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## **A new species of *Staurosirella* (Bacillariophyta) observed in a spring of the catchment of the Regional Natural Reserve of Jolan and Gazelle Peatlands, French Massif Central, France**

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1 **A new species of *Staurosirella* (Bacillariophyta) observed in a spring of the catchment of**  
2 **the Regional Natural Reserve of Jolan and Gazelle Peatlands**

3  
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26 **Abstract:**

27 During a survey of headwater springs in France, an unknown *Staurosirella* taxon was  
28 observed that could not be identified using the currently available literature. Based on light  
29 and scanning electron microscopy observations, the taxon is described as a new species:  
30 *Staurosirella luectoriana*. The new species is characterized by small isopolar, elliptical  
31 frustules, connected to each other in girdle view, forming long, ribbon-like colonies via  
32 bifurcating, interlocking spines. The new species presents a very small apical pore field,  
33 composed of only a few pores on one valve pole. Girdle elements are variable in number,  
34 closed and with an open valvocopula presenting fimbriae. *Staurosirella luectoriana* is

35 typically found in waters with high nitrate concentrations. A detailed comparison with  
36 morphologically similar species is added.

37

38 **Keywords:** Europe, French Massif Central, headwaters, new species, *Staurosirella*,  
39 ultrastructure

40

## 41 **Introduction**

42 For several years, the good ecological state of many natural ecosystems is deteriorated by  
43 several negative environmental impacts such as eutrophication, linked to human impact  
44 (Solimini et al. 2006). Moreover, natural environments are also affected by climate change as  
45 it represents one of the principal threats for freshwater biodiversity (Dudgeon et al. 2006;  
46 Woodward et al. 2010). Peatbog ecosystems, and the headwaters feeding them, are strongly  
47 impacted by these effects, resulting in physical and chemical alterations, such as an increase  
48 in surface water temperature and, most likely, a possible increase of hydrological drought  
49 duration (Kaule & Frei 2022). These abiotic modifications influence the species composition  
50 and dynamics of biological communities. Anthropogenic pressures, such as agricultural uses  
51 exerted on these fragile ecosystems and their watersheds, can also contribute to degrading  
52 their quality and altering their biodiversity, further threatening the conservation of their good  
53 condition and compromising the ecosystem services provided by these environments (Bernard  
54 2016).

55 When considering the watershed, springs giving rise to streams flowing through peatland, are  
56 classified as unique aquatic habitats, contributing significantly to local and regional  
57 biodiversity due to their high habitat complexity” (Cantonati et al. 2012). Springs usually are  
58 species-rich habitats and it is well known that abiotic factors such as water chemistry and  
59 temperature are important ecological factors determining species distribution and community  
60 composition. They also are widely threatened by both regional and global factors, including  
61 pollution and climate change leading to changes in biodiversity and species composition  
62 (Stevens et al. 2021). As biodiversity is the keystone of the functioning of these ecosystems  
63 from which ecosystem services are derived, it is important to protect the water catchment and  
64 to increase our knowledge of it.

65 The Regional Nature Reserve (RNR) of the Jolan and Gazelle peatlands, situated in the  
66 French Massif Central, was created in 2018 for the protection of the peatlands inhabiting  
67 numerous plant and animal species (including several rare) such as the endangered dragonfly  
68 *Somatochlora arctica* Zetterstedt. The area is highly impacted by the eutrophication of the  
69 minerotrophic peatlands adjoining the Jolan pond urging for a detailed (impact) study of the  
70 Nature Reserve. One of the aspects already studied included the diatom flora together with a  
71 physical and chemical analysis of the pond. The study was carried out in the reserve  
72 (peatlands and watershed) in June 2022. During this survey, a small-celled species belonging  
73 to the genus *Staurosirella* was observed in one of the springs of the watershed that could not  
74 be identified using the currently available literature on the genus.

