Cosmarium dingleyi nom. nov. Kenins and Cosmarium pseudolundellii nom. nov. Kenins (Desmidaceae): two Australian desmid species derived from later homonyms.

Alex Kenins School of Environmental and Rural Science, University of New England, Armidale NSW 2351, Australia.

Cosmarium Corda ex Ralfs, 1848 is a large genus of over a thousand species (Guiry 2013). With such a large inventory of names, it is not unexpected that homonymy within the genus has occurred. Presented here are two such cases concerning species from Australia.

The first instance is found in Dingley (2004), who reported desmid taxa from various localities across Australia that were either new to science or newly recorded to Australia or one of its states. The published article validly described Cosmarium asperum M.Dingley; however, the name had already been introduced by West (1894) as Cosmarium asperum West [“Cosmarium scabrum in litt. 1891” auct. non Turner fig. 21] from New Galloway, Kirkcudbright, Scotland. Cosmarium asperum West was later cited as the basionym and was therefore legitimately transferred as a variety of Cosmarium nasutum Nordstedt as Cosmarium nasutum var. asperum (West) West & G.S.West in Vol. 3 of the Wests' Monograph of the British Desmidiaceae, p. 261. Accordingly, Cosmarium asperum M.Dingley is illegitimate as it is a later homonym (McNeill et al. 2012: Arts 53.1 and 53.4).

The second is found in Coesel & Dingley (2005) where the authors reported noteworthy taxa from the tropical north of Australia. Cosmarium porosum Coesel & M.Dingley was validly described but the specific epithet was already in use for a species of Cosmarium described from Mt Albert Edward, Papua New Guinea by Gontcharov & Wantanbe (1999) as Cosmarium porosum A.A.Gontcharov & M.Wantanbe. Accordingly, Cosmarium porosum Coesel & M.Dingley (2005) is illegitimate as it is a later homonym of Cosmarium porosum Gontcharov & M.Wantanbe (McNeill et al. 2012: Arts 53.1 and 53.4).

The following are newly proposed names to legitimise both of these species, thus far only known to occur in Australia:


The specific epithet is based on Coesel & Dingley (2005) who considered this particular species to be previously recorded from Australia under the misapplied name of Cosmarium lundelli Deplonte by Borge (1911) and Scott & Prescott (1958) and as Cosmarium lundelii var. corruptum (W.B.Turner) West & G.S.West by Ling & Tyler (2000).


