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Biogeography of *Lychnothamnus Barbatus* (Characeae, Chlorophyta), with an
Emphasis on the Specimen from Lanyu Island, Southeastern Taiwan, Including
Morphological Comparison

Wang, Wei-Lung; Chou, Jui-Yu; Liu, Shao-Lun

Abstract

The genus, *Lychnothamnus* (Rupr.) Leohardi, charalean, is a fossil algae found in deposits from the Late Eocene to the Holocene. One species, *Lychnothamnus barbatus* is found in Taiwan, Europe, and Australia. The distribution of *L. barbatus* is attributed to animal dispersal from Australia to Taiwan, but the populations of Australia and Europe were isolated due to the break-up of Pangea during the Jurassic Period. The similarity of morphologic features, and nearly identical *rbcL* sequences in the three populations from Taiwan, Europe, and Australia, suggest the variations in the isolated populations may be due to thalli or oospore dispersal among the continents after plate tectonic activity separated the continents.

Key words : *rbcL* sequence; Taiwan; Biogeography; *Lychnothamnus barbatus*