

A replacement name for *Epithemia capitata* Kociolek & al. 2025, *nom. illeg.* (Rhopalodiaceae, Bacillariophyceae)

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In a consideration of the diatoms from Swan Lake, Oregon, a site with high taxon diversity of Rhopalodiales, Kociolek & al. (2025) described several new species and re-evaluated the taxonomic status of some previously described taxa. One of the previously described taxa, *Epithemia hyndmanii* var. *capitata* Tempère & H.Peragallo (1909: 194), was raised to the level of species, and a new combination with a new status was created, *Epithemia capitata* (Tempère & H.Peragallo) Kociolek & al. However, that name is illegitimate as *E. capitata* Schumann (1863: 183, fig. 4) is an earlier valid homonym. A replacement name is thus necessary:

***Epithemia occidentalis* Kociolek & Guiry, stat. nov., nom. nov.**

Replaced synonym: *Epithemia hyndmanii* var. *capitata* Tempère & H.Peragallo, p. 194, *Diatomeés du Monde Entier, Collection Tempère et Peragallo*, 2e Éd. fasc. 12, 1909.

Synonym: *Epithemia capitata* (Tempère & H.Peragallo) Kociolek & al. 2025, *nom. illeg.*

Type locality: “Swan Lake Klamath C^{ty} – Oregon (État-Unis)” [Swan Lake near Klamath Falls, Oregon, USA]

Registration: <http://phycobank.org/106532>

Etymology: the specific epithet refers to this as a western *Epithemia*.

“*Epithemia capitata* (Ehrenberg) Brébisson” was listed by *Catalogue of Diatom Names* (Fourtanier & Kociolek 2011) and repeated in DiatomBase (Kociolek et al. 2026) and AlgaeBase (Guiry & Guiry 2025). However, a close examination of the original publication shows that Brébisson (1838: 16) merely listed “*Synedra capitata* Ehrenb.” under “*E[xilaria] truncata* Grev.” just above the entry for *Epithema* and “*Epithemia capitata*” was not included; *Synedra capitata* Ehrenberg is now *Ulnaria capitata* (Ehrenberg) Compère (Compère, 2001: 100). These erroneous entries will be removed as no such designation exists.

There are differences of opinion on the date of publication for Schumann’s work in which he described *Epithemia capitata*. Most of the literature on diatoms list the publication date as “1862” (e.g. Peragallo 1897; Mills 1934; VanLandingham 1969; Fourtanier & Kociolek 2009); however, the [wrapper](#) for *Dritter Jahrgang 1862 Zweite Abtheilung* at the Biodiversity Heritage Library has a year date of 1863 and this appears to be the correct year of publication.

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