A New Marine Species of *Amphidinium* (Dinophyceae) from Thermaikos Gulf, Greece

**Nicolas P. DOLAPSAKIS and Athena ECONOMOU-AMILLI**

Faculty of Biology, Department of Ecology and Systematics, University of Athens, Athens, Greece

**Summary.** Genus *Amphidinium* Claparède *et* Lachmann (Gymnodiniales, Dinophyceae) *sensu lato* has recently undergone a reappraisal using extended microscopical methods and genetic comparisons, with the type species and morphologically similar species used for the redescription of the genus *Amphidinium sensu stricto*. Within the latter concept of the genus, the new species *Amphidinium thermaeum* is established using light and scanning electron microscopy in combination with LSU rDNA phylogeny. This species was isolated from the Thermaikos Gulf in Greece, and its description is largely based on observations of cultured material. The main diacritic features distinguishing *A. thermaeum* from related taxa were: shape, size and plasticity of the cell, position of distal and proximal cingulum ends, site of longitudinal flagellar insertion, sulcal course, pusule details, plastid characteristics, and mode of cell division. Genetic phylogeny applying Bayesian Inference, Maximum Likelihood, and Neighbor-Joining analyses, places *A. thermaeum* in an independent position within the *Amphidinium sensu stricto* monophyletic group, and the new species is closely related to its small and morphologically similar siblings (*A. massartii, A. klebsii, A. trulla, A. gibbosum, A. carterae*).

**Key words:** *Amphidinium thermaeum* sp. nov., Dinophyceae, microscopy, LSU rDNA, molecular phylogeny.