# Chloroplast DNA sequences confirmed genetic divergence within *Calypogeia muelleriana* (Calypogeiaceae, Marchantiophyta)

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Abstract: Nine species of the genus *Calypogeia* Raddi are currently known from Europe: *C. azurea*, *C. integristipula*, *C. neesiana*, *C. suecica*, *C. muelleriana*, *C. sphagnicola*, *C. fissa*, *C. arguta*, and *C. azorica*. Recently, another species, morphologically resembling *C. muelleriana* but genetically distinct from it, was detected using isozyme markers. In the present study, relationships between the newly detected species (*C. sp. nov.*) and typical *C. muelleriana* were analyzed using the DNA sequences data of three regions from the chloroplast genome: introns of *trn*G and *trn*L genes and intergenic spacer *trn*H-*psbA*. *Calypogeia sp. nov.* differs from *C. muelleriana* s. str. (typical form) in all examined chloroplast regions. It differs as well from *C. azurea*, which was used as a reference species. The number of fixed nucleotide differences between *C. muelleriana* s. str. and *C. sp. nov.* is almost the same as between *C. muelleriana* s. str. in Europe, *C. muelleriana* s. str. was noted in Poland, Germany, Holland, United Kingdom and Azores. Samples determined as *C. sp. nov.*, besides Poland, were so far detected also in North America.

Key words: Liverworts, Calypogeia, chloroplast genome, trnG, trnL, trnH-psbA

# **1. Introduction**

The genus *Calypogeia* Raddi belonging to the family Calypogeiaceae is distributed worldwide, primarily in subtropical to tropical climates (Bischler 1963; Schuster 1969). Nine species of this genus are known from Europe and Macaronesia: *C. azurea* Stotler & Crotz, *C. integristipula* Steph., *C. neesiana* (Massal. & Carestia) Müll. Frib., *C. suecica* (Arnell & J. Perss.) Müll. Frib., *C. muelleriana* (Schiffn.) Müll. Frib., *C. sphagnicola* (Arnell & J. Perss.) Warnst. & Loeske, *C. fissa* (L.) Raddi, *C. arguta* Nees & Mont. and *C. azorica* Bischl. – endemic for of the Azores (Söderström *et al.* 2002, 2007).

Simple morphological structure of gametophyte with the limited number of diagnostic characters is the main reason of taxonomic problems in liverworts (Szweykowski 1984). Nowadays, many bryologists are of an opinion that some species, described in old works, remain to be rediscovered and characterized again (Bischler & Boisselier-Dubayle 2000; Schumacker & Váňa 2005). This opinion concerns also the genus *Calypogeia*, which is considered by many taxonomists to be one of the most difficult groups of liverworts (Schuster 1969; Szweykowski 2006). Within the genus, new species are still described in different parts of distribution, e.g., C. khasiana in India (Singh & Nath 2007). Likewise, the number of *Calvpogeia* species in Europe is probably higher than presently known. The isozyme studies of European species of the genus revealed the presence of plants genetically distinct from the well-known and accepted species, which probably represent unrecognized taxa. Three genetically distinct taxa were detected within the complexes of C. sphagnicola (Buczkowska et al. 2012a, 2012b) and Calypogeia fissa (Buczkowska 2004a; Buczkowska et al. 2012c). Differences in oil body characters and some morphological traits were also found between some of these groups (Buczkowska et al. 2011).

