

## AEGAGROPILA LINNAEI (CHLOROPHYTA, PITHOPHORACEAE) IN MONGOLIA

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The first recorded member of Pithophoraceae in Mongolia, *Aegagropila linnaei*, was found in Terhiyn Tsagaan Lake (48°09'55"N, 99°42'98"E, 2060 m a.s.l.), which is the highest-elevation locality of the species in Asia. The lake was formed ca. 7.000 BP as a result of blocking the Hoit Terhiyn Gol River by lava flows after the last eruption of the Khorog volcano. The species is presented mostly by free-floating growth form. The morphology of thalli is in a good agreement with previously published data. The new record of *A. linnaei* has reduced the disjunction in the species range in the Inner Asia, where it was previously known from a few scattered localities. This also draws attention to the role of continental volcanism in the creation of refugia. It is recommended to include the species in the national Red Data Book.

**Keywords:** green algae, *Aegagropila*, Pithophoraceae, rare species, morphology, Mongolia

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