

Short Communication

NEW DISTRIBUTIONAL RECORD OF *FICUS GRACILIS* (SOWERBY) AND *FICUS VARIEGATA* ROEDING, (GASTROPODA : FICIDAE) FROM COASTAL WATERS OF DIGHA, MIDNAPORE, WEST BENGAL.

INTRODUCTION

During the study of marine molluscs from coastal waters of Digha and adjoining areas (District : Midnapore), the authors have collected two specimens (one each) of *Ficus gracilis* (Sowerby) and *Ficus variegata* Roeding, from mudflat area of Digha mohana.

Molluscan fauna of West Bengal is known from the work of Subba Rao *et al.*, (1992 & 1995). In their accounts there is no mention of these two gastropods from the district Midnapore and hence the present record is for first time from this area.

A brief description of these two species have partain in view of enriching the checklist of invertebrates, as well as molluscan fauna of Digha.

Ficus gracilis (Sowerby)

1925. *Pyrula gracilis* Sowerby, Cat. Shells Tank., 17 : 62.

Diagnostic characters : Shell elongate, pyriform with elevated spire, body whorl rounded; aperture elongate, outer lip margin crenulated; columella concave, siphonal canal wide, open, rounded; sculpture consist of transverse flat ridges interstices with longitudinal striae giving reticulate in appearance.

Morphometrics (in m.m.)

Length : 107

Diametre : 51

Maximum height of the aperture : 101

Distribution : India : West Bengal : South 24 parganas; Orissa; Andhra Pradesh.

Elsewhere : Persian Gulf, China, Madagascar.

Now, Digha (District : Midnapore, West Bengal) is added as new distribution of this species.

Ficus variegata Roeding

1798. *Ficus variegata* Roeding, Mus. Bolten 148, sp. no. 1852.

1972. *Ficus variegata* Cernohorsky, *Mar. Shells of the Pacific*, 2 : 113, pl. 33. fig. 1.

Diagnostic characters Shell pyriformly ventricose, bulbous at the shoulder, spire depressed; sculptured with fine close set spiral thread and a finer intermediate thread and axial lirae in intercostal spaces; darkpink or brown, ornamented with 5 white lines with brown spots within and maculated with irregular.

Morphometrics (in m.m.)

Length : 56

Diametre 34

Maximum height of the apperture : 55

Distribution India West Bengal South 24 Parganas; Orissa; Andhra Pradesh; Tamilnadu; Kerala; Maharastra; Gujrat.

Elsewhere Red sea, Pakistan, Madagascar, Singapore, Thailand, China & Japan.

Now, Digha (District Midnapore, West Bengal) is added as new distributional record.

SUMMARY

From above discussion, it is assumed that though these species are reported earlier from the coast of West Bengal, but there was a discontinuity in their distributional record, as both of the specis were absent from above mentioned localities (Digha coast, district : Midnapore), before this findings

Now by findings of these two species from Digha mohana, that gap is filled and it indicates a continuous distribution throughout the coast of West Bengal and also upto Andhra pradesh.

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