



***Agardhiella subulata* subsp. *recurvata* (Schnetter) Sandoval-Riveros, Beltrán-Rozo & Gavio, comb. nov. (Solieriaceae, Florideophyceae), a little-known subspecies from the southern Caribbean**

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Agardhiella tenera subsp. *recurvata* Schnetter was proposed by Schnetter (1972: 15, fig. 9) based on several specimens collected in Colombian Caribbean waters, and since its description, it has not been reported again (Guiry & Guiry 2025). Recent surveys conducted by B. Gavio in La Guajira, Colombian Caribbean, included specimens exhibiting the morphological features described by Schnetter (1972), growing on consolidated substrata in the upper sublittoral zone at depths of up to 50 cm.

As *Agardhiella tenera* (J.Agardh) F.Schmitz was synonymized with *Agardhiella subulata* (C.Agardh) Kraft & M.J.Wynne by Kraft & Wynne (1979), and considering that the specimens in question fully agree in their morpho-anatomical characters with the latter, except for the recurved shape of the apices, it is proposed here that the current name *Agardhiella tenera* subsp. *recurvata* should be reassigned to *A. subulata* in accordance with ICN Art. 11.4 (Turland & al. 2025), which states: “For any taxon below the rank of genus, the correct name is the combination of the final epithet of the earliest legitimate name of the same rank with the correct name of the genus or species to which it is assigned, ...”. We therefore propose the following new combination for this name.

***Agardhiella subulata* subsp. *recurvata* (Schnetter) Sandoval-Riveros, Beltrán-Rozo & Gavio, comb. nov.**

Basionym: *Agardhiella tenera* subsp. *recurvata* Schnetter *Mutisia* 36: 15, fig. 9, 1972

Type locality: Punta Brava, Santa Marta, Departamento del Magdalena, Colombia, 80 cm subtidal, 25 March 1970.

Holotype: COL 122953, leg. R. Schnetter A–628, det. R. Schnetter.

Isotype: GI [2006] leg. R. Schnetter A–628, det. R. Schnetter.

Representative specimens examined: Colombia, La Guajira, Cabo de la Vela, beach in front of the village, drift, (28.ii.2021) leg. B. Gavio ASR–750, det. A. Sandoval–Riveros JIW[JIW0005378]; Santa Rosa, Municipio de Manaure, 50 cm, (2.iii.2021) leg. B. Gavio ASR–774, det. A. Sandoval–Riveros JIW[JIW0005377].

Registration: <http://phycobank.org/106082>

Note: The holotype and isotype of *Agardhiella subulata* subsp. *recurvata* display an alternate to pseudodichotomous branching pattern, with branches concentrated in the distal regions of the thallus, an indistinct main axis and divergent branches bearing bifid or multifid apices. *Agardhiella subulata* exhibits branches distributed along the thallus and a well-defined main axis. Alternate to pectinate branching pattern, with apices tending to be spinulose and rarely bifid or trifid. The specimens examined from La Guajira showed intermediate characteristics, such as slightly recurved or, in some cases, straight apices compared to the subspecies, as well as commonly bifid or trifid apices.



Future studies are needed to clarify the taxonomic status of this subspecies because *Agardhiella subulata* has not previously been shown to exhibit recurved apices, even under certain environmental conditions or specific ecological pressures. The restricted distribution of this subspecies in the southern Caribbean Sea could be related either to a possible species-level endemism or to local environmental conditions that promote population differentiation relative to other populations of *A. subulata*. Its occurrence in shallow environments in La Guajira may also indicate potential differences from the typical species *A. subulata*, which, according to Bula–Meyer and Norris (2001), is favoured by stable salinity conditions, primarily at depths below 10 m.

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