

## Morphology, ultrastructure and molecular phylogeny of *Johsia chumphonensis* gen. et sp. nov. and *Parvodinium parvulum* comb. nov. (Peridiniopsidaceae, Dinophyceae)

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### Abstract :

The family Peridiniopsidaceae encompasses mainly freshwater species of the genera Peridiniopsis, Palatinus and Parvodinium. Only one benthic, marine species ‘Scrippsiella’ hexapraecingula has been attributed to this family. Here we established five strains by isolating single Parvodinium-like cells from the marine Gulf of Thailand, Hainan Island waters (China), off Manado (Indonesia) and from a freshwater reservoir in Fuzhou (China). All strains were examined with light, scanning and transmission electron microscopy, and their SSU, ITS-5.8S and partial LSU rRNA regions were sequenced. Four marine strains share a plate formula of Po, cp, X, 4', 2a, 6", 6C, 4S, 5"', 2'''' and are herein attributed to a new genus *Johsia* as *J. chumphonensis* gen. et sp. nov. Its theca is characterized by an epitheca 1.5 times as long as the hypotheca in dorsal view and a 2a plate about half the size of 1a. A type B eyespot was observed in *J. chumphonensis* comprising two rows of lipid globules within a chloroplast with a single row of crystals overlying the eyespot. Production of spherical cysts was observed in culture. The freshwater strain shows a plate pattern of Po, cp, X, 4', 2a, 7", 6C, 5S, 5"', 2''''', characterized by two unequal antapical plates and a lack of antapical spines, fitting the description of *Parvodinium parvulum*, which was transferred to *Parvodinium* as *P. parvulum* comb. nov. In this species, a type A eyespot was observed comprising four rows of lipid globules within a chloroplast. A molecular phylogeny was inferred based on concatenated data from SSU, ITS-5.8S and partial LSU rRNA gene sequences using maximum likelihood and Bayesian inference. Our results show that *Johsia* is nested within the Peridiniopsidaceae and is a sister clade to *Peridiniopsis borgei* and the strain UTEX1948 identified as ‘*Scrippsiella*’ hexapraecingula with three anterior intercalary plates.

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**Keywords** : Cyst, dinoflagellate, eyespot, freshwater, immotile cell, *Peridinium parvulum*

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## Introduction

The order Peridiniales includes thecate dinoflagellates with a symmetrical first apical plate and two more or less symmetrical antapical plates (Fensome *et al.*, 1993). The majority of peridinialean species can be reliably placed into one of the families belonging to the Peridiniales, including Heterocapsaceae, Kryptoperidiniaceae, and Peridiniaceae, however, the systematic position on family level of some species/genera is still uncertain, such as *Bysmatrum* M.A.Faust & Steidinger, and *Vulcanodinium* Nézan & Chomérat (Anglès *et al.*, 2017; Čalasan *et al.*, 2019; Luo *et al.*, 2019). Many freshwater peridinialean species belong to the family Peridiniaceae (Moestrup & Calado, 2018). Several genera have now been transferred out of this family: recently, the new family Peridiniopsidaceae was erected to encompass *Peridiniopsis* Lemmermann, *Palatinus* Craveiro, Calado, Daugbjerg & Moestrup, and *Parvodinium* Carty with *Peridiniopsis* as type genus (Gottschling *et al.*, 2017). All these genera have at most two anterior intercalary plates and six cingular plates and thus can be separated from *Peridinium* Ehrenberg (the type of family Peridiniaceae) in that the latter has five cingular plates and three anterior intercalary plates (Bourrelly, 1968).

Besides the differences in plate pattern, the presence/absence of a microtubular strand of the peduncle (MSP) was used to differentiate Peridiniopsidaceae from Peridiniaceae (Gottschling *et al.*, 2017). A reduced MSP is present in *Palatinus* and *Peridiniopsis* but absent in *Peridinium cinctum* (O.F.Müller) Ehrenberg (Spector & Triemer, 1979; Calado & Moestrup 2002; Craveiro *et al.*, 2009). Both families share a

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type A eyespot comprising several rows of lipid globules within the chloroplast (Moestrup & Daugbjerg, 2007), as reported in *Peridinium* and *Palatinus* (Calado *et al.*, 1999; Craveiro *et al.*, 2009), while a type B eyespot was reported only for Peridiniopsidaceae (*Peridiniopsis borgei*; Calado & Moestrup, 2002). Radial chloroplasts without a pyrenoid were reported in *Peridinium cinctum* (Spector & Triemer, 1979). In contrast, *Peridiniopsis* and *Palatinus* possess radial chloroplasts with a central pyrenoid (Calado & Moestrup, 2002; Craveiro *et al.*, 2009). However, the chloroplast can only be considered as a useful character to differentiate dinoflagellates at species level (Schnepf & Elbrächter, 1999).

Among 2294 extant dinoflagellate species (Gómez, 2012), only 350 species inhabit freshwater (Mertens *et al.*, 2012; Moestrup & Calado, 2018). Marine-to-freshwater transitions are now considered frequent in dinoflagellates, including ten transitions in Peridinales (Čalasan *et al.*, 2019). Some families, such as Thoracosphaeraceae encompass both marine and freshwater genera (Craveiro *et al.*, 2016). Even within the same genus both marine and freshwater species can be found, as exemplified by *Biecheleria* Moestrup, K.Lindberg & Daugbjerg (Raho *et al.*, 2018), which is also observed on species level for the species *Huia caspica* (Ostenfeld) H.Gu, K.N.Mertens & T.T.Liu, which is known to be present in both marine and freshwater environments (Gu *et al.*, 2016). Peridiniopsidaceae includes mostly freshwater species, but one benthic species identified as “*Scrippsiella*” *hexapraecingula* T.Horiguchi & Chihara from tidal pools appears to be closely related to *Peridiniopsis borgei* Lemmermann (Kretschmann *et al.*, 2018a); whether other

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marine species belong to this clade is not yet known.

*Parvodinium* species are often small and currently include 12 accepted species (Carty, 2008; Kretschmann *et al.*, 2018b; Kretschmann *et al.*, 2019). All of them are exclusively freshwater and most species have two anterior intercalary plates. Three distinct conformations of the two intercalary plates were reported for *Parvodinium*, even in clonal strains (Elbrächter & Meyer, 2001; Kretschmann *et al.*, 2018b), including a *conjunctum* tabulation (the third apical plate shares one plate suture with the fourth precingular plate leading to the separation of the two intercalary plates), a *remotum* tabulation (Plates 3' and 4'' are separated by the two intercalary plates which contact broadly), and a *contactum* tabulation (Plates 3' and 4'' as well as the two intercalary plates all contact in a single point). A presumed eyespot was reported in species of *Parvodinium* (Kretschmann *et al.*, 2018b), but detailed examination on the ultrastructure has not been carried out. To date, there is only one publication on a Chinese *Parvodinium* species, namely on *Parvodinium umbonatum* (F.Stein) Carty (Liu *et al.*, 2008), which suggests that *Parvodinium* is understudied in China.

In the present study, five strains of *Parvodinium*-like species were established through single-cell isolation from the marine Gulf of Thailand, from Hainan Island waters (China), off Manado (Indonesia) and from a freshwater reservoir in Fuzhou (China). The five cultured strains were examined morphologically and ultrastructurally, with an emphasis on the eyespot. In addition, small subunit ribosomal RNA (SSU rRNA), partial large subunit ribosomal RNA (LSU rRNA) and internal transcribed spacer region including the 5.8S ribosomal RNA (ITS–5.8S

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rRNA) sequences were determined for the cultured strains and molecular phylogeny was inferred using concatenated SSU, ITS–5.8S and LSU rRNA sequences.

## **Material and methods**

### *Sample collection and treatment*

Sandy sediment samples were collected from the seabed by scuba divers off Hainan Island, China, Chumphon, capital of Chumphon Province, Gulf of Thailand, and off Manado (Indonesia) from 2017 to 2019 (Table S1) and placed into polycarbonate bottles containing filtered seawater from the same location. The samples were stirred vigorously to detach the epibenthic cells and the suspension settled in a polycarbonate bottle. The settled material was rinsed with filtered seawater and transferred into a petri dish. Single *Parvodinium*-like cells were isolated with a micropipette using an inverted Eclipse TS100 (Nikon, Tokyo, Japan) microscope to establish the strains TIO606, TIO890 and TIO966 (Table S1). Plankton samples were collected near a freshwater reservoir near Fuzhou (China) and around Mak Island (inner Gulf of Thailand), using a plankton net, 10  $\mu\text{m}$  mesh size, on August 30 and November 17, 2017, respectively. Single cells were isolated with a micropipette using the above-mentioned microscope to establish the strains TIO896 and TIO879 (Table S1). Strains were maintained with f/2-Si medium (Guillard & Ryther, 1962) at 25°C, 90  $\mu\text{mol photons m}^{-2} \text{ s}^{-1}$  under a 12:12 h light: dark cycle. The medium for marine species was prepared using seawater with a salinity of 30.

