

SHORT COMMUNICATION

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RECORD OF THE ROTIFER *TRIPLEUCHLANIS PLICATA* (LEVANDER) FROM A FRESHWATER TANK IN CALCUTTA, INDIA

Among the enclanid rotifers recorded from freshwaters of Indian sub-continent, *Tripleuchlanis plicata* (Levander) is of rare occurrence. So far it was only been recorded from Kaikalur (Andhra Pradesh) by Dhanapathi (1975). However, during the present studies on the rotifer fauna of Calcutta and its adjacent areas, 2 specimens of this rotifer were collected on 19.9.1975 from a freshwater tank situated in the compound of Indian Museum, Calcutta. Later on a large number of individuals made a sporadic appearance in the plankton samples collected on 31.5.1976 from the same tank. The present report is first record of this species from North-East India.

The occurrence of large numbers of individuals of this species from a freshwater tank has some importance from distribution point of view as this rotifer is mainly restricted to marine waters. Myers (1938) stated that "*Tripleuchlanis plicata* is common in salt water of bays and inlets, where there is growth of marine algae, it is the only marine Euchlanid rotifer known". Rodewald (1940) described var *razelmi* of this rotifer, from brackish waters of Rumania. The occurrence of this rotifer from marine waters of Denmark has been

reported by Thane-Fenchel (1968). Chengalath, Fernando and Koste (1973) recorded it from a tank in Ceylon. This rotifer has also been collected from a freshwater reservoir in Madras by Dr. Donner, Austria (personnel communication of Dhanapathi). Dhanapathi (1975) collected 3 specimens of this species from a freshwater tank in Kaikalur (Andhra Pradesh) but considered it to be of rare occurrence in freshwaters. But the blooming of this rotifer in a freshwater tank, as is in the present case, points the possibility of its wide range of toleration to the varying degree of salinity values. Some specimens of this rotifers have also been collected by me from brackish waters from Diamond Harbour (24-Parganas). Further studies on this rotifer from different geographical areas are desired to highlight its exact distribution.

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