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C. muelleriana exhibits a marked morphological variation within its geographic range. According to Schuster (1969), this species shows a different pattern of variability in North America and Europe. In North America two subspecies: widespread C. muelleriana subsp. muelleriana and rare, locally distributed C. muelleriana subsp. blomquistii, were distinguished (Schuster 1969). Moreover, extraordinary polymorphism of the first subspecies was pointed out by Schuster (1969). However, the author emphasized that this polymorphism is mainly environmentally induced. C. muelleriana also causes taxonomic problems in the eastern part of its geographic range, since difficulties with the delimitation of C. muelleriana from C. azurea and C. sphagnicola were emphasized by Schlyakov (1979). Damsholt (2002) recognized two varieties: C. muelleriana var. *muelleriana* and *C. muelleriana* var. *erecta*. Similarly, morphological variation of C. muelleriana was reported from Poland by Szweykowski (2006). The author detected two forms: typical and atypical. The typical form is widespread in south-western part of Poland, whereas the atypical form occurs in the northern part of lowlands. Isozyme and molecular markers have proved that these two forms are genetically different (Buczkowska & Baczkiewicz 2011; Buczkowska & Dabert 2011). Plants classified as the typical form exactly correspond to the type specimen of C. muelleriana (Buczkowska 2004b). The atypical form represents a new taxon tentatively named as C. sp. nov. (Buczkowska & Dabert 2011). The new taxon morphologically resembles C. muelleriana s. str., but it differs in oil body characteristics and underleaf shape (Buczkowska 2010). However, the final taxonomic treatment of the newly distinguished taxon demands future studies.

Unfortunately, isozyme markers and oil body features are useless in the case of herbarium material. Therefore, other diagnostic markers for the taxa, suitable also for dried specimens, would be helpful. Recently, commonly applied strategy in taxonomy is used of different DNA markers e.g. ISSR, ISJ, RAPD, AFLP or SCAR (Hassel & Gunnarsson 2003; Sawicki & Szczecińska 2007; Celka *et al.* 2010, 2012; Grądzielewska 2011) and DNA sequencing (e.g. Szweykowska-Kulińska *et al.* 2002; Pacak & Szweykowska-Kulińska 2003; Shaw *et al.* 2003; Taberlet *et al.* 2006; Górniak *et al.* 2006; Wickett & Goffinet 2008; Fuselier *et al.* 2009; Heinrichs *et al.* 2010; Kreier *et al.* 2010; Plášek *et al.* 2011; Krawczyk *et al.* 2013).

In the present study, we use DNA sequences of three regions from chloroplast genome (introns of *trn*G and

*trn*L genes and intergenic spacer *trn*H-*psb*A) to assess the level of genetic diversity between *C. muelleriana* s. str. and the recently detected taxon *C. sp. nov.* in order to provide additional arguments for distinguishing the new taxon as a separate species.

# 2. Material and methods

# 2.1. Plant material

In general, 26 samples of the *C. muelleriana* complex were examined: 16 of *C. muelleriana* s. str. (the typical form) and 10 of the new taxon – *C. sp. nov.* (Table 1). Plants were initially determined on the basis of morphological traits and oil body characters according to Müller (1951-1958), Schuster (1969) and own observations (Buczkowska 2010). Each sample was divided into 2 parts: one was deposited as a voucher in the POZW Herbarium, while the other was used for isozyme analyses and a greenhouse culture. Plants classified as the typical form of *C. muelleriana* exactly correspond to its type specimen (Buczkowska 2004b).

Samples identified on the basis of isozyme pattern (Buczkowska & Bączkiewicz 2011) were used for DNA extraction in the first part of the study: 10 samples of typical *C. muelleriana* and 8 samples of *C. sp. nov.* (Table 1). To obtain plant material free from contamination for DNA extraction, *in vitro* cultures of the studied species were established according to Buczkowska *et al.* (2006) and Buczkowska & Dabert (2011). In the second stage of research, DNA was extracted from herbarium samples. Moreover, 3 samples of *C. azurea* and two samples of *Tritomaria quinquedentata* (Huds.) H. Buch were used as an outgroup in DNA analysis.

# 2.2. DNA extraction, PCR amplification and sequencing

Total genomic DNA was extracted from fresh or dried material. For fresh samples, several stems from one sample were ground with steel beads in a Bioprep-24 Homogenizer for 35 seconds and a standard CTAB procedure (Murray & Thompson 1980) downscaled to fit 1.5 ml eppendorf tubes was used for DNA extraction. For extraction of DNA from herbarium samples, a Novabeads Plant DNA Kit (Novazym, Poznań, Poland) was used. The isolated DNA was dissolved in TE buffer and stored at  $-20^{\circ}$ C. The quality of the isolated DNA was evaluated by electrophoresis in 0.8% agarose gel and the concentration and purity of DNA samples were determined using the NanoDrop ND-1000 Spectrophotometer.

