

NEW RECORD OF FRESHWATER BRYOZOA FROM ARUNACHAL PRADESH, INDIA

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The Bryozoa or ectoprocta are small benthic, sessile, aquatic invertebrates growing as colonies of connected zooids on submerged substrates, feed on suspended organic particles which they captured by the whorls of ciliated tentacles (lophophore). Globally about 94 bryozoan species are found in freshwater, consisting of 24 genera and 10 families (Massard & Geimer, 2008). Most of these species belongs to exclusively freshwater inhabiting class Phylactolaemata. Colonies of Fresh water bryozoa are found as adhering to the surface of any substratum inside the water bodies' i.e.

aquatic weeds, logs, stones, bricks or any other artificial substratum in the ponds, lakes, water reservoirs, streams, and rivers. Annandale (1911) dealt with this group in Indian sub continent. Where as Rao (1962, 1972 and 1976) worked out of fresh water bryozoa in western and middle part of India. At present only 17 species of freshwater bryozoa recorded from India and there is no any record of freshwater bryozoa from Arunachal Pradesh (Samanta, 1998). During a recent survey to Arunachal Pradesh present authors collected 5 colonies of freshwater bryozoa on 06.01.2011.; from a small fishery pond (Fig. 1) at Khonsa (Lat.



Fig. 1. Habitat of *Plumatella javanicus*

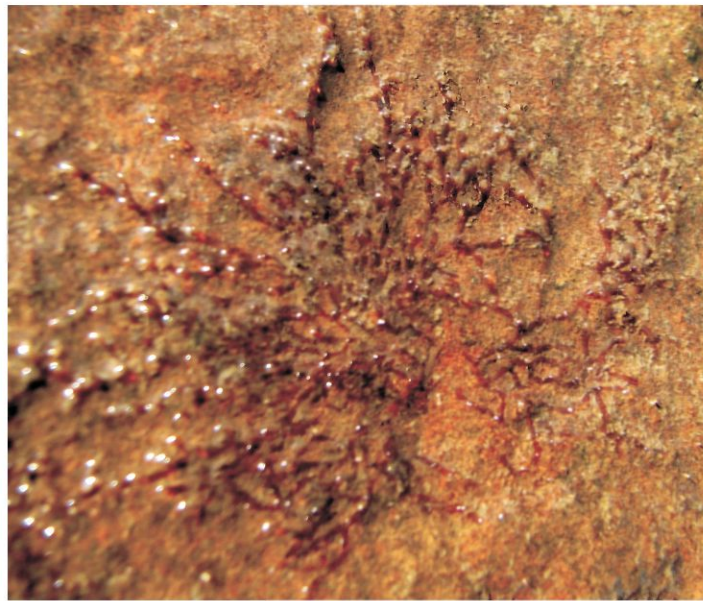


Fig. 2. Colony of *Plumatella javanicus*

26 58 and Long. 85 31), of Tirap district. The colonies are and encrusted on many small pieces of rocks in a depth of 1-1.5 feet in the pond. These colonies are light brown or reddish brown, almost entirely recumbent, with pronounced keel, ends of branches often rising from substratum, tentacle number about 42, Floatoblast elliptical, large, surface entirely covered with minute hexagonal tubercles, these characters leads to the identification of those colonies as *Plumatella javanica* Karepelin, 1906 (Fig. 2). The specimen has been deposited in NZC (Regd. No. Mp 188/1)

Though this species has a wide distributional range in tropical regions, including Southeast

Asia and Japan, Central Africa and The Amazon River in South America, where as in India, it was recorded from West Bengal, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh and Tamilnadu. It is the first record of this species from North-east India and simultaneously this is the first record of any freshwater bryozoan species from the state of Arunachal Pradesh.

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