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TO THE MORPHOLOGY AND TAXONOMY OF *MERIDION CIRCULARE* (BACILLARIOPHYTA)

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The electron microscopy study of the valve morphology of *Meridion circulare* var. *circulare* and *M. circulare* var. *constrictum* from the small lake Lamba (Karelia) has revealed a significant variation in the valve length and width, number of costae and striae in 10 μm. A high variability in the shape of the valve and its ends, different position of the rimoportula and orientation of its fissure have also been shown. Coincidence of the ranges of quantitative characteristics in the varieties under study, the presence of transition forms and a similar variability of the valve shape in the majority of other genera of seamless diatoms implies that *M. circulare* var. *constrictum* is concpecific with *M. circulare* var. *circulare.* Based on the original and published data, an emended description of *M. circulare* is presented.

Keywords: Bacillariophyta, *Meridion circulare* var. *circulare*, *M. circulare* var. *constrictum*, electron microscopy, morphology, taxonomy

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