Explanations: <sup>1</sup> – sequences new in the present study are marked in bold, <sup>2</sup> – the new species detected within the *C. muelleriana* complex (Buczkowska & Dabert (2011). Collectors, AB – Alina Bączkiewicz, AS-V – Alfons Schäfer-Verwimp, BKA – Barbara K. Andreas, DAC – Des A. Callaghan, DGL – David G. Long, HG – H. Greven, HB – Hanna Barczak, JS – Jerzy Szweykowski, KB – Katarzyna Buczkowska, RG – R. Gradstein, SR – Stanisław Rosadziński. Herbaria, S-V – Herb. Schäfer-Verwimp, POZW – Herbarium of Adam Mickiewicz University, DC – Herb D. A. Callaghan, DGL – Herb. D. G. Long

Table 1. Localities of the samples of the C. muelleriana complex used for DNA studies and GenBank accession numbers

Locality	Collector	Herbarium No.	Accession number <sup>1</sup>			
			trnL	trnG	trnH-psbA	
	C. muelleria	na s. str. (typical for	m)			
NE Poland, Warmińsko-Mazurskie Province, Lake Godle near Ełk	KB, AB	POZW 41708	KF371552	KF371604	KF371578	
NW Poland, Pomorskie Province, Lake Orle near Miastko	KA, AB	POZW 41346 POZW 41182	KF371550 KF371551	KF371602 KF371603	KF371576 KF371577	
NW Poland, Pomorskie Province, Lake	KB, AB	POZW 42214	KF371553	KF371605 KF371607	KF371579 KF371581	
NW Poland, Pomorskie Province, Lake	KB, AB	POZW 42222	KF371554	KF371606	KF371580	
Głęboczko near Bytow W Baland, Lybudzia Brayinga, Naklata farasty	CD VD	DOZW 42216	VF271550	VE271611	VE271595	
W Poland, Lubuskie Province, Natioto foresty	SK, KD	POZW 42310	KF3/1557 VF271557	KF371600	KF371503 VE271593	
Bobrzański	SK, KD	FOZ W 42514	KF3/155/	KF371009	KF371503	
W Poland, Lubuskie Province, Starosiedle foresty	SR, KB	POZW 42323	KF371556	KF3/1608	KF3/1582	
W Poland, Lubuskie Province, Biecz forestry	SR, KB	POZW 42318	KF371558	KF371610	KF371584	
Holland, Maarssen, 2 km North of Utrecht, Molenpolder, on wet peat	JS, RG, HG	POZW 34160	KF371563	KF371615	KF371589	
Germany, Baden-Württemberg, western Bodenseegebiet, Kreis Konstanz, Schiener-Berg- Nordabhang above Bankholzen, 630 m a.s.l.	AS-V	S-V 28577	KF371560	KF371612	KF371586	
Germany, Baden-Württemberg, Bodenseekreis, Südliches Oberschwaben: Heiligenberg, 650 m	AS-V	S-V 31465	KF371561	KF371613	KF371587	
Germany, Baden-Württemberg, western Bodenseegebiet, Kreis Konstanz, Schiener-Berg- Nordabhang above Bankholzen, 630 m a s l	AS-V	S-V 28576	KF371562	KF371614	KF371588	
Azores Archipelago, São Miguel Island, east part of island, Planalto dos Graminhais west of Pico	AS-V	S-V 29472	KF371564	KF371616	KF371590	
United Kingom, South Lancashire, in damp sandstone crevice of disused quarry wall	DAC	DC 1421	KF371565	KF371617	KF371591	
United Kingdom: Scotland, Lanarkshire, Low Moss	DGL	DGL 29844	AY453769	-	-	
C.	muelleriana –	atypical form $= C_{.s}$	$p. nov.^2$			
NE Poland Warmińsko Mazurskie Province	KB VB	POZW 41706	KF371571	KF371673	KF371507	
NE Polalid, Wallinisko-Mazulskie Plovince, Lake Godle near Ełk	KD, AD	POZW 41700 POZW 41707	KF371571 KF371570	KF371622	KF371597 KF371506	
NW Poland Pomorskie Province I ake Orle	KB AB	POZW 42211	KF371566	KF371618	KF371592	
near Miastko	KD, AD	POZW 41151	KF371567	KF371619	KF371592	
NW Poland Pomorskie Province I ake	KR AR	POZW 42220	KF371568	KF371620	KF371594	
I ubygość near Kartuzy	KD, AD	POZW 42220	KF371569	KF371620	KF371595	
NW Poland Pomorskie Province Lake	KB AB	POZW 422852	KF371573	KF371625	KF371595	
Smolowe near Miastko	KD, AD	POZW 42285a	KF371575	KF371626	KF371600	
NE Poland, Podlaskie Province, Wigierski National Park Lake Sucharek near Suwałki	JS, KB, HB	POZW 35596	KF371572	KF371624	KF371598	
North America, Tunk Lake, west of Cherryfield, woods on S side of road, 60 1183	BKA	dh1825	KF371575	KF371627	KF371601	
m a.s.l.						
North America, USA, Davis 130 (DUKE)	EC Davis	DUKE	AY608121	AY608169	-	
		C. azurea				
S Poland, Tatra Mts, Sucha Woda Valley, Psia Trawka meadow, 1183 m a.s.l.	KB, AB	POZW 41746	JQ658804	JQ658787	JF776843	
SE Poland, Bieszczady Mts, W slope of Mt Rozsypaniec Wołosacki, 1215 m a.s.l.	KB	POZW 41949	JQ658803	JQ658786	JF776841	
NE Poland, Jez. Godle lake near Ełk	KB, AB	POZW 41748	JQ658802	JQ658785	JF776842	
	Tritomar	ria quinquedentata				
S Poland, Tatra Mts, Jaworzynka Valley, 1338	KB, AB	POZW 41479	JQ658805	JQ658788	JF776850	
S Poland, Tatra Mts, Miętusia Valley, 1037 m a.s.l. (TQ1007)	KB, AB	POZW 41204	JQ658806	JQ658789	JF776851	

