are available and two

97 distinct clades in their small subunit (SSU), internal transcribed spacer (ITS) and large

98 subunit (LSU) rDNA based phylogenies suggests hidden cryptic species (Anglès *et al.*,

99 2017). Despite the peridinioid tabulation, the closest relative and higher rank of

100 *Bysmatrum* remains unresolved (Gottschling *et al.*, 2012; Anglès *et al.*, 2017; Dawut

101 *et al.*, 2018), and the phylogenetic relationship among *Bysmatrum* species has not

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been elucidated. *Bysmatrum*~~*B.*~~ *subsalsum*, *B. gregarium*~~and~~ *B. granulosum* and *B. austriferum* were described possessing an eyespot (Faust & Steidinger, 1998; Ten-Hage *et al.*, 2001; Jeong *et al.*, 2012; Dawut *et al.*, 2018), but detailed examination using transmission electron microscopy (TEM), which is necessary to characterize the eyespot, has ~~only not~~ been carried out on *B. austriferum*. The eyespot is considered of systematic importance at family level for other dinoflagellates (Lindberg *et al.*, 2005; Moestrup & Daugbjerg, 2007), and its description may help better understand the systematic position of *Bysmatrum* within the Peridiniales. Information of plate overlap is helpful to identify possible plate homology, thus will contribute to the understanding of the systematic relationship of armoured dinoflagellates (Netzel & Dürr, 1984).

Among the 2000 extant dinoflagellate species, only around 15% have been related to resting cysts (Head, 1996), although many recent studies have described new cyst-motile stage relationships (e.g., Gu *et al.*, 2015a, ~~2015b~~). When describing *Bysmatrum subsalsum* (as *Peridinium subsalsum* Ostenfeld), Ostenfeld (1908, p. 167) mentioned an ovoid cyst without illustration. Spherical to ovoid cysts were produced by *B. subsalsum* in culture (Gottschling *et al.*, 2012; Anglès *et al.*, 2017) while cysts with the typical plate pattern of *B. subsalsum* were identified in recent sediments, and survived palynological treatment (Limoges *et al.*, 2015). In addition, unidentified *Bysmatrum* cells were germinated from ellipsoidal or ovoid cysts found in surface sediment from the Mediterranean lagoons and bays (Satta *et al.*, 2013a, ~~2013b~~). The cyst-theca relationship of *Bysmatrum* has only been established through germination

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experiments for the Mediterranean *B. subsalsum* (Anglès *et al.*, 2017). Germination of more *Bysmatrum* cysts from elsewhere will be helpful to fully understand the diversity within the genus. The geochemical composition of the cyst wall can be studied with the aid of micro-Fourier transform infrared spectroscopy. –Bogus *et al.*, (2014) concluded that cyst walls of autotrophic and heterotrophic species differ in their chemical compositions, thus are useful indicators to infer nutrient strategies.

To increase knowledge on the morpho-molecular diversity of *Bysmatrum* species and to explore their phylogenetic relationships, five strains belonging to three species were established from the South China Sea (*B. granulosum*, *B. gregarium*, *B. subsalsum*), and one strain from the French Atlantic coast (*B. subsalsum*). Additionally, the morphology of their thecate stages was examined and the molecular phylogeny was inferred with concatenated SSU, LSU rDNA and ITS sequences. Finally, the cyst morphology, cyst wall chemistry and ultrastructure (with a focus on the type of eyespot) were analyzed for *B. subsalsum*.

Material and methods

Sample collection and treatment

One liter of surface water samples were collected from the South China Sea (China and Malaysia) using a plastic bottle and concentrated through a 20 µm filter, and the upper 5 cm of sand samples were collected from nearby Rawa Island (Malaysia) by divers. The sand samples were stirred vigorously to detach the epibenthic cells and the

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suspension settled in a composite settling chamber. The settled materials were rinsed with filtered seawater and transferred into a polycarbonate bottle. Single *Bysmatrum* cells were isolated by means of drawn-out Pasteur pipettes under an AE30 inverse microscope (Motic, Xiamen, China) and established into clonal cultures. Three strains of *Bysmatrum* were established by isolating a single cell from plankton samples, and two strains from the sand sample (Table 1). Sediment sampling was done using an Ekman grab on 15 and 19 April 2016 in a shallow natural reservoir used for oyster cleansing before commercialization (water depth 1.2–1.5 m). The small basin is located north of the community of Gujan-Mestras in the Gironde region of southwestern France. The top 2 cm of sediment from France were sliced off and stored in the dark at 4°C until further treatment. Approximately 5 g of wet sediment was mixed with 20 mL of filtered seawater and stirred vigorously to dislodge detrital particles. The settled material was subsequently sieved through 120 µm and 10 µm filters. Single cysts were isolated with a micropipette under an inverted Eclipse TS100 (Nikon, Tokyo, Japan) microscope and incubated in small containers with f/2-Si medium (Guillard & Ryther, 1962) at 20°C, 90 µE·m⁻²·s⁻¹ under a 12:12 h light: dark cycle. Another strain (TIO406) was established in clonal cultures under the same culture conditions (Table 1).

Morphological study of thecate stages and cysts

Live cells of all strains were examined and photographed using a Zeiss Axio Imager light microscope (Carl Zeiss, Göttingen, Germany) equipped with a Zeiss Axiocam

HRc digital camera. Cell size of 13–40 cells was measured using Axiovision (4.8.2 version) software at $\times 1000$ magnification. Fluorescence brightener Calcofluor white (Sigma Aldrich, St. Louis, USA) was used to stain the plates following the method of Fritz ~~and~~ Triemer (1985). To observe the shape and location of the nucleus, cells were stained with 1:100,000 Sybr Green (Sigma Aldrich, St. Louis, USA) for 1 min, and photographed under the Zeiss fluorescence microscope with a Zeiss-38 filter set (excitation BP 470/40, beam splitter FT 495, emission BP 525/50). Cysts of *B. subsalsum* from Gironde, France with cell contents were photographed and measured using an Olympus DP72 camera mounted on a BX41 microscope with 100 $\times$ oil immersion objectives.

For scanning electron microscopy (SEM), mid-exponential batch cultures of all strains were concentrated by a Universal 320 R centrifuge (Hettich-Zentrifugen, Tuttlingen, Germany) at 850 *g* for 10 min at room temperature. The pellet was treated as described by Tillmann *et al.*, (2009) to strip off the outer cell membrane. Cells were fixed with 2.5% glutaraldehyde for 3 h at 8°C, rinsed with Milli-Q water twice and post-fixed with 1% OsO₄ overnight at 8°C. The supernatant was removed and the settled cells were transferred to a coverslip coated with poly-L-lysine (molecular weight 70,000–150,000). The cells attached to the cover slip were rinsed in Milli-Q water twice. The samples were then dehydrated in a graded ethanol series (10%, 30%, 50%, 70%, 90% and 3 $\times$ in 100%, 10 min at each step), critical point dried (K850 Critical Point Dryer, Quorum/Emitech, West Sussex, UK), sputter-coated with gold, and examined with a Zeiss Sigma FE (Carl Zeiss Inc., Oberkochen, Germany)

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scanning electron microscope at Xiamen University, China.

Single cysts of *Bysmatrum subsalsum* from Gironde, France were picked from the residue filtered using polycarbonate membrane filters (Millipore, Billerica, MA, USA, GTTP Isopore, 0.22 µm pore size), sputter coated with gold, and examined using a FEI Quanta 200 SEM with an electron acceleration of 2.5 to 5 kV at IFREMER (Plouzané, France).

The plate overlap was derived for *Bysmatrum subsalsum* from SEM micrographs. For *Vulcanodinium rugosum*, SEM micrographs were used that were previously obtained by Nézan ~~and~~ & Chomérat (2011). For *Parvodinium umbonatum*, new SEM micrographs were made for thecae from a plankton sample from a lake to the north of Bergen, Norway (60.47°N, 4.95°E). Labelling of tabulation follows a modified Kofoed system that recognizes homologs (e.g., Fensome *et al.*, 1993). The sulcal plate labelling is according to Balech (1980).