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*Light and scanning electron microscopy*

Live cells were examined and photographed using a Zeiss Axio Imager light microscope (Carl Zeiss, Göttingen, Germany) equipped with a Zeiss Axiocam HRc digital camera. The size of a minimum of 30 cells was measured using Axiovision (4.8.2 version) software at  $\times 1000$  magnification. The standard deviation ( $\pm$ ) is provided, next to the observed mean. 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 using the Zeiss fluorescence microscope with a Zeiss-38 filter set (excitation BP 470/40, beam splitter FT 495, emission BP 525/50). Chloroplast autofluorescence microscopy was carried out on live cells using the above-mentioned microscope equipped with a Chroma filter cube (emission filter ET480/20x, dichromatic mirror AT505dc, suppression filter AT515lp), and digitally photographed using a Zeiss Axiocam HRc digital camera.

For scanning electron microscopy (SEM), mid-exponential batch cultures of strains TIO606, TIO896 and TIO879 were concentrated by a Universal 320 R centrifuge (Hettich-Zentrifugen, Tuttlingen, Germany) at 850 g for 10 min at room temperature. Cells were fixed, dehydrated and 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) scanning electron microscope following the procedures detailed in Luo *et al.*, (2018). Labelling of tabulation follows a modified Kofoidian system (Fensome *et al.*, 1993), and the sulcal

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plate labelling follows Balech (1980).

#### *Transmission electron microscopy (TEM)*

Mid-exponential batch cultures of strains TIO606, TIO896 and TIO879 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 in PBS for 10 min each. They were post-fixed in 1% OsO<sub>4</sub> overnight at 4°C and washed three times in 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 Low-Viscosity Embedding Media (Polyscience Europe GmbH, Eppelheim, Germany) 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).

#### *PCR amplifications and sequencing*

The total algal DNA 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. Various regions of the ribosomal RNA (rRNA) genes including the SSU rRNA, partial LSU rRNA (D1–D6) and ITS1–5.8S–ITS2 were amplified using primer pairs specified previously and following standard protocols (Luo *et al.*, 2019). Newly obtained sequences were deposited in GenBank with accession numbers MT465325 to MT465337.

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### *Sequence alignment and phylogenetic analysis*

Newly obtained sequences (SSU, ITS–5.8S and LSU rRNA D1–D6) were incorporated into a systematically representative set of dinoflagellate taxa available in GenBank. Taxon samples of Peridinales follow Kretschmann *et al.* (2018b) and those of Gonyaulacales, Dinophysales, Prorocentrales, Gymnodiniales were also included. *Noctiluca scintillans* (Macartney) Kofoid & Swezy was used as outgroup. Sequences were aligned using MAFFT v7.110 (Kato & 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). Completed alignments of ITS1–5.8S–ITS2 sequences were imported into MEGA6 software (Tamura *et al.*, 2013) to estimate divergence rates using simple uncorrected pairwise (p) distance matrices. For Bayesian inference (BI), 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 4,000,000 generations, sampling every 100 generations, with an appropriate burn-in (10%) as inferred from the evaluation of the trace files using Tracer version 1.7 (<http://tree.bio.ed.ac.uk/software/tracer/>). 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

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with 1000 bootstrap replicates.

## Results

*Johsia* Z.Luo, Na Wang, K.N.Mertens & H.Gu gen. nov.

DIAGNOSIS: Armoured cells with a plate formula of Po, X, 4', 2a, 6'', 6C, 4S, 5''', 2''''.

A stalked pyrenoid and a type B eyespot are present. There is a short and rectangular canal plate. The only known species is marine. *Johsia* differs from *Parvodinium* and *Palatinus* in possessing six instead of seven precingular plates and differs from *Peridiniopsis* in an additional apical and intercalary plate.

ETYMOLOGY: The name *Johsia* is after Ernst Johannes Schmidt (1877–1933), who carried out the first survey on dinoflagellates in the inner Gulf of Thailand. *Johs* is an abbreviation of Johannes that was used by Schmidt (1901).

TYPE SPECIES: *Johsia chumphonensis* Z.Luo, Na Wang, K.N.Mertens & H.Gu

*Johsia chumphonensis* Z.Luo, Na Wang, K.N.Mertens & H.Gu sp. nov. (Figs 1–17)

DIAGNOSIS: Cells are 13.5–17.9  $\mu\text{m}$  long and 11.0–16.2  $\mu\text{m}$  wide. The cells have a rounded epitheca and hypotheca. The epitheca is 1.5 times as long as hypotheca in dorsal view. The thecae display a plate formula of Po, cp, X, 4', 2a, 6'', 6C, 4S, 5''', 2''''.

Plate 2a is about half the size of 1a, leading to a slight asymmetry on the dorsal epitheca. Each cell has a single reticulated chloroplast with one multiple-stalked

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pyrenoid. A type B eyespot comprises two rows of lipid globules within a chloroplast with one row of crystals overlying the eyespot. The nucleus is elongated and located posteriorly.

HOLOTYPE: A SEM stub from strain TIO606 designated as 243490 and deposited at Beijing Museum of Natural History, China.

TYPE LOCALITY: Off Chumphon, Gulf of Thailand (99°25'10.54"E, 10°29'40.15"N); collected by Haifeng Gu on August 21 2018; temperature: 28.5 °C, salinity: 33.

ETYMOLOGY: The epithet *chumphonensis* is derived from Chumphon, the town close to the type locality.

DISTRIBUTION: Gulf of Thailand, Hainan (China), Manado (Indonesia), Okinawa (Japan) and Philippines.

GENBANK ACCESSION NUMBER SEQUENCES: MT465325 (SSU rRNA), MT465333 (LSU rRNA) and MT465329 (ITS–5.8S rRNA) of strain TIO606.

### *Description*

Flagellated cells of *Johsia chumphonensis* swam slowly and spun continuously.

Motile (=vegetative) cells often shed parent thecae and naked cells exited through a slit in the hypotheca (Fig. 1). Binary fission took place through eleutheroschisis (Fig. 2) and each daughter cell developed a new theca again. Non-motile cells with a diameter of 11.3–16.6  $\mu\text{m}$  ( $14.4 \pm 1.5 \mu\text{m}$ ,  $n = 20$ ) were formed upon stress (Fig. 3), from which motile cells emerged through an undetermined opening after

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approximately 36 h (Fig. 4). Resting cysts formed spontaneously in culture. They were generally spherical (Fig. 5, Figs S1, S2) with a diameter of 17.8–22.0  $\mu\text{m}$  ( $19.7 \pm 1.4 \mu\text{m}$ ,  $n = 30$ ), but could be ovoid sometimes. The cysts had a brown, smooth and thick wall and were full of granules (Fig. 5). Paratabulation was observed on some cysts (Fig. 6). Sixty newly formed cysts were isolated for germination but only six of them germinated after around two to five days. The archeopyle could not be observed.

Motile cells of *J. chumphonensis* strain TIO606 were 13.5–17.9  $\mu\text{m}$  long ( $15.6 \pm 1.2 \mu\text{m}$ ,  $n = 30$ ) and 11.0–16.2  $\mu\text{m}$  wide ( $14.2 \pm 1.1 \mu\text{m}$ ,  $n = 30$ ). Small cells approximately half the size of vegetative cells were observed (Fig. S3). The cells had a rounded epitheca and hypotheca with a much larger epitheca (Figs 1, 7). There was a round pyrenoid surrounded by starch in the epicone and one pronounced orange eyespot in the sulcal area (Figs 7, 8). There was a single chloroplast forming a network in the periphery of the motile cells (Fig. 9). The nucleus was rounded to elongated and located posteriorly ('N' in Fig. 8 and Fig. S4). The thecal plates were smooth with sometimes pores visible on the outer surface (Fig. 15), although internal views revealed the presence of numerous pores ca. 0.27  $\mu\text{m}$  in diameter (Fig. 12).

Plates 1' and 3' were six-sided and were nearly symmetrical (Figs 10, 11). Plates 2' and 4' were seven-sided (Fig. 11). Plate 3' did not contact plate 4'' in all 34 cells examined. Plate 2a was pentagonal and about half the size of the six-sided 1a (Figs 11, 12). The third precingular plate was four-sided, whereas the others were five-sided (Figs 11, 13). The cingulum was 2.0–3.2  $\mu\text{m}$  wide ( $2.5 \pm 0.4 \mu\text{m}$ ,  $n = 17$ ), situated in the lower part of the cell and descended (levorotary) ca. its width (Fig. 10). The

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cingular plates were similar in size except C1 was relatively smaller (Figs 10, 15).