Primers used for the amplification and sequencing of *trnH-psbA* spacer (psbAF and trnHR) were according to Sang *et al.* (1997) and for the introns of *trn*G and *trnL* genes (primers A and B) from Pacak & Szweykowska-Kulińska (2003). PCR amplification was carried out as described in the previous publication (Buczkowska *et al.* 2012a). Purified PCR products of the studied chloroplast regions were sequenced in both directions using the ABI BigDye 3.1 Terminator Cycle Kit (Applied Biosystems) and were then visualized using an ABI Prism 3130 Automated DNA Sequencer (Applied Biosystems).

# 2.3. Data analysis

Chromatograms of DNA sequences were edited and assembled using Sequencher 4.5 (Genecodes Inc.). Contigs were aligned manually with MEGA 5.2 (Tamura et al. 2011). Regions of ambiguous alignment and incomplete data (i.e., at the beginning and end of sequences) were excluded from the analyses and lacking sequences were coded as missing. Minimum Evolution (ME) analysis was conducted using MEGA version 5.2. The pairwise distances were estimated with the Kimura 2-parameter method. Initial trees were generated using the neighbor-joining (NJ) method. The ME tree was searched using the Close Neighbor Interchange (CNI) algorithm at a search level of 2. Statistical significance of clades within inferred trees was evaluated using the bootstrap method (Felsenstein 1985) with 2000 replicates. Incongruence between the *trn*H-*psb*A, *trn*G and trnL data was assessed by comparing clade support on the consensus ME tree. To identify incongruence in phylogenetic signal, we used the 70% bootstrap criterion. Since incongruence was not observed, datasets of all analyzed DNA regions were combined for subsequent phylogenetic analyses. As another measure

of distinctiveness, the number of fixed nucleotide differences among taxa was estimated for all pairwise combinations of species using the Sites program (Hey & Wakeley 1997).