~~Micro-Fourier infrared spectroscopy~~
~~For micro-FTIR analyses, cysts without cell contents of *B. subsalsum* were isolated from palynological residues, and were rinsed three times with organic solvents (methanol and dichloromethane) and MilliQ water to remove polar and apolar compounds. Cysts were placed on a gold-coated mirror, dried, and then analyzed in reflective mode with 100 scans from 4000–600 cm⁻¹ on a Bruker FT-IR microscope (Hyperion 3000) with a 15× objective, resulting in a consistent 50 × 50 µm window.~~

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~~The raw spectra (n = 3) were subjected to background subtraction, atmospheric correction and rubberband baseline correction (5 iterations).~~

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Transmission electron microscopy (TEM) of B. subsalsum

Mid-exponential batch cultures of strains TBBYS02 and TBBYS03 were fixed in 2.5% glutaraldehyde in phosphate buffer saline (PBS, 0.1 M at pH 7.4) for 1 h, concentrated by centrifugation and then washed three times with the same PBS for 10 min each. They were post-fixed in 1% OsO₄ overnight at 4°C and washed three times with the same PBS for 10 min each. The cells were then dehydrated through a graded ethanol series (10, 30, 50, 70, 95, 3× in 100%, 10 min at each step). The pellet was embedded in Spurr's resin (Spurr, 1969) and sectioned with a Reichert Ultracut E microtome (Leica, Vienna, Austria), mounted on Formvar-coated grids, stained with uranyl acetate and lead citrate, and observed in a JEOL JEM-100 transmission electron microscope (JEOL, Tokyo, Japan).

Micro-Fourier infrared spectroscopy

For micro-FTIR analyses, cysts without cell contents of *B. subsalsum* were isolated from palynological residues, and were rinsed three times with organic solvents (methanol and dichloromethane) and MilliQ water to remove polar and apolar compounds. Cysts were placed on a gold-coated mirror, dried, and then analyzed in reflective mode with 100 scans from 4000–600 cm⁻¹ on a Hyperion 3000 FT-IR

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microscope (Bruker Optics, Elltingen, Allemagne) with a 15× objective, resulting in a
consistent 50 × 50 µm window. The raw spectra (n = 3) were subjected to background
subtraction, atmospheric correction and rubberband baseline correction (5 iterations).

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PCR amplifications and sequencing

The total algal DNA of six *Bysmatrum* strains (Table 1) was extracted from 10 mL of
exponentially growing cultures using a MiniBEST Universal DNA Extraction Kit
(Takara, Tokyo, Japan) according to the manufacturer’s protocol. PCR amplifications
were carried out using 1×PCR buffer, 50 µM dNTP mixture, 0.2 µM of each primer,
10 ng of template genomic DNA, and 1 U of ExTaq DNA Polymerase (Takara, Tokyo,
Japan) in 50 µL reactions. The SSU rDNA was amplified using the primers
PRIMERA/PRIMERB (Medlin *et al.*, 1988). The LSU rDNA was amplified using the
primers D1R/28-1483R (Scholin *et al.*, 1994; Daugbjerg *et al.*, 2000). The total
ITS1–5.8S–ITS2 was amplified using ITSA/ITSB primers (Adachi *et al.*, 1996). The
thermal cycle procedure was 4 min at 94°C, followed by 30 cycles of 1 min at 94°C, 1
min at 45°C, 1 min at 72°C, and final extension of 7 min at 72°C with a Mastercycler
(Eppendorf, Hamburg, Germany). The PCR product was purified using a DNA
purification kit (Shengong, Shanghai, China) and sequenced directly in both
directions on an ABI PRISM 3730XL (Applied Biosystems, Foster City, CA, USA)
following the manufacturer’s instructions.

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Cells of *Vulcanodinium rugosum* were isolated using a micropipette with the

Olympus IX70 inverted light microscope, and deposited on a glass slide. Then, it was rinsed into two drops of double distilled water (ddH₂O) before transfer to a 0.2 mL PCR tube containing 3 µL of ddH₂O. PCR tubes were stored at -20°C before the direct PCR amplifications. Each PCR tube was thawed before adding 25 pmol of each primer and 12.5 µL of PCR Master Mix 1X (Promega, Madison, WI, USA) containing the Taq DNA polymerase, dNTPs, MgCl₂ and reaction buffers. Three nuclear markers: SSU rDNA, LSU rDNA, internal transcribed spacer region (ITS1-5.8S rDNA-ITS2) were amplified using different cells with several pairs of primers (Table 1 in Nézan *et al.* 2012). The PCRs were performed in a Mastercycler Personal (Eppendorf, Hamburg, Germany) as follows: one initial denaturation step at 94°C for 2 min, followed by 45 cycles at 94°C for 30 s, 52°C for 30 s, and 72°C for 4 min, and a final elongation at 72°C for 5 min. The PCR products were purified using the Wizard SV Gel and PCR Clean-up system (Promega) according to the manufacturer's recommendations. Then, they were sequenced directly using the ABI PRISM BigDye Terminator Cycle Sequencing Kit (Applied Biosystems, Carlsbad, CA, USA).

Newly obtained sequences were deposited in GenBank with accession numbers

[MG826100XXXXXX](#) to [MG826115XXXXXX](#) and [MG826360](#) to [MG826367](#) (Table S1).

Sequence alignment and phylogenetic analysis

Newly obtained *Byssmatrum* sequences (nuclear-encoded SSU, partial LSU rDNA and

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ITS) were incorporated into a systematically representative set of dinoflagellates available in GenBank. Sequences were aligned using MAFFT v7.110 (Katoh & Standley, 2013) online program (<http://mafft.cbrc.jp/alignment/server/>) with default settings. Alignments were manually checked with BioEdit v. 7.0.5 (Hall 1999). For Bayesian inference (BI), the program jModelTest (Posada 2008) was used to select the most appropriate model of molecular evolution with Akaike Information Criterion (AIC). Bayesian reconstruction of the data matrix was performed using MrBayes 3.2 (Ronquist & Huelsenbeck, 2003) with the best-fitting substitution model (GTR+G). Four Markov chain Monte Carlo (MCMC) chains ran for 6,000,000 generations, sampling every 100 generations. The first 10% of burn-in trees were discarded. A majority rule consensus tree was created in order to examine the posterior probabilities of each clade. Maximum likelihood (ML) analyses were conducted with RaxML v7.2.6 (Stamatakis, 2006) on the T-REX web server (Boc *et al.*, 2012) using the model GTR+G. Node support was assessed with 1000 bootstrap replicates.

Multiple ITS1-5.8S-ITS2 sequences of *Bysmatrum* species were aligned using MAFFT v7.110 (Katoh & Standley, 2013) online program (<http://mafft.cbrc.jp/alignment/server/>) with default settings. Completed alignments were saved as NEXUS files and imported into PAUP*4b10 software (Swofford, 2002) so that divergence rates could be estimated using simple uncorrected pairwise (p) distance matrices.

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Results

Morphology

Bysmatrum subsalsum

Cysts of *Bysmatrum subsalsum* from Gironde, France were 30.0–40.9 μm long (mean = $36.0 \pm 3.4 \mu\text{m}$, $n = 14$) and 26.0–34.3 μm wide (mean = $31.6 \pm 2.8 \mu\text{m}$, $n = 14$).

They had a conical epitheca, and a round hypotheca (Fig. 1). The cysts possessed numerous golden granules and a red accumulation body in the sulcal area (Figs 1, 2). Plates were clearly visible and were identical to the thecal plates (Figs 3, 4).

Cells of the strain TIO406 from Gironde, France were 22.7–31.7 μm long (mean = $27.3 \pm 3.2 \mu\text{m}$, $n = 15$) and 22.0–29.4 μm wide (mean = $23.9 \pm 2.3 \mu\text{m}$, $n = 15$).