The apical pore complex was tear-shaped comprising a round pore plate (Po), a round apical pore, a cover plate (cp) and a short rectangular canal plate (X) (Fig. 12). Plates 2''' and 4''' were four-sided whereas the other postcingular plates were five-sided (Fig. 14). The antapical plates (1''', 2''') were five-sided and similar in size (Fig. 14). The sulcus comprised four sulcal plates (Figs 10, 15). Schematic drawings showing the plate pattern of *J. chumphonensis* are provided in Figs S5–S8.

Longitudinal sections through the cells of strain TIO606 showed a posteriorly located nucleus, a multiple-stalked pyrenoid in the epitheca, and marginal chloroplast lobes (Fig. 16). The eyespot comprised two rows of 20–30 lipid globules with one row of elongated crystals overlying the eyespot (Fig. 17). The lipid globules were ~ 75–120 nm in diameter.

*Parvodinium parvulum* (Wołoszyńska) Na Wang, K.N.Mertens & H.Gu comb. nov.  
(Figs 18–23)

BASIONYM: *Peridinium parvulum* Wołoszyńska. [1930. Arch. Hydrobiol. Rybactwa 5, p. 168, fig. 6].

LECTOTYPE, designated here: An illustration of the cell in ventral view in Wołoszyńska (1930: p. 168, fig. 6i), and reproduced here (Fig. S9). The type locality is Java, Indonesia.

Flagellated cells of strain TIO879 were 14.1–24.2 µm long ( $19.8 \pm 2.4$  µm, n = 46) and 12.7–21.1 µm wide ( $16.8 \pm 2.3$  µm, n = 46). The cells had a conical epitheca and

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a rounded hypotheca (Figs S10, S11). There were numerous ribbon-like chloroplasts radiating from the center to the periphery of the cell ('c' in Figs S11, S12). The nucleus was elongated and located posteriorly ('N' in Fig. S13). Coccoid cells, possibly ecdysal stages, were mostly ellipsoid (Fig. S14), 17.7–25.8  $\mu\text{m}$  long ( $23.0 \pm 2.2 \mu\text{m}$ ,  $n = 23$ ), 10.5–16.2  $\mu\text{m}$  wide ( $14.5 \pm 1.5 \mu\text{m}$ ,  $n = 23$ ) but could be spherical as well (Fig. S15). Neither divisions nor rejuvenation of coccoid cells were observed.

The thecae had a plate formula of Po, cp, X, 4', 2a, 7'', 6C, 5S, 5''', 2'''' (Figs 18–23). The epitheca: hypotheca length ratio on the dorsal side was 1.4–2.0 ( $1.89 \pm 0.43$ ,  $n = 10$ ). The thecal plates displayed a polygonal reticulation formed of dots. Some thecal plates bore papillae on the hypotheca (Fig. 22). The arrangement of the epithecal plates was symmetric and showed the *conjunctum* tabulation type. Plate 1' was six-sided and nearly symmetrical (Fig. 18). Plates 2' and 4' were seven-sided and similar in size (Figs 19, 20). There were two five-sided anterior intercalary plates (1a and 2a) of similar size (Fig. 21). There were seven precingular plates, the third and fifth of which were four-sided and the fourth was six-sided (observed in 33 cells), whereas the others were five-sided (Figs 18–20). The cingulum was 2.0–3.1  $\mu\text{m}$  wide ( $2.7 \pm 0.3 \mu\text{m}$ ,  $n = 11$ ), situated in the lower part of the cell and descended ca. half its width (Fig. 23). The cingulum comprised six plates of similar size (Figs 18, 19). The apical pore complex was tear-shaped comprising a round pore plate (Po), a round apical pore, a cover plate (cp) and an elongated canal plate (X) (Fig. 21). Plates 2''' and 3''' were five-sided whereas the other postcingular plates were four-sided (Fig.

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22). The first antapical plate was about half the size of plate 2''' (Fig. 22). The sulcus comprised five sulcal plates (Figs 22, 23).

Longitudinal sections through the vegetative cells of strain TIO879 showed an elongate nucleus situated posteriorly, many ribbon-like chloroplasts radiating from the center to the periphery and many starch grains (Fig. S16). An eyespot was observed in the sulcal region located within a chloroplast lobe comprising four rows of ~ 120 lipid globules (Fig. S17). The lipid globules were 40–80 nm in diameter.

### ***Molecular analysis and phylogeny***

For SSU and LSU (D1–D6) rRNA sequences comparison among *Johsia chumphonensis* strains and *Parvodinium* species, the sequence similarities were above 99.49% (Table S2). The sequence similarities and genetic distances based on ITS–5.8S rRNA sequences ranged from 96.9% to 100% and were less than 0.04 between strains of *J. chumphonensis* (Table S3). The sequence similarities and genetic distances based on ITS–5.8S rRNA sequences were greater than 69.7% and less than 0.32 between *Parvodinium* strains (Table S4).

The maximum likelihood (ML) and Bayesian inference (BI) analysis based on concatenated SSU, ITS–5.8S and partial LSU rRNA sequences yielded similar phylogenetic trees. The BI tree is illustrated in Fig. 24. The family Peridiniopsidaceae comprised the genera *Johsia*, *Peridiniopsis*, *Palatinus* and *Parvodinium* with strong Bayesian posterior probability (0.99 BPP) and high ML bootstrap support (100 BS), which formed a sister clade of the family Peridiniaceae and genera *Vulcanodinium*

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and *Caladoa* Z.Luo, K.N.Mertens & H.Gu with low support (<0.9 BPP/78 BS). There were two sister clades within family Peridiniopsidaceae. One of them comprised genera *Johsia*, *Peridiniopsis*, *Palatinus* and the other consisted of *Parvodinium*. The genus *Johsia* was monophyletic with maximal support (1.0 BPP/100 BS), which was the sister clade of *Peridiniopsis borgei* and the strain UTEX1948 identified as “*Scripsiella*” *hexapraecingula* with maximal support. Together, they formed a sister clade to *Palatinus* with strong support (0.91 BPP/100 BS). *Parvodinium* was monophyletic as well with strong Bayesian posterior probability (0.99 BPP) and high ML bootstrap support (100 BS). There were two sister clades within *Parvodinium*. One of them included *P. umbonatum* only and another comprised other *Parvodinium* species with maximal support. *Parvodinium parvulum* strain TIO879 was the sister clade of *Parvodinium inconspicuum* (Lemmermann) Carty (GenBank accession number: FR865631) and *Parvodinium elpatiewskyi* (Ostenfeld) Kretschmann, Zerdoner & Gottschling (GenBank accession number: MN604293) with maximal support. They formed a sister clade of *Parvodinium trawinskii* Kretschmann, Owsiany, Zerdoner & Gottschling and *Parvodinium mixtum* Kretschmann, Owsiany, Zerdoner & Gottschling with maximal support. In addition, they formed a sister clade of *Parvodinium marciniakii* Kretschmann, Owsiany, Zerdoner & Gottschling with maximal support.

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## Discussion

### **Johsia chumphonensis**

Strain TIO606 has an unusual epitheca that is otherwise found only in species of *Durinskia* Carty & El.R.Cox (Yamada *et al.*, 2017; Kretschmann *et al.*, 2018c), some pfiesterians e.g., *Aduncodinium glandulum* N.S.Kang, H.J.Jeong, & Moestrup, *Luciella masanensis* P.L.Mason, H.J.Jeong, Litaker, Reece & Steidinger (Mason *et al.*, 2007; Kang *et al.*, 2015), *Heterocapsa steinii* Tillmann, Gottschling, Hoppenrath, Kusber & Elbrächter (Tillmann *et al.*, 2017) and *Bagredinium crenulatum* (Couté & A.Iltis) K.P.Da, Zongo, Mascarell & Couté (Da *et al.*, 2004). In the published molecular trees, the phylogenetic positions of these species are always nested within their corresponding species groups. Strain TIO606 shares similar morphology with *Durinskia* but the latter has five cingular plates instead of six (Carty & Cox, 1986). Strain TIO606 differs from *Parvodinium* and *Palatinus* in possessing six instead of seven precingular plates, from *Peridiniopsis* in possessing an additional apical and intercalary plate. Strain TIO606 also differs from *Peridinium* in the number of cingular plates (6C vs 5C) and anterior intercalary plates (2a vs 3a), from *Thompsodinium* Bourrelly in the number of anterior intercalary plates (2a vs 3a) (Bourrelly, 1968; Carty, 1989), and from “*Scrippsiella*” *hexapraecingula* in the loss of one intercalary plate (Horiguchi & Chihara, 1983). The freshwater species *Bagredinium crenulatum* has only five cingular plates and different sizes of the intercalaries (Da *et al.*, 2004).

