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The *Phycological Society of America* (PSA) was founded in 1946 to promote research and teaching in all fields of Phycology. The society publishes the *Journal of Phycology* and the *Phycological Newsletter.* Annual meetings are held, often jointly with other national or international societies of mutual member interest. *Phycological Society of America* awards include the **Bold Award** for best student paper at the annual meeting, the new **Student Poster Award** for the best student poster at the annual meeting, the **Provasoli Award** for outstanding papers published in the *Journal of Phycology*, and the **Prescott Award** for the best Phycology book published within the previous two years. The society provides financial aid to graduate student members through **Croasdale Fellowships** for enrollment in phycology courses at biological stations, **Hoshaw Travel** Awards for travel to the annual society meeting, and **Grants-In-Aid** for supporting research. To join the *Phycological Society of America*, contact the membership director. Society Webpage: http://www.psaalgae.org/

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Israel Society for Parasitology, Protozoology and Tropical Diseases
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Ukraine Protistology

P67 **Molecular characterization of the red algal genus *Scinaia* (Scinaiaceae, Nemaliales) from the Azorean archipelago with morphological observations on *S. interrupta***
León-Cisneros, Karla[1,2]; Gabriel, Daniela[1,3]; Neto, Ana[1]; Fredericq, Suzanne[3]; Riosmena-Rodriguez, Rafael[2].
1. Centro de Investigação de Recursos Naturais (CIRN), Secção de Biologia Marinha, Departamento de Biologia, Universidade dos Açores, Ponta Delgada, Portugal. 2. Programa de Investigación en Botánica Marina, Departamento de Biología Marina, Universidad Autónoma de Baja California Sur, La Paz, Mexico. 3. Department of Biology, University of Louisiana at Lafayette, Lafayette, LA, USA.

P68 **Clarification of the red algal genus *Peyssonnelia* in the Gulf of Mexico, with a proposal for a new red algal order based on the Peyssonneliaceae**
Fredericq, Suzanne[1]; Krayesky, David[1]; Norris, James[2].
1. Dept. of Biology, University of Louisiana, Lafayette, LA, USA. 2. Dept. of Botany, Smithsonian Institution, Washington, DC, USA.

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Schmidt, William; Fredericq, Suzanne.
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1. Biology, Sonoma State University, Rohnert Park, CA, USA. 2. USDA Agricultural Research Service, Tree Fruits Research Laboratory, Wenatchee, WA, USA.

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thallus has occurred.

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MOLECULAR CHARACTERIZATION OF THE RED ALGAL GENUS *SCINAIA* (SCINAIACEAE, NEMALIALES) FROM THE AZOREAN ARCHIPELAGO WITH MORPHOLOGICAL OBSERVATIONS ON *S. INTERRUPTA*

León-Cisneros, Karla[1,2], Gabriel, Daniela[1,3], Neto, Ana I.[1], Fredericq, Suzanne[3] & Riosmena-Rodriguez, Rafael[2]

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Two species of *Scinaia* that have been reported to co-exist in the Azores, *S. furcellata* and *S. interrupta*, are commonly confused with one another. Because *Scinaia interrupta* has been incompletely described morphologically, its segregation inside the *S. carnosa*-group *sensu* Huisman 1986 had not been confirmed. In the present study recently collected specimens from the Azorean Archipelago (*S. interrupta* and two non-identified species), the Gulf of Mexico and historical vouchers of *Scinaia* housed in The Natural History Museum (BM) were investigated. Chloroplast-encoded *rbc*L sequence analysis was conducted from silica gel-preserved specimens belonging to different populations. The *rbc*L tree confirmed the occurrence of three different species of *Scinaia* for the Azores and one from the Gulf of Mexico. The presence of rhizoidal filaments is the only identifiable character of *S. interrupta* inside the *S. carnosa*-group. Morphological characterization of the other species is still in progress

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CLARIFICATION OF THE RED ALGAL GENUS *PEYSSONNELIA* IN THE GULF OF MEXICO, WITH A PROPOSAL FOR A NEW RED ALGAL ORDER BASED ON THE PEYSSONNELIACEAE

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The crustose genus *Peyssonnelia Decaisne* is a taxon of great ecological significance, with some species involved in the establishment of rhodoliths. Comparative morphological and molecular analyses demonstrate a greater diversity of peyssonneloid species than was previously reported. In chloroplast-encoded *rbc*L- and nuclear LSU rDNA-based trees, species referred to as *Peyssonnelia* in the literature do not group together, but are scattered among other genera that were either previously or currently placed in the Peyssonneliaceae. Two newly reported genera for the Gulf of Mexico, *Polystrata* and *Metapeyssonnelia*, are excluded from the family, and together with a third clade are nested inside the Rhizophyllidaceae of the Dumontiaceae-complex. The Rhizophyllidaceae is newly reported for the Gulf of Mexico, with six species. The number of distinct species of Peyssonneliaceae now present in the Gulf of Mexico has increased from 6 to 21. Species placed in *Cruoriella* and *Cruoriopsis* belong in the Peyssonneliaceae. New combinations are being proposed to accommodate known and new species in *Cruoriella*, and in two formerly monotypic genera, *Sonderopelta* and, provisionally, *Riquetophycus*. The Peyssonneliaceae form a monophyletic assemblage that cannot be maintained in the Gigartinales and thus constitutes a new order, unrelated to the cluster of families centered around the Halymeniaceae of the Cryptonemiales (=Halymeniales), or the Gigartinaceae of the Gigartinales.

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NEW INSIGHTS IN THE RED ALGAL ORDER RHODYMENIALES, WITH SPECIAL EMPHASIS ON TAXA FROM THE GULF OF MEXICO

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Recent dredging expeditions throughout the Gulf of Mexico (NW: offshore Louisiana and Texas, SW: Gulf of Campeche, Mexico; SE: vicinity of the Dry Tortugas, FL; NE: vicinity of the Florida Middlegrounds, FL) at depths between 45-90 m have revealed an exceptional species-rich diversity of Rhodymeniales. Chloroplast-encoded *rbc*L sequences were analyzed from more than 120 vouchers of Rhodymeniales from the Gulf, and