Under SEM, cysts and vegetative cells of *Bysmatrum subsalsum* from Gironde, France showed a plate formula of Po, cp, X, 4', 3a, 7'', 6C, 4S, 5''', 2'''''. The thecal plates were thick and covered with strong reticulations throughout (Figs 5–10). Thecal pores with a diameter of 0.14–0.28 μm were often observed along the plate margins. There were four apical plates. Plate 1' was five-sided and asymmetrical with shorter anterior sutures than the posterior ones (Fig. 5). There were three anterior intercalary plates (1a, 2a and 3a), of which 3a is separated from 2a and 1a. Plate 1a was elongated rectangular whereas plates 2a and 3a were hexagonal and pentagonal, respectively (Figs 5–8). The length (of the upper side of 1a) and width (of the right side of 1a) ratio of the French strain TIO406 was 1.2–3.5 (mean = 1.9 ± 0.6 , $n=16$). Occasionally, plate 1a was pentagonal (3 out of 37 cells). Plate 1'' was five-sided and the length of

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7 312 the upper and low side ratio was 0.63–0.84 (mean = 0.74 ± 0.07 , n=14). The cingulum
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9 313 was deeply excavated around 3.5–4.2 μm wide (mean = $3.8 \pm 0.3 \mu\text{m}$, n=20) and
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11 314 descending ca. its own width, comprising six plates. The first three cingular plates (C1,
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13 315 C2 and C3) were similar in size and much smaller than the other three plates (Figs
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15 316 5–7). The apical pore complex (APC) was tear-shaped comprising a pore plate (Po)
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17 317 with a much smaller, round cover plate (cp) and an elongated pentagonal canal plate
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19 318 (X) with thick margins formed by the raised borders of the apical plates (Figs 8, 9).
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21 319 The APC ranged from 7.5 to 8.8 μm (mean = 8.2 ± 0.6 , n=4) in length and from 3.2 to
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23 320 3.5 μm (mean = 3.4 ± 0.1 , n=4) in width. An apical stalk was sometime observed
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25 321 protruding from the apical pore (Fig. 9). The first postcingular plate (1''') was much
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27 322 smaller than the other plates in the series plates and bore a sulcal list, as well as the
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29 323 5''' (Fig. 10). The first antapical plate (1''') was elongated and narrow, displaced to the
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31 324 left, whereas the second antapical plate (2''') was pentagonal (Fig. 10). The anterior
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33 325 sulcal plate (Sa) and left sulcal (Ss) were elongated and narrow. The right sulcal (Sd)
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35 326 was triangular, with the internal sulcal list (i.s.l.) emerging from its left side. The
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37 327 posterior sulcal plate (Sp) was much wider than long. The left sulcal list (L.s.l.)
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39 328 emerged from the low side of plate 1''' and the right sulcal list (R.s.l.) covered the
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41 329 entire left side of plate 5''' (Fig. 11).
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45 330 The morphologies of Malaysian strains TBBYS02 (Figs 12–16) and TBBYS03
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47 331 (Figs S1–S6) were similar to the French strains (Table 2), although the Malaysian
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49 332 strains lacked a high sulcal list on 5''' (Figs 13, 16, Figs S1, S5) and possessed a more
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51 333 elongated 1a plate. The length and width ratio of the 1a plate were 1.8–4.0 (mean =

2.5 $\pm$ 0.7, n=14) and 1.8–4.8 (mean = 3.4 $\pm$ 0.9, n=15) for strains TBBYS02 and TBBYS03. The length of the upper and lower side ratio of plate 1'' was 0.69–0.90 (mean = 0.83 $\pm$ 0.06, n=13) and 0.60–0.82 (mean = 0.74 $\pm$ 0.06, n=14) for strains TBBYS02 and TBBYS03.

Under LM, Malaysian strains showed a lot of banded chloroplasts in the periphery of the cells ('c' in Fig. 17). One pronounced orange eyespot was seen in the sulcal area (Fig. 18). The nucleus was large, elongated and located posteriorly ('n' in Figs 19, 20). TEM confirmed the presence of an eyespot in the sulcal area, and a ~~hypothecal~~ posterior nucleus as well (Fig. 21). –The chloroplasts had terminal pyrenoids with lamellae intruding the pyrenoid (Fig. 22). The thylakoids were grouped in twos or threes to form lamellae. The eyespot was located within a chloroplast comprising two rows of lipid globules (around 50 each row) with a diameter of 70–110 nm –(Fig. 23). There ~~were~~ was one row of brick-like crystals enveloped by a vesicle overlying the eyespot, varying in size from 110 nm long and 80 nm wide to 220 nm long and 140 nm wide (Fig. 24).

Bysmatrum gregarium

The cells of strain TIO316 from the South China Sea were 27.2–37.9 μ m long (mean = 31.0 $\pm$ 3.1 μ m, n = 20) and 25.5–35.9 μ m wide (mean = 31.1 $\pm$ 2.7 μ m, n = 20). The cells had a conical epitheca and a rounded hypotheca (Figs 25, 26). *Bysmatrum gregarium* showed a plate formula of Po, cp, X, 4', 3a, 7'', 6C, 4S, 5''', 2'''''. The thecal plates were thick and covered with strong reticulations. Thecal pores were often

observed on the plates.

The first apical plate 1' was five-sided and asymmetrical with the longer anterior sutures than the posterior ones (Fig. 25). There were three anterior intercalary plates (1a, 2a and 3a). Plate 1a was nearly square and 2a and 3a were hexagonal and pentagonal respectively (Figs 26, 27). The length (of the upper side of 1a) and width (of the right side of 1a) ratio was 0.9–4.0 (mean = 1.9 ± 1.1 , n=9). Plate 1'' was five-sided and the length of the upper and low side ratio was 0.45–0.57 (mean = 0.50 ± 0.05 , n=7). The cingulum was deeply excavated and descended about 1.5 times its own width, comprising six plates of unequal size (Figs 25–27). The first three cingular plates (C1, C2 and C3) were similar in size and much smaller than the three other plates. The first postcingular plate (1''') was much smaller than other plates in this series (Fig. 28). The first antapical plate (1''') was elongated and narrow, displaced to the left, whereas the second antapical plate (2''') was pentagonal (Fig. 28). The apical pore complex comprised a round pore plate (Po) , a round cover plate (cp) and an elongated canal plate (X) with a round apical pore located in the middle of the pore plate (Fig. 29).

There were four sulcal plates and two sulcal lists. The anterior sulcal plate (Sa) was elongated and narrow. The left sulcal (Ss) was elongated and narrow too. The right sulcal (Sd) was fan-shaped, with a small internal sulcal list (i.s.l.) at its left side. The posterior sulcal plate (Sp) was wider than long (Fig. 30). The left sulcal list (L.s.l.) emerged from the right of plate 1''' (Fig. 28).

377 *Bysmatrum granulosum*

378 Cells of the strain SP004 from the South China Sea were 34.0–42.8 μm long (mean =
379 $38.8 \pm 2.5 \mu\text{m}$, $n = 13$) and 30.2–42.6 μm wide (mean = $35.5 \pm 3.8 \mu\text{m}$, $n = 18$). The
380 cells had a conical epitheca and a round hypotheca (Fig. 31). *Bysmatrum granulosum*
381 showed a plate formula of Po, cp, X, 4', 3a, 7'', 6C, 4S, 5''', 2'''''. The thecal plates
382 were thick and covered with small wart-like projections except on the sulcal and
383 cingular plates (Figs 31–36). The apical pore complex was elongated comprising a
384 pore plate (Po) and a narrow canal plate (X) with thickened margins formed by the
385 raised borders of the apical plates (Fig. 34).

386 The first apical plate 1' was five-sided and asymmetrical with anterior sutures
387 equal in length to the posterior ones (Fig. 31). There were three anterior intercalary
388 plates (1a, 2a and 3a). Plate 1a, 2a and 3a were rectangular, hexagonal and pentagonal
389 respectively (Figs 32, 33). The length (of the upper side of 1a) and width (of the right
390 side of 1a) ratio was 1.1–2.3 (mean = 1.5 ± 0.4 , $n=12$). Plate 1'' was five-sided and the
391 length of the upper and low side ratio was 0.65–0.85 (mean = 0.74 ± 0.05 , $n=12$). The
392 cingulum was deeply excavated and descended about 1.5 times of own width,
393 comprising six plates of unequal size (Figs 31, 33). The first three cingular plates (C1,
394 C2 and C3) were similar in size and much smaller than the three other plates. The first
395 postcingular plate (1''') was smaller than other plates in this series (Fig. 35). The first
396 antapical plate (1''') was wider than long, displaced to the left, whereas the second
397 antapical plate (2''') was five-sided and slightly larger (Fig. 35).

398 There were four sulcal plates and two sulcal lists. The anterior sulcal plate (Sa)

was triangular and the left sulcal (Ss) and right sulcal (Sd) were elongated and narrow. A small internal sulcal list (i.s.l.) was located at the left side of Sd. The posterior sulcal plate (Sp) was wider than long (Fig. 36). The left sulcal list (L.s.l.) emerged from the right side of plate 1''' (Fig. 35).

Cells of the strain A10-P14-R2 from the South China Sea were 37.7–55.4 µm long (mean = 46.2 ± 4.2 µm, n = 40) and 34.8–50.3 µm wide (mean = 43.3 ± 4.1 µm, n = 40). The cells shared similar morphology with those of strain SP004 (Figs S7–S12, table 2).