75 The genus *Staurosirella* D.M.Williams & Round (1987: 274) was originally described in  
76 1987, and further emended in 2006 by Morales & Manoylov. This genus comprises small-  
77 celled araphid species showing an oval, elliptical, cruciform, occasionally triangular valve  
78 outline (Round et al. 1990). The genus is further characterized by the presence of well-  
79 developed marginal spines such as in *S. lapponica* (Grunow) D.M.Williams & Round,  
80 allowing the formatting of long chain-like colonies, incipient such as in *S. berolinensis*  
81 (Lemmerm.) Bukht. (Bukhtiyarova 1995) or absent as is the case in several species such as *S.*  
82 *lanceolata* (Hust.) E. Morales et al. (Morales et al. 2010). *Staurosirella* species possess  
83 uniseriate striae typically composed of areolae that can be circular or elliptical, occasionally  
84 transapically elongated, internally occluded by volae (Williams & Round 1987; Round et al.  
85 1990; Morales & Manoylov 2006; Morales et al. 2019a). Apical pore fields are quite variable  
86 in size and shape but are always composed of several rows of round areolae disposed in  
87 ordered rows (Morales & Manoylov 2006). Finally, the cingulum is composed of several  
88 plain, open or closed copulae lacking ligulae (Morales & Manoylov 2006; Van de Vijver et al.  
89 2022), with the valvocopula being considerably larger and possessing fimbriae attached to the  
90 costae at the valve interior (Morales & Manoylov 2006; Van de Vijver 2022). *Staurosirella*  
91 species occur worldwide in a wide variety of freshwater habitats such as rivers, reservoirs,  
92 lakes and pools (Almeida et al. 2015; Guerrero et al. 2019; Morales & Edlund 2003; Morales  
93 et al. 2010; Seeligmann et al. 2018; Van de Vijver et al. 2014). Currently, AlgaeBase (Guiry  
94 & Guiry 2022) lists almost 60 names are listed under *Staurosirella* (including 53 species and  
95 5 varieties).

96 Following detailed light microscopy (LM) and scanning electron microscopy (SEM)  
97 observations and comparisons with known representatives of this genus, the small-celled  
98 *Staurosirella* found in the Jolan and Gazelle peatlands RNR is described as a new species:  
99 *Staurosirella luectoriana* Beauger, C.E.Wetzel & Van de Vijver, sp. nov. The morphology  
100 of the new species is compared with the most similar *Staurosirella* taxa occurring worldwide.  
101 Notes on its ecological preferences are added.

102

### 103 **Materials and Methods**

104 The Jolan and Gazelle peatlands RNR is located at the head of the Adour-Garonne watershed  
105 (Rhue catchment) near the city of Ségur-les-Villas (Cantal, Auvergne, France) (Fig. 1). The  
106 RNR, located at 1,130 m a.s.l. on the volcanic plateau of Cézallier, is part of the French  
107 Massif Central and influenced by oceanic, continental, and Mediterranean climate. The total  
108 area of 155 ha is essentially occupied by habitats of regional or even national interest. This

109 protected area shelters peat bogs of major interest for the Auvergne region and the massif.  
110 Part of the meadows and grasses in the watershed of these wetlands are also included in the  
111 protection perimeter. The studied spring, situated in pastures, is located at 1,143 m a.s.l., and  
112 emerges in a concrete drinking trough (Fig. 1d).

113 On the 15<sup>th</sup> June 2022, an epilithic sample was taken using a toothbrush, brushing, the  
114 drinking trough. Sample was preserved with an ethanol solution to a final concentration of  
115 70%. *In-situ*, pH, conductivity ( $\mu\text{S cm}^{-1}$ ) and water temperature ( $^{\circ}\text{C}$ ) were measured using a  
116 WTW Multiline P4. For dissolved oxygen (% saturation and  $\text{mg L}^{-1}$ ), a ProODO oxygen  
117 probe was used. Two water samples were collected for further chemical analysis in the  
118 laboratory and were analysed using high pressure ion chromatography methods. On one  
119 sample, carbonate concentration ( $\text{HCO}_3^-$ ) ( $\text{mg L}^{-1}$ ) was measured using a HACH Digital  
120 Titrator, sulfuric acid (0.1600 N and 1.600 N) and the Bromocresol Green-Methyl Red  
121 Indicator (Hach method 8203). The second sample was filtered using Whatmann GF/C filters  
122 prior to analysis. A Thermo Scientific Dionex ICS1100 system was used for the cation  
123 analysis and, for the anions, the Thermo Scientific Dionex Aquion system was applied. The  
124 concentrations of lithium, sodium, ammonium, potassium, magnesium, calcium, fluoride,  
125 chloride, nitrite, nitrate, phosphate and sulphate were measured ( $\text{mg L}^{-1}$ ) (Table 1).

126 Samples were prepared for LM and SEM observations following the method described in  
127 Prygiel & Coste (2000) cleaning a small sub-sample of epilithic raw material with hydrogen  
128 peroxide ( $\text{H}_2\text{O}_2$ , 35% v/v;) and hydrochloric acid (HCl 37% v/v). The sample was then rinsed  
129 several times and subsequently diluted with distilled water to avoid excessive concentrations  
130 of diatom valves on the slides. Finally, a drop of the diluted cleaned material was dried on  
131 coverslips and mounted in Naphrax<sup>®</sup>. LM observations and morphometric measurements  
132 were performed using a Leica<sup>®</sup> DM2700M at 1000X magnification (N.A. 1.30), equipped  
133 with Differential Interference Contrast (Nomarski) optics. Light micrographs were taken with  
134 a Leica<sup>®</sup> DMC2900 camera. At least 400 diatom valves were enumerated on random  
135 transects to get an overview of the composing diatom flora, and converted into percentage  
136 relative abundance.

