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## **Phylogenetic, taxonomic and biogeographical studies in the Pithophoraceae (Cladophorales, Chlorophyta)**

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Christian Bödeker was born on the 27<sup>th</sup> of August 1976 in Münster, Germany. He obtained his highschool diploma in 1996 and subsequently performed his civil service in Münster. In 1997, Christian started studying biology at the University of Göttingen, Germany. After the intermediate examinations in general biology in 1999, he switched to the University of Rostock, Germany, to specialise in marine biology as a major. Minor subjects were ecology, botany and physical oceanography. While studying in Rostock, Christian worked in numerous projects as a student assistant and took part in several phycological fieldtrips abroad. His term paper on the physiology of red algae under UVR-stress was carried out at the Alfred Wegener Institute for Polar and Marine Research in Bremerhaven, Germany. The practical work for the graduation thesis ('Diplom') was undertaken at the National Institute for Water and Atmospheric Research and Te Papa Tongarewa National Museum of New Zealand in Wellington, New Zealand, and funded by a scholarship of the German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD). The title of the thesis was 'Do morphology and life history reflect phylogeny? Culture experiments with *Bangia* strains (Bangiales, Rhodophyta) from New Zealand', supervised by Dr. Wendy Nelson (Wellington) and Prof. Dr. Ulf Karsten (Rostock). After graduating in December 2003, Christian started his PhD in May 2004 at the National Herbarium of the Netherlands on phylogenetics and systematics of the Cladophorales (Chlorophyta). Originally, the PhD project focussed on the genera *Chaetomorpha*, *Cladophora* and *Rhizoclonium*, but was later changed to studies in the *Aegagropila*-clade. During his PhD, Christian assisted undergraduate classes and supervised a BSc project on the biogeography of the green freshwater alga *Aegagropila linnaei*. Furthermore, he undertook phycological fieldwork in many countries and presented his research at international conferences in Leiden (Netherlands), Durban (South Africa), London (United Kingdom), Hobart (Australia) and Tokyo (Japan).



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