Epithecal plate overlap in Bysmatrum, Parvodinium and Vulcanodinium

The epithecal plate overlap of all studied *Bysmatrum* species is identical and is exemplified in *B. subsalsum* (Fig. 37). The epithecal plate overlap of *Vulcanodinium* Nézan & Chomérat, *Parvodinium* Carty and *Bysmatrum* is characteristic for each genus (Figs 38, 39). These morphological differences are concordant to the genetic distances between the genera (Fig. 40).

MicroFTIR analysis of cysts of Bysmatrum subsalsum from ~~France~~ French Atlantic

The geochemical analysis of the cyst walls of three specimens (M3S11, M3S12, M10S3) was illustrated in Fig. 41. There were absorptions for OH stretching centered at ~3300 cm⁻¹ as well as aliphatic CH stretching (2725 & 2850 cm⁻¹) and bending

(1420 & 1370 cm^{-1}) (not delineated in Fig. 41). There were also absorptions that are characteristic for polysaccharides (Pandey 1999; Kačuráková & Wilson 2001), including 1640 cm^{-1} (C=O stretching), 1160 cm^{-1} (C-O-C asymmetric vibration), 1115 cm^{-1} (glucose ring stretching) and C-O stretching absorptions at 1060 cm^{-1} , 1040 cm^{-1} and 1030 cm^{-1} .

Overall, M3S11 and M10S3 showed the greatest similarity, including a shoulder at 1540 cm^{-1} that could suggest either extracellular contamination or amide groups within the cyst wall; however, there were no other clear absorptions for proteinaceous material (see contamination discussion in Mertens *et al.*, 2015). The M3S12 spectrum is different in that it exhibits a shoulder at 1640 cm^{-1} and a band at 1590 cm^{-1} that reflect C=O and C=C stretching, respectively

Molecular analysis and phylogeny

The genetic distance based on ITS1-5.8S-ITS2 sequences among *Bysmatrum* morphospecies ranged from 0.34 to 0.47 and those genetic distances at intraspecific level were 0.15 (*B. gregarium* and *B. granulolum*) and 0.09 to 0.41 (*B. subsalsum*) (Table 3).

The maximum likelihood (ML) and Bayesian inference (BI) analysis based on combined SSU rDNA, partial LSU rDNA and ITS sequences yielded similar phylogenetic trees. The BI tree was illustrated in Fig. 40. The genus *Bysmatrum* was monophyletic with maximal support. It was clearly nested within the Peridinales and formed a clade with *Parvodinium*, *Peridiniopsis borgei*, *Palatinus apiculatus*,

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Vulcanodinium rugosum, *Peridinium cintum* and *Protoperidinium* with moderate-low support (68/0.71). *Bysmatrum subsalsum* consisted of two well resolved subclades. One subclade comprised strains from the Mediterranean Sea (referred to ribotype A) and the other included strains from Malaysia and French Atlantic (referred to ribotype B). ~~*Bysmatrum*~~ *B. gregarium* and *B. granulosum* grouped together with strong ML support (100), but low posterior probability (0.-70).

Discussion

Morphology and biogeography

Bysmatrum subsalsum

The strains of *B. subsalsum* from French Atlantic were characterized by the separation of plates 2a and 3a and an elongated rectangular 1a plate, thus fitting the original descriptions, especially the presence of three sulcal lists (Ostenfeld, 1908, fig. 50). Sulcal lists were also reported in specimens from Argentina (Balech, 1964, as *Peridinium subsalsum*), USA (Faust, 1996) and Mediterranean Sea (Gottschling *et al.*, 2012; Anglès *et al.*, 2017), but the right sulcal list was not present in the latter two reports and in the Malaysian strains TBBYS02 and TBBYS03 reported here. The shape of plate 1a is often rectangular in *B. subsalsum*, although pentagonal 1a was occasionally observed (Faust & Steidinger, 1998; present study). The ratio of length and width of 1a plate might be a useful indicator to differentiate *B. subsalsum* strains, but the ratio of length of upper and lower side of 2'' plate appears rather conservative

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among these strains (Table 2). A significant correlation between APC length and total cell length was reported in *B. subsalsum* from the Mediterranean Sea (Anglès *et al.*, 2017), and confirmed in the Malaysian and French strains as well. Because of the morphological similarity between our strains and strains from elsewhere, we identified them as *B. subsalsum*.

Bysmatrum subsalsum has a worldwide distribution, recorded in the Aral Sea (Ostenfeld, 1908), the Caribbean (Faust & Steidinger, 1998), the Gulf of Mexico (Limoges *et al.*, 2015), the Mediterranean Sea (Gottschling *et al.*, 2012; Anglès *et al.*, 2017), Argentina (Balech, 1964, as *P. subsalsum*), Japan (Horiguchi, 1983), and in the South China Sea and French Atlantic as reported here.

Bysmatrum subsalsum is morphologically close to *Peridinium sociale* (Henneguy) Biecheler as described by Biecheler (1952), but our strains are much smaller and have less cingulum displacement (1.0 versus 1.5 cingular widths). However, the Mediterranean *B. subsalsum* strains can have a cingulum displacement from 1.0 to 1.5 and have a large variability in cell size (Anglès *et al.*, 2017). Therefore, the species reported by Biecheler (1952) might be conspecific with *B. subsalsum*. However, whether *B. subsalsum* is a junior synonym of *Peridinium sociale* remains to be determined since Henneguy (1890) described *Glenodinium sociale* without giving information about the tabulation.

An apical stalk emerged from the apical pore of *B. subsalsum* (Fig. 9), and has been reported for *B. arenicola* and *B. gregarium* as well, suggesting that this is a common feature for the genus, possibly related with their epibenthic life stage. Mucus

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excreted from the apical stalk was observed in *B. subsalsum* and *B. granulosum*,

which can help them to attach a substrate, such as macroalgal surfaces, as illustrated

for *B. arenicola* by Horiguchi & Pienaar (1988b).

Cysts of *Bysmatrum subsalsum* from ~~France~~ French Atlantic are covered by

thecal plates, as also reported in those from Gulf of Mexico and Mediterranean Sea

(Limoges *et al.*, 2015; Anglès *et al.*, 2017). The geochemical analysis of the cyst walls

of three specimens (M3S11, M3S12, M10S3; Fig. 41) showed overall consistency

with other extant dinoflagellate cysts analyzed from surface sediments (e.g., Bogus *et*

al., 2014; Mertens *et al.*, 2015; ~~Gurdebeke *et al.*, accepted~~). The M3S12 spectrum

could indicate aromatic bonds are present in this spectrum, similar to *Pyrodinium*

bahamense (Mertens *et al.*, 2015). The variability in the three specimens could reflect

intraspecific differences in cysts even from the same location. The spectra of *B.*

subsalsum cysts did not resemble those from heterotrophic dinoflagellates (Bogus *et*

al., 2014), supporting that they have an autotrophic nutritional strategy.

~~An apical stalk emerged from the apical pore of *B. subsalsum* (Fig. 9), and has been~~

~~reported for *B. arenicola* and *B. gregarium* as well, suggesting that this is a common~~

~~feature for the genus, possibly related with their epibenthic life stage. Mucus excreted~~

~~from the apical stalk was observed in *B. subsalsum* and *B. granulosum*, which can~~

~~help them to attach a substrate, such as macroalgal surfaces, as illustrated for *B.*~~

~~*arenicola* by Horiguchi and Pienaar (1988b).~~

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506 *Bysmatrum gregarium*

507 Lombard ~~and &~~ Capon (1971) described a new thecate dinoflagellate isolated from
 508 tidal pools in southern California and named it *Peridinium gregarium* Lombard &
 509 Capon. After the illegitimate renaming of *P. gregarium* as *Scrippsiella caponii* by
 510 Horiguchi ~~and &~~ Pienaar (1988a), and the therefore illegitimate transfer to *Bysmatrum*
 511 *caponii* by Faust ~~and &~~ Steidinger (1998), the correct name for this species is now
 512 considered to be *Bysmatrum gregarium* (see Hoppenrath *et al.*, 2014, p. 65 for further
 513 details). The Chinese strain TIO316 generally fits the original description of *B.*
 514 *gregarium* but differs in the relative size of C2 and C3 (similar size of C2 and C3 in
 515 TIO316 versus half length of C3 in the type material) (Horiguchi & Pienaar, 1988a).
 516 Strain TIO316 is morphologically indistinguishable from the Korean strains described
 517 by Jeong *et al.*, (2012) which also have plates C2 and C3 of similar size. *Bysmatrum*
 518 *gregarium* is morphologically very close to *B. subsalsum* (Anglès *et al.*, 2017),
 519 however, the ratio of length of upper and lower side of 2" plate appears useful to
 520 differentiate them (0.5 vs 0.7, see table 2). Additionally, the ratio of total cell length
 521 and APC length can reach 5.0 in the *B. gregarium* strain TIO316, much larger than
 522 those of *B. subsalsum* strains (less than 4.0).