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*Heterocapsa steinii* shares identical plate pattern with that of strain TIO606 except that the former has five sulcal plates instead of four in the latter (Tillmann *et al.*, 2017). Moreover, *H. steinii* has a large anterior sulcal plate deeply intruding the epitheca, which is similar in height to its other precingular plates. Strain TIO606 has a large anterior sulcal plate as well, but it does not intrude the epitheca as deep as in *Heterocapsa steinii*. In addition, *Heterocapsa steinii* lacks an eyespot (Tillmann *et al.*, 2017).

Considering the rare plate pattern, two unequal anterior intercalary plates as well as a type B eyespot, we erect a new genus *Johsia* to incorporate strain TIO606 and related strains. *Johsia chumphonensis* is reported from the Gulf of Thailand, Manado of Indonesia, Hainan Island of China in the present study, as well as in Okinawa, Japan, Sribu Archipelago, Indonesia and Masinloc Bay, Philippines (Prabowo, 2015), suggesting that this species is widely distributed in subtropical and tropical waters of Asia.

#### ***Attribution of strain TIO879 to Parvodinium parvulum***

Strain TIO879 fits the description of *Parvodinium* (Carty, 2008). However, strain TIO879 does not show any antapical protuberance, thus can be separated from *Parvodinium trawinskii*, *P. marciniakii*, *Parvodinium africanum* (Lemmermann) Carty, *P. deflandrei* (Lefèvre) Carty, *P. goslaviense* (Wołoszyńska) Carty, *P. marchicum* Lemmermann and *P. minusculum* Er. Lindemann which demonstrate one to three antapical spines (Lemmermann, 1910; Wołoszyńska, 1916; Lindemann, 1918;

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Carty, 2008; Kretschmann *et al.*, 2018b). Strain TIO879 shares unequal antapical plates with *Parvodinium belizense* (Carty) Carty and *Parvodinium dzieduszyckii* (Wołoszyńska) Moestrup (Wołoszyńska, 1916; Carty & Wujek, 2003), but the latter two species have a more conical epitheca. Moreover, *Parvodinium dzieduszyckii* is much larger (34–40  $\mu\text{m}$  vs 14.1–24.2  $\mu\text{m}$  long) and has an equatorial cingulum. Strain TIO879 is morphologically close to *Parvodinium mixtum* but differs in the unequal antapical plates.

*Parvodinium inconspicuum* was reported to have three antapical spines and unequal antapical plates (Lemmermann, 1910), but some specimens without antapical protuberance were identified as *P. inconspicuum* as well (Hansen & Flaim, 2007).

Therefore, several species lacking antapical spines, such as *Peridinium javanicum* (Bernard, 1908) and *Peridinium parvulum* (Wołoszyńska, 1930) were postulated to be junior synonyms of *Parvodinium inconspicuum* (Moestrup & Calado, 2018).

However, *P. inconspicuum* from the localities where the type was described from Chatham Islands (New Zealand), Molokai and Oahu (Hawaii - no single locality was denoted for the type by Lemmermann, 1899) corresponding to the protologue has not been examined using modern techniques, and whether specimens of *P. inconspicuum* with variable morphology (Hansen & Flaim, 2007) are genetically identical remain to be determined. A putative *Parvodinium inconspicuum* strain CCAP 1140/3 shares 98.26% similarity with strain TIO879 in ITS–5.8S rRNA sequence, but its detailed morphology is not available (Tardio *et al.*, 2009). Another putative *Parvodinium inconspicuum* strain intermingles with *P. mixtum* and *P. trawinskii*. These three

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species are morphologically similar but differ in the number of antapical spines.

Strain TIO879 has the same outline, growth bands, size, tabulation as *Peridinium parvulum* which was originally described from tropical Asia (Wołoszyńska, 1930). Moreover, both can bear papillae on the hypotheca and the dissimilar size of the antapical plates is also very similar. Strain TIO879 differs from *Peridinium javanicum* (Fig. S18) and *Peridinium caudatum* var. *morsum* (Playfair) Playfair (Fig. S19) in that the latter two species have a more flattened antapex (Bernard, 1908; Playfair, 1919). However, some cells of *Peridinium parvulum* also have a flattened antapex (fig. 6b, Wołoszyńska, 1930), thus it might be a junior synonym of *Peridinium javanicum* since they are morphologically similar and described from the same area (Java Island, Indonesia); a study from the type locality would be necessary. These three species have been considered as junior synonyms of *Parvodinium inconspicuum* (Moestrup & Calado, 2018) but we attribute strain TIO879 to *Peridinium parvulum* and transfer it to *Parvodinium*. To fully understand the relationship between *Parvodinium parvulum* and *Peridinium javanicum*, specimens from the type locality need to be examined carefully in the future.

### ***Cocoid cells***

Cocoid cells were observed in cultures of *Parvodinium parvulum*, and formed by *Parvodinium marciniakii*, *Parvodinium trawinskii*, *Parvodinium mixtum*, and *Palatinus apiculatus* (Ehrenberg) Craveiro, Calado, Daugbjerg & Moestrup as well (Craveiro *et al.*, 2009; Kretschmann *et al.*, 2018a; Kretschmann *et al.*, 2018b). Unlike

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“*Scrippsiella*” *hexapraecingula* which possesses an asexual life cycle in which a motile phase alternates with a coccoid phase in culture (Horiguchi & Chihara, 1983), the coccoid cells of *Parvodinium parvulum* neither divide nor rejuvenate. Coccoid cells have also been observed for *Parvodinium elpatiewskyi* (Li *et al.*, 2015, as *Peridiniopsis elpatiewskyi* Ostenfeld), *Peridiniopsis amazonica* B.Meyer (Meyer *et al.*, 1997), *Peridiniopsis borgei* (Entz, 1926, as *Peridinium borgei* Lemmermann; Li *et al.*, 2015, misidentified as *Peridiniopsis cristata* var. *tubilifera* Couté, Perrette & Chomérat). These coccoid cells were encountered in the field samples and can be considered resting cysts.

The life cycle of *Johsia chumphonensis* appears complex. *Johsia chumphonensis* shed the theca through the hypothecal opening and binary division occurs outside the theca, as also reported in an unidentified *Parvodinium* species (Sako *et al.*, 1986) and *Peridinium sanguineum* H.J.Carter (Pfiester & Anderson, 1987). It is interesting to note that *J. chumphonensis* generate two kinds of coccoid cells in cultures differing in the size and wall thickness. Both have a dormancy period before germination thus could be considered resting cysts. The small cysts are apparently asexual but the large cysts are probably sexual as they are larger than the vegetative cells (19.7 vs 15.6  $\mu\text{m}$ ). Small potential gametes were observed as reported previously (Pfiester *et al.*, 1984; Sako *et al.*, 1986) although sexual fusion was not observed. Sexual cysts were generated by *Parvodinium inconspicuum* in culture (Pfiester *et al.*, 1984), but not detailed in *Parvodinium umbonatum* (Zhang *et al.*, 2011). Cysts of *Johsia chumphonensis* differ from those of *P. umbonatum* and *P. inconspicuum* in that they

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are rounded, not pyriform to ovoid (Chu *et al.*, 2008; Tardio *et al.*, 2009).

### ***Eyespot***

Seven types of eyespot are known in dinoflagellates, including the complex ocelloid of the Warnowiaceae (Greuet, 1987; Moestrup & Daugbjerg, 2007; Craveiro *et al.*, 2010). Type A is characterized by one to several layers of opaque globules inside a chloroplast. Type B is similar to type A except an additional overlying vesicle containing crystal-like structures. The eyespot of *J. chumphonensis* is located within the chloroplast and consists of two rows of lipid globules with one row of elongated crystals overlying, and thus was identified as a type B eyespot. In contrast, the eyespot of *Parvodinium parvulum* consists of four rows of lipid globules without overlying crystals, thus was identified as a type A eyespot. A prominent eyespot has been reported in other *Parvodinium* species (Kretschmann *et al.*, 2018b), but this is the first time that a type A eyespot is confirmed. This is consistent with the finding of a type A eyespot in other species of family Peridiniopsidaceae, such as *Palatinus apiculatus* (Craveiro *et al.*, 2009). A type B eyespot in *J. chumphonensis* is not surprising since a type B eyespot was also reported in *Peridiniopsis borgei* (Calado & Moestrup, 2002) and both types may occur in species of the same genus such as *Bysmatrum* (Dawut *et al.*, 2018; Luo *et al.*, 2018). A type A eyespot was also reported in *Peridinium cinctum*, the type species of family Peridiniaceae (Spector & Triemer, 1979), supporting its systematic significance at family or higher taxonomic level (Lindberg *et al.*, 2005). Likewise, a type C, D and E eyespot was reported exclusively in

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Tovelliaceae, Kryptoperidiniaceae and Suessiales (Moestrup & Daugbjerg, 2007).

