

Accepted Manuscript

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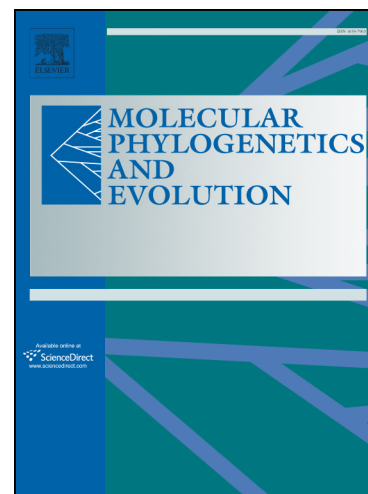
PII: S1055-7903(17)30926-0
DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.ympev.2018.05.020>
Reference: YMPEV 6171

To appear in: *Molecular Phylogenetics and Evolution*

Received Date: 21 December 2017
Revised Date: 3 May 2018
Accepted Date: 17 May 2018

Please cite this article as: Suzuki, T., Inoue, Y., Tsubota, H., Molecular phylogeny of the genus *Fissidens* (Fissidentaceae, Bryophyta) and a refinement of the infrageneric classification, *Molecular Phylogenetics and Evolution* (2018), doi: <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.ympev.2018.05.020>

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Molecular phylogeny of the genus *Fissidens* (Fissidentaceae, Bryophyta) and a refinement of the infrageneric classification

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Abstract

The genus *Fissidens* (ca. 440 spp.) is one of the phylogenetically poorly studied groups of mosses (Bryophyta). While various classifications of this genus have been proposed, no attempt at a classification of the genus based on combined molecular and morphological evidence has been made. Here, we present for the first time a comprehensive phylogenetic tree consisting of 50 representatives of *Fissidens*, reconstructed using sequence data from chloroplast *rbcL* and *rps4* genes. Ancestral state reconstructions provide three clear apomorphies within *Fissidens*: peristome teeth, limbidium and chromosome number. Based on the phylogeny and morphological reassessment, we recognize three subgenera, *Pachyfissidens*, *Neoamblyothallia*, and *Fissidens*. Subgenus *Neoamblyothallia* consists of two sections: *Neoamblyothallia* and *Crispidium*. Subgenus *Fissidens* consists of five sections: *Fissidens*, *Polypodiopsis*, *Aloma*, *Areofissidens*, and *Semilimbidium*. High diversity of the most derived sect. *Semilimbidium* in the tropics suggests that the evolutionary history of the genus is through adaptation and diversification in tropical regions.

Keywords:

Fissidentaceae, *Fissidens* classification, phylogenetics, peristome structure, limbidium, chromosome number

1. Introduction

The acrocarpous family Fissidentaceae (Bryophyta) consists of haplolepidous

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