Two new *Gomphonema* EHRENBERG (Bacillariophyceae) species from Macedonia and comparison with type material of *G. brebissonii* KÜTZING

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Abstract: A large study on *Gomphonema* EHRENBERG species from Macedonia recently has been started. In this article two species are presented having unique set of characters than already known species and therefore are described as new species. The comparison was made using type material of *G. brebissonii* KÜTZING and *G. gautieri* (VAN HEURCK) LANGE–BERTALOT et METZELIN. *Gomphonema scardicum* sp. nov. resembles *G. montanum* SCHUMANN GRUNOW and *G. brebissonii* KÜTZING with respect to the valve outline and size. Main differential characters of *G. scardicum* are the cuneate shape of the headpole and less pronounced constriction near the head pole. Similarly, *G. gautieriforme* sp. nov. differs from *G. gautieri* with respect to the valve outline and the shape of the head pole. The valves of *G. gautieriforme* are almost rhombic in outline and gradually narrowing towards the footpole. The head pole of *G. gautieriforme* is rounded and cuneate opposite to truncate and apiculate in *G. gautieri*.

Key words: *Gomphonema*, diatoms, taxonomy, new species, Macedonia, type material

INTRODUCTION

EHRENBERG (1832) described the genus *Gomphonema* to include six taxa. The diatom genus name *Gomphonema* EHRENBERG (1832) is conserved against that of *Gomphonema* C. AGARDH (1824), the latter having no designated generic type. Since then, it has received considerable attention resulting in more than 1000 names (FOURTANIER & KOCIOLEK 2011) and more than 120 species having been described from various parts of the world in the last decade. More recently, several species of *Gomphonema* have been typified (JAIN 1986; LANGE–BERTALOT & GENKAL 1999; REICHARDT 1999; JAIN & KUSHER 2004) or type material has been observed in detail (REICHARDT 2001, 2005; NOVAIS et al. 2009; VAN DE VIVER et al. 2013).

*Gomphonema* is considered heterogeneous (REICHARDT 2007; LEVKOV & WILLIAMS 2011) and paraphyletic (KERMARREC et al. 2011). On other side, the molecular studies showed that *Gomphonema* is monophyletic (BRUER & MEDLIN 2008; p. 313), although *G. micropus* KÜTZING was separated from other species. Several genera have been separated from *Gomphonema* based on ultrastructural differences (MEDLIN & ROUND 1986; LANGE–BERTALOT 1995). Additionally, several species around *G. olivaceum* (HORNEMANN) BRÉBISON and *G. quadripunctatum* ØSTRUP have been transferred to the genus *Gomphoneis* CLEVE (DAWSON 1974; ROSS & SIMS 1978; OHTSUKA 2002; TUI 2005). The most recent concept of *Gomphonema* sensu stricto comprises species with linear to linear–lanceolate and more or less heteropolar valves, with broader head and narrower base pole, striae uniseriate or biseriate and single (rarely two) stigma present in the central area (ROUND et al. 1990). Species without stigma or with four stigmoids have been transferred into other genera, like *Gomphoseptatum* MEDLIN, *Pseudogomphonema* MEDLIN, *Gomphosphenia* LANGE–BERTALOT, *Gomphoneis* CLEVE (MEDLIN & ROUND 1986; LANGE–BERTALOT 1995; KOCIOLEK et al. 2013).

*Gomphonema* has received relatively little attention in Macedonia, with exception of studies on lakes Ohrid and Prespa. HUSTEDT (1945), in his study of diatoms from Balkan Peninsula, described four new taxa from the lakes Ohrid and Prespa. More recently, LANGE–BERTALOT & REICHARDT (in LANGE–BERTALOT 1993), LEVKOV et al. (2007) and LEVKOV & WILLIAMS (2011) described additional 10 new species from Lake Ohrid. According to the check list of diatoms of lakes Ohrid and Prespa (LEVKOV & WILLIAMS 2012), in both lakes almost 60 *Gomphonema* taxa have been reported. With respect to other localities in Macedonia, LEVKOV & STOJANOVSKI (2002) recorded seven *Gomphonema* taxa from Lake Doiran, while LEVKOV et al. (2005) reported 21 *Gomphonema* species from Shara and Nidze mountains. Recently a detailed taxonomic study...
of *Gomphonema* species from Macedonia was begun (e.g. LEVKOV & WILLIAMS 2011). This paper contains the first results of detailed observations of two species which possess unique set of characters that distinguish them from all known taxa. One was previously identified as *G. brebissonii* KÜTZING by LEVKOV et al. (2005) but after observations of the type material, it was found that the species from Shara Mountain has morphological characters that clearly separate it from the type and other populations of *G. brebissonii*.