***Phylogenetic positions of marine *Johsia* and “*Scrippsiella*” *hexapraecingula****

The family Peridiniopsidaceae now includes genera *Parvodinium*, *Palatinus*, *Peridiniopsis* and *Johsia* as well. However, the strain UTEX1948 identified as “*Scrippsiella*” *hexapraecingula* collected from a tide-pool of Los Angeles, USA is also nested within the Peridiniopsidaceae (Kretschmann *et al.*, 2018a; present study). The strain UTEX1948 was originally identified as *Peridinium sociale* (Henneguy) Biecheler (Starr, 1978), but later it was reexamined and believed to be close to “*Scrippsiella*” *hexapraecingula* which has three anterior intercalary plates (Horiguchi & Chihara, 1983). “*Scrippsiella*” *hexapraecingula* has six precingular plates and a type A eyespot in the sulcal area (Horiguchi & Chihara, 1983; Horiguchi *et al.*, 1999). Instead *Scrippsiella* usually has seven precingular plates (Gottschling *et al.*, 2005; Luo *et al.*, 2016), therefore, a new name might be needed to incorporate “*Scrippsiella*” *hexapraecingula*. “*Scrippsiella*” *hexapraecingula* is comparably closely related to *Johsia* in the molecular phylogeny, which is consistent with the fact that they share six precingular plates compared to seven in *Palatinus* and *Parvodinium* (Fig. 24).

The marine-freshwater boundary is a barrier in the evolutionary diversification of dinoflagellates but marine-to-freshwater transitions are now considered frequent in dinoflagellates (Čalasan *et al.*, 2019). Peridiniopsidaceae was reported to originate prior to the Cretaceous-Paleogene boundary and its diversification may have started in the late Cretaceous (Čalasan *et al.*, 2019). It is interesting to note that the marine

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*Johsia chumphonensis* and “*Scrippsiella*” *hexapraeicingula* are nested within the mainly freshwater Peridiniopsidaceae. Re-colonization of marine water by *Johsia chumphonensis* and “*Scrippsiella*” *hexapraeicingula* is possible, considering that both have a coccoid phase (Horiguchi & Chihara, 1983; present study), which may help them to survive the transition. A recent transition was reported for *Huia caspica*, which is known to inhabit both marine and freshwater (Gu *et al.*, 2016).

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## Author contributions

Z. Luo: microscopy, drafting and editing manuscript; K. N. Mertens: drafting and editing manuscript; H. Gu: original concept, drafting and editing manuscript; N. Wang: microscopy, sequencing and editing manuscript; Yiran Wu: sampling, editing manuscript; P. Uttayarnmanee: sampling and editing manuscript; M. Pransilpa: sampling, editing manuscript; K. A. Roeroe: sampling, editing manuscript.

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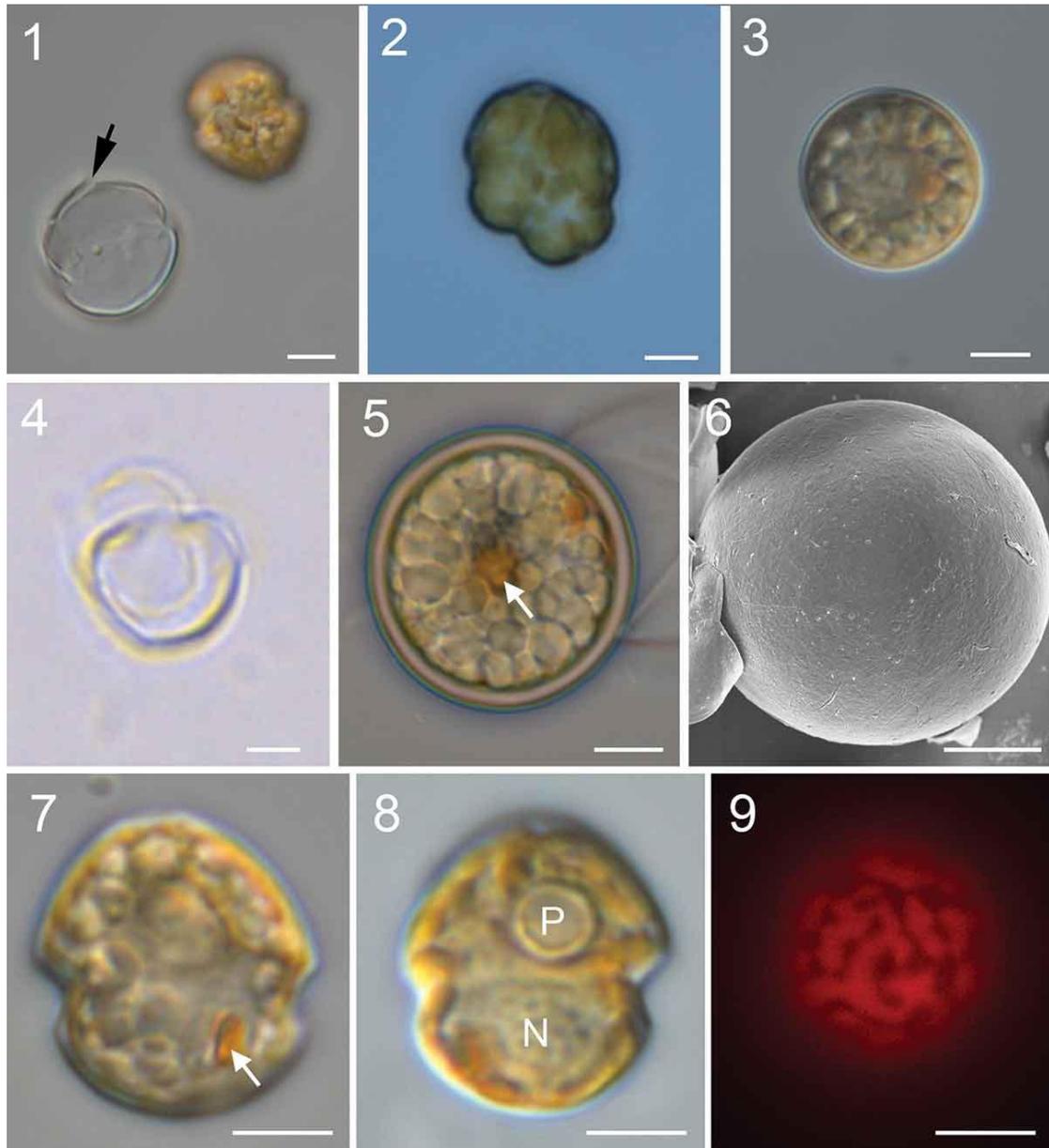
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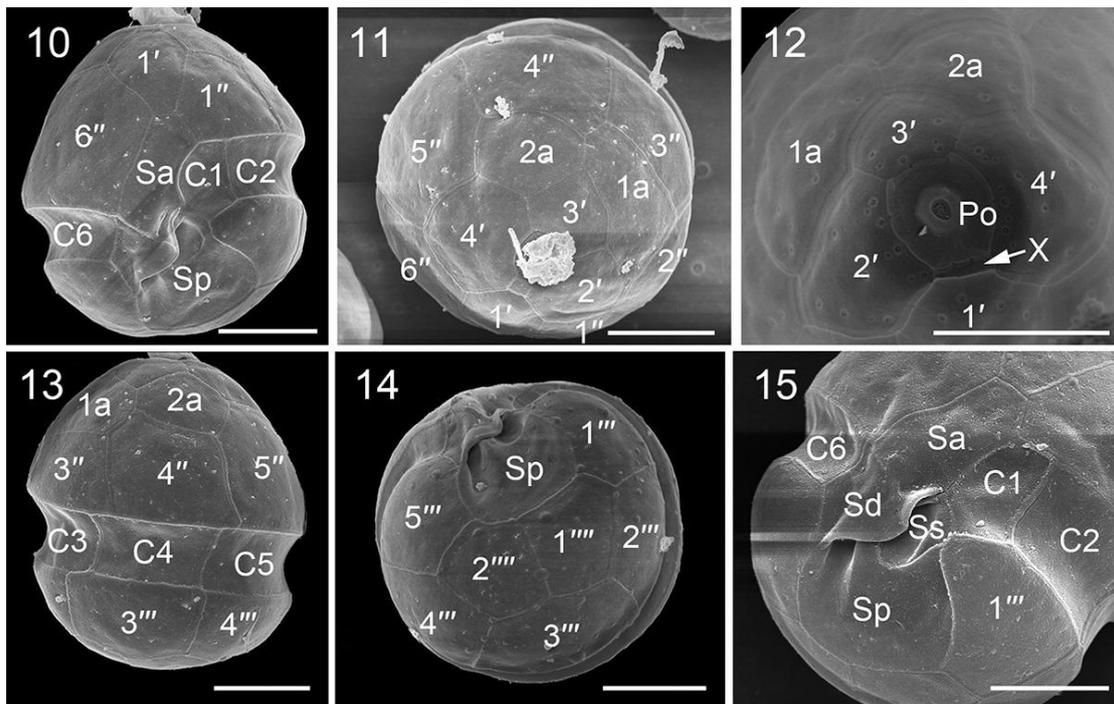
**Figs 1–9.** Micrographs of *Johsia chumphonensis* strain TIO606. (**Figs 1–5, 7–9**) light microscopy. (**Fig. 6**) Scanning electron microscopy. **Fig. 1.** An empty theca showing the rupture (arrow) and a newly released athecate cell. **Fig. 2.** A dividing cell. **Fig. 3.** A small coccoid cell. **Fig. 4.** An empty small coccoid cell. **Fig. 5.** A spherical cyst showing numerous granules and an accumulation body (arrow). **Fig. 6.** Cyst showing paratabulation. **Fig. 7.** Ventral view showing a rounded epitheca and hypotheca with a prominent eyespot (arrow). **Fig. 8.** Dorsal view showing a ring like pyrenoid (P) and a round nucleus (N). **Fig. 9.** Epifluorescence image of a cell in ventral view showing the single reticulate chloroplast in the periphery of the cell. Scale bars = 5  $\mu\text{m}$ .



