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***Starostinia*, a new generic replacement name for *Ironella* Starostina & Krasnov, 1970 (Anthozoa: Scleractinia: Rhipidogyridae) non Cobb, 1920 (Nematoda: Ironidae)**

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The fossil genus *Ironella* Starostina & Krasnov (type species *I. giseldonensis* by original designation) was established (in Krasnov & Starostina 1970: 79) for distinctive scleractinian corals from Northern Caucasus of Russia (Northern Ossetia). However, *Ironella* Cobb (1920: 277), a living nematode (Adenophorea: Enoplida: Ironidae), preceded the fossil coral name, which becomes a preoccupied later homonym. The nematode *Ironella* is well recognized in modern zoology (Nematoda—LSID urn:lsid:marinespecies.org:taxname:227324), and in this connection a new generic designation is necessary for the later homonymic fossil scleractinian genus.

To resolve homonymy, in accordance with the International Code of Zoological Nomenclature, *Starostinia* gen. nov. (type species *Ironella giseldonensis* Starostina & Krasnov, 1970) is here proposed as a replacement genus name for *Ironella* Starostina & Krasnov non Cobb. The genus is named in honor of Russian palaeontologist E. A. Starostina.

Systematics

Class Anthozoa Ehrenberg, 1833

Subclass Zoantharia de Blainville, 1830

Order Scleractinia Bourne, 1900

Suborder *Rhipidogyrina* Roniewicz, 1976

Family *Rhipidogyridae* Koby, 1905

Genus *Starostinia* gen. nov. (= *Ironella* Starostina & Krasnov, 1970 non Cobb, 1920)

Type species: *Starostina giseldonensis* (Starostina & Krasnov, 1970) comb. nov. (= *Ironella giseldonensis* Starostina & Krasnov, 1970: 79, tab. 5, fig. 2). Locus classicus: Gizel'don river, Northern Osetia, Russian Federation; Upper Jurassic (Tithonian); holotype 1/50 [Sevkavgeologija].

Diagnosis: see Starostina & Krasnov (1970: 79).

Generic stratigraphy and palaeogeography: Upper Jurassic (Tithonian)-Lower Cretaceous (Valanginian) — Lower Kimmeridgian of Romania [Roniewicz, 1976], Tithonian of N Caucasus (N Osetia, Russia) (Starostina & Krasnov, 1970) and Polish Carpathians (Morycowa, 2012); Albian of Transcaucasus (W Georgia) (Sikharulidze, 1979), Valanginian of Slovenia (Turnšek & Buser, 1974; Turnšek, 1997), Oxfordian of Saudi Arabia (El-Asa'ad, 1991).

Generic circumscription: 4 species:

Starostinia giseldonensis (Starostina & Krasnov, 1970) comb. nov. (= *Ironella giseldonensis* Starostina & Krasnov, 1970);

Starostinia rutimeyeri (Koby, 1889) comb. nov. (= *Heterocoenia rutimeyeri* Koby, 1889);

Starostinia tsckhanariensis (Sikharulidze, 1979) comb. nov. (= *Ironella tsckhanariensis* Sikharulidze, 1979);
Starostinia. arabica (El-Asa'ad, 1991) comb. nov. (= *Ironella arabica* El-Asa'ad, 1991).

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