# 3. Results

Seventy-eight new sequences were generated for this study (Table 1). Eighteen sequences used in this study were obtained from the previous examination (GenBank), as indicated in Table 1. The lengths of analyzed sequences are given in Table 2. The new taxon detected within the C. muelleriana complex -C. sp. nov., differs from C. muelleriana s. str. (typical form) in all examined chloroplast regions. It differs as well from C. azurea. The number of fixed nucleotide differences between C. muelleriana s. str. and C. sp. nov. is almost the same as between C. muelleriana s. str. and C. azurea. The two pairs of taxa differ in respect of 34 and 33 substitutions and 3 insertions/deletion, respectively (Table 3). However, sequences of all analyzed regions were very similar in pair of C. sp. nov. and C. azurea (Table 3). For all pairs of taxa, the higher number of substitutions was found in the introns of *trn*G and *trn*L than in the intergenic spacer *trn*H-*pab*A.

The tree based on ME analysis revealed two wellsupported clades (Fig. 1). According to the molecular data, *C. muelleriana* s. str. and *C. sp. nov.* form two different well-supported groups (Fig. 1). The results showed that *C. sp. nov.* is closer related to *C. azurea* than to *C. muelleriana* s. str. Two sequences from GenBank determined as *C. muelleriana* were compared with the sequences of the *C. muelleriana* complex obtained in this study. The sequence of the *trn*L gene intron from United Kingdom (AY453769) is the same as in *C.* 

**Table 2.** The length (in bp) of *trn*G and *trn*L gene introns and *trn*H-*psb*A intergenic spacer of the *C. muelleriana* complex, *C. azurea* and *T. quinquedentata* 

Taxon	trnG	trnL	trnH-psbA
C. muelleriana s. str.	657	296	233
C. sp. nov. <sup><math>1</math></sup>	658	296	234
C. azurea	658	296	225
T. quinquedentata	625	290	222

Explanation: <sup>1</sup>- the new species detected within the C. muelleriana complex (Buczkowska & Dabert (2011)

Table 3. Fixed nucleotide differences in chloroplast regions among the studied taxa of C. muelleriana complex and C. azurea

Taxa pair	trnG	trnL	trnH-psbA	Total <sup>2</sup>
<i>C. muelleriana</i> s. str. – <i>C. sp. nov.</i> <sup><math>1</math></sup>	17s; 2i	10s	7s; 1i	34s; 3i
<i>C. muelleriana</i> s. str. – <i>C. azurea</i>	17s; 2i	11s	5s; 1i	33s; 3i
$C. sp. nov.^1 - C. azurea$	3s	1s	2s	6s

Explanations: 1- the new species detected within the C. muelleriana complex (Buczkowska & Dabert (2011), 2-s-substitutions, i-insertions/deletions



**Fig. 1.** Phylogram resulting from Minimum Evolution (ME) analysis based on combined data of all studied chloroplast sequences (*trn*G, *trn*L and *trn*H-*psb*A). Bootstrap values are given above branches

*muelleriana* s. str., whereas the sequences of introns of trnL and trnG genes from USA (AY608121 and AY608169) belong to the new taxon – *C. sp. nov.* (Fig. 1).

# 4. Discussion

Isozyme and molecular markers revealed that two morphological forms of *C. muelleriana* (typical and atypical) noted by Szweykowski (2006) are in fact two genetically different taxa. The typical form corresponds to the type specimen of *C. muelleriana* (Buczkowska 2004b; Buczkowska & Bączkiewicz 2011), whereas the atypical form is a new taxon and was tentatively named as *C. sp. nov.* (Buczkowska & Dabert 2011). The two taxa differ also in oil body characters and some morphological traits (Buczkowska 2010). Despite the fact that in Poland both species occur sympatrically and sometimes grow in mixed patches, recombinant gametophytes were not observed. This indicates that the two species are genetically isolated (Buczkowska & Bączkiewicz 2011).