523 *Bysmatrum gregarium* has been reported in southern California, western Korea
 524 (Jeong *et al.*, 2012), Mexican Caribbean (Almazán-Becerril *et al.*, 2015), the island of
 525 Hawai'i (Parsons & Preskitt, 2007) and in the South China Sea (this study). This is
 526 also the first report of *Bysmatrum* in Chinese waters.

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527 *Bysmatrum granulosum*

528 The Malaysian strains SP004 and A10-P14-R2 of *Bysmatrum granulosum* fit the

529 original description by wart-like projections on the thecal surface. ~~*Bysmatrum B.*~~

530 *granulosum* was described from sediment and coral samples collected from Reunion

531 Island, South West Indian Ocean (Ten-Hage *et al.*, 2001), and later found in Sabah,

532 Malaysia (Mohammad-Noor *et al.*, 2007) and Mexican Caribbean (Almazán-Becerril

533 *et al.*, 2015). In this study, it was found in Rawa Island and Perhentian Island, thus

534 extends its distribution to Malay Peninsula. Our strains were also isolated from coral

535 reef debris, thus support the idea that this species is always associated with corals

536 (Ten-Hage *et al.*, 2001).

537 ***Eyespot structure of Bysmatrum subsalsum from Malaysia***

538 Moestrup ~~and~~ & Daugbjerg (2007) reviewed five different types of eyespot in

539 dinoflagellates, excluding the complex ocelloid of the Warnowiaceae (Greuet, 1987):

540 (1) type A, characterized by one to several layers of opaque globules inside a

541 chloroplast; (2) type B, a vesicle containing crystal-like units overlying an eyespot

542 type A-like chloroplast; (3) type C, layers of opaque lipid globules not bounded by a

543 membrane; (4) type D, layers of opaque globules ~~inside a reduced bounded by~~

544 ~~envelopes not connected to~~ chloroplast; and (5) type E, several layers of crystal-like

545 units contained in a vesicle. Craveiro *et al.*, (2010) reported a new type of eyespot (as

546 type F), characterized by a single layer of vesicle-contained crystal-like units

547 overlying layers of more or less fused globules not bounded by membranes. The

548 eyespot of *B. subsalsum* is located within the chloroplast and consists of two rows of

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lipid globules with overlying brick-like crystals, thus was identified as type B eyespot, as also reported in *Borghiella dodgei* (Moestrup *et al.*, 2008) and *Baldinia anauniensis* (Hansen *et al.*, 2007).

A prominent eyespot has been previously reported in *B. subsalsum* (Faust & Steidinger, 1998; Anglès *et al.*, 2017), *B. granulosum* (Ten-Hage *et al.*, 2001) and *B. gregarium* (Jeong *et al.*, 2012) and is confirmed in *B. subsalsum* here. However, it was not described for *B. arenicola* (Horiguchi & Pienaar, 1988b) and *B. teres* (Murray *et al.*, 2006). A type A eyespot was reported in *B. australis* (Dawut *et al.*, 2018) and in species of Peridinales such as *Scrippsella trochoidea* (Craveiro *et al.*, 2011), *Palatinus apiculatus* (Craveiro *et al.*, 2009), *Naiadinium polonicum* (Craveiro *et al.*, 2015), and *Peridinium willei* (Moestrup & Daugbjerg, 2007), suggesting that *Bysmatrum* is systematically distant from Thoracosphaeraceae but close to Peridiniaceae and Peridiniopsidaceae (Fig. 40).

Phylogeny and genetic differentiation

The phylogenetic position of *Bysmatrum* was first reported by Gottschling *et al.*, (2012) using concatenated SSU, ITS and LSU sequences. In their trees, *Bysmatrum subsalsum* appears distant from other Peridinales, and led Gottschling *et al.*, (2012) to suggest that *Bysmatrum* is closer to Gonyaucales. Later however, Jeong *et al.*, (2012) reported that *Bysmatrum gregarium* is close to *Protoperidinium* and *Peridinium* based on SSU and LSU rDNA sequences. The phylogenetic tree based on SSU, partial LSU rDNA and ITS (Fig. 40) supports the nesting of *Bysmatrum* within

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the Peridinales (Anglès *et al.*, 2017) and a close relationship between *Bysmatrum* and the freshwater planktonic genus *Parvodinium*. These two genera share the separation of anterior intercalary plates (Carty, 2008), although *Parvodinium* only has two anterior intercalary plates in contrast to the three found in *Bysmatrum* (Hansen & Flaim, 2007; Carty, 2008). *Parvodinium* was classified in the family Peridiniopsidaceae together with *Peridiniopsis* Bourrelly and *Palatinus* Craveiro, Calado, Daugbjerg & Moestrup (Gottschling *et al.*, 2017). An eyespot is probably present in *Parvodinium inconspicuum* (Lemmermann) Carty (Carty, 2008), but detailed study has not been carried out and ~~would-should~~ be the focus of future research.

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The close relationship between *Bysmatrum* and *Vulcanodinium* is not surprising because of their similarity in shape and plate pattern and thick, reticulate plates. The major difference is the separation of plates 2a and 3a in *Bysmatrum*, which does not occur in *Vulcanodinium* (Nézan & Chomérat, 2011). In addition, *Bysmatrum subsalsum* strain TBBYS02 is not able to produce pinnatoxin (Krock B. personal communication) while *Vulcanodinium rugosum* is always toxic (Selwood *et al.*, 2014).

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The ITS based genetic distances at intraspecific level in *B. subsalsum* reached 0.4, similar to those between the different sequenced *Bysmatrum* species (Table 3) and much greater than a threshold of 0.04 to delimit species based on ITS based genetic distances (Litaker *et al.*, 2007), supporting the idea that cryptic diversity is hidden in *B. subsalsum* (Anglès *et al.*, 2017). It is worth noting that two Malaysian strains of *Bysmatrum subsalsum* were recovered from a single water sample and showed large

genetic differentiation, as also reported in the two *B. granulosum* strains collected in neighbouring locations. Whether such genetic differentiations also occurs in other *Bysmatrum* species remains to be confirmed.

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Figure captions

Figs 1–4. Light micrographs of live cysts of *Bysmatrum subsalsum* from France. **Fig.**

1. Ventral view in mid-focus showing numerous granules, a red accumulation body

and the apical stalk. **Fig. 2.** Dorsal view showing numerous granules, a red

accumulation body. **Fig. 3.** Ventral view showing the cingulum displacement. **Fig. 4.**

Dorsal view showing the plates. Scale bars = 10 µm.

Figs 5–10. Scanning electron micrographs of cysts of French *Bysmatrum subsalsum*.

Fig. 5. Ventral view showing the first apical plate and cingulum displacement.

Fig. 6. Left lateral view showing the first three cingular plates (C1, C2 and C3).

Fig. 7. Dorsal view showing the separation of plates 2a and 3a. **Fig. 8.** Apical

view showing four apical plates (1' – 4'), three anterior intercalary (1a, 2a and

3a) plates and seven precingular plates (1'' – 7''). **Fig. 9.** Apical pore complex

showing the apical stalk emerging from the apical pore, pore plate (Po) and the

narrow canal plate (X). **Fig. 10.** Antapical view showing five postcingular plates (1''' – 5''') and two antapical plates (1''', 2''') of unequal size. Scale bars = 10 µm.

