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**Type analysis of *Achnanthes oblongella* Østrup and resurrection of *Achnanthes saxonica* (Bacillariophyta)**

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*Achnanthes oblongella* Østrup and *Achnanthes saxonica* Krasske have long been regarded as taxonomic synonyms by many diatomists around the world. Here we investigated the original material of *A. oblongella* originally described from Thailand and considered to be a cosmopolitan species, and compared it with twenty-five freshwater epilithic populations collected in several rivers in France on a biomonitoring framework (collections made between 2008 and 2015) and primarily identified as *Achnanthes oblongella*. We also investigated for the first time the original slide of *Achnanthes saxonica* from Germany. We found both taxa to be independent species. Besides differences in morphometric characters (i.e. valve width), a distinct way of areolae formation distinguish both species. While the raphe valve of *A. saxonica* always has the striae composed of two rows of rounded areolae, the SEM observations of *A. oblongella* reveal that the striae of this species are composed of 1-2 rows of areolae often occluded externally by branched volae, while internally areola occlusions are larger, merged and reniform. Each stria is usually composed of one areola near the axial area, but by two rows of areolae towards the valve margin. On the valve mantle *A. saxonica* always has two areolae, while *A. oblongella* has one. Both species are transferred here to the genus *Platessa* Lange-Bertalot, which we consider to be the most appropriate for accommodating these two taxa.