(1234) Proposal to conserve the name *Acanthoceras* Honigm. (*Bacillariophyceae*) against *Acanthoceras* Kütz. (*Rhodophyceae*)

Mark B. Edlund¹ & Michael J. Wynne²

Type: *A. magdeburgense* Honigm.

Type: *A. shuttleworthianum* Kütz.


Honigmann (in Arch. Hydrobiol. Planktonk. 5: 71. 1909) described the unspecific freshwater diatom genus *Acanthoceras* based on *A. magdeburgense* Honigm. (including var. *latum* Honigm.). Honigmann’s *Acanthoceras* was not immediately accepted by the scientific community; e.g., Schulz (in Bot. Arch. 24: 505. 1929), Hustedt (in Rabenh. Krypt.-Fl., ed. 2, 7(1): 367. 1930) and Huber-Pestalozzi (in Binnengewässer 16(2): 424. 1942) treated *A. magdeburgense* as a taxonomic synonym of *Attheya zachariasii* Brun.


1 Center for Great Lakes and Aquatic Sciences, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, MI 48109-2099, U.S.A.
2 Herbarium and Department of Biology, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, MI 48109-1048, U.S.A.
Simonsen (in Bacillaria 2: 55. 1979) recognized differences between *Attheya de­cora* and *A. zachariasii* and proposed reinstating *Acanthoceras* Honigm. as a unispecific freshwater genus, making the combination *Acanthoceras zachariasii* (Brun) Simonsen, and placing Honigmann's *A. magdeburgense* and var. *latum* in synonymy. Separation of *Acanthoceras* from *Attheya* is clearly supported by ecological and ultrastructural differences (Round & al., Diatoms: 338, 340. 1990; Crawford & al. in Diatom Res. 9: 27. 1994). *Acanthoceras* is currently held to be a cosmopolitan unispecific genus inhabiting eutrophic freshwater rivers, lakes and ponds (Krammer & Lange-Bertalot in Ettl & al., Süßwasserfl. Mitteleur. 2(3): 83. 1991). The freshwater habit and published descriptions of *Attheya lata* and *A. zachariasii* var. *curvata* suggest that they too belong within the circumscription of *Acanthoceras*. *Acanthoceras* Honigm. has gained general acceptance in spite of its illegitimate status (Round & al., Diatoms: 338 1990; Krammer & Lange-Bertalot in Ettl & al., Süßwasserfl. Mitteleur. 2(3): 83. 1991; Edlund & Stoermer in J. Paleolimnol. 129: 3. 1993) and provides the basis for the recently proposed, equally illegitimate family name *Acanthocerataceae* R. M. Crawford & Round (in Round & al., Diatoms: 657. 1990). Its status as a later homonym of *Acanthoceras* Kütz. has been recognized for some time (Farr & al. in Regnum Veg. 100: 5. 1979). We now propose that it be conserved. Recent discussions among diatomologists (Compère in Hydrobiologia 269-270: 515. 1993) support this proposal which, if accepted, will also legitimize the family name *Acanthocerataceae*.

The other option available to correct this situation is to publish a new genus and family name for this small diatom group. These transfers could be easily made as *Acanthoceras* Honigm. is considered unispecific by most. However, erecting a new genus and family would be in disagreement with the resolutions quoted in the Preface of the Tokyo Code, that displacing well established names for strictly nomenclatural reasons should be avoided.

**Acknowledgements**

We thank Dr E. F. Stoermer for support, and Dr Jadwiga Sieminska and Dr C. W. Reimer for providing literature. This paper represents publication 579 from the Center for Great Lakes and Aquatic Sciences and was funded through NSF grant DEB9521882 to Dr Stoermer.