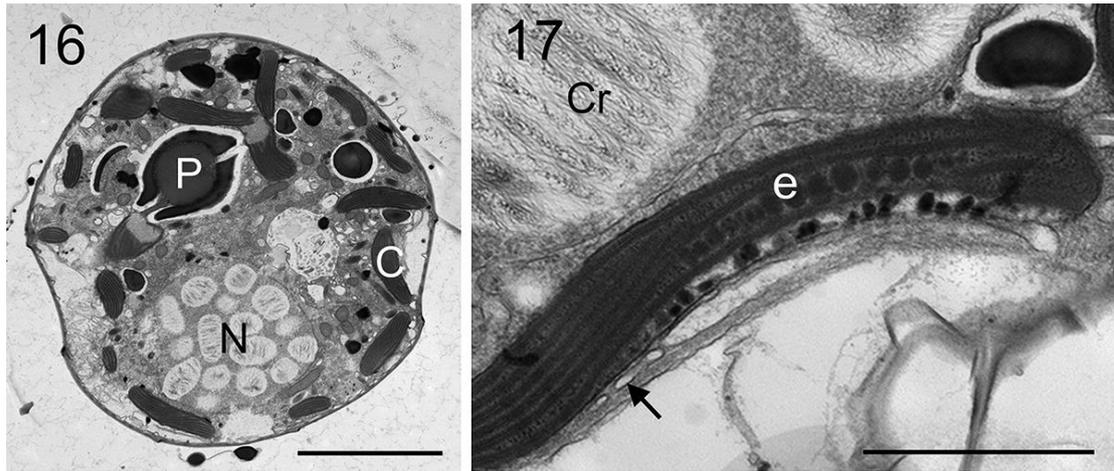
**Figs 10–15.** Scanning electron micrographs of vegetative cells of *Johsia*

*chumphonensis* strain TIO606. **Fig. 10.** Ventral view showing the first apical plate (1'), anterior sulcal plate (Sa), posterior sulcal plate (Sp), and three circular plates (C1, C2, C6). **Fig. 11.** Apical view showing four apical plates, two anterior intercalary plates (1a, 2a) and six precingular plates (1'' – 6''). **Fig. 12.** Internal apical view showing pore plate and canal plate (X). **Fig. 13.** Dorsal

view showing two anterior intercalary plates, three precingular plates, three cingular plates and two postcingular plates (3''', 4'''). **Fig. 14.** Antapical view showing five postcingular plates and two antapical plates (1''', 2''') of similar size. **Fig. 15.** Sulcal area showing Sa plate, right sulcal plate (Sd), left sulcal plate (Ss), and Sp plate. Scale bars = 5  $\mu$ m.



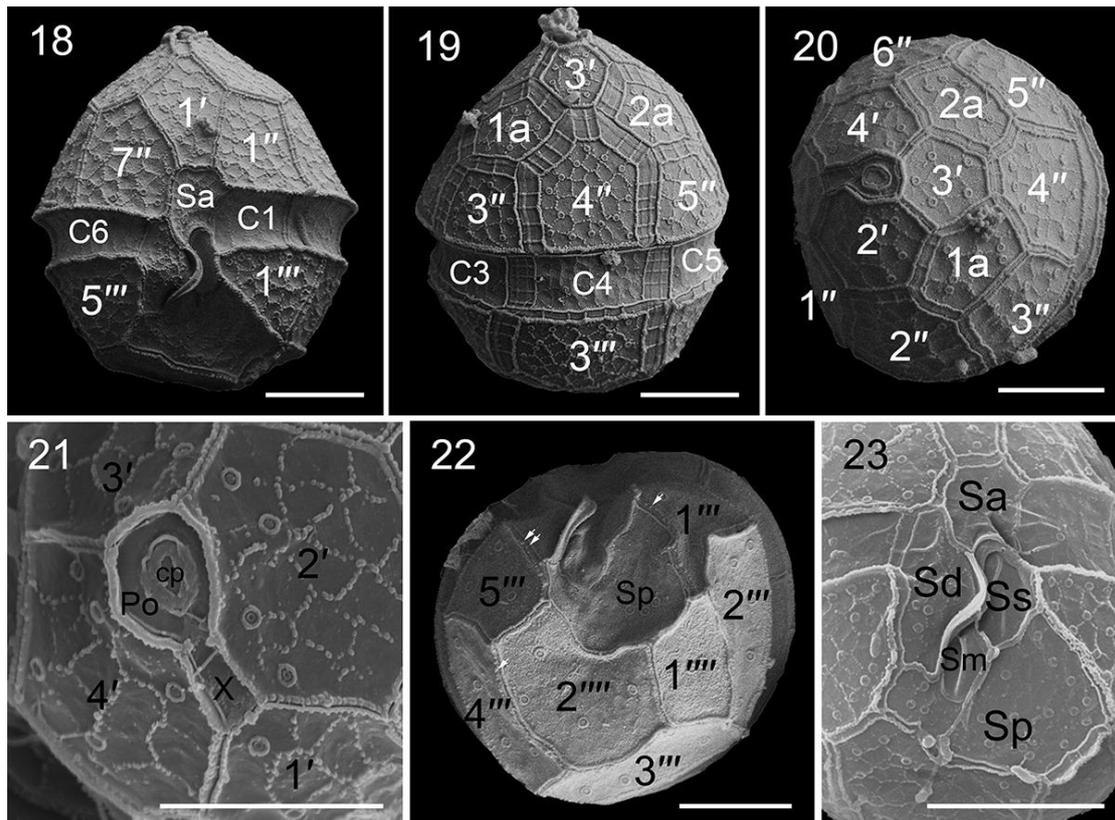
**Figs 16, 17.** Transmission electron micrographs of vegetative cells of *Johsia chumphonensis* strain TIO606. **Fig. 16.** Longitudinal sections through the cell showing a large nucleus (N), a stalked pyrenoid (P), and chloroplast lobes in the periphery of the cell (C). **Fig. 17.** The eyespot (e) located within a chloroplast lobe comprising two rows of globular lipids with elongated crystals overlying (arrow), neighbouring a nucleus with many chromosomes (Cr). Scale: Fig. 16 = 5  $\mu$ m; Fig. 17 = 1  $\mu$ m.



