

**MARINE ALGAE OF ST. MARTIN'S ISLAND, BANGLADESH.
IX. NEW RECORDS OF GREEN ALGAE (CHLOROPHYCEAE)**

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Keywords: Cladophora crispula; Cladophora prolifera; Phyllocladon anastomosans; St. Martin's Island.

Abstract

Cladophora crispula Vickers, *Cladophora prolifera* (Roth) Kütz. and *Phyllocladon anastomosans* (Harv.) Kraft *et* Wynne are recorded and described for the first time from the St. Martin's Island, Cox's Bazar, Bangladesh.

Introduction

So far 45 taxa under 17 genera of green algae have been reported from Bangladesh coasts (Islam, 1964, 1965, 1973, 1976; Islam and Khair, 1978; Salam and Khan, 1980; Islam and Irfanullah, 2000; Aziz *et al.*, 2008). The authors on examination of some preserved samples came across some green algae, which were not recorded earlier from the Bangladesh territory. These are described and illustrated in the present account.

Materials and Methods

Several marine algae collected from the littoral (exposed and knee-deep water below low tide mark) zone of St. Martin's Island, Cox's Bazar district Bangladesh on different occasions were preserved with 4% formalin in marine water. *Cladophora prolifera* (Roth) Kütz. was collected by Prof. Abdul Aziz, while *Cladophora crispula* Vickers and *Phyllocladon anastomosans* (Harv.) Kraft *et* Wynne were collected by Dr. Abdullah Harun Chowdhury.

Taxonomic enumeration

Cladophora prolifera and *Phyllocladon anastomosans* were found to be growing on exposed rocks, shells and stones while *Cladophora crispula* was found as an epiphyte on *Phyllocladon anastomosans* collected from the coast of St. Martin's Island, Bangladesh. These taxa are new records for Bangladesh and are described and illustrated below.

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Class: Chlorophyceae; Order: Cladophorales; Family: Cladophoraceae
Genus: *Cladophora* Kütz.

1. ***Cladophora crispula* Vickers** (Fig. 2 A-D)

(Taylor 1960, 85; Rios 1972, 227, 2: 8)

Plants filamentous, moderately branched, 3.00 mm high; thallus appears to be young, branching mainly monopodial; cells cylindrical, thallus attached by short finger-like rhizoidal extensions from the lower most cell; gradually broadened at the tip, slightly incurved, 248-362 μm long, diameter of broader region varies from 63.50 to 77.55 μm and narrower region from 45.72 to 51.00 μm ; tip cells 33.00-50.80 μm broad with rounded apex; cell wall thick stratified, chloroplasts reticulate, with many small rounded to ovoid pyrenoides; reproductive structures not observed.

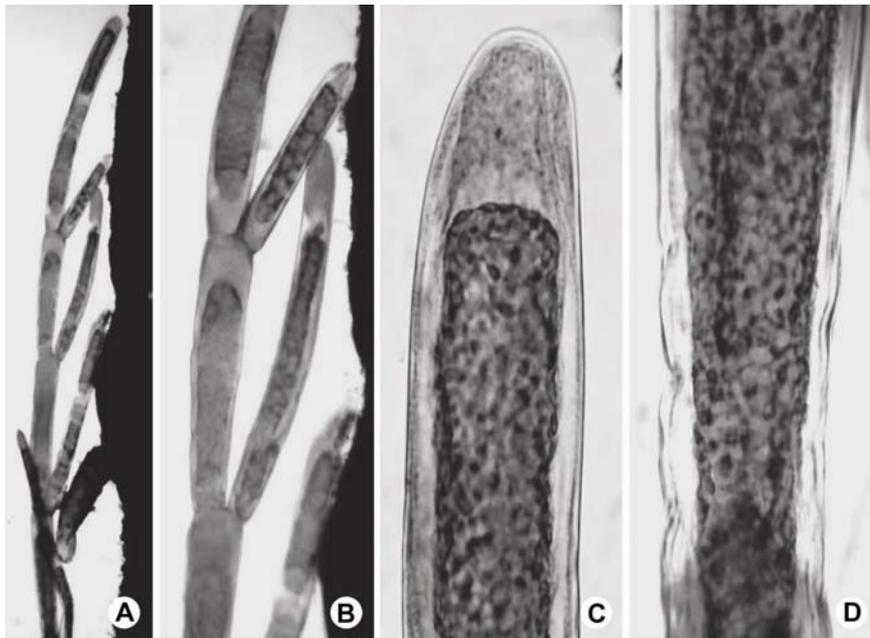


Fig. 1 A-D. *Cladophora crispula* Vickers. A. terminal part of a plant showing predominant unilateral branching; B. An enlarged portion of the plant; C. Apex of a terminal cell showing cell wall and chloroplast structures; D. Stratification of the cell wall and reticulate chloroplast in a median cell. Scales: A, B = 100 μm ; C, D = 25 μm .