137 For SEM, parts of the oxidized suspensions were and inore filtered with additional deionized  
138 water through a 0.2  $\mu\text{m}$  Isopore polycarbonate membrane filter. Pieces of which were fixed on  
139 aluminum stubs after air-drying and coated with a 2 nm layer of chrome, using a high vacuum  
140 coating with a 5nm Chrome layer using 100mA (1 minute) in a Quorum sputter coater (Q150  
141 TES Plus). Then, it was studied using a Hitachi Regulus 8230 ultrahigh-resolution analytical

142 field emission (FE) scanning electron microscope (Hitachi High-Technologies Corporation,  
143 Japan), operated at 2 kV and 10 mm working distance.  
144 Plates were prepared using Adobe InDesign 16.4. Samples and slides are stored at the  
145 Herbières Universitaires de Clermont-Ferrand (CLF) (France) and Meise Botanic Garden (BR)  
146 (Belgium). Diatom terminology follows Ross et al. (1979), Barber & Haworth (1981) for  
147 terminology related to valve shape and striae orientation (valve shape, stria/areola structure)  
148 and Round et al. (1990) for terminology on areolar substructures and girdle band features.  
149 Taxonomic comparisons referred to the following publications: Guerrero et al. (2019),  
150 Morales et al. (2015; 2019b), Osório et al. (2021) and Van de Vijver et al. (2022).

151

## 152 **Results**

153 Division Bacillariophyta

154 Class Bacillariophyceae

155 Subclass Fragilariophycidae

156 Order Fragilariales

157 Family Staurosiraceae

158 Genus *Staurosirella* D.M. Williams & Round 1987

159 ***Staurosirella luectoriana* Beauger, C.E. Wetzel & Van de Vijver sp. nov.**

160 PhycoBank registration: <http://phycobank.org/103828>

161 **Light microscopy** (Figs 2–37): frustules rectangular in girdle view (Fig. 35), connected to  
162 each other to form long, ribbon-like colonies (Figs 36–37). Valves isopolar, elliptical; longer  
163 valves with weakly parallel margins and shorter valves with convex margins. Apices broadly  
164 rounded. Valves dimensions (n=45): length 5.5–8.5, width 3–4.5. Very little size variation  
165 observed. Sternum narrow. Central area absent. Striae equidistant, running continuously from  
166 apex to apex, broad, 10–12 in 10 µm. Striae parallel in the middle becoming radiate near the  
167 apices. Areolae not discernible in LM.

168 **Scanning electron microscopy** (Figs 38–47): Frustules linked by marginal bifurcating and  
169 interlocking spines (Figs 38–39). Spines, originating from a single point, well-developed, and  
170 dichotomously branched, with a circular columnar base (Figs 39–40), located on the virgae  
171 between the striae at the valve face/mantle junction (Figs 40–41). Valve face externally  
172 uneven with raised virgae and sternum and adjacent striae slightly sunken in ‘punch hole-like’  
173 depressions. Striae uniseriate, composed of long, slit-like, linear areolae, running almost  
174 parallel to the apical axis (Figs 40–41) or with two terminal striae located on top of the  
175 continuation of the axial area onto the mantle (Fig. 42), with areolae in size gradually

176 narrowing at both ends (Figs 40, 44–45). Volae projected towards the valve interior (Fig. 41).  
177 Externally, volae intertwining at the same level as their points of origin (Fig. 41). Vimines  
178 long and narrow becoming longer toward the valve face edge (Fig. 41). Sternum narrowly  
179 lanceolate (Figs 40–41, 44). Mantle rather deep (Fig. 44) with small siliceous plaques located  
180 at the mantle edge (Fig. 39, arrow). Apical pore field (APF) present on one apex, occasionally  
181 absent, located on the valve face/mantle junction, very small, composed of only one pore or a  
182 possibly reduced lineola (Figs 41, 45, arrows). On the other apex, apical pore field replaced  
183 by vestiges of a stria (Fig. 44). Internally, striae clearly sunken between flattened virgae and  
184 sternum (Figs 42–43). Girdle elements variable in number, closed (Figs 38, 46–47). Open  
185 alvocopula showing reduced fimbriae (Fig. 46).

186

187 **Holotype:** CLF121600 (Herbiers Universitaires de Clermont-Ferrand, France)

188 **Isotype:** BR-4802 (Meise Botanic Garden, Belgium)

189 **Type locality:** FRANCE, spring of the Regional Nature Reserve of the Jolan and Gazelle  
190 peatlands at Ségur-les-Villas, E688741.423 and N6455250.009 (Lambert 93)

191 **Etymology:** The new species is named in honour to our friend Luc Ector (1962–2022).

