

Taxonomic Review of the Genus *Centropyxiella* (Rhizopoda: Filosea) with Data on its Biology and Geographical Distribution

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Abstract: The genus *Centropyxiella* VALKANOV, 1970 was erected as a result of investigation of marine and brackish interstitial habitats of the Black Sea littoral. Since then, ten species and varieties from many other seas and oceans around the world were described. In this paper we present a brief historical review and taxonomic status of all known *Centropyxiella* species. Recent studies on living animals of *Centropyxiella arenaria* VALKANOV, 1970 proved that the genus *Centropyxiella* is related to class Filosea LEIDY, 1879 and to family Psammonobiotidae GOLEMANSKY, 1974.

Taxonomic revision of all *Centropyxiella* species and varieties described so far shows that one of them - *C. haustorifera* KORGANOVA, 1992 is considered *nomen dubium* and three of them: *C. elegans* VALKANOV, 1970, *C. lucida* var. *minima* CHARDEZ, 1972, and *C. oopyxiformis* CHARDEZ, 1977 are considered synonyms.

Morphological description, summarized data on the geographical distribution and figures are presented for six valid species: *C. arenaria* VALKANOV, 1970, *C. gibbula* VALKANOV, 1970, *C. gibbulina* CHARDEZ and THOMAS, 1986, *C. golemanskyi* CHARDEZ, 1977, *C. lucida* GOLEMANSKY, 1971, and *C. platystoma* GOLEMANSKY, 1981.

Key words: *Centropyxiella*, Rhizopoda, taxonomy, biology, distribution