

ON A NEW SPECIES OF *SARGASSUM* FROM PORBANDAR (INDIA)

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AN uncommon specimen of *Sargassum* was collected at Porbandar, Gujarat. It appears to be a new species. A description of it follows. It belongs to the sub-genus *Eusargassum* J. Ag. (1889, p. 78 ; De Toni, 1895, p. 37), to series *Zygo carpicae*, J. Ag. (I.e., p. 79 ; De Toni, I.e., pp. 37-38) and to tribe *Carpophylleae* J. Ag. (I.e., p. 80 ; De Toni, I.e., p. 38). Section II of this tribe (*cf.* J. Ag. I.e., p. 83 ; De Toni, I.e., p. 41) has anticipate to subangular receptacles with membranous margins as its characters and the present plant agrees with this section.

Sargassum prismaticum spec. nov. Chauhan.

Ramis filiformibus, teretibus, levibus, 28-45 cm. longis (in specimine incomplete), 1 mm. diam. infra, 0.75 mm. diam. supra, foliis spiraliter dispositis ad intervalla 0.5-1.7 millimetrorum; folia linearilanceolata, ad 5 cm. longa, 5-7 mm. lata, membranacea, basi asymmetrica, apice truncato dentibus duobus tribusve ornato; petioli breves 1-2 mm. longi, ala serrata parva ornati; costa eminens, percurrens; cryptostomata minutissima, dispersa per zonam distinctam in utroque latere costae et secundum costam ; foliorum margines minute, acute et irregulariter serrulato-sinuati undulati; vesiculae sphaericae, 3-5 mm. diam., stipite ornatae 1-2 mm. longo, apiculatae ; rami fructificantes ca. 4 mm. longi, emergentes e petiolis foliorum ; receptacula incipientia e petiolo foliorum vel e vesicula, simplicia vel sparse ramosa, vel 2-4 in cumulo involvente vesiculas, oblonga, triquetra, 5-11 (26) mm. longa, 2-4 mm. diam. basi et apice rotundatis, alis tribus latis serrulato-sinuatis ornata, singulis ramis et mascula et foeminea conceptacula complectentibus.

Typus, 1141, lectus ad oras maritimas prope Porbandar ad Chowpathi, die 5 januarii anni 1962 et positus in herbario C.S.M.C. Res. Instituti ad Bhavnagar.

Rachis of branch filiform, terete, smooth, 28-45 cm. long (specimen incomplete), 1 mm. diam. below, 0.75 mm. diam. above, with leaves spirally arranged at intervals of 0.6-1.7 cm.; leaves linear-lanceolate, up to 5 cm. long, 5-7 mm. broad, membranous, with asymmetrical base, with truncate apex having 2-3 teeth ; petiole short, 1-2 mm. in length, with small serrate wings; costa prominent, percurrent; cryptostomata very small, scattered in a distinct zone on either side of costa and along its length ; margin of leaf minutely, acutely and irregularly serrulate-sinuate undulate; vesicles spherical, 3-5 mm. diam., with stalk 1-2 mm. long, apiculate; fruiting branches about 4 cm. long, arising from petioles of leaves; receptacles starting from petiole of leaf or vesicle, simple or sparsely branched, or 2-4 in a cluster involving vesicles, oblong, triquetrous, 5-11 (26) mm. long, 2-4 mm. diam., with base and apex rounded, with three broad serrulate-sinuate wings, with each branch having both male and female conceptacles.

Type specimen deposited in the Herbarium of the Central Salt and Marine Chemicals Research Institute, Bhavnagar, bearing number 1141. At Chowpathi (Porbandar) on 5-1-1962. Found washed up on the beach, in fresh condition.

Other specimens: Herb. C.S. & M.C.R.I., Bhavnagar, nos. 3110 & 3111, 30-1-1964, washed up on the beach. In no. 3110 the basal part of the rachis is flat and winged on either side (see pi. II, fig. 12) which is a feature of the species; the holdfast has, however not been seen.

The delicate appearance of the plant and the oblong receptacles with three serrulate-sinuate wings are specially characteristic of the species. In general habit it comes close to *S. tenerrimum* J. Ag. and agrees with it in having androgynous receptacles, but it differs from the latter species in having triquetrous receptacles with three, wide, membranous wings with a finely serrate margin. Hence I consider the present plant to be a new species of *Sargassum* and propose the name *Sargassum prismaticum*.

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SUMMARY

The new species *Sargassum prismaticum* Chauhan is distinguished especially by the oblong, three-winged, androgynous receptacles* the-wings being broad and serrulate-sinuate.

REFERENCES

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