192 **Ecology:** The well-oxygenated spring was characterized by low conductivity and slightly  
193 acidic waters (Table 2). The concentration in nitrates was high with 22 mg L<sup>-1</sup>.

194 The diatom flora in the spring was dominated by *S. lucectoriana* (44% of all counted  
195 diatoms), *Nitzschia fonticola* (Grunow) Grunow (28%) and *N. soratensis* E.Morales & Vis  
196 (7.5%). Other, less frequent (<5%) taxa include *Amphora indistincta* Levkov (3.7%),  
197 *Navicula veneta* Kütz. (3%), *Staurosira* cf. *sviridae* Kulikovskiy et al. (3%), *Sellaphora*  
198 *atomoides* C.E.Wetzel & Van de Vijver (2%), *Encyonema minutum* (Hilse) D.G.Mann  
199 (1.5%), *Planothidium lanceolatum* (Bréb. ex Kütz.) Lange-Bert. (1.4%), *Nitzschia linearis*  
200 (C.Agardh) W.Sm. (1.1%). At last, *Achnanthis eutrophilum* (Lange-Bert.) Lange-Bert.,  
201 *Adlafia minuscula* (Grunow) Lange-Bert., *Amphora copulata* (Kütz.) Schoeman &  
202 R.E.M.Archibald, *Cocconeis rouxii* Hérib. & Brun, *Diatoma mesodon* (Ehrenb.) Kütz.,  
203 *Encyonema ventricosum* (Kütz.) Grunow, *Meridion circulare* (Grev.) C.Agardh, *Navicula*  
204 *cryptocephala* Kütz., *Navicula gregaria* Donkin, *Nitzschia alpina* Hust., *Nitzschia palea* var.  
205 *tenuirostris* Grunow, *Planothidium curtistriatum* C.E.Wetzel et al., *Planothidium*  
206 *frequentissimum* (Lange-Bert.) Lange-Bert., *Psammothidium lauenburgianum* (Hust.)  
207 Bukhtiyarova & Round and *Sellaphora crassulexigua* (E.Reichardt) C.E.Wetzel & Ector  
208 represented each one less than 1% of the whole community.

209



## 210 **Discussion**

211 *Staurosirella lucectoriana* is one of the few *Staurosirella* species known to form long, chain-  
212 like colonies. At present, only two other *Staurosirella* species form similar colonies: *S.*  
213 *lapponica* (Grunow) D.M.Williams & Round and *S. mutabilis* (W.Sm.) E.Morales & Van de  
214 Vijver. These three species share some morphological features such as the typical  
215 interlocking, bifurcating spines that can also be seen in for instance *S. lapponica* (Van de  
216 Vijver et al. 2022), and the reduced apical pore fields. Both *S. lapponica* and *S. mutabilis*,  
217 however, possess a very broad sternum, compared to *Staurosirella lucectoriana*, formed by  
218 reduced marginal striae (Morales et al. 2015; Van de Vijver et al. 2022). Contrary, *S.*  
219 *lucectoriana* presents striae that almost reach each other on the sternum.

220 It appears that the type population observed of *Staurosirella lucectoriana* present very little  
221 size variation. Thus, based on valve outline and morphometric dimensions, only three  
222 *Staurosirella* species show some resemblance, although they all lack the typical colony  
223 formation and bifurcating spines (Table 2): *S. andinopatagonica* J.M.Guerrero et al., *S.*  
224 *neopinnata* E.Morales et al. and *S. paranaensis* N.C.Osório et al. (Guerrero et al. 2019;  
225 Morales et al. 2019b; Osório et al. 2021). *Staurosirella neopinnata* often has longer, more  
226 elongated valves with almost parallel margins, a pattern not observed in *S. lucectoriana*,  
227 where only rounded to elliptical valves were observed with convex margins. In outer view,  
228 the striae in *S. paranaensis* are narrower due to more heavily build, clearly raised virgae,  
229 contrary to *S. lucectoriana* that possesses striae almost equal in width as the virgae (Osório et  
230 al. 2021, see for instance figs 35 & 38). *Staurosirella andino-patagonica* has two thin spines  
231 per virga, and lacks the robust bifurcating spines of *S. lucectoriana* (Guerrero et al. 2019).  
232 Moreover, *S. andino-patagonica* has less raised external virgae with the striae therefore less  
233 sunken between them.