**Materials and Methods**

The samples from Macedonia examined in this study have been collected during two different campaigns. One of the samples was collected in 2003 from a small stream above Lake Crno on Mountain Shara, Macedonia, ca 300 m above sea level, while the second sample was collected in 2013 from the drainage channel of Katlanovo wetland, near village Taor, Macedonia (ca 240 m.a.s.l.). These two samples had a high abundance of *Gomphonema* species used for detailed light microscope (LM) and scanning electron microscope (SEM) observations. Original material of *G. brebissonii* from Falaise (Caen, Calvados department, Basse–Normandie region, France, leg. Brébisson) was obtained for SEM analyses from the Friedrich Hustedt Centre for Diatom Study, Bremerhaven (BRM RBH2007, in coll. Rabenhorst), while slides made from the type material were loaned from the Natural History Museum in London (BM 18641 and BM 18694 in coll. Kützing and BM 13194 in coll. Deby). The organic content of the raw material was removed from the samples by the method of acid digestion, with the addition of 2 ml of supersaturated solution of K₂MnO₄ and 4 ml of HCl to a small (ca. 2 ml) subsample. Permanent slides were mounted with Naphrax®. Slide observations were performed with a Nikon E–80i light microscope, and photomicrographs were taken with a Nikon Coolpix 600 digital camera. For scanning electron microscopy (SEM), a small amount of the suspensions were filtered and rinsed with additional deionised water through a 10 µm Isopore™ membrane. For scanning electron microscopy (SEM) observations. Original material of *G. brebissonii* from Falaise (Caen, Calvados department, Basse–Normandie region, France, leg. Brébisson) was obtained for SEM analyses from the Friedrich Hustedt Centre for Diatom Study, Bremerhaven (BRM RBH2007, in coll. Rabenhorst), while slides made from the type material were loaned from the Natural History Museum in London (BM 18641 and BM 18694 in coll. Kützing and BM 13194 in coll. Deby).

**Observations**

*Gomphonema brebissonii* KÜTZING (Figs 1–15, 18–24)

**Light microscopy (Figs 1–15):** Frustule in girdle view wedge shaped. Valves heteropolar, narrowly clavate to linear with slightly undulate margins and narrowly rhomboid and obtusely rounded on the headpole and acutely rounded footpole. Headpole slightly wider than central part of valve. Constriction between headpole and mid–valve visible, but not distinct. Valve length 31–55 µm, valve width 7.5–9.5 µm in widest part, 7.2–8.5 µm in mid–valve. Axial area moderately broad, linear to narrowly lanceolate. Central area irregular to elliptical, narrow, bordered by one (rarely two) shortened stria on each side. One isolated stigma present in central area, separated from shortened central stria. Raphe lateral with small central pores. Transapical striae radiate near mid–valve becoming more strongly radiate towards poles, 9–11 in 10 µm. Puncta of striae not visible with LM. Striae less distantly spaced close to footpole.

**Scanning electron microscopy (Figs 18–24):** Externally, raphe branches clearly undulated (Figs 18, 20). Distal ends unilaterally deflected onto valve mantle (Figs 23, 24). Proximal raphe endings expanded, tear–drop–shaped, very weakly deflected opposite to stigma (Fig. 19). At footpole, distal raphe bisecting well developed apical pore field (APF) composed of round areolae, structurally different from areolae, extending on valve mantle. Narrow hyaline area present between last stria and APF (Fig. 24). External stigma opening round, situated at end of central stria (Fig. 19). Striae uniseriate throughout, interrupted near valve face/ mantle junction, continuing onto mantle (Fig. 18). Areolae c–shaped, slightly sunk into valve face formed by siliceous flaps occluding the areolar openings (Figs 19, 23, 24). Mantle striae composed of c–shaped areolae terminating by several small, c–shaped or slit–like areolae (Fig. 18). Internally, small pseudosepta present, clearly visible at both poles (Fig. 21). Proximal raphe endings recurved along the outer edges of the raised central nodule (Fig. 22). Distal raphe endings terminating on small helicotoglossae (Fig. 21). Stigma opening elongated, slit–like, relatively small (Fig. 22). Areolae located in foraminar rows with small round to c–shaped. Siliceous flaps covering most of the opening are visible inside the areolar opening (Fig. 26).