Figs 11–16. Scanning electron micrographs of vegetative cells of *Bysmatrum subsalsum* from French strain TIO406 (11) and Malaysian strain TBBYS02 (12–16). **Fig. 11.** The sulcus showing the anterior sulcal plate (Sa), left sulcal plate (Ss), right sulcal plate (Sd), posterior sulcal plate (Sp), the right sulcal list (R.s.l.), the left sulcal list (L.s.l.) and the internal sulcal list (i.s.l.). **Fig. 12.** Apical view showing four apical plates (1' – 4'), three anterior intercalary (1a, 2a and 3a) plates and seven precingular plates (1'' – 7''). **Fig. 13.** Antapical view showing five postcingular plates (1''' – 5''') and left and internal sulcal lists. **Fig. 14.** Right lateral view showing the first apical plate. **Fig. 15.** Internal view showing six cingular plates (C1 – C6). **Fig. 16.** Ventral view showing Sa, Ss, Sd, Sp plates, and L.s.l. (arrow), i.s.l. (arrowhead). Scale bars = 10 µm.

Figs 17–20. Light micrographs of live cells of *Bysmatrum subsalsum* from Malaysian strains TBBYS02 (17–19) and TBBYS03 (20). **Fig. 17.** Ventral view showing the gross morphology and cingulum displacement. **Fig. 18.** Ventral view showing the banded chloroplasts (c) and a red eyespot in the sulcal area (arrow). **Fig. 19.** Dorsal view showing an elongated nucleus (n) and numerous

chloroplasts (c). **Fig. 20.** Dorsal view showing an elongated nucleus (n) (Sybr Green staining). Scale bars = 10 μ m.

Figs 21–24. Transmission electron micrographs of vegetative cells of *Bysmatrum subsalsum* strain TBBYS02. **Fig. 21.** A longitudinal section through the cell showing a nucleus (n), several chloroplasts (c) and an eyespot (arrow). **Fig. 22.** Several chloroplasts (c) with terminal pyrenoids (p). **Fig. 23.** An eyespot (e) comprising two rows of lipid globules located within a chloroplast (c) nearby the sulcus. **Fig. 24.** Detail of the eyespot showing one row of overlying brick-like crystals (arrows). Scale bars: Fig. 21 = 10 μ m; Figs 22–24 = 1 μ m.

Figs 25–30. Scanning electron micrographs of vegetative cells of *Bysmatrum gregarium* strain TIO316. **Fig. 25.** Ventral view showing the first apical plate. **Fig. 26.** Dorsal view showing the cingulum plates. **Fig. 27.** Apical view showing four apical plates (1' – 4'), three anterior intercalary (1a, 2a and 3a) plates and seven precingular plates (1'' – 7''). **Fig. 28.** Antapical view showing five postcingular plates (1''' – 5'''), two antapical plates (1''', 2''') of unequal size and the left sulcal list (L.s.l.). **Fig. 29.** Apical pore complex showing the oval pore plate (Po), elongated canal plate (X) and round apical pore. **Fig. 30.** The sulcus showing an anterior sulcal plate (Sa), a right sulcal plate (Sd), a left sulcal plate (Ss), and a posterior sulcal plate (Sp). Scale bars = 10 μ m.

Figs 31–36. Scanning electron micrographs of vegetative cells of *Bysmatrum granulosum* strain SP004. **Fig. 31.** Ventral view showing the first apical plate (1') and cingulum displacement. **Fig. 32.** Left lateral view showing the two anterior intercalary plates (1a, 2a). **Fig. 33.** Dorsal view showing the cingulum plates (C4, C5) and the third anterior intercalary plate (3a). **Fig. 34.** Apical view showing the apical pore complex, four apical plates (1' – 4'), three anterior intercalary (1a, 2a and 3a) plates and seven precingular plates (1'' – 7''). **Fig. 35.** Antapical view showing five postcingular plates (1''' – 5'''), two antapical plates (1''', 2''') of unequal size and the left sulcal list (L.s.l.). **Fig. 36.** The sulcus showing an anterior sulcal plate (Sa), a right sulcal plate (Sd), a left sulcal plate (Ss), a posterior sulcal plate (Sp), and and the internal sulcal list (i.s.l.). Scale bars = 10 µm.

Figs 37–39. Plate overlaps of epitheca in *Bysmatrum*, *Vulcanodinium* and *Parvodinium*. **Fig. 37.** Plate overlaps of *Bysmatrum subsalsum*. **Fig. 38.** Plate overlaps of *Vulcanodinium rugosum*. **Fig. 39.** Plate overlaps of *Parvodinium umbonatum*.

Fig. 40. Phylogeny of *Bysmatrum* inferred from concatenated SSU, partial LSU rDNA and ITS sequences using Bayesian inference . New sequences are indicated in bold. Branch lengths are drawn to scale, with the scale bar indicating the number of nucleotide substitutions per site. The long braches are reduced in size

with their actual size indicated. Numbers on branches are statistical support values to clusters on the right of them (left: maximum likelihood bootstrap support values; right: Bayesian posterior probabilities). Black circles indicate maximal support (bootstrap = 100% in ML and pp = 1.00 in BI respectively).

Fig. 41. Micro-Fourier transform infrared spectra of three *Bysmatrum subsalsum* cysts from France.

Figs S1–S6. Scanning electron micrographs of vegetative cells of *Bysmatrum subsalsum* from Malaysian strain TBBYS03. **Fig. S1.** Left lateral view showing the elongated 1a plate and three cingular plates (C1 – C3). **Fig. S2.** Apical view showing four apical plates (1' – 4'), three anterior intercalary (1a, 2a and 3a) plates and seven precingular plates (1'' – 7''). **Fig. S3.** Dorsal view showing three anterior intercalary (1a, 2a and 3a) plates. **Fig. S4.** Ventral view showing five postcingular plates (1''' – 5''') and two antapical plates (1''', 2''') of unequal size. **Fig. S5.** The sulcus showing the anterior sulcal plate (Sa), left sulcal plate (Ss), right sulcal plate (Sd), posterior sulcal plate (Sp), the left sulcal list (L.s.l.) and the internal sulcal list (i.s.l.). **Fig. S6.** Antapical view showing five postcingular plates (1''' – 5''') and two antapical plates (1''', 2''') of unequal size. Scale bars = 10 µm.

Figs S7–S12. Scanning electron micrographs of vegetative cells of *Bysmatrum granulosum* strain A10-P14-R2. **Fig. S7.** Ventral view showing the first apical plate

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and cingulum displacement. **Fig. S8.** Left lateral view showing the two anterior
intercalary plates (1a, 2a). **Fig. S9.** Dorsal view showing the cingulum plates and the
third anterior intercalary plate (3a). **Fig. S10.** Apical view showing the apical pore
complex, four apical plates (1' – 4'), three anterior intercalary (1a, 2a and 3a) plates
and seven precingular plates (1'' – 7''). **Fig. S11.** Antapical view showing five
postcingular plates (1''' – 5'''), two antapical plates (1''', 2''') of unequal size and the
left sulcal list (L.s.l.). **Fig. S12.** The sulcus showing an anterior sulcal plate (Sa), a
right sulcal plate (Sd), a left sulcal plate (Ss), and a posterior sulcal plate (Sp). Scale
bars = 10 µm.

Figs 1–4. Light micrographs of live cysts of *Bysmatrum subsalsum* from France. Fig. 1. Ventral view in mid-focus showing numerous granules, a red accumulation body and the apical stalk. Fig. 2. Dorsal view showing numerous granules, a red accumulation body. Fig. 3. Ventral view showing the cingulum displacement. Fig. 4. Dorsal view showing the plates. Scale bars = 10 μ m.

80x90mm (300 x 300 DPI)

Figs 5–10. Scanning electron micrographs of cysts of French *Bysmatrum subsalsum*. Fig. 5. Ventral view showing the first apical plate and cingulum displacement. Fig. 6. Left lateral view showing the first three cingular plates (C1, C2 and C3). Fig. 7. Dorsal view showing the separation of plates 2a and 3a. Fig. 8. Apical view showing four apical plates (1' – 4'), three anterior intercalary (1a, 2a and 3a) plates and seven precingular plates (1'' – 7''). Fig. 9. Apical pore complex showing the apical stalk emerging from the apical pore, pore plate (Po) and the narrow canal plate (X). Fig. 10. Antapical view showing five postcingular plates (1''' – 5''') and two antapical plates (1''', 2''') of unequal size. Scale bars = 10 µm.