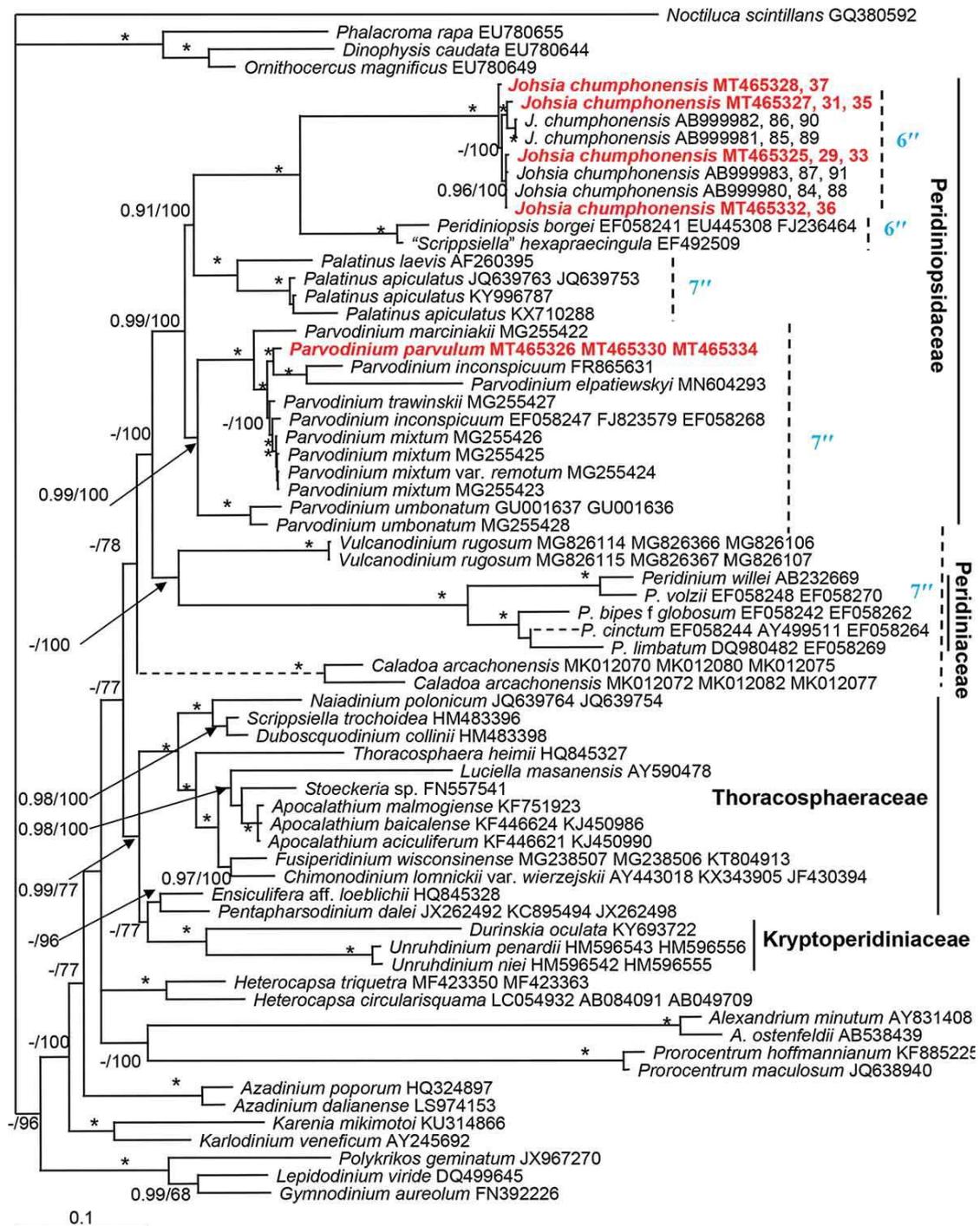
**Figs 18–23.** Scanning electron micrographs of vegetative cells of *Parvodium*

*parvulum* strain TIO879. **Fig. 18.** Ventral view showing the first apical plate, anterior sulcal plate (Sa), and three cingular plates (C1, C2, C6). **Fig. 19.** Dorsal view showing two anterior intercalary plates (1a, 2a), three precingular plates (3''–5''), three cingular plates (C3–C5) and third postcingular plate (3'''). **Fig. 20.** Apical view showing three apical plates (2'–4'), two anterior intercalary plates and six precingular plates (1''–6''). **Fig. 21.** Apical view showing four apical plates, pore plate (Po), cover plate (cp), canal plate (X) and apical pore. **Fig. 22.** Antapical view showing five postcingular plates (1'''–5'''), two antapical plates (1''', 2''') of unequal size and numerous papillae (arrows). **Fig. 23.** Sulcal area showing Sa plate, Sd plate, Ss plate, Sm plate and Sp plate.

Scale bars = 5  $\mu$ m.



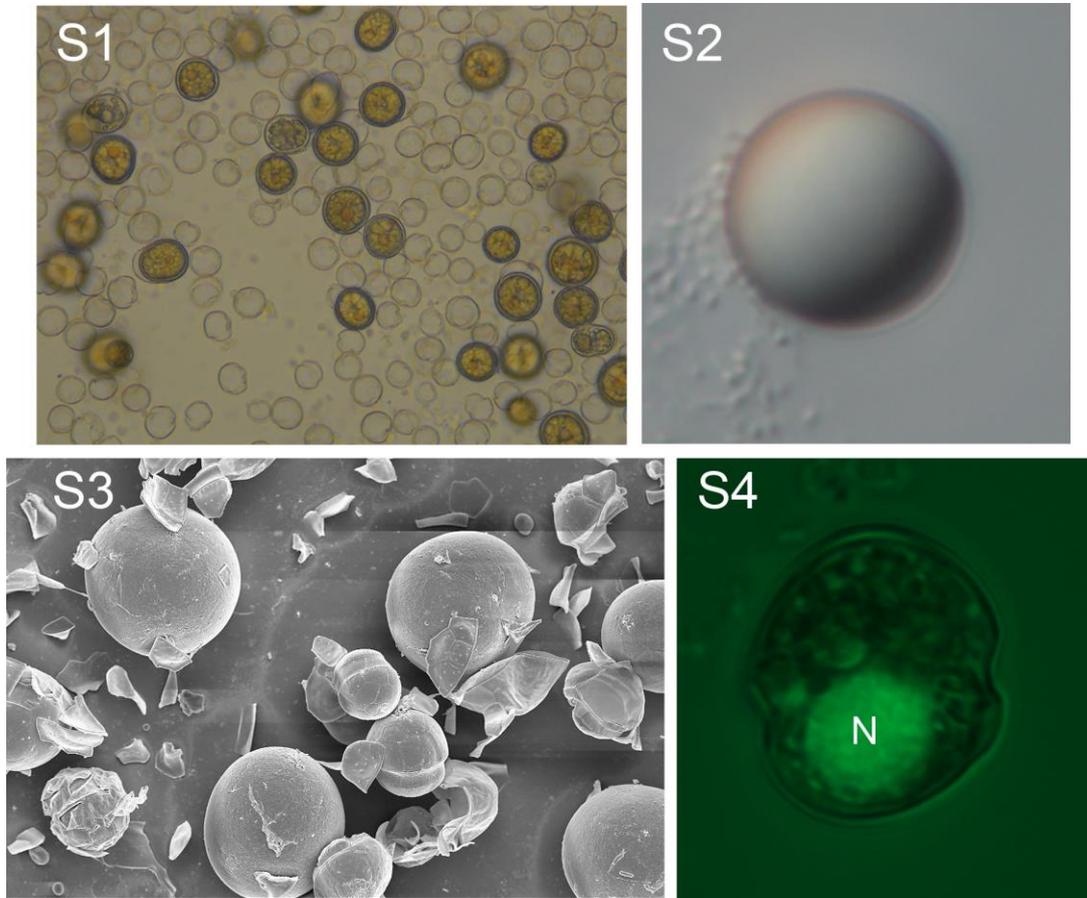
**Fig. 24.** Phylogeny of *Johsia chumphonensis* and *Parvodinium parvulum* inferred from concatenated SSU, ITS–5.8S and partial LSU rRNA (D1–D6) sequences using Bayesian inference (BI). New sequences are indicated in red. Branch lengths are drawn to scale, with the scale bar indicating the number of nucleotide substitutions per site. Numbers on branches are statistical support values to clusters on the right of them (left: Bayesian posterior probabilities (BPP); right: maximum likelihood (ML) bootstrap support (BS) values. Bootstrap support values >50% and Bayesian posterior probabilities above 0.9 are shown. Asterisk indicates maximal support (ML BS = 100% and BPP = 1.00).



**Figs S1–S4.** Light and scanning electron micrographs of vegetative cells and cysts of *Johsia chumphonensis* strain TIO606. **Fig. S1.** Numerous cysts and empty thecae in old culture. **Fig. S2.** An empty cyst. **Fig. S3.** Cysts and a potential gamete (arrow). **Fig. S4.** Epifluorescence image of a SYBR Green-stained cell