234 The reduced apical pore field, observed in *S. lucectoriana*, is typical for colony-forming  
235 *Staurosirella* species and was also encountered in *S. lapponica* and *S. mutabilis* (Morales et  
236 al. 2015, see fig. 45; Van de Vijver et al. 2022, see fig. 30). The ability to form colonies by  
237 linking spines reduced the need to connect cells via the apices and therefore larger apical pore  
238 fields seem less necessary. Apart from the colony-forming species, several solitary  
239 *Staurosirella* species also have reduced apical pore fields, such as *S. andinopatagonica*, *S.*  
240 *krammeri* E.Morales et al., *S. neopinnata* and *S. paranaensis*, that all have an apical pore field  
241 composed of only a few small pores. This is in clear contrast with other *Staurosirella* species  
242 showing large pore fields with long, regular rows of small pores such as *S. baicalensis* with an  
243 APF widely extended on the foot poles and less on the head poles (Kulikovskiy et al. 2015), *S.*

244 *dubia* (Grunow) E.Morales & Manoylov (Morales & Manoylov 2006) and *S. minuta*  
245 E.Morales & Edlund (Morales & Edlund 2003) with APF composed of several discernible  
246 rows of round poroids at both apices. Morales et al. (2010) discussed several small-celled  
247 *Staurosirella* species that, despite their reduced valve dimensions, still possess well-  
248 developed apical porefields, making the APF of the new species rather unique.  
249 Compared to other small round-celled species, the valvocopula of the new species is also  
250 closed and the other girdle bands are closed.  
251 Considering the internal view, it appears that no feature differs between the species except  
252 that for *S. andinopatagonica*, areolae are occluded by delicate and dichotomously branched  
253 volae while for the other including the new species, volae are projected towards the valve  
254 interior. At last, for all species, the striae are in depressions.  
255 When considering the ecology of the new species, *Staurosirella luectoriana* was observed in  
256 a headwater spring that emerges in a concrete drinking trough. The high nitrate concentration  
257 reflected the impact of agricultural activities in the catchment (Taboada-Castro et al. 2004).  
258 The new species was associated with two freshwater species: *Nitzschia fonticola*, known to  
259 live in oligo- to beta-mesosaprobic and meso-eutrophic environments and *Nitzschia*  
260 *soratensis*, preferring slightly eutrophic to eutrophic waters pointing out the presence of  
261 nutrients in the spring (Van Dam et al. 1994; [Lange-Bertalot et al. 2017](#)).  
262 When considering the other species compared to the new one, they were encountered in  
263 different environments: *S. andinopatagonica* and *S. neopinnata* were described in lake  
264 samples and sediment core and, *S. paranaensis* was first observed in a large river.  
265 *Staurosirella mutabilis* was observed in fresh water but there was no information on the  
266 physical and chemical parameters of the habitat. Likewise, for *S. lapponica*, information on  
267 the ecological characteristics of its type habitat is lacking.  
268 This study underlined the presence of a particular diatom biodiversity in the RNR of the Jolan  
269 and Gazelle peatlands, with the presence of new species and others are under review. This  
270 confirms the interest to have created a reserve in this area and the necessary to protect it and  
271 to continue care. It will be interested to to increase our knowledge on the diatom biodiversity  
272 and to do other surveys done in other mountainous areas of the French Massif Central.

273

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385 **Figure legends**

386 Figure 1. Map showing the location of the study spring. a and b: general location of the spring  
387 in France and in the Auvergne region; c: location of the spring (blue circle) in Regional  
388 Nature Reserve (RNR) of the Jolan and Gazelle peatlands; d: photography of the studied  
389 spring.

390 Figures 2–43. *Staurosirella lucectoriana* sp. nov. Figs 2–37. LM. Type population of a spring  
391 of the RNR of the Jolan and Gazelle peatlands, France. Scale bar = 10  $\mu\text{m}$ . Figs 38–43. SEM.  
392 Figs 38. External view of two frustules and one valve connected to each other with  
393 dichotomously branched and interlocking spines. Fig. 39. External detail of the linking spines.  
394 The arrow indicates the presence of mantle plaques. Fig. 40. External view of an entire valve.  
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398 Figures 44–47. Fig 44. External view of a tilted valve. Apical pore field replaced by vestiges  
399 of a stria, reduced to rounded areolae. Fig. 45. External view of the apex. The arrow indicates  
400 the reduced APF composed of only one pore. The isolated pore subtends an apical spine and  
401 always seem to be off the apical axis. Figs 46–47. Valvocopula bearing fimbriae. Scale bar =  
402 5  $\mu\text{m}$  (Fig. 44), 4  $\mu\text{m}$  (Figs 46, 47) and 2  $\mu\text{m}$  (Fig. 45).

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419 Table 1: Physical variables and chemical variables measured in the spring.