The distinctness of these two taxa was further supported by a sequence analysis in the present study. The number of fixed nucleotide differences between C. muelleriana s. str. and C. sp. nov. as well as between C. muelleriana s. str. and C. azurea was over 5 times higher than between C. sp. nov. and C. azurea. The highest number of the fixed nucleotide differences between the examined taxa occurred in the intron of trnG gene, and was comparable to the number of differences detected for the pair of species within C. sphagnicola complex (Buczkowska et al. 2012b). The studied chloroplast regions (trnG, trnL and trnH-psbA) are commonly applied in molecular taxonomy of bryophytes (Szweykowska-Kulińska et al. 2002; Taberlet et al. 2006; Wilson et al. 2007; Wickett & Goffinet 2008; Fuselier et al. 2009; Heinrichs et al. 2010; Kreier et al. 2010; Sawicki et al. 2010). According to our results, all the examined regions amplified well in Calypogeia and can be regarded as good DNA markers for this genus. Based on the sequences of these chloroplast regions three forms of the C. sphagnicola complex were earlier proved to be distinct species (Buczkowska et al. 2012a, 2012b). Differences detected in the introns of trnG and trnL genes were comparable with differences reported for other liverwort species (Szweykowska-Kulińska et al. 2002, Pacak & Szweykowska-Kulińska 2003; Jankowiak & Szweykowska-Kulińska 2004). In the trnH-psbA spacer, the same number of mutations was noted between the pairs of unequivocally different species: C. suecica and C. neesiana or C. neesiana and C. azurea (Buczkowska et al. 2012a) and for the species of the genus Orthophyllum (Sawicki et al. 2010).

The results of the present study suggest a closer affinity of *C. sp. nov.* to *C. azurea* than to *C. muelleriana* s. str. The sequences derived from *C. azurea* and *C. sp. nov.* differ only at 6 of the 1188 analyzed nucleotide sites. However, the taxa differ morphologically, especially in terms of oil bodies - a very important taxonomic feature in *Calypogeia* (Buczkowska 2004b, 2010). In *C. sp. nov.* oil bodies are colorless, while in *C. azurea* are blue (Fig. 1). Both species of the *C. muelleriana* complex as well as *C. azurea* have the allopoliploid origin (Buczkowska *et al.* 2004; Buczkowska & Bączkiewicz 2011). It suggests that *C. sp. nov.* could inherited their chloroplast genome from the same parental species as *C. azurea*, whereas *C. muelleriana* s. str. inherited the chloroplasts from the other unknown parent.

Isozyme markers and other molecular and morphological data indicate that C. muelleriana s. str. and C. sp. nov. represent two different taxa. Morphological differences give possibility to describe the new detected taxon as a separate species. However, a large herbarium material needs to be examined in detail to establish finally the taxonomic status of the analyzed taxon. Many species were so far described in the Calypogeia genus, some of them were reduced to synonyms of particular species (Müller 1951-1958; Schuster 1969), therefore it has to be checked if any of the several published names matches the discussed above taxon. Both the DNA sequences received from the material previously determined by isozyme markers and oil body characters can help this search. They can be used as reference sequences for identification of those herbarium samples in which oil bodies were not observed, and also help in verification of the type specimens.

Based on the results of the present study, some preliminary conclusions regarding geographic distribution of these two species can be drawn. In Poland, C. muelleriana s. str. occurs mainly in the south-western part of the country, where it is widespread. To date, DNA sequences confirmed the presence of this species in Germany, Holland, United Kingdom and Azores. Samples determined as C. sp. nov., besides Poland, where it is rare, were so far detected also in North America. According to Schuster (1969), C. muelleriana in North America shows a wide range of phenotypes that in majority are probably environmentally induced. However, the genetic studies of the genus Calvpogeia suggest that one of the reasons of the high morphological variation of C. muelleriana reported by Schuster (1969) may be the presence of an unrecognized so far species -C. sp. nov., which morphologically resembles C. muelleriana. The DNA sequences revealed that some specimens from USA determined as C. muelleriana in fact belong to C. sp. nov. e.g. GenBank accession number AY608121. However, more specimens from a wider range of geographic distribution need to be analyzed before a reliable conclusion can be drawn on the geographic distribution of the species distinguished within the C. muelleriana complex.

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