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Figs 11–16. Scanning electron micrographs of vegetative cells of *Bysmatrum subsalsum* from French strain TIO406 (11) and Malaysian strain TBBYS02 (12–16). Fig. 11. The sulcus showing the anterior sulcal plate (Sa), left sulcal plate (Ss), right sulcal plate (Sd), posterior sulcal plate (Sp), the right sulcal list (R.s.l.), the left sulcal list (L.s.l.) and the internal sulcal list (i.s.l.). Fig. 12. Apical view showing four apical plates (1' – 4'), three anterior intercalary (1a, 2a and 3a) plates and seven precingular plates (1'' – 7''). Fig. 13. Antapical view showing five postcingular plates (1''' – 5''') and left and internal sulcal lists. Fig. 14. Right lateral view showing the first apical plate. Fig. 15. Internal view showing six cingular plates (C1 – C6). Fig. 16. Ventral view showing Sa, Ss, Sd, Sp plates, and L.s.l. (arrow), i.s.l. (arrowhead). Scale bars = 10 µm.

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Figs 17–20. Light micrographs of live cells of *Bysmatrum subsalsum* from Malaysian strains TBBYS02 (17–19) and TBBYS03 (20). Fig. 17. Ventral view showing the gross morphology and cingulum displacement. Fig. 18. Ventral view showing the banded chloroplasts (c) and a red eyespot in the sulcal area (arrow). Fig. 19. Dorsal view showing an elongated nucleus (n) and numerous chloroplasts (c). Fig. 20. Dorsal view showing an elongated nucleus (n) (Sybr Green staining). Scale bars = 10 μ m.

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Figs 21–24. Transmission electron micrographs of vegetative cells of *Bysmatrum subsalsum* strain TBBYS02.

Fig. 21. A longitudinal section through the cell showing a nucleus (n), several chloroplasts (c) and an eyespot (arrow). Fig. 22. Several chloroplasts (c) with terminal pyrenoids (p). Fig. 23. An eyespot (e) comprising two rows of lipid globules located within a chloroplast (c) nearby the sulcus. Fig. 24. Detail of the eyespot showing one row of overlying brick-like crystals (arrows). Scale bars: Fig. 21 = 10 μm ; Figs 22–24 = 1 μm .

170x205mm (300 x 300 DPI)

Figs 25–30. Scanning electron micrographs of vegetative cells of *Bysmatrum gregarium* strain TIO316. Fig. 25. Ventral view showing the first apical plate. Fig. 26. Dorsal view showing the cingulum plates. Fig. 27. Apical view showing four apical plates (1' – 4'), three anterior intercalary (1a, 2a and 3a) plates and seven precingular plates (1'' – 7''). Fig. 28. Antapical view showing five postcingular plates (1''' – 5'''), two antapical plates (1'''' , 2'''') of unequal size and the left sulcal list (L.s.l.). Fig. 29. Apical pore complex showing the oval pore plate (Po), elongated canal plate (X) and round apical pore. Fig. 30. The sulcus showing an anterior sulcal plate (Sa), a right sulcal plate (Sd), a left sulcal plate (Ss), and a posterior sulcal plate (Sp). Scale bars = 10 μm.

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Figs 31–36. Scanning electron micrographs of vegetative cells of *Bysmatrum granuloseum* strain SP004. Fig. 31. Ventral view showing the first apical plate (1') and cingulum displacement. Fig. 32. Left lateral view showing the two anterior intercalary plates (1a, 2a). Fig. 33. Dorsal view showing the cingulum plates (C4, C5) and the third anterior intercalary plate (3a). Fig. 34. Apical view showing the apical pore complex, four apical plates (1' – 4'), three anterior intercalary (1a, 2a and 3a) plates and seven precingular plates (1'' – 7''). Fig. 35. Antapical view showing five postcingular plates (1''' – 5'''), two antapical plates (1''', 2''') of unequal size and the left sulcal list (L.s.l.). Fig. 36. The sulcus showing an anterior sulcal plate (Sa), a right sulcal plate (Sd), a left sulcal plate (Ss), a posterior sulcal plate (Sp), and the internal sulcal list (i.s.l.). Scale bars = 10 µm.

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Figs 37–39. Plate overlaps of epitheca in Bysmatrum, Vulcanodinium and Parvodium. Fig. 37. Plate overlaps of Bysmatrum subsalsum. Fig. 38. Plate overlaps of Vulcanodinium rugosum. Fig. 39. Plate overlaps of Parvodium umbonatum.

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Fig. 40. Phylogeny of *Bysmatrum* inferred from concatenated SSU, partial LSU rDNA and ITS sequences using Bayesian inference. New sequences are indicated in bold. Branch lengths are drawn to scale, with the scale bar indicating the number of nucleotide substitutions per site. The long branches are reduced in size with their actual size indicated. Numbers on branches are statistical support values to clusters on the right of them (left: maximum likelihood bootstrap support values; right: Bayesian posterior probabilities). Black circles indicate maximal support (bootstrap = 100% in ML and pp = 1.00 in BI respectively).

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Fig. 41. Micro-Fourier transform infrared spectra of three *Bysmatrum subsalsum* cysts from France.
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Table 1. *Bysmatrum* strains examined in the present study, including the collection locality, coordinates and collection date.

Species	Strains	Source	Collection locality	Coordinates	Collection date
<i>B. subsalsum</i>	TBBYS02	Plankton	Tok Bali, Malaysia	05°51'53.81" N; 102°30'21.16" E	23-Sep-2015
<i>B. subsalsum</i>	TBBYS03	Plankton	Tok Bali, Malaysia	05°51'53.81" N; 102°30'21.16" E	23-Sep-2015
		Sediment			15 and 19 April
<i>B. subsalsum</i>	TIO406		Gironde, France	44°38'11"N; 1°04'00" W	2016
<i>B. gregarium</i>	TIO316	Plankton	Beihai, China	21°24'38.78" N; 109°10'13.47" E	3-Dec-2015
		<u>Sediment</u>	<u>Perhentian Island,</u>		
<u><i>B. granulosum</i></u>	<u>SP004</u>		<u>Malaysia</u>	<u>05°52'51.50" N; 102°44'34.88" E</u>	<u>17-May-2017</u>
<i>B. granulosum</i>	A10-P14-R2	Sediment	Rawa Island, Malaysia	05°57'44.45" N; 102°40'53.26" E	7-Sep-2015