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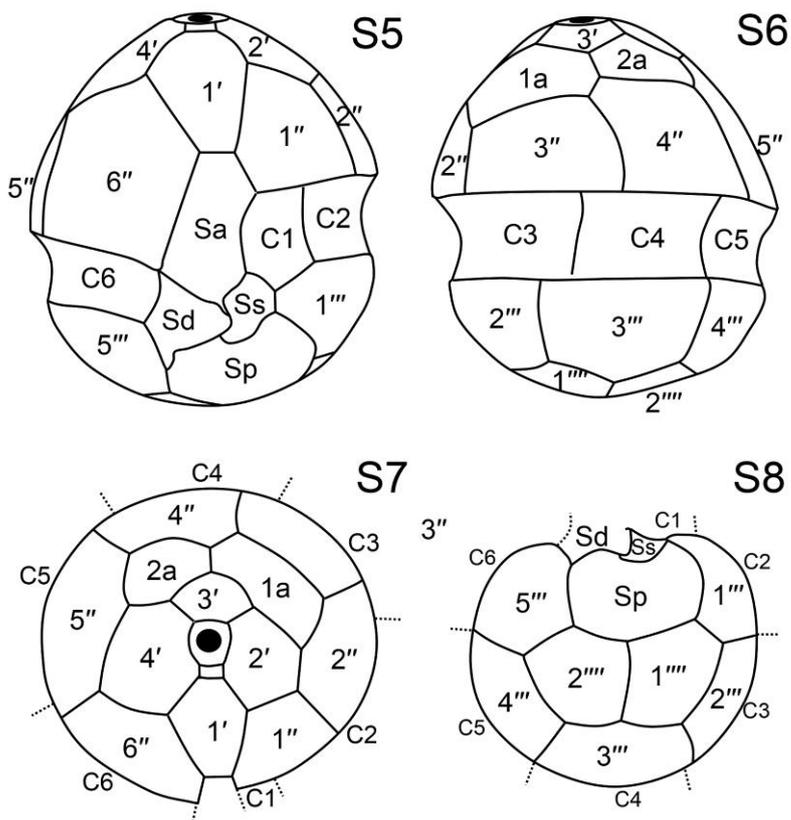
showing a round nucleus (N). Scale: Fig. S1 = 50  $\mu\text{m}$ ; Figs S2, S4 = 5  $\mu\text{m}$ ; Fig. S3 = 10  $\mu\text{m}$ .



**Figs S5–S8.** Schematic drawings of thecal plate patterns of *Johsia chumphonensis*.

**Fig. S5.** Ventral view. **Fig. S6.** Dorsal view. **Fig. S7.** Apical view. **Fig. S8.**

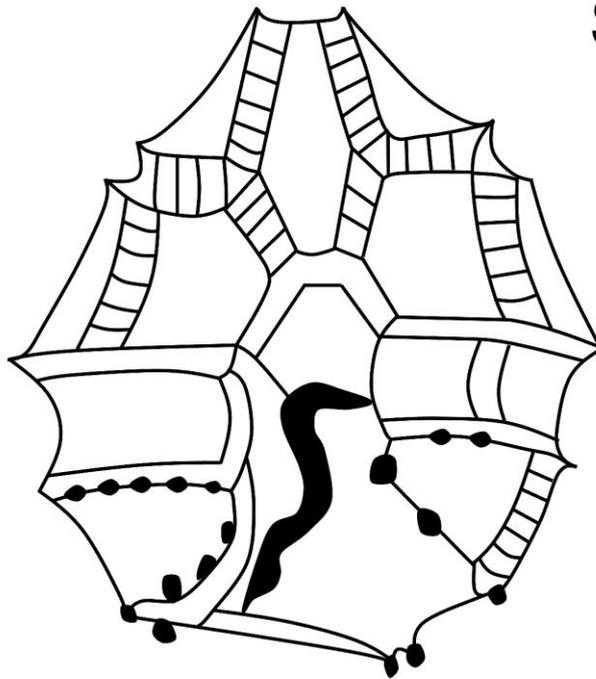
Antapical view.



**Fig. S9.** Schematic drawing of *Peridinium parvulum* (redrawn from Wołoszyńska 1930).

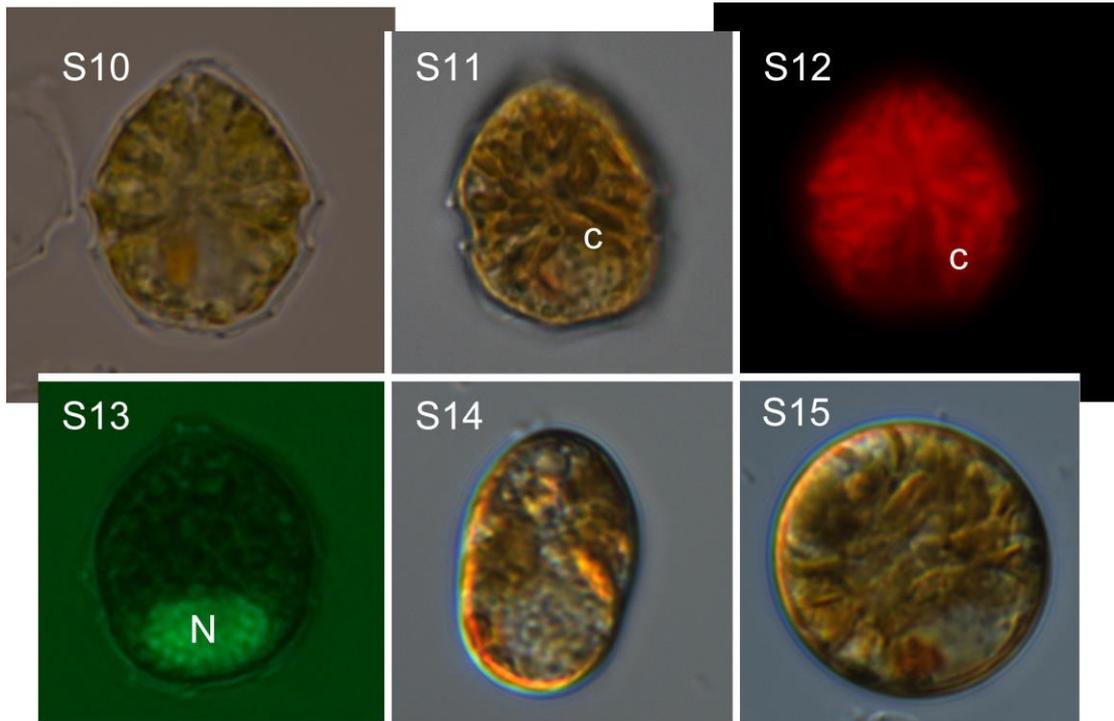
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S9

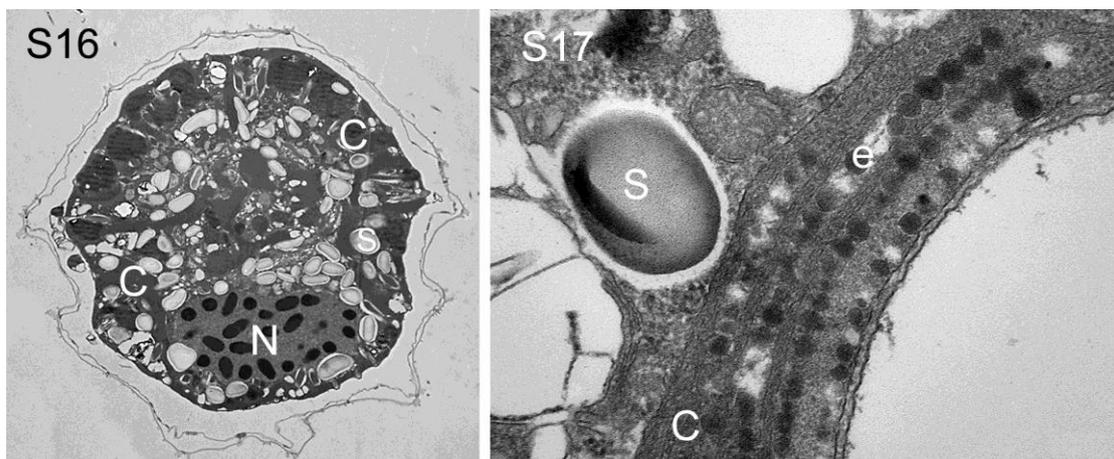


**Figs S10–S15.** Light micrographs of cells of *Parvodinium parvulum* strain TIO879.

**Fig. S10.** Ventral view showing a rounded epitheca and hypotheca with a prominent eyespot (arrow). **Fig. S11.** Dorsal view showing radially arranged chloroplasts (C). **Fig. S12.** Epifluorescence image of a cell in ventral view showing radial arranged chloroplasts. **Fig. S13.** Epifluorescence image of a SYBR Green-stained cell showing an elongated nucleus (N). **Fig. S14.** An ellipsoid coccooid cell. **Fig. S15.** A spherical coccooid cell showing granules and chloroplasts inside. Scale bars = 5  $\mu\text{m}$ .



**Figs S16, S17.** Transmission electron micrographs of vegetative cells of *Parvodium parvulum* strain TIO879. **Fig. S16.** Longitudinal sections through the vegetative cell showing a large nucleus (N), radial chloroplasts (C) and starch grains (S). **Fig. S17.** The eyespot (e) located within a chloroplast (c) comprising four rows of globular lipids. Scale: Fig. S16 = 5  $\mu\text{m}$ ; Fig. S17 = 1  $\mu\text{m}$ .



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**Figs S18, S19.** Schematic drawing of *Peridinium javanicum* (redrawn from Bernard, 1908) and *Peridinium caudatum* var. *morsum* (redrawn from Playfair, 1919).

