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*TETRAËDRON STARMACHII* SIEM. 1965 (*CHLOROPHYTA*) OCCURS  
TO BE *MULTIPLICISPHAERIDIUM SANPETRENSIS* (CRAMER 1964)  
(*ACRITARCHA*)

*Tetraëdron starmachii* Siem. 1965 (*Chlorophyta*) synonymem *Multiplicisphaeridium sanpetrensis* (Cramer 1964) (*Acritarcha*)

ABSTRACT

*Tetraëdron starmachii* Siem. 1965 has been described on the base of two empty cells from a small freshwater lake in Montana, U. S. A. It was assigned to recent green algae. Now it appears that it was a fossil contamination, and that the correct name of the taxon is *Multiplicisphaeridium sanpetrensis* (Cramer 1964).

From the material containing recent, freshwater algae collected from the Mission Wells Pond in Montana, U.S.A. a new species *Tetraëdron starmachii* Siemińska 1965 was described. There were only two empty cells seen, but their shape was very characteristic, reminiscent of some other species of the genus. The taxon was believed to belong to *Chlorophyta*, family *Oocystaceae*. Now, in the catalogue of acritarchs (Eisenack, Cramer 1973) a drawing of a fossil taxon attracted attention as being very similar to it.

After comparing the details it became clear that it was the same taxon, and that *T. starmachii* and *Multiplicisphaeridium sanpetrensis* (Cramer 1964) are synonymous.

*M. sanpetrensis* is an acritarch occurring from Lower Silurian (Upper Llandoveryan) to Lower Devonian (Lower Gedinnian) in Spain and Belgium in Europe and in U.S.A. (East of Mississippi and South of the Great Lakes) in North America (Eisenack, Cramer 1973) mostly known under the synonymous name *Baltisphaeridium sanpetrensis* Cramer 1966.

The two Montana specimens differed from the description given in the catalogue in being smaller in size: the diameter of cells without processes was

22—25  $\mu$  (instead of “generally approximately 40  $\mu$ ”), and with processes 37—44  $\mu$  (instead of “total diameter may reach 70  $\mu$ ”). The size is similar to the Belgium specimens (Martin 1967: central part of cells 20—35  $\mu$  in diameter, the processes 9—18  $\mu$  long) but each Montana specimen had 6 processes, and the Belgium as many as 15—30. American papers (Cramer 1969; Cramer, Díez de Cramer 1972) give no descriptions nor illustrations of the taxon. The specimens found in Montana must be treated as fossil contamination in waters of the Mission Wells Pond.

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#### STRESZCZENIE

*TETRAËDRON STARMACHII* SIEMIŃSKA 1965 (*CHLOROPHYTA*) SYNONIMEM  
*MULTIPLICISPHAERIDIUM SANPETRENSIS* (CRAMER 1964)  
(*ACRITARCHA*)

*Tetraëdron starmachii* Siemińska 1965 opisano jako współczesną zielenicę z próbki glonów pochodzących z małego, słodkowodnego jeziora w Montanie (USA) na podstawie dwu pustych komórek. Obecnie okazało się, że jest to akritarch *Multiplicisphaeridium sanpetrensis* (Cramer 1964), który dostał się do jeziora ze skał wieku paleozoicznego.