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1	Table 2 Morphological comparisons of <i>Bysmatrum</i> strains examined in the present study with closely related species. SCS: South China Sea; SAPC: Shape of Apical						
2	Pore Complex (APC, Po + X plates); L / W of 1a: Length: width ratio of 1a (average); NA: not available.						
3							
4	Species	<i>Bysmatrum subsalum</i>	<i>Bysmatrum subsalum</i>	<i>Bysmatrum subsalum</i>	<i>Bysmatrum subsalum</i>	<i>Bysmatrum subsalum</i>	<i>Bysmatrum subsalum</i>
5	Strains/origin	TBBYS02/SCS	TBBYS03/SCS	TIO406/French Atlantic	Aral Sea	Argentina	Florida, USA
6	Shape in ventral view	Pentagonal	Pentagonal	Pentagonal	Pentagonal	Pentagonal	Pentagonal
7	Shape in apical view	Oval, slightly	Oval, slightly	Oval, slightly	Oval, slightly	Oval, slightly	Oval, slightly
8		dorsoventrally compressed	dorsoventrally compressed	dorsoventrally compressed	dorsoventrally compressed	dorsoventrally compressed	dorsoventrally compressed
9							
10	Apical stalk	Yes	Yes	Yes	NA	NA	NA
11	Nucleus	Elongated, hypothecal	Elongated, hypothecal	NA	NA	Rounded	Elongated, in the center
12	Eyespot	Type B	Yes	NA	NA	NA	Yes
13	Thecal pore	Yes	Yes	Yes	NA	NA	NA
14	Thecal pore size (µm)	0.1–0.2	0.1–0.3	0.14–0.28	NA	NA	NA
15	SAPC	Teardrop	Teardrop	Teardrop	NA	NA	NA
16	APC length (µm)	7.5–8.8 (8.3, n=7)	6.7–9.1 (7.8, n=16)	7.5–8.8 (8.2, n=4)	NA	NA	NA
17	APC width (µm)	3.4–4.5 (3.9, n=7)	3.0–4.0 (3.4, n=16)	3.2–3.5 (3.4, n=4)	NA	NA	NA
18	Cell length (µm)	26.0–34.8	26.5–36.5	22.7–31.7	40–46	22.5–32	23.5–41
19	Cell width (µm)	24.7–31.4	22.0–29.4	26.0–36.9	38–44	16–29	21–51
20	Length: width ratio	1.0–1.2	0.9–1.2	1.1–1.2	NA	NA	NA
21	1st apical plate	Pentagonal	Pentagonal	Pentagonal	Pentagonal	Pentagonal	Pentagonal
22	1a morphology	Elongated rectangular	Elongated rectangular	Elongated rectangular	Elongated rectangular	Elongated rectangular	Pentagonal (rectangular)
23	L / W of 1a	1.8–4.0 (2.5, n=14)	1.8–4.8 (3.4, n=14)	1.2–3.5 (1.9, n=16)	1.8	2.7	NA
24	2a morphology	Hexagonal	Hexagonal	Hexagonal	Pentagonal	Hexagonal	Pentagonal (hexagonal)
25	3a morphology	Pentagonal	Pentagonal	Pentagonal	Pentagonal	Pentagonal	Pentagonal
26	Length of upper : lower side of 2"	0.69–0.90 (0.83, n=13)	0.60–0.82 (0.74, n=14)	0.63–0.84 (0.74, n=14)	0.75	0.63	0.7
27	Cingulum width (µm)	3.3–4.3 (3.8, n=20)	2.9–4.2 (3.6, n=20)	3.5–4.2 (3.8, n=20)	NA	NA	3.0–5.0
28							
29	Cingulum	1	1	1	1	1	1
30	displacement						
31	Sulcal list	2	2	3	3	3	3
32	Plate ornamentations	Reticulated	Reticulated	Reticulated	Reticulated	Reticulated	Reticulated
33	Cyst production	NA	NA	yes	yes	NA	NA
34	Cyst shape	NA	NA	Ovoid maintaining theca	NA	NA	NA
35	Cyst size (µm)	NA	NA	L: 30.0–40.9; W: 26.9–34.3	NA	NA	NA
36							
37							
38							
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Reference	Present study	Present study	Present study	Ostenfeld 1908	Balech 1964	Stedinger & Balech 1977
Table 2 continued						
Species	<i>Bysmatrum subsalum</i>	<i>Bysmatrum subsalum</i>	<i>Bysmatrum subsalum</i>	<i>Bysmatrum gregarium</i>	<i>Bysmatrum granulosum</i>	<i>Bysmatrum granulosum</i>
Strains/origin	East China Sea/ Caribbean Sea	East Mediterranean Sea	West Mediterranean Sea	TIO316/SCS	SP004/SCS	A10-P14-R2/SCS
Shape in ventral view	Pentagonal	Pentagonal/ovoid	Pentagonal/ovoid	Pentagonal	Pentagonal	Pentagonal
Shape in apical view		Oval, slightly dorsoventrally compressed	Oval, slightly dorsoventrally compressed	Oval, slightly dorsoventrally compressed	Oval, dorsoventrally compressed	Oval, dorsoventrally compressed
Apical stalk	NA	NA	Yes	NA	Yes	NA
Nucleus	NA	NA	Hypothecal	NA	Elongated, in the center	NA
Eyespot	NA	NA	Yes	Yes	NA	NA
Thecal pore	NA	NA	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Thecal pore size (µm)	NA	NA	0.03–0.09 for smaller pores, 0.10–0.20 for larger ones	0.19–0.31	0.14–0.28	0.14–0.28
SAPC	NA	Teardrop?	Teardrop/polygonal	Teardrop	Polygonal	Polygonal
APC length (µm)	6.5	NA	3.7–10.8 (7.2, n=72)	5.5–6.7 (6.2)	5.3–8.9 (6.9)	5.1–9.8 (7.4)
APC width (µm)	2.3	NA	2.5–7.4 (4.7, n=72)	2.1–3.1 (2.8)	1.4–3.5 (2.6)	2.1–4.3 (2.8)
Cell length (µm)	32–41	21–45	22.3–50	24.9–37.9	36.4–42.8	37.7–55.4
Cell width (µm)	28–37	23–47	19.8–50	25.5–35.9	30.2–42.6	34.8–51.5
Length: width ratio	NA	NA	0.9–1.3	0.9–1.1	1.0–1.1	1.0–1.1
1st apical plate	Pentagonal	Pentagonal	Pentagonal	Pentagonal	Pentagonal	Pentagonal
1a morphology	Elongated rectangular	Elongated rectangular	Elongated rectangular	Trapezoid	Rectangular	Rectangular/penta
Length: width ratio of 1a (average)	1.6	2.5	1.9–4.8	0.9–4.0 (1.9, n=9)	1.1–2.3 (1.5, n=12)	1.8–4.0 (2.6, n=9)
2a morphology	Hexagonal	Hexagonal	Pentagonal	Hexagonal	Hexagonal	Pentagonal/hexagonal
3a morphology	Pentagonal	Pentagonal	Pentagonal	Pentagonal	Pentagonal	Pentagonal
Length of upper: lower side of 2"	0.67	0.73	0.81	0.45–0.57 (0.50, n=7)	0.65–0.85 (0.74, n=12)	0.63–0.84 (0.72, n=7)
Cingulum width (µm)	3	NA	1.9–6.2 (4.0)	2.7–3.4 (3.0)	2.3–4.4 (3.4)	1.5–3.8 (2.5)
Cingulum displacement	1	1	1–1.5	1.5	1.5	1.5
Sulcal list	2	2	3	2	2	2
Plate ornamentations	Reticulated	Reticulated	Reticulated	Reticulated	Wart-like projections	Wart-like projections
Cyst production	NA	Yes	Yes	NA	NA	NA

Cyst shape	NA	Rounded without theca	Ovoid maintaining theca (1st morphotype) and rounded without theca (2nd morphotype)	NA	NA	NA
Cyst size (µm)	NA	41–51 in diameter	L: 38.8–46.0, W: 38.7–44.4 for the 1st morphotype; 19.7–20.4 in diameter for the 2nd morphotype	NA	NA	NA
Reference	Faust 1996	Gottschling <i>et al.</i> 2012	Anglès <i>et al.</i> 2017	Present study	Present study	Present study

Table 3. Uncorrected pairwise distances among *Bysmatrum* species based on ITS sequences (SCS: South China Sea; MED: Mediterranean Sea).

	<i>B.subsalsu</i> <i>m</i> TBBYS02	<i>B.subsalsu</i> <i>m</i> TBBYS03	<i>B.subsalsu</i> <i>m</i> TIO406	<i>B.subsalsu</i> <i>m</i> FB1	<i>B.</i> <i>granulosum</i> A10-P14-R 2	<i>B.</i> <i>granulosu</i> <i>m</i> SP004	<i>B.</i> <i>gregariu</i> <i>m</i> TIO316	<i>B.</i> <i>gregariu</i> <i>m</i> (Korea)
<i>B.subsalsu</i> TBBYS02(SCS)	-							
<i>B.subsalsu</i> TBBYS03(SCS)	0.27	-						
<i>B.subsalsu</i> TIO406 (France)	0.3330	0.3433	-					
<i>B.subsalsu</i> - D323HQ845326(ME D)	0.3538	0.3839	0.4138	-				
<i>B.subsalsu</i> FB1(MED)	0.3435	0.36	0.3936	0.09	-			
<i>B. granulosum</i> A10-P14-R2(SCS)	0.4140	0.4041	0.4241	0.4342	0.43	-		
<i>B. granulosum</i> SP004(SCS)	0.38	0.39	0.40	0.41	0.40	0.15	-	
<i>B. gregarium</i> TIO316(SCS)	0.47	0.43	0.4344	0.4647	0.46	0.4648	0.46	-
<i>B. gregarium</i> (Korea)	0.4745	0.44	0.4546	0.45	0.4644	0.4548	0.46	0.15

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209x155mm (300 x 300 DPI)

Table S1. GenBank accession numbers of strains or isolates examined in the present study

Species	Strains/isolates	SSU	ITS	LSU
<i>Bysmatrum subsalsum</i>	TBBYS02	MG826109	MG826361	MG826101
<i>Bysmatrum subsalsum</i>	TBBYS03	MG826110	MG826362	MG826102
<i>Bysmatrum subsalsum</i>	TIO406	MG826111	MG826363	MG826103
<i>Bysmatrum gregarium</i>	TIO316	MG826112	MG826364	MG826104
<i>Bysmatrum granulosum</i>	A10-P14-R2	MG826108	MG826360	MG826100
<i>Bysmatrum granulosum</i>	SP004	MG826113	MG826365	MG826105
<i>Vulcanodinium rugosum</i>	C	MG826114	MG826366	MG826106
<i>Vulcanodinium rugosum</i>	G	MG826115	MG826367	MG826107