Date	15/06/2022
Conductivity ( $\mu\text{S cm}^{-1}$ )	127.5
pH (pH units)	6.46
Temperature ( $^{\circ}\text{C}$ )	12.4
Dissolved oxygen (%)	93.4
$\text{Li}^+$ ( $\text{mg L}^{-1}$ )	<0.005
$\text{Na}^+$ ( $\text{mg L}^{-1}$ )	5.20
$\text{NH}_4^+$ ( $\text{mg L}^{-1}$ )	<0.005
$\text{K}^+$ ( $\text{mg L}^{-1}$ )	2.72
$\text{Mg}^{2+}$ ( $\text{mg L}^{-1}$ )	5.01
$\text{Ca}^{2+}$ ( $\text{mg L}^{-1}$ )	9.89
$\text{F}^-$ ( $\text{mg L}^{-1}$ )	0.05
$\text{Cl}^-$ ( $\text{mg L}^{-1}$ )	6.83
$\text{NO}_2^-$ ( $\text{mg L}^{-1}$ )	0.01
$\text{NO}_3^-$ ( $\text{mg L}^{-1}$ )	<b>22.05</b>
$\text{PO}_4^{3-}$ ( $\text{mg L}^{-1}$ )	0.05
$\text{HCO}_3^-$ ( $\text{mg L}^{-1}$ )	35.8
$\text{SO}_4^{2-}$ ( $\text{mg L}^{-1}$ )	1.89

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422 Table 2: Main characteristics of *Staurosirella luectoriana* and 5 similar *Staurosirella* species.

	Reference	Valve length (µm)	Valve width (µm)	Number of striae (in 10µm)	Valve outline	Striae	Spines	Axial area	Apical pore fields	V
<i>Staurosirella luectoriana</i>	This study	5.5–8.5	3.0–4.5	10.0–12.0	Isopolar, elliptical; longer valves with weakly parallel margins and shorter valves with convex margins	Uniseriate, composed of long, slit-like, linear areolae, running parallel to the apical axis, with areolae in size gradually narrowing at both ends	Originating from a single point, well-developed, dichotomously branched, with a circular columnar base, located on the virgae between the striae at the valve face/mantle junction	Narrowly lanceolate	Present on at least one apex, located on the valve face/mantle junction, very small, composed of only one pore. On the other apex, APF replaced by vestiges of a stria, reduced to rounded areolae	C
<i>Staurosirella andinopatagonica</i>	Guerrero et al. (2019)	4.4–6.5	2.4–3.7	(8)11.0–13.0(15)	Isopolar to slightly heteropolar, broadly elliptic	Uniseriate, uninterrupted from valve face to valve mantle	2 spines, exceptionally 1 or 3, located on virgae, conical	Narrow, linear to slightly lanceolate	More developed at one pole, composed of 2–3	C p

						and composed of slit-like areolae oriented parallel to the apical axis	and parallel, anastomosing at the base		rows of small, round poroids	
<i>Stausosirella lapponica</i>	Van de Vijver et al. (2022)	7.0–35.0(40)	4.0–6.0	6.0–7.0	Linear to linear-elliptic, isopolar	Short, extending to about 1/3 of the valve mantle	Present, hollow, circular base, upper portion a thick V-shaped with bifurcate lateral extensions	Wide	Reduced on both poles	N
<i>Stausosirella mutabilis</i>	Morales et al. (2015)	8.5–26.0	4.0–25.0	8.0–9.0	Elliptic, isopolar	Short, extending to mid valve mantle	Present, hollow, elliptic base, upper portion diapason shape with pointy lateral extensions.	Wide	Reduced on both poles	C
<i>Stausosirella neopinnata</i>	Morales et al. (2019b)	4.0–25.0	4.0–4.7	8.0–9.5	Elliptical, most frequently isopolar to rarely slightly heteropolar	Uninterrupted from valve face to mantle	Originating from two (rarely three) points on each virgae at the valve face-mantle	Narrowly lanceolate	Reduced or developed, equal size at both poles	C

							junction, initially hollow, tip spatulate		
<i>Staurosirella paranaensis</i>	Osório et al. (2021)	6.0–10.0	3.0–4.5	8.0–11.0	Elliptical, most frequently isopolar to rarely slightly heteropolar	Uninterrupted from valve face to mantle	Solid and thin; one per costa, originating from one point on each virgae at the valve face-mantle junction, initially hollow, tip spatulate	Narrowly lanceolate	Usually equally developed on both valve poles composed of round poroids

