

**SACCHARINA LATISSIMA (OCHROPHYTA, LAMINARIALES)
FROM KAMCHATKA WATERS: ECOLOGY, DISTRIBUTION AND
MOLECULAR PHYLOGENY**

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The ecology, morphometric diversity and distribution of the whole-leaved kelp species from Kamchatka were studied. These species were previously listed in this region under various names, including *Laminaria gurjanovae*, *Laminaria gurjanovae* f. *lanciformis*, *Laminaria lanciformis*, *Laminaria* sp. avgub 1, *Saccharina gurjanovae*. The molecular-phylogenetic analysis based on COI sequences has shown a high level of similarity with the samples of *S. latissima* from the Atlantic coast of Europe and the Canadian sector of the Arctic – Hudson Bay (98.7–99% and 99.8%, respectively, based on COI gene), which indicates that our species from Kamchatka belongs to *S. latissima*. Our molecular-phylogenetic data do not apply to the type form of *L. gurjanovae*, which differs from *S. latissima* in morphology and ecology.

Keywords: *Laminaria gurjanovae* f. *lanciformis*, Kamchatka, molecular phylogeny, Laminariales, *Saccharina latissima*

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