Note: Islam (1976) reported *Cladophora echinus* (Biasoletto) Kütz. & *C. patentiramea* (Montag.) Kütz. from St. Martin's Island, Bangladesh. The present material does not resemble with any of the above species. The present material resembles to a certain extent with *C. gracilis* (Griffiths) Kütz. by its branching pattern and cell shape but differs enormously by the size of the plant. The present material is very small (2.5-3.0

mm long) compared to 30 cm for *C. gracilis*. However, the present material appears to be in early growing stage.

There are 1055 species names in the species database of *Cladophora* at present, of which 176 are flagged as currently accepted taxonomically. The two species recorded here are among the accepted ones.

Habitat and local distribution: Epiphytic on *Phyllocladon anastomosans*; A.H. Chowdhury, 06 Jan. 2006, AHC 212.

Geographical distribution: Atlantic Islands: Bermuda; Caribbean Islands: Bahamas, Barbados, Cuba, Hispaniola; South Coast of Asia: Philippines, Vietnam (Taylor, 1960).

2. ***Cladophora prolifera*** (Roth) Kütz. [*Conferva prolifera* Roth] (Fig. 1 A-D)
(Taylor 1960, 91, 3: 5; Joly 1965, 44, 3: 37, 4: 52)

Plants tufted, coarse and stiff, 5.0-5.6 cm high; thallus dark green, profusely branched, filaments up to 325 µm broad near the base, with cells up to 1.75 mm long, small rhizoidal extensions from most of the cell bases, branching chiefly opposite, the branches rather erect, clustered toward the tip; branchlets lateral, not spreading, 125-150 µm broad and the cells 450-500 µm long, tip cells blunt, cell wall very thick, stratified; chloroplast reticulate with numerous pyrenoids; reproductive structures were not observed.

Note: Present material differs from other marine species of *Cladophora* chiefly by predominant opposite branching and rhizoidal extension from cell base. This species differs from *C. aokii* Yamada by less rhizoidal investment on the main axes. Islam and Hossain (1978) reported *Cladophora prolifera* from a freshwater body of Dhaka city, about 1 cm high where cells in the middle part of the thallus are typically *Cladophora*-like, while cells in the apical part are globose to irregular shaped (probably zoosporangia). The size of the plant and variations in cell shape described by Islam and Hossain (1978) do not fit with the present material collected from lower intertidal zone and that of the illustrations and descriptions for species from marine habitat (Newton, 1931; Taylor, 1957, 1960). Thus, it appears that the material described by Islam and Hossain is wrongly identified (that needs to be amended), and by mistake the species has been quoted as marine in Ahmed *et al.* (2008). Thus, *C. prolifera* described here is a new record for Bangladesh.

Habitat and local distribution: Plants commonly grow on rocks and stones; Abdul Aziz, 01 March, 1995; AA 9.

Geographical distribution: Cosmopolitan in temperate and tropical zones occurring in brackish and marine conditions (Taylor, 1960).

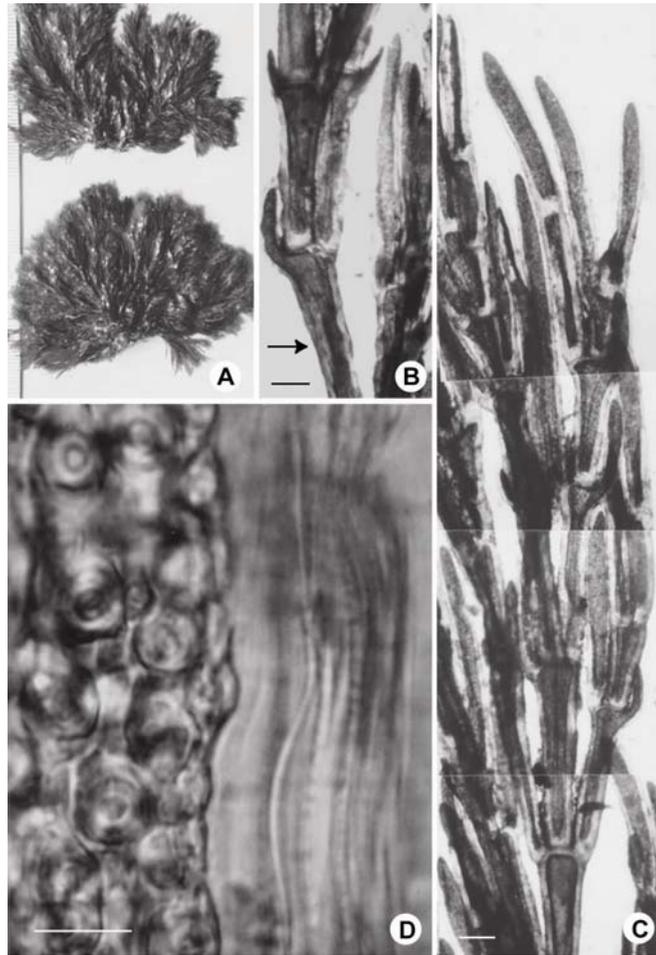


Fig. 2. A-D. *Cladophora prolifera* (Roth) Kütz. A. Habit of plants; B. Rhizoidal extension from the base of branches (arrow); C. Upper portion of a main axis showing branching habit; D. A portion of the cell showing heavily stratified cell wall and numerous pyrenoids. Scales: B,C = 100 μ m; D = 25 μ m.

