

SPYRIDIA FUSIFORMIS BOERGS — A NEW RECORD FROM MALWAN, WEST COAST OF INDIA

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ABSTRACT

Spyridia fusiformis Boergs. (Rhodophyceae — Ceramiales — Ceramiaceae) has been reported for the first time from Malwan along the west coast of India. The species is characterised by the presence of fusiform laterals, irregular arrangement of cortical layer and the absence of spines.

Key-words : *Spyridia fusiformis*, Rhodophyceae, alga, Malwan.

Five species of the genus *Spyridia* Harvey have so far been reported from India viz. *S. aculeata*, J. Ag., *S. filamentosa* (Wulf) Harvey, *S. insignis* J. Ag. and *S. fusiformis* Boergs. Boergesen (1937) and Srinivasan (1960) have earlier reported *S. fusiformis* from Pamban and Krusadai Island respectively along the Southeast coast of India. During a survey along the west coast, *S. fusiformis* was collected on granite and gneisses rocks, in the lower midlittoral zone at Malwan, Maharashtra (Long. 73° 28'N, Lat. 16°4'E). This alga was rare in the fort area and found in December. This, is the first record from the west coast of India.

Morphological features

The plant body attains a length of about 10-15 cm and is attached to the substratum by means of discoid holdfast from which a number of erect shoots are given off. Axis is terete and articulate (Fig. 1a), with a diameter of 1-1.2 mm. The cortical layer is composed of irregularly arranged elongated cells. Branching is very prominent in the upper parts of the plant (Fig 1a). The ramification is irregular and branches and branchlets arise from all the sides. Some branches grow like main filaments which show very little constriction at the base. Lateral branches are fusiform, either short or long with constriction at the base. These branches taper from the middle region towards the acute apex (Fig. 1b). The ramulli given off irregularly from all the sides, are very thin and ephemeral in nature. These are 1-3 mm long and 22-25 μ broad. The cortical annulation is composed of single layer of cells, but some of the cells divide into two.

This species resembles *S. filamentosa* and other related species on account of its ramulli but differs in the shape of branches, arrangement of cortical layer and the absence of spines (Krishnamurthy, 1968).



Fig. 1. *Spyridia fusiformis* Boergs
(a) Habit & (b) Fusiform laterals (3.3 x)

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