



On the systematic position of the genus *Timmiella* (Dicranidae, Bryopsida) and its allied genera, with the description of a new family Timmiellaceae

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Abstract

Based on our molecular phylogenetic analysis of haplolepidous mosses with concatenated sequences of chloroplast *rps4* and *rbcL* genes, a new family Timmiellaceae is erected to accommodate the genera *Timmiella* and *Luisierella*, both of which have been formerly included in the family Pottiaceae. The family Timmiellaceae is resolved as a second-branching clade together with *Distichium* (Distichiaceae) within the Dicranidae (haplolepidous moss) lineages and phylogenetically distinct from the Pottiaceae. Reassessment of morphological characters suggests that a combination of the characters: 1) adaxially bulging and abaxially flat leaf surfaces, 2) sinistrorse or straight peristomes, when present, and 3) sinistrorsely arranged operculum cells is unique to Timmiellaceae and discriminates it from other haplolepidous moss families.

Introduction

The genus *Timmiella* (De Notaris 1865: 100) Limpricht (1888: 590) is a haplolepidous moss which has been placed in the family Pottiaceae Schimper (1856: 24) since it was first described as a section of the genus *Trichostomum* Bruch in Müller (1829: 396) by De Notaris (1865). Although many authors have placed the genus in the subfamily Trichostomoideae (Schimper 1860: 141) Brotherus (1902: 381) of the Pottiaceae (Limpricht 1888, Brotherus 1902, 1924a, Hilpert 1933, Chen 1941, Podpěra 1954, Saito 1975, Corley *et al.* 1981, Walther 1983), the systematic position of the genus has been questioned because of its unique morphological characters [e.g. denticulate to dentate leaf margins, bistratose lamina, adaxially bulging and abaxially flat lamina, and sinistrorse peristomes (twisted to the left when viewed from the side)]. These characters indicate that it has a different evolutionary line from the other genera of Trichostomoideae as noted by Saito (1975). Based on cladistic analysis using morphological characters, Zander (1993) established the subfamily Timmielloideae Zander (1993: 68) with its sole genus *Timmiella*.

Recent molecular phylogenetic studies have suggested the exclusion of *T. anomala* (Bruch & Schimper 1842: 196) Limpricht (1888: 592) or *T. crassinervis* (Hampe 1860: 456) Koch (1950: 11) from the Pottiaceae and their repositioning as an early-diversing clade within the Dicranidae Ochyra (2003: 104) (haplolepidous mosses) (La Farge *et al.* 2000, 2002, Werner *et al.* 2004, Hedderson *et al.* 2004, Tsubota *et al.* 2004, Wahrmond *et al.* 2009, 2010, Cox *et al.* 2010). However, *Timmiella* was retained as a member of the Pottiaceae because of its morphological affinity to the family, especially the distinctive twisted peristome (Zander 2006, 2007). No taxonomic changes had been made based on the monophyletic groupings because the phylogenetic position of the genus in the early-diversing haplolepidous mosses remained to be fully resolved.

In the present study, the phylogenetic position and taxonomic treatment of *Timmiella* and its allied genera are reassessed based on phylogenetic analysis with concatenated sequences of chloroplast ribosomal protein S4 (*rps4*) and ribulose 1,5-bisphosphate carboxylase/oxygenase large subunit (*rbcL*) genes. We also discuss morphological characters that support the monophyly inferred from our analysis.

in both adaxial and abaxial surfaces in *Distichium*, whereas in *Timmiella* + *Luisierella* they are restricted to adaxial surface.

The family Distichiaceae was originally proposed by Schimper (1860) to include *Distichium* and *Eustichium* Bruch & Schimper (1849: 159) [= *Bryoxiphium* Mitten (1869: 24)], and later Limpricht (1887) placed *Distichium* in Ditrichaceae Limpricht (1887). Due to its universal acceptance, Magill (1977) proposed Ditrichaceae as a conserved name against Distichiaceae and Ceratodontaceae Schimper (1860), and this proposal was adopted in the Berlin Code (Greuter *et al.* 1988). From our study, the resultant tree suggests that *Distichium* should be treated as a distinct family from the other genera of Ditrichaceae. The family name Distichiaceae can be used to accommodate *Distichium*, because Distichiaceae and Ditrichaceae are heterotypic synonyms and either can be adopted as correct names when they are considered distinct from each other (Art 14.6, in ICN, Melbourne, McNeill *et al.* 2012).

Taxonomy

Based on phylogenetic and morphological distinctions from the other haplolepidous moss families, we concluded that *Timmiella* and *Luisierella* are excluded from Pottiaceae and warrant accommodation within a new family. However, from the results no final decision regarding the order within which these families are accommodated can be made. Further analyses based on increased taxa, especially polyphyletic families such as Dicranaceae Schimper (1856: 11), Ditrichaceae and Oncophoraceae Stech (2008: 14), are necessary for further resolution.

Timmiellaceae Y.Inoue & H.Tsubota, *stat. nov.*

Timmielloideae R.H.Zander, Bull. Buffalo Soc. Nat. Sci. 32: 68. 1993.

Type: *Timmiella* (De Not.) Limpr., Laubm. Deutch. 1: 590. 1888. [based on *Trichostomum* sect. *Timmiella* De Not., Comment. Soc. Crittog. Ital. 2: 100. 1865.]

Included genera: *Timmiella* (De Not.) Limpr. and *Luisierella* Thér. & P.de la Varde

Diagnosis: Plants acrocarpous; leaves incurved and tubulose when dry, spreading when moist, leaf cell surfaces adaxially bulging and abaxially flat; peristomes straight to sinistrorse or absent, operculum cells sinistrorsely arranged.

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