**Notes:** LANGE–BERTALOT & GENKAL (1999; p. 52) provided formal typification of *G. brebissonii* illustrating it with two specimens (op. cit. figs 68: 8, 9). Both images were reproduced in REICHARDT (1999; figs 56: 12, 13) in his revision of selected *Gomphonema* species complexes. According to REICHARDT (1999; p. 47) the population from the type material is characterized by following valve measurements: valve length 30–86 µm, width at headpole 8.3–14.0 µm,
Figs 1–15. *Gomphonema brebissonii*, LM, Falaise, France: (1–14) diminution series; (15) frustule in girdle view. Figs 16, 17. *Gomphonema acuminatum var. montanum* Schumann modified original drawings (Schumann 1867, figs 35a, b). Scale bar 10 μm.

*Gomphonema scardicum* sp. nov. (Figs 25–53)

**Light microscopy** (Figs 25–44): Valve heteropolar, linear–lanceolate with the largest valve width near mid–valve, with narrowly rounded to cuneate headpole, and acutely rounded footpole. Larger valve from weakly constricted margin between headpole and mid–valve, constriction in smaller specimens indistinct. Large– and medium–sized specimens inflated at mid–valve. Valve length 36–63 μm, width 7.0–8.0 μm at headpole, 7.5–9.5 μm at mid–valve (widest part in mid–valve). Axial area narrow, linear–lanceolate, ornamented with shallow, irregularly arranged depressions. Central area small, formed by shortening of single central stria on both valve sides. One isolated stigma present in central area, located near the mid–valve, and separated from long, central stria. Raphe clearly lateral, weakly undulated with simple, slightly expanded central raphe endings. Transapical striae coarse, parallel in mid–valve 9–12 striae in 10 μm, becoming radiate towards...
Figs 18–24. *Gomphonema brebissonii*, SEM, type material, Falaise, France: (18) external view of the whole valve and frustule; (19) detailed view of mid–valve showing the external opening of stigma; (20) external view of the whole valve; (21) internal view of the whole valve; (22) detailed internal view of the mid–valve showing the proximal raphe fissures and opening of the stigma; (23) detailed view of the headpole; (24) detailed view of the footpole. Scale bar 20 μm (18, 20), 10 μm (21), 2 μm (19, 22–24).
footpole. Striae denser at footpole, 12–15 in 10 μm. Areolae distinguishable, around 22–25 in 10 μm.

**Scanning electron microscopy (Figs 45–53):**
Externally, raphe branches distinctly undulate (Figs 45, 50). Distal raphe ends deflected first towards stigma–bearing side and then deflected on opposite side, extending onto valve mantle (Figs 52, 53). At footpole, distal raphe bisecting well developed apical pore field, of round porelli, structurally different from areolae, extending on valve mantle. Proximal raphe endings simple without marked central pores, curved towards stigma (Fig. 50). External stigma opening round, situated at end of central stria (Fig. 50). Areolae c–shaped to reniform (Figs 50, 52, 53), occluded by siliceous flaps. Striae uniseriate throughout, interrupted near valve face/mantle junction and continuing onto valve mantle (Fig. 50). Striae on valve mantle adjust to face/mantle junction composed of large c–shaped areolae, while towards bottom composed of small, c–shaped to slit–like areolae (Fig. 46). Mantle striae at headpole longer than striae on near footpole. Near
Figs 45–53. *Gomphonema scardicum* sp. nov., SEM: (45) external view of the whole valve; (46) frustule in valvar and girdle view; (47) internal view of the whole valve; (48) internal view of the headpole; (49) internal view of the footpole; (50) external view of the mid–valve showing the proximal raphe fissures and stigma; (51) internal view of the mid–valve showing the proximal raphe fissures and stigma; (52) detailed view of the headpole; (53) detailed view of the footpole. Scale bar 20 µm (45, 46), 10 µm (47), 2 µm (48, 49), 5 µm (50–53).
Figs 54–68. *Gomphonema gautieriforme* sp. nov., LM, on macrophytes, drainage channel of Katlanovo wetland, Macedonia, diminution series.
Figs 69–76. *Gomphonema gautieriforme* sp. nov., SEM: (69, 70) external view of the whole valve; (71) internal view of the whole valve; (72) detailed external view of the headpole; (73) external view of the mid–valve showing the proximal raphe fissures and stigma; (74) internal view of the mid–valve showing the proximal raphe fissures and stigma; (75) detailed view of the footpole; (76) internal view of the headpole. Scale bar 20 µm (69, 70), 10 µm (71, 72), 5 µm (73, 74), 4 µm (75, 76).
head and footpole small c–shaped areolae absent at end of mantle striae. Narrow hyaline area present at foot pole located between last stria and APF. Internally, small pseudo septa present at both poles (Figs 48, 49). Proximal raphe endings recurved and angular along outer edges of raised central nodule (Figs 47, 51). Distal raphe endings terminating on small helicoglossae (Figs 48, 49). Interstriae with same width as striae. Areolae with round to reniform internal openings. Towards valve margin, siliceous flaps covering most of the opening visible inside the areolar opening. Stigma with small, elongated opening.