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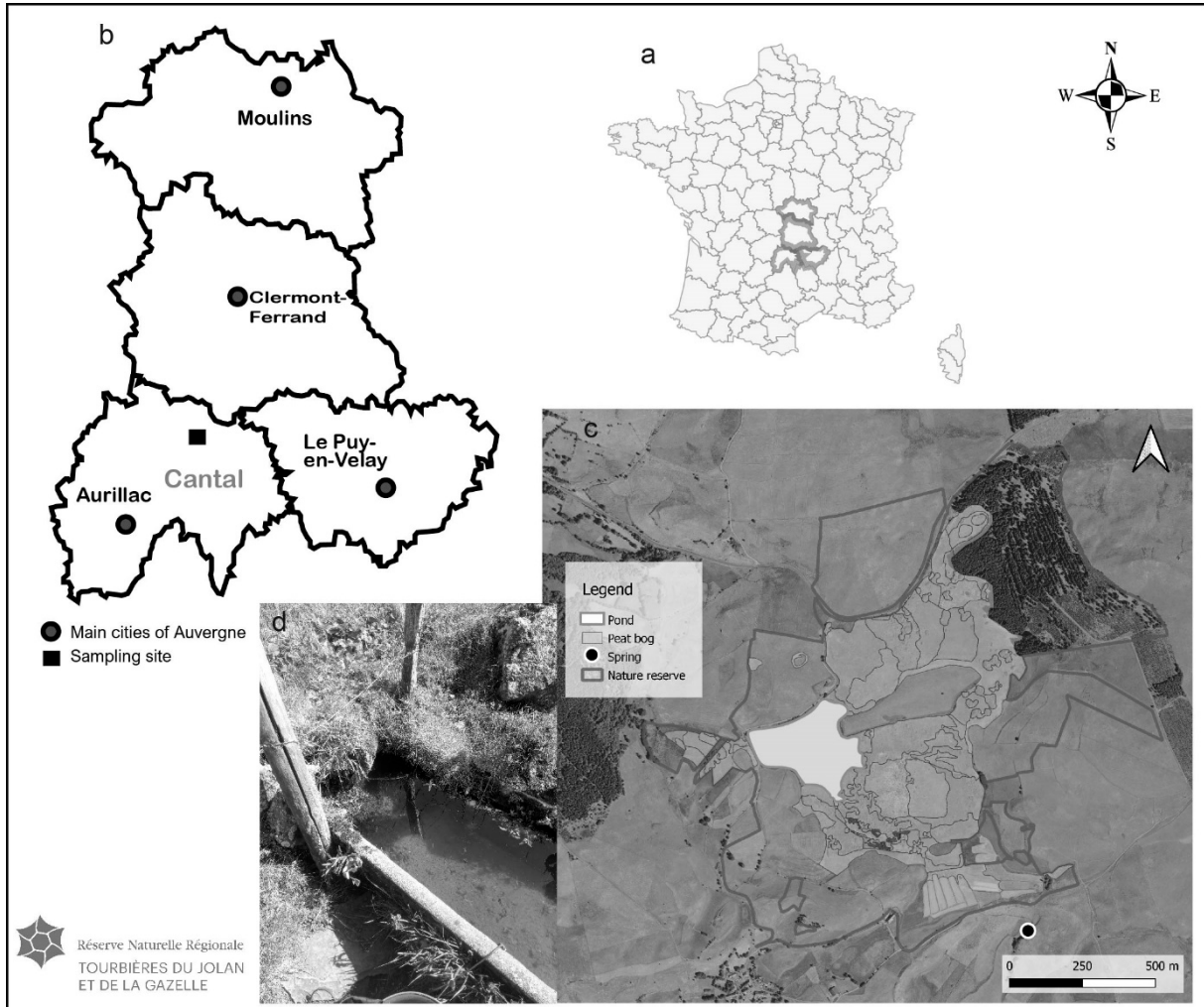
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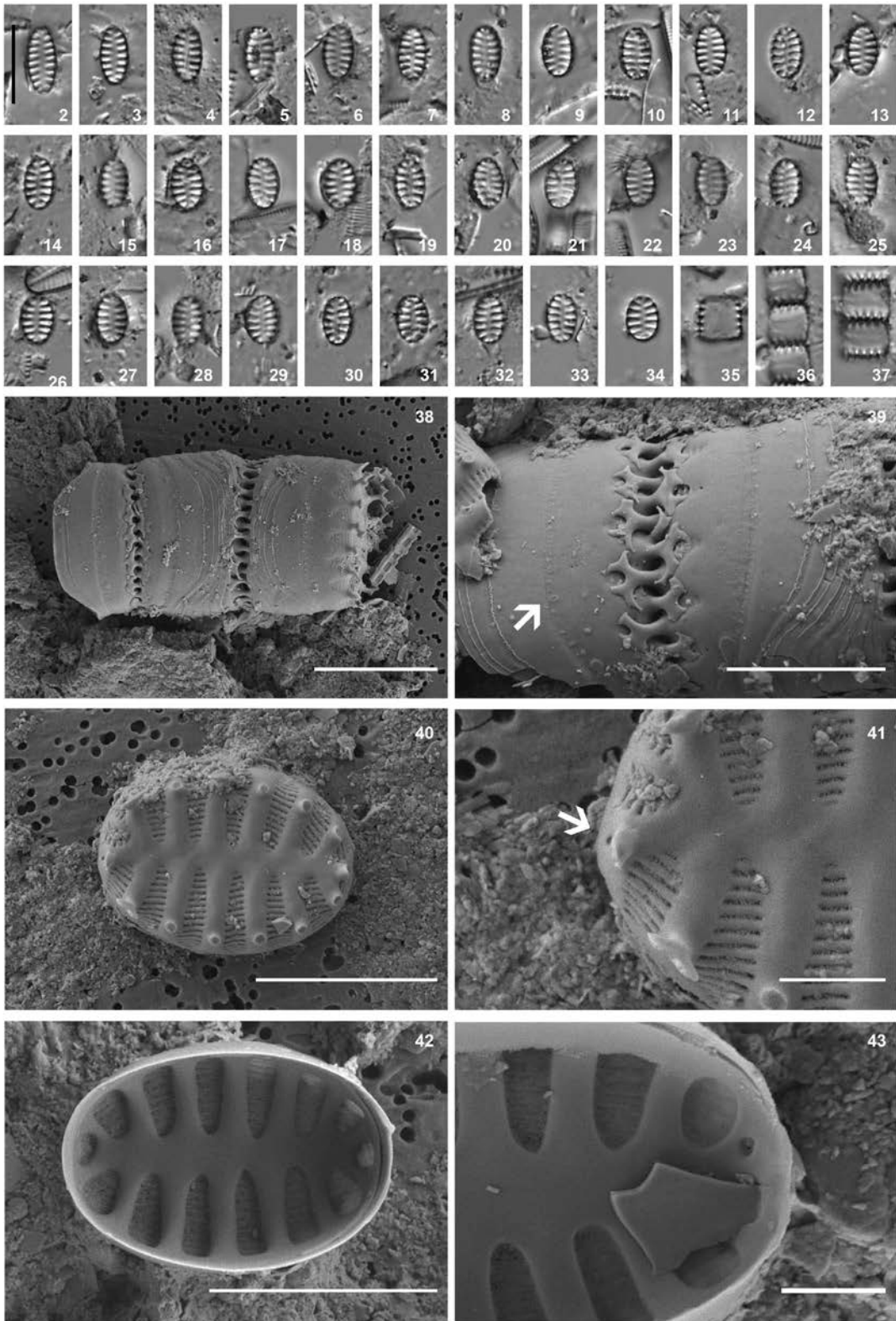
