

Taxonomic note – The status of *Sphenolithus strigosus* Bown & Dunkley Jones, 2006

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- Sphenolithus strigosus* Bown & Dunkley Jones, 2006
- 1989 *Sphenolithus furcatolithoides* Locker, 1967 subsp. *labradorensis* Firth: p. 277, pl. 2, figs 15, 16; pl. 3, figs 1–4.
- 2006 *Sphenolithus strigosus* Bown & Dunkley Jones: p. 23, pl. 8, figs 6–15.
- 2006 *Sphenolithus runus* Bown & Dunkley Jones: p. 23, pl. 8, figs 16–24.
- 2014 *Sphenolithus labradorensis* (Firth, 1989): Aubry, stat. nov., p. 150, 282 (invalid under *ICN* Art. 41.6—full and direct reference to the basionym must be made—and under *ICN* Art. 11.2—a name has no priority outside its rank).
- 2021 *Sphenolithus labradorensis* (Firth, 1989): Howe, stat. nov., p. 53, pl. 2, figs 7–10 (invalid under *ICN* Art. 11.2—a name has no priority outside its rank).

Discussion

In cases where the same species is interpreted to have been described more than once in a paper, Article 11.5 of the *International Code of Nomenclature (ICN) for algae, fungi and plants* (Turland et al., 2018) applies. This states that, “When, for any taxon at the rank of family or below, a choice is possible between legitimate names of equal priority at the corresponding rank, or between available final epithets of names of equal priority at the corresponding rank, the first such choice to be effectively published (Art. 29–31) establishes the priority of the chosen name, and of any legitimate combination with the same type and final epithet at that rank, over the other competing name(s)”.

The names *Sphenolithus runus* and *S. strigosus* were published in the same article (Bown & Dunkley Jones, 2006) and so have equal priority. Howe (2021) considered that the holotype of *S. runus* was a specimen of *S. strigosus*, oriented with the median suture of the bifid spine parallel, or slightly oblique to, the plane of the slide, rather

than orthogonal to the plane of the slide, as in the holotype image of *S. strigosus*, and in which orientation, the median suture of the bifid spine is visible. Accordingly, *S. runus* has been interpreted to be a junior synonym of *S. strigosus*. This taxonomic note serves to give priority to *S. strigosus* over *S. runus* under Art. 11.5 of the *ICN*.

The earlier description of *S. furcatolithoides* subsp. *labradorensis* by Firth (1989) is clearly the same species as *S. strigosus*, but under *ICN* Art. 11.2, a name has no priority outside its rank, so as a subspecies, *S. furcatolithoides* subsp. *labradorensis* does not have priority over *S. strigosus*. Had *S. furcatolithoides* subsp. *labradorensis* been raised to species rank at any time before the publication of *S. strigosus*, it would have had priority, but as this has not been done, *S. strigosus* has priority.

References

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