**Holotype** (designated here): Slide 003039/A in MKNDC. Holotype specimen is represented by Fig. 28.

**Isotype**: Slide BRM ZU9/72.

**Type material**: Mosses, stream above Lake Crno, Shara Mountain. 41°55′34″N, 20°47′25″E, Coll. date: 07.08.2003. Leg. Z. Levkov.

**Etymology**: The specific epithet (scardicum) refers to the Latin name of the mountain Shara (Scardus).

**Notes**: *Gomphonema scardicum* resembles *G. montanum* (Schumann) Grunow (= *G. acuminatum* var. montanum Schumann 1867, p. 67, figs 3: 35a, b) and *G. brebissonii* Kützing with respect to valve outline. However, the type material of *G. montanum* was not available for this study, and therefore comparison has been made with the original drawing and published interpretations (e.g. Husteds 1930, fig. 707; Patrick & Reimer 1975, fig. 16: 7; Krammer & Lange–Bertalot 2004, figs 83: 16–18). Elmore (1921, figs 540–553) depicted several valves of *G. montanum*, but very likely none of them represent *G. montanum* sensu stricto. According to Patrick & Reimer (1975, p. 122) the valves of *G. montanum* have rostrate–rounded to almost truncate apices, corresponding to the original drawing (Schumann 1867, figs 3: 35a, b here reproduced as Figs 15, 16). Valves with similar morphological features are depicted in Krammer & Lange–Bertalot (1986, fig. 163: 6; 2004, figs 83: 16–18). However, all of these can be easily differentiated from *G. scardicum* by the shape of the headpole. *Gomphonema montanum* var. genuinum Ant. Mayer (1913, fig. 13: 30; 1928, fig. 3: 4.5) has broadly cuneate headpole and protracted at the top, opposite to narrowly cuneate headpole in *G. scardicum*. *Gomphonema montanum* var. media f. typica Ant. Mayer (1928, figs 3: 4.5) has broadly of obtusely rounded headpole, which makes for an easy differentiation between these two taxa. *Gomphonema montanum* var. turrisforme Cleve–Euler (1955, figs 1276a, b) has wider valves (W=8–10 μm) and wider headpole (8.5–9.0 μm) with different shape (rhombic).

*Gomphonema brebissonii* has a different valve outline with the widest part of the valve near the headpole, opposite to *G. scardicum*, where the widest part of the valve is in the mid–valve. Additional differences can be seen in the shape of the headpole. In *G. brebissonii* the headpole is narrowly rhomboid and obtusely rounded on the top, opposite to narrowly rounded to cuneate headpole. Other population of *G. brebissonii*, like those depicted in Reichardt (1999, figs 27: 1–13, 56: 1–14), have much broader valve apices which are distinctly separated from the rest of the valve by the prominent constriction.