Class: Chlorophyceae; Order: Siphonocladales; Family: Boodleaceae

Genus: *Struvea* Sonder.

3. ***Phyllocladion anastomosans*** (Harv.) Kraft *et* Wynne [*Cladophora anastomosans* Harv., *Struvea anastomosans* (Harv.) Picc., *S. delicatula* Kütz., (?) *S. tenuis* Zonard.]

(Fig. 3 A-E)

(Nizamuddin 1969, 239; Taylor 1960, 122, 9: 2, 5: 1 as *Struvea anastomosans* (Harv.) Picc.)

Plant densely entangled, filamentous, up to 1.0 cm tall, tufted distally; branching opposite, the main filamentous axes up to 372 μ m wide, unsegmented with constrict here and there (6.50-16.00 mm) in the lower part of the stalk but segmented above, bearing in

a plane 4-6 pairs of opposite branchlet filaments which divide and redivide with decreasing regularity to form the net-work; in older filament cells are 1.6-4.5 mm long and 0.5 mm broad, in young filament cells are 200-400 μm long and 100-172 μm broad; young tip cells very curved 214-365 μm (outer face) and 175-285 μm (inner face) long. Cells are narrowest at the base and the diameter remains more or less same throughout most of its length and then swollen into a knee like structure at the tip, cell tip rounded. In the main filament, the lumen is narrowed to about 26 μm , in most part of the cell while in the most swollen part it is about 166 μm broad; cell wall 25-30 layered; chloroplast reticulate; abundant growth of germlings found on the surface of old filament; reproductive structures were not observed.

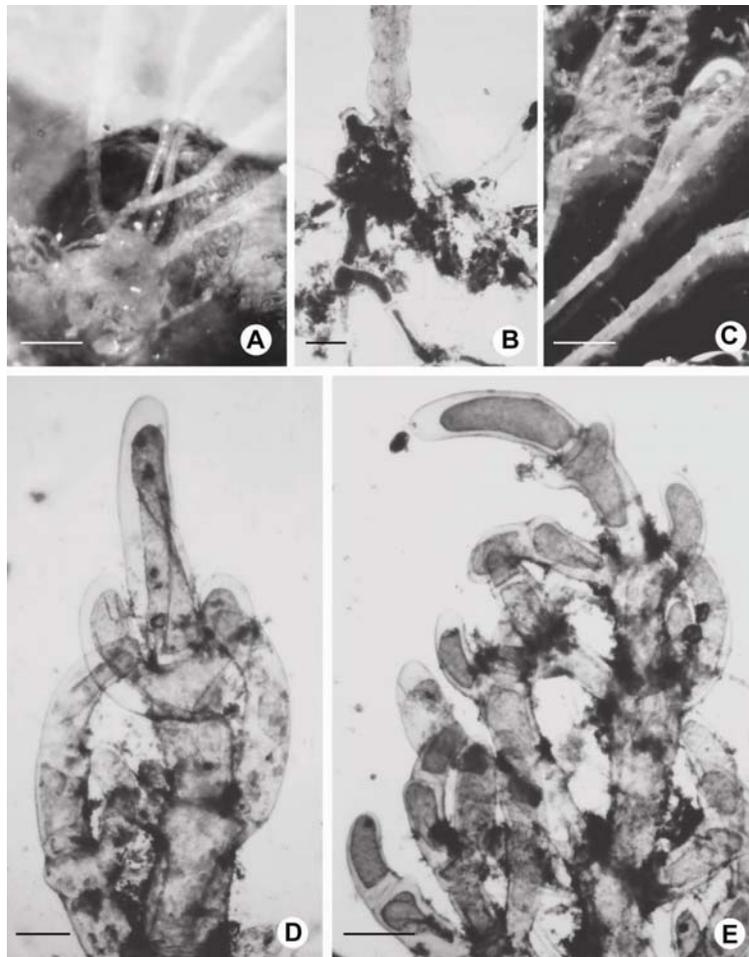


Fig. 3 A-E. *Phyllocladon anastomosans* (Harv.) Kraft *et* Wynne. A. Basal portion of a plant. B. Enlarged part of the base showing constrictions in the axis and rhizoidal branches. C. Upper part of a plant with branches and branchlets. D. Apex of a developing branch. E. Part of a mature branch. Scales: A, C = 1 cm; B = 500 μm ; D, E = 200 μm .

Note: There are 25 species names in the species database at present, of which 7 including the present species are flagged as currently accepted taxonomically. The genus is recorded for the first time from Bangladesh

Habitat and local distribution: The alga grows on rocks; A.H. Chowdhury, 06 Jan. 2006, AHC 212.

Geographical distribution: Atlantic Islands, Canary Islands, North America, Caribbean Islands, South America, Africa, Indian Ocean Islands, South-west Asia, Asia (Taylor, 1960).

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