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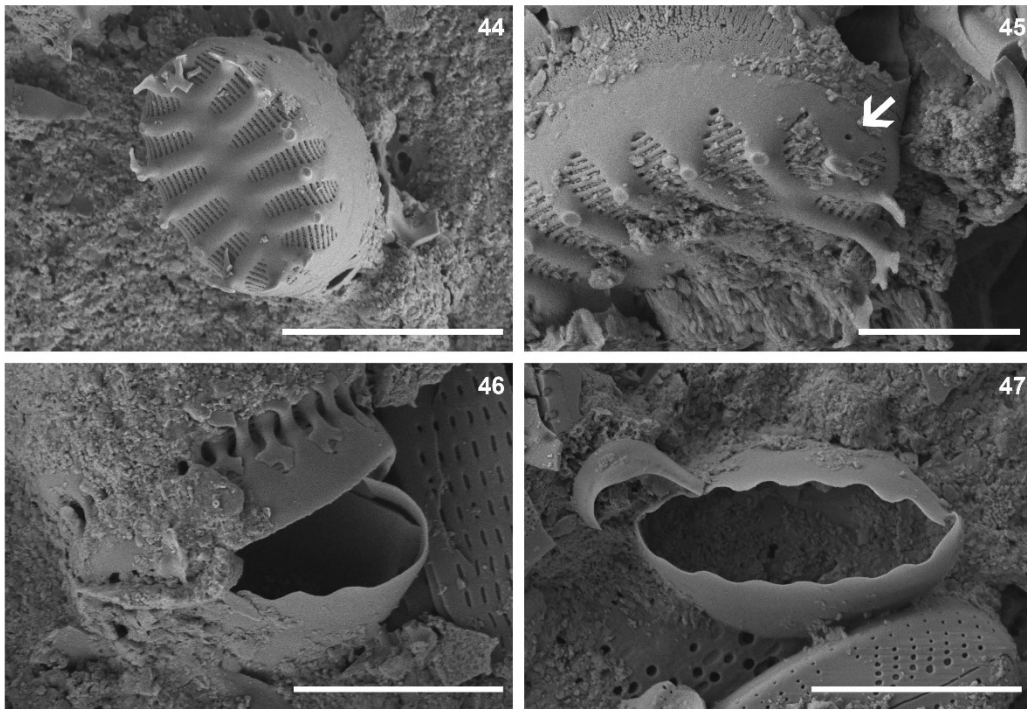
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