The valves of *G. acuminatum* var. intermedia Grunow in Van Heurck (1880, fig. 23: 21) have a distinct constriction towards the headpole and distinct, broadly rounded and shortly apiculate headpole. *Gomphonema acuminatum* var. clavus (Brebisson) Grunow in Van Heurck (1880, fig. 23: 20) may be smaller specimens of *G. acuminatum* Ehrenberg, since it has a distinct constriction towards headpole and as well as distinct shoulders. *Gomphonema trigonocephalum* Ehrenberg (1854, pl. 6/1: fig. 36) has a different valve outline (rhombic) and shape of the valve apices (broadly cuneate) compared to *G. scardicum*. *Gomphonema isabellae* Van de Vijver in Van de Viper & McBride (2006, figs 1–19) is characterized by valves distinctly constricted towards the headpole, broadly rhomboid with a protracted to cuneately rounded top. These features make the distinction with *G. scardicum* straightforward.

The most similar specimens to *G. scardicum* are depicted in Foged (1982, figs 31: 8, 9) under name “Gomphonema acuminatum Ehrl. var. trigonocephalum (Ehr.) Grun. Transition to var. brebissonii (Kütz.) Cleve”. These specimens from Bornholm (Denmark) are most likely specimens of *G. scardicum*.

**Gomphonema gautieriforme** sp. nov. (Figs 54–76)

**Light microscopy** (Figs 54–68): Valve clearly heteropolar, clavate with largest valve width near headpole. Headpole broadly rounded, cuneate. Valves with indistinct shoulders and gradually narrowing towards acute footpole. Valves weakly inflated at mid–valve. Valve length 25–55 μm, width 13.0–15.0 μm at headpole, 12.0–13.5 μm at mid–valve. Axial area narrow, linear–lanceolate. Central area small, formed by shortening of single central stria. One isolated stigma present in central area, located near the mid–valve, and separated from long, central stria. Raphe clearly lateral, weakly undulated with simple, slightly expanded central raphe endings. Transapical striae coarse, parallel in mid–valve 9–12 striae in 10 μm, becoming radiate towards headpole and footpole. Striae denser at footpole and headpole 12–15 in 10 μm. Areolae distinguishable, around 18–22 in 10 μm.

**Scanning electron microscopy** (Figs 69–76): Externally, raphe branches slightly undulate (Figs 69, 70). Distal raphe ends deflected first towards stigma–bearing side and than deflected on opposite side, extending onto valve mantle (Figs 72, 75). At footpole, distal raphe bisecting well developed apical
pore field (Fig. 75). Proximal raphe endings expanded, pore-like, curved towards stigma (Fig. 73). External stigma opening rounded, situated at end of central stria (Fig. 73). Areolae c-shaped to reniform (Figs 72, 73, 75), occluded by siliceous flaps. Striae uniseriate, not interrupted near valve face/mantle junction and continuing onto valve mantle (Fig. 72). Striae on valve mantle entirely composed of c-shaped areolae. Areolae on valve mantle with similar size and shape as areolae on valve face (Fig. 69). Narrow hyaline area present at foot pole located between last stria and APF. Apical pore field composed of round porelli, structurally different from areolae (Fig. 75).

Internally, small pseudosepta present, clearly visible at footpole, less developed at headpole (Fig. 76). Proximal raphe endings hooked, located on raised central nodule (Figs 71, 74). Distal raphe endings terminating on small helicostegellae (Fig. 76). Stigma with elongated, slit-like opening (Fig. 74). Interstriae with same width as striae (Figs 74, 76). Areolae with round to reniform internal openings. Towards valve margin siliceous flaps covering most of opening visible inside the areolar opening.

Holotype (designated here): Slide 006877/A in MKNDC. Holotype specimen is represented by Fig. 55.

Isotype: Slide BRM ZU9/73.

Type material: Macrophytes, drainage channel of Katlanovo wetland, near village Taor. 41°54’06”N, 21°36’44”E, Coll. date: 15.08.2013. Leg. Z. Levkov.

Etymology: The specific epithet refers to the similarity in valve morphology with G. gautieri (Van Heurck) Lange–Bertalot & Metzeltin.

