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***Naganishia qatarensis* sp. nov. novel basidiomycetous yeast species from hypersaline marine environment**

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Two yeast strains isolated from the hypersaline marine environment from inland sea, Qatar, were classified as members of the genus *Naganishia* based on sequence analysis of the D1/D2 domains of the large subunit rRNA gene and the internal transcribed spacer (ITS) regions. The rRNA gene sequence analyses indicated that the two strains represented a novel species of the genus *Naganishia*, for

which the name *Naganishia qatarensis* sp. nov. is proposed. They clustered in a strongly supported clade represented by *Naganishia albidus* in the *Tremellales* group in the phylogenetic tree drawn from ITS and D1/D2 sequence. The new species grows at 4°C and 35°C. The significance of findings will be discussed.

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