Notes: Gomphonema gautieriforme resembles G. gautieri (= G. augur var. gautieri Van Heurck, 1885, p. 124) with respect to valve size and shape. The latter species was recently typified by Van de Vijver et al. (2013). A single valve was recorded on the type slide (slide V–11–A6) and illustrated (op.cit. fig. 1). According to Van de Vijver et al. (2013) the valve is clearly heteropolar, clavate with the largest valve width near the truncate and apiculate headpole, and valve margin constricted between the headpole and the valve middle. Gomphonema gautieriforme can be differentiated from G. gautieri by its valve outline and the shape of its headpole. The valve margin in G. gautieriforme is very weakly constricted in the largest specimens but unconstricted in medium-sized and smaller specimens; in G. gautieri the valve is clearly constricted. The headpole in G. gautieriforme is truncate and apiculate, while the headpole in G. gautieriforme is rounded and cuneate. Gomphonema augur sensu Krammer & Lange–Bertalot (1985, figs 36: 1–14) is very likely heterogeneous and only fig. 36: 14 is G. gautieri sensu stricto; the other specimens belong to G. augur sensu stricto (figs 36: 11–13) or unknown Gomphonema taxa (figs 36: 1–10).

The valves of G. gautieri sensu Metzeltin et al. (2009, figs 164: 1–9) share the morphological features of the type specimen (Van de Vijver et al. 2013, fig. 1) except valve width. Additionally, some specimens have a lower stria density, but the overall morphology remains the same as specimens with higher stria density. Gomphonema gautieri sensu Cholnoky (1957, figs 43, 44) = Gomphonema constrictum var. gautieri (Van Heurck) Cholnoky, differs from the type and G. gautieriforme by the valve outline (distinct constriction towards the headpole) and shape of head pole (almost truncate and weakly cuneate on the top).

Gomphonema gautieriforme resembles G. augur Ehrenberg sensu Krammer & Lange–Bertalot (1986, fig. 157: 7) but the latter has clearly apiculate (not cuneate) headpole. Typification of G. augur was undertaken by Jahn & Kusber (2004, fig. 25) based on a specimen from Puy-de-Dôme, France since it was a better fit to the current taxonomic concept of the species, in contrast to the specimens present in Mexican material which was first used for the invalid description of the species (Ehrenberg 1838). Recently type material of G. augur was observed by van de Vijver et al. (2013, figs 6–11, 27–41). The valves of G. augur are characterized with broadly rounded and apiculate headpole without shoulders; the valve margins are neither constricted nor inflated, but the valve width gradually narrowing towards the acute footpole; valve length 36.8–38.8 μm, width 12.5–13.1 μm. Both G. augur and G. gautieriforme can be differentiated by the shape of the head pole. Another similarity from this group was observed by Jahn (1986, figs 3: 25–42) and identified as G. cf. augur. Gomphonema gautieriforme can be easily differentiated from G. augur by the valve shape: the valve margin in most of the specimens is undulated, and the widest part of the valve is in the middle, and not at the headpole.

Gomphonema sphaerophorum Ehrenberg has similar valve size as G. gautieriforme, but it possesses broadly rounded and capitulate headpole (Ueyama & Kobayasi 1988), in contrast to cuneate headpole in G. gautieriforme.

In general, the valve length and stria density of G. brebissonii and G. gautieriforme overlap, but both taxa can be easily differentiated by the shape of the head pole and valve apex. The larger valves of G. brebissonii are clearly inflated in the mid–valve and this inflation is with almost same width as the headpole. In G. gautieriforme the widest part of the valve is found at the head pole with the valve width gradually narrowing towards the footpole. Additionally, the differences can be noticed in the morphology of the areolae of the striae on the valve mantle. In G. brebissonii the mantle striae near the valve face/mantle junction are composed of c-shaped areolae and terminating by several small, c-shaped or slit–like areolae (Fig. 18). In G. gautieriforme the mantle striae are entirely...
composed of c-shaped areolae with similar size and shape as valve face areolae (Fig. 69).

Gomphonema acuminatum and G. coronatum

Ehrenberg were typified by Jain & Kociolek (2004, figs 20, 30 respectively). Both species have a strong constriction in the upper part of the valve that clearly differentiates it from G. gautieriforme. Gomphonema asiaticum Liu & Kociolek in Liu et al. (2013, figs 45–60) is characterized with triundulate margins, distinctly constricted towards the headpole and broadly rhomboid to even quadrangular with a protracted and rostrate apex headpole. Gomphonema gautieriforme can be easily differentiated from the latter by the shape of apices and the valve outline.

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